



The Vision

July 2011

Open Door Policy

I have written this before, but it bears repeating. There should be no obstacle, no hesitancy, on the part of any parishioner to contact me and request an office appointment or a home visit or just a phone call. It always breaks my heart to hear that someone wanted to talk but didn't do anything about it.

If you had an ache in your body, you would contact your physician and make an appointment. You wouldn't wait at home with your ache and hope that your physician would somehow "just know" that you needed medical aid.

If you had an emotional crisis, you might make an appointment with your psychologist, rather than waiting for your psychologist to call and "check up" on you. If you had a legal dispute, you would call your lawyer, rather than waiting for your lawyer to call on you. Of course, there are lawyers that we sometimes call "ambulance-chasers," but that is a very derogatory term. We tend to have a negative impression of professionals who initiate contact, rather than simply serving when called.

What about pastors? Should a pastor "just know" when someone wants to talk? Or is a pastor who initiates such contacts in the same category as the "ambulance-chasers?" This is complicated, and I think the truth is somewhere in the middle.

Of course, the ambulance-chaser is a complete stranger, while the Christian parishioner has already taken the initiative to join a church—to acknowledge a certain pastor-parishioner relationship. So, it really shouldn't be considered an "intrusion" to have a pastor call to check up on you. However, I have had many such reactions in the past. In my first year in ministry, a parishioner told me, "if being on a church roster means you're going to just call me out of the blue, then I'll have to delete my name from the roster."

My experience has been that when I initiate contact, the result is often a feeling that I am intruding. However, when the parishioner recognizes a need and initiates contact, we can have extremely productive meetings. This reminds me of the psychologist who will tell you, "unless the alcoholic first acknowledges that there is a need for help, it is pretty much impossible to offer help."

The issue is complicated by the fact that hospitals used to call pastors and tell them whenever a parishioner was hospitalized. Since the change in the privacy rules a few years back, no such calls are now made. The residual difficulty is that parishioners still retain the sense that a pastor ought to "just know" when there is a need, though the mechanism for that is now gone.

The truth is, I now initiate very few contacts. A great many parishioners contact me, set up appointments, seek visits, etc., and this is very gratifying—to know that they value my thoughts. And I give those visits my fullest and best attention since they are so productive. Although, this often requires me to work five or six evenings per week. So, at the ends of those days, I don't frequently find myself wondering, "who else *might* want to speak with me?"

The bottom line is, if you want to talk, please call, or email or drop in. I enjoy serving God by serving God's children.

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

July Worship Schedule

July 3 *1 Kings 3:3-28* “Having a Hearing Heart” Guest Preacher Rev. John Hays will lead worship today, and we will celebrate communion.

July 10 *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23* “Bearing Fruit” What is the goal of the Christian gospel? Is it a passionate emotional feeling of love? Is it an intellectual understanding and clarity of belief? Or is it a changed life that works for God’s purposes? Today we will have a multi-part skit instead of an ordinary sermon. We will also ordain some new officers.

July 17 *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43* “A Garden Full of Weeds” What is the usual instinct of a farmer regarding weeds? What does Jesus tell his followers to do about weeds? What motivates us to treat the weeds differently than the way Jesus instructed? Does Jesus *condone* sin in this passage?

July 24 *Genesis 29:15-28* “Blessing of the Animals” The way that humans treat other humans is sometimes very much like the way we treat animals. We may like to suppose that we are so very different from animals, but we are just one species of animals. Today we will worship outdoors and we will bless the animals who come to worship with a brief prayer and laying on of hands. If it rains, please do not bring animals, as we will move worship indoors.

July 31 *Matthew 14:22-33* “Walking on Water” How does this story make sense if the boat is understood as a metaphor for the early church? What does it take for a Christian disciple to be able to “walk on water?” What kinds of resistances are there to leaving the boat? How do our current building construction plans fit into this story?



July Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Carrie Staubus](#)
For flower contributions, please contact the [RPC Office](#)
Potential Acolytes, Liturgists & Ushers, please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#)



	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
July 3	Matt Lisle	Dima Aieta	Aieta Family	Kohar & George Havelka	Jansky Family
July 10	Claire Gangware	OPEN	Lancaster Family	Elizabeth Musick	OPEN
July 17	Lynda Nadkarni	OPEN	Scuff Gross, Dennis Sadilek, Lynn Shannon Labotka, Terence Akebe	Ranft Family	Staubus, Jansky & Nadkarni Families
July 24	OPEN	OPEN	Lisle Family	OPEN	Sanchez Family
July 31	Mary Ann Sadilek	OPEN	Will & Suzanne Vogel	OPEN	OPEN

If any usher has a conflict on the date assigned, please find a substitute from the Usher List, or trade with another usher for a different date.

Trustees for July are Fred Mitchell and Wayne Penn

Session News

In June the Session:

- ◆ approved a loan from the Endowment Fund to the RPC Operating Fund, not to exceed \$35,000, to finance the construction of handicap-accessible bathrooms.
- ◆ welcomed Evaine Stahrr as the Assistant Girls' Group Advisor; the search continues for the Advisor.
- ◆ received with regret the resignation of Tricia Willinger from the Board of Deacons and will present the name of Susan Zander to fill the vacancy at the June 19 Congregational Meeting.
- ◆ scheduled the "Blessing of the Animals" worship service to be held outdoors on July 24.
- ◆ noted that the statements of giving, which will be mailed shortly, will include a reminder to those who have not yet reimbursed RPC for the \$30.31 per capita assessment paid on their behalf to Presbytery.
- ◆ thanked Jon Jansky for making a Cross for the Prayer Garden.
- ◆ recommended an article, "What Presbyterians Believe" in the magazine *Presbyterians Today* which is available in the church library.
- ◆ approved a request from Rev. Jansen to participate in a civil union ceremony to be conducted by another pastor.
- ◆ received the final version of the new RPC policy, "Services on the Occasion of Death" which details procedures, policies, and fees for funerals and memorials.
- ◆ commended Jim Sit for his work repairing the RPC steeple speakers and recording music played by our Bell Choir which will be played at 6:00 p.m. daily, with other music continuing at noon and 3:00 p.m.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

July Birthdays

Thomas Dudak	7/1	Lorraine Meyer	7/16	Jean Tess	7/24
Emily Kedzie	7/1	Mary Jansen	7/17	Allie Burke	7/25
Jim Ulrich	7/1	Cooper Sahlas	7/17	Lisa Burke	7/25
Taylor Jurgens	7/2	Lynda Nadkarni	7/18	Jason Flam	7/25
Deb Pike	7/3	Lily Pyatt	7/18	Cyril Friend III	7/25
Patricia Halline	7/6	Adeline Pecis	7/19	Jordan Ballerine	7/26
Natalie Lisle	7/6	Daniel Sanchez	7/19	Tyler Pratico-Floros	7/27
Ryan Colbrese	7/9	Cody Kazarian	7/20	Sally Sloane	7/27
Jim Marciniak	7/11	Margaret Vacek	7/20	Keegan Buttimer	7/28
Quinn Risley	7/11	Kayla Flam	7/21	Kendall Hastings	7/29
Hope De Vries	7/13	Abby Freel	7/21	Amanda Hejna	7/29
Greg Franzo	7/14	George Havelka	7/21	Kirsten Jantze	7/30
Ingrid Nolan	7/15	Mary Louise Schwarz	7/22	Susan Zander	7/30
Catherine Glawe	7/16	Ellen Allen	7/24	Wesley Deason	7/31



Church News

Thank You!

Many RPC members are unsung heroes who selflessly give their time and talents to the church. We would like to acknowledge some of those people:

Emily Kedzie took photos of new members, baptisms, and church officers. The latter will be part of a new display on the bulletin board so that we can all put names and faces together.

George Dluhy, Tara Gregus, Connie Kelly, and Vince Pecis accompanied our youth on their mission trip

Sarah Dudak designed and stitched a slate-black parament for the pulpit and a long matching cloth for draping the cross in the sanctuary. These were introduced at the ecumenical Good Friday Service this spring. If you'd like to see these lovely examples of textile art, ask a Worship & Music committee member to show them to you!

Jon Jansky utilized his cabinet-making skills in designing and making a wooden support for the candle-lighting devices which the acolytes use each Sunday. Installed on the back wall of the sanctuary, it efficiently holds up what used to be stacked in the corner! Jon also created the striking cross on the outside wall above the wonderful garden between the Church and the Manse.

Jim Sit methodically reworked the electronically-produced sound system (which was failing) in RPC's bell tower, making it possible to continue hearing the bells during the day. A further enhancement is his custom recording of our own Bell Choir ringing some favorite selections, which can be heard in the early evening. Jim also set up the capability for sermons to be recorded and available for listening on our website.

Prayer Garden

A quiet corner for prayer and contemplation . . . Generous memorial donations and the hard work of trustees and church members has helped transform the Manse backyard from a neglected weed patch to a quiet spot for prayer and contemplation.

Memorial donations to date:

- ◆ **Dogwood Tree** in memory of Liberty Dvorak from the preschool parents and Nancy and Joe Dvorak.
- ◆ Clump **Red Bud tree** in memory of Carl Martin from Margy Martin.
- ◆ **Garden bench** in memory of Henrietta Cady from the Deacons.
- ◆ **Garden bench and cast iron gate** in memory of Henrietta Cady from her daughter, Linda Waycie.

Boy Scout Austin McKain got the ball rolling when he installed a brick walk for his Eagle Scout project, using bricks removed from the Barrypoint parkway. The trustees expanded on his work with a small brick seating area. Trustees and other church helpers worked many hours weeding, mulching and planting. Trustees President, Jon Jansky, enhanced the area by building a beautiful wooden cross and several screening fences.



Please stop by for a quiet moment anytime. The gate is closed (to keep deer out!), but not locked, and the area is intended to be used by all. Thanks again to all who have contributed to transforming this space. As time passes and the plantings mature, we hope it will become even more inviting.

CARERS Corner

In July, the CARERS will be collecting items for *Stars and Stripes*. Please see the list of 'needs' for our troops posted on the barrel in the foyer. Notes of support to a serviceman or women are also appreciated—please place your note in an unsealed envelope.



The CARERS would like to share *Dial Hope* with members and friends of the church. Dr. Roger Kunkel, who was pastor at Riverside Presbyterian Church from 1978 to 1998, began a ministry called *Dial Hope* when he and his wife, Char, retired and moved to Florida. *Dial Hope* provides a 2-minute telephone prayer filled with HOPE every day on an 800 number. It is now also available to servicemen and women (thanks to the Pentagon). To access *Dial Hope*, call 1-866-528-4673 or visit www.dialhope.com. *Try it; you'll like it.* There are cards and information about the ministry at the entrances to the church, or contact one of the members of the CARERS Committee for further information.

Deacons' Doings

A few weeks ago during a "Minute for Mission" Deacon Kate Chard presented a *Centsability* project to the congregation. The Board of Deacons is asking YOU to join them by participating in this ministry. It's very simple. Kate Chard and Noemi Sanchez have labels that you place over an empty can. You then put the can on your dining table, and before each meal toss some coins into the can. It's a way to remind us that we can ALL chip in to help combat hunger in our own area. We ask that you participate as an individual or as a family. The collection will be ongoing over the summer months. Thanks to those who've already started this project! It's not too late to participate, and we have additional labels for you to begin your collection today! Please contact any Deacon and we will provide you with the label. Let's work together, because *together* we can make a *difference!*



Mexican Fiesta

Riverside Presbyterian Church and Christ Presbyterian Church in North Riverside held a joint fundraiser and fellowship event on Friday, June 17, in the backyard of RPC members Frank and Courtney Hooglander. About 50-60 people attended this event and a good time was had by all. "*We look forward to more collaboration and working together on more joint events in the future,*" said Christ Prebyterian member Jim O'Neill. "*This was a great event and it was nice to get to know more of our fellow Presbyterians in the area.*"

Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status, as of the end of May (42% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$ 127,276 (35.0% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 151,730 (41.7% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 24,454



Proverbs 16:3 *Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed.*

Youth Mission Trip

Camp Rimrock, Rapid City, South Dakota

Thirteen teens and four adult leaders participated in an eight-day mission trip to a Presbyterian youth camp in South Dakota in June. We drove two vans from Riverside to Sioux Falls, South Dakota the first day, and were warmly welcomed at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where we stayed overnight. While there, we visited Falls Park and saw the beautiful waterfalls for which Sioux Falls is named. In the morning, the youth pastor and one of the kids from the youth group even made us breakfast! On the second day of our drive, we drove through the scenic Badlands National Park before arriving at our destination.

At Camp Rimrock, we spent our time helping the Camp Director get the camp ready for the campers who were arriving the following week. We painted benches, picnic tables, signs and trim. We repaired broken windows and fences. We organized and cleaned the recreation room. We built a woodshed for their campfire woodpile. We built several elements of a low ropes course. We repaired bunkbeds and hung signs. And when they ran out of things for us to do, we went sightseeing on our last day to Mount Rushmore and Custer State Park, where we saw buffalo and lots of other wildlife.

Our camp was located in a canyon in the Black Hills National Forest, so it was a wonderful setting to enjoy God's amazing beauty. We took a breathtaking hike to the top of a hill overlooking the canyon. On our drive home, we stayed at First Presbyterian Church in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, another church which welcomed us with open arms. They served us a delicious barbeque supper upon our arrival. Thanks to volunteer leaders George Dluhy, Connie Kelly, Vince Pecis and Youth Advisor Tara Gregus for leading our group. A good time was had by all and we're already thinking about next year!



Youth Mission Trip



Youth/Fellowship

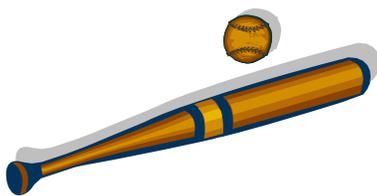
Youth Car Wash

On Saturday, May 28, the senior high youth held a car wash at the St. Mary parking lot to raise funds for the 2011 Mission Trip. Once again, the weather cooperated, and the rain held off until all the cars were washed! Kids and parents alike washed a lot of cars, trucks and SUV's and earned over \$650 for the mission trip!



Strawberry Social

Please join us on Wednesday, July 13, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., for our Strawberry Social — a beloved annual event featuring delicious homemade cakes served with ice cream and strawberries. Please invite a neighbor, friend, or family member to join us on our church lawn for one of our favorite opportunities for fun and fellowship. We will have cake raffles, kids' games, music and more. You will receive a mailing with tickets and may contact the church office for additional tickets. We will need lots of helpers to make this event a success, so please look for bulletin inserts in coming weeks to sign up to help.



Youth/Adult Softball Game

Athletes and non-athletes please come to our *Youth vs. Adult Softball Game* at the Big Ball Park on Longcommon Road, on Sunday, July 17, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.. We want you there to play ball or cheer us on! We will be having fun in the summer sun, so please join us!

Family Retreat at Camp Saugatuck

Please sign up for our annual family camp by July 18. Riverside Presbyterian Church will have a family retreat at Camp Saugatuck, August 19-21, 2011. We mean "church family" so please join us whether you are a single, couple or family group. We are looking forward to fun and fellowship including campfires, great meals, hiking, swimming, archery, canoeing and sunsets on the beach. The cost will be \$129 for adults; \$107 for youth (12-17); \$62 for children (3-11); and \$14 for infants (0-2). This cost includes lodging, 4 meals and all the activities. Check out our online photo albums of past Camp Saugatuck retreats at www.rpcusa.org/photogallery.html. Registration forms are available at http://www.rpcusa.org/files/Family_Retreat_Registration_Form.pdf or in the rack across from the church office. You may drop off the forms with your check made out to "Presbyterian Camps" at the church office. Space is limited as we will be sharing the camp with another retreat group. Your check will reserve your spot and will be sent to the camp 30 days prior to the retreat.



Horizons Bible Study

The 2011-2012 Horizons Bible Study will be *Confessing the Beatitudes* by Margaret Aymer. The Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women, as a Bible Study Committee, selected the topic of the Beatitudes in *Matthew* and *Luke* for the 2011-2012 study. Specifically, they requested that the study focus on connecting faith with daily life, and that it address directly some of the most difficult issues facing the world today: the economy, hunger, poverty, Christian community, water issues, a woman's role in society, faith and the public life, and justice and peace.

Lesson leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura. Plan to attend on Wednesday, September 28, at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Social Hall. Lesson 1, *Greatly Honored are the Poor*. All women are invited. Study books are available from Lucille Christensen, and are \$8.00.

Bible Study Leaders

With deep appreciation for their devotion and outstanding leadership, the Presbyterian Women honored (left to right) Joyce Van Cura, Sylvia Schade, and Elizabeth Musick for serving as Lesson Leaders for the 2010-2011 Bible Study.

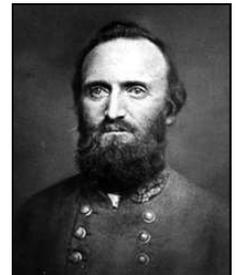


Human Scene

July 3 & July 10: NO CLASS

July 17: *Stonewall Jackson and His Faith*

Stonewall Jackson was a devout Presbyterian (and CALVINIST in his outlook), and perhaps filled with contradictions – a Confederate General who, before the war while teaching at the Virginia Military Institute, taught a Sunday school class for slaves. This being the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, and July 17 the closest Sunday to July 21, the anniversary of the First Battle of Bull Run/First Manassas (during which Jackson got his nickname "Stonewall"), Steve Marcus will lead a session exploring Stonewall Jackson and the wellsprings of his faith.



July 24 through the end of summer: NO CLASS

Children's Sunday School on Summer Break

Sunday School and Godly Play will be on break during the summer months and will resume on September 11. Planning for the Fall is already under way. If you're interested in teaching Sunday School in the coming school year please contact Jenny Kolinski at kolinski426@comcast.net.

Summer Hours for Childcare

Childcare will be available on Sunday mornings for children preschool age and younger from 9:45 a.m. until the conclusion of worship. Extended childcare hours will resume on September 11.

Presbyterians and Others

What Presbyterians Believe

Have you ever wondered why we ask for forgiveness of our debts rather than trespasses or sins when reciting the Lord's Prayer? Or what Presbyterians believe about eschatology? (Do you even know what eschatology* is?) The answers to this and hundreds of other pieces of information about *What Presbyterians Believe* may be found in a recent edition of *Presbyterians Today* titled "What Presbyterians Believe." Copies of this publication are available in the church library. For those who are likely to forget to pick one up (or forget to return it when finished) here's a link to the key elements on-line: <http://game.pcusa.org/ministries/today/what-do-presbyterians-believe/>

* The word *eschatology* is derived from two Greek words meaning *last* and *study* (ἔσχατος, last; and λογία, lit. discourse). It is the study of the end of things, whether the end of an individual life, the end of the age, or the end of the world. Broadly speaking, it is the study of the destiny of man as it is revealed in the Bible.

Presbyterian Disagreements 101

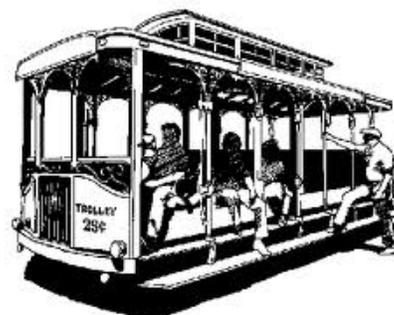
Every church has differences of opinion (see *1 Corinthians*). But different churches have different strategies to manage differences. Some churches are very hierarchical. A few elite leaders make the decisions, and the followers are expected to obey. They may not agree, but they have no power to alter the decisions, so they just go along with their church, quietly. Other churches are entirely congregational. Whatever the majority of the members say is final. The drawback is that the congregation can ignore the wisdom of the Holy Spirit that is given to the billions of Christians outside of that church.

Presbyterians are in between. We recognize the Holy Spirit's connection to everyone, but we also recognize that everyone is a biased, fallible sinner. Thus, the best way to discern God's will is to listen to the Spirit's wisdom as broadly as possible. The minority must continue to raise their voices, since the church has frequently listened to the minority and changed its position. The majority must be humble about their discernment, since many majorities have been reversed in the past.

On the hundreds of issues our church has considered, any individual will be in the majority on many and in the minority on many. Where you are in the minority, you submit, but seek to persuade others to change. Where you are in the majority, you rejoice, but also listen humbly. That's being Presbyterian.

Taste of Riverside Churches

On Sunday, September 25, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., plan to join Riverside and North Riverside residents in a Trolley Car tour of four of our community's churches: Ascension Lutheran Church, Christ Community Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church of Riverside, and St. Mary Catholic Church. (The other four churches will be included in a similar tour next year.) Leaders from the four churches will be on hand to talk about their churches and to answer questions. Tickets for the Trolley will be \$10.00 and should be reserved ahead of time. Please contact Marjorie Lewe to purchase tickets, or for further information. This event is sponsored by the Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of Churches.



Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!



July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Deacons British Home Service	4 5:15p Volleyball 	5 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	6 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se Food Pantry 12:30p Covenant Prayers for Peace	7 6:30a Women's Forum	8 Night Ministry	9
10 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Adult Ed Comm	11 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	12 6:30a Men's Forum	13 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se Food Pantry 6p Strawberry Social	14 6:30a Women's Forum	15 10a CARERS Comm Mtg 11a Staff Mtg 6p Craft Night	16
17 9a Adult Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Worship 3p Softball Game Youth vs. Adults	18 5:15p Volleyball	19 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons Mtg	20 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se Food Pantry 7:30p Session Mtg	21 6:30a Women's Forum	22	23
24 10a Worship-Blessing of the Animals 11a Coffee Fellowship	25 5:15p Volleyball	26 6:30a Men's Forum	27 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se Food Pantry	28 6:30a Women's Forum	29	30
31 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	<p>Did you know . . . that the Battle of Gettysburg was fought from July 1 through July 3, 1863? Casualties on both sides (killed, wounded, or captured) are estimated at 46,000-51,000. The Confederates lost nearly a third of their general officers. Stonewall Jackson was not one of them, however, as he died on May 10, 1863, following the battle of Chancellorsville. Join our Human Scene class on July 17 to learn more about Stonewall Jackson.</p>					

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

**RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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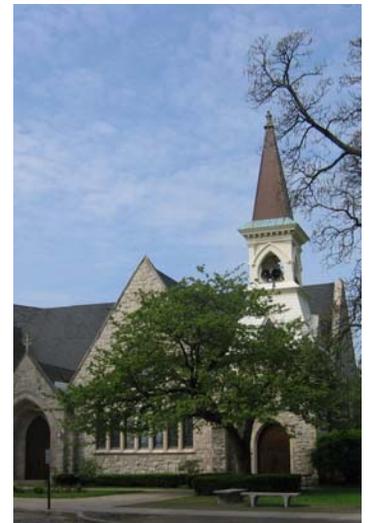
Archivist: Caroline Tecson

Wedding Coordinator: Donna Ulrich

Artist in Residence: Karena 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

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