

We are called to celebrate God's presence; Nurture the spiritual life of each individual; Carry the light of Jesus Christ to the world; and Serve God by serving others.

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The Vision

May 2011

Church Suggestion Box

Some organizations provide a box for people to offer anonymous suggestions, although, usually, such suggestions are never read. At RPC, we don't have a suggestion box, but that doesn't mean that we are not interested in your ideas. So, if you have an idea, how do you communicate it to the church?



First, you need to decide if your suggestion pertains to a program or ministry, or if it pertains to a particular person. If it is the former, you should find out who has oversight over that

program or ministry area. Committee chairs are listed on the following page. The Annual Report gives lots of details about which committee does what. You can also call the office, ask Scott, or <u>check the website</u> under *Who We Are* or *Contact Us*. Or, you can just send such a suggestion to the church office staff with a request that they forward it to the appropriate party.

The other type of suggestion is meant for a particular person. On that matter, our Lord Jesus spoke very eloquently in Matthew 18:15-22. There, he said that when we have some objection regarding a particular person, we must always seek to reconcile first with that particular person—one on one. If our efforts to clear the air do not result in reconciliation, then we should bring in two or three others to help. This is the method that we use at RPC.

If you have a concern with a particular person in the church, you should first seek to speak with that person one on one, to lay out your concern, and to try to find common ground. But, that may not always work. So, we have what we call the "Personnel Committee." They are supposed to provide the "two or three others" who can manage the disagreement.

Feel free to contact any member of the Personnel Committee to talk about any concern you may have. Each Committee member is assigned to oversee the work of two staff persons. So, if your concern pertains to a staff person, it would be wise to contact the Personnel Committee member who is specifically associated with that staff person. Or, if your concern pertains to a non-staff person, you can feel free to talk to any member of the Personnel Committee you find easiest to contact.

Our Lord did not expect the church to function with perfectly homogenized minds who would never disagree. Such disputes are not a sign of some tragedy, but rather a normal functioning of the Spirit that blows around somewhat chaotically. So, please don't feel that you should squelch your concerns or "hold your tongue" for fear of being seen as a troublemaker. Perhaps the Spirit is saying something through you that is vitally important for others to hear.

The Personnel Committee members and their staff assignees are as follows.

Serina Ranft: Scott Jansen & Mary Koon Joe Dvorak: Joel Hastings & Fred Kitch

Kathi Roccanova: Nancy Hopkins, Jenny Kolinski & Sally Sloane

Shannon Buhle: Linda Hutcheson & Donna Jones

Stan Schade: Tara Gregus & Cindy Reynolds Rayfield

Your brother in Christ, Scott

May Worship Schedule

May 1 Jazz Sunday/Girls' Group Sunday • The Girls' Group will lead the service and will preach the sermon, "Just Breathe," using *John 20:19-30* as the text. Andy Tecson's jazz band will provide the music that morning. We will also serve Communion by intinction.

May 8 Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and 1 Peter 1:17-23 "A Mothering God" God acts towards us in many ways as a mother acts towards her children. God forgives, calls us to fulfill our potential, cares about children, brings about a "new birth," and calls us to love one another.

May 15 John 10:1-10 Youth Sunday • The youth group will lead our worship today with a very unique style. This is also Womack Scholarship Sunday. There will also be a special recognition for High School Seniors after worship.

May 22 John 14:1-14 "It All Starts with Grace" How do we become reconciled with God? Did Jesus' disciples understand all of the points in the Apostles' Creed? Were they reconciled because of extraordinary deeds? Today we will celebrate at least one baptism, and discuss the full meaning of baptism.

May 29 *John 14:15-26* "How to Obey God" When Jesus was walking among the disciples, they just had to listen to him. But what did he give them to replace that authority? What is our final authority in figuring out how one should obey God?

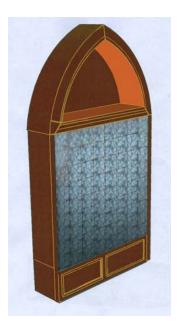
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Session News

In April the Session:

- accepted the recommendation of the Columbarium Task Force to proceed with the establishment of a Columbarium at RPC, which will be located inside the north sanctuary entrance
- approved the baptism of Zachary Schiller to be held on May 22
- asked the Stewardship Committee to consider a capital fund drive or other options to finance a handicap-accessible bathroom, Rose Window restoration, and major organ repairs.
- noted that although expenses are within budget, RPC revenue is down significantly for the first quarter of 2011
- learned that Mary Koon will be moving to Minnesota this summer and the position of Girls' Group Advisor will need to be filled.
- noted that volunteers are being sought for Vacation Bible School, which will be held at RPC this year



Columbarium

Mary Ann Sadilek Clerk of Session



May Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact <u>Carrie Staubus</u>
For flower contributions, please contact the <u>RPC Office</u>
Potential Acolytes, Liturgists & Ushers, please contact <u>Elizabeth Musick</u>



	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
May 1	Erika Sterner	Mia Haugland	Mia Haugland, Kelly Haugland, Emily Michl, Hannah Pecis	Paula McCracken	Chloe Floros & Lynda Nadkarni
May 8	Youth	Youth	Lancaster Family	OPEN	OPEN
May 15	Michael Aieta	Dima Aieta	Schwarz Family	OPEN	Graduating Senior Brunch
May 22	Matt Lisle	OPEN	Scuff Gross, Dennis Sadilek, Lynn Shannon Labotka, Terence Akebe	Betsy Gardner	Christian Education
May 29	Ellen Hamilton	OPEN	Hastings Family	Halline Family	Halline Family

If any usher has a conflict on the date assigned, please find a substitute from the Usher list, or trade with another usher for a different date.

Deacons' Doings

As part of our *RPC Connections* project the Deacons have been busy writing notes and sending out cards to RPC college students. It's a GREAT way to stay connected with our youth!

Deacons had the JOY of delivering Easter lilies to folks in our church family. It's very rewarding to see faces light up as both the recipient and deliverer enjoy a friendly home visit—lots of smiles.

The Board of Deacons will be in charge of displaying an exhibit titled "Remember Me Colombian Art" during the week of May 12-18. Watch your Sunday bulletins for more details!

Deacons are committed to be an encouragement and help to those in need. Don't hesitate to contact any Deacon whose names are printed on the back of the bulletin each week. Thanks and God Bless you as we serve the Lord together.

Engraved Brick Pavers For Sale

Make your mark in RPC history with the purchase of an engraved brick paver. Pavers can be purchased as gifts or memorials to honor friends and family and are available in two sizes. The personalized pavers will be installed in early June in an area adjacent to the front door of the Manse. This area will be enjoyed during the Strawberry Social and other outdoor church activities. All funds raised will go toward restoration of the Rose Window.

Order forms are <u>available online</u> and in the church office. Questions? Contact Nancy Jensen at <u>nwjensen1@comcast.net</u>.

A special note to those of you who purchased pavers during our initial offering in 2009. Thank you for your patience as we developed an alternate location. Bricks will be engraved and installed as ordered.



Trustees for May are Jim McLean and David Schade.



Scouts

In April, the Boy Scouts of Troop 24 participated in a Des Plaines Valley Council camp-out, which turned into a rain-out. With snow falling on Saturday, April 16, the scouts spent the day in Rochelle at the Council's Adventure Camp, but returned to Riverside that night. The following day—a much more pleasant one—many scouts and leaders worked at the British Home on Karl Jantze's Eagle Project, cleaning and renovating planting beds in the first stage of his project. Scouts also participated in an archery event at an archery range in Forest Park.

Cub scouts and families participated in a Scout Appreciation Day at Medieval Times in Schaumburg for an afternoon of feasting and spectacle. At the April Pack meeting, Riverside Arts Center instructor Tariq Tamir (a.k.a. Mr. T) demonstrated sculpture techniques, creating dragons using just wire, tape, plastic bags and other household items. A visitor from the Chicago Rush football team also gave a presentation and invited scouts to come to their Scout Appreciation Game in Rosemont on May 22. The Bears and Webelos each went on overnight campouts during the month.



CARERS Corner

In May, the CARERS will be collecting boxed cereals for the First Presbyterian Church in Chicago. The Sunday School students and scouts will again join in this collection, which provides breakfast to needy kids who normally receive breakfast at school during the school year.



Blanket the World with Love: Thank You!

Many thanks for supporting the **Blankets** + program. Contributions to **Blankets** + means that Church World Service is there for the long haul as families recover from a disaster or struggle against grinding poverty. To date, \$465 has been received.

Cheerful Givers

Our mission is to inspire and encourage our congregation to be cheerful givers as we address the specific financial needs of our church. The next time you would like to celebrate a loved one's birthday, anniversary, or special day, please remember the Cheerful Givers Board – where by giving either an honorary or memorial gift donation to RPC, you celebrate the special people in your life.

The following gifts were given through the Cheerful Givers Program:

Sanctuary Christ Candle and Candelabra Candles & Future Landscaping Items Tom Kedzie and Gabriela Stangl – in honor of their daughter Emily's confirmation and thanks to John Cain and Joe Ourth for their continued dedication to the confirmation process, and also in loving memory of Gabriela's sister, Marketa, a neighbor of RPC.



Prayer Garden Iron Gates

Linda Waycie, daughter of Henrietta Cady – in loving memory of Henrietta Cady, long-time and faithful member of Riverside Presbyterian Church.



Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at the end of March (16.7% of the way through the year):

Receipts \$ 78,983 (21.7% of budget)
Disbursements \$ 101,475 (27.9% of budget)

Deficit \$ 22,492

Mark 10: 24-25...how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Passport to the Promised Land

This month in Sunday school: Jacob and Esau. Experience the scope of Jacob and Esau's story while playing both competitive and cooperative games outside with Matt Lisle. Hear their story of reconciliation and make baskets to understand how the lives of the twins are woven together with Lorraine Meyer. Hear the story as told by their mother Rebekah (Noemi Sanchez) and make friendship bracelets together. And through the story of Jacob's deception of his father, you will explore the consequences of lying vs. telling the truth with Molly Chaney.

	K/1	2/3	4/5	Jr. High
May 1	Outside Manse	Celestial Cinema	Creation Station	Oasis Place
May 8	Creation Station	Outside Manse	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema
May 15	Celestial Cinema	Oasis Place	Outside Manse	Creation Station
May 22	Cele	bration Sunday: All clas	ses meet in the Social Hall	

May's memory verse . . .

You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed. *Genesis* 32:28

CARERS Committee & Kids Unite

Kids will get an extra sticker on their name tags for each box of cereal they donate! This month the CARERS Committee, in conjunction with the Sunday school, will be collecting cereal of all kinds. Families come to First Presbyterian Church of Chicago for breakfast in the summer because they are not receiving breakfast at their schools as they do during the school year. Help these kids have enough to eat in the summer months!

A Great Way to Say "Thank You"

As we wrap up another great year of Sunday school it only seems appropriate to thank our wonderful Sunday School teachers and shepherds. As a way of saying thanks, the children of Sunday school will be hosting Coffee Fellowship on May 22, the last day of Sunday School. If your child has participated in Sunday school this year, please bring something for Coffee Fellowship.

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 26 through Thursday, June 30, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Travel back in time to a Middle-Eastern marketplace, eating and working as the Jewish people did in Biblical times. That's what you'll do when the Covenant of Churches VBS kicks off at our very own Riverside Presbyterian Church. **The time to register your kids is NOW!** Children four years of age through those entering 5th grade are invited to attend, with the evening being facilitated by youth and adult volunteers from participating churches. Many volunteers are needed! To volunteer, please fill out the registration/volunteer form found on the easel on your way to the Social Hall or on the RPC website. It's a wonderful and rewarding experience for all involved.

If you would like to donate any of the following items, please put them in the bin at the entrance to the Social Hall: potpourri, incense, empty oatmeal containers, clean empty milk chug containers, jingle bells, 1-gallon zip-lock bags, tarps and tents (could be dropped off at the Christian Ed. Office) to borrow.



May will find us very, very busy with our Mother's Day celebrations and year-end programs—fun times for all. We can't believe the Preschool year is coming to a close. It seems like yesterday we were welcoming our students. Thanks to the staff, preschoolers, families and church family for supporting and contributing to such a wonderful year! Have a great summer—see you in the fall.

We still have a few openings for the 2011-2012 school year. Please call Lisa at 447-1520 ext. 2. to register, or for more information.

Youth Group News

In April, we played Whirlyball and discussed Food Ethics. We have lots of fun things coming up in May—don't miss it!

May 1 • *Earth Day Observance* • The combined Youth Groups will meet at RPC in the Celestial Cinema from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. to view and discuss a few short YouTube clips that promote environmental awareness and action.

May 7 • One-By-Youth Service Day • Come join us for a great day of service. See Tara for details.

May 8 • *Mother's Day* • Kiss your mother! No Youth Group today.

May 15 • Youth Sunday and Womack Scholarship Sunday—all hands on deck! We need your participation. Check your e-mail to see how you can be a part of this annual tradition as we honor our seniors on this day.

May 22 • Regular Meeting at Ascension • Games and discussion topic to be announced

May 29 • Memorial Day Weekend • No Youth Group today

Car Wash Fundraiser

On Saturday, May 28, the Youth Group will hold its last fundraiser for the 2011 mission trip. We will be washing cars from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the St. Mary parking lot. Cars will cost \$5; and SUV's, trucks, and vans will cost \$10. Tickets will be sold in advance after church in May. Pray for sunshine on May 28! Thanks to the congregation for all of your support of our fundraising efforts.

Girls' Group

Our final meeting of the school year will be a Father/Daughter get-together on Friday evening, May 6, in the Social Hall. We will gather at 7:00 to hear from John Sikich, whose generously started our group to honor his daughter, Cori. John will share his story with dads and girls. Afterward, we will have a dessert bar and team games. Our evening will end around 8:30 p.m. We invite all girls, 6th-9th grade, to bring their dads and join in the fun. Please contact Mary Koon with questions: maryinwi@hotmail.com.

Please watch the church bulletin for information on the dedication of our banners to the church and a future fundraiser to send a girl in a developing country to school!





Girls' Group learns about veterinary medicine from Liz Rosiello, a Vet Tech, and cousin of Adeline and Hannah Pecis.



2010-2011 Bible Study

The <u>topic</u> for the 2010-2011 Horizons Bible Study is "Journeys Through Revelation, Apocalyptic Hope for Today" by Barbara R. Rossing. Many people's impressions are that the book of Revelation is violent and fearsome: four horsemen unleash destruction and calamity upon the earth; mysterious numbers like "666" spell destruction; mutant locusts and multi-headed beasts terrify; a scarlet whore of Babylon seduces nations with her cup of fornications; an end-times battle of Armageddon leaves millions slaughtered.

Plan to join the ladies on Wednesday, May 25, at 10:00 a.m., in the RPC Social Hall, as they study this interesting book. Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura rotate the leader position. Joyce will lead the study for Lesson 8, "The Empire Has Fallen! Evacuate Now!" Key idea: The empires of those who oppress the world will continue to the end—in Jesus, the new reign of God has already begun.

And all shipmasters and seafarers, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning. "What city was like the great city?" Revelation 18:17b-18.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Musick.

Human Scene

May 1 • The Fate of the Presbyterian Camps at Saugatuck A board member of <u>Lakeshore Christian Camping</u> (LCC) will lead discussion about their efforts to purchase the Presbyterian Camps at Saugatuck. For background, go to <u>www.prescamps4ever.org</u>. There also will be a time to ask questions during coffee hour.

May 8 • Parenting 101: 10 Basic Principles You Need to Know Every news report has something in it about what we're supposed to be doing as parents; it's hard to sort it all out, without becoming overwhelmed by guilt or stress. This class will cut through all that by presenting the consistent themes of child development research over the past 40 years. Led by Melinda Yachnin.

May 15 • Jesus and the Creation John Haugland will lead a fourth session on the theme of Creation. In the first three sessions, we looked at science, evolution, and the incarnate nature of the Holy Spirit. Building on these themes, this fourth session will look at views of Jesus and his message as they might relate to our understanding of his place and ours in the Creation.

May 22 • Sacraments 101 Pastor Scott will lead a detailed analysis of the sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper). How do Presbyterians compare to what other denominations think and do for the sacraments? What Biblical references are used to justify the various positions?

May 29 • No class today

Dear RPC.

Carrie and I would like to thank you for the wonderful flowers you sent to celebrate Zack's birth. We are blessed and looking forward to introducing Zack to his new church family. Thanks again. Fondly,

Chris, Carrie & Zack Schiller

May Fellowship Events

On May 15, at Coffee Fellowship Hour, we will have a brunch to recognize our graduating high school seniors. We know our students will be very busy on graduation weekend a few weeks later, so we want to celebrate their accomplishments a little early. *Graduating students:* please be sure to stay for fellowship hour on May 15 and plan on sharing your future plans with your church family. Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend. The brunch will be hosted by the Fellowship and Christian Education Committees. *Parents of other high school students:* please bring some food to share if you are able.

Also on May 15, please come on our Nature Hike to enjoy the beauty of spring in the woods. John Haugland will lead our group on a path through the <u>Spears Woods</u> in the Palos Forest Preserve. Afterwards, we will replenish burnt-off calories at the <u>Plush Horse Ice Cream Shop</u>. Meet in front of the church following coffee fellowship for directions (or talk to John ahead of time to receive a map). Bring along your hiking boots, as the trail is unpaved. In the event of rain, we will choose an alternate date at that time.



Future Fellowship Events: Save the Dates

Strawberry Social – Wednesday, July 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Youth and Adult Softball Game – Sunday, July 17, 3:00-5:00 p.m at the Big Ball Park on Longcommon Road Camp Saugatuck Family Retreat – August 19-21 We mean "church family" so please join us whether you are a single, couple, or family group. We are looking forward to fun and fellowship, including campfires, great meals, hiking, swimming, archery, canoeing, and sunsets on the beach. The cost will be \$129 per adult; \$107 for youth (12-17); \$62 per child (3-11); and \$14 for infants (0-2). This cost includes lodging, four meals, and all the activities. Check out our online photo albums of the last three Camp Saugatuck retreats at www.rpcusa.org/photogallery.html. Then save the dates on your calendar and look for sign-up information at the beginning of the summer.



May RPC Birthdays

Trey Vogel 5/11
Doris Hayes 5/12
Alison Heine 5/12
Paige Deason 5/13
Connie Kelly 5/13
Charlotte Morrison 5/13
Gabrielle Nolan 5/13
Marie Cerny 5/16
Lorel Meyer 5/17
Lisa Roccanova 5/17
Victor Wright 5/17
Benjamin Jendras 5/18
Aimee Sahlas 5/18
Bernard Slanec 5/18
Michael Gruber 5/21

Lindsay Hayes 5/21 Amanda Gruber 5/23 Melissa Krefft 5/24 Michael Krefft 5/24 Connor Waddle 5/24 Nancy Lancaster 5/25 Riley Henderson 5/26 Paula McCracken 5/28 Thomas Barr 5/29 Ellie Carlson 5/29 Colleen Muller 5/29 Jim Sit 5/29 Bryan Zander 5/29 Dorothy Thorsen 5/31



Are You Reaping the Benefits of Membership?

I'm reading a good book that I checked out of my public library. I probably end up at the library once a week. I check out books, tapes, DVDs; purchase books from the Friends of the Library; visit the art displays; enjoy a cup of coffee with friends; go to seminars, programs and concerts—and more. All that and it's free! Made me think about my membership to RPC and all the similarities. At RPC I can read a good book, purchase things to help the budget, enjoy a cup of coffee, and participate in classes, worship and fellowship activities. It too is free!

Sometimes people say "you value what you pay for." And one could argue that I pay for the library through my taxes. But really, we don't think about that cost. One could also argue that I pay for church through my pledge; however, I feel that my membership is separate from my financial support. I don't pledge more on years when I participate more. I digress....

What I really want to highlight here is all the benefits of membership. Some are obvious—like weekly worship. Are you aware of the many not-so-obvious opportunities to benefit from your RPC membership? Do you know that for adults alone there are five different educational offerings each week? There's Human Scene at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays, Men's Forum Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m., Women's Forum on Thursdays at 6:30 a.m., Presbyterian Women's Bible Study every fourth Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and the Companions in Christ Book Study every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. For children we have Sunday School, Child Care, Godly Play, Youth Groups, Girls' Group, and Ringers and Singers. And there are endless fellowship activities!

Are you getting the most of your membership? Take the Membership Committee Challenge for the month of May and participate in one more aspect of RPC than you already do. If you're a rare attendee, come to worship one more Sunday this month. If you already are around regularly, try out a new class or fellowship experience. You get what you pay for... even if it is free! Lvnda Nadkarni



Bob and Katrina Daniels with their children, Audrey and Jonathan



Ja'Net Deason with her children, Paige and Wesley



Bryan and Susan Zander with their children, Devin and Jaden



Laura Vanags



WELCOME **New Members**

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!



May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Deacons' British Home Service 7p Youth Group	2 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Committee	3 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30 Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Committee	4 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace 4:15p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Handbell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	5 6:30a Women's Forum	6 7p Girls' Group Dad/ Daughter Night	7 Chicago Presbytery Conference 1 By Youth Service Day
8 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship NO Youth Group	9 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Committee 7:30p Trustees Mtg	10 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30 Staff Mtg	Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 4:15p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Handbell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	6:30a Women's Forum	13 Night Ministry	14
15 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship- High School Sr. Brunch 12p Nature Hike 2p Scottish Home Service 6p Jr. High Youth Group 7:30p Sr. High Youth Group	16 5:15p Volleyball	17 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30 Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg	18 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 6:30p Handbell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session Mtg	19 6:30a Women's Forum	20 10a CARERS Comm. Mtg.	21
9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1p Family Work Day 6p Jr. High Youth Group 7:30p Sr. High Youth Group	23 5:15p Volleyball	24 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30 Staff Mtg	25 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 6:30p Handbell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	26 6:30a Women's Forum	27	28 9a Youth Group Car Wash
29 9a Sunday School (Adults only) 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	30 5:15p Volleyball	31 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30 Staff Mtg				

Proverbs 27:12 A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks, and suffers the consequences.

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

RIVERSIDE **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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More information about the ministry and mission of Riverside Presbyterian Church is available by contacting any member of our church staff and by visiting our website: www.rpcusa.org

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