



The Vision

January 2012

The Presbyterian Shuffle

That title might have you imagining some strange new dance where one cannot move until a committee votes on it (a rather scary thought), but that's not what I mean. At the beginning of each year, the church always goes through a process I call the Presbyterian Shuffle. The Shuffle starts with officers: elders, deacons and trustees. Some rotate off of service as their terms end, and some rotate back on to service as they begin new stints, and others are ordained for the first time.



For the most part, by the time you read this article, this stage of the Presbyterian Shuffle will have been completed. But January is the time when the church as a whole gets out on this dance floor. All of the new committee chairs have been settled and it is time to think about who will be serving on those committees.

There are a few Presbyterian principles to keep in mind as we do this dance. First, we believe that everyone is a sinner. That is why power should be spread out broadly. Whenever one person can unilaterally make major decisions, there is trouble. Such power tends to corrupt a person. For this reason, every office has a term limit. Likewise no one should feel compelled to serve as a volunteer in some role "until death." Many thoughtful and diligent workers would never volunteer in the first place if they felt that volunteering meant being stuck with a job until death. Term limits and the drive for "new blood" (notice the cool vampire reference) tend to spread power out among us sinners.

The second principle is that different parts of the body have different talents. We are not interchangeable Legos. You should serve where your talents lie, not wherever there is a hole. This principle is in some tension with the first one.

The third principle is that EVERYONE has talents. The Holy Spirit is connected to every human. God does not treat us all the same, but, in some way, God loves each of us, blesses each of us, and calls each of us. No one is bereft of talent. But, because the Spirit spreads talents around so broadly, all of our big decisions are best done by committees, not individuals. Two heads are better than one.

What do these principles mean to you? If you are serving a committee and feel that your talents are being well-utilized, great—volunteer to stay another year. If you are serving a task that does not seem well-suited to your talents, quit, and move on to some other committee. If you're not volunteering to serve anywhere at all, consider your response from God's perspective. God is the one who blessed you with those talents in the first place.

Let's get the whole church this year! Let's all do the "Presbyterian Shuffle."

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

January Worship Schedule

January 1 *Luke 2:22-40* "Welcoming Jesus"

Instead of a sermon, today we will have a list of discussion questions drawn from the scripture lesson. Lynda Nadkarni will moderate a congregational discussion on these questions, so it would be useful to read the passage ahead of time. There will be a few extra Christmas carols. We will not be celebrating Communion today, contrary to our custom, because of Scott's vacation.

January 8 *Mark 1:4-13* "An Adopted Deity?"

We usually look to the entire Bible and harmonize it all to develop our understandings of God. But what image of Jesus' divinity is portrayed by Mark—the earliest gospel? Why was Jesus divine, and how did he get that way? How does Mark's portrayal differ sharply from the other gospels? Does it matter which theory we prefer? Today we will be celebrating reception of new members and we will celebrate Communion (instead of doing so on January 1).

January 15 *John 1:43-51* "Come and See"

How do we come to have faith? Is it based on rational analysis and argumentation, or on our own experiences? Nathanael had good reasons to doubt Jesus, but his experience changed his mind. Why does Jesus compare himself to Jacob's ladder? Today we will ordain new church officers and commission them.

January 22 *Mark 1:14-20* "Leaving Our Nets Behind"

Why did Simon and friends leave their nets behind? Why not pack them up in storage or sell them? How do we become ensnared by the values of the world? What would it mean for us to "fish for people?"

January 29 *Mark 1:21-28* "Commanding Unclean Spirits"

Why do unclean spirits have such an easy time in the gospels recognizing Jesus, while everyone else struggles with his identity? Why do those who are most spiritually troubled often seem to have the strongest passion for their faith? Can we develop such strong passion without having the troubles? Today we will also have the annual congregational meeting after worship.



January 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
January 1	Elizabeth Musick	Laura McLean	OPEN	OPEN	Lynda Nadkarni and Elizabeth Musick
January 8	Hollie Miezio	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Kolinski/Pecis Family
January 15	Bill Vogel	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	The Weightlifters
January 22	Michael Aieta	Dima Aieta	OPEN	OPEN	Mid-Winter Potluck
January 29	Michael Aieta	Elijah Ourth	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

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 December, the Session:

- ◆ after thoughtful consideration, approved the 2012 budget, although it projects a year-end deficit. The Session also made a commitment to seek ways to increase revenue by nurturing an attitude of grateful stewardship by *all* RPC members in recognition of the blessings we have each received and with the desire to keep RPC as a vibrant witness to God's love for generations to come;
- ◆ approved borrowing from the Endowment Fund to eliminate the 2011 budget deficit; the loan will be repaid during 2012, with interest;
- ◆ authorized granting Rev. Jansen an additional 5 paid-time-off days during 2012;
- ◆ removed Erynn Bauer and Tiffany Bauer from the church rolls due to lost contact;
- ◆ noted with sadness the deaths of Dorothy Jansky, Charlotte Graf, Allen Ashby and Willa Vogel Lahey;
- ◆ called the Annual Congregational Meeting for January 29, following morning worship.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

January Birthdays



Joe Ourth 1/1
Laura Vanags 1/4
Terence Akebe 1/5
John Engel 1/5
Matt Lisle 1/7
E. Jay Van Cura 1/8
Sara Willinger 1/8
Andie Sterner 1/9
Celia Carl 1/11
Lisa Hastings 1/11
Kelly Haugland 1/12
Ron Pike 1/12

Shannon Buhle 1/13
DeAnn Gruber 1/15
Jennifer Kolinski 1/15
Carol Franzo 1/17
Chuck Niedrich 1/17
Emma Schander 1/20
Johnathan Gruber 1/21
Mary Ann Sadilek 1/23
John Cain 1/24
Anna Franzo 1/24
Ben Kohler 1/24
Audrey Withers 1/24

Claire Chaney 1/25
Bob Gruber 1/25
Samantha Miezio 1/26
Shelley Reichle 1/27
Danielle Engel 1/28
Abby Willinger 1/28
Laura McLean 1/30
Rachel McLean 1/30
Tom Booton 1/31
Isabella Cain 1/31
Remy Doornebos 1/31

In Memoriam 2011

Allen Ashby
Blanche Blahut
Charlotte Graf
Dorothy Jansky
Willa Vogel Lahey
Dolores Vesely

Sharing Our Gifts

CARERS Corner

In January, the CARERS are requesting items to help the [Interfaith House](#) located on Chicago's west side. Interfaith House provides interim residence care for homeless men and women needing medical care and recovery. When residents are able to move into their own place, they need the basic kitchen supplies and eating and cooking utensils. They could also use warm hats, gloves, and socks. As you can imagine they are grateful for whatever help we can give. The CARERS thank Marge Abbott for her dedicated work on "Companions Journeying Together," a prison ministry supported by the CARERS.



Stewardship

Acts 4:32...All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

We are winding up our pledge drive efforts and would like to thank all of you who have helped out. However, we are still in need of additional donations. Our current 2011 budget deficit is \$52,000. We are going into 2012 with a projected deficit of \$77,000. The amount of pledges received for 2012 is down \$46,000 from last year's giving with 28 fewer members contributing. We are facing a serious budget shortfall. If you have not already pledged, please consider doing so. Also, our church has to pay the per capita contribution for each confirmed member in January, so please pay your family's share, \$30 per member. We understand that these are difficult economic times, but our spiritual family and home are in need of our resources too.

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 basic tools to sustain themselves and their families.

- \$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+." Dedication Sunday will be February 26, but contributions can be made at any time.

Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at end of November (92% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$ 257,791 (70.9% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 301,692 (83.0% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 43,901



Caring Christmas

On December 10, the Social Hall was permeated with good smells and laughter as about 20 volunteers gathered to assemble care plates for special RPC members. These recipients are those of our faithful church family who have difficulty getting out and about. We honor them every year with a plate of cheer so they know that we think of them even though we do not always get to see them in worship. This year we decorated cookies, signed cards and made festive honeycomb wax spiral candles to brighten the days of the recipients. Hard work was rewarded with a hearty potluck meal and dessert. Thank you to all who participated! You know who you are...and you know how to keep the ministry of giving alive in your hearts!



Christmas Pageant

Our Children's Worship Service on December 18 drew quite a crowd to watch **almost 70 RPC children** participate in a most meaningful and memorable service. This old-fashioned Christmas pageant highlighted the talents of our youth. From the musicians, to the ushers, liturgists, and actors, each child worked very hard to make this service so special. I'm sure you'll agree their hard work paid off! Our bulletins even featured beautiful artwork from several of our Sunday School students, and the Statement of Faith was created by the kids from Teen Scene.



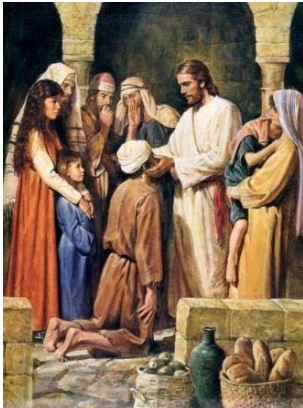
Christmas Pageant



Visit our online photo gallery to see more pictures from the pageant: www.rpcusa.org/photogallery.



Healing Miracles



Our “Test of Faith” theme continues with the study of Jesus’ healing miracles. Kids will learn about Jesus’ ministry to the sick, poor, and outcast while making soap to be donated to a benevolence, working on a wall mural, creating God’s eyes and more. Our wonderful Sunday school teachers for the month of January are: **Nancy Dvorak** in the gym, **Jill Glawe** in Oasis Place, **Noemi Sanchez** in Creation Station, **Andie Krug and Juli Sinde** in the Living Waters computer lab.

	K/1st	Grades 2/3/4	Grades 5/6/7/8
January 8	Creation Station	Gym/Cinema	Oasis Place
January 15	Celestial Cinema	Oasis Place	Creation Station
January 22	Oasis Place	Living Waters	Gym/Cinema
January 29	Gym/Cinema	Creation Station	Living Waters

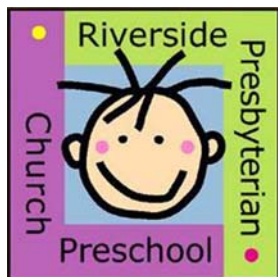
January’s Memory Verse

He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” *Luke 4:16-19*

Bible Presentation Sunday on February 19

February 19 is a very special day just for our 2nd & 3rd grade students! It’s *Bible Presentation Sunday*, a long-standing tradition at RPC. During the preceding Sundays in February, the 2nd & 3rd grade class will be participating in a special rotation designed to prepare them for their big day and to help them better understand the various aspects of worship and what it means to be part of a church family. More information to come.

Preschool



Happy New Year! We are so looking forward to 2012 with many new and exciting projects. Remember to check out the bulletin board outside the Preschool doors for a glimpse at all our Preschoolers.

Preschool is now accepting registration for the 2012-2013 school year. Applications for RPC members are due on or before January 4.

Open enrollment starts shortly after. Application forms are in the rack outside the church. Any questions? Contact Lisa Manganiello at 447-1520 ext. 2.



Junior Youth Group in front of the Art Institute.



Girls' Group

A great big thank you to all who visited the girls' fundraising table during the Wassail Bowl. Through their crafts and services they raised over \$350 for Compassion: Water For Life! The girls were also busy in December making giant snowflakes with the residents of the British Home. These girls are generous and kind! Every Tuesday evening the Girls' Group gathers in the Oasis Place for discussions and activities. If you are in the 5th-12th grade, feel free to stop by and join us. The Girls' Group is also open to non-members of RPC.



If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sarah Stukas at sarahstukas@comcast.net or Noemi Sanchez at nsanchez79@comcast.net.



Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Join the ladies on Wednesday, January 25, at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall as they continue their study of *Confessing the Beatitudes*. Lesson 4: "Greatly Honored Are Those Who Are Famished and Parched for Justice." Scripture: *Matthew 5:6; Luke 6:21a, 25a; Psalm 107:1-9*. Key Idea: Jesus promises sustenance to the famished, but calls the "stuffed" to account. Do you know people who are famished and parched for justice, for right relationships between God and neighbor? Who are they and what causes you to think of them in this way?

Lesson leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura. Elizabeth will lead Lesson 4.

January Human Scene

During the first six weeks of 2012, Human Scene will be devoted to an exploration of other world faiths. Here is the schedule for January:

January 8 ▪ We will watch the first part of the documentary entitled *Islam: Empire of Faith*. What is Islam? Who is Muhammad? This is the first part of a documentary narrated by Ben Kingsley about Islam and attempts to answer these questions. This part covers the life of the Prophet Muhammad, his early life, his encounter with God Almighty and the birth of the Islam.

January 15 ▪ We will watch the second part of the documentary entitled *Islam: Empire of Faith*. Part 2 covers the golden age of Islam which was a time of great learning. When Europe was steeped in the Dark Ages, the Islamic world embarked on the building of great works of architecture, reading, writing, mathematics, medicine, and astronomy.

January 22 & 29 ▪ Join Pastor Scott for a two-part class introduction to the basics of Judaism.

Upcoming Events

Fellowship Events

Join us for a **Mid-Winter Potluck** on **Sunday January 22**, following worship (in lieu of coffee fellowship). Please bring a soup, casserole or other hearty dish so we can warm up and share a meal together.

Save the dates for these upcoming fellowship events:

A **Dinner and Square Dance** will be held **Saturday, February 11**, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. *The Prairie Shufflers* will be back performing music and teaching us square dance moves.

Open Mic Night will be held on **Saturday, March 17**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This is RPC's annual talent show of musicians, comedians and poets. It's not too early to start thinking about your performance for what is one of our most popular fellowship events.

Computer Classes for Adults

Additional computer classes for adults will continue to be offered in the RPC Computer Lab (which was created in loving memory of John Lewe and in honor of Lynda Nadkarni). January classes will meet on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.. Topics to be covered will include:

January 5 - Basics of using a computer; January 12 - Internet Basics; January 19 - Word Processing; and January 26 - Spreadsheets. All classes are tailored to the skill level of class participants and are free of charge. If you would like to reserve your spot, please [contact the RPC office](#). Space is limited.



(Free) Lunch for Prospective New Members

On Sunday, January 22, from noon to 2:00 p.m., all are invited to a free lunch/class with Pastor Scott and a few church leaders. During lunch, Scott will describe some of the ministries of the church, explain what church membership entails, and answer any questions you might have. If you are interested in exploring what it means to join our church family as a new member, please sign up for lunch by contacting Scott so he can plan the meal (447-1520 or scott.jansen@comcast.net). If you want to ask him a question before you commit to the lunch, feel free to do that as well.

Weight Loss Support

Weightlifters continues to meet Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the library. If your New Year's resolutions include losing or maintaining weight loss consider this fellowship support group.



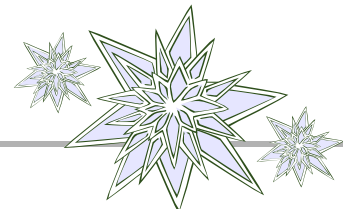
Scouts



At the December Pack Meeting we honored the scouts who were the top popcorn sellers, handed out kits for the January Pinewood Derby, and discussed a few more upcoming outings. The highlight was a visit from "Animals for Awareness" a not-for-profit organization that rescues and cares for exotic animals. Over 50 scouts were on hand to get up close with alligators, a tortoise, a Canadian lynx, a large parrot, a skunk and several other new friends. The scouts were able to ask questions and pet all of the animal visitors, under close supervision, of course.

During December our boy scouts provided s'mores to visitors to the Riverside Holiday Stroll. With great winter weather and a fire to roast marshmallows at Riverside Garage, both the scouts and strollers enjoyed the event. Monetary donations received were given to the Riverside Township Food pantry.

Please check the
Website for the
most recent
calendar
updates!



January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Open gym for kids 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Deacons' British Home Service	2 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm. Mtg	3 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Girls' Group 7p Personnel Comm 7p Weightlifters	4 Office Closed 12p Covenant Prayers for Peach 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	5 6:30a Women's Forum	6	7
8 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	9 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm. 7p Trustees Mtg	10 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Girls' Group 7p Weightlifters	11 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	12 6:30a Women's Forum	13 Night Ministry	14
15 9a Sunday School 10a Worship/Ordain & Commission new officers 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Worship	16 5:15p Volleyball	17 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Girls' Group 7p Deacons Mtg 7p Weightlifters	18 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session Mrg	19 6:30a Women's Forum	20 10a CARERS Comm Mtg 6p Craft Night	21
22 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Potluck	23 5:15p Volleyball	24 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Girls' Group 7p Weightlifters	25 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	26 6:30a Women's Forum	27	28
29 9a Sunday School 10a Worship/Annual Congregational Mtg 11a Coffee Fellowship	30 5:15p Volleyball	31 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Girls' Group 7p Weightlifters				

**RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

Place mailing label here

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Riverside Presbyterian
Church is a congregation of
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Church (U.S.A)



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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