

## November 2012

## Give Yourself a Merit Badge

When I was a Boy Scout, I loved working for merit badges. This instilled in me a sense of discipline. I still appreciate discipline as a way to “sustain your spirit.” The Church is composed of “disciples” (literally, those who have “discipline”).

I was recently lamenting that we Christians could learn a thing or two about discipline from our sisters and brothers of other faiths. For example, Muslims pray five times per day at specific moments; Jews do no work at all on the Sabbath; Buddhists practice hours of meditation, etc. Christians tend to stress God's mercy, and I agree with that. But, I think we also need discipline.

So, I was wondering—what if we merged the Boy Scout merit badge system with our Christian faith? What kind of merit badges would we have? How could we acknowledge (and encourage) the acts of discipline that we already do?

It's dangerous to try to list the disciplines. There will always be some things left out. I apologize to those whose important talents are not recognized here, but here is an initial draft, at least, of proposed Christian Merit Badges:

- ◆ Bible Scholar—studies the Bible, the interconnections within the Bible, the history of the Bible, and scholarship about the Bible.
- ◆ Building Maintainer—works to keep the church building an optimal place for doing God's will.
- ◆ Carer for the Needy—dedicates time and energy to lifting up anyone who is hurting from their various woes.
- ◆ Cheerful Giver—gives five percent or more of total income to the Church.
- ◆ Children's Mentor—shepherds children in their Christian development, socializing them into church family norms.
- ◆ Church Musician—applies musical talents to the praise of God.
- ◆ Committee Organizer—leads groups of people to discern what is the will of God for our missions.
- ◆ Decision Implementer—turns committee decisions into realities.
- ◆ Faithful Worshipper—worships God nearly every week, singing with gusto, praying with focus, listening with open hearts.
- ◆ Patient Teacher—imparts accumulated wisdom to others without arrogance, reaching them where they are.
- ◆ Quiet Helper—lends a hand where needed, without seeking recognition.
- ◆ Theological Thinker—attends educational opportunities regularly, thereby growing in one's understanding of God.

Which of these merit badge(s) do you deserve? On the next page, there is a certificate. I encourage you to fill it out, cut it out, stick it on your refrigerator, and remind yourself of the talents that God has given you. On behalf of God and God's Church, I thank you for your disciplined service. Congratulations on your merit badge!

Your brother in Christ,  
Scott



# Worship

## November Worship Schedule

### **November 4** *Ruth 1:1-18* “Why Ruth Followed Naomi”

Naomi spells out the practical status of their options after their husbands die. Orpah chooses what is most practical. Ruth chooses to follow Naomi. For her act of love, Ruth became an ancestor of both David and Jesus. Today, Scott will spell out the practical/financial status of the church and discuss our options going forward. We will also celebrate Communion. Remember to change your clocks this day.

### **November 11** *Acts 4:36-5:11* “Honest to God”

Today is Stewardship Commitment Sunday, when we will bring forward our pledge cards to be consecrated during worship. Have we prayed about our pledge? What have we said to God, in prayer, about our pledge card? Have we been honest in our prayers? What have we heard God say to us in reply during our prayer time?

### **November 18** *Mark 13:1-8* “The End Is Near—No Fooling”

The disciples ask Jesus when the end is coming, and he does not answer. Instead, he talks on and on about the ways that people will be fooled. He says many people will have different things to say about “the End.” How can we avoid being fooled? Why is Jesus so very worried that we will be fooled?

**November 25** *2 Samuel 6:12-20a* “Count Your Blessings” Today Scott will be absent from worship. There will be no “sermon.” Instead there will be a congregational discussion of the reasons why we may be thankful to God. Specific discussion questions will be in the bulletin and a discussion leader will preside over the discussion.



### **Olga Cykner turns 100 on November 25!**

Carol O'Meara 11/1	Bill Muller 11/6	Hannah Buhle 11/18
Kathy Buckland 11/2	Gregory Reichle 11/6	Lou Heine 11/18
Lorri Floros 11/2	Steve Anderson 11/8	Jackson Hilpp 11/19
Ava Booton 11/3	Nick Nadkarni 11/8	Christine Armstrong 11/21
Michael Heine 11/3	Abraham Ourth 11/8	Michael Chaney 11/24
Ben Mitchell 11/3	George Dluhy 11/9	Olga Cykner 11/25
Joseph Tess 11/3	Molly Chaney 11/11	Joshua Jansky 11/25
Mack Fieseler 11/4	Genevieve Van Nice 11/11	Karl Jantze 11/25
Jacob Gregus 11/4	Louise Gangware 11/12	Lucia Mancini 11/26
Gail Seeger 11/5	Ellen Hamilton 11/14	Annie Mitchell 11/26
Brian Jansen 11/6		Finn Lubeck 11/27

## Riverside Presbyterian Church Official Merit Badge



This certifies that the \_\_\_\_\_  
Merit Badge was awarded to \_\_\_\_\_  
for disciplined service to the church.

*Scott Jansen*

Pastor, Riverside Presbyterian Church

## Session Highlights

In October, the Session:

- ♦ approved Rev. Jansen's vacation leave for November 19-25 and December 25-30;
- ♦ called a special congregational meeting on December 9 for election of church officers and to amend church bylaws (see below);
- ♦ approved forming a task force to study Manse utilization options;
- ♦ scheduled a new member information class for November 4;
- ♦ removed from the baptized roll several children whose parents are no longer members;
- ♦ noted that the budget shortfall is \$39,000; all members are urged to assist in reducing this amount by year-end.

Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of Session

### Proposed Amendments to RPC Bylaws – December, 2012

Article II – The Session - To add a new section as follows:

**Section 7. The session may conduct voting by email when necessary.**

*Explanation: allows elders to vote on matters which arise between meetings and which require prompt action.*

Article III – Congregational Meetings - To add an additional phrase at the end of Section 3, as follows:

**...and for a member at large to serve a four year term on the Support and Endowment Management Committee**

*Explanation: adds another position to be included in the slate presented by the nominating committee at the called congregational meeting for election of church officers*

Article VI – Joint meeting of the Elders and Deacons - To replace the current Section 1 with the following:

**Section 1. The session and the board of deacons may meet jointly to confer on matters of common interest.**

*Explanation: A joint annual meeting is no longer required by the Book of Order, but may be held if deemed necessary.*



## November 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
November 4	Tony Miezio	Samantha Miezio	OPEN	Sadilek Family	Friend Family
November 11	Youth	OPEN	Sanchez Family Serina & Hannah Ranft	Ourth Family	Miezio Family
November 18	George Dluhy	OPEN	Harvin Family Jim Ulrich	Ellen Hamilton	Thanksgiving Potluck
November 25	Michael Aieta	OPEN	Meyer Family Edith Wakely & Marjorie Lewe	OPEN	Russel Brown-Memoh & Rachel Nouye & families

Trustees for the month of November are Jim Marciniak and Jon Jansky.

# Sharing Our Gifts

## Sustain Your Spirit

November 11 is Commitment Sunday so you should be receiving your 2013 pledge cards soon. Please consider all the ways that RPC helps you to sustain your spirit when you are making your commitment decision. Also think about ways that you can help out the church family with your time and talents. Finally, please let us know if you have any suggestions for improving our church ministry by dropping off your ideas in the Stewardship mailbox or the church office.

Thank you for your thoughtful giving,  
Stewardship Committee

## CARERS Corner

In November we are thinking of the winter ahead and are asking for cans of soup, cereals, etc. for people to store in their pantries for the coming winter. We will be giving these to our local Riverside Township Pantry. Your continued generosity is so appreciated.




## Memorial Committee

Over the years, the Memorial Committee has accepted and continues to accept memorial gifts that are not designated for any particular church purpose. The committee (Debra Jansky, Alice McLean, Rosalyn Pearson, and Beverly Aieta) unanimously agreed this past September to transfer \$2,000 to make the final payment for the purchase of the church copiers and \$2,000 to the General Capital Fund which goes towards building improvement projects such as the handicapped accessible bathroom. In honor of these funds given, a brick paver will be engraved and dedicated. We want to gratefully acknowledge and thank all those who have made gifts to the Memorial Fund, and we encourage all parishioners to consider Riverside Presbyterian Church in their estate planning.

## Hygiene Kit Harvest

RPC is joining with Church World Service and other Presbyterian congregations to provide hygiene kits containing items essential to personal hygiene--a critical issue in a disaster. RPC's Board of Deacons has committed to providing at least 25 hygiene kits. Your donations of any of the following to help this mission project will be appreciated: *washcloths, hand towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, nail files, nail clippers, bars of soap, deodorant/anti-perspirant*. Place your donations in the Hygiene Kit Harvest collection box in the education lobby by **Sunday, November 11**.





## Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at the end of September (75% of the way through the year):		
Receipts	\$	211,832 (65.1% of budget)
Disbursements	\$	240,688 (74.0% of budget)
Deficit	\$	28,856

Please look for your 2012 statement of giving, either in the mail or your mailbox at church. If you still need to make a donation to the *Capital Improvement Fund*, make sure to put that designation in the note section of your check so that the monies go to the correct fund.



## Pasta and More Pasta



From our  
Spaghetti  
Dinner  
fundraiser to  
the *Feed Our*

*Community* food packaging event,  
Riverside Presbyterians were deeply  
involved with pasta!



### A Witness to God's Presence: the Incarnation

During this rotation (starting November 18) we will be exploring the beloved Christmas story with new eyes. We will be looking at the familiar story through the concept of incarnation. Jesus came to share with us the vision that God has for our existence on earth. Some of the activities kids will experience this month include making candles to explore how Jesus is the Light of the World, exploring alternative approaches to gift-giving through mission, viewing crèches from around the world and creating their own living crèche; and they'll be visited by an interesting cast of characters at an inn that has no vacancies (sound familiar?).



	K/1st	2nd/3rd	4th/5th	Jr. High
11/4	Manse Kitchen	Creation Station	Gym	Oasis Place
11/11	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema	Computer Lab	Manse Kitchen
11/18	<i>Celebration Sunday.....All ages meet in the Social Hall for an all-ages activity</i>			
11/25	Celestial Cinema	Creation Station	Manse Kitchen	Computer Lab

### November's Memory Verse

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.* John 1:14

### Kids and Stewardship

Because we have been so blessed by God, we are asked to share our blessings with others. 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. 100% of Sunday school offerings go to Heifer International to purchase animals for poor families in developing countries. Watch our Sunday School "offering-o-meter" to see our progress.

### Calling All Kids: Christmas is Coming!

Mark your calendars—**December 16** will be our Children's Christmas Pageant. Many roles are available: narrators, actors, singers, musicians...something for everyone. Minimal rehearsals and little or no memorization needed, but there will be a **mandatory dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 15**. Watch your mail for more information coming soon. Don't miss out on being a part of this memorable and meaningful worship experience.



### RPC Preschool

We are having a wonderful school year so far. November will be another busy month at Preschool.

The children will be learning new songs for our Thanksgiving Sing and making ornaments to decorate a tree at Riverside's annual Trim-a-Tree. Make sure to stop by and see our tree filled with *Corky* the Turtle. We will also be shopping at Riverside Foods during Benefit Days, with proceeds benefiting our Tuition Assistance Program. Happy Thanksgiving!



Our dedicated preschool staff (left to right) are  
Standing: Steph Schulte, Marcie Westel, Barb Sitton  
Seated: Sandy Haddad, Lisa Manganiello

## Youth Group News

We had fun in October at the Odyssey Fun Farm, trying to have a bonfire (fail!) but learning about world hunger and food inequality, working hard at the *Feed Our Community Day*, and having a scary good time at the Halloween Party! Here's what's happening in November:

**Friday, November 2:** Enchanted Castle Ultimate Overnight Lock-In! \$20

**Sunday, November 4:** No Youth Group--Tara needs to recover from the lock-in!

**Sunday, November 11:** Regular Meeting at Ascension Lutheran--games and discussion

**Sunday, November 18:** Assemble College Care Packages

**Sunday, November 25:** Thanksgiving weekend--No Youth Group



Odyssey Fun Farm





## Youth

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### Girls' Group

Since the Girls' Group kick-off party in September, we have very busy. We participated in the [Walk With Therese](#) at the Dominican University campus in River Forest where we heard personal stories from domestic abuse survivors. We had as our Guest Speaker Samantha Satterthwaite, who was the organizer behind the successful **Walk With Therese** event. Along with Samantha, five domestic abuse survivors shared their stories with us. We discussed the statistics of dating violence among teens and tweens, with reportedly one in eleven adolescents a victim of physical dating violence.

The Girls' Group has also been working on **Operation Christmas Child**, a mission of [Samaritan's Purse](#), a Christian international relief agency. Shoe boxes are stuffed with gifts and hygiene items and sent to children in third world countries as Christmas gifts. Every week we bring in a particular item for our shoe boxes and in November we will have a shoe box stuffing party and have them ready to be taken to a local drop-off center.



Our Girls' Group also worked hard labeling, weighing, preparing and boxing meals through the *Feed our Community* event in October.

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### Teen Scene

On Sundays from November 11 through December 9 we'll be discussing the intersection of politics and religion. What's the history behind the political parties, where do they stand currently on issues and how does the PCUSA feel about political hot-button items? Several guest speakers will be joining us. As always...9:00 a.m. in the Library. All high school students are invited. Donuts are served!



### Scouts

Pack 24 cub scouts were very busy in October. At our monthly Pack meeting, we received an introduction to tae kwon do from local instructor Zach Burris. On October 13-14 over 40 scouts and over 60 family members braved some heavy rainfall and attended our campout at the Scout Cabin in Riverside. Scouts built and decorated a wooden biplane, slid down a zip line, found goodies on a treasure hunt and received lessons in knots and their applications from new pack leader Rich Hosek. Afterwards we had skits, songs, stories and s'mores around a campfire before watching a movie. On October 20, 27 scouts and 32 family members went on a field trip to Wrigley Field. We had a Cubs trivia contest on the bus ride into Chicago. On the tour, we were able to go behind the scenes and visit the press box, the clubhouse, dugout and step onto the field. Afterwards we went over to nearby D'Agostino's for lunch of salad, garlic bread and pizza.

During October, Troop 24 boy scouts went on two campouts. Early in the month they visited Cantigny, the estate of Robert McCormick, which offers camping sites for scouts. Following an Friday evening meal of hardtack and stew, on Saturday the scouts watched a Civil War reenactment of a battle. They also had the chance to talk with soldiers and visit their encampments. To prepare for their campout, scouts learned about a Civil War soldier's life from Colin Fagan, a Civil War re-enactor, who came to a Thursday night meeting at RPC. Later in the month, a group of scouts camped at Warren Dunes State Park in Michigan, where they had fun hiking and climbing the dunes. Scouts and scout parents also worked at the *Feed Our Community Day* on October 20.





### Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

The topic for the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2012-2013 is *Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles* by Nancy Benson-Nicol. All women are invited to participate in the Bible study. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 28 (after Thanksgiving) at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Lesson 3: A Spiritual House and Household Matters  
Scripture: 1 Peter 2:1-10; 3 John 1-8

Key ideas: God makes a house a home by forming the children of God into a dwelling fit for the Holy Spirit, with Christ as chief cornerstone. When God's children extend genuine hospitality to others, they set God's household apart from all other earthly structures.

Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura are the rotating leaders. Lesson 3 will be led by Joyce Van Cura.

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### Human Scene

Human Scene, RPC's adult education class, meets at 9:00 on Sundays in the upstairs parlor. Our schedule for November:

**November 4** – Ellen Hamilton - *Into Africa* - When she was 6 years old, Ellen Hamilton decided she wanted to visit Africa. It took her 55 years to get there, but the minute she set foot on African soil the first time, she started planning a return visit. On Sunday, September 9, Ellen will bring photos and memories from her trips to Tanzania, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. What makes Africa so special and worth a 19-hour plane flight from Chicago?

**November 11 & 18**– John Haugland will host a 4-part series on *Climate Change*. After an overview of the science of climate change and its impacts in the Midwest, we will discuss what an appropriate response may be for communities of faith. The third and fourth parts are scheduled for December.

**November 25** – Amanda Gregus – Report on *PCUSA Annual Meeting* this past summer from our RPC representative.

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### College Tuition Blues

For parents with children who are planning on going to college, tuition and other costs can add up to a hefty price tag. For those parents with a lot of questions and not as many answers, we are hosting a lively discussion featuring parents who have or are putting kids through college with the goal of getting some tips on the college application process, how to best finance college costs, etc. After church on November 4 and December 9, please feel free to grab some coffee and a donut in the Social Hall and join us upstairs in the Parlor.

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### Media Sale on February 9

We're collecting all types of "media" for a sale, and welcome your donations of *books* (other than encyclopedias), *DVDs*, *CDs*, *records* (33, 45, and 78 RPM), *computer software*, *comic books*, *artwork*, *music books*, and *sheet music*. There are collection boxes at the church, or for pick-up of your donations, contact Sandra Kappmeyer at [skappzan@aol.com](mailto:skappzan@aol.com).



## Events

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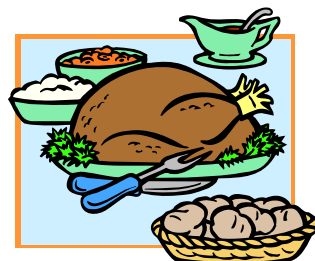
### Lunch for Prospective New Members on November 4

On Sunday, November 4, at 11:20 a.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](mailto:scott.jansen@comcast.net)) or Lynda Nadkarni, Membership Chair ([lmn@floros.org](mailto:lmn@floros.org)). Childcare will be provided if desired.

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### Thanksgiving Potluck on November 18

On November 18 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving), we will have our annual Thanksgiving Potluck in the Social Hall following worship. Please plan to stay and enjoy a great meal and time of fellowship with your church family. Bring your appetites and, if possible, a dish to share. If you will be able to cook a turkey or ham or help with set up, serving or clean up, contact Noemi Sanchez ([nsanchez79@comcast.net](mailto:nsanchez79@comcast.net)) or Carrie Staubus ([carriestaubus@earthlink.net](mailto:carriestaubus@earthlink.net)).



### Messiah on Sunday, December 16

On December 16, at 4:00 p.m., the Riverside Festival Chorus & Orchestra will perform Handel's Messiah at Riverside Presbyterian Church.

Soloists: Theresa Ludden-Wold, soprano; Janet Mensen Reynolds, mezzo; Wain Parham, tenor; and Pete Pohlhammer, bass, with conductor Sally Sloane. Contact [musikhse@comcast.net](mailto:musikhse@comcast.net) for more information.

I'd like to thank all the members of our congregation who reached out to me after my mom passed away. I was very touched by your words of comfort and support, and the flowers that were delivered were beautiful, too. Having a church home at a time like this means so much to me. Thank you for everything.

Kathi Rocanova

A very special thank you for the beautiful flowers Gwen Heine brought to me last Sunday from Church. I appreciate the kind work of the Flower Committee very much. Gratefully,

Marjorie Lewe

Thank you for all the prayers and cards I received after my Dad's passing. They meant a great deal to me. It is very comforting to know my church family is always ready to lend love and support.


Paula McCracken



Please check the  
Website for the  
most recent  
calendar  
updates!



# November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30a Women's Forum 4:00 Singers 6:00 Girls' Group 5th-8th 7:00 Girls' Group 9th-12 7:30p Chancel Choir	2 5:30 Youth Group Lock-in 7p First Fridays at Jansens	3 Youth Group Lock-in 4p Roots & Shoots
4 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Open Gym 1:30p Cantata Worship <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	5 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	6 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	7 Office Closed 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	8 6:30a Women's Forum	9 7p Singles Group	10
11 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 6p Jr High Youth Group 7:30p Sr High Youth Group	12 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm 7:30p Trustees	13 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	14 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	15 6:30a Women's Forum	16 10a CARERS Comm 6p Craft Night	17 11a Presbytery Mtg 4p Roots & Shoots
18 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Scottish Home Worship 6p Jr High Youth Group 7:30p Sr High Youth Group <b>Vision</b> Deadline	19 5:15p Volleyball	20 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg	21 Office Closed 7:30p Session Mtg	22 6:30a Women's Forum 	23 4p Roots & Shoots 7p Singles Group	24
25 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship NO Youth Group	26 5:15p Volleyball	27 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	28 Office Closed 10a Presbyterian Women 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	29 6:30a Women's Forum	30	

**RIVERSIDE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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Riverside, Illinois  
60546

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

Place mailing label here



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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<b>Artist in Residence:</b>	Karena Mendoza
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<b>Organist Emerita:</b>	Arline Robbins



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](http://www.rpcusa.org)

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