

The Spirit

July 2015

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church



Dear RCLPC family,

RCLPC has signed up to participate in the New Beginnings process with Presbytery. This is a General Assembly program designed to assist congregations in discerning a vision for their future. The process starts in August with a visit with congregational members as well as leaders of the church for a community assessment.

It is essential that as many of our congregation members as possible make every effort to attend the New Beginnings congregational consultation at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 13th, here at RCLPC.

The following is the assessor's timetable:

- 2:00 Meet with property chair for complete inside and outside review of church property
- 3:00 Begin a windshield tour by car with someone who is knowledgeable about the community.
- 4:00 Meet with the financial officers to review finances.
- 5:00 Meet with someone who is knowledgeable about the church calendar.
- 5:45 A no-host dinner (i.e. everyone pays for themselves) with the clerk of session and pastor.
- 7:00 Appreciative Inquiry session with the congregation.**

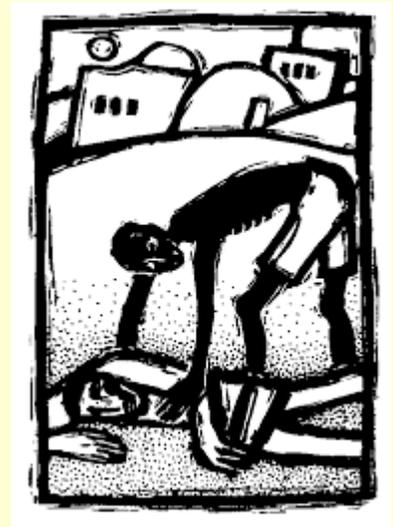
We appreciate that this is summer vacation time for many, but it is vital that our congregation come together to begin this journey in discerning a vision for our future.

- Session

Mark 12:28-34 "Love the Lord and your neighbor as yourself"

Both religion and politics are concerned with how we should organize our societies. Yet the tendency for Christians has often been to begin with the politics and work backwards to find religious rationale for our political beliefs. As a result, most people read the bible not to challenge our deeply held political beliefs, but to affirm the decisions we've already made with our lives.

What if we were to reverse the flow? What if we would begin with the Scriptures and work our way forward to the politics? What does the Bible tell us about how we are supposed to organize our common life together so that we can actually bear the image of God to all creation?



"So often the contemporary church is a weak ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. So often it is an archdefender of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the churches silent – and often even vocal – sanction of things as they are....If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the 20th century. Every day I meet young people whose disappointment with the church has turned into outright disgust."

-Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King, Good Friday, 1963

N.T. Wright, New Testament Scholar at University of St. Andrews

"The chief political concern of the Scriptures is for God's wise and loving ordering of the world to be operative through humans who will share his priorities, especially his concern for the poor, the weak and the vulnerable. The concern was embodied by Jesus in his inauguration for 'God's Kingdom' through his public career and especially his self-giving death, which together set the pattern for a radically redefined notion of power."

Stanley Hauerwas, Theologian and ethicist at Duke Divinity School

"The Chief political concern of the bible is to worship God truly."

Brent Strawn, Old Testament Scholar, Candler School of Theology at Emory University

"The chief political concern of the bible is restoration of God's *shalom* on the entire world: human and non-human, animate or inanimate. That encompasses all aspects of the human polis and thus politics but also the entirety of creation so that nothing is left outside this primal 'political' concern."

Walter Brueggemann, Old Testament Scholar, Columbia Theological Seminary

I believe that the central political question is the management of the public power in order that there should be an economically viable life for all members of the community. Thus justice is front and center and some texts, especially in Deuteronomy, are for the distribution of wealth in order that all may be viable. Obviously such justice is marked by mercy, compassion and generosity. The purpose is to create a genuine neighborhood for all the neighbors."

Brian McLaren, Author and Theologian

"God's solidarity with the poor, oppressed and forgotten."

- John Dillon

Churchwide VBS Mission Project: Church World Service School Kits

As the VBS children learned to conquer challenges with God's mighty power, they also helped children who are refugees or have experienced a natural disaster to continue their schooling. Children like those in Nepal, who lost their homes and belongings in the recent earthquakes.

Church World Service plans to provide school kits to 29,000 children in Nepal, where Mt. Everest is located. These children will receive kits as part of Church World Service's Safe Schools Program. The kits will make a world of difference for the children, who will be able to return to a degree of normalcy through their schooling.

Each year Blackhawk Presbytery asks all churches of the Presbytery to contribute kits. We have been challenged to assemble at least 50 school kits. The VBS boys and girls and the people of RCLPC have started off our collection with a mountain of donations. A team of seamstresses has been at work sewing the bags to hold the school supplies.

Thank you to all who have donated school supplies or sewn the bags to hold the supplies. Through your generosity, 50 bags have been filled and await shipping to the places and children in need. **If you'd still like to help, Church World Service requests \$2 per kit, which you can put in the jar on the office desk, for shipping the items.**

Thank you for sharing in this mission project with the VBS children.

We are grateful to accept your donations until July 19 so they can be sent on to children in need, both near and far. ~ Mission Team



Summer Adult Christian Education

This summer, Jessica Brown will be leading an adult Christian education class exploring the books of Colossians and Philemon from the Bible. It is an eight week class that starts June 14th running through August 16th with June 21st and July 5th off. We will meet in the lounge and anyone is welcome to join us! Please contact Jessica with any questions

Don't Forget

Deadline for
the August

Spirit is



August 7th!

Coffee Fellowship Opportunities

The Deacons would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have so generously contributed to the coffee fellowship hour by making coffee and providing treats. The busy summer months are fast approaching and we have many unfilled dates. Please take a few minutes to check the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall to see when you might be able to help in this way. You will be sent a reminder and instructions the week before your scheduled date.



Flower Dedications

Flowers are a wonderful way to celebrate and honor birthdays, anniversaries, any sort of special occasion or special person. There are lots of dates available through the year. The sign-up poster is in the Connecting Link, take a look and grab a date today!



May 1st thru September 25

RCLPC will be assembling 30 lunches each Friday at 9:15 am for the 5 months (May thru September). Three assemblers should be enough for each Friday. It will take less than an hour of your time and the lunches are so much appreciated by those without funds or even a home address. Please select your Friday or Fridays and sign up in the Connecting Link.



Sunday Sundaes!

This summer we are offering a fun fellowship opportunity for everyone! On Sunday nights from 7-8pm, we will be meeting at The Freeze on Route 14 to have ice cream together and hang out. This begins on June 14th and will run on Sunday nights throughout the summer. Join us for tasty ice cream and good company. If you have any questions please contact Matthew Brown at matthew@rclpc.org or (810) 965-6719. Hope to see you there!

Introducing: Living Waters

The most precious natural resource on earth is clean water, especially for children. Did you know that 780 million people around the world lack access to clean water and that 5,000 children die each day from preventable water borne illnesses, especially diarrhea? One child dies each 20 seconds from illnesses that clean water could cure.

Living Waters for the World (LWW), a mission project of the Presbyterian Church for more than 20 years, serves communities that have water available but the water is contaminated. LWW has developed a simple clean water system that is easy to install and maintain. The systems are usually installed in public buildings such as a church or school and are supervised by a committee from the community. LWW, as well, teaches people to become trainers of good health practices, hygiene, and spiritual education, without which education the clean water would not be effective.

Since its inception, LWW has partnered with mission teams to empower local community leaders to install and operate over 500 clean-water systems in major developing areas of the world. Over 85% of these installations are still operating.

The Session of RCLPC has approved LWW as a new mission project of our congregation. Additional information about this program and how people can help will be forthcoming over the next few months. We hope this will be the beginning of a journey for all of us to really make a difference in people's lives, especially the children.

LWW RCLPC Team: Lois and Rick Johnson, Sarah and Jac Kelewae

Mission Partners

You will find a new directory of Mission Partners in the pew racks. It offers a central place to read about RCLPC's missions and their role in our common life. The directory will introduce visitors to the many ways "we go in grace...to serve God's people in every place life leads us."



A digital version of this booklet, including links to our partners' websites, is available at www.rclpc.org — click on the "Other Links of Interest" button. If you have a paper copy for at-home reading, just bring it back when you have finished and replace it in the pew rack so that the directories will be available for all who come to worship.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Matthew 25: 35-40 NRSV

~Mission Outreach Ministry, May 2015

Eat, Play, Give!

Each Performance: A Different Charity!



RCLPC presents:
You Can't Take It With You!
www.rclpctheater.com

July 24, 25, 31, 2015: 7pm dinner/ 8pm show
July 26 & August 1, 2: 1pm dinner/ 2pm show
Adult \$30 ----- Senior (60+) or Student \$25

Presbyterian Church
8505
Church St.
Crystal Lake
60012

Phone:
708-26
RCLPC
(267-2572)

A Wacky, All-American Comedy: Fireworks, Taxes... and Apple Pie, of course!

RCLPC Theater Needs You!

Join us for a delightful dinner theater experience and bring your friends! Reserve your table now and invite seven other family members/friends so you can have a whole table of fun while you enjoy our show, *"You Can't Take It With You"*.

Tickets on sale online at: www.rclpctheater.com

You can also purchase your tickets with a check, cash or credit card on Sunday during Fellowship Hour or after the 11:00 service. See Steve or Amy in Fellowship Hall.

You may also drop off a check with Jenny anytime during office hours. Please indicate the performance date you are requesting. You will be sent a receipt by mail or email, just indicate your preference and contact information.

July 24, 25, and 31 7pm dinner 8pm show

July 26, Aug. 1 and 2 1pm dinner 2pm show

Also, have you been wondering how you might like to help? We could use set builders/helpers, painters, food preparers and servers. Please contact Steve or Amy for more details: connellsteve@gmail.com

bcdfamily@gmail.com or call 815 459-1694.

Finally, would you like to purchase an ad in our program? We have business card, 1/4 page, 1/2 page and whole page sizes available.

Session Highlights

June 22, 2015

Approved Session Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2015 as corrected

Approved Congregation Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2015

Sarah Kelewae, Jac Kelewae, Lois Johnson & Rick Johnson presented overview of the Living Waters for the World Mission project

Approved signing the Living Waters for the World Covenant & authorizing the establishment of a RCLPC dedicated fund for fund raising

Approved removing Ann Vornsand from membership roles

Accepted resignation of Elder Nancy Koenig, and not filling vacancy at this time

Approved update to Policy and Procedure Manual

Reviewed the May 2015 Year to Date financial report

Approved going forward with New Beginnings Vision planning process

Approved ringing the church bell Sunday June 28th at Noon per request of Green Faith (PCUSA Environmental Office) showing solidarity with Pope Francis' position on climate.

Concurred with Mission Team's Calling Cards approach

Approved RCLPC Corporate Offices

President – Cindy Theobald

Vice President – Deb Steele

Treasurer – David Woodruff

Secretary/Clerk – Lee Ekstrom

Financial Secretary – Laurie Jensen

Established Elder Team Liaison assignments

Worship

Tom Lafontaine

(Deb Steele)

Administration

Cindy Theobald

(Janet Holub)

Vision

Darryl Bessant

Building & Grounds

Lou Rabe

Stewardship

Linda Schweers

(Steve Connell)

Mission

Linda Schweers

Finance

Steve Connell

Christian Education

Al Popp

(Pam Palmer)

Community Awareness

Bruce Randall

Approved not filling vacancy at this time

Next meeting July 27, 2015.