

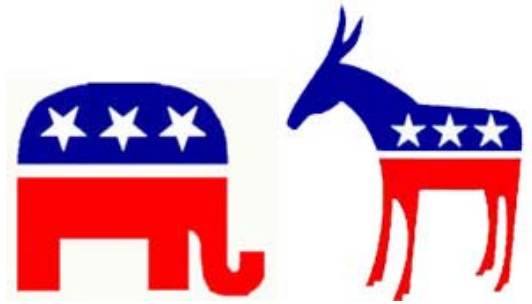


The Vision

July 2012

Election Year Civility for Christians

Now that our election cycle has progressed from competition within one party, to competition across parties, I thought I would share some thoughts on civility. Often we experience someone with a different political perspective doing something we consider “uncivil.” Usually this is just a “gut-reaction” judgment. But are there any *objective* standards of civility?



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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Of course, in a complex landscape such as the United States, there is no sole authority for determining what qualifies as “civil” behavior. But, I do think that Jesus gives us some guidelines that are useful—at least for those who consider Jesus to be an authority. Many of his thoughts on the subject are in *Matthew 18*. What follows are my own personal interpretations of Christ’s message in this chapter, as it relates to civility.

Verses 1-14. When we come together for civil discourse, or for any common effort, we should prioritize the goal of taking care of those who are hurting—whoever they may be.

Verses 15-20. We should not gossip about people behind their backs, but seek to correct them in love if we find a fault in them. Gossip has no place in a Christian’s life. Correction is intended to lift someone up, not to knock someone down. Likewise, we should not seek to attack someone anonymously, or from a safe distance. We should stand behind our words, openly and plainly—or remain silent.

Verses 21-35. We all make mistakes, so we should approach one another with a readiness to forgive, rather than holding grudges. Forgiveness does not mean that the previous action is forgotten, or that the action has no consequences—it just means that we continue to hope for what is best for the person, even if we have been hurt.

Also in this part, Jesus says we should avoid putting people into categories or classes. The question is not whether a person is socially elite, or from my faction. Civil discourse is not about drawing shady associations between one’s adversary and some despised group. We should focus instead on the issues and intended policies of others, so that we may all move forward in as much harmony as possible. Speaking on issues helps us build bridges amongst us; speaking on personalities/factions drives us further apart.

Of course, *Matthew 18* is not the only place in the Bible that discusses civility, and this little summary is not comprehensive. But, I think we would be a whole lot better off if everyone were to act in accordance with these principles. That may sound naïve. You might think—“No one acts that way; it can’t be done.” Well, I have been in ministry for 25 years and all I can say is that this is the world in which I live (for the most part). The Church is a place where these principles are actually utilized. Maybe the best we can do in civil discourse is to set an example for those outside of the Church. But let us not pretend that Christian behavior is impossible. Perhaps we should invite to church those who do not behave civilly--to join us for some practice.

Your brother in Christ,

Scott

Worship

July Worship Schedule

July 1 ▪ *Mark 5:21-43* ▪ “Communion by Faith” What comes first—evidence or faith? Did the American revolutionaries in 1776 have evidence that freedom would work, or did they have faith? Do we receive evidence of God’s presence first and then start to believe, or do we believe first and our belief changes our reality? When we receive communion, is it really Christ’s body first, and something in the bread causes us to believe? Or do we believe first, and then our belief causes us to experience physical reality differently? We will have Communion today.

July 8 ▪ *Mark 6:1-13* ▪ “Democratizing the Divine” Why does Jesus send his disciples out to function without him? Why two by two? Why didn’t his hometown friends make him into a hometown hero? Did his experience in his hometown cause him to want to avoid appearing overly egotistical or self-important? How does this manifest itself in our modern appreciation for democracy?

July 15 ▪ *Numbers 22:20-35* ▪ “Blessing of the Animals” Is God’s love confined to only a small section of the human species, or does God love people of other faiths, and even animals that have no human understanding? What relationship does Balaam’s donkey have with God? Do animals sometimes have a sense of God that we do not have? What can we learn from animals? Today we will have the “blessing of the animals” liturgy.

July 22 ▪ Today will be a congregational *Hymn Sing*. Learn about the stories behind the creating of the hymns and let everyone know which are your favorites.

July 29 ▪ Guest Preacher Tom Coffey, a deacon at St. Mary Catholic Church, will lead worship today.



July Opportunities

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



	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
July 1	Cindy Gustafson	OPEN	Lancaster-Schramm Family	OPEN	Kappmeyer/ Zander Family
July 8	Michael Aieta	OPEN	Lisle Family	OPEN	OPEN
July 15	OPEN	OPEN	Scuff Gross Dennis Sadilek Lynn Shannon-Labotka Marjorie Lewe	Catherine Glawe	OPEN
July 22	Hollie Miezio	OPEN	Hastings Family Kathi Rocanova	OPEN	OPEN
July 29	OPEN	OPEN	McLean Family	Ellen Hamilton	OPEN

Trustees for the month of July are Dennis Sadilek and Diane Chaney.



In Memoriam
Drew Smith
October 19, 1965 - June 13, 2012



Session News

- ◆ noted with sadness the death of Drew Smith on June 13;
- ◆ decided to eliminate an annual joint meeting with Deacons since it is no longer a requirement; such meetings can still be called if the need arises;
- ◆ decided to continue with maintaining a register of marriages performed at RPC or by the pastor elsewhere, but not to continue with a separate register of deaths, since that information is already noted in the membership records;
- ◆ approved the transfer of funds from a non-interest bearing loan (from the endowment) to zero out a different interest-bearing loan which was for the purpose of completing the handicapped-accessible bathrooms;
- ◆ stressed the need for RPC members to keep current with their pledges to the capital improvement fund as well as their general budget pledges;
- ◆ congratulated Rev. Jansen on the 5-year anniversary of his pastorate at RPC, the 20th anniversary of his ordination, and his 25th wedding anniversary!;
- ◆ requested a clarification from the Trustees on the urgency to restore the Rose Window, which would be the next capital project to be started. Sufficient funds are not currently on hand to begin this work;
- ◆ noted that the Lord's Supper will be served by intinction in July, August, and September;
- ◆ decided not to opt out of the Board of Pensions' health insurance plan, which now covers the dependents of pastors in a legal civil union.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session



Thomas Dudak	7/1	Catherine Glawe	7/16	Lisa Burke	7/25
Emily Kedzie	7/1	Lorraine Meyer	7/16	Alexandra Burke	7/25
James Ulrich	7/1	Mary Jansen	7/17	Jason Flam	7/25
Taylor Jurgens	7/2	Cooper Sahlas	7/17	Cyril Friend III	7/25
Deborah Pike	7/3	Lynda Nadkarni	7/18	Jordan Ballerine	7/26
Patricia Halline	7/6	Lily Pyatt	7/18	John Lynch	7/26
Natalie Lisle	7/6	Adeline Pecis	7/19	Tyler Pratico-Floros	7/27
Ryan Colbrese	7/9	Daniel Sanchez	7/19	Sally Sloane	7/27
James Marciniak	7/11	Cody Kazarian	7/20	Keegan Buttimer	7/28
Quinn Risley	7/11	Margaret Vacek	7/20	Kendall Hastings	7/29
Hope DeVries	7/13	Kayla Flam	7/21	Amanda Hejna	7/29
Avery Long	7/13	George Havelka	7/21	Kirsten Jantze	7/30
Greg Franzo	7/14	Mary Louise Schwarz	7/22	Susan Zander	7/30
Ingrid Nolan	7/15	Ellen Allen	7/24	Wesley Deason	7/31
Murphy Regan	7/15	Jean Tess	7/24		

Is your birthday missing? Our membership database is lacking birthdates for many of our members, and more likely for long-time members whose information was transferred from the old, less-encompassing database program. Please send birthday information to the church office at rpcoffice@sbcglobal.net. You *don't* need to tell us the year!

Deacon Doings

Deacons . . . *We do mission work in partnerships!*

Deacons serve to reinforce the church's personal connection with its members. Deacons are assigned to specific districts alphabetically.

Marge Abbott (G)	Lloyd Bradbury (N,O)	Jeanine Buttimer (S2)
Allan Chard (J)	Thom DeVries (A)	Ellen Hamilton (M)
Kate Chard (H)	Mary Jansen (B)	John Haugland (T,U,V)
Frank Gangware (P,R)	Noemi Sanchez (C1)	Gwen Heine (K,L)
Glenna Linder (W,Y,Z)	Susan Zander (C2)	Steven Marcus (S1)
Marilyn Slanec (D,E,F)		

Youth Deacons: Molly Chaney and Hannah Pecis



Roots & Shoots ▪ Roots & Shoots aims to engage youth in ecumenical environmental action-oriented service with a spiritual focus. If you have structural Styrofoam (not peanuts, but rather the type of Styrofoam used to package electronics, etc.), please save it for donation to a forthcoming project. Contact John Haugland at barryleopold@sbcglobal.net for further information.

Cantata Service ▪ The Deacons provide a church service at 1:30 on the first Sunday of every month at Cantata (formerly the British Home). The service includes scripture, a message, music and fellowship for the residents.

Scottish Home Service ▪ The Deacons conducted their first church service at the Scottish Home on June 10. It was a great success and will be continued on a monthly basis.

Night Ministry ▪ RPC will no longer provide and serve meals for The Night Ministry on the 2nd Friday of each month. (See article on page 5.) Discussions are underway on the possibility of reinstating RPC's service program on a different night of the week.

Outreach ▪ Christ Presbyterian Church has made a request to RPC to participate in *Outreach*. *Outreach* is an organization dedicated to feeding the homeless. RPC and Christ (and possibly other local churches) would host food packaging events as a joint effort, with the beneficiary being Riverside Township. Deacons are investigating costs, timing and level of participation required.

Rides to Church ▪ Do you or someone you know need a ride to church? Or to the upcoming Strawberry Social on July 11? Please contact either Frank Gangware or Thom DeVries and one of them will find a super Deacon Driver for you.

Home Communion ▪ If you are unable to attend church and would like to have communion brought to you at home, please notify your Deacon or the church office.

Flower Delivery ▪ When we have fresh flowers in the chancel, Deacons deliver them to homebound members needing some cheer. By the way, *please consider sponsoring fresh flowers some Sunday, especially if you have a birthday, anniversary or memorial to honor*. The sign-up is in the hallway leading to the Social Hall.

Have you joined the RPC Legacy Society?

Membership in the **Legacy Society** is open to those who have provided for RPC through estate planning by including the church in their wills, trusts, bequests or other conveyance. An [enrollment form](#) for the **Legacy Society** is available on the RPC website or at the church office. If you would like further information, please contact the office and you will be directed to someone who can assist you. You do not need to indicate the amount of your planned gift, but merely indicate that you will be making one.

CARERS Corner

The CARERS Committee wants to thank Jenny Kolinski and the Church Sunday School children, as well as our scouts, for a very successful cereal drive. We were able to give away almost 250 boxes of cereal to First Presbyterian Church and to the Riverside Township Food Pantry. Thank you one and all.



In July, the CARERS will be remembering our soldiers in two ways. We need your help in filling up the Stars and Stripes barrel with needed and special items (see the list on side of the barrel near the office). We will provide an opportunity for you to address a card to a service person. A table will be set up in the parlor and in the Fellowship Hall, on a Sunday in July.

Night Ministry News

RPC has been preparing and serving meals to the homeless as part of [The Night Ministry](#) program since 2003. In that time, we have served 18,000 meals to the folks who obtain services from The Night Ministry (TNM) bus on the second Friday of each month in the Uptown neighborhood. Sadly, we have received notice from TNM that economic constraints are causing them to discontinue their ministry Friday through Sunday, effective immediately. They have been dipping into their reserves for several years to maintain continuous 365-day service and can no longer afford to do so. The Night Ministry buses will still be operating Monday through Thursday and need congregational support for food ministry. RPC is investigating the feasibility of food prep/service participation on one of those nights each month, depending on The Night Ministry's needs and the location of service. Please contact Ellen Hamilton at ellen.hamilton@mac.com if you feel you might still be able to participate--or let your Deacon know.

Thank you and God bless you for all your past support!

Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at the end of May (42% of the way through the year):



Receipts	\$ 126,169	(38.8% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 149,335	(45.9% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 23,166	

Mission Trip



Bright and early on June 8, 16 high schoolers and 4 adult leaders departed Riverside for Mobile, Alabama for the Government Street Presbyterian Church's Urban Mission Camp. We drove to Decatur, Alabama the first day and were treated to a delicious spaghetti dinner by the wonderful folks who hosted us at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The second day we made a stop in Montgomery and saw the Dexter Avenue Baptist church where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached from 1954 to 1960, and visited the Civil Rights Memorial Museum, which was interesting and moving.

The work we did in Mobile was spending time with poor children, developmentally disabled adults living in group homes, the homeless, women recovering from addictions, and others who were down and out. RPC should be very proud of its teens. They were caring, compassionate, welcoming, warm and open. In our daily devotions, they shared how much they had been touched by those they had met. We served breakfast to the homeless of Mobile and had Bible study with them. Our teens were impressed with how well the men at Bible study knew the scriptures. We stayed at a beautiful facility owned by the Presbytery of Alabama called Baytreat and were treated to some gorgeous sunsets. We also had lots of fun playing games. It was another great trip. A HUGE thank you to the tireless efforts of the adult leaders--Lisa Marciniak, Fred Mitchell, Brooke Schwarz and Tara Gregus. If you couldn't make it on this year's trip--we hope to see you next year!



Children/Youth

Children's Sunday School on Summer Break

Sunday School and Godly Play will be on break during the summer months and will resume on September 9. Planning for the fall is already under way. If you're interested in teaching Sunday School in the coming school year, please contact Jenny Kolinski at kolinski426@comcast.net.

Summer Hours for Childcare

Childcare will be available on Sunday mornings for children preschool age and younger from 9:45 a.m. until the conclusion of worship. Extended childcare hours will resume on September 9.

Looking For VBS?

Although there won't be a Covenant of Churches Vacation Bible School this summer, RPC kids are welcome to attend the North Riverside Community Presbyterian Church VBS on the evenings of August 6-10. If you would like your children to attend this wonderful VBS program and/or you would be willing to help out as a volunteer, please contact Jenny Kolinski at kolinski426@comcast.net.

More Fun Family Activities Coming This Summer

Moonlight Movie Nights will continue in July and August. Family friendly movies will be shown once a month on the church lawn as weather permits. A first-time-ever **church campout** will be coming late this summer. Set up your tent on the church lawn and enjoy s'mores and more in the company of your church family under the stars. Feel free to spend the night or not. It's up to you.



Riverside Roots & Shoots is one of RPC's newest ministries. The environmental group has already undertaken several projects picked by the youth. For example, they pulled many lawn bags full of Garlic Mustard by Swan Pond. They also helped the Riverside Village Forester plant Bur Oak trees along the Des Plaines River. The group has a vegetable garden to provide produce to *Share the Harvest*. Roots & Shoots is open to eighth grade and high school age students from Riverside or nearby. They hold two meetings per month: first Fridays of each Month, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., and third Saturdays, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., in the RPC Parlor, or outside, when possible. Interested in joining? Contact Kelly Haugland for more information, or just show up at the next meeting!



Pack 24 Cub Scouts have an active summer planned. The annual Bike Hike was held on Sunday, June 24. Scouts will march in Riverside's 4th of July Parade, with the Cub Scouts serving fresh-squeezed lemonade and the Boy Scouts serving pizza in Guthrie Park following the parade. Cub Scouts will head to the Raging Waves waterpark on July 29, and enjoy the annual summer picnic on August 19.

Boys entering first through fifth grade are invited to become Cub Scouts. The cost for dues and a subscription to *Boys Life* magazine is \$27. For more information e-mail pack24riverside@gmail.com.

Boy Scout Troop 24 held an Eagle Court of Honor for our newest Eagle Scouts, Karl Jantze and Jeff Ringbloom (pictured at right with Scoutmaster Michael Payne), on June 2 at RPC. Congratulations to Jeff & Karl!



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

At the conclusion of its study, *Confessing the Beatitudes*, on June 13, the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study recognized their leaders, Sylvia Schade, Elizabeth Musick, and Joyce Van Cura, for their devotion and outstanding leadership, and presented each with a bouquet of flowers. Edie Wakely was thanked for her creative three-dimensional images of each of the nine lessons, currently on display in the Social Hall.



2012-2013 Horizons Bible Study - Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles by Nancy Benson-Nicol. The General Epistles were addressed either to provinces in Asia Minor (*1 Peter*), to individuals (*2 John*, *3 John*), or to believers in general (*2 Peter*, *1 John*, *Jude*). The study will begin on September 26 at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Social Hall. All women are invited. Study books are available from Lucille Christensen for \$8.00. A large print edition is available.

Membership in the Church Family

The New Testament scriptures are saturated with examples and stories of people committing to the local church. To be a member of a church is to make a public promise to live according to God's word and to support the work of the congregation. The church body also promises to support and care for members as a unified local worshipping community. In the Bible this is called a covenant--an agreement in which both parties make commitments to one another. A public promise, or covenant, is the basis for all society, according to the Bible: marriage, employment, citizenship, and church membership are all relationships of accountability.

Membership in a church is not like membership in a social club or other organizations. Most organization members are consumers; the organization exists to serve them. The Church is a completely different community--membership means ministry and service, going from being a consumer to becoming a contributor: sharing God's love and care to others through giving of your time, talents and resources.

Our church family is always changing as we add members with joy, and lose members with sadness. Through these transitions there is the constant of a family who shares God's love and cares for each other. Please contact your Deacon if you are in need of support (see page 4). If you're uncertain about how to be a contributor, talk with Pastor Scott. He'll gladly match you with a church activity befitting of your time, talents and treasures. Together we can ensure RPC is a strong family in Christ.

Pictorial Directory Update

The directory has been sent to print. We'll review the proof, make corrections, and then publish with an anticipated distribution date of September 9. Special thanks to the volunteers who greeted at the table during our professional photo shoot: Beverly Aieta, Jeanine Buttimer, Kemp Clarke, Susan Deems-Dluhy, Roberta Gates, Ellen Hamilton, Deb Jansky, Susan Lisle, Susan Lynch, Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak, Hollie Miezio, Liz Musick, Sanlee Radigan, Dennis Sadilek, Sylvia Schade, and Donna Ulrich; to Connie Kelly and Jim Sit for taking photos of those unable to attend; to Lisa Rocanova and Mary Ann Sadilek for their attention to the list; to Kathryn Nadkarni for layout and design; and to everyone who submitted photos. I appreciate you all immensely!

Lynda Nadkarni

Events

Moonlight Movie Nights

Pack up your blanket and snacks and head over to the Manse lawn to watch a movie under the stars. Each month we'll feature a family friendly movie, which we will watch outdoors (weather permitting).

Fourth of July Plans

Volunteers are needed on the Fourth of July. Our theme this year will be "Sustainability: Sustain Your Spirit at Riverside Presbyterian Church." Surrounding this central sign will be other signs representing all the programs at RPC that help one to sustain one's spirit. So, can you march in the parade holding a sign? Can you serve refreshments at a booth during the festival? Can you take a shift at managing our bean bag toss game? To find more details on how you can help, please [contact Pastor Scott](#).

Strawberry Social

RPC's annual Strawberry Social will be held on Wednesday, July 11, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. The Strawberry Social is a beloved traditional event. Come to share delicious homemade cakes served with ice cream and strawberries! Please plan to invite a neighbor, friend or family member to join us on our church lawn for one of our favorite opportunities for fun and fellowship. We will have cake raffles, kids' games, music and more. We will need lots of volunteers to make this event a success so please look for bulletin inserts in coming weeks to sign up to help.



Tickets will be available for purchase in July following church and from the church office, as well as at the event. Tickets are \$5 each (children 5 and under are free).



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

Back by popular demand, the Stewardship Committee will be hosting the annual "Make Me an Offer I Can't Refuse" Italian Dinner and Auction on **Sunday, September 30**, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Items will be auctioned on the night of the dinner. If you would like to donate an item or service, please send an e-mail to Hollie Miezio at hollie.miezio@sbcglobal.net.

What is the origin of the donkey and elephant as the symbols of the Democratic and Republican parties in America?

The Donkey—Presidential candidate Andrew Jackson was the first Democrat ever to be associated with the donkey symbol. His opponents during the election of 1828 tried to label him a "jackass" for his populist beliefs and slogan, "Let the people rule." Jackson was entertained by the notion and ended up using it to his advantage on his campaign posters. But cartoonist Thomas Nast is credited with making the donkey the recognized symbol of the Democratic Party. It first appeared in a cartoon in Harper's Weekly in 1870, and was supposed to represent an anti-Civil War faction. But the public was immediately taken by it and by 1880 it had already become the unofficial symbol of the party.




The Elephant—Political cartoonist Thomas Nast was also responsible for the Republican Party elephant. In a cartoon that appeared in Harper's Weekly in 1874, Nast drew a donkey clothed in lion's skin, scaring away all the animals at the zoo. One of those animals, the elephant, was labeled "The Republican Vote." That's all it took for the elephant to become associated with the Republican Party.

www.infoplease.com

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!



July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Deacons' Cantata Worship	2 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	3 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Weightlifters 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	4 Office Closed 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace 	5 6:30a Women's Forum	6 7p Singles Group	7
8 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	9 5:15p Volleyball 7:30p Trustees	10 6:30a Men's Forum	11 Office Closed 6p Strawberry Social	12 6:30a Women's Forum	13 9a Staff Mtg Night Ministry	14
15 10a Worship <i>Blessing of the Animals</i> 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30 Scottish Home Worship	16 5:15p Volleyball	17 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons Mtg	18 Office Closed	19 6:30a Women's Forum	20 10a CARERS Comm Mtg 6p Craft Night 7p Singles Group	21
22 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship Vision deadline	23 5:15p Volleyball	24 6:30a Men's Forum	25 Office Closed	26 6:30a Women's Forum	27	28
29 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	30 5:15p Volleyball	31 6:30a Men's Forum				

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

**RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
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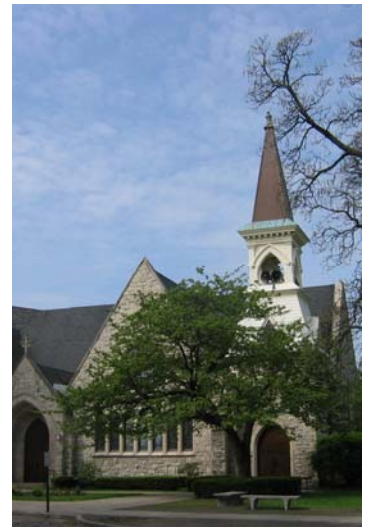
Artist in Residence: Karena Mendoza

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
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More information about the
ministry and mission of
Riverside Presbyterian Church is
available by contacting any
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