

The Spirit

MAY 2015

Of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

Some thoughts on the Reformed Understanding of Marriage.

At least a decade before I had even heard of same gender marriage, I studied some very enlightening views of marriage voiced by Calvin, Knox and other Reformation thinkers. Concepts and ethics about how to understand marriage, which Presbyterians still teach, and I explain to every couple who ask for a wedding.

At the time of the Reformation, the common understanding of the dignity and nature of humanity was that we were not much more than brutes ruled by our passions and sins, especially men. While the Reformers taught that all humanity is “fallen and subject to sin” they did hold a higher view of our personal responsibility and stressed our ability to use free will. This changed their view of the purpose of marriage.

For centuries, four reasons for marriage have been read out at the beginning of every wedding. Those reasons are: togetherness; full expression of love; children and our place in society. The difference comes in the order of importance that these reasons are listed. It was here that our Reformed fathers made significant changes.

Traditionally, and still in some denominations, the priority, and hierarchy of importance is given as: children; expressions of love; togetherness and society. As the issue is hot news today, you will find many arguments center on “having children.” However, the traditional order rested on an understanding of “expressions of love” being a polite term for the belief that our physical needs were almost uncontrollable. Some early marriage liturgies even use “uncontrollable animal passions” instead of “expressions of love.” The Reformers disagreed with this rather bleak view of human nature and so they changed the order of the four reasons.

The Marriage Service which I usually follow expresses it in these words:

“ Marriage is appointed that there may be lifelong companionship, comfort and joy between equal partners. It is appointed as the right and proper setting for the full expression of physical love, in all its forms. It is appointed for the ordering of family life where children—who are also God’s gift to us- may enjoy the security of love and the heritage of faith. It is appointed for the well- being of human society, which can be stable and happy only where the marriage bond is honored and upheld”

This thoroughly Reformed position starts with the “two shall become one” as our priority and follows with the belief that love is expressed in many physical ways. That making a meal, a home, listening, companionship, supporting are all expression of love. Then the gift of children is celebrated and yet take these two principals together and we see what we all know....Marriage is much more than gender or procreation and comes in many forms and at many stages of life. Finally statement that we and society are better when the “marriage bond is honored and upheld.”

Calvin and co. were men of their time and saw marriage as solely between a man and a woman, but understanding changes. Yet their teaching still applies to our new situation and increased knowledge. Reformed marriage does stress the importance of children, but does not make it a priority. Are those who can’t or choose not to have children any less married? No. Is the re-marriage of the widowed any less a marriage? No. This Reformed teaching and viewpoint is still thoroughly relevant and more importantly, true to our faith, when it stresses that marriage is about two people finding love, tolerance, strength, understanding and growth in a loving, unique and faithful union. It also stresses that society is more secure when these principles are upheld .

Let us pray for all who are married and all who wish to be married that God’s grace powers over them. Amen.

~ Pastor John

Spring Gardening Clean up

Have you noticed how great our church grounds look? Winter has been swept away and springtime is arriving quickly. This big task of cleaning up the church grounds happened because some amazing people gave their time on a Saturday morning in April to do some clean up, and we all owe them a BIG thank you. Please tell them the next time you see them . . . Amy & Steve Connell, Lee Ekstrom, Mary Finch, Cheryl & Tom Lilly, Bob Novak, Lou & Kathy Rabe, Mike Rugh, George Steffen, and Roger Wiese. What a great team!!



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@rclpc.org, or call the church office, 815-459- 1132.



Summer Sunday School



SUMMER SUNDAY "FUN" DAYS

Calling all middle and high schoolers! Please join Mr. Nelson on Sunday mornings during the month of June and July, with the exception of July 5th, for a lot of fun, fellowship, some bible knowledge, and of course, treats!!! You will find him downstairs during the 10:00 hour in the middle school classroom. Hope to see you there!

Our Sunday school programs will also continue throughout the summer for grades preschool-5th grade. This summer we are going to be discovering God's stories by jumping into them. We are going to have fun acting out Bible stories and making crafts to help us act out the Bible stories! Below are the dates summer Sunday school will happen.

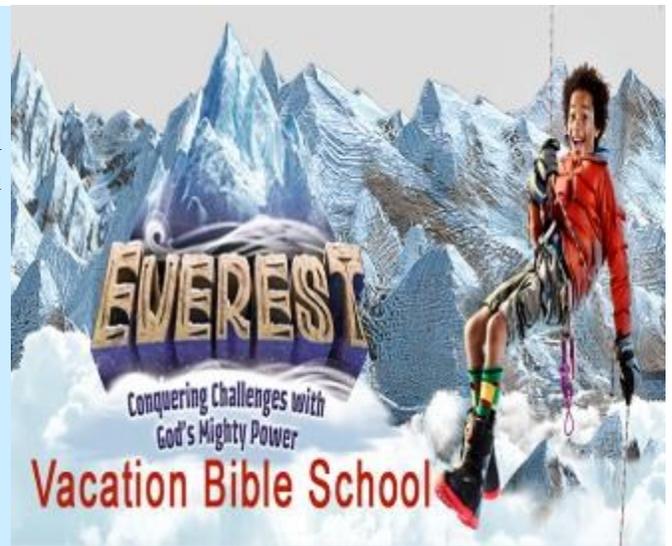
June 14, 21, 28, July 19, 26 and August 2, 9, 16

If you have any questions please contact Karen Nelson or Matthew Brown.

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.



Join us at the RCLPC Community Garden!

This year we will be at Crystal Lake Park District's Community Garden at Hill Farm Acres at 705 Barlina Road in Crystal Lake. Next year we hope to have it on our own church property. If you enjoy the outdoors, saving money and growing plants, you'll want to join us on our 40' by 20' garden plot! Flowers, vegetables, herbs, or whatever you desire, will grow well in the rich soil. If interested in joining this exciting project, contact Karen Ray , Steve Connell or the church office.

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.

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



Deadline for June SPIRIT is June 5th!

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

Sunday May 17th!

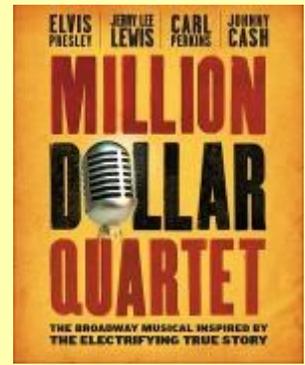
Join us Sunday May 17th to thank our wonderful Sunday school teachers. Immediately following the congregational meeting we will be celebrating our teachers with cake and punch in the fellowship hall.



Our thanks to this year's teachers: Amy & Todd LeFevre, Danielle Gilbert, Leanne Russo, Jodi Iddings, Raechel & Alex Sowa, Aage & Cathy Christiansen, Rob & Julia Baser, Nancy Blakely, Allison Larsen, Al Popp, Eric Nelson, Dawn Gilman, and Cindy Nichols. If you see any of these teachers on a Sunday morning, please tell them thanks.

RCLPC Picks – Million Dollar Quartet at the Apollo Theatre

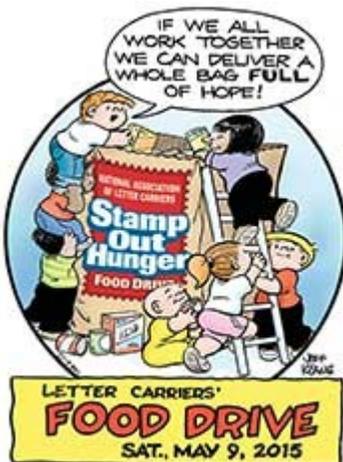
Is anyone interested in an outing?



Million Dollar Quartet is the smash-hit musical inspired by the famed 1956 recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley for the first and only time. Save the date: Sunday June 14, 2:00 or 5:00 pm show; we need to decide (5:00 pm saves \$16) More information in May Spirit. Sign up in Connecting Link. Questions? Contact Karen Hutchings.

Zatoun is Back!

Palestinian Olive oil is available now. Get your bottle(s) of Fair Trade Extra virgin olive oil in Fellowship Hall next to the coffee cart. You will enjoy its flavor while helping Palestinian farmers and other projects on the West Bank. Each bottle is \$20.00.



Spread the word!!! Letter Carrier Food Drive

Please leave food donations by your mailbox on Saturday, May 9th.

Your Postal Carrier will pick it up & deliver it. Volunteers are needed from 4pm - 7pm at the Algonquin Township Bldgs on Rte 14 to sort & box the donations.

Together we can stamp out hunger!

MEET YOUR DEACON KATHY RABE

I have been attending RCLPC for many, many years. So many memories I loved doing the children's Christmas pageants because you never knew what might happen! I enjoyed being the Director of Lay Ministries and meeting with all the new members, but my best times will always be laughing and sharing and working with so many dear RCLPC friends.

My life has always been as a Presbyterian. I started attending Sunday School as a small child in Prosser, Washington, a small farming community that was the birthplace of my grandfather. Everyone knew everyone. I rode my bike all over town, especially to the library for story time and to the town pool for a swim. Do any of you remember sitting around a campfire with your buddies and roasting hot dogs and marshmallows?

As an adult, I have a long list of favorites. I love cooking so it is difficult to pick one favorite meal, but I cannot get enough of my mom's corn chowder. My husband Lou and I love going to the movies, getting our popcorn fix, and we really enjoyed "The Hundred-Foot Journey" with Helen Mirren (my love of cooking pops up again!). I am so busy being retired that I don't have an abundance of time for my favorite pursuits . . . trying new recipes, photography, gardening, and, of course, my six adorable grandchildren.

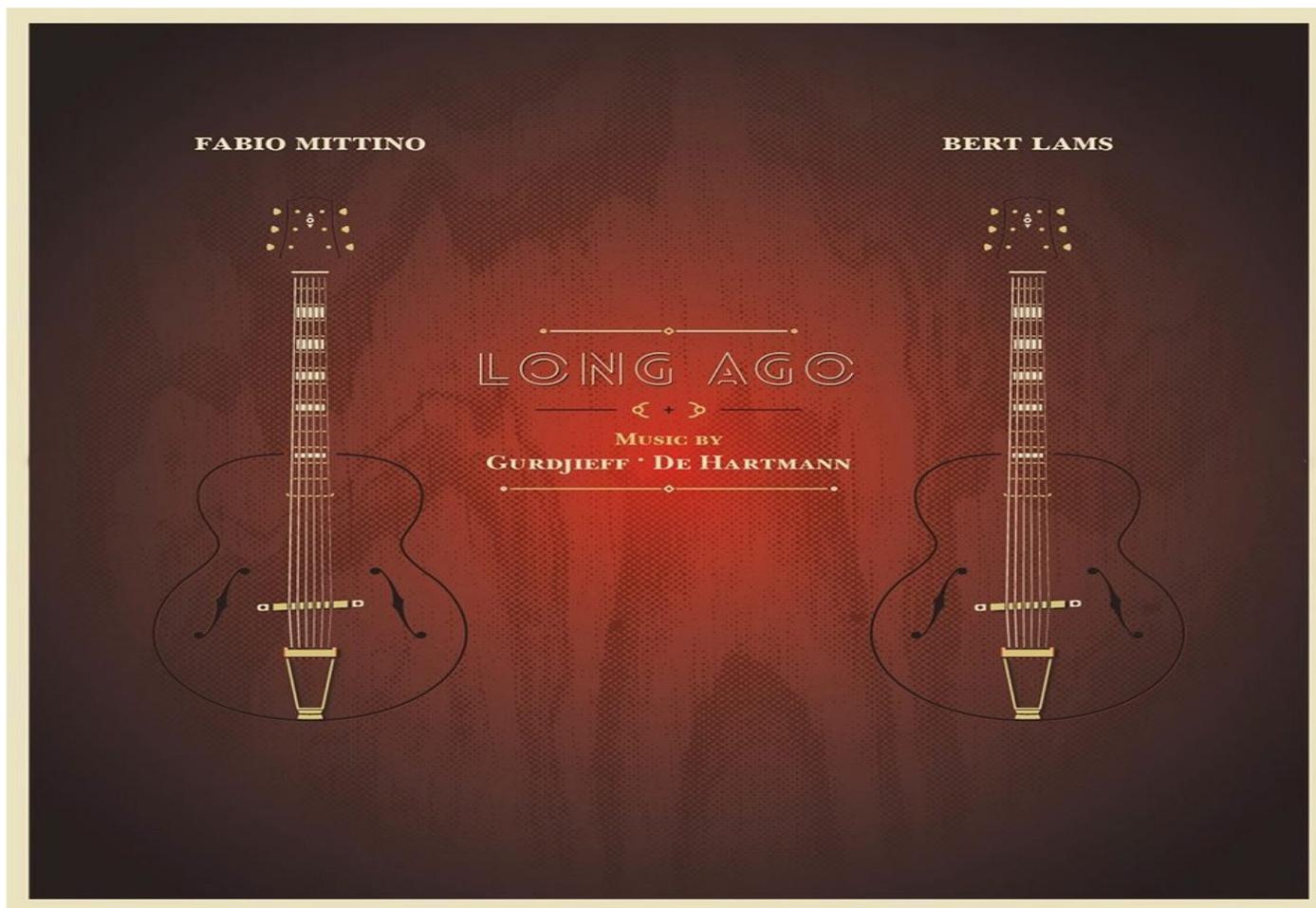
My husband, Lou, and I love traveling. We set a goal of seeing all the presidential libraries, and we have two left on our list. We decided it was time well spent to travel with our children as they were growing up, and we had some wonderful adventures. We still travel with them as adults — one week a year we all vacation together at a vacation rental on Lake Michigan.

I am so enjoying my time as a Deacon. I love getting to know the members of my church family group as well as caring for all of our RCLPC family.

My Deacon group includes: Matthew & Jessica Brown, Grethe Christensen, Doug & Maggie Crane, Laurie Dayon & family, Debbie & Steve Ehlenburg & family, Kathleen Ehlenburg, Clark & Jeanne Fischbach & family, Laura Harter, Mark Harter, Kevin & Tricia Heaphy, Rick & Lois Johnson, Mike & Debi Keyzer & family, Mark & Jodie LeFevre, Ann Legg, Linda & Walt Rosquist, David & Cindy Theobald.



RIDGEFIELD-CRYSTAL LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESENTS:



FABIO MITTINO AND BERT LAMS

Performing music by Gurdjieff • De Hartmann

The music on 'Long Ago' covers a vast territory: Armenian songs, Hindu melodies, Kurdish melodies, an Orthodox Hymn, and several Sayyid dances, most of it never been played on the guitar before. We immensely enjoyed discovering these hidden gems and we feel that this wonderful music deserves to be heard and played.

SATURDAY MAY 30 | 7:30PM

Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church | 8505 Church St. (in Ridgefield) | Crystal Lake, IL
60012

**THE CONCERT WILL ALSO FEATURE A PERFORMANCE
FROM THE GREATER MIDWEST GUITAR CIRCLE**

TICKETS:

www.mittinolams.brownpapertickets.com

\$18 advance, \$20 at the door

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.mittinolams.com



Tomorrow's
PEACE
Starts Today!

**Days of Prayer
and Action**

May 17 - 18, 2015

#DOPA2015 #PeaceinColombia

Day of Prayer and Action for Colombia

Tomorrow's Peace Starts Today

Sunday, May 17, we will observe a day of prayer and action for Colombia. During both worship services we will pray for the success of the peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the rebel groups and for the safety of 3 Colombian Presbyterian pastors who received serious death threats from a paramilitary group in January. Please stop at the CPJ table in the connecting link to sign a letter asking the U.S. government to support the peace process and to sign a card to the pastors letting them know that we are praying for them. You can also make a donation to the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Accompaniment Program by writing a check payable to Presbyterian Peace Fellowship with Colombia Accompaniment in the memo line and mail to Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, Stony Point Center, 17 Cricketown Road, Stony Point, NY 10980 or you can donate online at www.presbypeacefellowship.org/giving/. Designate your gift for the Colombia Accompaniment Program.



Big Tent: A Presbyterian Family Reunion!

Experience that deep sense of community one would expect at a national gathering of Presbyterians—a great big family reunion! Join us for a wide variety of workshops, all under one Big Tent, a conference that will inspire and equip Presbyterians to live missionally.

Only \$395 per person, which includes accommodations, seven meals, campus parking and

outstanding programming. Fees for children and youth are no more than \$150 each.

Discover a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that is more exciting, more diverse, and more faithful than you ever imagined. Big Tent will inspire you and make you proud to be Presbyterian.

For more information, visit : pcusa.org/bigtent

Call for Congregation Meeting

The Session has called for a Congregation Meeting on May 17th at 10am in Fellowship Hall for the purpose of:

Elect Ruling Elders

Elect Session Youth Elder

Elect Deacons

Elect Audit Committee Member

Elect Nominating Committee Members

Elect JCB Endowment Member

Approve proposed change to RCLPC By-Laws to allow electronic communication of boards and committees

Proposed change in RCPLC By-Laws adding paragraph 12i allowing electronic communication for boards and

committees stated as:

Boards and committees may take advantage of electronic communication (telephone, online conferencing, email) to make decisions, provided that minutes/results are recorded and approved.

Session Highlights

April 27, 2015

Welcomed Rev. John Dillon back

Approved Session Meeting Minutes from March 23, 2015

Matt Brown presented the work he is doing on development of a Family Ministry Model

Discussion on Pastor John's return to the pulpit and full time. Rev Judith Hardie from the Presbytery Council on Ministry attended and participated in the discussion. Decision made to send letter to congregation on Pastor John's return details.

Kristi Geggie reviewed redecorating plans for the Gathering Place and Connecting Link. A session task group was put together to further discuss plans and present priority to plans for next session meeting.

Approved membership transfer of Wayne & Karen Boyles to Bethany Lutheran Church of Crystal Lake.

Approved to forward to congregation approval of By-Law change allowing electronic communications for the boards and committees of RCLPC.

Reviewed the March 2015 Year to Date financial report – YTD \$3,081 more expenses than income

Discussed implementation of Emergency Closure Notification Plan

Thank you to Lee Ekstrom for the leadership in getting RCLPC ready for the Presbytery meeting and to those who volunteered at the Presbytery Meeting on April 14th.

Approved the Nominating Committee slate of candidates for:

Session: Tom Lafontaine, Bruce Randall, Janet Holub, Deb Steele, Nate Zacher

Deacons: Sue Neuschel, Deb Steele, Diane Terlep

Nominating Committee: Connie Rasmussen, George Steffen

Endowment: Pat Kay

Audit: Todd LeFevre

Decision not to pursue purchase of AED

Amended approved to hold a congregational meeting on May 17th for the purpose to:

Elect Ruling Elders

Elect Session Youth Elder

Elect Deacons

Elect Audit Committee Member

Elect Nominating Committee Members

Elect JCB Endowment Member

Approve proposed change to RCLPC By-Laws to allow electronic communication of boards and committees

Candidates Bios

Deacons

Rick Johnson is a candidate for deacon. He grew up in Aurora, Illinois. He graduated from Aurora University where he met his wife. He is gainfully retired from a 34 year career as a public school educator. He was raised Lutheran, but he has had a full and diverse faith journey. With his wife, Lois, he has raised three children and is enjoying six "truly gifted" grandchildren along with time with their golden retriever, Jonah.

When they moved to McHenry County in 2005, they found RCLPC and met, RCLPC's greatest ambassador, Dorothy Vick. With the warm welcome and active congregation, they knew it was the place for them. He has served our church in various capacities including deacon, choir member, Mission team, outreach, Earth Care team, Compassion, Peace and Justice team. He has helped with the Youth Visioning Team, Sunday School and VBS. He is looking forward to continuing his work.

Rick hopes that the church continues to accept all people with unconditional love who walk through our doors no matter where they are in their spiritual journey. As we gather each Sunday as a diverse group of people of faith, I pray we will continue to grow in the grace of God as revealed in Jesus, and then go and show God's grace through our words and actions to a world in need of compassion, peace, and justice.

Sue Neuschel is a candidate for Deacon. She was born in Brooklyn, NY, and raised in Jackson Heights and, later, Huntington, Long Island. I attended Westminster College, a Presbyterian school, in Pennsylvania. I am married to Fred Neuschel and have two adult children and four grandchildren. Our oldest, Rebecca is an active member of RCLPC. Kim lives in Madison, Wisconsin, where she is a public health nurse. I have had a variety of jobs but my longest and most recent position was as Director of Adult and Senior Services at Maine and Ela Townships. I have been retired for three years.

Even before Fred and I found a house in Crystal Lake we visited RCLPC and were "hooked" on our first visit. For several months we commuted to Ridgefield from Des Plaines to attend worship. I have served as an elder for seven years and have worked on worship enhancement and finance projects. In the past, I took a lay-chaplain training course at Lutheran General Hospital and worked as a lay-chaplain at a large nursing home in Des Plaines. I am drawn to the caring ministry of deacons and hope to enhance the sense of community and family in our congregation.

Diane Terlep was born and grew up in Sandwich, Illinois. She was raised Presbyterian and attended the Federated Church. She and her husband Dan have been married for 30 years. They have two children, Eric (27) and Stacy (23). She teaches mathematics at McHenry County College. She and Dan have been attending RCLPC for more than 30 years. Diane began her involvement in the early 80's as middle school youth leader and high school education leader. As her children grew, she spent many years involved with the youth education program as a teacher on Sunday mornings ranging from preschool through elementary grades. More recently she has been an usher. She has never served as an elder or deacon, but she is looking forward to helping in many areas. She hopes that RCLPC continues to be a welcoming place of worship.

Session

Janet Kvam-Holub is a candidate for elder. She grew up in mostly in Columbia but have attended churches of other denominations before and after that. I was confirmed in a Lutheran church in Columbia, Missouri. She moved to this area about sixteen years ago from St. Joseph, Missouri with her husband, Roy, and daughter, Katy. Roy is a civil engineer whose parents lived in Crystal Lake. They were able to get to know Katy before they passed away.

Janet is a violinist and teacher and spent 15 years teaching in St. Joseph, MO. She joined a Lutheran church there where she served two terms on the church council. She was head of the Worship and Music Committee. She and her husband were married in that church and Katy was baptized there. They found RCLPC when Katy was less than a year old when they found RCLPC, originally because of the 11:00 start time of the service! They were immediately impressed with the people, the minister and the music; also the bread we found on our doorstep the next week. Katy has grown up in this church and is now a confirmed member.

She has been involved in instrumental and choral music at RCLPC. She also attended a Bible study group when Katy was little which she enjoyed very much. Recently, she has started attending the Book Club on Tuesday mornings. She has also been a lector, greeter and usher.

One of her interests is in the music of the church, but she is also interested in to preserving the history of this church, both the physical building and the grounds. In addition to that she is proud of the just causes which we support both in this country and abroad. It is her hope that the church will continue its support of these things as well as its welcoming spirit and warm acceptance of people who come here.

Tom Lafontaine is a candidate for elder. He was born and raised in McHenry, IL. He was raised Catholic and became Presbyterian in 1980. He owns a custom home building and remodeling business with his wife, Pepper. He and his wife have two children, Tiffany and Kyle, who are married to another Kyle and Stephanie living in Woodstock and Chicago and they have two grandchildren, Addison (7) and Brayden (5). They also share their home with Toby the family pet. They found RCLPC when they visited for the baptism for Hayley Ryan. When they left after the service they looked at each other and said "I felt like he (meaning Pastor John), was talking directly to me". We decided to come again the next week and here we are. After joining RCLPC, they became senior high youth leaders. We have been in charge of the youth group pancake breakfast and we also participate in the mission trips and conferences with the youth group. He has also helped at the food trucks and with clearing of some of the landscaping. We have also participated in the RCLPC Café.

He has served as a deacon at First Presbyterian Church in Woodstock in the late 80's. He is looking forward to helping out in many capacities including youth group. His hope for RCLPC is that every person that walks through our doors feels called to be closer to God like I do.

Bruce Randall is a candidate for the elder position. Bruce was born in Morris Illinois and grew up in Springfield, Illinois. He was raised in Westminster Presbyterian Church. He is president of Structures Unlimited, a consulting structural engineering firm specializing in the design of building structures. He is married to Marie and they have one son, Grayson. They have lived in the Crystal Lake area since 1999. They used to pass by the church on their way to visit family and loved the setting for the church. After deciding to visit, they were impressed with our church and Doug Loving. It had a very welcoming feeling. He has participated with the building expansion committee and he and his wife help with the Share the Bounty program. He hasn't served before, but is looking forward to the opportunity to help and most likely will assist with building and grounds. He hopes the church can grow and attract younger members so the programs of the church can continue.

Deb Steele is a candidate for elder. She was born in Chicago, IL and my family moved to Arlington Heights when she was a 1 year old. As a small child, she attended the Methodist church. She had a close friend who attended the Evangelical Free Church and was lucky enough to expand my religious understanding attending youth group there as well as evening services. When the time came for her to be confirmed, her staunch Lutheran mom saw to it she went to the mandatory 3 year program at Our Saviour's Lutheran church. She attended high school youth group and sang in the choir there. Those years laid a strong foundation for her faith journey.

She met Dave Steele in the choir at Arlington High School and to this day, he is still her "boyfriend"! We became officially Mr. & Mrs. Steele at his family church which brought me back to the Methodist church of my childhood. We have been blessed with 2 children, Brad and Beth and are blessed with 2 more children, our "in-law" kids Janelle (Brad's wife) and Scott (Beth's husband). Both couples were married at RCLPC. Adding to our abundance, we have 5 grandsons (I probably should have mentioned them first - their parents say they no longer take priority since these fellas came along - and I might have to admit to that!). Grandsons Andrew, Jacob, Jack, Matthew and Luke bring great joy. They agree when they are all together in our home it's like the dogcatcher came and dropped off a bunch of rambunctious and raucous puppies - and they couldn't enjoy anything more!

She has been employed at Crystal Lake Orthopedics for 24 years. She has held a number of positions over the years and things have changed greatly. She continues to enjoy the challenges but most of all enjoy my daily experiences with the patients we care for.

They moved to Cary in 1977 and returned with regularity to our church in Arlington Heights but wanted to attend a local church. They are grateful to former neighbors who attended RCLPC and suggested they might try their church. One visit was all it took and we became members in January 1981. From the beginning, they were welcomed and became active members. She found her way to the choir and still sings, having moved from 1st to 2nd soprano and becoming an alto may not be far off! When you ask how has she been involved?...the list is long...Sunday School teacher, Bible School teacher/superintendent, Confirmation teacher and mentor, Session member, Pastor Nominating Committee, and she helped "give birth to" the Cookie Walk and Garage Sale.

She finds herself most passionate about prayer and is blessed and proud to be a part of our faithful Prayer Chain. We have witnessed miracles through prayer and have shared experiences that have helped us to realize God's hand in every moment of life. She hopes to be able to "fan the flame" of prayerful presence for those serving God, for those who wish to know God better, and for those who are searching. She would hope for RCLPC to continue its' steadfast service to our God and hope to see ways for spiritual growth flourish. Through sharing the word, prayer and sharing ourselves with others, we can't help but take God's love and incredible message into our hearts, our homes, our communities and our world.

Nate Zacher is a candidate for the youth elder position. He was born in McHenry County and has lived in Crystal Lake and has been coming to Ridgfield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church his entire life. He participated in Sunday school, choir and was confirmed here last August.

He has been involved at our church with his family. His loving mom and dad, Jim and Susan along with his siblings Elizabeth, Alex, and Ben have all attended here. Elizabeth is a University of Illinois student and 21. Alex is 19 and is at the University of Kansas student. Ben is a freshman at Crystal Lake South. They also have pets, a cat named Lilly and a dog named Apollo.

He likes to spend his spare time playing golf and dreams of a future in it. He also likes to build things, play basketball and baseball as well as fish. At our church, he has been involved with many projects. He has helped out with the rummage sale, ran the golf outing last year and helped with the youth mission projects.

He is looking forward to this opportunity and trying out the different ways to help our church community. His dream for RCLPC is to stay a loving caring community for another 100 years and that the youth program continues to grow.

Nominating Committee

Connie Rasmussen is a candidate for the Nominating Committee. She was born in southern Illinois, but after the age of 9, she lived in the St. Louis area. She has been basically Presbyterian my whole life. She is married to Chuck and they have five children and looking forward to the birth of their 10th grandchild in August. She is retired and loving every minute of it! Her lifelong career was in education as an elementary teacher and elementary school principal.

They moved to Crystal Lake in 1970, we were invited by neighbors to attend a social gathering of "Pairs and Spares." They accepted the invitation and met a wonderful group of people, and have been members here ever since. She has been involved in RCLPC before. She has served as a Session member, Clerk of Session, Education Team, Personnel Team, Associate Pastor Nominating Committee; Women's Group, Worship Team, Worship Enhancement Team, and Book Group, and helped with various events.

Connie welcomes the opportunity to participate with the church, but not a specific area. All of the areas are so important to the life of the church. She is willing to help where I can. Her hope for the church is that we continue to work together. Her quote, "It seems to me that whenever we are in a challenging situation, we all pull together to make things happen. I hope that this "togetherness" remains where ever our path is leading us. I want RCLPC to be a vital part of people's lives, where everyone feels welcome and a place they want to be. A place where all ideas are respected and we work together toward a common goal within our church as well as in the community."

George Steffen is a candidate for the Nominating Committee. He is originally from Chicago and grew up Presbyterian. He joined our church when he and his family moved to Crystal Lake. I was recommended by friends in their previous church, the Presbyterian Church of Dixon.

George is the Superintendent of Trevor-Wilmot School District in Wisconsin. His wife, Julie is a retired teacher. They have two children. His son is an attorney in Chicago. He is married with two daughters (ages 4 and 1) and a third on the way. His daughter is a pharmacist in Cincinnati. She is married and has two sons (ages 5 and 3).

George has served on Session, Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, and taught classes for newcomers and adult education. I have been a member of the Choir. He is looking forward to getting more involved when he retires in June. He would like to see the church continue to thrive and grow.

Endowment

Pat Kay is a candidate for the Endowment Committee. He was born in Peoria, lived briefly in Dayton, Ohio, and the balance in Appleton, Wisconsin. He was raised Roman Catholic and migrated to Presbyterian after some disagreements with the Catholic faith. His wife Tina also got baptized into the church and they have raised our children in the faith. They have been married over 28 years, married at First Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights. He is the Director of Accounting and Finance (Controller) at Forest City Gear in Roscoe, IL (north of Rockford).

They have two children: Laura (age 24) and Alan (age 22), both soon to have birthdays. Both kids have graduated college and live out of state. Laura teaches Special Education in inner city Columbus, Ohio and Alan is in Management Information Systems at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa. They moved to Crystal Lake in 1994 we were looking for a church closer to home. Previously, they belonged to Church of the Cross (Presbyterian) in Hoffman Estates. They both were immediately drawn by how close the church members were and we enjoyed Doug Loving as well.

Currently, he is on the Stewardship committee plus he will be helping David Woodruff in a backup role if something were to happen to him in his finance role at the church. Although he hasn't been full-time active lately he does participate in the Men's Breakfast group and volunteer with their initiatives and activities.

(cont'd)

Years ago, he was on a committee that explored more things that RCLPC can do to spread the word of the Egyptian ministry in the area. He met with a Presbyterian group in Madison, Wisconsin that also has ties to the church in Egypt.

This is his first leadership role, He has been asked to server, but couldn't dedicated the time required. RCLPC like other churches is challenged trying to balance finances with a potential shrinkage in membership. Overall, he thinks it has done quite well to date, but that is no guarantee for the future. With that said, his hope is that we can get a youth movement of sorts in terms of participation in new church leadership at high levels. I still see many of the same familiar faces I've seen for years and we are all aging. In order for the church to thrive going forward in my opinion we need to see a more gradual "changing of the guard". He believes this is key to inserting fresh new ideas and inserting energy into the ministry.

Audit

Todd LeFevre is a candidate for Audit. He has been here in Crystal Lake and RCLPC for 40 years. He describes it as, "I guess you could say I "married in" to the church when I was five years old back in 1979; the year my father Mark married one young and beautiful Jodie Zank (LeFevre)." He attended Augustana College in Rock Island, IL where he also met his wife Amy Schweitzer (now LaFevre). They are members here with their children, our son Blake (12) and daughter Brynn (8). When they are not at church, he spends his week as a financial advisor working for our family business, Heritage Wealth Management, in Palatine. Amy fills her week with all things "Blake and Brynn"