

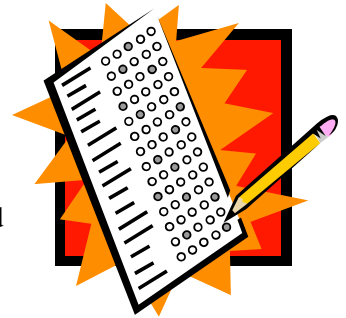


The Vision

May 2013

Spiritual Maturity Self-Test

One very cool tidbit I learned at my recent continuing education seminar at McCormick Seminary was a method for assessing one's level of spiritual maturity. As is true with all such tests, it isn't perfect. If I try to guess how long a forty-year-old will live, based on current weight, cigarette and alcohol consumption, I could give some statistically useful guesses. But, my little "test" would not work for each individual. This test is like that.



Talk of spiritual maturity is timely since May is the month for Pentecost. On Pentecost, we consider the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is sometimes equated to wind, fire, power, or energy. The Spirit is a way of describing the fact that God is *doing* something.

So, to take the test, you begin by jotting down some notes about the way that you express what God is doing. Think about your prayers. What do you ask God to do? What do you thank God for doing? Think about your favorite songs that mention God. What is God doing in those songs? Think about your favorite Bible passages. What is God doing in those verses? Add to this any other method that you use to envision God doing something.

Now look at all your notes, and ask yourself, what is the object of God's concern in these cases? Is God concerned about one individual, one family, one affiliated group of people, one nation? Is God concerned about non-humans, or only humans? Is God concerned about other periods of time, past and future, or is God concerned only about the present? In other words, how *big* and how *diverse* is the object of God's concern?

The basic idea of the "test" is that your level of spiritual maturity is proportional to what you frequently imagine to be the size of God's concern. If your prayers are often for the whole world, or if you often pray for non-humans, or for those who will be alive at some point in the future, all of these are indications of greater spiritual maturity.

The "classic" children's song says, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Consider the number of times the words "me" or "I" occur in the lyrics. The "me" and "I" count is the simplest test for the maturity level of any Christian song. Of course, there is nothing "wrong" with saying that a children's song is for those who are immature. Children are *supposed* to be immature.

But the point of the test is to push us forward in our spiritual maturity. If your focus is always on God's connection to your immediate self, you may become confused and wonder how to make sense of God's activity—God's Spirit. But, if you focus frequently on God's actions in all times and in all places, this will help you to better understand what God may or may not be doing for you as an individual.

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

May Worship Schedule

May 5 *John 5:1-9* “Do You Want to be Well?” Jesus asks the sick man, “Do you want to be made well?” He perceived a bit of an accusation in the question—that he had not been doing enough to care for himself. The healing miracles of God are generally cooperative miracles, not unilateral miracles. Today we will also celebrate Communion and receive new members into the church family. And, after worship, there is a congregational meeting to elect an officer.

May 12 *John 17:20-26* “Maternal Values” Jesus lifts up his values in this passage: being a harmonious part of a community, as opposed to being independent; concern for future generations; and love for others. How are these values of God reflected in our recognition of Mothers’ Day? There will also be ordination of church officers this day.

May 19 *Acts 2:1-21* “Youth Sunday” This youth-led worship service will be a celebration of the faith of our youth. They will be selecting all the music, singing some of their favorite songs, from the hymnal or otherwise, and talking about the meanings of those songs for their faith. Numerous youth will participate in various ways. Today is Womack Scholarship Sunday and also Pentecost Sunday (wear red).

May 26 *John 16:4b-7, 12-15* “Where to Find the Truth” Jesus talks to his disciples about what life will be like after he dies. How will they know what is right and what is wrong? He had surprised them so many times—they did not have confidence that they could figure it out on their own. What authority should we consult for knowing what is God’s will for us today?



May Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Paige Rambeaux](#) or [Russel Brown-Memoh](#)
 For flower contributions, please contact the [RPC Office](#)
 Potential Acolytes and Liturgists, please contact [Claire Gangware](#)



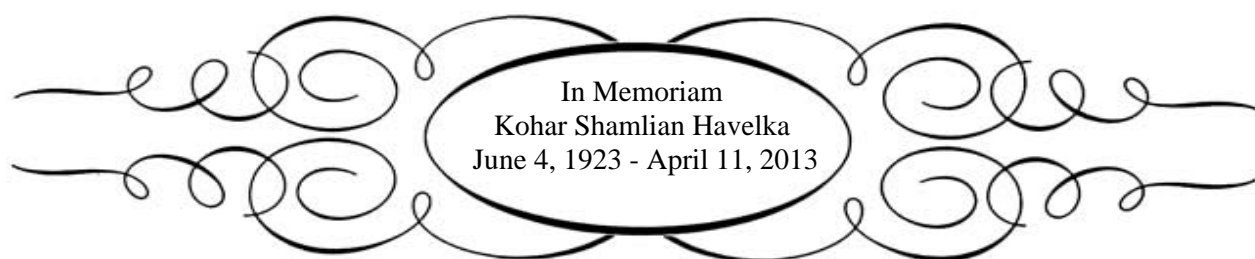
	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
May 5	Hollie Miezio	Samantha Miezio	Lancaster - Schramm Family	Paula McCracken	Deacons <i>Share the Harvest</i>
May 12	Russel Brown-Memoh	OPEN	Colleen & Bill Muller Meyer Family	Mike & Gwen Heine	Rachel Nouye Russel Brown-Memoh
May 19	Youth <i>Womack Scholarship Sunday</i>	OPEN	Youth	Betsy Gardner	OPEN
May 25	Paige Rambeaux	OPEN	Tom Radigan Kemp Clarke Ranft Family	OPEN	OPEN

Session Highlights

In April, the Session:

- ◆ received Justine Liberty Finn and Christopher Bouse as new members;
- ◆ noted with sadness the death of Kohar Havelka on April 11;
- ◆ called a congregational meeting for May 5, following worship, for the purpose of electing a deacon to fill the unexpired term of Noemi Sanchez;
- ◆ approved a shop-and-share fundraiser at Clover’s Garden Center for May 17-19;
- ◆ clarified the mission of the Long Range Planning Committee: to determine in what areas RPC is not adequately fulfilling the “Great Ends of the Church” (as described in the Book of Order) and then to formulate goals and programs to implement any needed changes; and
- ◆ learned that RPC will hold a Vacation Bible School July 7-11, featuring an environmental emphasis.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session



May Birthdays



Braxton Nettles 5/1	Louise Bonnette 5/11	Lisa Rocanova 5/17	Nancy Lancaster 5/25
Keri Burke 5/2	Carrie Norwood 5/11	Victor Wright 5/17	Riley Henderson 5/26
Erika Sterner 5/2	Trey Vogel 5/11	Benjamin Jendras 5/18	Ethan Smith 5/26
Tarquin Rayfield 5/3	Alison Heine 5/12	Aimee Sahlas 5/18	Sarah Smith 5/26
Frank Hooglander 5/4	Paige Deason 5/13	Bernard Slanec 5/18	Hollie Miezio 5/27
Lauren Teune 5/4	Connie Kelly 5/13	Julie Tamlyn 5/20	Paula McCracken 5/28
Danika Apostolovich 5/5	Charlotte Morrison 5/13	Michael Gruber 5/21	Paxton Tamlyn 5/28
Kyler Monacella 5/5	Gabrielle Nolan 5/13	Lindsay Hayes 5/21	Thomas Barr 5/29
Emma Strand 5/5	Christ Floros 5/15	Alice Mazanec 5/21	Ellie Carlson 5/29
Rachel Teune 5/6	Gavin Vogel 5/15	Rachel Nouye 5/21	Colleen Muller 5/29
Jeanine Buttimer 5/8	Marie Cerny 5/16	Amanda Gruber 5/23	Jim Sit 5/29
Susan Lisle 5/8	Abigail Regan 5/16	Melissa Krefft 5/24	Bryan Zander 5/29
Les MacDonald 5/9	Loel Meyer 5/17	Michael Krefft 5/24	Christelle Meuyou 5/30
			Dorothy Thorsen 5/31

Trustees for May are Fred Mitchell and Jim McLean.

Church News

Deacons in Action



We do mission work in partnerships!

Need a ride to church? Home communion? Prayers or visitation?
CONTACT YOUR DEACON!

Lloyd Bradbury (A-Bo)
Thom DeVries (Br-Ce)
Mary Jansen (Ch-Da)
VACANT (De-Fl)
Susan Zander (Fo-G)
Jeanine Buttmer (H)

Ellen Hamilton I-K)
John Haugland (L-Ma)
Gwen Heine (Mc-My)
Stephen Marcus (N-Pe)
Nancy Dvorak (Pf-R)

Frank Gangware (Sa-Se)
Sandra Kappmeyer (Sh-Sm)
Susan Lisle (So-T)
Deb Pike (U-Wa)
Steve Teune (We-Z)

Your deacon is easily identified by the letter(s) behind their name, which corresponds to the first letter of your last name.
Youth Deacons - Hannah Pecis & Keri Burke

Worship to Go

Volunteers are always welcome to participate in the two services that the Deacons provide monthly to our friends and neighbors in senior care. It only takes an hour of your time, but means so much to the senior residents. Please contact Lloyd Bradbury or Steve Marcus if you are interested.

Cantata (British Home) Service - 1:30 p.m. on the 1st Sunday of every month – **May 5**
Scottish Home Service - 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of every month – **May 19**

Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at end of March (25% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$ 85,999	(26.1% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 90,297	(27.4% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 4,298	



Notes from the Legacy Society: *Remembering Jeanne Heidler*

RPC has been notified that it will receive a bequest from the estate of Jeanne Heidler, a 69-year-member, who died last year.

Jeanne was a life-long Riverside resident, living in the home built by her father in the 1920s. She was a textiles and home economics major at Iowa State College and worked for Commonwealth Edison for her entire career. Jeanne was a devoted member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, serving on a national level and as a founding member of the West Suburban Alumnae chapter. She also was a long-time member of the Riverside Junior Woman's Club (now known as Junior Woman's Charity). Health concerns kept her from attending worship at RPC in recent years, but she was always grateful for visits by the pastor and deacons as well as members of the congregation. Jeanne especially appreciated partaking in home celebrations of the Lord's Supper.

RPC is grateful for Jeanne's inclusion of the church in her estate plans. Her generosity and foresight will be lovingly remembered. Information about RPC's Legacy Society is available [on the church website](#) or from the church office.



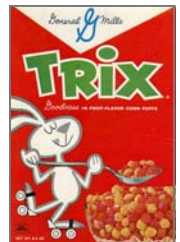
Pentecost offering

One of the giving opportunities sponsored by the Presbyterian Church USA is focused on supporting youth in the church and helping at-risk children. The monies from this donation go toward various causes, including the Peace Camp in Detroit, which offers ten days of music, arts and fellowship to the community. This offering also supports Christian leadership training opportunities for young people such as the Triennium conference and year-long mission trips. In addition, up to 40% can be used by RPC to support local youth programs as determined by the Deacons. Please consider making a difference by giving using the pew envelopes or [donate online](#).



CARERS Corner

In May the CARERS will be collecting boxed cereal, any size - individual, regular or king size - and any brand for the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. The Scouts and the Sunday school children will again join in this collection and the Sunday School kids will decorate the trunk for the month. Your contributions are very much appreciated.



Blanket the World with Love - Thank You!

Many thanks for supporting the February **Blankets +** program. Contributions to **Blankets +** means that Church World Service is there for the long haul as families recover from a disaster or struggle against grinding poverty. A check for \$968 will be sent to [Church World Service](#).



Children

Passport to the Promised Land

We're wrapping up a great year of Sunday school by going back to the beginning...the VERY beginning. Our last (and very brief) rotation will have kids exploring *Genesis 1:9-13* by going on a nature hike, writing letters to God, recreating the creation story in their own unique ways and cooking up some delicious treats together.

	K-2	3-5	6-8
May 5	Oasis Place	Manse Kitchen	Creation Station
May 12	Creation Station	Oasis Place	Manse Kitchen
May 19	<i>Pentecost Celebration: All ages in the Social Hall (last day of Sunday school!)</i>		

May's memory verse . . .

Oh Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above in all heavens.
Psalm 8:1

CARERS Committee & Kids Unite

This month the CARERS Committee, in conjunction with the Sunday School, will be collecting cereal of all kinds for the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Families come to First Presbyterian for breakfast in the summer because they are not receiving breakfast at their schools as they do during the school year. Help these kids have enough to eat in the summer months! Kids will get an extra sticker on their name tags for each box of cereal they donate.

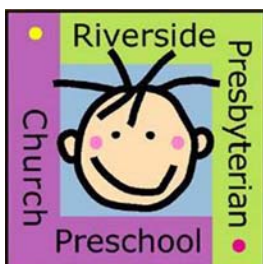


We Love our Children & Youth Program Volunteers

We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you! Thanks to all who have blessed our programs with their time, energy and patience as shepherds, Godly Play leaders, Confirmation leaders, Teen Scene facilitators and Sunday School teachers this school year: Joe Aieta, Lloyd Bradbury, Shannon Buhle, Allie & Keri Burke, Jeanine Buttmer, John Cain, Susan Deems-Dluhy, Nancy Dvorak, Frank & Jake Fieseler, Marika Floros, Patti Friend, Jill Glawe, John & Kelly Haugland, Courtney Hooglander, Connie Kelly, Lily, Natalie & Susan Lisle, Christine Long, Susan Lynch, Lisa Marciniak, Annie Mitchell, Colleen Muller, Lynda and Kathryn Nadkarni, Abraham & Joe Ourth, Adeline, Hannah & Vince Pecis, Paige Rambeaux, Kathi Rocanova, Brooke, Alyssa & Abby Schwarz, and Bryan & Susan Zander.

Vacation Bible School is Returning to RPC!

Please save the date for this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS): the evenings of July 7-11. This year's theme will be *Caring for God's Creation*. Children who are going into Kindergarten in the fall through those entering 5th grade are welcome to participate in this great opportunity to better understand and help to restore the wholeness of God's creation. Plenty of volunteers are needed. If you'd like to help please contact Jenny Kolinski at kolinski426@comcast.net

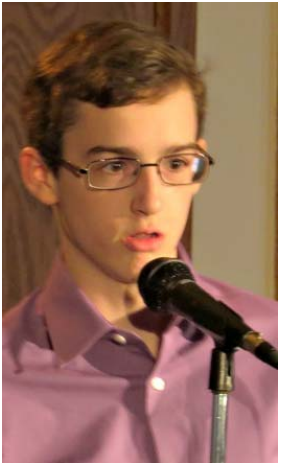


Another preschool year is coming to a close - it has gone by so fast! The month of May will find us busy getting ready for our *Butterfly Bash* in celebration of Mother's Day, a trip to the Riverside Police Station, our end-of-the-year programs; and we will end our school year with a puppet show called *Puppet Soup*. Each event promises to be a wonderful time. In the midst of all of this activity we would like to thank the members of the RPC staff as well as the church family for their continued help and support throughout our school year - we couldn't ask for better company. And a giant thank you to RPC members Dennis Zander and Susan Zander for their time and talents refreshing our preschool website - it's going to be fabulous. Have a wonderful summer - see you in the fall!

Open Mic Night



On April 14 we were again amazed at the talent found among RPC members and friends at our annual Open Mic Night. Thanks to all who performed!



Youth

Teen Scene

The high school Sunday School class meets every Sunday in the RPC Library at 9:00. All high school students are invited to join the group.

Youth Group

Here's what's happening in Youth Group in May. Come join us and feel free to bring a friend!

Sunday, May 5 - Games and Discussion at RPC. Topic to be announced.

Saturday, May 11 - Make brunch for your mom to bring home for Mother's Day at RPC in the afternoon (no Youth Group on Mother's Day)

Sunday, May 19 - Youth Sunday/Womack Scholarship Sunday (no Youth Group in the evening)

Sunday, May 26 - Memorial Day weekend - no Youth Group

Sunday, June 2 - Last Day of Youth Group - End of Year Party!

Girls' Group News

During April, Girls' Group had the privilege of hearing from our Big Sister Hannah Pecis. For some teens the transition from junior high to high school is a normal and easy thing to do, but for others it is very stressful because the "unknown" and the unanswered questions keep us awake at night. Thanks to Hannah because she eased the minds of the junior high group.

During the month Colleen Muller taught the girls how to crochet! Girls' Group will be assembling red, white and blue squares for afghans for the hospice unit in the Hines V.A Hospital. We had a great time working and together and being a part of this amazing project. On April 18, Girls' Group was canceled due to the flooding. We continue to pray for the flood victims in the Midwest. On Sunday, April 28, Girls' Group participated in RPC's Worship Service as part of our yearly tradition.

Upcoming Events

May 2 - Girls' Group in Session 6:00 p.m.

May 9 - Girls' Group in Session 6:00 p.m.

May 16 - No Girls' Group

May 17-18 - Girls' Group Sleepover

May 23 - "MY FAV" 6:00 p.m.





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 and enjoy a cup of coffee. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 22, at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Lesson 8: The Bad Seeds

Scripture: *1 John 2; 2 Peter 2-3; Jude 1-16*

Key Idea: Even in God's household, God's children cannot escape the disruption caused by family dysfunction. In order to overcome potentially destructive outside influences, God's children are instructed to dig more deeply within themselves to connect to sources of truth, hope, and faith. Can you identify people, theological views, and trends that are acceptable today, but that might have been considered "worrisome dangers" less than a century ago?

Lesson leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura. Sylvia will lead Lesson 8.

Human Scene

May 5 - *Divine Action & Miracles in the Light of Modern Science (Part I)*

Dr. Linda Eastwood, a physicist who has designed medical MRI systems, is now pursuing studies at McCormick Theological Seminary in Science and Religion. In the first of two Sunday sessions, she will take a historical look at how religion and science (and in particular cosmology) "evolved" together, and how they influenced each other even after they appeared to grow apart. She will also speak briefly on the human rights accompaniment program in Colombia sponsored by PC (USA).

May 12 - *Divine Action & Miracles in the Light of Modern Science (Part II)*

Dr. Linda Eastwood will look at how our current "scientific and rationalist worldview" shapes (sometimes in surprising ways) today's various approaches to relating science and faith: approaches of conflict, contrast, conversation, or convergence.

May 19 - *Solar Panels in Riverside: A Case Study*

Pastor Scott shares his experiences with the new Riverside zoning ordinance, his motivations (both economic and ethical) for wanting to capture solar energy, his process for designing his system, his experience with installing it himself, his process of clearing the building inspections, and his final results. Scott will talk about different design options, installers, financial considerations, purchasing sources, safety issues, neighbor reactions, and more.

May 26 - *Long Range Planning at RPC*

Cindy Gustafson and Joyce Van Cura will discuss previous long range planning at RPC and possible plans for future accomplishment. Additional ideas will be invited from the audience, as well as considerations for developing concrete plans over the summer.

May 26 will be the last program of the season for the *Human Scene*. The presentations will continue in August, and will be announced in the *Bulletin* and *The Vision*.

Events & Fellowship

Fr!day^{1st}

Don't forget the informal gathering at the Jansen residence, 300 Addison Road, on Friday, **May 3**, for adult church members (and their adult spouses) who have *birthdays during April, May or June*. It is a potluck snack "wine and cheese" type of social (not a dinner), so please bring something to share. There is no need to make a reservation—just come for any portion of the evening that you are free. The party goes from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m. Questions? Contact [Pastor Scott Jansen](#).

Gardeners Prepare

Mark your calendars for May 17-19! We are partnering with Clover's Garden Center, at 7401 W. 25th Street in North Riverside (hear Super Tony's). 10% of your pre-tax purchases made between May 17-19 will go directly to RPC. Shoppers will enjoy a huge selection of colorful spring flowers, herbs, vegetables and a great assortment of other gardening needs. We will have flyers in the church bulletin and the office starting in May. You need to bring in the coupon for the church to get credit. Thank you and happy planting!



Dedicated members of the CARERS Committee sort through donations after a successful month of contributions.



Dear Riverside Presbyterian Church Members,


Many thanks for your cards, thoughts and prayers. Blessings to Pastor Scott for a wonderful service and to Sally for assisting Koban with the organ during my Mom's funeral.

God Bless You All,
Paul and the family of Kohar Havelka

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!



May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	2 6:30a Women's Forum 6p Girls' Group	3 7:30p First Friday	4
5 9a Sunday School 10a Worship followed by Congregational Mtg 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Open Gym 1:30p Cantata Worship Service	6 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	7 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	8 Office Closed 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	9 6:30a Women's Forum 6p Girls' Group	10	11
12 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	13 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	14 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	15 Office Closed 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session Mtg	16 6:30a Women's Forum	17 Camp Saugatuck Family Retreat 10a CARERS Comm Mtg 6p Craft Night 6p Girls' Group Sleeper	18 Family Retreat
19 9a Sunday School 10a Worship - Youth Sunday 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a New Member Info 2p Scottish Home Worship Family Retreat Vision Deadline	20 5:15p Volleyball	21 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg	22 Office Closed 10a Pres. Women Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	23 6:30a Women's Forum 6p Girls' Group	24	25
26 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	27 5:15p Volleyball Memorial Day - Office Closed 	28 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	29 Office Closed	30 6:30a Women's Forum		

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

**RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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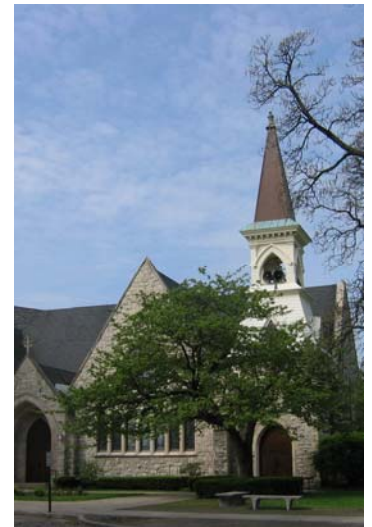
Artist in Residence: Karena Mendoza

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
Church (U.S.A)



More information about the
ministry and mission of
Riverside Presbyterian Church is
available by contacting any
member of our church staff and
by visiting our website:
www.rpcusa.org

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