

The Spirit

June 2015

Of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church



Daniel 6:10

Even though prayer to other gods had been banned Daniel "... continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open towards Jerusalem, and get down on his knees three times a day to pray" I find praying to be very difficult. I am never quite sure if I am wallowing in self-pity, moaning and venting, boring God with all my petty issues, or reciting words by rote. I could never equal Daniel's discipline of three times a day, but I do love the symbolism of keeping a window open towards God. Taking time to let God in, seems to me to be a wonderful first step, and getting into the habit setting aside a special time even if it is while doing the dishes is also very important.

As this is a chronic spiritual problem for me, I often read "how to pray" books and recently I found some wise words of comfort. Not only that but I have known the author, Rev. Kathy Galloway, as a colleague and friend for close to thirty years. Even though we know one another we have never discussed the subject and I found these points from her writing which gave me hope and encouragement.

Kathy writes

"Prayer is common. Though it happens in diverse locations, often in solitude, it is actually one of the important ways people connect, even when apart. Though personal, it is never private. It is like logging onto a network or weaving oneself into a web." When we pray, we are not alone. We are joining every other person and every other prayer in the world. It is a strong bond in our community of faith.

"Prayer is outgoing. Start first with prayers for the world, then concerns and people who are close to you. Finally reaching those you know and finally yourself." This roots us firmly in a community and avoids it all being about "me."

"Prayer is imperfect." Many "agonize at length about how they do it, when they do it, how difficult the find it and how often they fail" Is she speaking directly to me? Or you?

" Though I don't quite know what I am doing, I have discovered it doesn't really matter. I have come to think of prayer as rather like a good friend.

...a good friend doesn't let you get away with murder but will speak for you in your defense.

...a good friend asks hard questions but stays with you while you struggle with the answers.

...a good friend sees you at your worst but still loves you.

...a good friend has had plenty of practice at forgiving you.

...a good friend has no illusions about you, knows you are only human but still has hopes for you.

...everyone needs a good friend ,otherwise you'd just go on making the same dreary old mistakes"

Take Kathy's advice and, like Daniel, at least keep a window open towards God. Amen. ~ Pastor John

MEET YOUR DEACON MARGE STEWART

I have lived in Crystal Lake for 55 years. Population then was 13,000 and Route 14 was the end of town. I was born and raised in Chicago and moved to Wonder Lake shortly after I graduated from high school. I felt like my parents had moved me to the ends of the earth. It was an adult community, no street lights or public transportation, and of course, I didn't drive. Truly a city girl! I moved to Crystal Lake after I was married, and I raised my children here. I have been a member of RCLPC for almost eight years.

While growing up, my summer activities were limited to playing in the neighborhood. My parents were always in business for themselves and could never take any time off for vacations. I remember my mom's first plane trip to Florida. She was so scared she walked through the terminal like she was going to meet her death.

I was never too fond of school. My favorite subject was English, but I have worked quite a bit in bookkeeping. The job I enjoyed the most was working the front desk (reception and billing) in a doctors' medical group. I even worked the switchboard, which I loved but it is now a dinosaur. My worst job was working retail in the petite department of a big department store. There was not much traffic and time past slowly. I do like to keep busy!

I did not travel until later in life. I have enjoyed trips to Rome and Greece with my boys, traveling to London with my husband, and a great ladies holiday in New York celebrating my friend's sixtieth birthday.

My greatest accomplishment is raising my children to be good and honest citizens and great parents. I have been blessed with 13 grandchildren.

One last thought Life is a learning experience and we learn every day, taking one day at a time, and trying to handle the cards we are dealt the best we can. My boys refer to me as a tough old broad, always giving an honest opinion when asked, giving a helping hand when needed, and most of all being a good friend and never losing that sense of humor. It keeps me going!



Marge's Deacon Family

Rob & Julia Baser

Darryl & Adriena Bessant

Charles & Donna Doll

John & Dorothy Fankhauser

Brian & Rebecca Floyd

Tom & Julie Genova

Charlotte Irvine

Dale Lange

Tom & Cheryl Lilly

Meg Maenpaa

Bill & Pat Moll

Shawn & Beth Rainey

Dan & Linda Schweers

Mark & Raechel Sowa

Ed Waters & Cindy Done

A Word from Cynthia Lopuszynski...

As I finished my term as RCLPC Deacon I want to thank all the hard working individuals who make up the Board of Deacons. This group provides many services for the church, its members and friends from the greeters, to arranging for meals for those in need, to visiting the homebound, to dropping off breadbaskets to visitors, and more. Our Deacons reach out with a hand in friendship, care and love to those in need. Join me in thanking those Deacons who have finished their term of service: Cheryl Brincks and Louise Dillon. Welcome our incoming Deacons: Rick Johnson, Sue Neuschel and Diane Terlep. Stop and say hello those continuing to serve their terms: Sarah Kelewae, chair; Kathy Rabe, vice-chair; Cindy Harvey, secretary; Ron Brandt; Carol Hoefler; Karen Leuchtman; Dan Newman; Wendy Sanders; and Marge Stewart. My thanks to each of you, Cynthia Lopuszynski

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 here 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. Questions? Please contact Cindy Harvey at 815-893-6032, or cyndabeth@gmail.com.

Don't Forget!

July Spirit articles

are due

JULY 3RD!

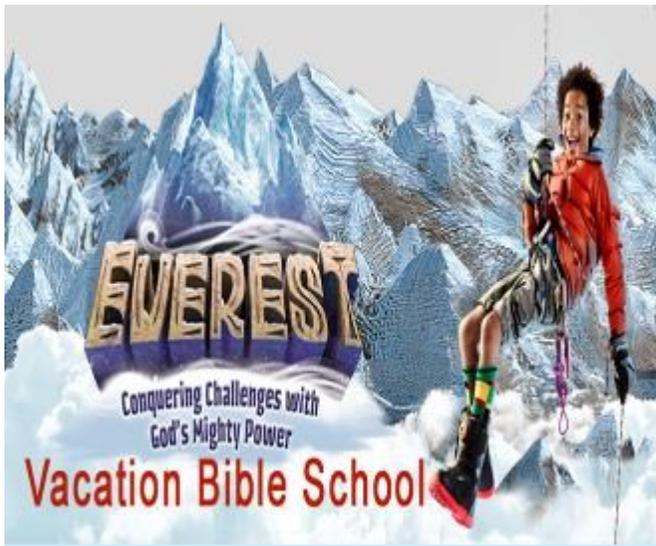


Mission Partners

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.



VBS Registration is Open!

VBS is coming to RCLPC June 22-26. VBS will happen daily from 9am-noon for ages pre K -5th grade. Registration forms can be found on our website or in the Gathering Place. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Matthew Brown by email:

matthew@rclpc.org or by phone

(810) 965-6719.

VBS Mission Project

Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power

As the VBS children learn to conquer challenges with God's mighty power, they will also be helping 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 will start off our collection.

Help them meet this challenge by donating school supplies for the kits. Look for the collection box in the Gathering Place. All items need to be new and in exact sizes and quantities. You are invited to purchase any of these items:

- blunt metal scissors, rounded tips
- spiral notebooks
- 30-cm rulers
- hand-held pencil sharpeners
- large erasers
- pencils with erasers
- boxes of 24 crayons

Please return your items by June 24 so they can be assembled into kits by the VBS boys and girls and sent on to children in need, both near and far.

Do You Sew?

If so, we need you. The VBS boys and girls will be collecting school supplies for children in refugee camps or recovering from natural disasters. The VBS theme--"Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power"--inspires us to prepare Church World Service (CWS) school kits for such needs as the 29,000 children to be assisted by the CWS Safe Schools program in Nepal.



The instruction sheet is available at <http://www.cwsglobal.org/resources/pdfs/school-bag-pattern.pdf>.

Send a message to loisjohnson74@comcast.net if you are able to sew some school bags for children in need.



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 ques-

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 jessicabrown625@gmail.com

Summer Sunday School

The fun doesn't stop in the summer! Sunday school will continue throughout the summer. Ages Preschool-5th grade will meet in the 3rd-5th grade Sunday school room and we will be jumping into the amazing stories of the Bible. We will be acting out stories of the Bible so we can learn the stories as well as learn how the people of the Bible may have felt way back when! If you have any questions please contact Matthew Brown at matthew@rcclpc.org or (810) 965-6719.



Fair Trade Chocolate Cart

See if any of the chocolate bars remaining on the cart to-



day are calling out to go home with you. Coffee and tea will continue to be stocked through the summer, while chocolate will resume in the fall. Thanks for supporting fair trade as a way to affect positive change with our

Feed My Starving Children

RCLPC is planning an event on Thursday, June 18th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Feed My Starving Children warehouse in Libertyville

(742 East Park Ave. Libertyville, IL 60048).

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian non-profit organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: volunteers hand-pack meals specially formulated for malnourished children and the meals are sent to partners around the world to feed starving children. All are invited to participate, especially families. The minimum age to volunteer is 5 years old and a parent is needed to accompany younger children.

We need a head count as soon as possible, so please sign up in the Connecting Link or contact us (skelewae@aol.com or 815-459 6115) if you can participate. We are hoping to have at least 25 people. Please join us!

Order Scrip gift cards and Missions will receive the benefits in cash rebates! All you do is grab an order form from the bulletin board in the Connecting Link, pick your store and the denomination for your gift cards, place a check to RCLPC (Missions in the memo line), staple together and place in the **Scrip mail box** near the front door. Your gift cards should be received

within a week or so after the deadline date. Just by ordering, our Missions Fund will receive a cash refund, every little bit helps, so please order your gift cards today. These are the Sunday deadline dates for the next few months, so you can plan ahead: **Sunday, June 21st, July 26th and August 23rd.** Thank you for supporting our Missions of RCLPC.



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.

Scrip

funny word...easy fundraising

Eat, Play, Give!



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

July 24 - Aug 2, 2015
8505 Church St. Ridgefield, IL
708-267-2572

Dinner Theater Tickets \$30
Seniors (60+) & Students \$25
Children (under 6) \$10

Each Performance: A Different Charity

Too Many Cooks...

is exactly what the RCLPC Theater is looking for to assist in preparing dinner for the shows!

Each performance of *You Can't Take It With You* has a dedicated mission which means that a part of the show's proceeds will be donated to that mission. Your time and help will be going towards a great cause.

We would love to involve our young adult members (and their friends) as well. Please encourage your teens or young adults to join the serving team. They will be responsible for serving and clearing the dinner tables. (A small stipend will be offered for volunteers committing to all six shows and a training session.)

Please contact me to sign up for one or more or all the dinners!

Amy bcdfamily@gmail.com 815 459-1694

Friday, July 24, 7pm CPJ Covenant Network (Rick Johnson)

Saturday, July 25, 7pm Care for Children Overseas (Joan Jensema)

Sunday July 26, 1pm TBA (Men's Breakfast Group)

Friday, July 31, 7pm Living Waters for the World (Andrea Pracht and Lois Johnson)

Saturday, Aug. 1, 1pm PADS (Amy Connell and family)

Sunday, Aug. 2, 1pm Music Ministry (Gretchen Holder)

Are you interested in learning the skills of a stage manager? If you are 18 or over, this is your chance to learn from a master. Kathie Comella, an experienced stage manager for shows produced at the Woodstock Opera House will show you the ropes as you learn how to stage manage our show. If you want to find out more, please contact Steve Connell: connellsteve@gmail.com, 815 459-1694.

Class of 2015 Congratulations!

Oran Dillon - Oran graduated from Central High School and is taking a gap year.

Ethan Geggie - Ethan graduated from Woodstock High School Sunday May 17th. He will be attending Robert Morris University in Chicago on a bowling scholarship. He will be majoring in graphic design.

Katherine (Katie) Palmer graduated from Crystal Lake South. She was active with Gator Pride, played with the band and drumline, played cymbals for the Crystal Lake Strikers All Stars, performed with Potts and Pans steel drum ensemble as well as participated with karate. She will attend Eastern Kentucky University to study athletic training.

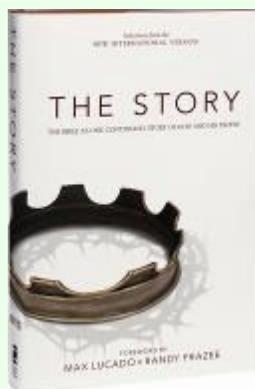
Gretchen Price

Neil Ray - Neil is graduating from Prairie Ridge High School in Crystal Lake. He is going to MCC for the 1st year and then transferring to Illinois State University. He is not sure yet what he will major in but his interests are mythology, history, and graphic and/or architectural design.

20's and 30's Group

This summer Matthew and Jessica Brown are starting a 20s and 30s group! We will be going through a Bible study called The Story as well as hanging out and getting to know each other. The Story is the Bible in novel form so it is easier to understand and can provide a new perspective on well known stories.

We will be meeting on Tuesday nights from 7:30-9pm at Matthew and Jessica's apartment, 1425 Skyridge Dr. Apt. D Crystal Lake, IL 60014. The first meeting is Tuesday June 16th! If you have any questions please contact Matthew Brown at matthew@relpc.org or (810) 965-6719. Hope to see you there!



Share Your Gifts in Worship This Summer!

If you'd like to share your gifts of music, art and/or dance in worship this summer, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board, outside the choir room. You may select 9 and/or 11 worship. For more information, contact Sherri Dees. sherri@relpc.org, or call the church office, 815-459- 1132.



Finance Report for January—April, 2015

January Finance Report

JANUARY	
Total Income	\$20,896
Expenses	
Managing	\$7,784
Worshiping	\$5,863
Caring	\$329
Reaching Out	\$38
Learning	\$4,662
Pastoring	\$2,792
Total Expenses	\$21,468
Income - Expenses	(\$572)

Y-T-D On-Line Giving Report

On-Line Member Giving	\$625.00
On-Line NonMember Giving	\$100.00
TOTAL ON-LINE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$725.00

February Finance Report

FEBRUARY		Y-T-D
Total Income	\$20,621	\$41,517
Expenses		
Managing	\$6,739	
Worshiping	\$4,745	
Caring	\$352	
Reaching Out	\$5,384	
Learning	\$4,220	
Pastoring	\$3,753	
Total Expenses	\$25,193	\$46,661
Income - Expenses	(\$4,572)	(\$5,144)

Y-T-D On-Line Giving Report

On-Line Member Giving	\$1250.00
On-Line NonMember Giving	\$100.00
TOTAL ON-LINE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1350.00

March Finance Report

MARCH		Y-T-D
Total Income	\$27,122	\$68,639
Expenses		
Managing	\$10,792	
Worshiping	\$4,812	
Caring	\$661	
Reaching Out	\$2,718	
Learning	\$3,735	
Pastoring	\$2,308	
Total Expenses	\$25,026	\$71,687
Income - Expenses	\$2,096	(\$3,048)

Y-T-D On-Line Giving Report

On-Line Member Giving	\$2325.00
On-Line NonMember Giving	\$100.00
TOTAL ON-LINE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2425.00

April Finance Report

APRIL		Y-T-D
Total Income	\$26,619	\$95,258
Expenses		
Managing	\$5,430	
Worshiping	\$4,564	
Caring	\$423	
Reaching Out	\$2,682	
Learning	\$3,902	
Pastoring	\$2,259	
Total Expenses	\$19,260	\$90,947
Income - Expenses	\$7,359	\$4,311

Y-T-D On-Line Giving Report

On-Line Member Giving	\$3450.00
On-Line NonMember Giving	\$150.00
TOTAL ON-LINE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$3600.00