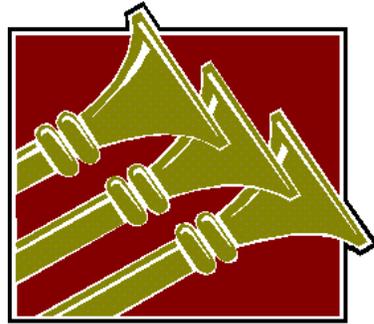




# The Vision

March 2010

## Lenten Fun



# ALLELUIA

Last year during Lent, Dr. Sally was somewhat surprised that I was choosing some music that included the word “Alleluia” within the lyrics for worship. She asked me if there was a rule banning that in our Book of Order. I replied that I knew of no such rule, though there may be such a rule in the Lutheran tradition that she knew prior to coming to RPC.

The word “Alleluia” literally means “praise God” or “praise be to God.” So, I asked her if she felt there was anything “wrong” with praising God during Lent. I think the problem is not so much in what the word says, as in how it sounds. When one says “Alleluia” there is a

connotation of joy that goes along with it. When we sing together “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow,” we tend to sing those words with a little joy mixed in with the act of praise.

I don’t think anyone has ever argued that it is wrong to praise God during Lent. So perhaps the more important question is, is it wrong to express a joyful mood during Lent? I can certainly understand arguments on both sides of that question.

On the more traditional side, Lent is about remembering the trials and the sufferings of Jesus. Not only do we remember, but we are supposed to rehearse those sufferings to some extent as a way of helping us to fully appreciate, and thereby fully remember. This has been done most often by “giving up something for Lent.” When we deprive ourselves of food, or of some form of joy, it helps us to remember that Jesus had a hard time enduring temptations and physical hardships. I do encourage fasting, or “giving up something,” or any creative form of changing behavior in a way that will help us to get more physically in “touch” with Christ’s sufferings. It is good to remember them as an act of the mind, but it is even better to “remember” with one’s body as well.

On the other hand, Christ’s sufferings were never for the sake of suffering. He did not accept suffering so that there would be more suffering in the world. He suffered in order to help us relieve suffering. So there is something joyful in remembering that a burden has been borne, and that the burden is now “accomplished.” It is almost like getting past the statistically coldest day of the year and knowing that the days should be growing warmer now. We embrace Christ’s suffering by asking ourselves how we can join Christ’s effort to relieve the world’s suffering. And that effort may begin with ourselves. Can we be joyful during Lent? I would say, Yes—be joyful—as long as your joy is used as a seed to spread joy out into the world.

So, which side of this argument do you prefer? The answer is not obvious to me. But I would say that, no matter which side you prefer, we should be able to agree that it is highly appropriate during Lent to praise God.

Your brother in Christ,  
Scott

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.

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# Worship

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## March Worship Schedule

**March 7** *Esther 8:1-17, Philippians 4:1-9* “The Courage to Lead” What role does the Bible call women to play and how do we as Christians honor their gifts? What is the church's duty when faced with issues of women's rights? Seminary Intern Melissa Gilbert will preach today, and we will share Communion. We will also celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Preschool Ministry today.

**March 14** *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32* “Presbyterian Older Brothers” Presbyterians rarely have catastrophic/dramatic conversion stories. We are usually like the steady older brother in the story. So, how should this character understand his relationship with his younger (prodigal) brother, or with God?

**March 21** *Philippians 3:4b-14* “Confirmation Sunday” Today’s “sermon” will focus on what issues of faith are most pressing for our confirmation class of 2010. They will also be received as new members during worship.

**March 28** *Luke 19:28-44* “Sheep of the Good Shepherd” Why does Jesus weep over the city on Palm Sunday? What did he think of their reception for him? How do we receive Jesus’s Spirit amongst us today?

**April 1** Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. with Communion by Intinction

**April 2** Ecumenical Good Friday at noon (location to be determined)

**April 4** Easter Sunday Worship Services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (no Sunday School today). *Luke 24:1-12*

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## Lenten Prayer Practice

At this time in our liturgical year, as the snow melts and the trees remain bare, many of us long to focus more on our Lord’s final journey to Jerusalem. How do we do so? We often think of giving something up for Lent, but does giving up chocolate really help us relate to Jesus’ suffering?

John Calvin, the father of our Reformed tradition, believed that God seeks our prayer instead of our sacrifice. He saw prayer as “the chief exercise of faith” by which we daily receive God’s blessing. Perhaps we can trust in his wisdom this Lent by committing to a daily practice of prayer, to spending 5 minutes a day with our whole attention focused on God.

Read a passage from the Bible, slowly, thoughtfully, prayerfully.

Say God’s name and focus on the light of the Holy Spirit within you as you breathe.

Memorize a psalm, and say it over and over again.

Use a daily devotional, like the Upper Room.

Hold the image of another person in your mind’s eye, and pray for him or her.

Walk around the block each day, focusing on God’s presence within and around you.

Most of all, spend 5 minutes (or more) *each day* in prayer. There are already other folks who have covenanted to do just this, and to meet after Easter to talk about what happened during their Lenten prayer journey.

E-mail Melinda Yachnin at [myachnin@hotmail.com](mailto:myachnin@hotmail.com) if you’d like to find out more. Come to the Human Scene class on March 14 at 9:00 a.m. to check in with the other people who also are doing a Lenten prayer practice.

## Session News

In February, the Session:

- ◆ elected Sylvia Schade and Marilyn Slanec as commissioners to Presbytery for the year (in addition to Mike Aieta), and elected Steve Teune as a commissioner for the February meeting;
- ◆ formally joined the Western Suburb Covenant, a joint venture of three PC(USA) churches and two Presbyterian Churches in Columbia, South America;
- ◆ changed the membership status of Bobbie Jordan from active to inactive, at her request;
- ◆ approved the following fundraising events: Scout Pancake Breakfast, Mission Trip adult fundraiser, and Strawberry Social. Emphasized that all fund raising events held at church or for the benefit of the church must receive prior approval by the Stewardship Committee and the Session;
- ◆ learned that the merger of the Brookfield Presbyterian Church and the North Riverside Community Presbyterian Church has been finalized; the new church will be called Christ Presbyterian Church;
- ◆ discussed at length the confirmation process and will consider making some changes in the future to ensure that the confirmands fully understand the meaning of church membership. An additional concern was encouraging the confirmands to continue in their spiritual growth journey through participation in worship, classes and activities at RPC;
- ◆ scheduled the baptism of Joshua Alexander Yachnin, son of Benson and Melinda (Lupfer) Yachnin for February 28;
- ◆ approved the 2009 Church Statistical Record, compiled by the clerk, which will be submitted to PC(USA).

Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of Session



## March Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Deb Jansky](#) or [Patti Perry Halline](#)  
 For flower contributions, please contact the RPC Office  
 Potential Acolytes & Liturgists, please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#)  
 Potential Ushers, please contact [Steven Teune](#)



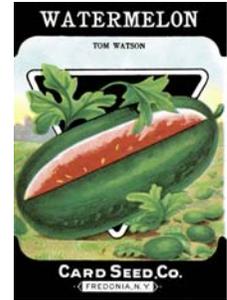
	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
March 7	Tony Miezio		Miezio Family	Preschool	Preschool
March 14	Youth		Scuff Gross, Lynn Labotka Dennis Sadilek, Gale Teune	OPEN	Harvin Family
March 21	Deb Jansky		Lancaster Family	OPEN	Lisle Family
March 28	Lynda Nadkarni		Doug Harvin Hastings Family	OPEN	Choir

## Church News

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### Cuba Grace Seeds Ministry

Please join the RPC Deacons on Tuesday, March 23, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. for an evening of desserts and global mission. Linda Wygant will be sharing with us her experiences working with gardeners in Cuba. She, along with a delegation of volunteers from the Grace Seeds Ministry, traveled to this island country last month to meet with people there and discuss how churches can incorporate gardening into their ministries. Their ideas can help us to better understand efficient methods when combating the issues of hunger in our own communities. Please come—Gardening thoughts are the best cure for chasing away winter doldrums!



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### 2010 - The Year of Presbyterian/Muslim Dialogue

I attended a planning session convened by Rev. Jay Moses, the Presbytery of Chicago person in charge of bringing Presbyterians and Muslims together in dialogue during 2010. A representative from Western Springs Presbyterian, 1st Presbyterian La Grange, and 1st Presbyterian Downers Grove met with them to discuss what activities might jointly be undertaken by members of these churches (and Palos Park Presbyterian) to foster friendship and understanding between them and members of the Aqsa Mosque in Bridgeview.

Rev. Moses has been in contact with seven other such groups of Presbyterian churches in the Chicago area that have paired up with a mosque in the group's area. A Presbytery-level task force is being formed with one member of each group of churches with the purpose of meeting quarterly together with members from the Council of Islamic Congregations of Greater Chicago.

In addition, ideas for ways to make "grassroots" connections between our specific group of Presbyterian churches and members of the Aqsa Mosque were discussed. Pastor Moses passed along the information that the Aqsa Mosque was inviting persons to partake in hospitality at the mosque and afterward listen to an invited speaker. Three RPC members will attend February 27.

The speaker is former US Congressman, Mark D. Siljander, who published in 2008 the book, *A Deadly Misunderstanding, A Congressman's Quest to Bridge the Muslim-Christian Divide*. I highly recommend the book; it complements the mini-course that Pastor Scott gave this February to WNL! participants. Perhaps we can have a book discussion if a few persons will read it.

Any person in the RPC congregation who is interested in joining in to celebrate this "Year of Presbyterian/Muslim Dialogue" that the Presbytery of Chicago has designated, please let me or Pastor Scott know.

*Sylvia Schade*

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### Trustees News

Thank you to all who worked so hard on the January and February *All Church Family Work Days*. On January 24, approximately 25-30 people of all ages worked together to "spruce up" the church. Woodwork was cleaned, stained and polished in the parlor and the sanctuary. The pew cushions were shaken and vacuumed. The wall near the Sunday School supply room was repaired and primed. A very productive work crew! The March *All Church Family Work Day* is planned for March 21, 1:00-3:00 p.m. The wall near the children's books in the library is badly in need of work! Unfortunately, the damage was caused by a roofing issue that can not be remedied until spring weather arrives. We plan to make a temporary repair to this wall soon. Pardon our dust!

The outside back door to the Fellowship Hall has occasionally been found unlocked. We understand that this door is confusing because it has a different locking system. **Here are a few tips:** *If you enter the back door with a key, re-lock the handle immediately.* When a key is used to enter the back door, the handle is unlocked and remains that way until re-locked with a key. *If you want to allow access to others, use the hex-key (hanging on the chain); push the bar in, turn the hex key to keep the bar "locked-open".* This is the equivalent to keeping the bar "locked-open" on all the other outside "crash doors" in the church. *Simply re-lock the crash door by using the key to release the bar.* Please ask any Trustee for assistance, if needed.



### Welcome

RPC welcomes David Jorgensen, a new member in November.



### Thank You

Dear Friends of RPC,  
Last weekend Frank Gangware brought me some flowers for my living room table from the church service. Thank you so much. I enjoyed them for over a week. The snapdragons are one of my favorite flowers. I go in for surgery at Rush University Hospital on February 12. Thank the Grosses for delivering the Vision. I read it cover to cover and enjoy it very much.  
Love,  
Jeanne & Cinde Heidler

### Trustees Needed

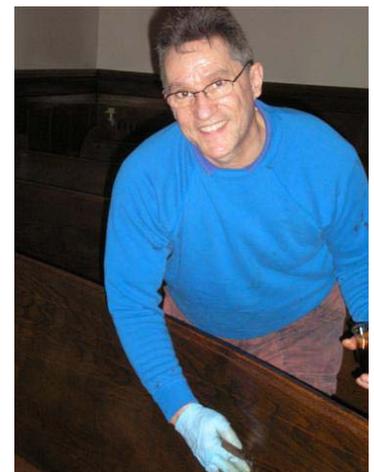
We are still have two vacancies on the Board of Trustees. Please consider whether you might be willing to share your time and talents in this position.

### Per Capita Tax – What?

The mystery of Per Capita still exists! This amount is charged by Presbytery, based on our membership number, and is not used by RPC. The annual Per Capita assessed each member of the church supports Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly expenses that are separate and distinct from our programs and missions. The majority of the Per Capita contributions cover Presbytery of Chicago expenses associated with Committees on Ministry and Preparation, audit, insurance, and building costs, to name a few. **The 2010 Per Capita apportionment is \$28.29 per member, regardless of a member's participation in the life of the church.** That means RPC must pay \$13,155 from the budget for per capita expenses. Each member is urged to donate the per capita payment, to offset this expense, in addition to pledged and unpledged giving.



Per Capita cost per adult member



# Confirmation Class

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## 2010 Confirmation Class

The 2010 Confirmation Class began in September and will conclude by welcoming the new confirmands into membership of RPC on Sunday, March 21. We're very proud of this year's graduating class of 8 students. Please join us at the 10:00 service and coffee fellowship afterwards to welcome this great group into our church family!



Allie Burke



Jake Fieseler



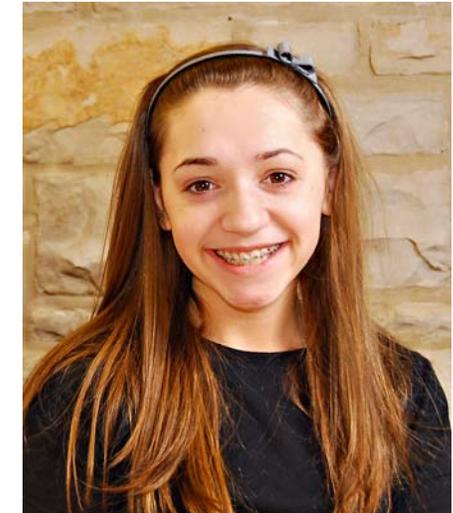
Emily Hastings



Brian Jansen



Karl Jantze



Andie Krug



Annie Mitchell



Emma Schander

### CARERS Corner

The cold weather continues so we think of warming meals for the needy at the First Presbyterian Church. We are asking for Pasta and Rice to make some nourishing dishes for those in need. As always we thank you for your continued generosity.



### One Great Hour of Sharing : Immediate Disaster Relief



#### What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

Since March 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through *One Great Hour of Sharing* to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

#### When is the offering received?

On March 6, children will receive their *One Great Hour of Sharing* banks at Sunday School. Additional banks are available in the information rack outside the church office. With the bank is a calendar that suggest ways to thoughtfully put change in to the bank. The children will have an opportunity to present their gifts on Easter Sunday at either of the services. Of course, banks will be accepted later in April too.

#### What if I don't have children?

Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews and bulletin inserts will tell about One Great Hour of Sharing. You need not wait to make your donation to the program. You don't even have to wait until a Sunday! [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) provides a secure link for those who like to donate with a credit card, or you may mail a donation directly to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Church Remittance Processing  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Of course, adults can use the fish banks and giving calendar too!

#### If I do have children, how may I explain this?

You may want to read the story of the Feeding of the 5,000 (found in *Matthew 14:13-21*, *Mark 6:31-44*, *Luke 9:10-17* and *John 6:5-15*), which reinforces what your child has learned in Sunday School about how their small gifts can help many people. This bank is fish-shaped, which may help little ones remember sharing food with others in connection to the story. Stewardship is made of time, talents and treasures. This is one of the three ways your child can be a good steward.

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### Blankets +

With Blankets + you can blanket the world with love! **Blankets +** . . . so people in need can help themselves.

\$5 can provide one warm blanket

\$25 can provide five warm blankets

\$100 can enable three women to receive a microcredit loan

Even though Dedication Sunday was February 21, contributions are still being accepted. Please make checks payable to: Riverside Presbyterian Church, marked "Blankets +" Thank you for your support!

## Fellowship

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WNL! began January 27, but it's not too late to participate. Even if you didn't sign up for the entire session, you are welcome to attend on a weekly basis, at a cost of \$5 per person for the meal. While advance notice is preferred, if you decide to attend (even as late as Wednesday), please contact Deb Jansky at [newhorizons002@att.net](mailto:newhorizons002@att.net) or Patti Perry at [pmperryil@yahoo.com](mailto:pmperryil@yahoo.com).

Here's the Wednesday Night line-up:

**4:15 – 5:15:** *Children's Ringers and Singers*

**5:30 – 6:30:** *Dinner hour (come for dinner even if you can't stay for class)*

**6:30 – 7:30:** *Classes for all ages. Adults with Pastor Scott, Middle School Girls with Melissa Gilbert, Open Gym for kindergarten and older, childcare provided for children in preschool and younger.*

**6:30 – 8:30** *Bell and Chancel Choirs*

The adult topic for WNL! shifts gears for its final three meetings in March, and focuses on the theological and spiritual meanings of popular film. Each week a facilitator will guide the group in a discussion of a particular film, exploring faith ideas in the process. Watch the movie before you come to get the most out of the meeting, but if you can't see it, come anyway! *Avatar* is still playing in theaters, while *Doubt* and *Babel* can be seen on DVD or video.

March 3: *Avatar*

March 10: *Babel*

March 17: *Doubt*



### Open Mic Night

Save the date for RPC's 2nd annual *Open Mic Night* on April 10. Do you sing? Play an instrument? Write poetry? Dance? Juggle? Tell good jokes? All ages and talent levels are welcome—start thinking about your act!

### Craft Night

Join us on the third Friday of every month for Craft Night. All are welcome—bring your projects to the RPC Social Hall, anytime between 6:00 and 11:00 p.m.



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## Girls' Group News

Wednesday nights are an exciting time to be at RPC. The middle school girls group has been involved in a flurry of activity. Besides playing lots of games (ask us about our favorite, "The Super Happy Fun Game!") we have been spending time learning about how we are all unique and beautiful. Using such tools as the Dove Campaign for True Beauty ([www.campaignforrealbeauty.com](http://www.campaignforrealbeauty.com)), we spent the fall examining what beauty really is and how the media can skew our perceptions about body image. We finished by examining all our wonderful and unique qualities and by making tie-dye t-shirts that are as beautiful and unique as we are.

We had a great start to our winter session by beginning a unit on liturgical dance. All middle school girls are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 (even if you can only come for one week, we're always glad to see you!) and we'd love for you to come join the fun with us this spring.

If you have any questions or would like more information, e-mail Melissa Gilbert at [mgilbert@go.mccormick.edu](mailto:mgilbert@go.mccormick.edu).

## Passport to the Promised Land

March continues with lessons about *The Good Samaritan*. Ask your kids what ways they have learned to be more of a Good Samaritan with the help of Mrs. Kelly, Ms. Hamilton, Mrs. Jensen, Mrs. Lisle, Mrs. Nadkarni and Melissa Gilbert.

**Luke 10:29, 37** *Who is my neighbor? The one who showed mercy. Go and do likewise.*

	K/1st	2nd/3rd Grades	4th/5th Grade	Jr. High
March 7	Manse Kitchen	Living Waters	Creation Station	Oasis Place
March 14	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema	Manse Kitchen	Creation Station
March 21	Social Hall	Social Hall	Social Hall	Celestial Cinema

On **March 7**, all kids in preschool through 5th grade will gather in the Sanctuary at 9:45 to practice songs that they will be singing in church on that day, in honor of the Preschool's 40th Anniversary! Please meet your children in the Sanctuary after Sunday School.

On **March 28** a new rotation begins: *The Prodigal Son*. Class locations will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Social Hall.

On **April 4, Easter Sunday**, there will be no Sunday School, Godly Play or childcare today. Happy Easter!



*Christian Education Director Jenny Kolinski presents Bibles to RPC 2nd and 3rd graders on January 24.*



*Many contributed to our Church Family Valentine...almost 80 hearts in all! Thanks for sharing 'who' and 'what' you love.*

# Youth Sunday

Love was the theme for our **Valentine's Day Youth Sunday service**. Thanks to all the youth who took part in this wonderful service!



## Youth Group News

February was a busy month for the Youth Groups! We started the month by collecting \$240.78 after church on Super Bowl Sunday for the **Souper Bowl of Caring Program**. This money was donated to the food pantry of the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago, and significantly surpassed last year's collection of \$150! That same day, our junior high youth group made 200 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches while our senior high made 10 gallons of soup. On Friday evening, February 12, three of our Senior High youth accompanied us downtown to serve the soup and sandwiches to the homeless and needy in Chicago. 30 of our youth and their families attended the **Chicago Wolves Hockey game** on Sunday, February 21. Here's what we have planned for March:

**Sunday, March 7:** Meet in the Celestial Cinema at the regular time (Junior High 6:00-7:15 and Senior High 7:30-8:45). Our seminary intern, Melissa Gilbert, will share her experiences doing mission work in Uganda.

**Sunday, March 14:** Meet in the Celestial Cinema at regular times for games and a discussion topic TBA.

**Sunday, March 21:** Scottish Home Service at 2:00. Our youth will assist with conducting the service for the residents of the Scottish Home.

**Sunday, March 28:** **Spring Break--Youth Group in recess**

As always, everyone is welcome to attend any of our youth group events, and you should feel free to bring a friend. If you have any questions or are not currently on our weekly e-mail list, please contact Tara Gregus at [taragregus@yahoo.com](mailto:taragregus@yahoo.com).

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## 2010 Senior High Mission Trip

Plans are well underway for our annual Senior High Mission Trip! In July, a group of 20-24 teens and 4-5 adult leaders will travel to Riverhead, New York, to spend a week at the [Timothy Hill Children's Ranch](#). The ranch opened in 1980 and has served hundreds of boys who have been abused, neglected, or who are going through a time of crisis in their lives. Our group will live, work and play alongside the residents of the ranch for the week. We are also excited that we will get to spend one day being tourists in New York City! Each teen must participate in youth group a minimum of 8 times and give 8 hours of service to our church in order to be eligible to go on the trip. We have 24 teens committed to the trip, and 4 adult leaders. We will be working hard to earn money to help fund this trip in the months to come and we hope you will support our efforts. If anyone is interested in learning more about this trip, please contact Tara Gregus at [taragregus@yahoo.com](mailto:taragregus@yahoo.com). Financial assistance may be available. Please keep our teens and leaders in your prayers in the upcoming months as we prepare for our trip.

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## Ryan Womack Scholarship Fund

The Ryan Womack Scholarship Fund was established by Randy and Lonnie Womack in 1991 after their son, Ryan, age 8, was tragically killed when a driver lost control of his car at a Little League baseball game in Riverside. Each year, the Scholarship Fund disburses thousands of dollars to college students to help defray the cost of their college educations. Recently, the Womack Scholarship Board met to discuss the 2010 application process for the Womack Scholarships. Applications have been sent out to those who have either been a confirmed member of Riverside Presbyterian Church for two years or who have been active in the church's senior high youth group for the past two years. Applications are due March 31. The board will meet with applicants in April and make decisions about this year's scholarships. Sunday, May 16, has been designated **Womack Scholarship Sunday** at RPC. On this day, current and new recipients will be presented with their Womack scholarships.

Save the Dates: On **June 26**, there will be a **Pig Roast** at *The Sweet Spot* in North Riverside, which will be a fundraiser for the scholarship fund. The 2010 **Annual Womack Memorial Scholarship Dinner Dance** will be held at the Riverside Golf Club on Saturday, **October 23**. Everyone is welcome to attend this lovely and fun event, which is the major fundraiser for the scholarships. For more information about these events or the scholarship fund, please contact Randy Womack at [randywomy@aol.com](mailto:randywomy@aol.com).

## Adults

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### Bible Study

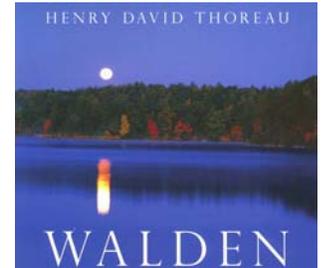
Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, **March 24** at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Social Hall. Mary Mikhael, the author of the study, is a scholar and an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Beirut, Lebanon. She asks herself, "As Christians, what meaning can we find today in the book of *Joshua*? Can women today still read *Joshua* as a resource for their faith and their Christian commitment?"

Joyce VanCura will lead the study for Lesson 6: "Outsiders Become Insiders, Rahab and Gibeonites." *Joshua 2:1-24; 6:25; 9:3-27*. Key idea: The call to acceptance is revealed even in the book of *Joshua*—Rahab and the Gibeonites are signs of hope for all who are lost and outcast. Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura rotate the Bible Study leader position. If possible, it is helpful to read the lesson in advance. For more information, please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#). All ladies are invited to attend.

### Gathering

*Simplify, simplify, simplify* This was the mantra of Henry David Thoreau, one of America's most gifted thinkers. His landmark book, *Walden*, though largely ignored in his own lifetime, is now recognized as a classic and has long served as a 'how-to' guide for anyone who has ever asked "How can I live a more meaningful life?"

At our Gathering on Wednesday, **April 14**, Roberta Gates, a member of our congregation and a former English teacher, will share her love for this singular philosopher and describe the richly spiritual world of the Transcendentalists, which included Ralph Waldo Emerson and Bronson Alcott, the father of Louisa May Alcott. Though *Walden* might not be a book you would pick up for bedtime reading, once you have read even a part of it, the book's wisdom and humanity never leave you.



Please join us on April 14, at the Scottish Home, when the Presbyterian Women will host a 12:30 p.m. luncheon (\$14), followed by Roberta's talk on Thoreau. Please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#) to make a luncheon reservation.

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### Human Scene

Join us for adult "Sunday School" every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

#### March 7 ▪ *Romans*

Stan Schade returns for an examination of the book of Romans, and will guide us through a deeper understanding of the text.

#### March 14 ▪ *Romans*

Dr. Schade concludes his study of Romans. The last half of class will be a discussion about the "Obstacles to Prayer," particularly intended for those engaging in a personal prayer practice during the season of Lent.

#### March 21 ▪ *How Christ's Death Saves Us*

There are many theories of atonement in Christian theology. All agree that we are saved through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but the difficulty is in pinpointing exactly how that works. What are we saved from? What are we saved to? How does this salvation get to us? Pastor Scott will lead us in a discussion of at least three of the leading theories of atonement.

#### March 28 ▪ *Palm Sunday*

You are invited to contemplate the "Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross", as written in scripture and set to music by Theodore DuBois. Mary Ann Sadilek will lead the class.

**Preschool**



Almost 10 years ago the **Tuition Assistance Program** was established to help preschool families facing financial hardship. Seventeen children have been assisted through TAP. Because of the current economy, we have had more requests for tuition assistance and funds are running low. We are asking our church family to consider making a donation to TAP to help make a wonderful difference in a child's life. Donations may be made to "Riverside Presbyterian Church" with "Tuition Assistance Program" noted in the memo line of the check. Every little bit matters—we thank you for your consideration.

2010 marks the **40th Anniversary** of our preschool. We are celebrating in true preschool fashion with a Fun Fair on Sunday, March 7, from 1:00 to 3:00, with fun to be had by all, large and small, mostly small. There will be games, crafts, and a cake walk in the gym, and maybe even goldfish! Food will be available for purchase in the church social hall. This event will coincide with the preschool open house and book fair, to make it a truly action-packed weekend for all who attend. Please come and meet our very first director, Julie DuBois, who will be returning for this milestone event—and, of course, come to bid a fond farewell to Nancy Dvorak, as this will be her last year as director.



During March a number of RPC junior and senior high students are involved in Hauser's production of **Casablanca**, and RB's production of **Guys and Dolls**. Our RPC family is cordially invited to attend both events.



Hauser Jr. High presents  
**Casablanca**  
Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.

Riverside-Brookfield High School  
presents  
**Guys and Dolls**  
Friday, March 12—Sunday, March 14



**Pack 24 & Troop 24**

The annual **Scout Pancake Breakfast** will be held Saturday, March 6, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at RPC. Tickets are \$4 in advance, or \$5 at the door, and can be purchased from any Cub Scout or Boy Scout.

During February, Troop 24 participated in a service project at the Greater Chicago Food Depository. In addition, eleven scouts, accompanied by four leaders, competed in the

Klondike Derby, based on the history of the Klondike Gold Rush. The event consisted of a series of stations where scouts tested their skills and their leadership abilities, earning points towards a total score. The scouts transported their gear on a dog sled pulled by the Scouts. Our Troop placed third overall out of 19 teams.

During February, Pack 24 held its annual Blue & Gold banquet. In addition to awards and advancements for younger scouts, 19 fifth grade scouts received Arrow of Light awards and crossed over into Boy Scout Troop 24.

## 50 Years Ago: Mildred Lindquist, Frances Murphy, Lillian Oetting Remembered

Do you ever sit in church gazing at the stained glass windows and wonder who the people were whose names appear under the windows? Do you see an engraved plaque somewhere in the church and contemplate the story behind the inscription? With 137 years of history, Riverside Presbyterian Church has received many memorials in honor of those who were once important and active members of the church, or those who were dearly loved by someone in the church. Some memorials commemorate happy occasions, and others arise from tragedies, such as the Ryan Womack Scholarship Fund. From small remembrances, such as the nameplates in the hymnals, to items as large as the massive doors to the church, there are literally hundreds of memorials at RPC.

On the north wall of the [chancel](#) hangs a plaque inscribed: *The Chancel in Memory of Mildred Lindquist, Frances Murphy, Lillian Oetting*. During the remodeling of the church that took place in the 1960's, the front of the church was refurbished to look as we see it today. The three ladies were friends, members of RPC's Women's Association, and very active in church and community affairs. They were mothers, and two were grandmothers. In 1960, Mrs. Lindquist was 54, Mrs. Oetting was 50 years old, Mrs. Murphy was 47. All three loved the outdoors, liked hiking and bird-watching, and were members of local garden clubs. At a meeting of the RPC Women's Association they planned a late winter vacation to Starved Rock State Park. Two other RPC women considered going with them, but eventually elected to stay home.



Mrs. Lindquist, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Oetting set off for Starved Rock on Monday, March 14, 1960. After lunching in the lodge dining room they hiked to St. Louis Canyon, and there encountered the man who was later convicted of their murders. When Mr. Oetting was not able to reach his wife, after calling the lodge for two days, a search was begun, and the women's bodies were discovered on Wednesday afternoon, March 16.

At the time (before the days of Charles Manson, Richard Speck, and John Wayne Gacy—with Illinois holding the dubious distinction of also being the home state of Speck and Gacy), reporters referred to the brutal murders of the Riverside women as the “crime of the century.” The crime attracted international attention, with reporters from major papers and periodicals descending on LaSalle County in the wake of the murders. Sadly, there have been countless other mass murders since that time, but as Ottawa author Steve Stout points out in his 1982 book, *The Starved Rock Murders* (ISBN 0-960929-0-6), there are several things that set this crime apart. The location of the murders is incongruous: things like that might happen in a city, but shouldn't happen in a beautiful, peaceful, rural setting. Also, unlike other such highly publicized crimes, the murderer eluded detection for eight months after the crime was discovered. It wasn't until November 16, 1960, that Chester Otto Weger, a 21-year-old father of two and a former dishwasher at Starved Rock Lodge, was arrested and charged with the murders. His motive—described in his confession—was robbery.

The LaSalle County state's attorney made the decision to try Weger separately for each murder. Weger's trial for Mrs. Oetting's murder lasted over two weeks, with the jury returning their verdict in a little over 24 hours: life imprisonment. The jurors felt that for an outdoorsman like Weger, life imprisonment would be a more harsh punishment than the death penalty; plus, some of the jurors refused to vote for death. The jurors were shocked to learn that their verdict would allow Weger to be eligible for parole in 20 years; yet today, Weger remains in prison, after numerous parole hearings by the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, the second longest-serving prisoner in the Illinois prison system. After appeals, continuances, and various delays, the state's attorney made the decision, in 1963, not to try Weger for the other two murders, based on the fact that he had already been convicted to life imprisonment, and due to the cost that would be incurred by the county for additional trials.

It was the difficult task of RPC Pastor Harold King to officiate at three funerals held at RPC within 24 hours. He took as the scriptural text for the funerals **Proverbs 31: 10-31** *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. . .*

What happened to the families of Mrs. Lindquist, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Oetting? The Lindquists had two daughters: Gloria and Nancy, and there are now seven grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. The Murphys had four children: Sallie, Julie (deceased), John, and Mary (“Mandy”), and there are now 12 grandchildren (and 2 deceased) and 10 great-grandchildren. The Oettings had three children: George, Nancy (deceased), and Judith, and there are now 9 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. All three of the husbands eventually remarried, and are now deceased. Although none of the members of their families live in the Riverside area, they are remembered fondly by our long-time members. And, as one of those children said, *“The terrible times we went through would have been so much harder without the love and support we received from our wonderful friends in the Riverside Presbyterian Church and from our minister, Harold King.”*

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!

# March 2010

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 5:15p Volleyball	2 6:30a Men's Forum 10:15a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	3 Office Closed 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 5:30p WNL! 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel	4 6:30a Women's Forum	5	6 Scout Pancake Breakfast 
7 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Preschool Open House/Coffee Fellowship 1p Preschool Fun Fair 1:30p Deacons' British Home Service	8 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm 7:30p Trustees Mtg 7:30p Stewardship Comm Mtg	9 6:30a Men's Forum 10:15a Staff Mtg	10 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 5:30p WNL! 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	11 6:30a Women's Forum	12 Night Ministry	13
14 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a CARERS Committee	15 5:15p Volleyball	16 6:30a Men's Forum 10:15a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg	17 Office Closed  4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 5:30p WNL! 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 7:30p Session Mtg	18 6:30a Women's Forum	19 6p Craft Night	20 5:30 p Confirmation Banquet 
21 9a Sunday School 10a Worship & Confirmation 11a Coffee Fellowship	22 5:15p Volleyball	23 6:30a Men's Forum 10:15a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Dinner/ Lecture	24 Office Closed 10a Pres. Women Bible Study 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 5:30p WNL! 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	25 6:30a Women's Forum	26	27
28 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 	29 5:15p Volleyball	30 6:30a Men's Forum 10:15a Staff Mtg	31 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 5:30p WNL! 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	<p>March comes "in like a lion and out like a lamb." If you go outside on March 1 at 8:00 p.m. and look above the western horizon, you'll see the dim stars that make up Ares, the Ram (or Lamb). Look almost exactly opposite in the sky, at about the same height above the horizon and you'll see the constellation Leo, the Lion. The Lion is rising into the night sky at the beginning of March, with fiercer weather. On March 31, at 8:00 p.m., the Lion will be almost overhead and the Lamb will be on the western horizon, bringing in milder weather.</p> <p><i>From Jack Horkheimer, the Stargazer.</i></p>		



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

**RIVERSIDE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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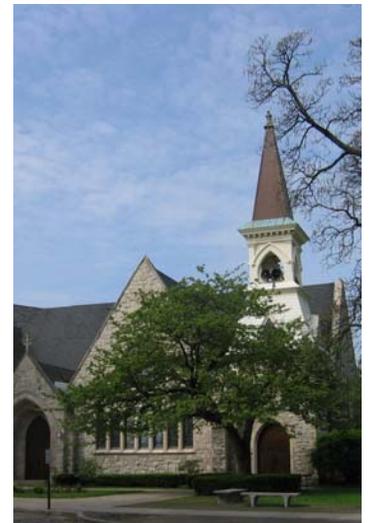
**Archivist:** Caroline Tecson

**Wedding Coordinator:** Donna Ulrich

**Artist in Residence:** Karen Mendoza

**Director of Music Emerita:** Mary Ann Sadilek

**Organist Emerita:** Arline Robbins



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](http://www.rpcusa.org)

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