



# The Vision

November 2011

## My Stewardship Story

Everyone's story is unique. Thanksgiving is a time for sharing our reasons for being thankful. We usually keep our stewardship stories private, but that's probably not healthy. From Moses' day until just a few centuries ago, believers gave the "first fruits" of their harvest and their flocks and herds. Very little was given "privately." So, maybe it's best to share some of these stories publicly.



At the age of twenty-two, I felt God luring me toward a more meaningful life, and I was thankful, so I became a Christian. The church told me that a ten percent pledge was expected, so I went along with what I was told. Shortly after that, I felt the call to go into full-time ministry. So, I quit my job as a programmer and entered seminary. Ten percent of zero was not hard to manage, so I continued to "tithe" during seminary.

After seminary, I had lots of student loans and debts, and I found that my new profession paid about one third of my former salary. So, when I prayed about stewardship, I said to God, "you know, I've already given up two thirds of my former salary for you—how much more do you want?" In my first few years of ministry, I really gave very little to the church—probably only about two percent.

Since then, my salary has been growing steadily, and the memory of my computer programming days has dimmed to oblivion, and my prayers about stewardship have shifted. With my seminary loans now paid off, and with my salary level somewhere near what a high school teacher earns, I'm in a new chapter of my stewardship journey.

I recently attended a national webinar regarding stewardship, where the experts said that a pastor *should* be earning roughly what a local high school teacher earns—adjusted for years of experience and graduate degrees. This made me feel like what I have "given up" for God has diminished over time, and I really should be getting back to tithing. I have been moving slowly in that direction over the past twenty-five years, but this year, I am making a commitment to donate ten percent of my salary to God's ministries.

The Bible says that where your treasure is, there your heart shall be also. I hope that someday when I speak with my Creator about my stewardship decisions over the years, God will understand my reasoning and find my heart to be acceptable. I do know that the best way to improve your relationship with God, to feel a more near presence of God in your life, is to increase what you sacrifice for God's sake. That can take the form of time, talents, or treasure. And I also feel that God has already richly rewarded me for my sacrifices.

So, if you have a thanksgiving story to tell about your stewardship journey, I hope you'll let me know and we can print it in a future Vision. When we share our stories, we learn from one another and encourage one another.

Your brother in Christ,

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.

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# Worship

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## November Worship Schedule

**November 6** *Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25* “Considering the Cost” Why does Joshua tell the people not to be too hasty in declaring their faith in God? Why were the people carrying artifacts of worship of foreign gods? What kinds of idols are temptations for us today? Why do we sometimes feel that it is inappropriate for certain folks to partake of Communion? We will celebrate Holy Communion today.

**November 13** *Matthew 25:14-30* “Kick ‘em When They’re Down?” Does Jesus pick on the one who is given the fewest talents? Or does the parable seek to honor the talents of those who are the “least” in society? What do we do when we consider our talents unworthy? Who does God consider unworthy? Today is Consecration Sunday.

**November 20** Guest Preacher Elizabeth Hulford, chaplain of Hinsdale Hospital, will lead worship during Scott’s Continuing Education leave.

**November 27** A Guest Preacher, to be determined, will be leading worship during Scott’s Continuing Education leave.

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## Messiah

On Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 p.m. the Riverside Festival Chorus & Orchestra will perform Handel’s Messiah at Riverside Presbyterian Church.  
Soloists: Theresa Ludden-Wold, soprano; Erika Morrison, mezzo; Wayne Parham, tenor; and Pete Pohlhammer, bass, with conductor Sally Sloane.  
Contact [musikhse@comcast.net](mailto:musikhse@comcast.net) for more information.



## November Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Carrie Staubus](#)  
For flower contributions, please contact the [RPC Office](#)  
Potential Acolytes, Liturgists & Ushers, please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#)



	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
November 6	George Dluhy	Josh Ranft	Aieta Family	Ourth Family	OPEN
November 13	Youth	Youth	Claire & Louise Gangware Serina & Hannah Ranft	Sadilek Family	OPEN
November 20	Elizabeth Musick	Hannah Buhle	Meyer Family Edith Wakely & Marjorie Lewe	OPEN	Thanksgiving Potluck
November 27	Keith Pearson	Pearson Family	Miezio Family	OPEN	Long & Hooglander Families

*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.*

## Session News

In October, the Session:

- ◆ authorized investigating the possibility of establishing a paper recycling center at RPC as an ongoing income-producing project;
- ◆ transferred Brian and Lisa Freel to inactive status, at their request;
- ◆ removed Judy Nowak from the rolls, at her request;
- ◆ learned that the arrangement with Pro Se Services for food distribution at RPC is in dramatic need of restructuring; the Deacons are considering ways to continue this outreach;
- ◆ continued to discuss if applause is the appropriate response by the congregation to musical presentations by youth during worship and referred the matter to the Worship & Music committee;
- ◆ reviewed plans for the fall Stewardship Campaign and Capital Fund Drive, "RPC Matters". Members who do not return their pledge cards by November 13 will be contacted personally;
- ◆ learned that the YTD deficit is \$43,000, with receipts continuing to be less than budgeted, and disbursements as budgeted.

Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of Session

## Church Officers Needed



The Nominating Committee is recruiting nominees for church officer positions for three-year terms beginning in January, 2012, and a new Nominating Committee to serve a one-year term. If you are interested in serving as a church officer, or if you would like to nominate fellow members, please [complete the nominating form](#) and return it to a Nominating Committee member, to the church office, or place it in the offering plate on Sundays. It is the goal of the Nominating Committee to include as many people as possible in the process, and to recruit officers from all constituencies within our congregation. Your input is appreciated, and we encourage you to consider nominating yourself as well as a fellow church member.

## November Birthdays



Carol O'Meara 11/1  
 Kathy Buckland 11/2  
 Ava Booton 11/3  
 Michael Heine 11/3  
 Ben Mitchell 11/3  
 Joseph Tess 11/3  
 Mack Fieseler 11/4  
 Jacob Gregus 11/4  
 Gail Seeger 11/5  
 Brian Jansen 11/6

Bill Muller 11/6  
 Gregory Reichle 11/6  
 Steve Anderson 11/8  
 Nick Nadkarni 11/8  
 Abraham Ourth 11/8  
 George Dluhy 11/9  
 Molly Chaney 11/11  
 Genevieve Van Nice 11/11  
 Louise Gangware 11/12  
 Hannah Buhle 11/18

Lou Heine 11/18  
 Jackson Hilpp 11/19  
 Christine Armstrong 11/21  
 Michael Chaney 11/24  
 Joshua Jansky 11/25  
 Karl Jantze 11/25  
 Dorothy Jansky 11/26  
 Lucia Mancini 11/26  
 Annie Mitchell 11/26  
 Finn Lubeck 11/27

Trustees for November are Lou Heine & Diane Chaney.

## Sharing Our Gifts

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### CARERS Corner

In November, the CARERS Committee will be asking for hot soups and hot cereals to help support the Pro Se Services' food pantry. This group also receives bread from Panera Bread and other foods from Chicago Food Depository. Thank you for your ongoing support.



### RPC Matters - Pledge Drive 2012

Our pledge drive this year is a little different than it has been in the past. We are combining our annual stewardship drive to obtain funding for regular operating expenses with a capital fund drive and a request for members to pay their per capita fee. The pledge card has space for the three different gifts. The first is the annual donation for church operations and can be made weekly/monthly/annually. The second commitment for the capital improvements to the church will be spread out over a three-year period. And finally, the third contribution for per capita is meant to cover the costs that RPC has to pay to the Presbytery for each confirmed member. The pledge packets contain materials which outline these programs in greater detail. We thank you in advance for your prayerful gifts.

*Stewardship Committee*

### CROP Walk

On October 16, eight walkers from RPC joined fourteen others to raise \$2,768 through the annual CROP Walk. The goal of the CROP Walk is to help alleviate hunger and poverty here in our community and around the world. Pictured at right is RPC's team, including members of the RPC-Ascension Youth Group.

The annual CROP Walk is sponsored by [Church World Service](#), a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations.



### Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at end of September (75% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$ 207,549	(57.1% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 250,693	(69.0% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 43,144	



## RPC Homecoming

On October 16, RPC celebrated all members of the church family--from the very newest through those with over 45 years of membership. The following are the members with the longest years of membership.

Marie Chobot	80	Mary Ann Sadilek	58	Marilyn Slanec	49
Marian Daley	74	Florence Watt	58	Karl Vacek	49
Marjory Thompson	74	Glenna Linder	56	Mary Kemp Clarke	48
Schofield Gross	71	Eugene Pouliot	56	Mary Lou Schwarz	48
Ethel Brakas	69	Mildred Bayha	53	Mariel Bradley	47
Jeanne Heidler	68	Albertia McCabe	53	Stephen Marcus	47
Harriet Kweton	67	Caroline Tecson	52	Audrey Withers	47
Joe Yaley	67	Joe Tecson	52	Lucille Christensen	46
Noel Kemp	66	Rosemarie Slaby	52	Lou Heine	46
Shirley Falconer	65	Gwen Kreml Smith	52	Martha Heine	46
Doris Miller	64	Marianne Peterson	52	Marge Martin	45
Dick Miller	64	Sue Gross	52	Sanlee Radigan	45
Millie Slapansky	62	Mary Emily Smith	51	Lynn Shannon Lobatka	45
Debbie Miller	61	Allan Ashby	51	Carol Sprunger	45
Ruby Henderson	59	Phillip Kweton	51	Robert Sprunger	45
		Joseph Dvorak III	51	Gerry Hejna	45

## There Are No Perfect People

There's a funny story about a man who was rescued on a deserted island by the Coast Guard. The Captain saw three huts on the island and so he asked the man, "What's that hut on the north side of the island?" The man answered, "That's my house. That's where I live." "Okay, what's the hut on the east side of the island?" The man replied, "That's my church. It's where I worship God." "Okay," the captain replied, "I get that. But, what about that third hut?" "Oh," said the man, "That's where I used to go to church!"

It's funny because most of us have been there.

When I was right out of seminary, looking for a call to a church, one of my friends challenged me. He said, "Joe, if you find the perfect church, don't go. Because as sure as you show up to a perfect church, you'll ruin it!" His point was there are no perfect churches because there are no perfect people.

Today, if you have a church family, give thanks and pray for it. Pray for the pastors and leaders. Pray for the congregation and ask God to bless the ministry there. If you don't have a family of faith, ask for God's leading. Remember that spiritually we don't get very far alone.

And finally, if you have been hurt by someone in the church, I pray for God's healing and peace. I pray that you would not confuse the church with God, and end up walking away from both. Instead, may you keep your heart open, because God is always doing something new – even in us.

Our prayer was written in the early 1600's by Rev. William Laud – then the Archbishop of Canterbury:

**Let us pray:** Gracious God, we pray for your holy. . . church. Fill it with all truth in all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

This piece is from Dial Hope, a phone-in and internet daily message started by former RPC pastor Roger Kunkel. As membership chairperson, it spoke to me. I hope all members reflect on this passage and re-commit to our spiritual home. – Lynda Nadkarni

Connect to Dial Hope here: <http://www.dialhope.org/index.php>

# Children

## Daniel and His Many Tests of Faith

Daniel and his friends faced serious challenges to their faith. As they met each challenge, they prayed and called upon God to be with them. Through Daniel’s story we learn that faith is not always easy, but it is the first and last thing we call on to get us through, in good times and in bad.

During this rotation kids will explore Daniel’s dilemma regarding idols as they create an image of God using an aboriginal art form. They’ll make apple turnovers together as they discuss how Daniel ‘turned’ his tests of faith over to God. They’ll play games in the gym to better understand how God was active in Daniel’s life. And they’ll work with an interactive timeline in the computer lab to better understand the events in Daniel’s life.



	<b>K/1st</b>	<b>2nd/3rd</b>	<b>4th/5th</b>	<b>Jr. High</b>
10-30	Celestial Cinema	Creation Station	Gym	Manse Kitchen
11-6	Creation Station	Living Waters	Manse Kitchen	Gym
11-13	Gym	Manse Kitchen	Living Waters	Creation Station
11-20	Manse Kitchen	Gym	Creation Station	Living Waters
11-27	-- Celebration Sunday! All ages meet in the Social Hall --			

## November’s Memory Verse

In the same way that he had always done, he knelt down in prayer three times a day giving thanks to God.  
*Daniel 6:25-28*

## Kids and Stewardship

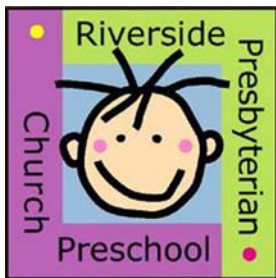


This time of year there’s a lot of talk about Stewardship, but where do kids fit into this conversation? Kids are naturally giving creatures, and this gives them the opportunity to share with those less fortunate than themselves. 100% of Sunday school offerings go to Heifer Project International to purchase animals for poor families in developing countries. Because we have been so blessed by God, we are asked to share our blessings with others. *We ask that any offering made by a child be their very own money. Even a few pennies can have a positive impact on a child who gives from the heart. It’s not the quantity that matters, but the spirit in which it is given.*

## Calling All Kids: Christmas is Coming!

Mark your calendars—**December 18** will be our Children’s Christmas Pageant. Many roles are available: narrators, actors, singers, musicians...something for everyone. Minimal rehearsals and no memorization needed, but there will be a mandatory dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 17. Watch your mail for more information coming soon.





The month of November will find us 'owl'fully busy at the Preschool. We will be taking a class and visiting our adopted friend Albert, a Great Horned Owl, at the Brookfield Zoo; learning new songs for our Thanksgiving Sing; making ornaments to decorate a tree at Riverside's annual *Trim a Tree*; and shopping during Riverside Foods Benefit Days, with proceeds benefiting our TAP (Tuition Assistance Program). It's going to be a 'hoot' of a month!



On behalf of the staff and the children we would like to thank Donna Jones, Office Administrative Assistant, for initiating and securing the crosswalk that is in the process of being placed at the stop sign on Barrypoint Road. We believe not only the Preschool family will benefit from this addition, but the entire community.

Thanks again, Donna, for a fabulous job!

## Youth

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### Girls' Group

Every Tuesday evening the Girls' Group gathers in the Oasis Place for discussions and activities about topics that affect the youth. If you are in the 5th- 12th grade, feel free to stop by and participate with us. The Girls' Group is also open to non-members of RPC. During the month of November we will be focusing on "The World Around Us." If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sarah Stukas at [sarahstukas@comcast.net](mailto:sarahstukas@comcast.net) or Noemi Sanchez at [nsanchez79@comcast.net](mailto:nsanchez79@comcast.net).



### Youth Group News

We had some great fall fun in October. Here's what's coming up in November:

**November 6** ▪ Mission Trip Presentation and Family Movie Night at RPC. Come and hear what the Senior High Mission Trip is all about; afterward there will be a Family Movie Night at RPC, showing the movie *Secretariat*.

**November 13** ▪ Regular Meeting at Ascension--games and discussion topic to be announced.

**November 20** ▪ Assemble College Care Packages at RPC. Come and give us a hand and show your youth group love!

**November 27** ▪ *Thanksgiving weekend--no youth group.* Happy Thanksgiving. See you in December!

### Scouts



Over 90 scouts and parents from Pack 24 families participated in the Pack 24 campout at the Scout Cabin in Riverside on October 1 and 2. We had an enjoyable afternoon of treasure hunts, crafts, skit practices and zip lining, before our campfire. The next morning we rose and boarded buses and nearly 60 scouts, parents and siblings went aboard the Tall Ship Windy for a Sunday morning sail. The scouts were regaled with stories of exploration and piracy.

We welcomed eight first grade tiger cubs and six new older scouts to Pack 24 at our October pack meeting. They're practicing to learn the law of the pack, scout motto, promise and handshake so they can earn their Bobcat patch at our November pack meeting.

On October 1, boy scouts and leaders from Troop 24 went to Cantigny for a Civil War reenactment. In addition to witnessing a skirmish, scouts talked with the reenactors to find the answers to a civil war scavenger hunt. Also in October, 19 scouts and four leaders camped two nights at White Pines State Park in Oregon, Illinois. Our 59 scouts spent the month working on rank advancement requirements and merit badges to prepare for their November Court of Honor. They also assisted the RPC CARERS Committee with the October canned food drive and worked on an Eagle project.





## Presbyterian Women Bible Study

*Confessing the Beatitudes*, Wednesday, November 30, 10:00 a.m. RPC Social Hall

Lesson Three: Greatly Honored are the Humbled! Scripture: *Matthew 5:5; Psalm 37*.  
Key Idea: Jesus renews God's promise to those whom society humbles, a promise that they shall inherit the earth.

In this lesson, the author reminds us of the people and places intimately involved in the production of some of our most used products today--laptops and cell phones. We might not always think about the items we use on a daily basis and their capacity to connect us with others around the world. While we may be grateful for the convenience they provide, we might not always consider the impact our use of such products has on other people and corners of the earth. Lesson leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura. Joyce will lead Lesson 3. Contact Elizabeth Musick for Bible Study information.

## November Human Scene

### November 6 ▪ Roberta Gates – *Forgiveness*

In his well-known book, *The Sunflower*, Simon Wiesenthal asks a wide range of religious thinkers, writers, and survivors to weigh in “on the possibilities and limits of forgiveness.” Come, hear what they have to say, and then share your own thoughts about this very difficult process.

### November 13 & 20 ▪ Steve Marcus – *Christ at the Movies*

(Almost) everything from before Charlton Heston to Willem Dafoe and Mel Gibson. Join Steve as he examines Christ as he has been portrayed in the movies.

### November 27 ▪ Lloyd Bradbury – *Access to Area Handicapped and Senior Services*

Beginning with a personal story of how Lloyd started his day fifty years ago, compared to what he does now, he will compare how we treated body, mind and soul, and how we have changed our view of seniors. The emphasis will be on changes in diet, medical appliances, access of senior information--with inspirational information to improve the mind and the soul--which will apply to everyone, not just seniors.

## Coming Soon ... Computer Fundamentals Classes at RPC

The new RPC computer lab has been a busy place on Sunday mornings. Sunday school kids have been enjoying an in-depth class on the book of Ruth using computers to view animated stories, view religious artwork and play games to help them better understand Ruth's story. Soon the computer lab will be bustling with grown-ups. Starting later this month, basic computer classes will be offered mid-week for adults. Two levels of classes will be offered for folks with very little or no computer experience. Watch for details in the Sunday bulletin.



## Upcoming Events



### Thanksgiving Potluck

On Sunday, November 20, after worship, the Social Hall will be filled with thanksgiving hearts as we give thanks to the Lord for all his undeserving blessings. Join our church family for this delicious potluck as we fellowship with one another. If you have any questions or wish to sign up to bring a dish, please feel free to contact Noemi Sanchez at [nsanchez79@comcast.net](mailto:nsanchez79@comcast.net).

*Enter His gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name for the Lord is good; His loving kindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations.* **Psalm 100:4-5**

### November Women's Forum

The RPC Women's Forum has been studying Eboo Patel's book, *Acts of Faith*, the story of an American Muslim who started the Interfaith Youth Corp. An associate director from the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, Ahlam Jbara, has agreed to speak to us on November 3 from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. This event is open to anyone with a desire to learn more about interfaith cooperation and the roles of American Muslim women and their lives. Please visit them at [www.ciogc.org](http://www.ciogc.org).

All-Church Family Work Day  
Sunday, November 13, 1:00 p.m.



My thanks to the church and the Deacons who delivered a lovely bouquet to me. It was a kindness that cheered me immensely.

Thank you,  
Shirley Misare

Dear RPC Family,

The Jansens are in love with RPC's family of believers. It is through our relationships with you that we have become stronger people of faith. For that we are tremendously grateful. Thank you for the fabulous Pastor Appreciation Potluck! And most importantly, thank you for demonstrating to us what it means to be a committed servant of God. We are forever in awe of our greater faith community and hold you dear in our hearts!

The Jansen Family

### Family Movie Night November 6

On Sunday, November 6, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. we will be watching the movie *Secretariat*, a PG movie that is entertaining and appropriate for everyone in the family.

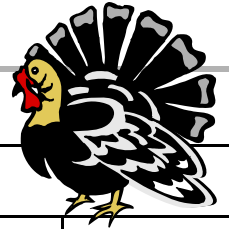


### Preview of Razing Hell

On December 11 & 18, Pastor Scott will present a Human Scene class on Sharon Baker's book, *Razing Hell*, which challenges Christians to rethink their traditional views of hell and/or eternal punishment and invites them to consider an alternative that is more consistent with the revelation of God in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Baker believes eternal hell – the belief that God would punish without end those who have rejected him in time – is one of the most disturbing notions in Christianity. Therefore, she asks us to join her on a quest for a new view of hell that permits us to affirm with Scripture that, while nothing impure will enter the gates of God's holy kingdom (*Rev. 21:27*), there still will be a day when "at the name of Jesus every knee will bow... and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord (*Phil. 2:10-11; see also Rom. 14:11*)."

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!

# November 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
		1 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Girls' Group 7p Personnel Comm. Mtg 7p Weight Loss Support Group	2 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbells 7:30p Chancel Choir	3 6:30a Women's Forum	4	5
6 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Deacons British Home Worship 6p Family Movie Night	7 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm	8 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Girls' Group 7p Weight Loss Support Group	9 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 4:15 Singers 4:45 Ringers 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Chancel Choir	10 6:30a Women's Forum	11 Night Ministry	12
13 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1p All Family Church Work Day	14 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm 7:30p Trustees Mtg	15 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Girls' Group 7p Deacons Mtg 7p Weight Loss Support Group	16 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbells 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session	17 6:30a Women's Forum	18 10a CARERS Comm Mtg 6p Craft Night	19
20 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Thanksgiving Potluck 2p Scottish Home Worship	21 5:15p Volleyball	22 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Girls' Group 7p Weight Loss Support Group	23 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbells 7:30p Chancel Choir	24 6:30a Women's Forum  <b>Thanksgiving</b>	25	26
27 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	28 5:15p Volleyball	29 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Girls' Group 7p Weight Loss Support Group	30 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbells 7:30p Chancel Choir			

**Proverbs 30:8-9 . . . give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs!**

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

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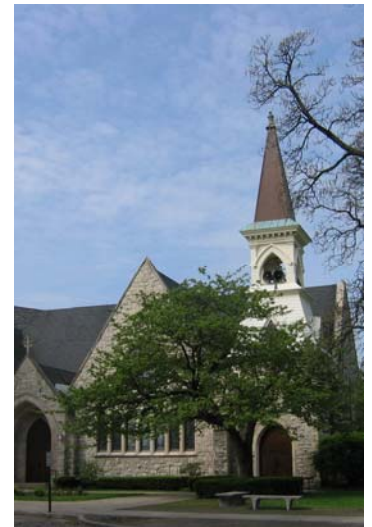
**Artist in Residence:** Karena Mendoza

**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  
Riverside Presbyterian Church is  
available by contacting any  
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by visiting our website:  
[www.rpcusa.org](http://www.rpcusa.org)

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