



The Vision

August 2008

Blessing of the Animals

“DO DOGS GO TO HEAVEN?” I have taught many confirmation classes, and I have had this question nearly every year. Most humans want to understand the relationship between God and non-human animals. Knowing how God values such creatures gives us a clue about our own ethical goal regarding animals.

On August 24, we will hold worship outdoors in order to allow all members and visitors an opportunity to bring a domesticated animal along with them to worship. Pastor Scott will offer a unique blessing to each animal in attendance.

Some have resisted such worship services, asking whether or not a participant is truly worshipping God. Does it count as “worship” if there are dogs barking and people are distracted by the many needs of their animals? Well, I would say that it does count. I would agree that God wants us to worship with “all our minds,” amongst other things. However, God also wants us to worship in community. And it is good for us, on occasion, to remember that the community of God’s beloved is a very wide community indeed.

When we bring an animal to worship, we are being reminded at how deep and how broad is the love of God throughout the vast universe. Insofar as this inspires us to a sense of awe, it is surely worship.

So, we will treat this as an experiment. If it goes well, we will do it again next year. If not, then we won’t. Please feel free to give me your feedback on this, or on any other aspect of our ministry here at RPC. I am always pleased to know that you trust me enough to offer an honest thought, whether it is encouraging or challenging. And remember to dress for possible contact with some animals (and the grass) on August 24. See ya in church,

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

Worship Preview • August 2008

August 3 “A Holy Wrestling Match” Genesis 32:22-31 and Matthew 14:13-21 How does God “wrestle” with humans?

August 10 Guest Preacher Rev. Jan Dykstra will be leading worship in order to allow Pastor Scott an opportunity to attend Camp Saugatuck with a very large contingent from our church. There will be no Sunday School or children’s sermon.

August 17 “Cross Pollination” Genesis 45:1-15 The sermon will deal with the challenges and rewards of higher education, and today we will start a new tradition of commissioning all folks going off to college soon or otherwise beginning a time of higher education.

August 24 “Blessing of the Animals” Genesis 9:8-17 This service will be held outdoors. We ask all church members to bring their well-behaved pets to worship (on a leash or in a cage) to receive a special individual blessing. Also, please dress for a “picnic” type of atmosphere.

August 31 “Understanding Satan” Matthew 16:21-28 James 1:12-16 What does Jesus understand by the word “Satan?”

Children and Worship

Children from Kindergarten – Second Grade have their own service, known as Godly Play. It is Montessori-based worship education which recognizes that children have the potential to experience God in deep and meaningful ways. The goal is to encourage that potential through the telling of Bible stories and allowing children to work with the story materials. Leaders and children worship together utilizing song, sign language, artwork, and prayer as responses to God’s love. Godly Play is structured specifically for younger children’s developmental stages.

Godly Play is very structured with an order of service following that of traditional worship including a feast (communion) on the first Sunday of each month. Much as our “adult” worship fluctuates in its exact length, there are weeks when Godly Play may not have concluded by 11:00 a.m. Parents, if you see the shade down in the Westminster room, please wait just a few minutes for their service to end.

For the younger children in Godly Play it is also important to have a special time that is developmentally appropriate for them. Therefore, the CE committee asks parents of children older than second grade, to keep their children in Worship. Staying in worship is not always an easy adjustment for children or parents. It is important, though for children to begin to learn about worship rituals and traditions as part of their education and growth toward confirmation.

We can help our children staying in church by talking with them about the order of the service, aiding them in finding hymns and scripture passages, and discussing the service at its conclusion. There are brochures outside the sanctuary that provide tips for parents and parishioners about how to help children grow through worship. We also have a basket of books for children to take in to worship. They have been selected to fit with the theme of the lectionary and/or the Sunday School rotation.

Summer Sunday School at RPC



Both Human Scene and Passport to the Promised Land continue to meet each week at 9:00 a.m. (except on 8/10 during the family retreat at Saugatuck).

Passport has been exploring the life of David. There's much more than the slaying of a giant named Goliath (though that is a great story)! August 3, we'll make pizzas to look like maps of Israel, August 17 we'll solve GIANT problems, and August 24 ends the summer with a Labyrinth.

Kick Off Sunday • You Are Invited

Please join us on Sunday, September 7 as we kick off a new Sunday School year. After enjoying a stimulating class at 9:00 a.m. and worship at 10:00, we'll have a picnic on the church lawn (or in the fellowship hall, if the weather doesn't cooperate) to celebrate another year of learning about God.

Dress for the out of doors. We'll have some games for the kids (and the kids at heart!).

Hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a salad, side-dish, or dessert to share.

Calling all CE Volunteers

Have you taught Sunday School, led or greeted for Godly Play, worked with Confirmation or Youth Groups? If so, please mark your calendar for a special thank you party and kick-off to the 2008-09 year on Friday, August 22, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Connie Kelly and John Haugland. Official invitations will be forthcoming. Contact [Lynda Nadkarni](#) with any questions.

Confirmation Class

Back by popular demand, John Cain and Joe Ourth will lead confirmation class for all youth, freshman and older, who have not yet been confirmed. Class will kick off on September 7 at 9:00 a.m. in the Westminster Room. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for March 15, 2009.

Passport to the Promised Land

Word of God is the theme for the year where we'll explore the Bible in ways we've never done before. Still rotating through different teachers and rooms with games, crafts, storytelling, art, music and more – but also looking and learning in depth. We'll investigate the Gospels by comparing their versions of Christmas and Easter, focus on Psalms and Beatitudes, to name a few. All Celebration Sundays will be about the Greatest Commandment. Know what it is? Come to find out more. Don't know yet? Come to find out! Parents, watch your mail for registration information.

Did you know.....RPC has sponsored Boy Scout Troop 24 since 1939?

Vacation Bible School



What I learned at Bible School . . .

The most interesting thing I learned about was the mezuzah, a little scroll on the outside of a Jewish home that people touch on their way in and out of the house. It contains the first commandment "You shall have no other Gods before me". The most interesting thing I did was the metalwork shop.

Stuart Marciniak – age 11

I volunteered more out of a sense of duty, but as often happens, I was very pleasantly surprised at how enjoyable the experience was. Just to see things through the eyes of four and five year olds, and feel their unbounded joy and enthusiasm in everything they see and do is amazing. This year's VBS was so cool -- I found myself looking forward to the next night, just to see what neat things we would be doing. There was something interesting for every age group, and it all tied in to the theme of Jewish life in the time of Jesus. All in all, it was a truly rewarding experience.

Kathi Rocanova, Tribal Leader

I really loved working with clay. I'm glad I learned that children when Jesus was alive played with kites. I absolutely loved the skits! I can't wait to go next year!

Laura McLean – age 9

The best thing I learned was that children flew kites back then, too. I liked making those candles made out of honeycomb and weaving.

Rachel McLean – age 9

I volunteered to help out, because I always enjoyed VBS when I was a child, and wanted to help give this experience to others. The marketplace concept is something I've never experienced with a VBS, and I thought it was wonderful. Not only was it fun teaching and watching the children have fun- but I felt I learned a lot of things!

Shannon Buhle, Marketplace Shopkeeper

I've always enjoyed teaching Sunday School, so I felt that volunteering to help with VBS would, likewise, be fun. I wasn't disappointed! I enjoyed being a co-leader with my daughter Kelsey, of the Tribe of Benjamin, or the tribe of Ravenous Wolves as many preferred to be referred to. We learned that such is the symbol for the tribe of Benjamin. Throughout the week the 4th and 5th graders continued to impress me with their knowledge of the Bible (thanks, I believe, to the rotational method of Sunday School), their creativity and their willingness to learn and try new things. As my children grow, teaching SS and VBS gives me a great opportunity to spend time with younger children.

Jeanine Buttimer, Tribal Leader

I volunteered for VBS because it sounded like a lot of fun. I'm glad I did it because I got to meet new people. And I learned a lot from the skits I was performing in too...the tax collectors were mean bullies.

Hannah Pecis - age 12, Actor

I thought VBS was basically one of the best things I've ever done that involves God. What I liked most was going to the marketplace and learning how to dye fabric using spices and beets and juice. VBS ROCKS!!!

Adeline Pecis - age 9

I volunteered because my mom suggested it and I liked the idea. I learned that being a teacher would be a great future career.

Lily Lisle – age 12, Tribal Leader

I most enjoyed being out in the market place because you could make stuff. I also liked eating the food. I most liked learning how to write with the quill. I really liked doing the whole thing and I want to do it again next year.

Natalie Lisle – age 9

VBS Thank You!

Vacation Bible School, sponsored by the Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of Churches, was held at RPC July 20-24. Churches participating with children and volunteers were RPC, Ascension Lutheran, Riverside United Methodist and St. Mary Catholic. There are not enough ways to thank the volunteers for bringing 29 AD to life for the children.

RPC volunteers were Jeanine and Kelsey Buttimer; Kathi and Lisa Roccanova; Connie Kelly, John and Kelly Haugland; Elizabeth Musick; Hannah Pecis; Shannon Buhle; Kate Chard; Melinda Yachnin; Marika Floros-Nadkarni; Kathryn Nadkarni; Doug Harvin; Alice McLean; Pete Jansen; Ana Knasiak; Amanda Gregus; Cindy Reynolds-Rayfield; and Lily Lisle.



Visit our [website www.rpcusa.org](http://www.rpcusa.org) for more photos from VBS.



Church News

Presbyterian Women

2008-2009 Horizons Bible Study

“JUBILEE! Luke’s Gospel for the Poor”

Wednesday, September 24, 10:00 a.m. at the Scottish Home

Afternoon Gathering

Wednesday, September 10, 12:30 p.m.

Luncheon at the Scottish Home

Program: “The Night Ministry” connection at the cross-roads since 1976

Presbyterian Women’s Coordinating Team

Thursday, September 4, 10:00 a.m. in the Church Parlor



SAVE THE DATE!

Handel's Messiah 2008

Sunday, December 14 @ 4 pm



Deacons Rummage Sale

Saturday, September 27, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Board of Deacons are asking for donations of all types for their rummage sale in September. Please make sure the items you are giving are clean, have all the parts, and in working order. You may drop off donations on the screened porch of the Community House (formerly the manse) and we'll move them into storage until the day of the sale. Because we have limited resources and storage space, please save the larger/heavier donations (furniture, bicycles, sports equipment, cars, boats, canoes, motorcycles) until the Friday before the sale, September 26. Did we say cars, boats, canoes and motorcycles? Well, yes. If that old Toyota parked next to your garage still runs, but the car dealer won't give you \$100 as a trade-in, then drive her on over and we'll put a "For Sale" sign on it. Same goes for Grandpa's old aluminum row boat (or canoe) or dad's old Honda 150 from his college days. If someone buys it, great! The Deacons will give you a receipt for your donation, and if it doesn't sell, well...you'll have to take it home and ask the junk yard guy how much he'll give you for it, because Salvation Army or AmVets won't take it away for us.

If you're wondering if your donation is too big or heavy to be accepted for the rummage sale, think "if I can't get it into the church on the Friday afternoon before the sale, then the Deacons won't be able to get it back out of the church." Things that might be too heavy would be sleeper sofas or other large pieces of furniture, refrigerators and large appliances, really big treadmills or exercise equipment, etc... Things that would be ideal for the rummage sale would be clothing, shoes, coats and furs, toys, kids' furniture, books, craft and sewing notions, collectables, housewares, decorations, furniture, sports equipment, bicycles, window treatments, dishes & glassware, jewelry, etc... just about anything you can think of would be ideal, including all that stuff in your self-storage unit that you haven't seen a while...

If you drop something off in the screened porch at the Community House, please let us know by calling the church office (447-1520) or by contacting [Doris Hayes](#) or [Sarah Dudak](#). There will also be an RPC members "preview sale" for a few hours in the early evening of Friday, September 26, so mark your calendars now.

The Deacons are also asking for your help in organizing this sale. If you can give a few hours of your time to help set up or clean up, price mark, collect money, or anything, please call Doris or Sarah.

**Mark your Calendars for
RPC'S Social Event of the Fall...**

Make me an offer I can't Refuse!

ITALIAN DINNER AND AUCTION

on

Sunday, September 28, 5:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a delicious "free will offering" dinner and a fabulous auction with lots of exciting items.



Genesis Covenant

The Churches of the Genesis Covenant invite you to study and journey together where God is leading. We will ask the following questions of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John: Who are we to be? What are we to do? Where are we headed?

Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. on August 13 and August 27

North Riverside Community Church, 2350 S. 8th Avenue, North Riverside

Leader: Elder Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Consultant for Church Development, Presbytery of Chicago

Higher Education Sunday on August 17

Our service on August 17 will be dedicated to students returning to college. Anyone and everyone participating in any form of continuing education this fall is asked to complete the following information, which we'll use to pray for you and to provide care packages throughout your journey. Please also make every effort to be in worship that morning as our college-bound people of all ages will be celebrated. It doesn't matter if you're an 18-year-old off to school for the first time, or a 40-something returning to college. We want to hear from you! Please let us know your:

Name _____

College/University _____

Address during the school year _____

e-mail _____

Course of study _____

Drop off at the church office or or e-mail to rpcoffice@sbcglobal.net - by August 15 please.

Strawberry Social Wrap-Up



We couldn't have asked for nicer weather on July 13 as we held our annual Strawberry Social. Approximately 275 people from our church and community enjoyed homemade cake, Grumpy's ice cream, fresh strawberries, and best of all each other's company on the church lawn late Sunday afternoon. The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all of those who helped support this successful and enjoyable event, whether by helping to set-up or clean-up, bake or serve, take tickets, paint faces, run the cupcake walk, help with the raffle, or simply seeing what needed to be done and doing it. We truly appreciate, also, those who supported the event by purchasing tickets and raffle tickets. In addition to simply being a pleasant fellowship experience for the church and community, we did manage to make some money to help support the ecumenical ministries of the church. We estimate that after the receipts have all been accounted for, we will have made somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000 that will go toward helping us do God's work out in the world.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

WNL! begins October 1 for an 8-week fall session ending November 19. It's not too early to make a commitment to attend by clearing your Wednesday nights. All ages dinner 6:00 – 6:45, classes by age group 6:45 – 7:45, with childcare provided. All choirs will rehearse on Wednesday night too.

Watch your mail and the September Vision for more information or contact [Lynda Nadkarni](#).

4th of July Parade

“War of Independence? King George called it the Presbyterian Revolt!” And so said the banner that led the way of the RPC contingency in the 4th of July parade, inviting our community to come to RPC and find out why. If you didn't get a chance to see it, check out the pictures on the bulletin board in the narthex. They're right next to the ribbon we won for “Most Original” entry in the parade!

Our thanks to Pastor Scott who came up with the slogan for our banner, and Patti Perry Halline who organized every aspect of our entry in the parade, from making the banner and sewing new strawberry costumes for our littlest marchers to wear, to tracking down the hard to find strawberry candies that they handed out along with fliers to publicize our Strawberry Social.



Thanks, too, to Serina Ranft, who borrowed the cool, little, red convertible (and spent some time practicing to drive the stick shift so she'd be ready for parade conditions!) that brought up the rear of our group. And a special thank you to our little strawberries, and our not so little kids, who chased our strawberries around with oversized cutlery made by Lynda Nadkarni and Hannah Pecis.

IN MEMORY

Mary Middaugh Frick

March 13, 1927 – July 20, 2008

A memorial service for Mary Frick was held July 23 at RPC

Memorial donations may be made to Riverside Presbyterian Church.

Please designate checks “For local mission outreach – in memory of Mary Frick”

Thank You

To members of RPC, a belated note of thanks.

John and I want to thank all of you for your prayers and concern for our son, Tim, who fell off our roof while cleaning out our gutters the last Sunday of November. He broke his pelvis, which takes a long time to heal. He has gone from walker to crutches to cane and now, 8 months later, he has even been able to ride his bike. We will long remember your kindnesses and interest.

Gratefully, Marjorie and John Lewe

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers after the loss of my father. Thank you for the beautiful flowers symbolizing your thoughts and prayers during these trying times. We all miss him so.

God Bless, Krzysztof Gieron and Family



Boy Scouts

35 scouts and 9 leaders from Troop 24 spent the week of July 27-August 2 in the north woods of Wisconsin at Camp Mach Kin O Siew. The boys slept in 2-person tents, cooked their own meals, and worked on merit badges.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that two vacant positions have been filled. Tara Gregus has been hired as the Junior/Senior High Youth Advisor. She began her role as of July 1, and will focus first on an overall plan and schedule for a fall kick-off. Among many new ideas under consideration is the possibility of joining youth groups with St. Mary Church. Nancy Hopkins will be the new editor of the Vision. Nancy brings her expertise as our website publisher to this role.

Human Scene

In August, we will hear from members of the congregation on areas of special interest to them. The smaller number of participants allows for more deep discussions. Leaders in August include Jim Marciniak, Melinda Yachnin, and Pastor Scott. There will be no Sunday School on August 10, the weekend of the Saugatuck Family Camp.

Sharing Our Gifts

CARERS' Corner

“Operation Stars and Stripes” is a project supported by the CARERS Committee. It is administered from Lyons, Illinois, with 100% volunteers. Its mission is to show support for our Troops by sending them care packages. **“We felt it important for them to know that besides family members and their friends that . . . there are people back home who cared about them.”** The red, white, and blue barrel in the hallway is where you deposit your packages. A new list of needed items is attached to the barrel. Please take one. The troops overseas will be happy to get your gifts. Operation Stars and Stripes wants to thank you for your generous donations. Please go to www.operationstars.com for more information and additional donation list items.

Each month the CARERS collect one item, usually food, for those in need. This month's collection will be school supplies (K-8) for First Presbyterian Church of Woodlawn. Please take your donations to the Social Hall.



Like to swing a hammer? Like to run a power saw? Want to help provide affordable housing for a family? A group of us will head to Rockford on **Saturday, August 23** for a Habitat for Humanity work day. The work hours are approximately 8 am to 4 pm. We will plan to leave RPC at 6 am and return by 6 pm. For more details please contact [Diane Chaney](#).

Share the Harvest

The summer is in full swing and those veggies are plumping up! This is the time of year to give thanks for the blessings of God's bounty. As an act of thanksgiving please consider donating a portion of your fresh produce to the Share the Harvest Program. Every week this summer, in the foyer of the education building, we will have a basket set out to collect garden produce that you have harvested from your garden. The produce will be collected and distributed to local Chicagoland food pantries and given to those who do not have the resources to grow or buy healthy, fresh vegetables. All produce is welcome in this, literally, down-to-earth ministry!



And if you have time...check out the gardens built by RPC volunteers at the British Home! They may be an inspiration for you to build the same for next year's harvest! If you have any questions, feel free to contact [Mary Jansen](#).

Building gardens at the British Home:
Brian, Pete, and Scott Jansen and Josh Fulton. Not pictured: Linda Wygant and Mary Jansen.

August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 150px; height: 100px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!</p> </div>						
					1 7p Men's basketball	2
3 9a Sunday School 10a Sunday service with communion 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30 p Deacons' British Home Worship Service	4 9a Genesis Covenant Meeting 5:15p Volleyball	5 6:30a Men's Forum 10a Staff Mtg 7p Men's Basketball 7p Personnel Committee Mtg	6 <i>Office Closed</i> 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace 12:15p Lectionary Bible Study 5:30p Advanced Ringers	7 6:30a Women's Forum 10a Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team Mtg	8 Night Ministry Church Family Retreat at Camp Saugatuck 7p Men's Basketball	9 Church Family Retreat at Camp Saugatuck 9:30a Presbytery of Chicago Assembly Mtg
10 Church Family Retreat at Camp Saugatuck 9a NO Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a CARERS Mtg	11 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Committee 7p Ladies Investment Group 7:30p Trustees Mtg	12 6:30a Men's Forum 10a Staff Mtg 7p Men's Basketball	13 <i>Office Closed</i> 12:15p Lectionary Bible Study 5:30p Advanced Ringers	14 6:30a Women's Forum	15 6p Crafting Project Fellowship 6:30p Rehearsal for Rios/Leone wedding 7p Men's Basketball	16 3:30p Wedding of Sarah Rios and Steven Leone
17 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Worship at the Scottish Home	18 9a Genesis Covenant Mrg 5:15p Volleyball	19 6:30a Men's Forum 10a Staff Mtg 7p Men's Basketball	20 <i>Office Closed</i> 12:15p Lectionary Bible Study 7p Session/Deacon Mtg	21 6:30a Women's Forum	22 Men's Basketball	23
24 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship <hr/> 31 NO Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	25 5:15p Volleyball	26 6:30a Men's Forum 10a Staff Mtg 7p Men's Basketball	27 <i>Office Closed</i> 12:15p Lectionary Bible Study	28 6:30a Women's Forum	29 6p Rehearsal for Cisneros/Sierra Wedding 7p Men's Basketball	30 3p Cisneros/Sierra wedding

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

**RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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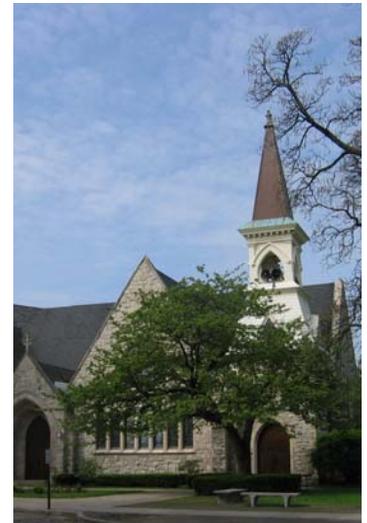
Archivist: Caroline Tecson

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)