



The Vision

January 2009

New Year Resolutions: Evangelism

Last year was a terrific year for RPC. We made great strides in our programs and procedures. Now, we need to invite more people to participate in those upgraded programs.

Inviting people to participate in God’s ministries has traditionally been called “evangelism.” Of course, that word has come to have many additional meanings in modern times, but as long as it is an invitation that comes with no sense of threat, punishment, or judgment, it still qualifies as “evangelism.”

But for those of you who have come to understand “evangelism” as being *synonymous* with threats, judgment, and punishment, I offer these concrete steps. Let these evangelism ideas be your New Year Resolutions for 2009.



We are called to celebrate God’s presence; Nurture the spiritual life of each individual; Carry the light of Jesus Christ to the world; and Serve God by serving others.

Inside this issue:

Worship	2
Session News	3
Trustees News	3
Fellowship	4
Church News	6
Caring Christmas	7
Children	8
Youth	9
Adults	10
Preschool	10
Calendar	11

Invite a Friend. Your friends probably enjoy some of the same things you enjoy.

Think of what you enjoy most about RPC, and then invite a friend or two to do that with you. Promise to sit with your friends. Arrive early so you can greet them as soon as they arrive.

Sign the Friendship Pads. Even if you are a long-time member, signing the pads tells the visitors around you that signing is expected. If they sign the pads, we will be able to contact them and invite them to specific programs. It also gives visitors the opportunity to read your name before they approach you with a question.

Be a Friendly Greeter. Sign up to be a greeter (anyone can). But even if you are not formally a greeter, make a special effort to speak with visitors. Ask if they have special needs, and invite them to come *with you* to the social hall after worship.

First Two Minutes for Evangelism. When you get to the social hall, dedicate the first two minutes of your time there to God’s evangelism. Thus, make sure to speak with someone (visitor or member) whom you do not know well for the first two minutes after your arrival.

Welcome to the Table. If someone looks uneasy about taking communion, take the initiative to say, “everyone is welcome to take communion here if you’d like.” You’d be surprised how many folks don’t know that.

Leftover Communion Elements in Social Hall. I have invited the kids (or adults) to help with the leftover communion elements by eating them. That’s much better than throwing them away or forcing one person to consume everything. However, this helpful task should be done in the social hall, not in the sanctuary. It can be disturbing to visitors to see this being done in the sanctuary.

Evangelism is for everyone, and everyone can play a helpful role. I thank you for your ministry of 2008 and for your new resolutions for 2009.

Your brother in Christ,
Scott

Worship

January Worship Schedule

January 4 ▪ Isaiah 60:1-7 ▪ *Prophecies and Epiphanies* ▪ How do we make sense of various prophecies from the Old Testament when they don't match up perfectly with their "fulfillments?" Today we will celebrate Epiphany Sunday (two days early) as well as communion.

January 11 ▪ Mark 1:4-11 ▪ *Youth Sunday* ▪ The Youth of the church will lead most of the service. They will put on a play about what baptism means to them. We will also be celebrating Baptism of Jesus Sunday, and we will perform an actual baptism.

January 18 ▪ 1 Samuel 3:1-20 ▪ *Passing the Torch* ▪ How is authority best passed from one leader to the next in the Church? Today we will ordain new church officers and commission them.

January 25 ▪ Jonah 3:1-10 ▪ *How to Change God's Mind* ▪ Why did God change God's mind after Jonah preached his prophetic message? Today we will also have the annual congregational meeting after worship.

Mission

CARERS Corner

In January we will be donating one-dish meals and hot beverages, to be sent to the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. With the winter months upon us, this is a real need and we know you will be generous. Bring whatever you can and it will be appreciated. Place your contributions in the collection tubs at the church. Thank you in advance!



Fellowship Committee Makes Donations

It's January, a time of snow and cold—not everyone's favorite time of the year. But it's a great time to remind ourselves how blessed we are. Remember July? Think back to the beautiful evening we had for our Strawberry Social. We were blessed with perfect weather, wonderful treats, and delightful fellowship. Not everyone is so blessed. There are those who are homeless in this snow and cold, those who frequently go without a decent meal, let alone a home baked treat, and those who feel lost and alone in this world instead of surrounded by friends with whom to share a smile or a conversation. It is to these people we try to reach out and share our blessings. **The proceeds from the 2008 Strawberry Social were sent to two organizations that help to alleviate the needs of those less fortunate.** We sent the Presbytery a check for \$1,000. You may ask why we would send money to the Presbytery when we said the money would benefit ecumenical ministry. The Presbytery has wonderful outreach programs in place. To see the kinds of work our money will help, go to www.chicagopresbytery.org/advance-justice/. Disaster relief, programs for the homeless and the hungry, human rights work in South America and the Philippines are just some of the things the Presbytery supports with money and manpower. We are blessed to live in a community of abundance. But even here in Riverside, there are those who don't have everything they need. Demands on the local food pantry were higher than usual this fall due to the flooding. Then, as the economy worsened, even more people requested assistance. In response to this, we sent the remainder of the proceeds from the Strawberry Social, a check in the amount of \$413.35, to the Riverside Township food pantry. Thank you to all who attended and helped with the social. You made it possible to share our blessings.

Session News

At its December meeting, the Session did the following:

- ◆ Approved the budget for 2009, which totals \$361,920 for operating expenses.
- ◆ Discussed options in case the 2008 year-end financial statement shows either a deficit or a surplus. A surplus, if any, will be added to the Contingency Fund; deficits will be made up by borrowing from various funds, to be repaid in 2009.
- ◆ Authorized the Trustees to have the gym floor refinished, at a cost of \$2500.
- ◆ Noted the success of the pledge drive, which secured 24 new pledges. In addition, a majority of all pledgers increased their financial commitment to RPC. Those who have not yet pledged will be visited again in January.
- ◆ Approved a motion that all expenses and income from church revenue-generating events and fundraisers will be processed through the church Treasurer and Financial Secretary for accounting purposes.
- ◆ Decided that RPC will not participate in a joint worship service sponsored by the Genesis Covenant on February 22, but will offer the use of RPC facilities for that service at no charge to the Covenant. That service will not conflict with RPC's regular morning worship.
- ◆ Authorized the Presbyterian Women to sponsor Blanket Sunday on February 22, 2009.
- ◆ Noted that some confusion regarding the Per Capita Tax still exists among the RPC congregation. This amount is charged by Presbytery, based on our membership number, and is not used by RPC. Each member is urged to make this per capita payment *in addition* to their pledged and unpledged giving. The amount due in 2008 for each RPC member was \$26.29 and for 2009 has been increased to \$28.29.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

Trustees News

We continue to evaluate the best use of funds for maintaining our beautiful building. The carpet will be cleaned during the month of December. A bid has been received for refinishing the gym floor; it has not been refinished in over ten years. Our apologies are extended for the condition of the lower level ladies restroom. We are assessing the source of the leak that has caused damage to the walls and floor. Thank you for your patience! Have you noticed something that needs repair or attention? Please fill out a "trouble report" form and return it to the office or report it to any trustee. Thanks!

Thank you to those who participated in the All Church Family Work Day in November: Colleen and Bill Muller, Carrie Schade, Eric Jensen, and trustees Susan Deems-Dluhy, Andy Hart, Lou Heine, Nancy Jensen, Serina Ranft, and Chris Schiller. Our next Work Day is scheduled for Sunday, January 4, 1-3 pm.

Please lock all outside doors at 8:00 pm.

Please double check that the back door is locked if you are the last to leave; it has been accidentally left unlocked recently.

Fellowship



- What is WNL!?** A mid-week ecumenical offering for people of all ages!
- When is it?** January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, and March 4, 11, 18
- Each week, there will be dinner at 6:00 followed by classes for adults and children, girls' group, and choirs.
- How does it work?** Registration forms are available in the church office and on-line. You may register for the entire series, or participate as a weekly drop-in. Drop in cost is \$5 per person per week and reservations must be made the day before.
- Why should I come?** The meal is fabulous, fellowship friendly, classes thought-provoking, choirs uplifting, girls' group inspiring...we have something for everyone!
- Prove it!** Talk with Dennis and Mary Ann Sadilek, Connie Kelly, John Haugland, George and Lorraine Meyer, or Hollie and Tony Miezio for an endorsement.

ADULT CLASS

This winter/spring at WNL! adults will participate in two mini-series (four Wednesdays each). The first will be a potpourri of General Assembly Social Policies led by Scott Jansen. The second will be a historical-critical analysis of the gospel of John led by Stan Schade. As always, these classes include little lecture and a heavy dose of informal discussion.

CHILDREN

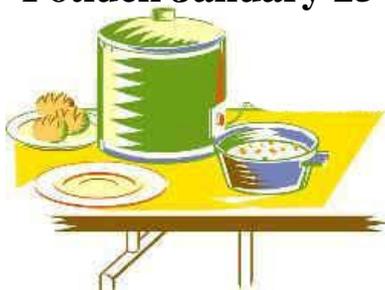
During the winter/spring session the children will explore the saints – including Valentine, Patrick, and many more through stories, crafts, and games.

Stained Glass Window Fundraiser

It's not too late to buy a brick paver for the stained glass window fundraiser! Visit our website to [download an order form](#). The cost of the restoration is estimated to be \$70,000.



Potluck January 25



Join us as we celebrate all that was good in 2008 and kick off 2009 with fellowship and a meal. On January 25, following the congregational meeting, we'll be holding a pot luck luncheon in the social hall. Bring a dish to share with your church family.

We want you to be there! If you need a ride to church in order to attend, please contact [Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak](#) or the church office at 447-1520.

Thanks from the Fellowship Committee

We feel it is God's will for people to come together and enjoy each other's company, to create bonds of friendship and community that will lead to the nurturing of human spirits. We are gifts to each other! By enjoying these gifts through attendance at church social functions, and by lending a hand from time to time to help them happen, you are showing your appreciation to God for these blessings.

We don't often take the time to ponder the fact that simple acts like running the church dishwasher or baking a batch of cookies for coffee hour are prayers of thanks, but we're convinced God sees them as such. The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone who helped us in 2008. Whether you hosted a coffee hour, baked for an event like the Strawberry Social or the Wassail Bowl Reception, hauled tables and chairs outside for the church picnic, helped in the kitchen for a WNL! dinner, invited a friend to craft night, hung your family Christmas card on the Fellowship Tree, or participated in any way in any of our events throughout the year, you were an integral part of our ministry to the congregation and the community and God most certainly heard your prayer of thanks!

The committee has many fellowship opportunities in the works for 2009. If you would like to take a more active role in fostering the welcoming atmosphere that makes both members and visitors feel at home at RPC, please join us.

Share Your Talents

We know that there is talent galore at RPC. We know that there are instrumentalists, singers, poets, dancers, and maybe even a juggler or two out there! Who knows what else? That's why the Fellowship Committee thought it would be fun to get together for an evening and showcase all those gifts. Got a talent you're willing to share with us? Start thinking about what you'd like to do and watch your bulletins for more information as we firm up our plans.



Maybe your talent isn't as much performing as creating. Do you make jewelry, scrapbooks, or quilts? Do you paint, draw, embroider? No matter your craft, you're welcome to come to a fellowship craft night. We meet in the social hall the third Friday of every month. Drop in any time after 6 p.m. We're usually around until 10:30 or 11. Get out that project that has been collecting dust in the closet, or the one you've been working on and just can't get enough time to finish. You'll have time to work without all of the distractions of home, but with the added benefit of some great company!

Church News

January Sign-up

Coffee Fellowship

1/4 Jim McLean

1/11 Youth Groups

1/18 Joe & Nancy Dvorak

1/25 Potluck Fellowship

Ushers

1/4 Andy Hart, Doug Harvin,
John & Marjorie Lewe

1/11 Youth Groups

1/18 Pecis-Kolinski Family

1/25 Lisle Family

Flowers

1/4

1/11 Youth Groups

1/18

1/25

With the new year come new opportunities for volunteering. The sign-up boards for 2009 are now available.



Dear

Deacons and Caring Christmas Committee,

Thank you for the Christmas decoration and cookies. The cookies are delicious. Thank you to whoever made and delivered them. Also, thank you for the altar flowers and to Sylvia Schade for delivering them. They brought beauty to our home.

Love,

Joe and Caroline Tecson

To our church family—

Thank you for all of your prayers and support this past month. Abby is recovering very well from her scoliosis surgery. It meant so much to us to receive your wonderful letters and phone calls. It made the recovery so much easier!

With love,

The Willinger family

The CARERS Committee wishes to share the following thank you note received from *Companions, Journeying Together, Inc.* of Western Springs for the 200 Christmas Cards from RPC:

We thank you for joining us in serving people who are imprisoned and their families. We are grateful for the opportunities we have to touch many lives and know that we would never be able to do so without the help of so many people like you. Thank you for caring and for sharing. Thank you for choosing to support our programs. May God bless you with joy and peace.

May you and your families be blessed in many wonderful ways.

Jana Minor

Founder of *Companions*

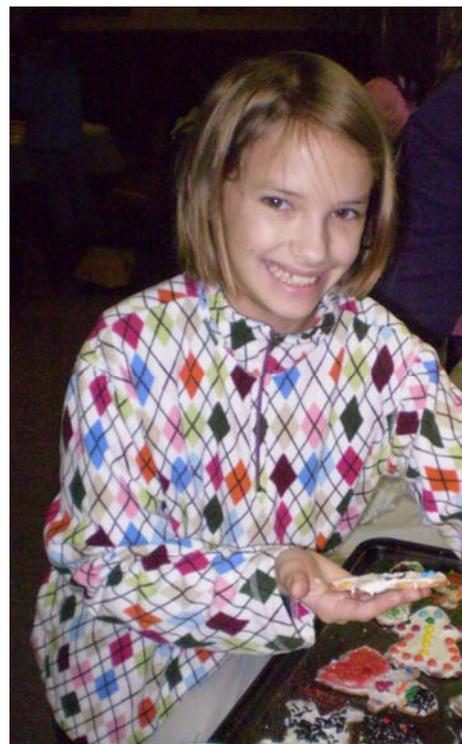
Vision to be Distributed Electronically

Beginning with the February issue, the Vision will be distributed by e-mail to everyone for whom the office has an e-mail address. ***If you do not have access to e-mail, please contact the office at 447-1520 to let us know that you need to receive a paper copy.*** This change is being made for several reasons. It is partly a cost-saving measure to save printing costs, to save mailing costs, and to save significant staff and volunteer time now needed to print, fold, and label. As important, however, is that you will receive the Vision in a more timely manner. The post office bulk mailing service would often take 2-3 weeks to deliver the Vision, making it out-of-date before you received it. An added bonus—it's in full color online!

Caring Christmas

The Deacons' **Caring Christmas** Project for 2008 was very successful. The wreaths decorated with recycled Christmas Cards were beautiful. Special thanks are in order for the 300 cookies baked by Sarah Dudak and decorated with help from Tara Gregus' two youth groups, as well as other young members from our church family. The chili cooked by Diane Chaney, along with hot dogs, buns, chips, etc. furnished the hard-working crew with energy to deliver our gifts to our retirees and people in need of some extra holiday love. Thank you to all the Deacons who were able to come and decorate wreaths as well as serve food, clean up and make deliveries.

Sanlee Radigan & Mary Lou Schwarz, Coordinators



Children

Passport to the Promised Land - How the Bible Came to Be

We're traveling through the greatest book of all...the Bible. What and where are the Psalms? How are they different from other books of the Bible? Children will explore these questions and more from January 4 to February 8.

	Kindergarten & 1st Grade	2nd & 3rd Grade	4th & 5th Grade	Junior High
January 4	Celebration Sunday Social Hall	Celebration Sunday Social Hall	Celebration Sunday Social Hall	Celebration Sunday Social Hall
January 11	Community House Kitchen	Creation Station	Oasis Place	Living Waters
January 18	Celestial Cinema	Community House Kitchen	Living Waters	Oasis Place
January 25	Creation Station	Living Waters	Celestial Cinema	Creation Station
February 1	Living Waters	Oasis Place	Community House Kitchen	Celestial Cinema
February 8	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema	Creation Station	Community House Kitchen

Explore Psalm 122 as it focuses on Jerusalem as the center of Israel with Mrs. Deems-Dluhy in the Oasis Place.
Explore Psalm 121 and create a 3D sculpture with Mrs. Buttimer in the Living Waters.
Interpret hymns based on Psalms with Miss Cain in the Community House Kitchen.
Explore Psalm 7 and create a banner with Ms. Kolinski in the Creation Station.
Explore Psalm 139 through a variety of games with Mrs. Glawe in the Celestial Cinema.

During our last rotation, Patti Perry-Halline led a class game of checkers that helped children learn Jesus' family tree. Pictured below are students in some of these classes.



Youth Group News

December was filled with service, music and fun for the youth group. Twenty-three junior and senior high students helped make wreaths and plates of cookies at Caring Christmas. We enjoyed the beautiful music of the Messiah and had lots of fun at the Senior High Progressive Dinner and the Junior High Trip downtown. Join us in January for more service, fun and good discussion.

Sunday January 4: Cooking and Mission

Join us in the Social Hall at the regular time (Junior High 6-7:15 pm and Senior High 7:30-8:45) to make some super nachos and guacamole and discuss a youth group mission project for 2009.

Sunday January 11: YOUTH SUNDAY

We need YOU! The whole service, from beginning to end will be conducted by the youth of our church. We need ushers, musicians, scripture readers, actors for a play, bakers and servers for coffee fellowship, and more! See Tara Gregus or Lynda Nadkarni to sign up for a spot. No evening youth group this day.

Sunday January 18: Games/Discussion of Current Events

Meet in the Celestial Cinema at regular time to play games and discuss a topic of interest to teens.

Friday January 23--Sunday January 25: Junior High Retreat in Bloomington, IL

Don't miss the fun! A weekend retreat for junior high youth groups from all over the Chicago area. We will stay at the East Bay Camp, and our gatherings will be led by none other than our former youth minister Lynn Barger Elliott! The theme of the weekend is "Fruits of the Spirit: as demonstrated by Will Ferrell." Cost is \$100. **Deadline for signup is January 15.** See Tara if you are interested in attending.

Sunday January 25: Mission Trip 2009 Meeting for teens and parents!

All current 8th-12th grade students are eligible to attend our annual mission trip. Come hear about where we will be headed this year, what we will do and what you will need to do to be able to attend. Parents of interested students are invited to attend. A refundable \$100 deposit to hold your spot will be due within 2 weeks of this meeting.

(No Junior High Youth Group this evening due to the retreat.)

Questions? Contact Tara Gregus @ taragregus@yahoo.com.

Girls' Group

Attention Junior High Girls! The WNL! Girls Group will resume meeting Wednesday, January 21, from 6:45 to 7:45 in the Celestial Cinema. We look forward to nine weeks of fun and enlightening evenings. All girls in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are invited to join us for fellowship, learning and good times. For more information, please email Mary at maryinwi@hotmail.com.

Adults

Human Scene

January 4 Religion student Anastasia Knasiak just completed a year of studying religion in Russia. She will lead us in a discussion of the Russian Orthodox celebration of the Advent and Christmas season. What is an Advent fast? Why are there different Christian calendars? How do Russian Christians celebrate Christmas and Epiphany?

January 11 Mary Koon will present an Introduction to the Book of Psalms. The Psalms are some of the most beautiful and influential writings in the Old Testament. Join us as we explore the psalms as literature and liturgy.

January 18 America has elected its first African-American president. Have we arrived at a color-blind America? Is this a goal that we as a country or we as Christians should strive for? Dr. Phyllis Walden, an expert in adult and non-traditional learning will facilitate a discussion regarding whether there is anything new for us to learn about race relations in America and why or why not this is important.

January 25 Melinda Yachnin will present a program on "Showing Christian Love to a Neighbor Who is Hurting."

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Our January Bible Study will be on Wednesday, January 28, at 10:00 a.m. at the Scottish Home. All ladies are invited. For those who would like to stay for the buffet luncheon (\$12) following Bible Study, reservations are required by Sunday, January 25. Please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#) for reservations. The Bible Study theme for the year is JUBILEE! Luke's Gospel for the Poor, which highlights some of the unique aspects of Jesus' life and teachings found in the Gospel of Luke.



Preschool



It feels good to settle back into some routine! January will be busy as we work on a fun penguin unit. We have 33 more preschool days until we celebrate our beloved penguin's birthday. This year we've adopted Rocky the penguin from the Brookfield Zoo. This month, we'll also work on completing 60 parent/teacher conferences.



Applications for 2009-2010 Preschool year are currently being accepted.



January 2009

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30a Women's Forum	2'	3 9a Pledge Team Mtg
4 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Worship at the British Home 6p Jr High Youth Group 7:30p Sr High Youth Group	5 5:15p Volleyball	6 6:30a Men's Forum 11:15a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm. Mtg	7 OFFICE CLOSED 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	8 6:30a Women's Forum	9 Night Ministry	10
11 9a Sunday School 10a Worship-Youth Sunday 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a CARERS Comm. 11:15a Fellowship Comm. 6p Jr. High Youth Group 7:30p Sr. High Youth Group	12 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm. 7p Preschool Bd Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	13 6:30a Men's Forum 9a Companions in Christ 11:15a Staff Mtg	14 OFFICE CLOSED 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	15 6:30a Women's Forum	16	17
18 9a Sunday School 10a Worship Ordination Sunday 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Worship-Scottish Home 6p Jr High Youth Group 7:30p Sr High Youth Group Vision Deadline	19 5:15p Volleyball	20 6:30a Men's Forum 9a Companions in Christ 11:15a Staff Mtg 6:30p Deacons Steak Fry 7p Deacons Mtg	21 OFFICE CLOSED 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6p WNL! 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session Mtg	22 6:30a Women's Forum	23 4p Jr High Youth Group Retreat	24 Jr High Youth Group Retreat
25 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Annual Congregational Mtg 11:15 Potluck Dinner Fellowship 3p Jr High Youth Group Retreat return 7:30p Sr High Youth Group Mission Trip Mtg	26 5:15p Volleyball	27 6:30a Men's Forum 9a Companions in Christ 11:15a Staff Mtg	28 OFFICE CLOSED 10a RPC Women's Bible Study 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6p WNL! 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	29 6:30a Women's Forum	30	31

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." — Proverbs 29:18

**RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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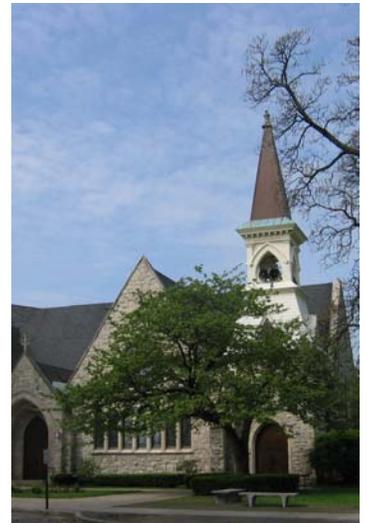
Artist in Residence: Karena Mendoza

Director of Music Emerita: Mary Ann Sadilek

Organist Emerita: Arline Robbins



Riverside Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbytery of Chicago (312) 243-8300. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)



More information about the ministry and mission of Riverside Presbyterian Church is available by contacting any member of our church staff and by visiting our website: www.rpcusa.org.

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