

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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# The Vision

February 2009

# **Spiritual Seekers**

Do you have a relative or a friend who is a spiritual seeker—someone who wants to find God but isn't really sure where to look? For what they're worth, here are my top five tips. Feel free to pass them along to whoever might be interested.

Join a **community**. If God spans the entire universe, there's a lot to find out about God. One single human lifetime of explorations won't get you there. You need help. Find a community that's been at this task for awhile.

Join a **diverse** community. If everyone in your spiritual seeking group is the same age, you will likely focus more on socializing than on finding God. Look around at who is in attendance. If everyone shares the same values as you and your friends, then socializing and networking will be more important than finding God. Members may put on a good show of appearing devout, but that good show may just be part of the entrance ritual into what is essentially a social club. If there are many folks of differing ages, social classes, genders, races, political parties, etc., the group will be more likely to focus on what holds them together—seeking for God—and not to focus on socializing.

Join an **open-minded** community. Is there respect for a diversity of opinions? Of course, any community will find common value statements and use those to drive their mission. But, are members free to disagree with particular doctrines? Is it acceptable for the members to hold a view openly when that view is different from the common position? Is the leader assumed to be right? If everyone is expected to believe alike, there is little opportunity to challenge thoughts, grow, or learn, and you will always be tempted to pretend to accept a doctrine just to fit in better with the group.

Join a **low-barrier** community. Some communities require up-front commitments like a gym membership. You have to pay your pledge in advance, pledge a certain amount of your time, promise to do business only with certain folks, or affirm a long list of doctrines before you are given the "secret handshake." A low-barrier community allows you to learn and grow at your own speed, and to go elsewhere if you find that your efforts to learn and grow are unfulfilled.

**Participate** in your community. You won't find God just because you've gotten your name on the rolls of a good community. You can't let someone else do the spiritual work on your behalf. You may be able to pay someone to shovel your snow for you, but you can't pay someone to establish a relationship with God for you. Look at what your community offers and find ways to participate in those activities. And if you discover that they don't want you to participate, refer back to the previous three paragraphs.

Your brother in Christ,



# **February Worship Schedule**

**February 1** Deut. 18:15-20 and Mark 1:21-28 "*Greeting God Without Dying*" How can we encounter the living God of the Universe and not be overwhelmed into oblivion? Today we will celebrate communion.

**February 8** Mark 1:29-39 "*First Aid Merit Badge*" Why did Jesus travel so quickly from one town to the next, rather than lingering where he found easy friendships? Today we will also have Scout Sunday. Why do scouts put such emphasis on the First Aid Merit Badge? Where do such scouting values/priorities come from?

**February 15** 2 Kings 5:1-14 and Mark 1:40-45 "*Cooperative Miracles*" How do we understand the miracle stories of the Bible, and why we do not always see miracles in similar circumstances today?

**February 22** 2 Kings 2:1-12 and Mark 9:2-9 "*Dramatic Transfiguration*" What does the story of Jesus on the mountain tell us about how our church should be run today? Today we will do a skit with four adults (yet to be recruited) in full Biblical costumes.

**February 25** *Ash Wednesday Family Worship* 7:00 p.m. Readings will come from Jonah 3, Joel 2, and Matthew 6. This will be a service geared toward helping children understand what Ash Wednesday is all about. The service will include Lenten music, a children's sermon, the imposition of ashes, and communion with intinction (no "adult" sermon).

# **Sharing Our Gifts**

### **CARERS**

During the month of February, the <u>First Presbyterian Church of Chicago</u> will be the designated recipient for our **Hot Soup and Hot Cereal** donations. Please place your donations in the barrel in the hallway outside Pastor Scott's office. You do not have to bring a bag full of soup and cereal (unless of course you wish to); we welcome any amount that you care to drop in.



### Blankets +

With Blankets + we can blanket the world with love! For more than 60 years, congregations across the U.S. responded to Jesus' call to be a neighbor to those in need, in partnership with <u>Church World Service</u>. At home and around the world, our congregation is helping impoverished communities with basic tools they need to sustain themselves and their families.

### Blankets + ... So people in need can help themselves

\$25 can provide five warm blankets

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

\$200 can provide a struggling farm family with a draft animal

\$250 can provide a sewing machine to a young mother to support her family

\$1,000 can equip a village well with a pump and provide hygiene training for the community.

Colorful envelopes for donations are in the church pews, or you may use your own envelope and return your donation to RPC. Please make checks payable to "Riverside Presbyterian Church" and mark it for "Blankets +" Dedication Sunday is February 22, but contributions may be made at any time.

### **Trustees News**

Thank you to those who participated in the All Church Family Work Day on January 18: Mary, Brian, Pete, and Scott Jansen; Mike Heine; and Trustees Lou Heine, Hank Vogel, Nancy Jensen, Chris Schiller, George Meyer, and Susan Deems-Dluhy. Despite the chilly temperatures in the gym, it was a warm group that prepared the gym for painting, washing walls, windows and heaters; vacuuming along baseboards and under radiators; and patching drywall. The gym floor will be refinished this spring, after painting is complete. Our All Church Family Work Day for February is scheduled for Sunday, February 22, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The Janskys have donated a replacement freezer for the church kitchen. They are waiting for the weather to improve to allow a smooth delivery. Thank you Deb and Jon Jansky!

The source of the water leak in the downstairs women's restroom has been identified. The wall and tile will be repaired and the toilet replaced within the month. Thank you for your patience!

Please lock all outside doors at 8:00 p.m. We continue to have problems with the back door being left unlocked. If you unlock the door, please make sure it is locked before you leave the building.

Have you noticed something that needs repair or attention? Please fill out a "trouble report" form and return it to the office or report it to any trustee. Thanks!





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## **Session News**

In January, Session took the following action:

- Authorized the celebration of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month and on Maundy Thursday.
- Elected Fred Kitch as RPC Treasurer.
- Elected Mary Ann Sadilek as Clerk of Session.
- Elected Sylvia Schade, Marilyn Slanec, and Will Vogel as Commissioners to Presbytery.



Per Capita cost per adult member

- Removed Shirlee Bouska, Martin and Donna McCoy, Chris Robinson, Jennifer Stabnik, and Ekonu and Joanne Ejie from the inactive roll.
- Approved February 8 as Scout Sunday.
- Approved two worship services for Easter Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- Approved two worship services for Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols and 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
- Approved a Christmas Pageant to be presented during regular worship on December 20.

Mary Ann Sadilek Clerk of Session



# **Pledge Drive a Success**

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the members of RPC who chose to make pledges for 2009. The pledge drive exceeded the amount of money and the number of pledges received in 2008. On Sunday, February 22, the committee would like to say "THANK YOU!" by hosting the coffee fellowship after service. We look forward to seeing you!

# **Publicity**

Patti Perry Halline and Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak are combining efforts to make the community more aware of the programs and events held at RPC. We will be submitting items for inclusion in the calendar section of the local papers. If you have something you want publicized in this way, or would like to see if we can get a reporter or photographer to cover an event, please contact Patti or Lisa two to three weeks in advance of the event. If you have photos to submit to the paper after the fact, we can help with that, too. Let's show the community what we have to offer!

# **Church Leadership**

2009

### **Session Members**

2010 2011 Patti Perry-Halline Roberta Gates Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak John Cain Ellen Hamilton Steve Teune Elizabeth Musick Lauren Cody Mike Heine Martha Heine Tony Miezio Lisa Freel

Matt Lisle Dennis Sadilek Mary Ann Sadilek Will Vogel Joyce Van Cura Vicky Vogel

**Deacons** 

2009 2010 2011 Dale Heilenbach Kohar Hovelka Hollie Miezio Paula McCracken **Doris Hayes** Bill Muller Sarah Dudak Mary Jansen Colleen Muller Alex Krug/Jordan Messner Kathi Roccanova Richard Crang Marilyn Slanec Sylvia Schade Mary Crang Susanne Vogel Bill Vogel Betsy Gardner

**Trustees** 

2009 2010 2011 Susan Deems-Dluhy Deb Jansky Jon Jansky Nancy Jensen Chris Schiller Lou Heine Fred Mitchell Jim Sit Caroline Tecson George Meyer Andy Hart Hank Vogel

**Committee Chairs 2009** 

Mary Ann Sadilek Clerk of Session Joyce Van Cura Christian Education—Adult Lisa Freel Christian Education—Children

**Fellowship** Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak & Martha Heine John Cain, Tony Miezio & Dennis Sadilek Finance

Patti Perry Halline Membership Nominating Matt Lisle & Vicky Vogel

Personnel Roberta Gates

Stewardship Lauren Cody, Ellen Hamilton & Mike Heine

Steve Teune & Elizabeth Musick Worship & Music

Will Vogel Liaison to outside groups



Thank you to all my RPC friends who were so wonderful during my mother's, Marie Bennett's, illness. She loved the beautiful flower arrangement and poinsettia and the kind notes and telephone calls she received during her stay in the British Home. She is back home in Athens, Illinois, and is doing fine.

Sincerely, Joyce Van Cura

### **Flowers for Worship**

You can donate flowers for Sunday worship in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside 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 someone the Deacons select. The cost is \$50 for two arrangements. If no one signs up, flowers will not be displayed in the chancel for that particular Sunday. Contact the office with questions.



### Coffee Fellowship

2/1 Kolinski/Pecis Family 2/8 Cub Scout Pack 24 2/14 All Church-Deacon Bake-off 2/22 Stewardship Committee

### Ushers

2/1 Miezio Family 2/8 Cub & Boy Scouts 2/15 Vogel Families 2/22 Aieta Family

### **Flowers**

2/1

2/8 Cub & Boy Scouts

2/15

2/22 Fred Kitch

# BAPTISM



Michael Roy Kallas was baptized on January 11, 2009. Michael is pictured with his parents, Michael and Terri Kallas, and brothers Peter, Andrew, and William.

# **Scout Sunday**

The Boy Scouts of America celebrate each February the anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts. The tradition of Scout Sunday was started to make people in churches aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out what they pledge each week. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of all ages promise to do their "duty to God." Among the purposes of scouting are spiritual growth, character development, and good citizenship. Riverside Presbyterian Church has sponsored Boy Scout Troop 24 and Cub Scout Pack 24 since May of 1939. Please join our scouts as they celebrate Scout Sunday at RPC on February 8.

## **Preschool News**



Our themes for February are Presidents! Happy Hearts Day! and National Children's Dental Month! Certainly a highlight will be a visit from Dr. Jeri Coffey dressed up as the most beautiful Tooth Fairy!



Our dear teacher, Cynthia Kos, will be retiring after this year and we will be looking for just the right new member of our teaching team. The qualifications for the job are:

- 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of credits from an accredited college or university with 6 semester or 9 quarter hours in courses related directly to child development from birth to age 6; OR
- One year (1560 clock hours) of child development experience in a nursery school, kindergarten, or licensed day care center and 30 semester hours (45 quarter hours) of credits from an accredited college or university with 6 semester or 9 quarter hours in courses related to child development.

# Chili Supper

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) invites you to enjoy a Chili Supper in RPC's Social Hall on February 23. What could taste better on a cold February night? Enjoy homemade chili, hot dogs, vegetable tray, assorted desserts, coffee, tea, and lemonade.

Monday, February 23 6:00 p.m. Adults & children over 12 \$8.00

Children ages 4-12 \$3.50 (Children 3 and under are free)

The program, at 7:00 p.m., features the Riverside-Brookfield High School Madrigal Singers. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are preferred.

### **Blood Drive**

The Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of Churches will hold a blood drive on Saturday, February 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Riverside Masonic Lodge, 40 Forest Avenue.

Walk-in donors will be welcome, but those with appointments will have priority. To schedule your appointment, please contact LifeSource at (847) 803-7943 or Marilyn Slanec.

Donors should eat a substantial meal and drink plenty of water prior to donating (not coffee, tea, or soda). All donors will be required to present a valid ID; i.e., drivers license, social security card, birth certificate, or LifeSource ID card. Signed Parental Consent Forms are required for any 16 year old donors.

The Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of Churches is composed of all eight churches in Riverside and North Riverside. Singularly or collectively they have sponsored yearly blood drives for Life Source, Heartland Blood Bank, Aurora Blood Bank, and at least one or two other blood services for over 35 years. Many members of RPC have donated blood over the years, and Marilyn Slanec has served as the Covenant's Blood Drive Chairman for the past twelve years.

# **Operation Stars & Stripes**

Operation Stars & Stripes is a project sponsored by the CARERS Committee. It is administered from Lyons, Illinois by volunteers. Its mission is to show support for our troops by sending them care packages. Stars and Stripes are always happy to receive individual, microwavable containers of soup, macaroni, etc. and small poptop cans of fruit. Chili is always welcome, as is beef jerky. Place your donations in the red, white, and blue barrel outside of Pastor Scott's office. If anyone is so inclined, notes and cards to the soldiers are always welcome. Don't seal the envelope, simply tuck inside and drop in the barrel.



The Famer and the Birds: A Christmas Parable















# Passport to the Promised Land - How the Bible Came to Be

On February 1 and February 8, wel'll complete our study of the Psalms. What and where are the Psalms? How are they different from other books of the Bible?

	Kindergarten & 1st Grade	2nd & 3rd Grade	4th & 5th Grade	Junior High
February 1	Living Waters	Oasis Place	Community House Kitchen	Celestial Cinema
February 8	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema	Creation Station	Community House Kitchen

From February 15 through April 5 we'll be traveling through the Gospels, comparing the Easter story. The Easter Story is the most important story in Christian faith. The four Gospel accounts of the passion of Christ give us a window to Jesus' last days. Each Gospel is written from a slightly different perspective and written for a different audience. Some events are only in the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and others only in John. We enter in to the story to reconnect our lives with the power of hope and love that is the Easter Story.

Memory Verse: John 3:16 For God so Loved the World that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Teachers already volunteering are Tara Gregus, Jeanine Buttimer and Frank Fieseler. Three more high school aged or older teachers are needed. Please contact Lynda Nadkarni at <a href="mailto:lmn@floros.org">lmn@floros.org</a> if you are available to teach five times within the period of time we will study the Gospel accounts of Easter.



The Senior High Youth Group held a progressive dinner in December, with appetizers with the Hayes family, the main course at the Cain's home, and desserts with the Buttimers.

# **Youth Group News**

In January, we made a donation to <a href="www.kiva.org">www.kiva.org</a>, made nachos, participated in Youth Sunday, explored all the nooks and crannies of our wonderful old building, and the junior high group participated in a winter retreat in Bloomington, IL. The senior high group is starting to make plans for its 2009 mission trip. Come join us for some fun and fellowship in February!

**Sunday, February 1, 11 a.m.** After church, we will collect money for "Souper Bowl Sunday" and then prepare the meal for The Night Ministry for February. Due to the Super Bowl game, there will be no youth group in the evening.

**Sunday, February 8, 5-9 p.m.** All youth ages 13 and over are invited to take part in "The Night Walk--An Urban Immersion Experience" in the Lakeview neighborhood downtown. Parent volunteers and drivers will be needed. We will learn about the issues facing homeless teens and participate in a self-guided (and adult supervised) walk around the neighborhood. This is sure to be a learning experience for everyone. Dress warmly! You will need a permission slip for this event.

**Sunday, February 15, regular times** (Junior High 6-7:15, Senior High 7:30-8:45) Game and a Discussion: "Peer Power--the Influence of Parents and Peers." Grab a friend and join us for what is sure to be an interesting discussion.

**Sunday, February 22** Bowling! Details regarding time, place and cost will be forthcoming in an e-mail. Mark your calendars and wear your best bowling shirt--prizes will be awarded!





The Junior High Youth Group travelled to Chicago in December for an afternoon of ice skating.

# Girls' Group

If you are a girl in 6th, 7th or 8th grade, please plan to join us in February on Wednesday nights, from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. in the Celestial Cinema. Our program in February will include learning about girls in the foster care system, making baby blankets for children of teen moms, sharing the music we love, storytelling and more. We encourage you to attend every week or whenever you can...just know that you are always welcome. If you have questions, please contact Mary at <a href="maryinwi@hotmail.com">maryinwi@hotmail.com</a>



# Wednesday Night Comes Alive!

An intergenerational and ecumenical program for the whole community, Wednesday Night Live! (WNL!) winter session began January 21, but it's not too late to participate! Arrive at 6:00 p.m. for a shared intergenerational meal. At 6:45, there are activities for the whole family:

- Adult class led the first four weeks by Pastor Scott on a potpourri of General Assembly social policies. The second four weeks will be a historical-critical analysis of the gospel of John led by Stan Schade. As always, these classes include little lecture and a heavy dose of informal discussion.
- "All About Saints" through art and activities for the children led by Lynda Nadkarni,
- Girls Group led by Mary Koon,
- Childcare provided for the youngest participants.

Drop-ins are welcome. Drop-in participants, please let us know you are coming by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday so we will have enough food and supplies. There is a \$5 per person payment to cover those items.

Immediately preceding WNL, children Kindergarten through Sixth Grade are invited to gather to learn music fundamentals, note reading, vocal techniques and hand chimes with Dr. Sally Sloane. Riverside Singers is from 4:15 to 4:45 and Ringers is from 4:45 to 5:15. In between Singers and Ringers, and Wednesday Night Live, volunteers will supervise children working on homework. RPC's Adult Bell Choir and Chancel Choir also rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and 7:30 respectively.

Make RPC part of your mid-week renewal! To register, contact the church office at 708-447-1520 or <a href="mailto:reconfice@sbcglobal.net">reconfice@sbcglobal.net</a>.

# **Bake-Off February 15**

Looking for something *fun* to do on Sunday, February 15? Well, the Deacons are planning an All **Church Family Sweetheart Bake Off/Auction**. It will take place in the Social Hall right after the service (during the Coffee Fellowship time). Hmmm...you're wondering what that could possibly mean...?

We're calling on all bakers and tasters (Yes, taste testers)—kids, teens, singles, moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, friends, and neighbors. The Deacons are inviting everyone to join us by bringing some of your favorite baked goods. We will then have you participate in the tasting of the home-baked goodies. Next, you will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite goodie(s) by placing \$1 in a container designated for the item. You can vote as often as you like by adding \$1 or more each time you taste. The money will be totaled from each container to find our which goodie(s) received the most votes. Money collected will be used for future Deacon ministries.

Now for the auction part.... Bakers will be asked to bring an extra cake or plate of cookies that won't be used for tasting but for auctioning off to the highest bidder. The fun continues as we auction off the extra baked goods! Hope you can join us! More details to follow in our church bulletin.

# **RPC's First Coffee House Open Mic Night**



Calling all you hep cats with talent! We want you to perform at our first "Coffee House Open Mic Night" on March 8. From 6 to 8 p.m. we'll do our best to give the Fellowship Hall a cool, coffee house feel, serving up coffee, dessert, and a variety of great acts.

Do you sing? Play an instrument? Write poetry? Dance? Juggle? Tell good jokes? Contact John Haugland at <a href="mailto:barryleopold@sbcglobal.net">barryleopold@sbcglobal.net</a> ASAP for further information

and/or to be placed on the evening's program. All ages and talent levels are welcome!

Too shy to show off? Come encourage those willing to entertain us. Enjoy a cup of our "best house decaf," get those fingers snapping and toes tapping, and give our performers a big "Right on, daddy-o!"



# **Looking for Coffee Fellowship Hosts**

You may have noticed the sign-up board outside the doors to the Fellowship Hall while you were on your way in for coffee. Each week, someone from the congregation volunteers to host our coffee hour. It is a fairly easy and very enjoyable way to minister to our congregation. We ask that you consider signing up to host once during 2009. If you've hosted in the past, then you know it's not too hard. If you haven't, we're here to help. You'll receive a full set of instructions either by e-mail or post, and if you have any questions, we'll answer them for you. Too much to do alone? We suggest that families or friends pair up to host. It's fun to work together! We also encourage those who can provide either baked goods or would like to serve but cannot do both to contact us so that we can pair you up.

# Join the Fun!

If you're looking for a fun way to get involved and serve your church family, the Fellowship Committee is the perfect answer. Do we work? Yes, we do! But we have a really good time while we do it, and we always get to feel like we're throwing a party! We would love to expand our numbers and include more people in planning fun activities for our church family and our community. If you're fun, too, then we want YOU! Whether you're full of great ideas or simply want to be a part of the action, you'll be a welcome addition.

For more information on just what we do and how to get involved, talk to one of our current members: Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak, Patti Perry Halline, Connie Kelly, Susan Lisle, Jim Marciniak, Lynda Nadkarni, or Marilyn Slanec.

### **Human Scene**

February 1 Jim Marciniak will speak to us on "Architecture during the Reformation."

**February 8** "Gospel Analysis of Holy Week." Each of the four gospels has a unique perspective on the week between Palm Sunday and that first Easter. What main messages come through clearly in all four gospels? What messages are unique to specific authors, and why might those emphases have been significant to them? Pastor Jansen leads this illuminating study.

**February 15** Ron Smith will present a program on "Economic Revitalization and the Missing Ingredient."

**February 22** Wendy Lehman will present a program on her recent trip to the Congo as part of Christian Peacemaker Teams (something like an Operation Human Shield). CPT places violence-reduction teams in crisis situations and militarized areas around the world at the invitation of local peace and human rights workers.

# Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, February 25, at 10:00 a.m. at the Scottish Home. All ladies are invited. For those who would like to stay for the buffet luncheon following Bible Study, please make a reservation by Sunday, February 22. Contact Elizabeth Musick.

Lesson 6 "Enemies Become Neighbors" Scripture: Luke 10:25-37, 17:11-19 Key Idea: Jesus expanded the tradition of the prophets, teaching his followers to "love your enemies." Sylvia Schade will discuss this lesson.

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### **Looking to the Future**

RPC member Roberta Gates will present a book review at the Scottish Home on Wednesday, April 8. There will be a buffet luncheon at 12:30 p.m., with the program to follow. For reservations, please contact Elizabeth Musick.

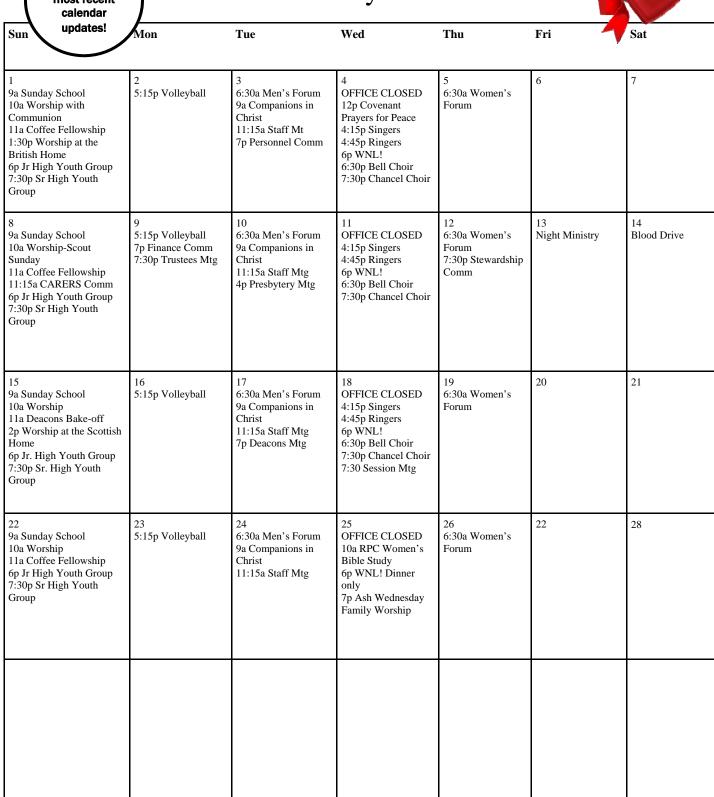
# **New Parenting Group Starting at RPC**

A new parenting group will be starting at Riverside Presbyterian Church in February. The dates and time will be determined by interested parents; we are considering either Sundays at 9:00, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. or Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.. The group will use the book, *Too Much of a Good Thing: Raising Children of Character in a Permissive Culture* by Dan Kindlon as a guide for weekly discussion. We will provide coffee and childcare so that you can have adult conversation about the issues closest to your heart as a parent.

If you are interested in taking part in this exciting new group, or want to learn more about it, please contact Melinda Yachnin or Mary Koon (maryinwi@hotmail.com).

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!

# February 2009



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

### RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Place mailing label here

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Artist in Residence: Karena Mendoza
Director of Music Emerita: Mary Ann Sadilek

Organist Emerita: Mary Ann Sadi



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: <a href="https://www.rpcusa.org">www.rpcusa.org</a>.

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