



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
Church News	3
Deacon Doings	3
Sharing Our Gifts	4
Financial Update	4
Strawberry Social	6
Bible School	7
Children	8
Youth/Adults	9
Events	10
Calendar	11

The Vision

August 2009

Introducing Melissa Gilbert

RPC has had various connections with Hollywood in the past, but now we are having our own movie star join us on staff. Yes, her name is Melissa Gilbert. And, no, I'm only kidding—it's not the Melissa Gilbert you were just thinking of. I'm quite sure that she gets teased about her famous name all the time, so hopefully we can refrain from boring her with lots of jokes that she has probably heard many times already.

The actual Melissa Gilbert who will be joining us in September is far more qualified than the more famous Melissa Gilbert to serve our church as our new seminary student intern. Melissa is currently attending our local Presbyterian seminary, and will continue to attend seminary as she works part-time as our intern.

Melissa's internship is designed to give her a well-rounded sampling of all of what is entailed in parish ministry. Amongst other tasks, she will lead a small group for teenage girls (meeting on Wednesday evenings), she will assist with some of our children's ministries, she will teach an occasional adult class, and she will assist in all aspects of worship leadership.

The funding for this position comes from a generous donation from John Sikich and his family in memory of Cori. Hence, Melissa's salary will be entirely separate from our operating budget and has no effect on our budget shortfall. She will work around fifteen hours per week, depending on the circumstances, and she will stay with us until the summer of 2010.

By way of introduction, I asked Melissa to tell us about herself, and this is what she wrote in reply.

"I grew up in Atlanta (which made surviving my first Chicago winter quite an experience!) and attended Berry College, where I studied Art History and Women's Studies. After college, I spent a year working for the Presbyterian Church in Belfast, Northern Ireland and several months teaching in orphanages in Uganda. After returning to America, I completed my master's degree in Library Media Technology and worked as a teacher in Atlanta. I'm now entering my second year at McCormick Theological Seminary, working toward my Master of Divinity. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone at Riverside Presbyterian and having a great year working with you!"

I'm sure you will all give Melissa a warm RPC welcome in early September when you see her. If you have any specific suggestions of how she might serve the church, please let me know. I personally feel that Melissa's service holds an extraordinary potential for God's ministry here.

See ya in church,
Scott



August Worship Schedule

August 2 *The Bread of Life* John 6:24-35 How does God's sustaining love work within us? What is the most basic "fuel" that makes "life" possible? Today we will have communion.

August 9 *Preschool Teachings for Life* Ephesians 4:25-5:2a Do we ever really "outgrow" the lessons we learned in preschool?

August 16 *Higher Education* 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 and Ephesians 5:15-20 Why is it important for us to love our God with all of our "minds?" We will commission all folks going off to college soon or otherwise beginning a time of higher education.

August 23 *Prayer Warriors* Ephesians 6:10-20 How do we join our lives to the larger forces governing the universe in a way that is meaningful and effective? Do we sometimes despair because the powers of the world are too overwhelming for us to combat?

August 30 *Christian Makeup* Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 How do we sometimes dress up our actions so that they will appear to be "Christian" to those around us, and what does God think about that?



Dear Scott,

On behalf of the Riverside Garden Club, I wish to thank you and the entire congregation for hosting the 2009 Garden Faire. As a token of our appreciation, enclosed is a donation for the stained glass window fund. The lovely grounds of RPC helped to make the Faire a very successful and memorable event.

Sincerely,

Lauren Cody

Dear Riverside Church Family,

TEAMeffort wants to thank you and your church for sending your youth group to serve on a mission trip in Copperhill TN. They represented your church well as they served and you can be proud of their accomplishments. We know many lives in the community were changed by putting their faith into action. You can be excited about the work your group has done. The TEAMeffort staff thanks you for supporting your youth group on their summer mission trip. We enjoyed serving alongside them!

Sincerely,

TEAMeffort

Dear Sunday School Friends:

What a joy to receive the lovely Fish poster. I want to thank all the children and teachers. I have it hung on my large living room window facing the patio, where the sun hits most of the time. I sure enjoy it. God Bless you all!

Blanche Blahut

Dear Members of RPC,

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kind and encouraging words you offered me in your cards and notes. Thank you, too, for the beautiful golden church (that looks just like RPC) and the generous gift certificate. Every time I see the little church I'll think of you and I look forward to eating out soon. Mostly I thank you for who you are and for welcoming me so warmly this year. It has been a joy to get to know so many of you and to serve God and neighbor together. I will hold you in my heart forever and you will be in my prayers. Thank you!

Love,

Mary Koon

Jenny Kolinski, New Director of Christian Education

Please join us in welcoming our new Director of Christian Education, Jenny Kolinski. Jenny, who joined our church 12 years ago, was on the original planning committee that initiated a rotational-style Sunday school at RPC. She also helped Janan Cain plan and create the Sunday school rooms that are so delightfully painted. In addition to volunteering as a Sunday school shepherd and teacher, Jenny has served as a Girl Scout troop leader and a member of the RPC preschool board. Jenny is married to Vince Pecis and together they have three children: Hannah, 13; Adeline, 10; and Henry, 4. She loves art of every kind and in a previous life worked as an art director at a number of advertising agencies.



The Pecis-Kolinski Family

RPC T-Shirts for Sale

Calling all friends and members of RPC...The Deacons are once again offering RPC t-shirts for sale. The shirts are available in 3 colors: natural beige, soft yellow, and bright yellow. Prices vary from \$7 to \$12 each. Please contact Doris Hayes at toothfairy512@sbcglobal.net to place your order.



Baptism

RPC celebrated the baptism of Izabella Marie Hooglander on June 28, 2009. Izabella is shown with her father, Frank, at the Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Hooglander family following the service.

Prospective New Member Class

The next class for persons interested in joining Riverside Presbyterian Church will be Sunday, August 9, 11:30 a.m., in the Parlor. Please let [Pastor Scott](#) know if you are interested in attending.

August Opportunities

Opportunities abound for volunteers in August! If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak](#). For flower contributions, please contact the [RPC office](#). Potential Acolytes & Liturgists, please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#).



	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
August 2	Tony Miezio	Kathryn Nadkarni	Pecis-Kolinski Family	OPEN	OPEN
August 9	Youth	Adeline Pecis	Lisle Family	OPEN	OPEN
August 16	Roberta Gates	OPEN	Miezio Family	OPEN	OPEN
August 23	Melinda Yachnin	OPEN	Vogel Family	OPEN	OPEN
August 30	OPEN	OPEN	Aieta Family	OPEN	OPEN

Sharing Our Gifts

CARERS Corner

CARERS' Mission Fair Coming Soon Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 20. The CARERS Committee is hosting the Coffee Fellowship on that day to introduce church members to the recipients of your generosity, First Presbyterian Church, Interfaith House, BEDS, Riverside Food Pantry, Companions (Christian Prison Ministry), and Stars and Stripes.

Night Ministry and the Greater Chicago Food Depository have kindly agreed to join us on Mission Sunday to make us aware of the wonderful job they are doing and what the congregation can do to help their missions as well as the CARERS.

During the month of August we turn our eyes toward the school children. We will be collecting school supplies for children who cannot afford to buy them. As usual, there will be a basket in the fellowship hall for these supplies. When you are buying these supplies for your own children it would be a good time to pick up a few extra to share.



Financial Update

The budget is on target for expenses, but is behind on revenues for the year.



	2009 Total Budget	Year-to-Date As of June 30	% of Budget
Total Income	\$329,200	\$149,334	45%
Total Expenses	\$365,310	\$174,616	48%
Deficit	\$- 36,100	\$- 25,282	

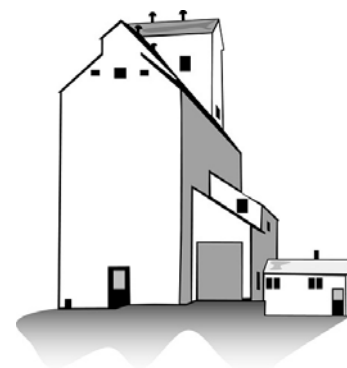
Stewardship Snippets: A Modern Stewardship Parable

The treasurer of a certain church resigned. A man who managed the local grain elevator was asked to take the job. He agreed to do so under certain conditions:

- That no treasurer's report be called for during the year.
- That no one ask him any questions during the year.

The congregation was very puzzled, but since he was a trusted businessman in the community and most of them did business with him, they were willing to go along with him. At the end of the first year he gave this report:

- The church's indebtedness of \$25,000 had been paid in full;
- The missions budget had been doubled;
- The minister's salary had been increased considerably;
- There were no outstanding bills and there was a balance of \$12,000 in the treasury.



Immediately, a shocked congregation asked, "How could all of this have happened?" Quickly he answered, "Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. As you do business with me, I simply withheld 10% of your income on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You never missed it, for not once was I questioned. See what we have been able to do with a tithe from each of you? After all, it belongs to the Lord anyway. Now for this next year, it will be up to you for you are on your own. Please give the church your tithe and see what God can do with your help."

Reprinted from the November, 1993 Vision

Bread, Wine, Fishes and 'Fans' . . . a modern VBS parable

The Bible tells us of miracles by Jesus many, many, many years ago...as folklore, faith or truth? But, for each age of our years and faith, we probably have a different understanding. So let's add this element to consider, because this modern "loaves and fish" parable happened at my previous church before my RPC days.

It was a few weeks before that summer's Vacation Bible School, and we had a small issue of safety and comfort. The church was old and big, with serious financial problems, and NO air conditioning. The only air circulation in the community room areas was one horrible, dangerous OLD factory fan that someone had donated to the church many years ago. It was very noisy; the protective wire grid was so big that adults could stick their arms through the 'guard' to clean the blades...very bad for kids and certainly bad for energetic teens...imagine paper airplanes shooting through the blades.

So while setting up the VBS setting [i.e., a seaside, a fishing port with 'sandy' beach], we just decided to go shopping for some new fans. And, I also did not want to sweat it out with all the kids, as during the previous summer. We went to the local Menards, bought 4 white lightweight upright fans [about \$20 each], and brought them to Sunday school where the teens helped to assemble and set them up and about the VBS set in the fellowship hall. The fans looked and worked great!

A few days later, the Women's Club gave me \$80 cash from their own account as reimbursement ...which was so considerate of them. But did I really 'need' \$80 cash? So we went back to Menards to buy more fans...after VBS: for the church library [2], the front of the sanctuary [2] near the choir loft, organ, and the pastor's area - also with no ventilation or cooling.

As we were checking out with carts loaded, the clerks said the cost had been reduced almost 50% for each fan. So...with the discount \$\$\$, we got 2 more fans, plus a larger circular floor fan for the church conference room or the VBS "grotto."

Then as we were chatting/explaining about VBS, the fans [previously 4, and now 6 plus 1] loaded into 3 carts, the clerks said that if we brought back the receipts for the initial purchase, Menards could refund us those discounts as well... anyone keeping count? So, we found the receipts, returned to Menards, and bought...more fans. The final VBS fan tally may have been 12 upright fans plus 2 large circular floor fans. I've lost track of the actual count over the years.

After a successful and breezy VBS, the fans got moved all over the church - the music room, the nursery, the narthax, the entry.... There still was no AC, **but** there was a wonderful little breeze flowing about us all during those hot summer services and other church activities. **And** it was always so pleasing to see someone walk over and turn on a fan.



Did you know . . . that the record high membership of RPC occurred in 1950, with 1,124 members on the church membership rolls?

Strawberry Social



We were truly blessed with a simply gorgeous day, Sunday, July 12, as we celebrated summer with our annual Strawberry Social. Over 200 people from the congregation and the community gathered on the church lawn to enjoy fresh strawberries, Grumpy's ice cream, wonderful homemade baked goods, music, games, sunshine, gentle breezes, and, most importantly, each others' company.

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all of our members who cheerfully helped with everything from baking to face painting. We hope that all of you who hauled tables, greeted neighbors, dished cake, ran for more coffee, called out raffle ticket numbers, washed dishes, and all of the other countless tasks that are involved, realize that we couldn't have done it without you. From little Henry Pecis who dressed as a strawberry, to Sue and Scuff Gross who welcomed folks at the ticket table, the entire congregation was well-represented.



VBS Thank you!

The Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of Churches Vacation Bible School was held at Ascension Lutheran Church from July 19 to 23. There are not enough ways to thank the volunteers for bringing 29 A.D. to life for the children.

RPC volunteers were Kate Chard, Marika Floros, Lily Lisle, Stuart Marciniak, Annie Mitchell, Kathryn Nadkarni, Carol O'Meara, Cindy Reynolds Rayfield, Stephanie Sauer, and Melinda Yachnin.



Children

Passport to the Promised Land

The Covenant is the theme for the Sunday School year. What is a covenant? Who in the Bible made a covenant with God? How does a covenant fit in our daily lives in this century? Still rotating through different teachers and rooms with games, crafts, storytelling, art, music and more – but also looking and learning in depth at the Covenants in the Bible and those we have with Christ. Parents, all children must be registered before the first week they attend. The form is [on the website](#) or may be picked up in the church office.

Kick-off Sunday is September 13. The 2009-2010 Sunday School theme will be unveiled at 9:00 a.m., with worship at 10:00 a.m. and the Fellowship Committee hosted pot-luck picnic at 11:00 a.m. It's going to be a great school year at RPC! Plan to be part of the fun!

Calling all Volunteers for children and youth!

Summer is nearly over, so I am thinking about and working on Sunday School in the fall. Can you think about it too? What talent can you share with our children and youth? Can it be a short-term teaching assignment? Teachers are scheduled for 4-6 week blocks, leading the same lesson each week to a different age group of children. Can it be a long-term shepherding position? Shepherds travel with the same group of children each week, building a team/flock, supporting their learning, and assisting the teacher as needed.

Are you able to provide single-time project assistance?

Administrative duties include tracking attendance, mailing postcards, greeting, and replenishing supplies each week. Substitute teachers and occasionally substitute shepherds are also needed.

If you know now that you'll be happy to help again—or for the first time—in the upcoming school year, please [send me a quick e-mail](#) with a “yes” and your desired role(s). Thank you for being stewards of your time and talents through the support of our children and youth!

Lynda Nadkarni lmn@floros.org



Confirmation Class

Session has endorsed a new, two -year confirmation course. We'll be transitioning over the next year with the current freshmen being confirmed with the traditional one-year program and the two-year program beginning for current eighth graders.

Confirmation I for 8th graders will be led by Tom Kedzie and Lynda Nadkarni. Confirmation II for freshmen will be led by John Cain and Joe Ourth. Classes will kick off on September 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Westminster Room.

More specifics will come to your home via a letter in mid-August. This will include a confirmation contract, outline of the course, and the schedule for this year's freshmen class confirmands.

Summer Sunday School at RPC

If you are an adult wishing to attend the summer Human Scene class, but not wanting to make a trip back home to pick up children for worship, please bring them along and entrust them to the care of Keri Nekovar for a Christian craft time in the Creation Station from 9:00 to 9:50.



Calling All Youth! If you will be in 6th-12th grade starting this fall, we would love to have you be a part of our church's youth group! We will meet at the church on Sunday evenings, starting September 13. If you are new to the youth group, please contact Tara Gregus at taragregus@yahoo.com to make sure you are on our e-mail list. Youth group events are listed in the weekly church bulletin, but announcements and information are also sent out via e-mail, so be sure to give your e-mail address and phone number to [Tara Gregus](#).

Starved Rock Outing: The Youth Group will take a trip to Starved Rock State Park in Utica, Illinois, for a day of hiking and fun on **Thursday, August 6**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please [let Tara know](#) if you are interested in going so we have enough drivers. Incoming 6th graders and outgoing 12th graders are welcome. The cost is \$3 and you should bring a lunch. Parents, if you are available to drive, please let Tara know. Feel free to bring a friend and don't miss out on the fun!

College Student Addresses Needed

College Students: I need your addresses! All current college students should contact [the church office](#) or [Tara Gregus](#) with your information for the upcoming school year. We want to keep in touch with you!

Rent-a-Youth

You may know that many of our teens have been earning money toward the cost of the mission trip by working at the homes of our members, doing various types of work at the rate of \$10 per hour. The program has been so successful that we are extending it (on a trial basis) to the rest of the year. If you have a need for some reliable assistance from honest hard-working kids, please contact Tara Gregus, Youth Advisor, at taragregus@yahoo.com. Types of work requested have been general yardwork, babysitting, helping out at children's parties, moving furniture and books, computer assistance, pet-sitting, hooking up digital converter boxes, etc. We have a lot of good capable kids who are willing to work. You will pay the kids directly. Thanks for thinking of our kids!



Presbyterian Women

All are invited to join the Presbyterian Women on **Wednesday, September 9**, at the Scottish Home, for lunch at 12:30 p.m. with a program to follow. Marjorie Lewie will present "The Gift of Years." Growing older is a special period of life—maybe the most special of all. Life is not about the number of years we manage to eke out of it. It is about aging well. It is about living into the gifts offered in every stage of life. These gifts of years can be a gift, not a burden, if we live life well. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 9, for a 12:30 p.m. lunch and Christmas program at the Scottish Home.

2009-2010 Horizons Bible Study - Joshua, A Journey of Faith begins Wednesday, September 23, at the Scottish Home. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Musick at lizm_59@sbcglobal.net. Contact Dorothy Jansky for a study book. All ladies are welcome to attend. Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura will rotate the Bible Study leader position during the year.



Human Scene

Human Scene continues its summer open discussion format in August, with interesting discussions on current events led by Pastor Scott Jansen, Melinda Yachnin, and others. On Sunday August 30 there will be a special session at the usual time in which a panel of senior high kids will come to talk about what it's like for teenagers today, and to answer questions about the particular stresses and experiences of youth in today's culture. There will be no Human Scene held during Labor Day weekend (September 6), and the usual format will resume on September 13. Stay tuned for a fascinating fall line-up!

Church & Community News

Womack Scholarship Dinner

The Ryan Womack Scholarship was created by RPC members Randy and Lonnie Womack, in memory of their son, Ryan, who was tragically killed in the Riverside Little League accident in 1990. Since the inception of this scholarship fund, 167 recipients have received scholarships totaling \$468,000. One of the sources of endowment funds for this scholarship is the annual Womack Scholarship dinner/dance. This year the event will be held on October 17 at the Riverside Country Club. Mark your calendars for this fun and worthwhile event.

Preschool



The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all the world needs dreamers who do (and so does the Preschool) —that would be Jon Jansky, Jim Sit, Joel Hastings and Vince Pecis. Thanks for their work in remodeling the Preschool bathrooms with infrared faucets (those are faucets that automatically turn on), lowered sinks, and new plumbing works! You have to dream big in order to achieve great things.

The Preschool has several openings in the afternoon class for the 2009-2010 year. The class meets Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 12:20 to 2:45 p.m. Please let Nancy Dvorak know if you are interested!



Italian Dinner and Auction . . . *Make me an offer I can't refuse*

Back by popular demand, the Stewardship Committee will be hosting the 2nd Annual "*Make Me an Offer I Can't Refuse*" Italian Dinner & Auction on **Sunday, September 27**, at 5:00 p.m. Last year we earned \$10,000 at this event, and all the proceeds were used to offset our budget deficit.

The committee is now searching for items to be auctioned the night of the dinner. If you would like to donate an item or service, please e-mail Lauren Cody at haycody@sbcglobal.net. Any items will be greatly appreciated.

All-Church Potluck

Plan now to join your church family for our annual all-church picnic following worship on **Sunday, September 13**. We'll be kicking off the new Sunday School year and celebrating with a potluck lunch, in place of coffee fellowship. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins and the September **Vision**.



Family Camp at Saugatuck

It's time to sign up for the retreat in Saugatuck. If you'd like to join your church family August 21-23, at the Presbyterian Camp in Saugatuck, Michigan, now is the time to let us know. Pick up a registration form outside the office, or print the one you find [on our website](#). Fill it out, write your check, and drop them off in the church office to reserve your space. There are a total of 40 spaces that we can fill on a first-come, first-served basis. Nothing fosters fellowship like a weekend at camp. There's plenty to do, but not too much planned, so you can choose to either take advantage of camp-offered activities like kayaking, canoeing, and archery, or opt to sit on the beach with a good friend or a good book, or enjoy the shade of the trees by walking a path or sitting on a bench. There's plenty of time to connect with God's gifts of this beautiful world and each other's company. Get to know each other better during a game of beach volleyball, or over a cup of Steve Teune's favorite, hot chocolate! We hope you'll be there! Questions? Don't hesitate to contact [Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak](#) or [Steve Teune](#).

**Please check the
Website for the
most recent
calendar
updates!**

August 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please note: Summer Office hours are M-Tu-Th-Fri 9-12						
2 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Deacons British Home Service	3 9:30a Genesis Covenant Mtg 5:15p Volleyball	4 6:30a Men's Forum 3:30p LE:AH 7p Personnel Comm	5 Office Closed 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace	6 6:30a Women's Forum	7	1\8
9 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	10 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm 7:30p Trustees Mtg	11 6:30a Men's Forum 3:30p LE:AH	12 Office Closed	13 6:30a Women's Forum	14 Night Ministry	15
16 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship Vision Deadline	17 5:15p Volleyball	18 6:30a Men's Forum 10a Staff Mtg 3:30p LE:AH 7p Deacons Mtg	19 Office Closed 7:30p Session Mtg	20 6:30a Women's Forum	21 6p Craft Night Camp Saugatuck Family Retreat	22 Camp Saugatuck Family Retreat
23 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship Camp Saugatuck Family Retreat	24 5:15p Volleyball	25 6:30a Men's Forum 3:30p LE:AH	26 Office Closed	27 6:30a Women's Forum	28	29
30 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	31 5:15p Volleyball					

**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

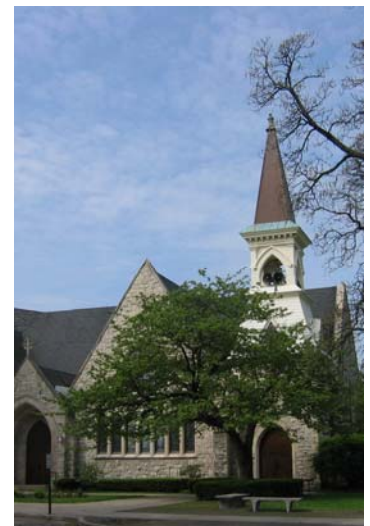
Place mailing label here

Riverside Presbyterian Church

Pastor:	Dr. Scott Jansen <i>scott.jansen@comcast.net</i>
Minister of Music:	Dr. Sally Sloane <i>musikhse@comcast.net</i>
Director of Christian Education:	Lynda Nadkarni <i>lmn@floros.org</i>
Administrative Assistants:	Linda Hutcheson Donna Jones
Summer Office Intern:	Lindsay Hayes <i>rpcoffice@sbcglobal.net</i>
Senior & Junior High Youth Advisor:	Tara Gregus <i>taragregus@yahoo.com</i>
Seminary Student Intern:	Melissa Gilbert
Building Supervisor:	Joel Hastings <i>rpcjoel2005@sbcglobal.net</i>
Preschool Director:	Nancy Dvorak
Custodian:	Krzysztof Gieron
Clerk of Session:	Mary Ann Sadilek <i>MASDS@aol.com</i>
Deacons Moderators:	Sylvia Schade, Susanne Vogel
Trustees President:	Nancy Jensen
Financial Secretary:	Cindy Reynolds Rayfield <i>Cindy@CindyRRayfield.com</i>
Treasurer:	Alfred Kitch <i>rpc_fred_kitch@sbcglobal.net</i>
Archivist:	Caroline Tecson
Wedding Coordinator:	Donna Ulrich
Artist in Residence:	Karena Mendoza
Director of Music Emerita:	Mary Ann Sadilek
Organist Emerita:	Arline Robbins



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



More information about the
ministry and mission of River-
side Presbyterian Church is avail-
able by contacting any member
of our church staff and by visit-
ing our website:

Vision Editor:
Nancy Hopkins
RPCVisionEditor@sbcglobal.net