

# The Spirit

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

November 2015

**Our Tree of Life**, which has so beautifully graced our worship is about to be replaced by Christmas trees and symbols. It is a joyful time of year as we approach Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and the fresh New Year. However, many people quietly turn their thoughts to those who are no longer gathered around our tables. For them all the joy and celebration is tinged with sorrow. So I was very grateful when Sherri brought to my attention the following “Liturgy for Letting Go” by **Macrina Wiederkehr**, which is based on the image of a tree changing with the season.

“Slowly she celebrated the sacrament of letting go.

First she surrendered her green,  
then the orange, yellow, and red  
finally she let go of her brown.  
Shedding her last leaf  
she stood empty and silent, stripped bare.  
Leaning against the winter sky  
she began her vigil of trust.”

And Jesus said: *Why do you worry about clothes? Remember the flowers growing in the fields; they do not fret about what to wear; yet I assure you not even Solomon in all his royal robes was dressed like one of these.*

“Shedding her last leaf  
she watched its journey to the ground.  
She stood in silence  
wearing the color of emptiness,  
her branches wondering:  
How do you give shade with so much gone?”

And Jesus said: *Do not be troubled or needlessly concerned.* And then the sacrament of waiting began....

“The sunrise and the sunset watched with tenderness.  
Clothing her with silhouettes  
they kept her hope alive.  
They helped her understand that  
her vulnerability,  
her dependence and need,  
her emptiness,  
her readiness to receive  
were giving her a new kind of beauty.  
Every morning and every evening they stood in silence  
and celebrated together  
the sacrament of waiting.”

And Jesus said: *Now if that is how God cares for the wild flowers in the field which are here today and gone tomorrow, will God not all the more care for you...*

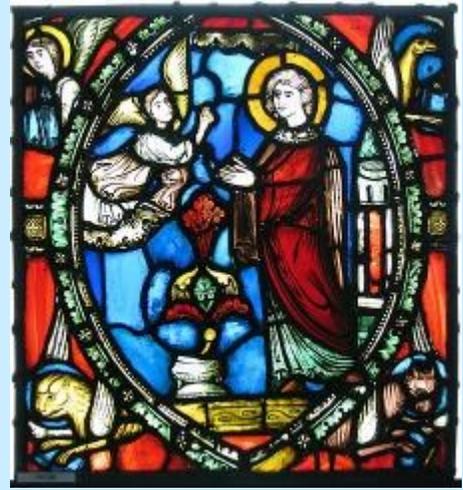
Some are not yet ready to “let go” but may all of us have many quiet moments of sacramental remembering and waiting in the days and nights to come.

In the Name of the Christ Child in the Manger, be Blessed and have Faith. Amen.

~ Pastor John

## MEET YOUR DEACON . . . . Rick Johnson

Rick grew up in Plano, Illinois, where he enjoyed the great summer-time activities of swimming and baseball. As an adult, he lived in Aurora until moving to Wonder Lake. His best job was teaching elementary students, but he did not like doing factory work during the summers. Ten years ago he and his wife Lois joined RCLPC and have been active in our church life ever since. His experiences of traveling with the church choir to New York City and New Orleans to sing for composer Bradley Ellingboe are among his favorites. Rick loves beginning his day with a hearty breakfast and then continues enjoying his day with reading, canoeing and spending time with his grandchildren. He and Lois love traveling, and two amazing visits have been to Norway and Alaska. Church members enjoy Rick's friendly smile and helping hand . . . we are glad you are part of our church family.



Rick's Deacon family includes:

Ellie Cooper	Jane Miller	John Morefield	Sharon Ray
Terry & Pat Dieckhoff	Kenneth Miller	Eric & Karen Nelson	George & Donna Schieler
Almarie James Flanary	Ron & Leanna Miller	Bruce & Marie Randall	Kim Stewart
Linnea Hamilton	Bill & Judy Morefield	Kevin & Karen Ray	Roger Wiese



## Fall Food Distribution, Sunday, November 15

We will be hosting a fall food distribution this year on Sunday afternoon, November 15. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. Look for the sign-up outside the office, and see if there's an area where you can serve!

*A new part of this distribution is the "Easy Eats" pre-packaged meals for four. We are the packagers, and it is a wonderful Saturday afternoon opportunity for families.*

Sunday volunteers, bring your own lunch and stay to help with hospitality, parking, or sorting/packing the food for our guests. If you would like to support this financially, include a notation for Food Distribution with your gift, and place it in the offering.

Times and tasks for volunteers:

Packing "Easy Eats" Meal Bags--Saturday, Nov. 14, 1-2:30pm

Parking--Sunday, Nov. 15, 12-2:30pm

Hospitality--Sunday, Nov. 15, 12:30-2:15

Sorting/Packing--Sunday, Nov. 15, 12:30-3pm

Donate Guest Refreshments--deliver to church kitchen by 12 noon on Nov. 15

Donate financially--place your gift in the offering marked for Food Distribution

Please join us in showing God's love to hungry folks in our community.

Thank you, RCLPC, for your generous support in so many ways! ~ Mission Team



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

There will be 2 special worship programs during this advent season.

December 13, the adult choir will present Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies, *Christmas in the Southwest*" during 9:00 and 11:00 worship. We will be joined by harpist, Michael Maganuco, guitarist, Mark McKenzie, and Anthony Houston, on marimba and vibraphone. Our choir last performed this work in 2002.

December 20, children and youth will lead us in worship at 9:00 and 11:00. "A Time of Waiting" is a pageant for all

children and youth of the church. The music ministry has teamed with the Sunday school leaders to prepare this advent celebration of anticipation, during the Sunday school gathering time. We begin Sunday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. Parents! Children! Please plan to be in Sunday school November 15, November 22, December 6, and December 13.

"Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world. Lift up your voice, shout the good news: Behold, your Lord comes to you." adapted from Isaiah 40

Let the invitations to neighbors and friends begin.

**Our annual giving tree** will be up and covered with ornaments on or about **November 20th**. So don't delay and miss picking the ornament tag for the person or persons you would like to purchase a gift for. Each gift tag will indicate when the gift should be brought back in time for Christmas delivery.



You will find items to give, named on the tag from:

BBBS: Big Brother Big Sister

FHPC: Family Health Partnership Clinic

P: Pioneer Center

TP: Turning Point

Return the Christmas gifts by the date on the ornament. Let's empty the tree and have a merry Christmas, knowing that we have given gifts to some very grateful children and adults. ~ Mission Committee 2015

## SCRIP Cards for Christmas!

Don't forget to order your Scrip Gift Cards in time for Christmas and help support PADS. The next deadline date to order in time for Christmas is Sunday, November 15th. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Blakely or Joan Jensema.



December SPIRIT  
deadline is Friday,  
November 27th!



Children's Sunday school is off to a great start and we are already two months in! The teachers and children have been having fun together as they learn and share God's love with one another. With the attendance of Sunday school comes spiritual growth.

**New this year** for preschool through fifth grade, is our all grade gathering time at 10:00 in the preschool room. The kids gather together for 10-12 minutes and are lead with songs, games, and prayers. The children have been energized and ready to begin their lesson afterwards.

Preschool through first grade is using the curriculum, "*Deep Blue Kids*", which is designed specifically for early learners. This class started out the year in *Genesis* learning about God's creations, and have now moved on to Abraham and Sarah.

Second through fifth grade is using the curriculum, "*Crossings for Kids*", which will help to engage the children with some of the *Bible's* core stories, including journal pages to use in class as well as at home. This class started out the year with Adam and Eve and have moved on to stories of Noah.

Middle school is engaged in weekly discussions and activities about how God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are all intertwined and how it influences their everyday lives. Of course, candy is always a part of the lessons!

High school is going through a bible study using the book, "*The Story*", which is the *Bible* in novel form. "*The Story*" can help to make the *Bible* easier to understand and can provide a new prospective on well-known *Bible* stories.

Rumor has it that there will be an upcoming Christmas Pageant that the children will be involved with on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more information to come. There will be **no Sunday school** on November 29th for Thanksgiving; December 27th for Christmas, and January 3rd for New Years. Snacks are always an important part of class time. Donations of snacks (peanut free) and juice boxes are always welcome. With Thanksgiving coming it brings thoughts of what we are thankful for. We are thankful for the children of RCLPC who come to Sunday school eager to learn more about God's love, and thankful for our

## ***Hello Parents of RCLPC Kids...***

On Sunday December 20 we will perform RCLPC's big Christmas Pageant during the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. Starting this Sunday November 15, and again on Sundays November 22, December 6, and 13, we will conduct rehearsal for 15 minutes at the beginning of Sunday School. This will involve all children PreK through grade 12. The pageant "A Time for Waiting" combines narration with tableau action and music – a neat way to prepare everyone for the holiday season. We will have an all cast run-through the afternoon of Saturday December 19. More details to follow.

Mark these dates and times on your calendar. Have everyone there this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. sharp. It promises to be a fun time.... *Your Christian ED –Worship and Music Teams*

## READY OR NOT . . . .

Right around the corner is the holiday time. That means shopping, wrapping gifts, baking, family visits, and a very busy schedule for most people. Well, we would like to give a gift this Advent season to the women of our church . . . The gift of time. Time to slow down your hectic calendar a little bit, time to relax with other women of the church, and time to welcome in the Advent with a lovely, meaningful,



and fun evening. It is a night just for the women, and it will be held at 7:00 p.m. on December 4 in Fellowship Hall. There will be festive Christmas decorations, music, appetizers, a wonderful dessert, and time to focus on the true meaning of the season. Please mark your calendars now for an evening to enjoy . . . our gift to you! Questions? Contact Kathy Rabe or Gretchen Holder.



## Global Gift Shop

Sunday, November 22

Fellowship Hall, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Come to our 10th annual Global Gift Shop! RCLPCers have a long-standing passion for justice and dignity for all people in our world.

By purchasing fair trade items in our shop, your dollars are going to artisans and farmers, enabling them to earn a fair income. With that income they begin to work their way out of poverty, send their children to school, and develop vital community projects like water wells and medical clinics.

Global Hands will again provide fairly traded home decor, clothing and accessories, food products, and gift items handcrafted by artisans from around the world. The shop will also include Equal Exchange coffee and tea, plus Zatoun olive oil from Palestine.

**We're sprucing up** ...the common areas of the church to create a more welcoming experience for visitors and members. We want the immediate impression to be neat and informative while expressing who we are as a church. In the coming months, we will be replacing the current bulletin boards in the connecting link with 4 dedicated boards for Christian Ed, Youth, Mission, and Worship and Music (the Mission team will also have a large bulletin board in Fellowship Hall). There will be new furniture in the Gathering Space and an area dedicated for sign-ups. A new "Welcome Center" will replace the closet in the front area (this will happen after the holidays). Look for presentation boards in the Gathering Space for details! If you have any questions, contact Kristie Geggie at [Kristie.geggie@gmail.com](mailto:Kristie.geggie@gmail.com)





## ***I CHIWEENIE, YOU CHIWEENIE, WE CHIWEENIE!***

Chiweenie? A cross between a chihuahua and a dachshund. Why should I, you, we care? A very special Chiweenie is being trained as a service dog by Medical Mutts for our very own special Cheryl Brincks.

Cheryl is a brittle diabetic who experiences extreme blood sugar reactions without warning. Her Chiweenie is a rescue dog that is undergoing months of highly specialized training to recognize Cheryl's symptoms before they occur, which could potentially save her life.

How can I, you, we help? Session has approved an appeal to the congregation to help Cheryl cover the expenses involved in obtaining her Chiweenie, \$12,000.00. Please prayerfully consider a donation to help Cheryl live a longer, better life. Cheques can be made payable to RCLPC, with either Deacon Emergency Fund, or Cheryl Brincks on the memo line. Thank you for your caring hearts!

### ***CROP Walk Success!***

RCLPC did indeed raise \$3000 for the CROP Walk this year. Total raised by the 10 participating churches was \$17,074.50. An additional \$151.25 was contributed by the Colonial Fund raiser, \$800 more will be contributed by Thrivent for a total of \$18,025.75., The total in 2014 was \$15,175.03. It was a wonderful Walk. 25% will go to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry and especially for the backpack program which started this month with 30 children and their families currently being served.



RCLPC will be organizing the Walk in 2016. The date of the Walk, Sunday, October 16.

First Congregational Church has cordially accepted the task of holding the Walk from their church. Many helpers are needed as we go forward and we want this to be a Success. The CROP Walk has been held 27 years in Crystal Lake and this is the first time RCLPC has led.

### ***KITCHEN SUPPLIES REMINDER***

Do you need paper products/ kitchen supplies for your RCLPC event? We have them! Please feel free to use what we have available in the supply closet, then notify Karen Leuchtmann about what you have used and she will take care of re-stocking. Thank you.



### ***COMMUNITY HARVEST***

The annual Community Harvest needs you. Please take a bag from the Fellowship Hall and please fill for the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. Bring to RCLPC anytime but not later than Sunday, November 22. The goal this year is to raise 85,000 pounds of food and sundries. Last year RCLPC gathered more than 1000 pounds of food. We can top that! More information is available on the bulletin board about the Harvest.

## 2016: Our Year of New Beginnings

This is a time of New Beginnings for our church! As we prepare for our future with God's Grace and Generosity, we have the opportunity to reexamine and rededicate our response to God's call. God's Grace and Generosity surrounds us! He has truly blessed us and calls us to reach out and bless others. Will you join us as we prayerfully consider our response? We pray, with your continued support, we will be ready to move forward in the direction God is calling us.

On Sunday, November 8, we will celebrate God's generosity towards us and honor God's invitation to bless others. We'll present our pledges for dedication as an act of worship at the 9:00 and 11:00 am services during the regular offering.

We thank you for prayerfully considering your response to God's grace and generosity in your lives. You can return your 2016 Pledge of Financial Support card in one of three ways:

Mail the Pledge Card back to RCLPC in the enclosed envelope

Bring it with you to the worship services on Sunday, November 8, so that we may dedicate our pledge cards and regular offerings.

Complete your Pledge Card online at [rclpc.org](http://rclpc.org). Click on 'Pledge Now'. If you give online, please bring your pledge card as a symbol of your gift.

Pledge cards were mailed out October 26, so if you did not receive one, please contact the church office.

Thank you again for the many ways you have helped RCLPC share God's grace and generosity with others. We look forward to a year of New Beginnings!

Blessings Always,

The Stewardship Team

Pastor John Dillon, John Fankhauser, Steve Connell, Patrick Kay, Linda Schweers, Dave Steele, Dorothy

## PADS Lunches

RCLPC volunteers provide lunches on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month. These lunches are delivered to two sites, where the homeless can have a hot meal, shower and spend the night, then have breakfast and go out on the street again at 7 a.m. – they take these RCLPC lunches with them. It takes less than an hour with many hands and those lunches are so appreciated by those who have no home and must survive on the street. . Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.



The next seven months of PADS lunch preparation will be on the second Sundays between worship services and the fourth Fridays at 9:15 a.m.

**Sundays** - 11/8, 11/29, 12/13, 1/10, 1/31, 2/14, 3/13, 4/10.

**Fridays** - 11/27, 12/25, 1/22, 2/26, 3/25, 4/22.



# 24th Annual RCLPC Cookie Walk

December 12, 2014

9 am to noon or until cookies disappear

## Why have a Cookie Walk?

- Support missions
- Outreach to community
- Cookies taste good
- Working together is fun

## Everyone is needed!

Be a part of something deliciously great

What if every family in church helped in some way and lots of people baked?

You don't bake? There are lots of jobs: set up (you can be an elf), weigh cookies, wash dishes, donate cider and donuts, table cloths, etc. etc.

## You say YOU want to help?

- Bake one dozen or 20 or more & refrigerate or freeze them
- Make it a cookie party with friends & family
- Did you know real men bake cookies? They do.

## Workers can eat broken cookies

- Decorate Fellowship Hall
- Clean up – hmmm, maybe more broken cookies to eat.

Community people return each year looking for favorites, old fashioned cookies, candy, breads and other holiday specialties. Anyone want to make gingerbread men or gingerbread houses or your favorite cookie?

You've never been to a Cookie Walk? It is fun and delicious.



Cookie Monster says: My, my, my I love cookies. All you do is come, pick up a box, fill it with cookies, weigh them, take them home and eat cookies ... what could be better? At only \$8 a pound it is almost too good to be true.

Help support local mission.

Sign up in *Fellowship Hall* and be a part of something great ... and delicious!



## Living Waters for the World Mission Project



Living Waters for the World (LWW), a global mission resource of the Synod of Living Waters, PC(USA), has been working for more than 20 years to provide sustainable, safe water to communities in need. In June 2015, Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church joined LWW in its mission. We are partnering with a Guatemalan church so that the compassion and transforming love of Jesus might be shared with our global neighbors.

The RCLPC Living Waters team is currently planning for a development trip in January 2016. The planning includes preparing covenants for use with the church members at Belén Presbyterian, covenants about our relationship and each partner's responsibilities. The Guatemala in-country coordinator is arranging for a translator and transportation. The people at the Belén church are making plans to form a local Water Committee, whose members will oversee and manage the safe-water system and construct a building to house the system.

Raising funds for the system, education materials, translators, transportation, and an in-country coordinator will be an ongoing process. Last summer's dinner theater started the account growing, and Blackhawk Presbytery has just given it a boost. The Presbytery awarded the LWW mission project \$3300 as a project that supports the vision and mission of the Presbytery and the PC(USA). Our sincere thanks go to the Presbytery for its commitment to this partnership that will provide safe water for the people of Jerez Village.

The congregation at RCLPC will have an opportunity to participate financially by purchasing components for the safe-water system and bottles to hold the clean water. Complimentary cards will be available to let your family and friends know about the gift you gave in their name. Prices will begin at \$4 per 5-gallon bottle and range over a variety of costs for components of the system. Watch for a display coming this month to Fellowship Hall.

If you're interested in learning more about this project, join Sarah and Jac Kelewae and Lois and Rick Johnson in an adult education class about Living Waters and the ways you can be involved on Sunday, November 15, at 10am. You can find more information at [rclpc.org](http://rclpc.org) > Other Links of Interest > Living Waters for the World. The Volunteer button on the webpage offers ways you can support this project. If you would like to be part of the implementation team of summer '16, let us know of your interest.

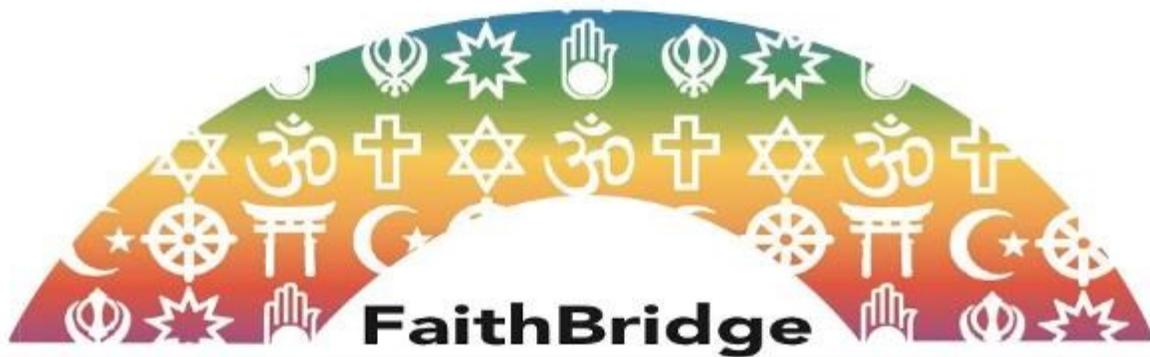


## Session Highlights

October 26, 2015

### Rev. John Dillon Moderator

- Approved Session Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2015
- Approved 2016 RCLPC Theater Fundraiser, July 15th through July 31st
- Approved Living Waters of the World display and fundraiser
- Approved 2016/2017 Crop Walk Leadership role by RCLPC
- Reviewed the September 2015 Year to Date financial report
- Discussed New Beginnings progress
- Discussed the McHenry County Suicide Task Force *Day of Remembrance* event at RCLPC on November 21st
- Next meeting November 16, 2015



Renewal, Reflection, Reconnection" will be the theme of the Ninth Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Program on Sunday evening, November 22nd, 7pm, at the Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple in Woodstock. The evening will include songs, meditations and chants of gratitude from various faith traditions. An offering will benefit Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM), Algonquin-LITH Interfaith Food Pantry and the work of FaithBridge.

Also, please encourage people to bring \$25 gift cards to Aldi's, Jewel or Target, to benefit Chicago-area refugees from war and terror.

FaithBridge is a consortium of faith communities serving the northwestern collar counties of Chicagoland.

For more information, please contact Vimala Bhikkhuni ([vimalajf@gmail.com](mailto:vimalajf@gmail.com)), Rev. Teri Peterson ([pastor@palatinepres.com](mailto:pastor@palatinepres.com)) or Rabbi Maralee Gordon (815-455-1810, [hamsa@mc.net](mailto:hamsa@mc.net)).