



# The Vision

January 2013

## Make Mistakes, Make Mistakes, Make Mistakes

One of my favorite television celebrities is the animated character known as “Ms. Frizzle” on The Magic School Bus. She was a teacher who helped kids discover the world by leading them through wondrous adventures. And her slogan was “make mistakes, make mistakes, make mistakes.” The idea was that we cannot maximize our learning unless we are willing to explore avenues that are currently untested.

This idea came up at a recent Presbytery Assembly. The leader was encouraging us to think about starting programs that did something new and different, rather than simply repeating traditions year in and year out. The church should not be a machine, but an organic being, “the bride of Christ,” continually evolving along with her members.

So, we were asked at that Assembly to name some of the recent risks we had taken that led to failures. The assumption was that, if a church is regularly taking risks, then some of those risks will lead to failures. If there are no failures at all, then the church is not taking enough risks. So, a failure is actually the sign of the life of the Holy Spirit moving within a congregation.

As we think of New Year resolutions, and as new officers accept different roles within the congregation, it is time to call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us into the unknown future. What will happen in 2013? I do not know, and that is a good thing. Hopefully, there will be some failures. Some new ideas will flop miserably. That would mean we are alive and well.

In 2012, we tried to bring in a paper bin as an eco-fundraiser. It was a good idea, initiated with the best of intentions, but it did not work. The bin has been removed. Likewise, I began a program known as “doubters’ dialogue” to which I had asked the congregation to invite all their agnostic and atheistic friends. I was hoping that we all could learn from one another, and I had grand dreams for this program. But, not one single doubter from beyond the congregation ever came. So, we have discontinued the program.

There are other efforts I could mention, but the point is clear. Christians are forgiving people. Leaders are not supposed to play it safe and never make any waves. They are supposed to listen to the Spirit and try new things. If you have a new idea, even if it is a little strange, feel free to suggest it to the church officers you know. And, if you are a church officer, don’t be too hesitant to try something new. Willingness to risk also has led to fabulous successes such as the Teen Scene, the Feed Six replacement of the Crop Walk, a few new Covenant Groups in 2012, and the recent College Tuition idea exchanges. So, if it works, great. If it doesn’t work, forgiveness abounds. Be bold in your dreams in 2013.

Your brother in Christ,  
Scott



We are called to  
celebrate God’s  
presence; Nurture  
the spiritual life of  
each individual;  
Carry the light of  
Jesus Christ to the  
world; and Serve  
God by serving  
others.

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# Worship

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## January Worship Schedule

### **January 6** *Isaiah 60:1-7* “The Second Naïveté”

Today is Epiphany Sunday when we celebrate the enlightenment that God gives to us. Paul Ricoeur spoke of that enlightenment coming in stages leading up to the “second naïveté.” What might be the various stages of understanding this passage from Isaiah? How is God made known to the world? We will also celebrate Communion and talk about the enlightenment that comes through the sacrament.

### **January 13** *Isaiah 43:1-7* and *Luke 3:21-22* “Passing through the Waters”

Why do we use water during a baptism? What historical symbols are involved? What did the water mean as it pertained to Jesus? What are we declaring when we do a modern day baptism? Today is Baptism of Jesus Sunday and we will also be baptizing at least one child. We will also be ordaining and installing new church officers.

### **January 20** *1 Corinthians 12:1-11* “Christian Unity”

Does “unity” mean that we all think alike? That we all act alike? What is the basis of Christian unity? How should we relate to other Christians in the world? Today we will read a letter of greetings from another church within the Covenant of Churches.

### **January 27** *Luke 4:14-21* “What Did Jesus Accomplish?”

If you had to name one important thing that Jesus accomplished, what would it be? If you asked Jesus what was the primary goal of his ministry, what would he say? What did Jesus mean when he spoke of “the year of the Lord’s favor?”

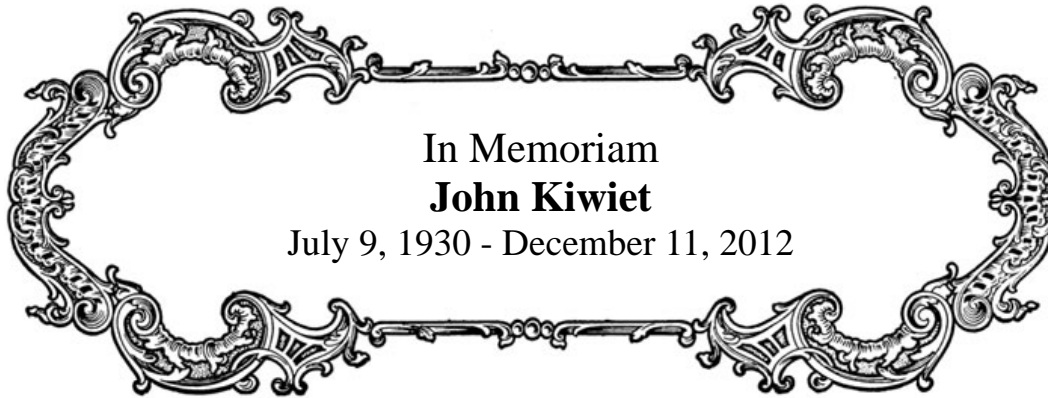


## January Opportunities

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
January 6	Elizabeth Musick	OPEN	Will & Suzanne Vogel Ourth family	OPEN	Aieta Family
January 13	Youth	OPEN	Lisle Family	OPEN	OPEN
January 20	Michael Aieta	OPEN	Scuff Gross Dennis Sadilek Lynn Shannon Labotka Marjorie Lewe	OPEN	OPEN
January 27	Dennis Zander	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN



## Session Highlights

In December, the Session:

- ♦ noted with sadness the death of John Kiwiet;
- ♦ called the annual congregational meeting for January 27;
- ♦ approved the RPC budget for 2013;
- ♦ authorized borrowing from the Endowment Fund the amount needed to zero out the 2012 year-end deficit. The loan will be repaid in 2013;
- ♦ voted to pay all staff on a monthly rather than semi-monthly basis;
- ♦ learned that the Saugatuck camp has been sold to a developer and will close at the end of the 2013 season;
- ♦ removed from the active roll: Shirley Misare (member request), Chriss Giaquinta (unable to contact) and Jessica Garza (attends another church);
- ♦ removed from the inactive roll, at their request: Justin Heilenbach, Bobbie Jordan and Brent Jordan;
- ♦ removed from the inactive roll due to lack of participation or response: Arthur Carden, Linda Choutka, Christine Stout, Duane Stout, and Katie, Kristina and Sara Wert;
- ♦ discussed membership requirements and ways to reach out to non-participating members.

Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of the Session

## January Birthdays



Joe Ourth 1/1  
Laura Vanags 1/4  
Terence Akebe 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  
Amy Regan 1/14  
DeAnn Gruber 1/15  
Jenny Kolinski 1/15  
Stella Meuyou 1/16  
Carol Franzo 1/17  
Chuck Niedrich 1/17  
Emma Schander 1/20  
Jonathan Gruber 1/21  
Mary Ann Sadilek 1/23  
John Cain 1/24  
Anna Franzo 1/24

Audrey Withers 1/24  
Claire Chaney 1/25  
Bob Gruber 1/25  
Samantha Miezio 1/26  
Shelley Reichle 1/27  
Abby Willinger 1/28  
Laura McLean 1/30  
Rachel McLean 1/30  
Tom Booton 1/31  
Isabella Cain 1/31  
Remy Doornebos 1/31

## Sharing Our Gifts

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### CARERS Corner

During January, the CARERS join [Interfaith House](#) in assisting ill and injured homeless adults. We can help by supplying kitchen and personal items including basic kitchen tools, pots and pans, dishes; and toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. Interfaith House is grateful for all donations.

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### Finance Update

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

Receipts	\$ 262,766 (80.8% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 289,789 (89.1% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 27,023

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### Capital Improvements

Our capital improvement program is an ongoing effort. This year we completed the handicapped accessible washrooms, and next year we will hopefully be starting on the Rose Window. If you made a pledge to contribute to this program, please be sure to fulfill that promise. If you have not pledged yet, there are several ways to donate. There are forms available in the church office, you can place a donation during normal church services (be sure to note "Capital Funds" on your check or payment), or you can [donate online](#). We have had a good start for this program but we have a long way to go to keep our church home in good repair.

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### Memorial Committee

With the consent of family members, the Memorial Committee placed memorial funds for Ken Holt, Ethel Brakas, and Charlotte Graf into the General Capital Fund, which goes towards building improvement projects such as the handicapped accessible bathroom.

We want to gratefully acknowledge and deeply thank all those who have made gifts to the Memorial Fund during this past year, and we encourage all parishioners to consider Riverside Presbyterian Church in their estate planning.

*I know that my Redeemer liveth...* Job 19:25Job 19:25

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### Time to Make *Per Capita* Contribution

*Per Capita* is an amount per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church USA to share in the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of our church's government. In 2013 RPC will pay \$30.68 for each church member.

#### Why is Per Capita important?

Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. By providing the primary means through which commissioners and advisory delegates can gather to do their work, Per Capita dollars help to undergird our governance system. These contributions also help fund programs to assist local congregations with pastoral transitions, train and support interim ministers, resolve congregational conflicts, and prepare people for service as ordained ministers. More information regarding how these dollars are spent can be found at [www.pcusa.org/percapita](http://www.pcusa.org/percapita).

The Per Capita payment to Presbytery in 2012 was \$12,670. Through November of 2012, members had made Per Capita payments of only \$3,883. The difference has to be paid from our general operating funds. We do not have any surplus funds and are actually operating at a deficit. Please help to reduce our deficit by making your Per Capita payment, indicating "Per Capita" on the memo line of your check or donating on-line at [www.rpcusa.org/donations.html](http://www.rpcusa.org/donations.html).





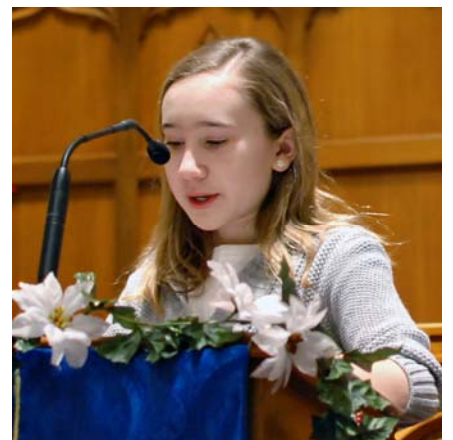
RPC's 27th annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* took place on Sunday, December 16. The sanctuary was filled to overflowing with an appreciative audience.





## Christmas Pageant

Our Children's Worship Service on December 16 drew quite a crowd to watch almost 60 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 featured beautiful artwork from several of our Sunday School students. Even the Statement of Faith was created by the children in Sunday school. There were also many adults who helped make this wonderful day a success. Many thanks to all of you and a special thanks to Connie Kelly, Patti Friend, Susan Lisle, Hannah Pecis and Susan Zander. Thanks to Deb Pike for our beautiful new wiseman/woman costumes!



*For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given.*  
Isaiah 9:6







## Children/Youth

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### Sunday School

Sunday school returns on January 10. We're starting off the New Year with a fascinating rotation where we will explore the question, *How do we recognize and witness God's presence in life today?* Together we'll reflect on stories of faith from the Bible, in life all around us, *and* see the impact of faith stories in our own lives. Children are sure to find inspiration and joy through stories of God's love and grace. What a great way to begin 2013! Specific information about this month's schedule will be available on [www.rpcusa.org](http://www.rpcusa.org) in early January.

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Happy New Year! 2013 is going to bring many new and exciting things. This month we will be talking about winter, gearing up for *Wicky Wacky Wednesday*, inviting friends and family to be 'Guest Readers' and getting ready for Parent-Teacher Conferences. We're sure to be busy!

Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2013-2014 school year, so tell your friends and neighbors. 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 office.

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### Youth Group

Sunday, January 6: Game Night at RPC

Monday, January 14: Martin Luther King Weekend - Bowling

Sunday, January 20: Regular Meeting at Ascension - games and discussion topic

Friday, January 25 - Sunday, January 27: Junior High Retreat in Bloomington IL

We hope you can join us for Youth Group in January. If you have any questions, please contact Tara Gregus at [taragregus@yahoo.com](mailto:taragregus@yahoo.com)



Jr. High group on their annual outing to Chicago for ice skating



On December 9 members of the Youth Groups joined other church members at the Deacons' "Caring Christmas" event. The many plates of cookies were delivered to RPC members and friends.







## **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 **January 23** at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Lesson 4: The Help

Scripture: *1 Peter 2:11-25*

Key idea: In God's household, those of low status by earthly standards are held in high regard as God's righteous exemplars of faithfulness and perseverance. Their persistent witness to the Good News, even in the face of adversity, holds the power to unify the family of faith and to transform the broken human relations and institutions that limit them.

Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura are the rotating leaders. Lesson 4 will be led by Elizabeth Musick.

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## **Women's Forum**

On Saturday, December 1, nine of the ladies from Women's Forum attended Shabbat at Karen Kadar's synagogue. We are currently studying her book, *The Bridge to Forgiveness*. We were warmly welcomed and guided into the sanctuary. We were given service books, which read back to front, right to left. Pages had Hebrew on the right and English on the left. The service opened with breathing exercises – to connect with the soul (i.e., breath), followed by worship with musicians (a Jamba drum, 2 guitarists and 1 singer). The music and service was happy and holy. One of the familiar songs was Psalm 92. At one point the focus was on peace and the music became quieter and more reverent. My favorite part of the service was when the Torah scrolls were brought out, paraded around the room accompanied by celebratory music. People reverently touched the scroll and then their lips as it passed by them. When read, a silver pointer was used so fingers didn't touch the scroll. As it was put away in a tabernacle enclosure, everyone faced the tabernacle, sang, some slightly knelt and all bowed in respect. The service concluded with a song and prayer for peace. In addition, we were honored to watch a baby naming ceremony (very similar to ours), a bar mitzvah, classes for a bar mitzvah, and to participate in an informative after-service Bible study (of Exodus 6:2-12). It was a very moving day.

*Laura Vanags*

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## **Human Scene**

**January 6** - Chapter 4 of the video presentation on the Old Testament - "Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar" - Professor Amy-Jill Levine continues her lecture on the Old Testament.

**January 13** - Chapter 5 of the video presentation on the Old Testament - "Isaac" - Professor Amy-Jill Levine continues her lecture on the Old Testament.

**January 20** - Samantha Satterwaite, founder of *Walk With Therese*, a non-for-profit based in River Forest, will come with a group of volunteers and speak to Human Scene about its mission to educate area communities on prevention and awareness of domestic violence.

**January 27** - Chapter 6 of the video presentation on the Old Testament - "The Jacob Saga" - Professor Amy-Jill Levine continues her lecture on the Old Testament.

## Events

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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).



### Fellowship News

Join us for a **Mid-Winter Potluck** on **Sunday, January 20**, 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:

Our annual **Valentine's Square Dance** will be held on **Saturday, February 9**, 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 16**, 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.

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### Blood Donors

#### Save your blood for February 9!

The Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of Churches' annual Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, February 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Riverside Masonic Lodge, 40 Forest Avenue. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended and will be given priority. To schedule your appointment, please contact LifeSource at (847)803-7943. **Please use the Covenant's sponsor code: RD98** when you register for this drive **OR** when you donate blood elsewhere, if you find another date or LifeSource location more convenient. That will give our blood drive credit for your donation. Volunteer help is needed for this and future blood drives. Please contact Marilyn Grace Slanec if you can help.

*Did you know. . .*

Every unit of blood helps three patients.

Approximately 90% of us will need a blood transfusion in our lifetime.

5% of the population donates blood.

More than 1,000 donors are needed on a daily basis--just to meet the needs of patients in the LifeSource service area.

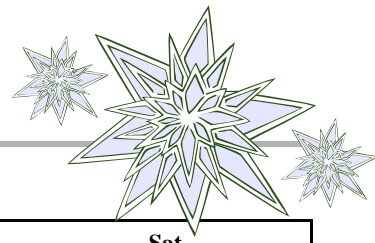
If all eligible people would donate, there would never be a blood shortage.



RPC's Handbell Choir performed at the Riverside Holiday Stroll on Friday, November 30.



Please check the  
Website for the  
most recent  
calendar  
updates!



# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Closed 6:30a Men's Forum	2 Office Closed 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace	3 6:30a Women's Forum 6p Girls' Group (5th-8th) 7p Girls' Group (9th-12th)	4	5
6 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Open Gym 1:30p Cantata Worship	7 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	8 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	9 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	10 6:30a Women's Forum 6p Girls' Group (5th-8th) 7p Girls' Group (9th-12th)	11	12
13 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	14 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	15 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg	16 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session	17 6:30a Women's Forum 6p Girls' Group (5th-8th) 7p Girls' Group (9th-12th)	18	19
20 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Potluck Dinner	21 5:15p Volleyball	22 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	23 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	24 6:30a Women's Forum 6p Girls' Group (5th-8th) 7p Girls' Group (9th-12th)	25	26
27 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Annual Congregational Mtg 11a Coffee Fellowship	28 5:15p Volleyball	29 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	30 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	31 6:30a Women's Forum 6p Girls' Group (5th-8th) 7p Girls' Group (9th-12th)		

**RIVERSIDE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

116 Barrypoint Road  
Riverside, Illinois  
60546

Phone: 708-447-1520  
Fax: 708-447-1525  
Website: [www.rpcusa.org](http://www.rpcusa.org)

**"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**

<b>Pastor:</b>	Dr. Scott Jansen <i>scott.jansen@comcast.net</i>
<b>Minister of Music:</b>	Dr. Sally Sloane <i>musikhse@comcast.net</i>
<b>Director of Christian Education:</b>	Jenny Kolinski <i>kolinski426@comcast.net</i>
<b>Administrative Assistants:</b>	Linda Hutcheson Donna Jones <i>rpcoffice@sbcglobal.net</i>
<b>Girls' Group Advisor:</b>	Noemi Sanchez <i>nsanchez79@comcast.net</i>
<b>Asst. Girls' Group Advisor:</b>	Katrina Daniels <i>kdaniels321@yahoo.com</i>
<b>Senior &amp; Junior High Youth Advisor:</b>	Tara Gregus <i>taragregus@yahoo.com</i>
<b>Building Supervisor:</b>	Joel Hastings <i>rpcjoel2005@sbcglobal.net</i>
<b>Preschool Director:</b>	Lisa Manganiello
<b>Custodian:</b>	Krzysztof Gieron
<b>Clerk of Session:</b>	Mary Ann Sadilek <i>MASDS@aol.com</i>
<b>Deacons Moderators:</b>	Thom DeVries Frank Gangware
<b>Trustees President:</b>	Jim Marciniak
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Cindy Reynolds Rayfield <i>Cindy@CindyRRayfield.com</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Alfred Kitch <i>rpc_fred_kitch@sbcglobal.net</i>
<b>Archivist:</b>	Caroline Tecson
<b>Wedding Coordinator:</b>	Donna Ulrich
<b>Artist in Residence:</b>	Karena Mendoza
<b>Director of Music Emerita:</b>	Mary Ann Sadilek
<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)

**Vision Editor/Webmaster:**  
Nancy Hopkins  
*RPCVisionEditor@sbcglobal.net*