



The Vision

August 2012

Pastors Need Breaks Too



Summer is the season of vacations, filled with stories of folks taking trips and enjoying time away. Sabbath comes in many different forms. The weekly Sabbath is very important, but there are also more extended/annual Sabbaths.

The Sabbath has two main functions. Of course, it is time set apart as holy time dedicated to God. But it is also designed as time for rest. The rest is meant for the welfare of the human being—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Physically, we need a break from our labors for our bodies to heal, catch up on sleep, etc. Emotionally, we need to re-connect with family and those fun interests that make life enjoyable, as God intends it to be.

Spiritually, we are reminded that the world does not revolve around us—it revolves around God. When we work too many hours, we may forget that our efforts are not that important in the grand scheme of things. What God is doing is important. We only gain importance if we are able to harmonize with God's efforts. When you put your ambitions on hold for a week, you remind yourself that your ambitions find their ultimate significance only within the scheme of God's ambitions.

Sabbath is always complicated for pastors. Of course, Sunday is a day of major stress and work for pastors. There is no way around that. Fortunately, Jesus was not a strict legalist when it came to the Sabbath. The point is to get rest somewhere along the line and recharge the batteries: physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Sometimes the complexities of Sabbath for pastors are not easily understood. I take Thursdays as my Sabbath day—a day for rest, family, fun and prayer. If you come to the office on a Thursday looking for me, it may strike you as odd that I am gone for the day—unless you realize that the other six days of the week are work days for me.

Likewise, within my usual work days, it is very often the case that I have strong reasons to be at church during the mornings (meetings, Bible studies, coordinating with secretaries, etc.). And, I have strong reasons to be at church during the evenings, mostly for committee meetings. The vast majority of my Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings are spent working—usually with some type of committee.

Thus, you should not consider it odd or extraordinary to find that I have taken an afternoon off. This is not my preference. I would much rather work ten hours straight, change my clothes, and be done for the day. But, when I arrive at 6 :00 a.m. and have meetings until 10:00 p.m., it is really quite *normal* for me to be looking for a few hours in the middle of the day for some rest.

The bottom line is that my schedule is quite flexible and unpredictable. This is not an effort to be “hard to reach.” It's just that pastors need breaks too. My intention is to be as easily available as I can, while respecting the spirit of God's Sabbath laws.

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

August Worship Schedule

August 5 "Loving When It's Not Easy" *Ephesians 4:1-16*

Why does Paul call upon us to be humble in deciding whether or not we want to stay together? What "winds of doctrine" have blown through the Church and threatened to disrupt the unity of the Body of Christ? Is unity more important than being right about all doctrines? When Christ invites us to sit at his table for a meal together, is our unity based on common doctrines? Today we will celebrate communion.

August 12 "A Most Bitter Victory" *2 Samuel 18:5-16, 21, 24, 31-33*

Why did David send out the army to put down Absalom's rebellion? Why did that rebellion develop in the first place? Do we ever focus too much on achieving victory and not enough on why victory is necessary? Can we consider the justification of our actions even while we are under attack? How difficult is it to examine one's own motives objectively? This is also "Higher Education" Sunday when we acknowledge those heading off to college.

August 19 "A Wise Choice" *1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14*

What does God expect Solomon to request when God offers him "anything?" What would we have requested? We usually judge "wisdom" by the efficiency of one's actions in leading one towards wealth or fame. How is divine wisdom different from worldly wisdom?

August 26 "Words of Eternal Life" *John 6:56-69*

In what way is Jesus the "bread of life?" Does he mean for this metaphor to be taken as a physical image? What exactly is the "bread" and how does it nourish a person? What prompted Peter and his friends to remain faithful to Jesus?



August 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
August 5	Allie Burke	OPEN	Will & Suzanne Vogel	Kathi Roccanova	OPEN
August 12	Youth	OPEN	Meyer Family Edith Wakely & Marjorie Lewe	Ruth Svestka	OPEN
August 19	Joyce Van Cura	OPEN	Hastings Family Kathi Roccanova	Heine Family	OPEN
August 26	Michael Aieta	OPEN	Lancaster-Schramm Family	Lisa Roccanova	Sarah Dudak

Trustees for the month of August are Nancy Jensen and Dennis Sadilek

Deacon Doings

We do mission work in partnerships!

Deacons serve to reinforce the church's personal connection with its members. Deacons are assigned to assist member families, based on the first letter of the family or individual's last name.

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		

Mission Outreach gets Serious

Watch for an announcement of the date for a food packaging event benefiting Riverside Township and another local food pantry. Christ Presbyterian Church and RPC, as well as other local churches, hope to package 20,000 meals (WOW!) to feed the homeless. Plan to be a part of this fun and worthwhile event!

Where have all the flowers gone?

Let us know if you are aware of a member needing some cheer – the Deacons will deliver the fresh flowers from the sanctuary on Sunday to individuals or to the folks living at Cantata or the Scottish Home. Consider sponsoring flowers on an upcoming Sunday, especially if you have a birthday, anniversary or other person to honor. The sign-up is in the hallway leading to the social hall.

Going our Way?

Do you or does someone you know need a ride to church? Please contact either Frank Gangware or Thom DeVries, and one of them will find a super deacon driver for you.

Communion on Wheels

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](#).

August Birthdays



Michelle Hejna 8/1	Christopher Friend 8/16	Brianna Allen 8/21
Jerry Buttimer 8/2	Samantha Friend 8/16	Amanda Schwarz 8/21
Lynn Shannon-Labotka 8/2	Lily Lisle 8/16	Haley Rayfield 8/22
Samantha Doornebos 8/4	Susan Deems-Dluhy 8/17	Ellary Hastings 8/24
Elizabeth Musick 8/4	Jordana Jantze 8/17	Dima Aieta 8/25
Sue Gross 8/6	Will Vogel 8/18	Joyce Dobrzanski 8/25
Scott Schulze 8/10	Amy Wolff 8/18	Sydney Cokins 8/26
Joseph Dvorak III 8/11	Jake Fieseler 8/19	Kathi Rocanova 8/27
Lawrence Allen 8/13	Leanne Heine 8/19	Margot Carlson 8/30
Alyssa Lancaster 8/13	Harriet Kweton 8/20	Elizabeth Armstrong 8/31
Maggie Hejna 8/14	James Long 8/20	Andie Krug 8/31
Carrie Staibus 8/15		

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!

Religion has played role at Olympics since days of ancient Greece

A 600-foot footrace was the only athletic event at the first Olympics, a festival held in 776 B.C. and dedicated to Zeus, the chief Greek god. For the next millennium Greeks gathered every four years in Olympia to honor Zeus through sports, sacrifices and hymns. The five-day festival brought the Greek world together in devotion to one deity.



What began in ancient Greece as a festival to honor a single god, Zeus, has now become an almost Olympic task, as organizers of the games navigate dozens of sacred fasts, religious rituals and holy days. The London Olympics will try to accommodate religious athletes with 193 chaplains, a prayer room in every venue and a multi-faith center in the Olympic Village.

Athletes at the ancient Olympics believed their training honored the gods, and victory was a sign of favor from a deity. As contests like wrestling, boxing, and horse racing were added to the Olympic roster, they supplemented devotional sacrifices, hymns, and ceremonies. “The idea was that you were training to please Zeus. But part of the festival would be to visit the temple, visit the cult statues, making offerings, celebrating and seeing your family,” said David Gilman Romano, a professor of Greek archaeology at the University of Arizona.

The combination of Greek sport and worship led the Roman Emperor Theodosius I, a Christian, to ban the Olympics in 393 A.D. The Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin revived the Olympic Games in Athens in 1896 after excavations at Olympia renewed public interest in the athletics and pageantry of the Olympics. Though not sectarian, the modern games began to take on their own quasi-religious rituals. Coubertin borrowed ceremonies, hymns, and rituals from the ancient festival to shape a transcendent “Olympism,” uniting all athletes. Some scholars today refer to his creation as a ‘civil religion.’ “The civil religion was not so much the worship or devotion to the state, as it is often now understood,” explained Joseph Price, a professor of religion at Whittier College in California who researches sport and religion. Devotion “was to the civitas, the human group that transcended a particular religion.” Over the years, the International Olympic Committee and host states introduced “new” symbols to bolster Olympism, said Stephen Mosher, professor of sport management and media at Ithaca College in New York.

Still, the modern games have touches from the ancient past. Gold medals since 1928 have been imprinted with the image of Nike, goddess of victory. And though the torch relay existed in antiquity, it was not part of the ancient Olympics. “It was ‘invented’ by the Nazis for the 1936 Berlin Games in an obvious attempt to connect the modern German state with the ancient Greek state,” Mosher said.

Today, the IOC and host countries must tread lightly to accommodate modern religious expression in an often-hostile political climate. Some situations present special challenges. In 2008, Israeli President Shimon Peres received special housing accommodations at the Beijing opening ceremony so that he would not have to drive in a car on the Jewish Sabbath. Peres will miss the opening this year, as the London Organizing Committee refused to make special accommodations. Modern religious athletes also struggle with religious devotion and the Olympic schedule. Devout Jews and Christians must choose whether to compete on the Sabbath. Muslim athletes face a particularly difficult choice as the Olympics fall during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims refrain from eating and drinking during the day. Clerics in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates extended an exemption to their athletes, allowing them to make up their fast at a later time. Some athletes will take the exemption, while others will fast. This Olympics marks a milestone for Muslim women as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Brunei will send female athletes to the games for the first time. They are the last Muslim countries to allow women to compete. In this respect, the Olympics have advanced greatly since ancient times, when only male Greek citizens could watch and compete. But Romano urges caution in comparing the ancient and modern games. “There are many similarities, but there are also differences. And one of the biggest differences is religion.”

Chris Lisee

www.pcusa.org

CARERS Corner

In August we are requesting canned goods for fall: soups, stews, canned meat and fish, etc., for the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.



Finance Update



Year-to-date financial status at end of June (50% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$142,589	(43.8% of budget)
Disbursements	\$172,836	(53.2% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 30,247	

Bike-A-Thon

On July 15, RPC was represented in the first CSLA (Congregations in Solidarity with Latin America) Bike-A-Thon. It was held in concert with five other Presbyterian churches to raise funds for educating displaced youths in Colombia in schools sponsored by the Colombian presbyteries. Bill and Colleen Muller carried the torch for RPC, and through the efforts of our congregation (led by Richard Crang & Tara Gregus), nearly \$600 was raised to contribute to the effort. This was indeed a substantial contribution on our part and helped significantly for CSLA of the Chicago Presbytery. This first Bike-A-Thon was along the Illinois Prairie Path from Glen Ellyn to Wheaton and back. Building on this effort, we expect to develop a larger event in the next year. A genuine thanks to all who helped support this significant humanitarian effort!







Children/Youth

Sunday School Kick Off: Let's Fill the Ark

Please join us for an exciting kick-off celebration, which will be held outside, weather permitting, on September 9 at 9:00 a.m. It's going to be a great school year at RPC, so don't miss out on the fun! [Print your registration form](#) from our website and return it to the church office prior to the start of Sunday School on September 9. **Please bring a photo or drawing of your pet(s) for our Ark mural that we'll be working on during the kick-off.** If you don't have a pet, please bring a picture of your favorite animal.



Calling all Volunteers for Children and Youth

Although summer is in full swing, I've been thinking about (and planning) Sunday school for the fall. Can you think about it too? What talent can you share with our children and youth as a Sunday school teacher? Did you know that each teacher is scheduled for only a 4-week block? Substitute teachers are also needed. If you enjoy the company of younger children, perhaps being a Godly Play leader is right for you. If you know now that you'll be happy to help again—or for the first time—please send me a quick e-mail with your area of interest and availability. If you have any questions about volunteering, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for being stewards of your time and talents through the support of the children of our church family!

Jenny Kolinski kolinski426@comcast.net

Boy Scout Troop 24



Sixty scouts and eleven adult leaders attended Tesomas Boy Scout Camp in Rhinelander, Wisconsin in July. In addition to the 148 merit badges earned at camp, scouts were able to participate in several high adventure treks, and five scouts became PADI-certified scuba divers. Adult leaders also received training while at camp. Due to the excellent programs and facilities at Tesomas, the Troop will be returning there next summer.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study



The topic for the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2012-2013 will be *Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles*, by Nancy Benson-Nicol.

Dispatches are written communications, often official in nature, typically delivered with haste to address issues or convey crucial information. Dispatches customarily are short by nature. Among the collection of letters in the New Testament, the General Epistles are the shortest in length.

All women are invited to participate in the Bible study, with the first meeting on Wednesday, September 26, at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Study books cost \$8, and are available from Lucille Christensen.



Edie Wakely created the three-dimensional images of each of the nine lessons of the 2011-2012 Horizons Bible Study, *Confessing the Beatitudes*, which were on display in the Social Hall.

Human Scene

August 12 - Steve Marcus will examine the philosophy and religion of Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate Army during the Civil War and, later, President of Washington University (now Washington & Lee University), as it pertains to the two crucial issues of his day: war and slavery.

August 19 - "God Gave Me a Second Chance" Two days after he was married, on Monday, October 8, 1991, an event happened which, ultimately, changed Steve Marcus' life. This Human Scene is the story of that event and its consequences from a religious perspective.



Events

RPC Family Camp-out on August 24

If you like the idea of sleeping under the stars but don't quite like the idea of being out in the wilderness, this is the camp-out for you! On Friday, August 24, RPC is hosting its first-ever camp-out on the manse lawn. Pack up your tent and sleeping bags and head to RPC for an outdoor movie, fire pit for roasting marshmallows and some old fashioned camp songs. The fun begins at 6:30 pm. and will wrap up first thing Saturday morning. If you'd like to join in the fun but don't like the idea spending the night, that's okay too. You're still welcome to join in the fun.



Church Picnic on September 9

Please plan to join us on Sunday, September 9, for our Church Picnic. On Sunday School Kick-Off Day, the Fellowship Committee will grill burgers and hot dogs and we want everyone to stay following worship to enjoy a picnic on the church lawn (weather permitting; in case of rain we will eat in the Social Hall). Please bring a picnic blanket and a side dish or dessert to share.

Italian Dinner and Auction on September 30

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.



There was a great turnout for our first-ever **Moonlight Movie Night** on June 20. Folks enjoyed warm popcorn, cool lemonade and a great movie, *Finding Nemo*.

Please check the
Website for the
most recent
calendar
updates!



August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace	2 6:30a Women's Forum	3 7p Roots & Shoots 7p Singles Group 7:30p First Friday Potluck at Jansens	4
5 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Cantata Service	6 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	7 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Weightlifters 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	8 Office Closed	9 6:30a Women's Forum	10 9a Staff Mtg	11
12 9a Human Scene 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 10:30p Roots & Shoots Meteor Shower	13 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	14 6:30a Men's Forum	15 Office Closed 7:30p Session Mtg	16 6:30a Women's Forum	17 10a CARERS Comm Mtg 6p Craft Night 7p Singles Group	18 4p Roots & Shoots Mtg
19 9a Human Scene 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Scottish Home Worship Vision Deadline	20 5:15p Volleyball	21 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons Mtg	22 Office Closed	23 6:30a Women's Forum	24 6p Campout on Church Lawn	25
26 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	27 5:15p Volleyball	28 6:30a Men's Forum	29 Office Closed	30 6:30a Women's Forum	31 7p Singles Group	

**RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

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

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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