

Personal Reflections on New Beginnings

“Lord, . . . grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:29b-31

I do not actually expect the foundations of the building to shake but perhaps some of our ideas and pre-conceptions need some movement. However, “boldness” is the order of the day for our New Beginnings deliberations. While my role is almost entirely “behind the scenes” and I will not be attending the Small Group meetings, I did join our ten dedicated and enthusiastic leaders at the Presbytery NB training event.

With a good amount of wishful thinking and perhaps some naivety, when we received the Assessor’s full report, I had hoped it would contain all the answers! Or at least some specific instructions.

Of course it did not! Instead it gave us a lot of facts and figures about our congregation, and our community and reminded us that there is no such thing as a quick and easy fix. Most importantly it challenged us to be bold in our dreaming, our planning, our future and our mission. We learned a lot and were generally uplifted by what we read and learned.

Perhaps I could express it as RCLPC is like a ship which is in good order, well equipped, well experienced and full of enthusiasm. All it needs is to check its navigation system and perhaps recalibrate its compass. The other major learning point was that the critical part in discerning God’s plans for us is your part!

It is not the report which contains the “answers”; it is the process of working through the Small Group meetings. It is there that the Spirit will open minds and ideas and where “signs and wonders” will occur. In fact NB advises that to not inhibit our discussions only a short summary of the Report will be published at the moment. The full Report will be available after we have completed our Small Group meetings.

Our initial NB meeting with the Assessor was extremely well attended (77 members) and we need as many people as possible to attend the Small Groups, speak up and get involved. Even the best ship in the world is going to be stuck at its berth without a hardworking and committed crew.

Personally and on behalf of Session, I ask and encourage every single one of you to participate in the process, dream big dreams and vision clear future directions for our mission . . .

God grant that like the Jesus followers in Acts, RCLPC may also be known to be “filled with the Holy Spirit” and speak “the word of God with boldness”. Amen.

Timetable:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Oct 4th - | Congregational potluck luncheon and first small group meeting |
| Oct-Dec | Small groups meet |
| Jan-Feb | Leaders present results to Session. |
| Thereafter | RCLPC’s New Beginning. |

MEET YOUR DEACON DAN NEWMAN

Dan grew up in Glenview where he enjoyed playing baseball and swimming with friends in the summertime. A favorite memory is going to a Cubs game with his mom (she's a diehard fan!). He liked studying history and abnormal psychology in school, and his favorite courses were gym and art. He hated math! Dan's worst job was working at Fedex during the holiday season (dealing with harried customers!!), but loves his job now as part-owner of Unishippers.

Dan has enjoyed traveling down to Florida with his family to visit cousins, and he would love to do more travels to Hawaii, Italy and Scotland/Ireland. One of his best accomplishments is becoming a part owner of his own franchise business. Dan has learned a great life lesson that we could all benefit from: treat people with kindness and respect and do the small things like opening doors for people or helping them load groceries into their car. He hopes he will be remembered as a good, kind and loving Christian, husband, father, and friend. And he is!!

Dan's family group members:

James & Laura Bauman; Dan & Dawn Gilman; Jan Schwanke
Bill & Nancy Blakely; Ron & Alice Haznedl; Don & Lynn Stange;
Patrick & Colleen Cameron ; Mark & Susan Hetherington;
Dennis & Tina Stipati; James & Dawn Condill; Gretchen Holder;
Roger Wiese; John & Nancy Delaware; Mary Ann Norvell



Deacon Hospitality

In addition to attending to the needs of RCLPC's Family Groups by providing care and assistance, hospitality is a primary focus of the Deacons. We host memorial receptions, we deliver bread to new visitors, we organize the Sunday morning fellowship coffee hour, and we host special receptions for things like Teacher Appreciation, New Member Recognition, and Recognition of New Confirmands. We're applying to the RCLPC congregation at large to help in two of these hospitality areas: special receptions and Sunday morning coffee hour.

Special receptions provide opportunities for people to help in several areas: set-up, serve, and clean-up. The Deacon responsible for special events organizes the food, drink, etc., but can always use "a little help from our friends"! We're compiling a list of people who feel this is a way they could make a contribution on an occasional basis. Could we add your name to this list? Deacon Dan Newman, 815-337-1906, or dmnewman1@att.net, is waiting to hear from you!

Sunday morning coffee hour is an ongoing hospitality/fellowship opportunity that requires a volunteer every Sunday. However, the beauty of this need is that the more people who are willing to help, the less need there is for anyone to volunteer more than once or twice per year. It involves about 1 1/2 hours on Sunday morning, during the 10:00 fellowship time, to set up coffee, provide and set up a snack, be sociable, and clean up. Except for the snack, all other supplies are provided, and volunteers are sent more detailed instructions via email the week before they serve. A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall, next to the coffee. Please check your calendar to see if you could help with hospitality at RCLPC in this way. Questions? Contact Deacon Wendy Sanders, 815-477-2825, or sanderswendy@sbcglobal.net.

What's Happening in Children's Choir?

It's my joy and privilege to be able to work with some of the youngest singers in our church again. This year, the Sounds of Joy children's choir is exploring the new Presbyterian Hymnal, "Glory to God". While in a worship planning meeting recently, I started to realize how close our rehearsals were to the format of the Presbyterian Order of Worship.



Our worship service has five basic parts: gathering, preparing, listening, responding, and being sent out. Our rehearsal also follows this pattern, especially while we are exploring these familiar and unfamiliar hymns. A typical rehearsal goes something like this:

We Gather - the children come in, and we have a short time of greeting each other and catching up on each other's weeks.

We Prepare - we collect our materials and music, warm up our voices, and remind each other of our good singing postures.

We Listen - we pick some hymns to explore, sometimes at random, and listen to the tune, the words, the explanation of the meaning of the words, and how it sounds when we sing it.

We Respond - we "declare what it is we believe", sometimes vehemently. There have been quite a few hymns that we have declared lovely and beautiful, and have decided that we want to use them in worship at some point, and there may have been a couple that have promptly been dismissed. As a matter of fact, there was one that inspired a response of, "Blechhh!" (and I have to say that I agreed!) Everyone's a critic. :)

We are Sent - we "go forth to serve" at the end of our time together. It's not the end of singing for the week. I encourage the children to practice techniques we've been working on (sorry about all of those sliding notes, parents!), sing some of the songs at home, and sing just for the joy of it, and to bring happiness to others-to-serve. It reminds me of a benediction response by Hal Hopson that you might end up hearing sometime later this year:

♪ ***We go in joy!***

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

We go knowing whom we serve,

For by serving our fellow man,

We serve God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! ♪

Thank you for allowing us to serve!

Elizabeth Novak

Children's Choir Director

What are RCLPC Students Up To?

Here at RCLPC we have very talented students who are involved in a wide variety of things. Each month we are going to put in a section of the activities, concerts, and games that our students are involved in. We encourage you to go and support our wonderful students.

Abby Nelson:

Sat., Oct. 3 2:00 pm Prospect Marching Band

Competition

Fri., Oct. 9 7:00 Home game at Prairie Ridge/Military night - Veterans get in free

Sun., Oct. 11 Marengo Marching Band Competition

Fri., Oct. 23 Home game at Prairie Ridge High School 7:00 pm

Anna Larsen:

Thu. 10/1: 6pm CLC at Woodstock HS

Thu. 10/8: 6pm Hampshire at CLC

Tues. 10/13: 6pm Grayslake Central at CLC

Thu. 10/15: 6pm CLC at Prairie Ridge

Tues. 10/20: 6pm CLC at Woodstock North



Christian Education and Climate Justice

As Christians we have a spiritual and moral obligation to care for all of God's creation -- plants, animals, and humans, plus the land, water, and air on

which all life depends. Join us on four Sunday mornings at 10am to explore these topics together. ~ CPJ and Earth Care teams

Oct. 18 God Is Creator: Biblical and Theological Foundations for Earth Care

Oct. 25 Climate Change Basics and Impacts

Nov. 1 What Can We Do as Individuals and Congregations?

Nov. 8 What Should Our Denomination Do Going Forward?

INQUIRERS' CLASS



Interested in joining us? Pastor John will be holding an Inquirer's Class for those considering membership at 10:00am on Sundays, October 18 & 25 and November 1 & 8. Please contact him for further details. Not sure if you want to be a member? Come along anyway and learn more about Presbyterianism and RCLPC.

Who are these guys and what are they doing?



Answer: Tom Lafontaine and Jac Kelewae, working hard to wrap the ducts with insulation in the unheated crawl space below the church lounge.

This is just one example of how our Wednesday Warriors work together to keep our church in good repair plus save on our budget. The Warriors could use your help. Any Wednesday that you are available, please join us at 8:00 AM (or later) to keep our facility shipshape and humming along.

There is always coffee available!



Notice a RCLPC bulb that needs to be changed? Something that needs to be fixed?

There are now a stack of building and grounds maintenance request forms in the Building and Grounds mailbox. If you see something that needs to be tended, please fill out the brief form and place it in Bob Grecco's mailbox (conveniently located under the B&G mailbox). The Wednesday Warriors will take care of everything as the requests come in.



November RCLPC Spirit deadline is October 30th!

Pizza for Good Samaritan Ministries

Join us October 13 at Georgios from 4-9 pm for Pizza, fun and conversation! Coupons are in the Connecting Link!



Photo

Reminder ...

Please email us a digital family photo (office@rclpc.org or admin@rclpc.org), so

we can get the new church photo directory updated as soon as possible. Thank you!



UPDATE: LIVING WATERS FOR THE WORLD

We wrote you in July, that our congregation, working through Living Waters for the World (www.livingwatersfortheworld.org), will be bringing clean and safe water to a community in great need. The facts that drive us: the most precious natural resource on earth is clean water; that 780 million people around the world lack access to clean water; that 5,000 children die each day from preventable water borne illnesses, especially diarrhea; that one child dies each 20 seconds from illnesses that clean water could cure.

We have been led to a community in Guatemala asking for our assistance in addressing an urgent need for clean and safe water in their community. The community is the village of Jerez, located in the southern part of Guatemala towards the Pacific Coast, about 193 kilometers west of Guatemala City. They are asking for our help to improve the health of the children of the church (of whom there are 40) and to improve the health of the whole area.



The congregation of Belen is actively requesting our assistance. They are a part of the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala (IENPG). They have a well but the water is not safe. The closest safe water is about 10 kilometers away. They feel they can serve over 100 people and, also, help a school located nearby. They do not have a room, yet, to put the filtration system and bottling station in, but they have committed to build one in a space at the back of the building.



Our Living Waters team of Lois and Rick Johnson and Sarah and Jac Kelewae are going to go to the Belen church in Jerez January 15-19, 2016. We will be doing assessing and testing, building a good relationship with the church members, and agreeing together on a plan for the water treatment system and educational experiences.

We ask for your support, your prayers, and your financial assistance. We plan to return to do the installation and training in the Summer of 2016. By then, we hope to have raised around \$16,000 and to have recruited some of the members to join us on our team. We will continue to provide additional information and updates in adult classes, on the bulletin board in the Connecting Link, in bulletin inserts and Moments for Mission. Please look at the information and links on the church web page that Kim Stewart has so kindly put together for us.

Session Highlights

September 28, 2015

- Rev. John Dillon Moderator.
- Approved project plan to spruce up Gathering Place and Connecting Link and allocated \$13,000 from Building Fund for project.
- Approved Session Meeting Minutes from August 23, 2015.
- Approved Session Minutes from Confirmand Review on September 20, 2015.
- Approved Building & Grounds repair request form.
- Approved 2015 Cookie Walk Fundraiser, to be held on December 12th from 9-noon.
- Reviewed the August 2015 Year to Date financial report and discussed 2016 Budgeting.
- Discussed New Beginnings Vision planning process.
- October 4th - Session 1 – 11 am potluck and noon start of New Beginnings process.
- Approved Christmas Eve services at 4pm, 6pm, 7:30pm and 9:30pm and one service only at 10am on December 27th.
- Approved transfer of Samie Heglesen to Bethel Presbyterian Church Abingdon, VA.
- Approved changing November and December Session Meetings to November 16th and December 14th.



October 13:

Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention

Location: First Congregational Church
461 Pierson Street, Crystal Lake

Time: 7:00 pm www.McHenryCountyQPR.org

October 22:

McHenry County Clergy Luncheon

Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church
8505 Church Street, Crystal Lake

Time: Noon - 1:30 pm

Brown bag: Bring your own lunch

October 27:

(Fourth Tuesday of every month)

McHenry County Taizé Service

Location: First Congregational Church
461 Pierson Street, Crystal Lake

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm

October 28:

Pastoral Care With Veterans Symposium
Advocate Condell Medical Center

801 S. Milwaukee Avenue

Libertyville

Time: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

(no charge; includes free book, Welcome Them Home, Help Them Heal)

Call 847-990-5879 to register.

November 22:

Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Celebration

FaithBridge

At the Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple

221 Dean Street, Woodstock

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

(Including table fellowship)

Dancing for Diapers

Dancing with OUR Stars!

Saturday, October 24, 2015

6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Crystal Lake Holiday Inn

\$60 per person (pre-order)

\$75 @ the door

Dinner Hors d'oeuvres

Desserts and Cash Bar

**Enjoy a special evening benefiting
The Diaper Bank of Northern Illinois**



Showcasing the dance talent of local celebrities, silent auction, and raffles

Printable registration form &
Pre-orders available online
www.DiaperBankNI.org