



# The Vision

June 2016

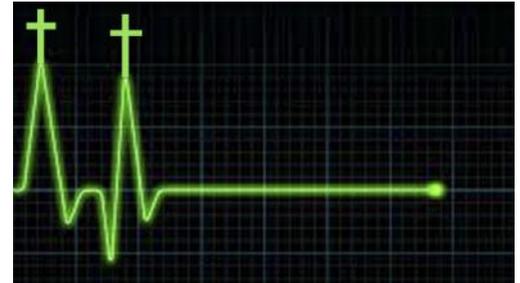
We are called to celebrate God's presence; Nurture the spiritual life of each individual; Carry the light of Jesus Christ to the world; and Serve God by serving others.

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## Why Do Good Churches Die?

Based on an article by the same name by Rebekah Simon-Peter from *Ministry Matters*



As we continue to explore what it means to capture God's vision for our congregation, I came across Rebekah Simon-Peter's article which asks the compelling question, *Why do good churches die?* She highlights several theories, which include: changing demographics, young people leaving the church or not being raised in church at all, the rise in the spiritual but not religious crowd, the appearance of "nones" and "dones" — those who have no religious affiliation or once did but have now retired from church — and the changing culture around us. And those can contribute to why churches are dying but she suggests some hidden reasons. Her suggestions are in bold followed by my reflections. To read the entire article follow this link:

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5695/the-secret-reason-why-good-churches-die>

- 1. Your current vision doesn't expand assumptions about what is possible.** If our vision details what we are doing instead of what we should be doing, then it is not a vision statement. Conversely, if our vision statement is something we are not and will never live into it's not a vision.
- 2. Your questions change from "Who is God calling us to reach?" to "How can we avoid losing what we have?"** I think these are hard questions to process for many congregations and especially hard for a congregation as old as ours. The first question is hard because it calls us to be forward-looking. It calls us to ask where is it and who is it God is calling us to minister to. How often are we guilty of falling into the trap of the second question? To answer the question we simply have to look at where we spend our money and where we spend our time.
- 3. You have not put your own credibility on the line when articulating what's next.** In other words, you are trying to look good, be liked, not rock the boat, save your job, or save the church. Jesus put his own credibility on the line when he cast his vision that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. So much so that Rome crucified him for sedition as "King of the Jews." But his vision worked! To be a follower of Jesus, something is required of us and that something is all we have as individuals and all we have as a congregation.

Why do good churches die? They focus on the least important things and forget that as individuals and as a congregation they are called to be the living body of Christ for the world. Living and dying has nothing to do with how much money we have in the bank and everything to do with what our vision is. Do we want to live or do we want to die?

Dale

## Worship & Church News

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### Worship at Cantata and Scottish Home

The Deacons welcome any and all congregation members to join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata (the British Home) on June 5 at 2:00 p.m., and the worship service for the residents of the Scottish Home on June 19 at 2:00 p.m.

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### June Opportunities



If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact Deb Jansky  
For flower contributions, please contact the RPC Office  
Potential Acolytes and Liturgists, please contact Elizabeth Musick  
Potential Ushers, please contact Paula McCracken

	Liturgists	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
June 5	Laura Vanags	Richard & Mary Crang George & Susan Dluhy	Will & Susanne Vogel	OPEN
June 12	Youth	Lisle Family	OPEN	OPEN
June 19	Deacon	Cindy Reynolds & family Mike & Gwen Heine	OPEN	OPEN
June 26	Claire Gangware	Frank & Claire Gangware Karla Engel, David Harper	OPEN	OPEN



### Youth Group Car Wash

**June 5** noon to 3:00 p.m.  
PJ Klem's parking lot  
(corner of Ogden & Joliet)

Support the Youth Mission Trip  
by getting your car washed.

Cars \$8  
SUVs & Vans \$12  
Large trucks \$15

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### Summer Office Hours

Marika Floros will be staffing the RPC office this summer. Summer office hours are 9:00 a.m. until noon on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. The office is closed on Wednesday. Summer hours begin after Memorial Day and continue through Labor Day.

## Session Notes

In May, the Session:

- ◆ Began training on Transformational Leadership with Dale, which will continue on a monthly basis and promises to be good for the Session and the church as a whole.
- ◆ Heard from the Trustees that the organ restoration is complete. Most of the money for the project had been raised before the restoration began, but there is a bit more to go, and donations are still gladly being accepted.
- ◆ Received a proposal from the Deacons offering to coordinate a community event addressing the problem of substance abuse, especially that of opioid overdoses that have been on the rise and in the news recently.
- ◆ Heard more details concerning Dale's Installation Service, June 12 at 4:30 p.m., and hoping for good attendance from the congregation for this celebration at RPC.
- ◆ Were happy to hear that Dale and Dennis, who had graciously opened their home for a series of get-togethers, have already had 64 people join them and have another 45 scheduled to do so.

Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak  
Acting Clerk of Session



Bonnie Hosey 6/1  
Ryan Cermak 6/2  
Will Gangware 6/2  
Sylvia Schade 6/2  
Jake Strand 6/2  
Susanne Vogel 6/2  
Marge Abbott 6/3  
Judy Booton 6/3  
Kathleen Feary 6/3  
Phyllis Sit 6/4  
Cyril Friend IV 6/5  
Ella Hooglander 6/5

George Kazarian 6/5  
William Paarlberg 6/6  
Jill Vacek 6/6  
Tricia Willinger 6/6  
Natalie Lisle 6/7  
Alan Booton 6/8  
Sandra Kappmeyer 6/8  
Christine Brakas 6/10  
Tom Radigan 6/11  
Megan Huisingh-Scheetz 6/12  
Dennis Zander 6/13  
Olive Sahlas 6/14

Ellie Pearson 6/15  
Karon Nettles 6/16  
Thom DeVries 6/18  
Mia Haugland 6/18  
Donna Ballerine 6/21  
Kelsey Buttimer 6/21  
Robin Jensen 6/21  
Amanda Gregus 6/22  
Max Marciniak 6/22  
Abigail Schwarz 6/22  
Jeff Willinger 6/22  
Bailey Hastings 6/23

Maria Bradbury 6/25  
Scuff Gross 6/25  
Patti Friend 6/26  
Mark Jantze 6/26  
Tara Gregus 6/27  
Hailey Jurgens 6/27  
Cindy Reynolds 6/27  
Peytan Tamlyn 6/27  
Eva Harvin 6/29  
Drake Sahlas 6/29  
Brad Staubus 6/29  
Peter Tess 6/29



### CARERS Corner

The Constance Morris House is a domestic violence shelter for women and children. [Constance Morris](#) offers a safe haven, providing counseling and advocacy, as well as physical and psychological safety. Let's fill the trunk with things residents need every day. Items include personal care products and supplies for the kitchen, bathroom and laundry. A complete list of supplies needed is [available online](#).

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### Help our Youth Group Mission Trip

There are still opportunities available to help the RPC Youth with the Mission Trip fundraising. The Youth Group invites you to a **Car Wash** on June 5 in the PJ Klem's parking lot (corner of Ogden & Joliet). The Youth Group is also selling **Mission Trip Shares** from now until the week before the trip. Shares are \$30 and assist with travel and registration costs for the trip. Contact [Matt Gauen](#) for further information.

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### Afghans for Project Linus

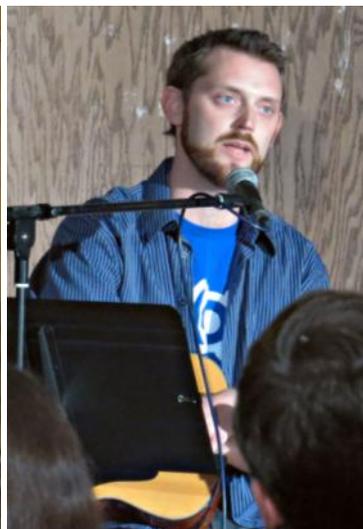
Six more afghans have been completed by RPC knitters and crocheters. These are some of the 23 afghans made and donated this year. This batch will be going to [Project Linus](#).

Thanks to all who helped!





RPC's annual Open Mic Night and Youth Café was held on April 23. Thanks to John Haugland, the Fellowship Committee, the Youth Group and all our entertainers for making the event a resounding success!



# Mission Trip Fundraiser

The Committee for Children and Youth would like to thank the Lisle Family for graciously welcoming us and hosting our Bourbon and BBQ party on May 21. We couldn't have asked for more perfect weather or a more beautiful setting to be with friends and eat a Kentucky themed dinner, helping to raise funds to defray the costs of the adult chaperones who will be leading the Senior High Mission Trip in June. Thanks go out to all those who helped make this evening a reality. Without shoppers, cooks, bakers, bartenders, a fantastic fiddler, and all those who purchased tickets to attend, it couldn't have succeeded. We are blessed!



## Vacation Bible School

Calling all scientists - young and old! Riverside Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School runs July 6-July 8 from 9:30 to noon. This year we will be putting on our goggles and exploring the various ways God and science intersect in our lives. Grab your lab coat and join us! We are still taking registrations for kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade. The cost is \$30/child and it will go to cover one lab coat, one pair of goggles and 2 1/2 hours of fun and games. Bring your little one and let them discover the fun of walking on raw eggs, making elephant toothpaste and more!

Teens and adults: we are looking for volunteers to help with VBS. You don't need any prior know-how; just bring a willingness to experiment with science and we'll supply the materials. Unable to attend that week? We are requesting donations for science supplies, as well as collecting every-day household items. [Contact Susan Zander](#) with any questions.

We look forward to a great time and hope you can join in the fun! VBS registration forms are [online](#) on our website, or are available from the church office. The cost is \$30 per child.



Scenes from Sunday School

# Youth

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## Girls Group Ends Another Good Year

Thanks to all who participated and helped out with the Girls Group this year! We had a Mother-Daughter tea, worked in the prayer garden, celebrated body positivity week, and had a bicycle scavenger hunt in May. We are planning an overnight at the beach in June. Please make sure Tara has your cell phone for important text updates during the summer. Contact Tara at [tara.gregus@rpcusa.org](mailto:tara.gregus@rpcusa.org). Have a great and safe summer everyone and we hope to see you in the fall!

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## Youth Group News

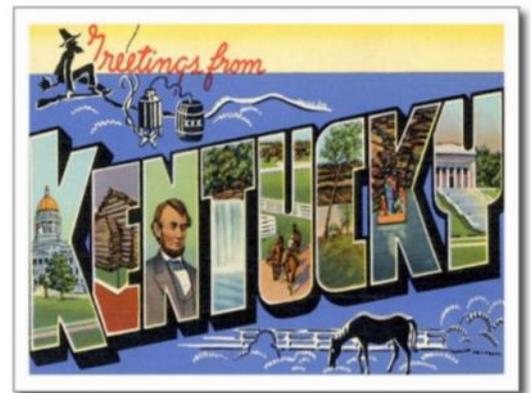
May was a busy month for RPC youth. From running the Youth Cafe at Open Mic Night, to performing in Open Mic Night, to planning and leading Youth Sunday, to getting ready for the 2016 Mission Trip, we have been a very busy bunch.

Many youth participated and performed during Open Mic Night, which was a huge success and brought in over \$1,000 for the 2016 Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip. A huge *thank you* goes out to Susan Lynch for coordinating and running the kitchen for the Youth Cafe, as well as to all of the youth and adults who helped to run it. The talent of the RPC youth was also on display throughout the fun-filled evening.

Youth Sunday's theme was around movies, and the RPC Youth found films that spoke to them. We shared our thoughts and helped to present Bibles to the 2nd Graders on the 22nd of May. Many youth also shared their musical talents during the service.

During June, we will close out Teen Scene for the year and get ready for the 2016 Mission Trip.

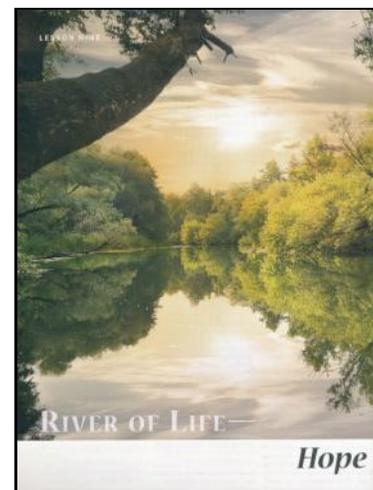
- June 5** Youth Group Car Wash at PJ Klem's, noon to 3:00 p.m. All are invited to stop by with their vehicles. Cars are \$8, SUVs \$12, and large trucks \$15. All proceeds will go towards the Mission Trip. *Youth and parents of youth who are going on the mission trip are highly encouraged to attend!*
- June 12** Final Teen Scene
- June 19** No Youth Group
- June 22** Wednesday, Mission Trip Shareholders Dessert, 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
As an appreciation for our 2016 Mission Trip Shareholders, we will be holding a Shareholders Dessert before our 2016 Mission Trip. We will have a short presentation about the trip and about past Mission Trip experiences. All Shareholders are welcome to attend.
- June 25** Saturday Mission Trip Send-Off, 10:00 a.m.  
Shareholders, parents and family members are encouraged to join us on the morning of June 25 for our Mission Trip send-off. We will load the vans, get ready to go, and then join in a group prayer to send our group off to Martin County, Kentucky!
- June 25-July 2** Mission Trip  
The RPC Senior High Youth Group will head to Kentucky to join in the Appalachia Service Project. We will be doing home repairs for families in the Martin County area, and will participate in local mission activities throughout the week.





### Presbyterian Women Bible Study

The topic for the 2015-2016 Horizons Bible Study is *Come to the Waters* by Judy Record Fletcher, with suggestions for leaders by Larissa Kwong Abazia. *Come to the Waters* considers water images and stories in the Bible. With over 800 references to water in the Bible, there is no shortage of passages from which to choose. The study begins with the chaotic waters of creation in *Genesis* and ends with the river of life in *Revelation*. Please join us on **Wednesday, June 22**, at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Social Hall.



Lesson 9—River of Life—Hope

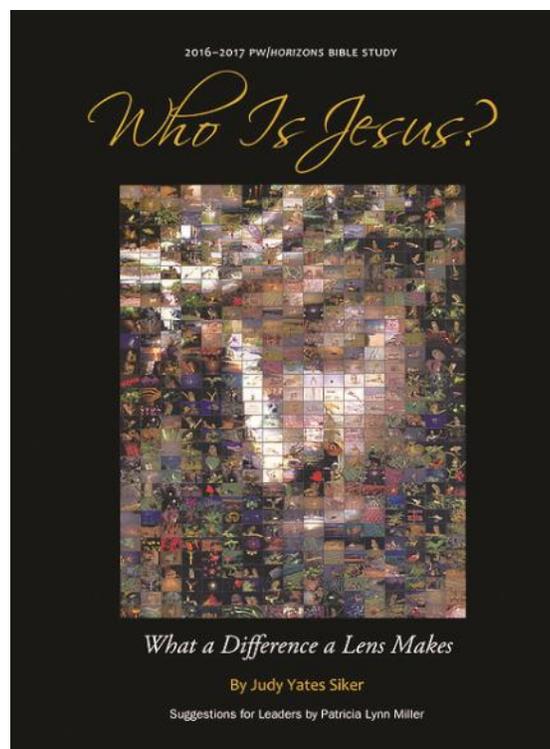
Scripture: *Revelation 21-22*

**Lesson Focus:** In Revelation we get a picture of the end time, with the fullest revelation of God and God’s creation. This becomes a cause of great hope. We learn that we live in between the revelation of Jesus Christ and this final revelation and that we are to witness to this as we live out our faith.

At the beginning of this study, we saw the goodness of God, which is repeated in the vision of God’s perfection of creation. What remains is for us to trust and to live lives that reflect God’s perfection of creation, from the beginning to all eternity. We are to bear witness to the Living Water, the Christ among us, calling us to obedience and faithfulness. In some ways, it is that simple, but in other ways, it is that challenging. We need to pray for God’s help with all this and more. As we close this study, focus on a bowl or pitcher of water and think of the rich and varied images of water God gives us.

### 2016-2017 Horizons Bible Study

The Presbyterian Women Bible Study will not meet in July. On August 26, we begin our new course entitled *Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes* by Judy Yates Siker, with suggestions for leaders by Patricia Lynn Miller. Study books are \$8. Please contact Carol Sprunger to get your copy.



### 2016 Birthday Offering

Begun in 1922, the birthday offering of Presbyterian women celebrates Presbyterian women’s history of mission giving. Giving to the birthday offering is an annual tradition. The gifts have funded nearly 100 major mission projects that continue to make a difference in the lives of women and children around the world.

## Events

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### Friday Night Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee is gearing up for Friday Night Fellowship throughout the warm summer months (June-September). Mark your calendars for **June 24** at the home of Connie and John Haugland. All those 21 and over are welcome. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre and beverage to share. Instant party!

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# Strawberry Social

**JULY 13**  
**6:00 TO 9:00 p.m..**

All are welcome to join us for cake and ice cream with strawberries, live entertainment, games and activities for kids, a photo booth, a fancy cakes raffle and lots of friendly people. This is a community event - so, please, invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a great summer evening on the lawn at RPC!



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### *Colleges That Change Lives* College Fair

On Sunday, August 28, beginning at 5:00 p.m., *Colleges That Change Lives* will host a College Fair at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center, 1551 Thoreau Drive North in Schaumburg. The Fair will begin with a 30-minute information session, followed by the opportunity for attendees to spend 90 minutes visiting the information booths and talking to admissions personnel from the 40 colleges featured in Loren Pope's 2012 book, *Colleges That Change Lives: 40 schools that will change the way you think about colleges*.

Among the schools are several colleges with connections to the Presbyterian Church (USA), including Agnes Scott College (for women, Decatur, GA), Austin College (Sherman, TX), Centre College (Danville, KY), Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, FL), Rhodes College (Memphis, TN), and The College of Wooster (OH – Pastor Doug Asbury's alma mater).

Admission to the Fair is free of charge; and no preregistration is required. For more information, go to: <http://ctcl.org/chicago-il-august-28-2016/>

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!



# June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed	2 6:30a Women's Forum	3	4
5 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Open Gym 2p Cantata Worship	6 5:15p Volleyball 7p Fellowship Comm Mtg	7 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons Mtg	8 Office Closed	9 6:30a Women's Forum	10	11
12 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Endowment Comm Mtg 4:30 Dale Jackson Installation	13 5:15p Volleyball 7p Fellowship Comm Mtg 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	14 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg 7p Children & Youth Comm Mtg	15 Office Closed	16 6:30a Women's Forum	17 10a CARERS Comm Mtg	18
19 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home worship <b>Vision</b> deadline	20 5:15p Volleyball	21 6:30a Men's Forum	22 Office Closed 10a Pres Women Bible Study 7:30p Session Mtg	23 6:30a Women's Forum	<b>24</b>	25
26 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	27 5:15p Volleyball	28 6:30a Men's Forum	29 Office Closed	30 6:30a Women's Forum		

*Thank you all for the many good wishes, cards, flowers, gift certificates and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. Special thanks to Elizabeth Musick and Doug Asbury for an outstanding job leading the RPC Chancel Choir during my recovery. I feel so blessed to be a part of this wonderful community of faith. I look forward to worshipping with you again from our newly renovated King of Instruments. Soli Deo Gloria*

Sally Sloane

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

**RIVERSIDE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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Riverside, Illinois  
60546

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**Preschool Director:** Susan Lisle  
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**Financial Secretary:** Cindy Reynolds  
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**Treasurer:** Ellen Hamilton  
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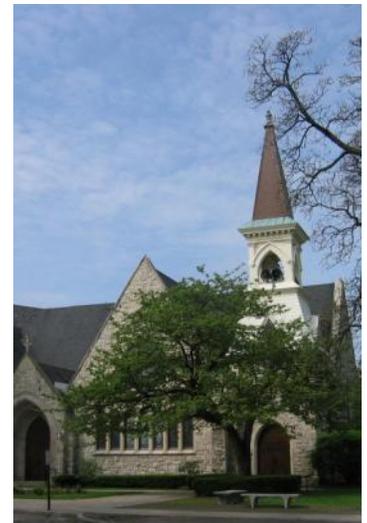
**Asst. Treasurer:** George Dluhy

**Archivist:** Caroline Tecson

**Wedding Coordinator:** Donna Ulrich

**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)