



The Vision

August 2013

Build a Better Mouse Trap?

It's the middle of summertime and church attendance is down. This might cause one to wonder. What might we do to improve our worship attendance?

The old saying, "build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door" is relevant. Perhaps in 1870, before the onset of powerful mass media, Ralph Waldo Emerson's notion was closer to the truth. But, as modern marketing folks will tell you, what sells is often not the best product, but the product that gets the best marketing.



I am keenly aware that Sally spends many hours practicing music and exploring new possibilities for the music ministry. Likewise Jenny spends many hours developing great kids' programs with top notch teachers and exciting curriculum. And, I spend many hours every week thinking about the scriptures and how they apply to our lives, so that I can preach a solid, Biblically-based, culturally-relevant sermon.

It's possible to look at these three efforts, as well as the efforts of many volunteers, and decide that the church just needs to build a better mousetrap. Perhaps if the ushers did a better job of smiling and making conversation with visitors, perhaps if the pastor administered the sacraments in a more graceful manner, perhaps if the kids had a better kids' bulletin, perhaps if the music was playing a different style perhaps there would be more people. Maybe.

I think it's more likely that we could improve our attendance, not by producing a better product, but by improving our marketing.

Since the days of Jesus himself, the primary driver of increased Church attendance has always been word-of-mouth invitations to friends and family. Church growth depends on this factor more than everything else combined.

Now, you might be thinking, "but it isn't very comfortable to invite my friends to church—they may not like it, and then they will not value my suggestions in the future." It's only natural to limit such invitations to persons whom you think have a reasonably good chance of appreciating our efforts.

But, what if you look at your friends and family and say, "None of them has any probable hope of liking my church." In that case, my recommendation would be to ask yourself, what could the church do differently that would cause those people to want to attend?

So, here's your homework. Invite two people to church sometime in the next two months. And if you find that's too risky, then you can substitute this assignment. Think of something we might do differently that would make you say, "Wow, now I can invite so-and-so to church." Then, write me an email or give me a call and let me know your idea. I can't guarantee that the church will have the resources to implement every possible idea, but I can guarantee that I will consider your thoughts carefully.

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 4 *Luke 12:13-21* “How Much Is Enough?” What threatens our ability to be “rich toward God?” If it’s true that “you can’t take it with you,” what can we store up for ourselves in Heaven? How has Communion been a symbol of the people of God bringing forward their own gifts to share with others? Today we will celebrate Communion by Intinction.

August 11 *Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16* “What Is Faith?” What did Abraham’s “faith” mean to him? What exactly do we mean by saying we believe something “on faith?” Is this type of faith contrary to modern science? Is faith just irrationalism plain and simple? Are faith and science opposites, or are they complimentary?

August 18 *Hebrews 11:29-12:2* “Beyond Young Life” How does the life and values of today’s young/popular crowd relate to the life and values of those who preceded them by centuries? What does one lack if one focuses exclusively on one’s own generation and the cultural values of that generation? Why is it vitally important that one’s spiritual experience integrate people of every age?

August 25 A Guest Preacher (to be announced) will lead worship on this date while Scott is on a vacation week (taking Brian to college).

On September 1, we will not be celebrating Communion per our usual custom. Rather, we will celebrate Communion on September 8.

August 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
August 4	Allie Burke	OPEN	Sarah Dudak Paula McCracken Louise Gangware	OPEN	Miezio Family
August 11	Paige Rambeaux	OPEN	Steve Marcus Kemp Clark Jim Ulrich	OPEN	Pecis/Kolinski Family
August 18	Michael Aieta	OPEN	Betsy Gardner Louise Gangware OPEN	Mike & Gwen Heine	Cindy Reynolds
August 25	Russel Brown-Memoh	Steven Staubus	Steve Marcus Virginia Yang OPEN	Roccanova Family	OPEN

Seeking a Church Home?

Membership Information Sessions on September 11 and 15 — If you feel the RPC family may be right for you, attend a membership information session! Wednesday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday, September 15 at 11:30 a.m., with Pastor Scott and Elders, this hour-long program is designed to help potential new members determine if RPC is right for them. It's a conversation . . . not a commitment. Please contact Pastor Scott at scott.jansen@comcast.net or 447-1520, or Membership Chairperson Lynda Nadkarni at lmn@floros.org for more information.

New Girls' Group Leader



Welcome to RPC: Reverend Michele Monroe-Clark — Michele writes, "I am pleased to be leading the Girls' Group beginning in September. I have a passion for helping girls discover the joy, beauty and life of living as a beloved daughter of a loving God. I hope the girls will enjoy our time together learning, growing, and becoming the young ladies we are called to be as daughters created in the image of God. I am an ordained PCUSA clergy (Teaching Elder) serving in the Chicago Presbytery as a chaplain at Central DuPage Hospital. I have many years of counseling experience in schools and hospitals. I have also led youth groups and middle school retreats for my home church (Church of the Cross in Hoffman Estates) with the Chicago Presbytery. I grew up in Park Forest in the southern suburbs (not Forest Park on the West side) and currently live in Hoffman Estates with Mark and two teenage children. I enjoy reading books by Pitus Lore, Rick Riordan, Stephanie Myers, Nicholas Sparks, Michael Connelly, and Robert Crais. I love music, mostly country,

but also pop, classic rock, and hip hop because of my kids' influence. The only TV I really watch is Chicago Blackhawks games and NCIS. I prefer to be outside walking, biking, camping or playing at the beach than working inside. Please feel free to call me Michele; I'm not much into titles, but if you feel the need to be more formal, Pastor Michele will do. If you have any questions the best way to reach me is by e-mail at mmc430@hotmail.com. I look forward to meeting all of you and working together in September."



Happy Birthday!

Michelle Hejna 8/1	Alyssa Lancaster 8/13	James Long 8/20
Jerry Buttimer 8/2	Maggie Hejna 8/14	Brianna Allen 8/21
Justine Finn 8/2	Carrie Staubus 8/15	Lauren Cody 8/21
Lynn Shannon-Labotka 8/2	Steve Feary 8/16	Amanda Schwarz 8/21
Mary Morrison 8/3	Kip Friend 8/16	Haley Rayfield 8/22
Samantha Doornebos 8/4	Samantha Friend 8/16	Ellary Hastings 8/24
Aidin Liberty-Bouse 8/4	Lily Lisle 8/16	Dima Aieta 8/25
Elizabeth Musick 8/4	Susan Deems-Dluhy 8/17	Joyce Dobrzanski 8/25
Claire Gangware 8/5	Jordana Jantze 8/17	Sydney Cokins 8/26
Sue Gross 8/6	Will Vogel II 8/18	Kathi Rocanova 8/27
Scott Schulze 8/10	Amy Wolff 8/18	Margot Carlson 8/30
Joseph Dvorak III 8/11	Jake Fieseler 8/19	Elizabeth Armstrong 8/31
Larry Allen 8/13	Leanne Heine 8/19	Angelina Krug 8/31
	Harriet Kweton 8/20	

Trustees for August are Dennis Sadilek and Caroline Tecson.

Sharing Our Gifts

Toilet Paper?

Did you wonder why the Riverside Presbyterian Church was marching in the Fourth of July parade decked out in toilet paper? It is all part of the “*Let’s Get Rolling*” fundraiser running from July 17 through August 11. The Board of Deacons at Riverside Presbyterian Church is raising money for their local mission outreach efforts by selling toilet paper and paper towels to friends, families, and local businesses.

Most fundraisers sell cookie dough, wrapping paper, candy, or other high-priced and high-calorie items. But not RPC. The Deacons decided to take a more practical approach and will be selling something that absolutely everyone needs – toilet paper and paper towels. The fundraiser is really more of a supply system than the traditional “overcharge to make money” model used by other fundraisers. This way, the Deacons can raise the money they need by simply supplying people with quality products they’ve already budgeted for. People can support the cause without reaching into their wallets for money they weren’t planning on spending. It’s a great deal for everyone!

The sales drive will run through August 11, 2013, with product delivery on September 4. Ready to order? Download details about the products and an order form at www.rpcusa.org/files/heavenly-products.pdf.

Questions, comments, and orders can be handled through email. Contact Deb Pike at dpike.initial.design@gmail.com. Samples and order forms are also available at the church.



4th of July Parade



Vacation Bible School

Caring for God's AMAZING Creation

This year's Vacation Bible School was a great success. Children and adults from many area churches, as well as those from surrounding communities, enjoyed learning how to care for God's amazing creation. Kids had the opportunity to enjoy the wonders that surround us every day while learning how to be stewards for those amazing gifts.

This year we were blessed with great weather, 40 wonderful children in attendance, and nearly as many youth and adult volunteers. Most of those volunteers were from RPC! Many, many thanks to all of you for your overwhelming support. The hard work and prayers of everyone involved helped make VBS a wonderful experience for all.



Vacation Bible School



Sunday School Kick Off!

Mark your calendars! Kick-off Sunday is September 8. The 2013-2014 Sunday School theme will be unveiled at 9:00 a.m. with an exciting kick-off celebration, which will be held outside, weather permitting. It's going to be a great school year at RPC. Plan to be part of the fun! Please get your registration form to the church office prior to the start of Sunday School on September 8. Registration forms can be found on-line at www.rpcusa.org/files/Sunday-School-Registration-Forms.pdf

Calling all Volunteers for children and youth!

Although summer is in full swing, Sunday School for the fall is well under way. Can you think about it too? What talent can you share with our children and youth? Sunday school teachers are scheduled for only a 4-week block. Shepherds travel with the same group of children each week throughout the school year. Substitute teachers and substitute shepherds are also needed. Do you prefer working with teens? Then helping out with Teen Scene might be for you. How about preschoolers? You might enjoy leading Godly Play on a once per month rotation. 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 desired role(s). No prior experience is needed. Just your desire to share your time and talents through the support of the children of our church family! Contact Jenny Kolinski at kolinski426@comcast.net

Human Scene

Human Scene, the Adult Education Sunday School class, will meet twice in August:

August 11—Impact of School-Based Health Centers on Medical Reform

Stephen Bord LCSW, and *Mary C. Crang* FNP from the University of Illinois at Chicago Health Services reveal how school-based health centers, which have been in the Chicago region for the past 20 years, and largely in underserved communities, will impact medical reform in the coming era of Obama-Care.

August 18—What Happens When We Die?

Dr. Paul J. Kirbas, Sr. Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton and author of several books on ethics and Christian history, will question why we get more than one answer to this topic when we read the Bible. Now, the latest research of medical science is pushing the boundaries of our understanding of death and beyond, and shedding some possible new light on this great mystery. When we bring our faith and science together, we seem to get the same answer: *Death, Where is Thy Sting?*



Scouts

Pack 24 served as the color guard for Riverside's Independence Day Parade. Nearly 20 scouts marched in the parade with leaders Jerz, Schlessner and Hosek. After the parade, cub scouts served fresh-squeezed lemonade and boy scouts sold pizza in Guthrie Park. Thanks to all who helped with this year's 4th of July festivities, particularly organizers Gian Ricco (cub scouts) and Roman Salij (boy scouts).

Summer camp is one of the highlights of the scouting year. Eight Pack 24 scouts and their Akelas (parents) went to Camp Shin-Go-Beek in Wisconsin for four days and three nights of adventure. Several scouts attended Adventure Camp, also known as "Weekend in Illinois" near Rochelle. 46 boy scouts and eight leaders attended Camp Tesomas north of Rhinelander, Wisconsin, for their annual week-long summer camp.

In June, a group of more than two dozen cub scouts and their family members ventured out to the Forest Preserve in Palos Hills for geocache adventure. The scouts hiked the trails and found six different geocaches, then regrouped for lunch. Thanks to Chris Pacourek for organizing. In July, boy scouts and leaders worked several days on an Eagle Project with RPC member Abraham Ourth, building bat houses.

2013 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Every three years, youth from around the world gather for fun, music and worship at Purdue University for the Youth Triennium. This year, Riverside Presbyterian sent three youth representatives and two adults. Brian Jansen, Lily Lisle, Kelly Haugland, Susan Lisle and Tara Gregus experienced all that Triennium had to offer and more! We left Riverside early to be able to work for a couple of days in advance of Triennium, at a food bank called Food Finders (like the Greater Chicago Food Depository but not quite as big!), and with Habitat for Humanity. Once we got to Triennium, we met teens from all over the globe. We slept in Purdue dorms (unfortunately not air-conditioned during a VERY hot week!) and ate in the dining halls. We met in small groups for lots of discussions and spent lots of time in worship, and learning new dance moves! There was a lot of time for other fun activities as well. We all agreed it was an unforgettable experience. The next Triennium will take place in 2016, so mark your calendars!



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

2013-2014 Horizons Bible Study topic is *An Abiding Hope - The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy* by Janice Catron, with suggestions for leaders by March Sadongi. Lucille Christensen is accepting orders for the study book. The cost is \$8.00, and a large print edition is available. Payments can be made with cash or check made out to Riverside Presbyterian Women. In 2009, representatives from the Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women selected the topic of migration, as it is understood through Exodus and Deuteronomy, for the topic of the 2013-2014 study. Lesson leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura.

Events & Fellowship

Fr!day^{1st}

Don't forget the informal gathering at the Jansen residence, 300 Addison Road, on Friday, **August 2** for adult church members (and their adult spouses) who have *birthdays during July, August, or September*. 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](#).

Church Picnic September 8

All are invited to join us for a potluck picnic to coincide with the first day of Sunday School—September 8. The picnic will be held on the church lawn in lieu of Coffee Fellowship.



Italian Dinner and Auction on September 29

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 29**, 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 or Cindy Gustafson at c.gustafson@sbcglobal.net

Afghans for Veterans

Thanks to all who have thus far helped in making afghans for veterans in the hospice unit at Hines Hospital. We have five completed, and would like to have five more done by Veterans Day (November 11). We really need red and white squares, as it takes 40 white and 40 red and only 16 blue. Each square should be six inches. Keep those squares coming!

May God bless all the RPC elders, deacons, trustees, staff, friends, and VBS staff & children who worked so hard to prepare the sanctuary, the social hall, the church flower beds, and all areas in between the end of the second week of July. Words cannot express how much your efforts were appreciated following my husband's death on Tuesday, July 9 and his memorial service and reception at the church on Saturday, July 12. I was comforted to be in my church home at this difficult time and so proud to have family and friends share in the beauty of this wonderful church home we all share. With heartfelt love and blessings to all who were involved.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Grace Slanec

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!



August 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30a Women's Forum	2 7:30p First Friday Gathering	3
4 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Cantata Service	5 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	6 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	7 Office Closed	8 6:30a Women's Forum	9 9:30a Staff Mtg	10
11 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Adult Ed Comm Mtg	12 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	13 6:30a Men's Forum	14 Office Closed 7:30p Session	15 6:30a Women's Forum	16 10a CARERS Comm Mtg	17
18 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Service Vision deadline	19 5:15p Volleyball	20 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons Mtg	21 Office Closed	22 6:30a Women's Forum	23	24
25 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	26 5:15p Volleyball	27 6:30a Men's Forum	28 Office Closed	29 6:30a Women's Forum	30	31

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

**RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

116 Barrypoint Road
Riverside, Illinois
60546

Phone: 708-447-1520
Fax: 708-447-1525
Website: www.rpcusa.org

Place mailing label here

Riverside Presbyterian Church

Pastor: Dr. Scott Jansen
scott.jansen@comcast.net

Minister of Music: Dr. Sally Sloane
musikhse@comcast.net

Director of Christian Education: Jenny Kolinski
kolinski426@comcast.net

Administrative Assistants: Linda Hutcheson
Donna Jones
rpcoffice@sbcglobal.net

Girls' Group Leader: Michele Monroe-Clark

Senior & Junior High Youth Advisor: Tara Gregus
taragregus@yahoo.com

Building Supervisor: Joel Hastings
rpcjoel2005@sbcglobal.net

Preschool Director: Lisa Manganiello

Custodian: Krzysztof Gieron

Clerk of Session: Mary Ann Sadilek
MASDS@aol.com

Deacons Moderators: Thom DeVries
Frank Gangware

Trustees President: Jim Marciniak

Financial Secretary: Cindy Reynolds
financialsecretary@rpcusa.org

Asst. Financial Secretary: Roberta Gates
robmicgates73@gmail.com

Treasurer: Alfred Kitch
rpc_fred_kitch@sbcglobal.net

Asst. Treasurer: George Dluhy

Archivist: Caroline Tecson

Wedding Coordinator: Donna Ulrich

Artist in Residence: Karena Mendoza

Director of Music Emerita: Mary Ann Sadilek

Organist Emerita: 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

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



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