



The Vision

March 2009

Be Not Afraid

Our theme for the year in the Presbytery of Chicago is “Be not afraid.” This comes at a time when the sense of anxiety in the general population is higher than it has been in many decades. The Presbytery asks us to consider the question, How can we live without fear when fear pervades our society?

I remember the summer between kindergarten and first grade when I found out who my teacher was going to be. I cried. I moped around the house for weeks. Finally, my mother asked me what was wrong and I broke down and told her. Between my tears, the conversation went something like this.

“She’s so mean—all my friends say so.” “How mean can she be?” “She pulls on your ears.” “What do you mean?” “They all tell me—if you’re not paying attention, she pulls on your ears.” “Well..., that doesn’t sound so bad...” “What if she pulls my ear right off?” “Is THAT what you’re afraid of?” At this point, I started crying somewhat hysterically because my mother was not showing the kind of alarm that I wanted her to demonstrate at my impending doom. And then she reached out, grabbed my ear and pulled it (rather hard), and said, “There... now you have nothing left to fear.” I cried for about fifteen minutes, and then had a wonderful remainder of my summer.



The season of Lent is supposed to be like that. The Christian mystics and saints have always found ways to live a life that is miraculously above the fear that would cripple most people. So, what can we learn from them? More than can be mentioned here, but one thought to consider is the practice of keeping a Holy Lent.

Lent is often imagined simplistically as a time to “give up” something. But, the practice of giving up something is not meant simply to make one miserable. Quite the contrary, the goal is to achieve a deeper joy. The mystics would sometimes put on sackcloth (like a burlap sack) and sit in ashes as a way of re-discovering what is truly important in life. When they deliberately turned their attention away from considerations of fine clothes, fine food and creature comforts, they were able to find an inner peace stemming from their relationships with God.

Sometimes we think that the goal of life is to acquire more material possessions and power. The practice of giving up some of these is meant to remind us not to spin our wheels worrying about such transient things. A thousand years from now, you will not remember whether your stocks had a good year this year.

The Lenten practices during worship mirror this philosophy. The goal is to find a deep joy, an eternal joy, based on a foundation that does not sway in the winds of fortune. So, if you find that Lent is becoming a chore, rather than a joy, just remember our Presbytery’s theme—“be not afraid.”

See ya at 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.

Inside this issue:

Worship	2
Session News	2
Trustees News	3
Deacons News	4
Church News	6
Sharing our Gifts	8
Children	10
Youth	11
Adults	12
In Memoriam	13
Thank You	13
Fellowship	14
Calendar	15



RPC Coffee House Open Mic Night!

March 8, 2009 • 6-8 p.m.

Enjoy Coffee, Dessert, and Talent in the Fellowship Hall!!

Worship

March Worship Schedule

March 1 Genesis 9:8-17 “Who Sits at God’s Table?” With whom has God established a Covenant relationship? Today we will begin the season of Lent and we will also celebrate communion.

March 8 Romans 4:13-25 “Falling Faith First” Mary Koon will preach today. What does it mean to say that we have faith? How are our lives impacted by our faith? Also, we will introduce the One Great Hour of Sharing in the kids’ sermon.

March 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 “Confirmation Sunday” Today’s “sermon” will focus on what issues of faith are most pressing for our confirmation class of 2009. They will also be received as new members during worship.

March 22 John 2:13-22 “Loving an Angry God” Today we will try a multi-media PowerPoint sermon asking, How can we relate to the quality of God’s anger? How do we balance our own anger and forgiveness?

March 29 Hebrews 5:5-10 “Traditional Protestantism” How do we balance an appreciation for tradition with a desire to go where the Spirit of God is leading us today?

Session Highlights

In February, the Session:

- ◆ authorized the celebration of the Lord’s Supper during Ash Wednesday worship, at 7:00 p.m. and approved including youth as communion servers;
- ◆ approved the baptism on March 8 of John Daniel Luethje, son of Daniel and Michelle (Tess) Luethje;
- ◆ removed Elise Bajohr and Justin Bajohr from the active roll at their request;
- ◆ removed Bonnie Petrzilka, Mary Jane Cumby, Kay Cooper, David Cooper and Jagoda Szubert from the inactive roll;
- ◆ designated that loose coin offerings be sent to the Presbytery of Chicago Hunger Fund from January through October, and to the 1st Presbyterian Church of Chicago’s Food for Life and Food for Distribution programs during November and December;
- ◆ established a mileage reimbursement policy for employees and non-employees;
- ◆ established a minimum of \$25.00 for reimbursement requests for miscellaneous expenses and encouraged those who are due lesser amounts to consider making them a donation to RPC, which will be credited on their statements of giving;
- ◆ learned that the property at Camp Saugatuck needs to be sold to raise funds for Presbytery’s expenses related to a recently settled lawsuit. A group interested in purchasing the property and maintaining it as a year-around camp/retreat center will make a presentation on their plans at an upcoming Human Scene class;
- ◆ approved the clerk’s statistical Church Record report for 2008, which will be sent to the Office of the General Assembly; and
- ◆ called a special Session meeting on March 14 for the purpose of meeting with the confirmation class and receiving them into membership.



Per Capita cost per adult member

Trustees News

A Big “Thank You” to Dorothy Jansky for providing the repair and reupholstering of the six parlor chairs. They look wonderful! Thank you to everyone who helped on the February 22 All Church Family Work Day!

Status update on projects:

- ♦ The ladies’ restroom on the lower level has not been forgotten! The leak has been remediated and timing of the project completion is dependent on the installation date of the partitions.
- ♦ Handicap accessible bathroom—we have nearly \$14,000 in the project fund and are working on completion of an ADA grant proposal. All donations are welcome!
- ♦ The gym floor will be refinished after the walls have been painted. Timing for painting is temperature dependent.
- ♦ Several small trees will be pruned before spring.

The back door off the parking lot has often been found unlocked when the church is not in use. We understand there is confusion regarding the procedures for locking and unlocking this door. Please follow these procedures and contact a trustee with questions.

BACK DOOR LOCKING PROCEDURES

When entering the church through the back door, turn the key to the left to unlock the handle and open the door. **Before removing the key, turn the key all the way to the right to relock the handle.**

If it is necessary to allow access for others, please use the hexagonal key and crash bar on the inside. Push the bar in and turn the hex key to the right to hold the bar in the “unlocked” position. This will allow others to relock the door without requiring a door key.

Please remember, if you have unlocked the door, at the handle or at the crash bar, it is your responsibility to make sure the door is locked before you leave the building.

Rose Window Restoration

To date, we have sold \$6,000 in engraved pavers for our Rose Window fundraiser! This is an ongoing fundraiser and orders for the first installation will be taken until May. In early summer, the pavers will be installed. After the first installation, we will continue to take orders, and will periodically add the engraved pavers to replace plain pavers. While we have a long way to go to raise the total funds needed to restore the Rose Window, we are very encouraged with our start, especially given the difficult economic times.

We have one slight “glitch” in our plans to install the pavers in the area in front of the Rose Window. During the village permit process, we discovered, much to our surprise, that the area is actually village, not church, property, so we may have to find an alternate site on church property for the pavers. Of course, the original area would be our first choice, but we have other options, and will pursue those if needed. We will keep you posted!



Many thanks to those who have already purchased engraved pavers. Paver order forms are available on the website and in the church office. General donations and memorials to the Stained Glass Window Fund will also be accepted gratefully!

Board of Deacons

Each year, new Deacons are installed for three-year terms. The new Deacons are treated to a kick-off steak fry dinner prior to the organizational meeting. This year, the dinner and initial meeting was held on January 20. The new Deacons are Mary & Richard Crang, Betsy Gardner, Hollie Miezio, Bill & Colleen Muller, and Lloyd Bradbury who is filling in a vacant slot for a two-year term.

Deacons perform such services as British & Scottish Home worship services, Communion service functions, meal ministry, flower delivery, memorial services, and other activities for the congregation and the greater community. Perhaps most importantly, they serve as a point of contact for members of the church, and convey their concerns, needs and desires to the church, while also communicating with members on the prayer concern list by visits, greeting cards and phone calls.

At the January meeting, new Deacons were assigned to subcommittees of their choosing. Ideas for Deacon activities, including fundraising events, were also discussed, along with plans for how funds should best be distributed.

More discussions on this topic were held at the February 17 meeting, at which the following disbursements were approved: Fellowship Committee: \$100; Preschool Tuition Assistance Program: \$500; Presbyterian Accompaniment Program: \$200; B.E.D.S.: \$50; RPC Green Team: \$500; and Congregations in Solidarity with Latin America: \$200. Also, a lively discussion led by Mary Koon and Susanne Vogel centered on Deacons' efforts in communicating with the church membership. All members should be hearing from their assigned Deacon in an effort to maintain close contact and to assist with concerns, questions and spiritual needs. The Deacons look forward to participating in upcoming events, lending support to those in need, and in maintaining contact with the RPC membership.

Deacons' Bake-Off/Silent Auction on February 15

We had a **great** turnout for this event. First of all, **THANKS** to all those who participated either by baking, taste testing, or bidding. It was **fun** and **festive**, and our **heartfelt thanks** goes to each of the participants. The top three winners (vote getters) at the event were:

- First prize went to Mary Ann Sadilek for her entry "The Best Apple Tart Ever."
- Second prize was awarded to Susan Lisle for her entry "Triple Chocolate Cheesecake."
- Third prize went to Connie Kelly for her entry of "Lemon Bars."

We **LOVE** all the new recipes! We're sure you'll agree that these were the top favorites, although we had many other delicious goodies to taste.

The winner of the jar filled with Valentine candy hearts was Cade Friend. He had the winning guess of 444; the actual count was 471.

Congrats to the following team who made this event possible: Sarah Dudak, Doris Hayes, Mary Jansen, Mary Koon, Paula McCracken, Kathi Rocanova, Sylvia Schade, Marilyn Slanec, and Susanne Vogel. Also, **thanks to the crew who worked hard behind the scenes** (*i.e.*, kitchen and table cleanup, dishwasher VIP, photographer and all around gofers): Richard Crang, Jake Gregus, Lindsay Hayes, Samantha & Ken Hayes, Brian & Pete Jansen, Alex Krug, Jordan Messner, Bill & Colleen Muller, Anthony Panerol, and Hanna & Joshua Ranft. **A special note of thanks** to Cindy Reynolds Rayfield for her contribution of personal stationery for added prizes.

This event raised a total of \$485.10. The Board of Deacons will be considering where to contribute the funds raised from this event. Among those organizations being considered are: Pro Se Services, Blanket program, BEDS, Presbyterian Congregation in Solidarity with Latin America, RPC Fellowship, RPC Night Ministry, Share the Harvest, and Habitat for Humanity. With your continued support, we hope to make the **"RPC All Church Family Bake-Off/Silent Auction"** an annual event!



Church News

2009 Confirmation Class

Confirmation is a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ. It is when a Seeker (a young person participating in Confirmation) is called to be a responsible governing member of the Presbyterian Church—one who may vote and hold office, and is prepared to participate in the worship, life, and mission of the congregation. Goals for Confirmation—Commissioning from the Book of Order include:

- Affirmation baptismal vows
- Declaration of faith
- Accept responsible membership, which includes Christ's call to be involved in the ministry of the church

The 2009 class began in September 2008 and will conclude by welcoming the new confirmands into membership of RPC on Sunday, March 15. We're very proud of this year's graduating class of 10 confirmands. Please join us at the 10:00 service and coffee fellowship afterwards to welcome this great group into our church family!



Molly Chaney
Parents: Mark & Diane Chaney
Mentor: Mary Jansen



Colleen Cody
Parents: Brian & Lauren Cody
Mentor: Janan Cain



Marika Floros-Nadkarni
Parents: Lynda & Nick Nadkarni and Christ and Lorri Floros
Mentor: Sally Couture



Jack Kemper
Parents: Mark & Dianne Kemper
Mentor: Greg Kemper



Max Marciniak
Parents: Jim Marciniak & Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak
Mentor: John Carr



Taylor Vogel
Parents: Henry & Debra Vogel
Mentor: Ginger Schander

New Members Class

There will be a class for persons interested in learning more about the Presbyterian faith and about Riverside Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 8, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the church. Contact [the office](#) or [Pastor Scott](#) if you are interested in attending.

Help us Update our Records



We are converting records to a new computer database for churches, and want to update our information. Please pick up your family data pages at church, or watch for them in the mail. Please complete and return them to the church office in the next month. Thanks so much!



Tyler Floros

Parents: Christ & Lorri Floros
Mentor: Bill Vogel



Amanda Hejna

Parents: Michael & Michelle Hejna
Mentor: Christine Long



Samantha Wilcox

Parents: Victoria Wilcox & Jack Wilcox, Jr
Mentor: John Cain



Abby Willinger

Parents: Jeff & Tricia Willinger
Mentor: Lauren Cody

March Sign-up

Liturgists

3/1 Mary Ann Sadilek
3/8 Youth
3/15 Will Vogel
3/22 Dennis Sadilek
3/29 Tony Miezio

Ushers

3/1 Scuff and Sue Gross
Sanlee and Tom Radigan
3/8 Andy Hart, Doug Harvin
Colleen and Bill Muller
3/15 Martha and Lou Heine
John and Marjorie Lewe
3/22 Kolinski-Pecis Family
3/29 Lisle Family

Coffee Fellowship

3/1 Doug Harvin & Michael Aieta
3/8: Pre-School Open House
Fellowship Open Mic 6-8 pm
3/15 John and Thea Kiwiet
3/22 **OPEN**
3/29 **OPEN**

Flowers

3/1 Marilyn Slanec
3/8 Frick Family
3/15 Will and Susanne Vogel
3/22 **OPEN**
3/29 **OPEN**

Sharing Our Gifts



What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

Since March of 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

When is the offering received?

On March 8, children will receive their One Great Hour of Sharing banks during the Children's Sermon. Additional banks are available in the information rack outside the church office, along with a calendar that suggest ways to thoughtfully save your change in the bank. The children will have an opportunity to present their gifts on Palm Sunday, April 5 and Easter, April 12.



What if I don't have children?

Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews and bulletin inserts will tell about One Great Hour of Sharing. You need not wait until Palm Sunday to make your donation to the program. You don't even have to wait until a Sunday! www.pcusa.org provides a secure link for those who like to donate with a credit card, or you may mail a donation directly to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Church Remittance Processing
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Of course, adults can use the fish banks and giving calendar too!

Where does the money go?

The [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) receives 36 percent of One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the [Self-Development of People](#) and [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) each receive 32 percent.

CARERS Corner

In March the CARERS Committee will be collecting Baby Food and Formula, to be sent to the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Please place your donations in the collection tubs at the church. Your continued generosity is appreciated—a great big THANK YOU!



Speaking of thank you, perhaps this would be a good month to send a little thank you note to our men and women in the service. *Operations Stars & Stripes* will collect letters from the red, white, and blue barrel outside of Pastor Scott's office, and deliver them to a serviceman or woman. Remember to leave the envelopes unsealed.

RPC Blood Donors Made a Difference

RPC members donating blood at the Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of Churches' Annual Blood Drive on Saturday, February 14, were Beverly and Michael Aieta, Donna Mitchell, Scott Jansen, Marilyn Slanec, Steve Teune, and Jill and Karl Vacek. Each donor blood unit is separated into three parts; therefore, our RPC blood will benefit two dozen recipients. Some of the area merchants donating prizes for blood donors were: The Pink Carnation, Vacha Florist, Shamrock Garden Florist, Riverside Bank, Aunt Diana's Candy, Jem Café, Higgins Glass, and Basili's Hair and Nail Salon. Donors were also eligible to enter a drawing for a fully paid vacation in Mexico, funded by LifeSource. For anyone making a blood donation with LifeSource at any other time during the year, please use our Covenant registration number: RD98. Many thanks!

Night Ministry

RPC prepares and serves a meal the second Friday of each month for Night Ministry. In winter months, it's soup and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, in warmer months, a hot dog dinner.

In February, the youth group prepared the soup and sandwiches. In March, children in fourth and fifth grade are invited to come assist after school on Friday, March 13. Meet Mrs. Nadkarni and your shepherds, Mr. Vogel and Mrs. Buhle and together we'll share our time and talents through sandwich making. Soup is being coordinated by Ellen Hamilton.

Since 1976, the Night Ministry connects with Chicago's vulnerable youth and adults through our street outreach, youth shelter and supportive services, and a mobile health outreach bus. They provide basic resources, free health care, housing and supportive services for youth, referrals to other agencies for specific resources, in a welcoming and non-judgmental environment.

To help prepare or serve a meal in the future, contact [Ellen Hamilton](#). For more information about Night Ministry visit www.thenightministry.org.

Scout Pancake Breakfast

RPC's scouts invite their church family and the community to attend their annual pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 7, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the RPC Social Hall. The Pancake Breakfast is a fundraiser for Boy Scout Troop 24 and Cub Scout Pack 24, and helps support the scouts' many activities and events. RPC has sponsored the scouts since 1939. There are currently 81 Cub Scouts and 58 Boy Scouts who will assist with the pancake breakfast. Tickets are \$4 in advance, or \$5 at the door. See any scout to purchase tickets.



Blankets +

With Blankets + you can blanket the world with love! **Blankets +** . . . So people in need can help themselves.

\$5 can provide one warm blanket

\$25 can provide five warm blankets

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

Even though Dedication Sunday was February 22, contributions are still being accepted. Please make checks payable to: Riverside Presbyterian Church, marked "Blankets +" Thank you for your support!

2009 Mission Trip and Rent-a-Youth

Plans for this year's mission trip are well underway. From June 14 to June 20, 24 teens and 6 adults from our church will travel to Copperhill, Tennessee to work with [TEAMeffort](#) in Appalachia. We will travel 11 hours by van and will be in the mountains of eastern Tennessee, working on the homes of area residents. We will be holding several fundraisers in the upcoming months and hope you will support our youth in these endeavors. One of our fundraisers is called "Rent-A-Youth." Some of our youth group members need to earn extra money to help pay for the trip and are available to do work for you at \$10 per hour. If you have any type of job you think would be appropriate for youth, please contact Tara Gregus. Also, *save **May 29** on your calendars* for the fundraiser for the adult leaders on the mission trip to be held at the home of Ron and Dodi Krug. It is always a fun evening for a good cause!

Children

Passport to the Promised Land

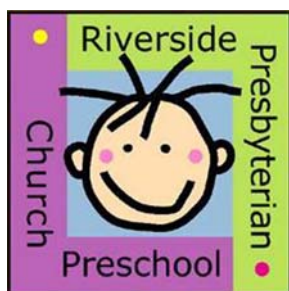
In March we'll continue our comparison of the Gospel Easter Stories. The four Gospel accounts of the passion of Christ give us a window to Jesus' last days. Each Gospel is written from a slightly different perspective and written for a different audience. Some events are only in the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and others only in John.

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.*

	Kindergarten & 1st Grade	2nd & 3rd Grade	4th & 5th Grade	Junior High
March 1	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema	Community House Kitchen	Living Waters
March 8	Creation Station	Oasis Place	Living Waters	Community House Kitchen
March 15	Community House Kitchen	Living Waters	Celestial Cinema	Creation Station
March 22	Celebration Sunday Social Hall	Celebration Sunday Social Hall	Celebration Sunday Social Hall	Celebration Sunday Social Hall
March 29	Celebration Sunday Social Hall	Celebration Sunday Social Hall	Celebration Sunday Social Hall	Celebration Sunday Social Hall
April 4	Living Waters	Creation Station	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema

Learn about ALL the events of Holy Week with Mrs. Buttimer in the Celestial Cinema. Make contemporary connections with the words of Jesus during the last supper while baking with Mrs. Friend in the Kitchen. In which Gospel did Jesus wash the Disciples feet? Find out with Mr. Fieseler in the Creation Station. Angels...not just for Christmas. Mr. Ben Mitchell will share more and lead a craft to be given to others in the Living Waters. Mary, Mother of James and John (aka Mrs. Gregus) tells her story and more in the Oasis Place.

Preschool News



March will certainly come in like a lion at the RPC Preschool! The Riverside Presbyterian Church Preschool will be hosting the annual Open House on Sunday, March 8. Please come up to the preschool for Coffee Fellowship. Meet the staff and tour the facilities. View the artistic creations of the talented preschoolers. Prospective preschool families can also pick up their information packets at the open house. Also on March 8, the parents will be busy running our Book Fair & Raffle. Our fundraising goal is remodeling the children's bathrooms' sinks! Please do stop up for goodies on March 8 and come see our fun Dads' Portraits too!



After our Dads' Nights we'll take a clay class at the Arts Center and later in the month we'll make a special trip to the Brookfield Zoo for a class and to wish our adopted animal, Rocky the Penguin a Happy 2nd Birthday. March will certainly be a fun month at Preschool!

We have a few openings in our afternoon class for the 2009-2010 Preschool year.

Our exciting news is that our current Teacher's Aide, Barbara Sitton, will fill the teacher's position in the fall. We are now looking for someone to "fill her shoes" for the 2009-2010 Preschool year. Please call Nancy Dvorak if you are interested.

Youth Group News

Sunday, March 1 ▪ Junior High 6:00-7:15/ Senior High 7:30-8:45 Game/Discussion: "Peer Pressure: The Influence of Parents and Peers." (rescheduled from Feb. 15)

Sunday, March 8 ▪ 6-8 pm ▪ RPC's Open Mic Night Come and join us for the opportunity to show the world your talent! Play and instrument, recite a poem, sing a song or stand on your head! Sure to be lots of fun!

Sunday, March 15 ▪ 2:30 pm "Beauty and the Beast" Grab a friend and join us to see R/B's spring musical! Tickets are \$5.

Sunday, March 22 ▪ Spring Break — No Youth Group

Sunday, March 29 ▪ to be announced

Girls' Group

We are off to a wonderful winter season with the Girls' Group. So far this year, we have enjoyed playing games (extreme spoons being a favorite), had "Improv Night," learned about girls in the foster care system from Dinae Knox of Pro Se Services, and discovered the nitty gritty truth about working in a veterinary office from Liz Rosiello, Hannah Pecis' cousin. The Girls' Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. All middle school girls are invited to attend! If you have questions, please e-mail [Mary Koon](#). Here is our line-up for March:

Wednesday, March 4 ▪ Learning to quilt with RPC's multi-talented Deacon, Sarah Dudak. Sarah will teach a basic quilting stitch to all of us and show us some of her projects.

Wednesday, March 11 ▪ Diane Dean, LCSW, will speak to the girls about eating disorders. In our country today, eating disorders are widely misunderstood, go undetected and untreated, and receive inadequate coverage from insurance companies. They can be extremely damaging both physically and psychologically. In a culture where happiness and success are often equated with thinness, young children are directly affected; in fact, the [National Association on Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders](#) reports that 80% of ten-year-old American girls diet. Please make every effort to come ask questions and learn more about this very important topic.

Wednesday, March 18 ▪ Telling our stories. On this, our final night of our winter session, we will share our "wisdom stories" with one another and close with a special activity.



Left: The WNL! Girls Group display a blanket made for Pro Se Services to go to young mothers with infants. Dinae Knox was our guest speaker on February 4. She and Heather (the RPC babysitter) spoke movingly about their experiences of foster care. The girls were touched by their honesty and struggle. The girls were Christ's hands in creating notes and warmth for young women and their babies.

Did you know. . . According to legend, St. Patrick used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pre-Christian Irish.



Adults

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 25, 10:00 a.m.

All ladies are invited to the monthly Presbyterian Women's Bible Study held at the Scottish Home. For those who would like to stay for the buffet luncheon (\$12) following Bible Study, reservations are required by Sunday, March 22. Please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#) to make a reservation.

The Bible Study theme for this year is "JUBILEE! Luke's Gospel for the Poor," which highlights some of the unique aspects of Jesus' life and teaching found in the Gospel of Luke. Lesson 7 is "The Oppressed are Set Free" Scripture: Luke 13:10-17, 18-21; 14:1-6 Key idea: Jesus healed both men and women and was inclusive in his teaching. Joyce Van Cura will be the lesson leader.



Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team Meeting

The Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Thursday, April 2, at 10:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room at RPC.

Human Scene

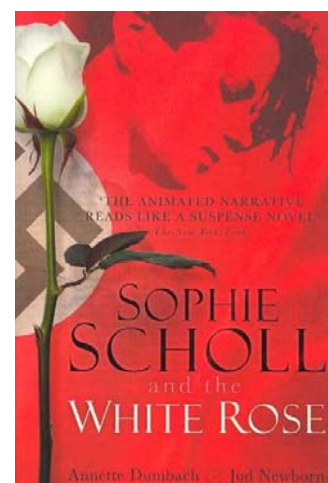
Join the adult Sunday School class every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Topics for the month of March include:

- March 1** ▪ Political Oppression of Afro-Colombian and Indigenous people of Columbia, with guest speakers from the Presbytery of Chicago
- March 18** ▪ Purpose of Confirmation for Presbyterians, with Joe Ourth
- March 15** ▪ Architecture During the Reformation, with Jim Marciniak
- March 22** ▪ TBA
- March 29** ▪ "The Beatitudes," with Scott Jansen

Book Review: *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose* by Annette Dumbach and Jud Newborn

The time was 1942. The place was Munich, Germany. And the heroine was a young girl, a university student, who, with her brother and other friends, dared to challenge the Third Reich, one of the most oppressive regimes in history. The White Rose group Sophie Scholl and her fellow students formed was born out of a deep Christian faith that would not permit them to stand on the sidelines and do nothing. "We will not be silent! We are your bad conscience!" their pamphlets exhorted as they attempted to prod students and professors into active resistance. And months before news about the death camps reached the outside world, these deeply religious young people dared to tell their fellow Germans what "resettlement in the East" really meant.

This book is the basis for the critically acclaimed film "Sophie Scholl: The Last Days," winner of the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 2006. It is also testimony that, no matter how cruel the police state, courage and a determination to do "what is right" can still surface, no matter the costs.



A special invitation is extended to all church members, families, and friends to join presenter Roberta Gates and the Presbyterian Women for a review of a fascinating book, on Wednesday, April 8, at 10:00 a.m. at the Scottish Home. Reservations for the buffet luncheon (\$12) following the program can be made by contacting [Elizabeth Musick](#) by April 5.

In Memoriam 2008

Lillian Chrastka November 26, 1911—September 21, 2008

Liberty Petru Dvorak October 24, 1917—October 14, 2008

Mary Middaugh Frick March 13, 1927—July 20, 2008

Libbie Krivanek May 15, 1922—December 5, 2008



Dear Friends,

I recently was provided the opportunity to travel to San Antonio for a five-day Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators conference. There were about 1000 CE type people from across North America in attendance from not only the PCUSA but also Christian Reformed Church, Moravian Church and United Church of Christ.

The best part about going was receiving a great number of really good ideas that the CE committee for children and youth will review, discuss, and implement over time. The next best thing was having so much about RPC confirmed as truly exemplary. It was so affirming to know how much we do things "right," well, and with integrity.

A special thank you to the Memorial Committee and Deacons for financially supporting my attendance. Also to the congregation at large for providing for the balance of the costs to be paid through continuing education funds in the budget. I am truly blessed by my association with this congregation. It is my pleasure to serve as the Director of Christian Education.

Blessings,
Lynda Nadkarni

To the Sunday School Children:

On a cold, snowy, gloomy day, it was a cheerful, inspiring greeting which I received in the mail, a colorful IXΘΥΣ fish poster. I put it in my front window where the sunshine draws attention of all people who pass by. Many thanks and my love to all the children who worked hard on this project, and to the dedicated teacher.

Sincerely,
Olga Cykner

Dear Sunday School Children of RPC,

We are enjoying the art work you sent to us. The Jesus fish is posted on our window, as you suggested. It is just beautiful on sunny days. Thank you so much for thinking of us. Bless each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Roy and Dorothy Thorsen

Dear Sunday School Friends,

Each morning as I pull back my draperies, my fish is there. When the sun is shining the colors are so lovely. Thank you for thinking of "Grandma Betty Jirsa." The snow is all gone now, and the grass is green.

Love to you all in Jesus' name,
Ray and Betty Jirsa

Have you lost your job?

Are you feeling isolated during your job search? Why not join us?

RPC is looking for people who are unemployed, underemployed, plain fed up, and anyone else who has some spare time on their hands and would like to get together periodically and put their skills and efforts to work to help out the community. The group would first gather to discuss potential projects. Perhaps we can help elderly or shut-in members with home repairs or help some folks fill out their tax return. Please contact [Matt Lisle](#) if you are interested. When a group is formed we will set a date and time to meet and figure out the next steps.

Fellowship



“Staycationing” for Spring Break? Kick it off with our “Cheap Date Night!”

Is the economy putting a crimp in your Spring Break plans this year? What a great excuse to get together for some inexpensive fun! The Fellowship Committee invites couples to join us for a vacation themed “Cheap Date Night” on Saturday, March 21. We’ll kick off Spring Break with a fun movie in the Celestial Cinema followed by a great dinner in the Social Hall for an amazing \$10/couple (NO taxes, and NO gratuities!). We’re still working on some of the details, so watch your bulletin and e-mail for final plans, including ways we might be able to help with babysitting arrangements.

Join the Fellowship Team

You’ve seen John Haugland with his banjo announcing our Open Mic Night. You’ve seen Steve Teune with his beach towel and flip flops announcing our Family Retreat in Saugatuck. The Fellowship Committee is a team of energetic, welcoming, fun-loving, hardworking people who feel that it is a joyful ministry to plan and offer events that lead to stronger ties within our church family and the greater community. Sound good? Join us! We’re looking for new committee members of all ages and interests to help us serve all the segments of our congregation. We are currently in the process of planning an April all-day workshop for the scrapbooking community, an early summer progressive dinner for our church family, and the annual Strawberry Social. Keep reading your bulletins and Visions for updates as our plans firm up, and let us know if you have fellowship ideas you’d like to see us try!

RPC Family Retreat

The combination of shady woods and sunny shoreline inspires reverence. It is hard to think of a more perfect place to revel in the beauty of this world God has given us than Camp Saugatuck. And we can’t think of a better group of people to enjoy this amazing gift with than our church family. RPC has reserved our favorite group of cabins again for the **week-end of August 21-23**. (R/B doesn’t start until after Labor Day this year, so bring those high school kids with you!) There’s something for everyone at camp, whether you’re inclined to canoe, kayak, put those archery skills to use, hike the woods or the beach, play volleyball, sit and visit at the dinner table, on the sand, or around the campfire, or enjoy the peace and quiet with meditation or a good book. A picture is worth a thousand words, so visit our website and [view photos](#) from past retreats. The camp is popular, and we have a limited number of spaces that we will fill on a first come, first served basis. To reserve your spot, please contact [Steve Teune](#) or [Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak](#).



Men’s Retreat



TECHNY
TOWERS
CONFERENCE
&
RETREAT CENTER

The annual Men's Forum Retreat will be held at [Techny Towers](#) Conference and Retreat Center, 2001 Waukegan Road, in Techny, Illinois, from the afternoon of Friday, March 27, through Sunday morning, March 29. All RPC men are invited to attend. The Men's Forum is a Biblically based support group that meets every Tuesday morning from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. All men are welcome.

Board Games Needed

Have a board game at home that isn’t seeing much use anymore?



The Fellowship Committee would like to stock the children’s area in the Social Hall with some games. Checkers, Chess, and anything that is fun for the ‘tween and/or teen crowd is especially needed. If you have a game or two to donate, drop it off in the church office or see [Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak](#) or [Lynda Nadkarni](#). Thank you!



Please check the
Website for the
most recent
calendar
updates!

March 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9a Sunday School 9a Parenting Group 10a Worship with Communion 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30 Deacons' British Home Worship 6:00p Jr. High Youth 7:30p Sr. High Youth</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:15p Volleyball</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30a Men's Forum 11:15a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6p WNL! 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30a Women's Forum</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7a-1p Pancake Breakfast 8a-1p Preschool Book Fair</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9a Sunday School 10a Worship 9a Parenting Group 10a Worship 11a Preschool Open House 11:15a Endowment Comm 11:15a CARERS Comm 11:15a Adult Ed Comm 2p New Members Class 6-8p Open Mic Night</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm 7:30p Trustees Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30a Men's Forum 9a Companions in Christ 11:15a Staff Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6p WNL! 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30a Women's Forum</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Night Ministry</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6p Confirmation Banquet</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9a Sunday School 9s Parenting Group 10a Worship Confirmation 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Worship at the Scottish Home 2:30p Youth Groups</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:15p Volleyball</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30a Men's Forum 9a Companions in Christ 11:15a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6p WNL! 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session Mtg</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30a Women's Forum</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Vernal Equinox</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>3p Fellowship Comm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:15p Volleyball</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30a Men's Forum 9a Companions in Christ 11:15a Staff Mtg</p>	<p>25</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 10a RPC Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30a Women's Forum</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:15p Volleyball</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30a Men's Forum 9a Companions in Christ 11:15a Staff Mtg</p>				

**RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

116 Barrypoint Road
Riverside, Illinois
60546

Phone: 708-447-1520
Fax: 708-447-1525
Website: www.rpcusa.org

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

Place mailing label here



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

Riverside Presbyterian Church

Pastor: Dr. Scott Jansen
scott.jansen@comcast.net

Minister of Music: Dr. Sally Sloane
musikhs@comcast.net

**Director of
Christian Education:** Lynda Nadkarni
lmn@floros.org

Administrative Assistants: Linda Hutcheson
Donna Jones
rpcoffice@sbcglobal.net

**Senior & Junior High
Youth Advisor:** Tara Gregus
taragregus@yahoo.com

Seminary Student Intern: Mary Koon
maryinwi@hotmail.com

Building Supervisor: Joel Hastings
rpcjoel2005@sbcglobal.net

Preschool Director: Nancy Dvorak

Custodian: Krzysztof Gieron

Clerk of Session: Mary Ann Sadilek
MASDS@aol.com

Deacons Moderators: Sylvia Schade, Susanne Vogel

Trustees President: Nancy Jensen

Financial Secretary: Cindy Reynolds Rayfield
Cindy@CindyRRayfield.com

Treasurer: Alfred Kitch
rpc_fred_kitch@sbcglobal.net

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.

Vision Editor:
Nancy Hopkins
RPCVisionEditor@sbcglobal.net