



The Vision

January 2010



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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Brrrr. It's too cold out to work in my garden. The youth group was surprised the week before Thanksgiving to discover that I still had lettuce, broccoli, chard, and carrots growing. But in January, there is nothing—nothing but frozen death.

In ancient Greece, there was no season like Chicago's winter. There was always something growing, even though different crops only grew at certain times of the year. In Greek philosophy, time was considered cyclical—everything that happened today had happened before, many times. There was nothing new under the sun, and nothing new would ever come. The Sun god died and was reborn over and over. You can still catch a glimpse of Greek philosophy when you see the New Year's Eve cards with the old man dying and the little baby being born, somehow, mysteriously, from the old man.

In warmer climates, where there is no winter, the idea of reincarnation became popular. Nothing ever really dies, we just rotate the crops. People have eternal souls that just get replanted over and over. It's a theory to which they could relate from their agrarian lifestyles.

The religions that espouse reincarnation, or the "wheel of re-birth," have sometimes been criticized for lacking motivation for social justice by focusing too intensely on personal enlightenment. In other words, if you have an infinite number of lifetimes to do the job, there really is no urgency involved in trying to make the world a better place. You never reach a point where you say, "This may be my last opportunity to do good." Nor do you say, "I have to help my neighbor to overcome her oppression, because her one chance for life is being destroyed by that oppression."

Part of what drew me from agnosticism to become a convert to Christianity was the message that time is precious. We live one life. We have one chance to make good on the gifts we are given. We are all growing closer to death with each passing day. We can work in the garden while the light shines, but eventually it's time for harvest and the work stops. In my view this sense of time being linear instead of cyclical makes life more joyful and valuable, and less like a chore to be endured.

I think that a cold winter climate reinforces the more Christian view of time. We have to make the most of the good days, because they don't last forever. So, as you consider your New Year's Resolutions, think about the opportunities you have right now. Don't let the opportunities slip by, because they may never come around again. Resolve to make the most of your blessings. Fill your life with as much love, joy, exploration, growth, and goodness as you can, and spread those things around you as well as you are able . . . and may this New Year be blessed.

Your brother in Christ,
Scott

Worship/Church News

January Worship Schedule

January 3 John 1:1-18 "Incarnating the Logos"

What does John mean by saying that the "Word" has become flesh and dwelt among us? How does the incarnation serve as a way of making God's nature known to the world? We will also celebrate Communion.

January 10 Luke 3:15-23 "Why Baptism?"

What do we accomplish with a baptism? What are some of the misconceptions about baptism? Today is Baptism of Jesus Sunday.

January 17 John 2:1-12 "Jesus Doll Wisdom"

We will have a dialogue sermon between Pastor Scott and the "Jesus doll" today. What was the intention behind the miracles of Jesus, and what kinds of miracles should we expect among us? Also, we will ordain/install new church officers.

January 24 Pulpit Exchange. In recognition of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, there will be a pulpit exchange involving most of the pastors in the Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of churches. Check later bulletins to see which pastor will draw RPC out of the hat. We will also be distributing Bibles to the second and third graders who are present in worship today.

January 31 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 "The Greatest Gift"

But what does Paul's ode to love say, beyond just a wedding pep talk? What does it say about the nature of God? Today we will also have the annual congregational meeting after worship.

Financial Update



	2009 Total Budget	Year-to-date Balance November 30, 2009	Year-to-date % of Budget
Total Income	\$329,200	\$289,656	88%
Total Expenses	\$365,310	\$291,683	80%
Deficit (Shortfall)	\$ 36,110	\$ 2,027	

RPC recently received a letter from Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta, who were guest speakers at RPC in September. Their letter is on the church bulletin board, or can be viewed on our website at www.rpcusa.org/files/Bernie-Farsijana-Letter.pdf.

January Opportunities



If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Deb Jansky](#) or [Patti Perry-Halline](#)

For flower contributions, please contact the [RPC office](#)

Potential Acolytes & Liturgists, please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#)

Potential Ushers, please contact Steven Teune



	Liturgists	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
January 3	Lynda Nadkarni	OPEN	Junior High Class
January 10	Youth	OPEN	Glawe Family
January 17	Patti Perry Halline	OPEN	Rocconis, Krugs, Schoen
January 24	Tony Miezio	OPEN	OPEN
January 31	Matt Lisle	OPEN	OPEN

Session News

In December, the Session:

- ♦ reviewed, discussed, and approved the RPC budget for 2010, which shows an initial projected deficit of about \$18,000;
- ♦ approved a request from the Deacons to endorse RPC's participation in the West Suburban Covenant and authorize an annual special offering for three years to support that project, which promotes relations with Presbyterian Churches in Columbia;
- ♦ approved a request from the Presbyterian Women to designate Sunday, February 21, 2010, as Blankets+ Sunday;
- ♦ called a special congregational meeting for January 3, following worship, for the election of church officers to fill vacancies;
- ♦ called the annual congregational meeting for January 31, following worship;
- ♦ adopted recommendations from the Stewardship Committee, which include follow-up telephone calls to those who have not yet pledged, promotion of pledging throughout the year, assistance for the financial staff and continuing the every-member canvass for the 2011 pledge drive.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

Trustees News

Trustees have had another busy year, and wish to thank outgoing trustees Deb Jansky and Jim Sit for their contributions. Thanks to George Meyer and Nancy Jensen for signing on for another term. We look forward to welcoming two new trustees in January.

The parlor will have a fresh new look thanks to the Men's Forum, who made a donation to purchase new carpet. The parlor is used by many church and community groups for classes and meetings, so this gift will be enjoyed by many. Earlier in the year, the chairs were re-upholstered and repaired courtesy of Dorothy Jansky. Thank you to these generous folks for helping us keep our meeting spaces looking good!

Jim Sit has been working with the Deacons on a project to provide hearing assistance devices for use during services in the sanctuary. There are currently three devices in "test mode." If the test proves successful, more devices can be purchased and provided to others who can benefit from this hearing assistance.

The timed outdoor lighting system has not functioned properly in quite some time – ever since a surge during a lightening storm knocked it out. We have tried many repairs, but without success, and have determined that all the switches need to be replaced in order for the system to function properly. Hopefully this will soon put an end to the outdoor lights being on and off at all hours of the day!

Thank you to the Boy Scouts for repairing the garage roof, which had been leaking.

Our next workday is January 24, 2010, at 1:00 pm. We will be working indoors, cleaning and painting, and invite our church family to join us.

Sharing Our Gifts

CARERS Corner

RPC CARERS begin a new year in helping others less fortunate than ourselves. We wish to thank you for your caring and kindnesses during the past year, and especially for generous support of the Christmas Giving tree. In January we are asking for one-dish meals and hot beverages. These donations are so important with the winter upon us. Thank you in advance and may God bless you for your continued support.



Caring Christmas

Our Caring Christmas event was held on Sunday, December 6. It was a fun-filled afternoon held in the Social Hall, with approximately 16 RPC families represented, along with some additional friends who joined us for this annual event. A portion of our time was spent frosting and decorating cookies under the very capable direction of Amanda Gregus, Louise Gangware, and Alex Krug. Thanks to all who donated cookies and sprinkles: your generosity was appreciated!

For the craft portion of this event, Mary Jansen taught us how to tie a slip knot and how to use that knot when working to create festive wheat ornaments. Once our cookie/craft projects were completed, the Senior High group carefully filled 23 plates with an assortment of cookies. We added a Christmas card (signed by all who attended) along with the handmade crafts. These packages were then cheerfully delivered by volunteers/Deacons to some folks from RPC as well as to others in our neighboring communities. We ended the evening by sitting down together to a delicious meal of homemade chili, cornbread muffins, hot dogs, and chips, while listening to Christmas music that was piped in throughout the social hall (courtesy of Jim Marciniak). The Deacons would like to thank everyone for their support of this outreach ministry.



Cheerful Givers Program



A cheerful gift was given this month to the RPC Prayer Garden Planting Fund by Trish Wakely, in honor of Edie Wakely. Thank you!

The Cheerful Givers bulletin board (in the hallway next to the Library) contains cards describing church projects that need funding. When you see one that moves you to give, take a slip from the pocket on the board, fill in your name, the amount you'd like to give, and the occasion for it (if any). Put it in an envelope with your check and leave it in the church office (you may slide it through the slot in the office door if there's no one there). If you'd prefer to be anonymous, just indicate that on the slip, but please include your name so that the Finance Committee can keep track of your donations for tax purposes.

Blankets +

With Blankets+ you can blanket the world with love—but we do not collect blankets! For more than 60 years, congregations across the U.S. have responded to Jesus' call to be a neighbor to those in need, in partnership with [Church World Service](#). At home and around the world, our congregation is helping impoverished communities with the 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 who needs to support her family.

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

Colorful envelopes will be 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, marked Blankets+.



Looking to get out of the house while the weather is bleak? Want to share your performing talents with your church family and friends or enjoy watching others perform? Plan on attending this year's open mic night. We're working on the details, so watch the announcements for a date and time, and start thinking about the act you might want to share!



Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 15 for our monthly craft night. Bring a project to work on and drop in any time between 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. If you'd like, bring a snack to share, and invite your friends to join us, too.

WNL! New session starting on January 27

A new 8-week session of Wednesday Night Live! starts on January 27. Dinner hour is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by fun and fascinating Christian-themed activities for adults and kids of all ages, as well as choir practice. For adults, the study topic will be *Islam in Our World*—The first four classes of this series will serve as an introduction and orientation to Islam. What is their root story, what theological principles do they derive from that story, and what practices and ethical principles are derived from that theology? How do “extremists” fit, or not fit, within the world of Islam? Please register for WNL! through the church office at rpcoffice@sbcglobal.net.

Messiah

Members of RPC and the Riverside community enjoyed RPC's 25th performance of Handel's *Messiah* on December 13. An afternoon Christmas concert tradition with orchestra began at RPC in 1980 or 1981. Prior to that, excerpts from *Messiah* and other oratorios were presented during morning worship or on Christmas Eve. The afternoon concerts have not always featured *Messiah*; other works presented were the Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*, Vivaldi's *Magnificat*, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, and Ryba's *Christmas Mass*. *Messiah* was first performed in the afternoon in 1982.



Christmas Play

Our Children's Worship Service on December 20 drew quite a crowd to watch over 50 children participate in this meaningful and memorable service. There were 30 adorable children in our chorus of angels, in preschool through 5th grade. 12 kids shared their acting talents in *Starlight*, our Christmas play. Three children helped with props and lighting. There were 5 fabulous liturgists and 6 smiling ushers. Our bulletins featured beautiful artwork from 24 of our Sunday School students, and the Statement of Faith was created by them too! Thanks to all of the children who participated and to all of the Sunday School volunteers who helped make it so very special.



Visit www.rpcusa.org/photogallery.html to see more photos from the Christmas service.

Children

Passport to the Promised Land

We're starting 2010 learning about the "BIG 10!" That's right: the Ten Commandments. Kids will have the chance to understand how the Ten Commandments relate to their everyday lives through creative activities taught by **Jill Glawe** in Creation Station, **Carrie Staubus** in the Manse Kitchen, **Patti Friend** in Oasis Place, **Lorraine Meyer** in the Celestial Cinema, and a trio of girls from our Youth Group, **Alex Krug** and **Rachel and Nicole Rocconi** in Living Waters.

	K/1st	2nd/3rd	4th/5th	Jr. High
January 3	Living Waters	Manse Kitchen	Creation Station	Oasis Place
January 10	Celestial Cinema	Living Waters	Oasis Place	Creation Station
January 17	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema	Living Waters	Manse Kitchen
January 24	Manse Kitchen	Creation Station	Celestial Cinema	Living Waters
January 31	Creation Station	Oasis Place	Manse Kitchen	Celestial Cinema

Sunday School Teachers Needed

We're still looking for Sunday School teachers to teach a 4-week session in February, March, April or May. If you're interested in working with the wonderful kids of RPC, please contact Jenny Kolinski at kolinski426@comcast.net.

Computer Lab Update

Planning for the Sunday School Computer Lab honoring Lynda Nadkarni is underway. We're still looking for two additional computer towers and monetary donations to make this dream become a reality. We're more than halfway there! Please contact Jenny Kolinski regarding computer donations. Monetary contributions can be made through the church office. Please mark "computer lab" in the notation area of your check.



Thank you to all of our RPC children

Many thanks to all of the amazing kids who participated in the December 20 Children's Worship Service (over 50 in all). You so generously shared your talents with the congregation and helped all of us remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Attention 2nd and 3rd Graders

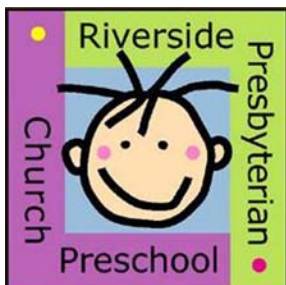
January 24 is a very special day just for YOU! It's Bible Presentation Sunday, a long-standing tradition at RPC. Please be sure to attend worship on this day to receive your very important gift.



Many blessings in the New Year!

Jenny Kolinski, Director of Christian Education

Preschool



Applications for 2010-2011 preschool year are now being accepted. Applications for RPC members are due on or before January 10. Open enrollment starts after January 10. Application forms are in the rack outside the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Dvorak at 447-1520, ext. 2

The preschool is looking forward to an excitement-filled January and New Year! This month will find us celebrating 50 days of Preschool (why not? Kindergarten gets to celebrate 100 days!) and Wicky Wacky Wednesday. Parents and staff will come together for conferences. 2010 is RPC Preschool's 40th Anniversary. Mark your new calendars for a joy-filled Sunday, March 7, with exciting details to follow!

Youth Group Happenings

We had a blast in December! We participated in Caring Christmas, learned about the history and meaning of Advent, and capped off the year with a great Senior High Progressive Dinner, hosted by the Halline, Gangware, and Cody families. The Junior High took the train downtown for some sightseeing, ice skating and fun! We hope you will be able to join us in January. Here's what's happening:

January 3 ▪ *Back to School Game Night* Come one, come all, for fun and games before you return to school from winter break. Bring a friend! (Junior High 6:00-7:15, Senior High 7:30-8:45)

January 10 ▪ *Regular Meeting*—discussion topic to be announced (Junior High 6:00-7:15, Senior High 7:30-8:45)

January 17 ▪ *January Service Day* (Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend) Service project to be announced.

January 23-25 ▪ *Junior High Retreat*—Bloomington, IL Details to be sent in early January.

January 25 ▪ *Mission Trip 2010 Meeting* for Senior High youth and parents, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday January 30 ▪ *Chicago Wolves Hockey Game* Game time: 7:00 p.m.

January 31 ▪ *No youth group*

Everyone is welcome at any event—as always, feel free to bring a friend, and if you have any questions, contact Tara Gregus at taragregus@yahoo.com.



Adults

Bible Study



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, January 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Social Hall. The study theme for 2009-2010 is *Joshua, A Journey of Faith*. Mary Mikhael, the author of the study, is a scholar and an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Beirut, Lebanon. She asks herself, "As Christians, what meaning can we find today in the book of Joshua? Can women today still read Joshua as a resource for their faith and their Christian commitment?"

Elizabeth Musick will lead the study for Lesson 4, "The Land of Promise, or the Promised Land?" Joshua 1:2-3, 10-15; 5:10-12. Key idea: The land into which Joshua led the Israelites was a gift from God—a land of promise.

Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura rotate the Bible Study leader position. If possible, it is helpful to read the lesson in advance. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Musick. All ladies are invited to attend.

Human Scene

Human Scene, the "Sunday School Class for Thoughtful Adults," is one of the gems of RPC. Every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., the Human Scene has topics that are wide-ranging and discussion that is illuminating. You get to have your religious sensibilities exercised and your spiritual life nourished, and along the way get to know some of the other folks you see in worship on Sundays. The nursery is open so that those with young children can attend as well.

January 3: *Being a Presbyterian Officer*—This class will help to initiate those who are serving as officers, and it will help all the rest of us to understand what is really expected of our officers. Bring your trickiest polity questions and we'll discover why we do things in such a "Presbyterian" way. Led by Pastor Scott Jansen.

January 10: *Faith development*—How does faith grow and change throughout a lifetime? Learn about the distinctive stages and tasks we all must engage, and what God's invitation might be for you at this point in your own journey. Led by Melinda Yachnin, LCPC.

Stay tuned for the full winter/spring Human Scene schedule! If you have special requests for class topics or speakers that you would like to see in the Human Scene, please contact Melinda Yachnin at myachnin@hotmail.com.

Thank You



The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all those who helped with the Wassail Bowl Reception following the *Messiah* concert on December 13, especially our hosts, Deb and Jon Jansky, who have made this tradition a much anticipated part of the holiday season at RPC, and who work so hard polishing the silver, making Wassail, and ensuring that all the details are in order. Thanks, too, to all of our many bakers who provided such special holiday

treats. Much appreciation to Virginia Yang, Alex Shuppara, and Max Marciniak who helped set up; Liz Musick who helped serve; Jim Marciniak, Brooke, Alyssa, and Amanda Schwarz, who helped clean up; and Stuart Marciniak who assisted with set-up, serving, and clean-up. It is volunteers like all of you who help to make RPC a welcoming and hospitable place for both our members and our community at large.

Thank you to Pastor Scott, Deacons, and the many others at RPC for your prayers, cards, calls, visits, and gifts of food and flowers during my recent health problems. I am feeling stronger daily and hope to resume more activities soon. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Jim Ulrich

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!

Calendar

January 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2
3 9a Sunday School 10a Worship/ Communion 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30 Deacons British Home Service	4 5:15p Volleyball	5 6:30a Men's Forum 10:15a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Committee Mtg	6 Office Closed 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	7 6:30a Women's Forum	8 Night Ministry	9
10 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a CARERS Committee	11 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm 7:30p Trustees Mtg	12 6:30a Men's Forum 10:15a Staff Mtg	13 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	14 6:30a Women's Forum	15 6p Craft Night	16
17 Vision Deadline 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Worship at the Scottish Home	18 Office Closed— Martin Luther King Day 5:15p Volleyball	19 6:30a Men's Forum 10:15a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg	20 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session Mtg	21 6:30a Women's Forum	22	23
24 9a Sunday School 10a Worship with Bible Presentation to 2nd/3rd grade students 11a Coffee Fellowship	25 5:15p Volleyball	26 6:30a Men's Forum 10:15a Staff Mtg	27 Office Closed 10a RPC Women Bible Study 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 5:30 WNL! 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	28 6:30a Women's Forum	29	30
31 9a Sunday School 10a Worship followed by annual Cong. Mtg. 11a Coffee Fellowship						

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

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More information about the
ministry and mission of River-
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able by contacting any member
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