



Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546
(708) 447-1520 ~ rpcusa.org

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



God Bless Us Every One: The Redemption of Scrooge

Our Advent Worship series focuses on the classic Charles Dickens story "A Christmas Carol." The story is a novella that was first published in London by Chapman & Hall in 1843; and illustrated by John Leech. As most of you know "A Christmas Carol" tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an old miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. After their visits Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol at a time when the British were examining and exploring Christmas traditions from the past, such as carols, as well as new customs such as Christmas trees. He was inspired to write the story following a visit to the Field Lane Ragged school, one of several establishments for London's half-starved, illiterate street children. The treatment of the poor and the ability of a self-interested man redeeming himself by transforming into a more sympathetic character are the key themes of the story. There is discussion among academics as to whether this was a fully secular story, or if it is a Christian allegory. Obviously, I believe it is indeed a Christian allegory.

During Advent the sanctuary will be decorated to help us experience a true Victorian Christmas. The choir will share traditional English Christmas Carols and Songs. The children and I will light the Advent Wreath each week.

First Sunday of Advent 12/3 *The Remembrance of Christmas Past: Hope from Heartbreak*
Advent Wreath theme: Hope ~ Scripture: Luke 2:8-14

Second Sunday of Advent 12/10 *The Life of Christmas Present: Look Upon Me*
Advent Wreath theme: Love ~ Scripture: Matthew 2:1-18

Third Sunday of Advent 12/17 *The Hope of Christmas Future: Scrooge Redeemed*
Advent Wreath theme: Joy ~ Scripture: Luke 4:18-19

The children will help tell the story of Scrooge redeemed as their pageant this year!

Fourth Sunday of Advent 12/24 10:00 am a Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion

Advent Wreath theme: Peace ~ Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Christmas Eve 12/24 4:00 pm *Amazing Peace* ~ The choir, Bell Choir, Ringers and Singers will all help tell the story of God's gift of Amazing Peace.

Merry Christmas,
Dale

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Thank you to the RPC Chancel Choir for their participation in today's service.

Ushers: Claire Gangware and Kemp Clarke

Liturgist: Susan Lynch

Andrew Ministers: Susan Lynch and Cyril Friend

Flowers today are given by Susan Lynch in loving memory and celebration of her mother Sue.

Coffee fellowship is hosted by Bridget Juister.

Trustees of the Month of November: Alfred Kitch and Susan Deems-Dluhy

Trustees for the Month of December: Jon Jansky and Alfred Kitch

ALL CHURCH FAMILY WORK DAY – Sunday, December 3, 1- 3 pm.



THEOLOGY ON TAP — Join us Monday, November 27 and December 4. Dinner at 6:30 discussion at 7:00 at the Grapevine, 9 West Hillgrove Ave. , LaGrange.

The Bible is the sourcebook of our Christian faith. It rightly occupies a central place in our study and devotional practice. Yet it has always posed a challenge for those of us who try to read its words and grasp its message. It can be both familiar and foreign, both helpful and puzzling—all at the same time. How can we begin to use and understand the Bible with more confidence? Let's find out!

HUMAN SCENE DECEMBER — As we enter Advent, Human Scene will employ three videos from The Work of the People that use images and poetry to invite us to reflect on and prepare for the celebration of God entering into the human story in a way unique in all of history and to ask us how that entrance is meant to change not only our lives but the world. Join us in the parlor at 8:30 a.m. each of the first three Sundays in December to experience and reflect along with other of your fellow followers of the Way. Human Scene will not meet on December 24 or 31.

December 3 - A Season That Forms - Artist Kelly Hall shares reflections and images on the season of Advent.

December 10 - I AM, You Are, We Are - We share a responsive reading composed by Kelly Ann Hall and reflect on the ways in which words form and reform us.

December 17 - Angels and a Holy Night - Kelly Ann Hall invites us to reflect on the God of many names who took on one name and seeks, again, to become many through being born anew in us.

December 24 & 31—No Human Scene.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED — URGENT need for vacuum packed tuna, meat, rice, noodles or any food items that would not freeze in an outdoor pantry. Also needed are granola/cereal bars, boxes of cereal, canned meats and fruits both with pop top or cellophane lids.

SAVE THE DATE

- ~ Sunday, December 3 Advent begins with a worship series on "A Christmas Carol"
- ~ Sunday, December 10 4:00 pm Messiah
- ~ Sunday, December 17 10:00 am Children's Christmas Pageant
- ~ Sunday, December 24 10:00 am Worship with Communion
- ~ Sunday, December 24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Poetry



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS DECEMBER — We are celebrating the birth of Jesus in December with the following Sunday school activities:

December 3 9:00 am - A lesson on the traditional Christmas story.

December 10 9:00 am - Assigning parts for the Christmas play and doing a script reading.

December 16 - Christmas play rehearsal 1:00-2:00 pm.

December 17 - Christmas play during worship. Participants, arrive at 8:30 am to get in costume and perform a final run through.

December 24 & 31—Sunday School will be on break.

If your child is interested in performing in the play and cannot attend any of these rehearsals, please contact Susan Zander.

OPEN GYM — Sunday, December 3. All kids are invited up to the gym after service. Please wear gym shoes!

GODLY PLAY — We will have our last Godly Play of 2017 on Sunday, December 10 after the Children's Message in service. All kids ages 4-2nd grade are invited to come and learn about the Christmas story in Creation Station. We will be making ornaments and sampling Christmas cookies.



POTLUCK AND CARING CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 3 AT 11 AM — Our December potluck will be especially festive. We're combining it with our Caring Christmas, the RPC tradition when we assemble trays of cookies to deliver to our church members who are unable anymore, to come to church. Also, new members are joining that morning and a cake will be provided.

We're asking all who attend to bring either a salad or main dish, and if you're able, some cookies, bars or brownies as well. With them in hand, we will be able to assemble an exceptional assortment of delicacies for our twenty or so members who are unable to worship with us.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS—The office will be open Tuesday, December 26—Friday, December 29 from 9:00 am—noon and Tuesday, January 2—Friday, January 5 from 9:00 am—noon. Marika Floros will be staffing the office over Christmas break.

WASSAIL BOWL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — We need volunteers to help with our traditional Wassail Bowl following the Messiah performance on Sunday, December 10th. If you can bring baked goods, or are able to help with set-up, serving or clean-up, please contact Deb Jansky newhorizons002@gmail.com or Karl-Heinz Meyer kalle1015@aol.com



COME TO CHURCH ON DEC. 10TH AT 4 PM AND BE LIBERATED! — Yes, you will feel liberated from your cares and concerns for a minimum of 60 minutes when you come listen to Handel's Messiah. A definition of Messiah is savior or liberator. Handel's music will fill the sanctuary, your mood will be lifted, your worries liberated, and don't forget the non-alcoholic libations to follow the performance! Mark your calendar and feel free!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING — NEED GIFT CARDS???? — You can help RPC Pre-school and get a head start on your Christmas shopping using gift cards from Great Lakes Scrip. There are so many vendors, and many of them have bonus offerings from time to time that increase the percentage given back to the church. Remember, these cards are good for their face value — there is no additional cost to you. Please have your order form and check made out to RPC in the office by Thursday for following week delivery. The office has additional order forms. This is an ongoing fundraiser.

BRICK PAVERS — Need a gift idea for someone who has everything? Consider honoring a loved one for the holidays with a BRICK PAVER in our outdoor worship area. Or share a favorite Bible verse or saying. The proceeds are added to our Capital Fund to finish paying for the organ restoration. Find forms outside the church office or online at rpcusa.org. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Deems-Dluhy or any Trustee.



RPC HOLY LAND TRIP 2018 — Join us on a 10-Day journey where we will visit all the major sites, such as the Sea of Galilee, Mt. of Beatitudes, Jordan River, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem and Cana. We depart September 3, 2018 from Chicago and return September 12, 2018. The trip costs

\$3,596 and includes airfare, hotel, breakfast and dinner, gratuities and entrance fees. Consider bringing a friend! If you have questions, please speak to Reverend Jackson or Ellen Hamilton!



HOLIDAY MEMORIALS — Express your love in memory or honor of family and friends through a holiday memorial. All memorials will be printed in the Sunday worship bulletins, and the plants will be displayed in the sanctuary from December 17 to December 24. Any that remain will be on display through the holiday season. Forms for Christmas Memorials are available in the rack outside the RPC office, or on the RPC website. Return order to office by December 10.

CARERS NEWS — The Giving Tree, in the Social Hall, will benefit women and children sheltered in the Constance Morris House. The paper ornaments on the tree list Christmas gift items. Take some ornaments, purchase the items and place the unwrapped gifts under the tree. The last Sunday to bring gifts is December 3rd.



Please continue to fill the CARERS Trunk with nonperishable food items throughout the Christmas season. Consider putting your unused Christmas, holiday greeting cards and envelopes into the CARERS Trunk for use next year. The cards are used by the CARERS for their Companions Journeying Together (Prison Ministry) project. This Christmas season, over 220 cards, with stamps separate and 40 extra stamps were collected. Many thanks for your dedication to this special project.



acaBELLa RINGERS — RPC's acaBELLa Ringers will be performing at Riverside's Holiday Stroll on Friday, **December 1**, from 7-8 p.m. at First American Bank across from Guthrie Park. Join us as we are playing LOTS of Christmas carol arrangements. Come join in Christmas cheer and cheer us on!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED — Please sign up to host an upcoming coffee fellowship—many dates are open! You will receive complete directions from the office. We don't want to have to cancel any coffee fellowships—so please volunteer for this fun and rewarding job! It's as easy as making a pot of coffee!



CHANCEL FLOWERS—You can donate chancel flowers in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of the church office. You have the choice of taking the flowers home after the service, or having the deacons deliver them to someone of your choice or the deacons' choice. The cost is \$50.00 for two arrangements. If you have any questions, you can call the church office 447-1520.

RIVERSIDE MASONIC LODGE COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE – Saturday, December 2, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm, 40 Forest Avenue, Riverside. To schedule your appointment please contact LifeSource at 877-543-3768 or online www.lifesource.org and use group code RV08. Appointments recommended. Prepare for your donation: eat well, stay hydrated, bring ID. Presenting donors will receive a LifeSource T-shirt.



RPC REUSABLE BAGS

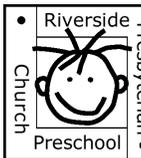
The Outreach Committee is giving stylish reusable bags with the RPC logo to our new members as a welcome gift. They are also available for purchase for a \$5 donation. Buy 2 or more and have them available in your trunk for shopping!

WORSHIP AT CANTATA AND CALEDONIA — The Deacons welcome members to join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata on December 3 at 2 pm, and at Caledonia on December 17 at 2 pm. .

WOMEN'S CIRCLE for Fellowship and Study will meet Wednesday, November 29 at 10:00 am in the Social Hall. All women are welcome to join us for coffee, fellowship and study as we discuss “*Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*” by Melissa Bane Sevier. Lesson Four “In Community with God’s Messengers” Sylvia Schade, Leader.



Christmas Wishes ~ May your home be filled with warmth and good cheer this Christmas season and all throughout the year. Women’s Circle for Fellowship and Study will not meet in December. We look forward to seeing you January 24 at 10 am in the Social Hall.



PRESCHOOL NEWS — December brings a time of joy and wonder for our Preschoolers! We will be making Christmas gifts, writing letters to Santa, learning new songs for our Christmas Show and many of other fun things. We’ll even have a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus after our Christmas Show, too.

Registration for the 2018-2019 schoolyear starts in January. Applications are available in the rack outside the church office (lower left-hand corner).

As the school year comes to an end, all of us at the preschool extend a special thank you to Linda Hutcheson, Jeanine Buttimer, Ellen Hamilton, Jon Jansky, Dale Jackson, and the entire church community for their wonderful support of the preschool and the staff. Wishing you the merriest of Christmases!

GOT PILLS? — Bring your empty, unlabeled pill bottles to church, and the Deacons will get them to doctors working in third world countries or free clinics in the U.S.

SAVE A TREE — Consider Electronic Giving, weekly or monthly – it stabilizes church income for planning purposes and is one way of giving your offering a PRIORITY among your monthly financial obligations.



Merry Christmas

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS — NOVEMBER

- received Debra Meyers as a member by Profession of Faith.
- approved a Letter of Transfer for Michael and Roberta Gates to the River Forest Presbyterian Church and the removal from our roll of their sons, Tim and David.
- removed Jonathan Cook and Joey Richards from the active roll.
- received, with regret, the resignation of Mike Heine from the Board of Trustees, Class of 2018.
- approved the proposed budget for 2018.
- approved using some of the income from the RPC Support Fund to repay \$8,200 in outstanding loans from the Endowment Fund (for organ restoration and 2015 deficit) and to offset any 2017 year-end deficit.
- called the Annual Congregational Meeting for January 28, following Worship.
- reviewed a list of members who will receive a letter from the Pastor regarding their non-participation in the work and worship of RPC; they will be asked to contact the Pastor or church office if they wish to re-engage with us and remain on the roll.
- approved mounting the front Sanctuary monitors to the wall instead of on the movable stands.

Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk of Session

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER

General Budget snapshot as of October 30th

At 83.33% through the year, Revenues at 83.84% of budgeted amount.

At 83.33% through the year, Expenditures at 82.26% of budgeted amount.

I will be sending out Statements for donations made through 10/31/17. Please examine and let me know if there are any issues, so that I can take care of them before the Final Statements go out at the end of December.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO FOR RPC! — ELLEN

2017 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders

Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk of Session

2017

Doug Harvin
Martha Heine
Deb Jansky
Matt Lisle
Lynda Nadkarni
Dennis Zander

2018

Diane Chaney
Gwen Heine
Karl-Heinz Meyer
Kaki Lynch (Youth)

2019

Jeanine Buttimer
Patti Friend
Susan Lynch
Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak

Deacons

2017

Lloyd Bradbury
Allan Chard
Kate Chard
Sally Sloane

2018

David Harper
Paula McCracken
Steve Marcus
Serina Ranft

2019

Ellen Hamilton
Sandra Kappmeyer
Lorraine Meyer
Steve Teune

Trustees

2017

Jon Jansky
Nancy Jensen
Jim Sit
Henry Vogel

2018

Thom DeVries
Joel Hastings
George Meyer

2019

Susan Deems-Dluhy
Cyril Friend
Fred Kitch
Brad Staubus

Mission Statement

We gather as a church family to:
Celebrate God's Presence ~ Nurture the Spiritual Life
Carry the Light of Christ into the World ~ Serve God by Serving Others

RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dale Jackson, Pastor 502-592-1617 (pastor@rpcusa.org)

Linda Hutcheson, Office Manager (rpcoffice@rpcusa.org)

Dr. Sally Sloane, Minister of Music (musikhse@comcast.net)

Susan Zander, Director of Children's Education (smozan@icloud.com)

Ellen Hamilton, Treasurer (treasurer@rpcusa.org)

Susan Lisle, Preschool Director (rpcpreschool@rpcusa.org)

