

The Spirit

*of Ridgfield-Crystal Lake
Presbyterian Church*

January 2015



This past year we have been celebrating 175 years of our life as a church. There was a birthday cake and a tea party and the grand finale of a wonderful musical salute and potluck lunch for the entire congregation.

It has been a year of celebrating our rich history and all that we have accomplished and contributed throughout our 175 years. Thank you to all who have participated in honoring RCLPC. Now we move forward, visioning how we continue to be an active, caring congregation. Here's to our future together!

CRYSTAL LAKE FOOD PANTRY 2014 UPDATE

The Community Harvest netted the Pantry about 68,000 lbs of food. RCLPC contributed a total of 672 lbs. This has been a busy year for RCLPC at the Pantry. Food donations have been excellent and the volunteers are hard working and generous with their time. Volunteers serve an average of 45 clients each month, stock shelves with produce, bakery and canned foods, fill the freezers, and are always there to welcome each client with a smile and sincere concern for their needs. It is indeed a most rewarding Mission.

Cents-Ability



Thank you for returning the Cents-Ability banks, filled to bursting! Our coins—\$209.21—go back to PC(USA) for local and world hunger ministries.

If you have a bank to return, just set it on one of the ushers' tables. Several empty banks will be there for those who wish to participate year 'round. Thank you to our children for leading this effort at RCLPC. ~ Stewardship Team



New Year's Eco Resolutions

The New Year is here, and that's when we often think of what we'd like to do better in the year ahead. The Earth Care Team invites you to make a special pledge—an eco-resolution—for 2015. Visit rclpc.org and the Earth Care Team button to see what it's all about, as well as reading a green living tip.

Saver Stamps Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone who collected the Jewel Saver Stamps for Home of the Sparrow. Thanks to your kindness we filled 16 books, which means you donated 2,560 stamps, which translates to lots and lots of pans and pots! Again, thank you all so much.

~ Mission Team



Mission Outreach Ministry
Care for Children Overseas
Student Sponsorship Program

Our church began providing financial support for three young women at Fairhaven School in Alexandria, Egypt, in 2008. Fairhaven is the special school for youth with disabilities that was started by our sister church, El Saray. Then in 2011 we joined with Colegio Americano in Columbia to begin sponsoring children in their Presbyterian School.

The Mission Outreach Ministry wishes to continue to care for children overseas through our student sponsorship program with Fairhaven in Egypt and Colegio Americano in Colombia so that all the children can continue to learn and grow with the compassion and support of their teachers and staff. Our goal is to continue to sponsor the three students at **Fairhaven: Sara, Randa and Safaa**, and the three students at **Colegio Americano: Jeilar Adrian (4 yrs. old), Bryan David (12 yrs. old) and Alvaro Javier (15 yrs. old)**.

Monthly tuition, room and board cost per student is approximately \$150 for the eleven-month school year at Fairhaven and \$1500 is needed to support the 3 students (\$500 each) for one year at Colegio Americano. This is the only time we will come to the congregation this year to ask for your financial support in sponsoring these young people.

Thank you for helping us reach out in love and support to these young people in need at Fairhaven and Colegio Americano.

Mission Outreach Ministry Team

Mission Outreach Ministry
Care for Children Overseas
Student Sponsorship Program

Name _____

I (We) will support financially **Care for Children Overseas** through:

_____ One-Time contribution of \$ _____

_____ Monthly contribution of \$ _____

_____ Quarterly contribution of \$ _____

Contributions will go into the general “*Care for Children Overseas*” fund, unless you specify a preference.

Please make checks payable to RCLPC and designate **student sponsorship** in the memo line. The complete form can be turned in to the church office.

THANK YOU!

Pancake Breakfast— January 25th!

The high school youth group will be serving pancakes the morning of Sunday, January 25th. Come for the annual congregational meeting and enjoy tasty pancakes, bacon, fruit and juice served by our wonderful high school students. Donations from this breakfast will go towards our mission trip to South Dakota in July. Thank you for your support.



Trivia Night Fundraiser— March 14th

On Saturday March 14th from 7-10pm our high school youth group will be hosting a trivia night in order to raise funds for our mission trip to South Dakota. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information to come in the coming weeks!

Trivia Night

Mark your Calendars March 13th

**The Hope College Symphonette
will be coming to RCLPC on Friday
March 13th at 7pm.
Join us for a wonderful night
of music!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION MONTH IN JANUARY

Please note that grades preschool through fifth grade will be meeting all together in the 3rd, 4th & 5th grade classroom during the month of January.

Each week, during the 10:00 education hour, the children will be engaged with hands on learning about some of the different missions that RCLPC supports.

The regular Sunday school schedule will resume on Sunday, February 1st. Hope to see you there!

Annual Congregation Meeting

The Session is calling the Annual Congregation meeting for January 25, 2015 at 10am in Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- ◆ Present and approve the annual report
- ◆ Present and approve the Pastor's term of call
- ◆ Elect a Deacon to replace Rob Price.

The nominating committee slated Ron Brandt for election to Deacon replacing Rob Price for Rob's 2014 term and a new term for the class of 2018. The election will be part of the January 25th Congregation Annual Meeting. A biography of Ron is included.

Ron Brandt Bio

I was born in a small town outside of Lincoln, Nebraska and grew up on a farm there and in Iowa. Because you can never take the boy off the farm, I still own farms in each state. However, upon graduating from high school God led me to become a teacher and not a farmer. Upon graduating from a Lutheran college, they extended my call and began teaching at St. Paul Luther School in Mt. Prospect, IL. I began as an eighth grade teacher and athletic director for the school. This continued for five years until the principal left and the board asked me if I would fill in part time for a year. I accepted the challenge not knowing whether or not I would like to be one. After that year, they ask me to be the full time principal. I accepted and served for seven more years at which time I applied for a public school position in Barrington, IL. I served as principal in that school district for 29 years before retiring in 2002.

I was a Lutheran (as were my parents) all of my life until about three years ago when I joined RCLPC. Jan was a Methodist so we looked for a church that was somewhere in between. After studying the different churches we thought the Congregational or Presbyterian Church would best fit our beliefs. We then visited those churches in the surrounding Huntley area and found the friendliness and music of the congregation to our liking. After attending the church for two years, we joined the new member information classes with Pastor John and became members. Since then we have served as ushers, greeters and helped on several events.

I have two sons: one living in San Francisco with his wife and two children and one living in Mt. Prospect, IL with his wife and one son. Jan and I met nine years ago after I was divorced and she lost her husband to cancer. We now reside in a Del Web Community in Huntley. I have been active on boards in a number of organizations such as Illinois Principals Association, Boys and Girls Club of Dundee Township, chaired evaluation teams for the North Central Association, Barrington Lions Club and St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Barrington, IL.

As a member of St. Matthew, I served on the Board of Evangelism for six years and the Board of Elders for seven years. I have felt from early in my life that God has called me to serve others as He has given His Son, Jesus Christ to serve us. As I served children and adults, I have always felt that I was serving Christ who is in them.

Session Highlights

December 22, 2014

- Welcomed Rev. Paul Nelson (Woodstock) as the meeting's moderator
- Approved Session Meeting Minutes from November 24, 2015
- Discussed attending 2015 LEADS meeting March 7th
- Discussed Presbytery Sabbatical Leave Policy for Churches which is in alignment with RCLPC practice. Sabbatical Leave Policy for churches up for vote at February 2015 Presbytery meeting.
- Reviewed the Year to Date financial report
- Discussed proposed 2015 budget
- Worship Team announced the pulpit coverage for:
 - December 24th – Rev. Fred Neuschel
 - December 28th – Hymn Fest – Leader Darryl Bessant
 - January 24th – Rev. Gavin Finefield
- Announced that Rev. Phyllis Mueller accepted the Temporary Pulpit Supply responsibilities starting January 2015
- Approved Fundraiser for a Dinner Theater in July/Aug.
- Approved Nominating Committee candidate Ron Brandt as the Deacon replacement for Rob Price and for class 2018. Election to be at January congregation meeting.
- Approved Youth Leadership for the two services of February 15, 2015
- Discussed the Presbyterian Exchange results to date
- Stewardship Team announced that 98 pledges received
- Approved the call for the Congregation Meeting on January 25, 2015 at 10 am. Rev. Gavin Finefield assigned by Blackhawk Presbyter to be the Moderator.
- The session offered appreciation to Rev. Paul Nelson as our temporary session moderator from September to December 2014.
- Next meeting January 19, 2014.

COMING THIS SUMMER TO A THEATER (Fellowship Hall!) NEAR YOU:



WANTED:

Audience members!

We need help not only by your participation in the audience but also by publicizing it to the larger community. We would like to have about 60 in the audience for each of the 5 performances.

Help in the kitchen!

This is dinner theater and all the proceeds from the dinner go to a mission project sponsored by the church. Since this is dinner theater, we need a dinner! The group who prepares the meal gets to decide which charity (mission project) will get the proceeds from the meal. Talk to your various groups and friends in church to decide who can help prepare the meals and which project you'd like to support!

Co-Op members!

We need help in casting, building the set, publicizing, running the show, etc. Although this will be a professional production, we can't afford to do it without many "hands on deck"! Step up to the challenge and join us.

Stay in contact!

Visit our website at www.rclpctheater.com and like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RCLPCtheater> or maybe join the Co-OP at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rclpc2/>



Action Alert

From the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness

Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministries

Raising A Prophetic Voice through the Social Justice Policy of Presbyterians since 1946

Call on Congress to help end the violence and foster a just Peace for Israelis and Palestinians.

Violence in Israel and the occupied West Bank is escalating, leaving Israelis and Palestinians dead and injured and fanning the flames for even more violence. Tensions on the Haram al Sharif/Temple Mount complex have led to violence and threaten to further erupt. Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem expressed concern in a November 6 [statement](#) in which they called for protection of sites and preservation of access.

At the same time, land confiscation, settlement expansion, and home demolitions continue in the West Bank, with Israel resuming its [practice](#) of demolishing homes as a punitive measure. And in Gaza, while some restrictions have been eased, the crippling blockade continues.

As people of faith who believe in the value of every human life, we must speak and act to preserve life and prevent further suffering. We must condemn all violence and all calls for revenge. To prevent even more loss of life, it is crucial to address the underlying causes for the violence.

Contact your members of Congress and ask them to:

- * Condemn all violence against civilians and calls for revenge by any person or party;
- * Oppose settlement expansion and other actions and policies that perpetuate the occupation;
- * Recognize the role of US aid to Israel in enabling the Israeli occupation and take action to ensure that this aid is used in compliance with US law and policy.