



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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The Vision

October 2013

Christianity and Syria

Syria is in the news. What should we do? How does a Christian go about deciding?

For the thousands of years covered in the Bible, the relationship between the Hebrews and Syria, known then as "Aram," was in flux. Sometimes they were friends and allies. More often the Arameans were enemies—even to the point of open warfare. Yet, when God wanted to reach out to Saul of Tarsus, God told Saul to go to the Christians living in Damascus. On the road to Damascus, Saul became transformed into Paul, and it was Syrian Christians who launched Paul on his journey—a journey that established Christianity in the world.

Depending on which passage in the Bible you select, you might find God wanting to wipe out the Arameans (Syrians), or you might find God counting on them above all others to save the world. We should avoid absolutes when we portray large groups of people.

Modern Syrians within Bashar al-Assad's regime are not entirely evil. And the Syrians involved with the rebellion against Assad are not entirely good. So, what questions should we ponder as we decide what to do in Syria?

What is in our nation's best economic interest? What is in my own personal best economic interest? Who started the fight? Who used immoral methods of fighting first? What does the Arab League feel about the methods of fighting that have been used? How much doubt do we have regarding who did what to whom? How much should other nations be involved? How much should the U.S. dictate judgments unilaterally? How would any proposed U.S. action change our relationships with other nations?

Those are all good questions, and as a citizen of the U.S., I ponder them all. But, as a Christian, I have a different set of questions. What does God want us to do? How can we best love our neighbor? What course of action will yield the most peace with the most persons for the long-term? What moral principles are guiding our actions and what moral precedents are we setting? Would we be glad if everyone on the planet replicated our moral principles if they found themselves where we find ourselves?

In moral debates, the right answers are not handed to us with clarity and certainty. It's easy to just go along with whatever our favorite expert has to say, but that is not a responsible approach. So, what should we do?

I am so grateful to have a wonderful and diverse church family. I enjoy discussing matters such as Syria with those who know how to engage in civil debate. I learn so much from listening to others, even when I disagree. I enjoy gathering for adult education classes, talking about issues during coffee fellowship, and I have appreciated our fantastic new Facebook page.

These venues for sharing ideas are some of the greatest treasures we have. They are blessings that you will not easily find outside of the church. I urge you to make the fullest possible use of them.

Your brother in Christ,
Scott



Worship

October Worship Schedule

October 6 *Lamentations 1:1-7* “Is Peace Winning?”

Is our world becoming more warlike, or more prone to peace? How have wars been prosecuted over the ages? What has been the fate of the winners and the losers of wars? Is God making any progress with us? Where can we find evidence of God’s love among us? Today is World Communion Sunday when we remember that Christians all over the world are sharing in communion together.

October 13 A Guest Preacher, to be announced, while Scott is away at McCormick Seminary working on a Certification in Environmental Leadership.

October 20 *2 Timothy 3:14-4:5* “Evangelical Christianity”

What does authentic evangelical Christianity look like? What does Paul say here about the Bible? What does “inspired” mean? Who is responsible for evangelism and ministry within the church? What signs of God’s presence, or absence, should we seek amongst different teachers of the faith?

October 27 *Joel 2:23-32* “How God Reforms Us”

How did God reform the family of God in Joel’s day? How did God reform the family during the Protestant Reformation? What might the next divine reformation look like? Today is Reformation Sunday when we recall the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther, John Calvin, etc.

Worship at Cantata and Scottish Home

Deacons Lloyd Bradbury and Steve Marcus welcome any and all congregation members with talents in public speaking and/or music (or just plain helping) to join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata (the British Home) on October 6 at 1:30 p.m., and the worship service for the residents of the Scottish Home on October 20 at 2:00 p.m.



October 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
October 6	Michael Aieta	OPEN	Jon & Deb Jansky Colleen & Bill Muller	Pecis-Kolinski Family	OPEN
October 13	Hannah Pecis	OPEN	Aieta Family	OPEN	OPEN
October 20	Mary Ann Sadilek	OPEN	Ourth Family Kemp Clarke & Patti Halline	OPEN	Deacons
October 27	Michael Aieta	OPEN	Scuff Gross, Dennis Sadilek, Lynn Shannon-Labotka, Majorie Lewe	OPEN	OPEN

Rose Window Update



Neal Vogel of Restoric, LLC, our contractor for the restoration of the Rose Window, proposed that we replace the outer lobes and kite shape panels surrounding the center angel roundel with an organic design of plated opalescent sky glass. He states that the angel will appear less confined and the overall rose will be visually more powerful and expansive. The Session was divided regarding the decision of whether to restore the window as it was or replace the outer lobes and kite shapes with the sky blue glass. The Session appointed a committee of Stan Schade, Mary Ann Sadilek and Caroline Tecson to visit Botti Studio in La Porte, Indiana, to see a mockup of a sky panel and compare it with the original outer lobes. Botti Studio is the art glass studio doing the restoration work on the Rose Window. The Committee did visit the studio. The Committee unanimously recommended to Session that the outer lobes and kite shapes be replaced with opalescent sky glass. On September 18, at its monthly meeting, the Session accepted the decision of the Committee and voted to replace the outer lobes and kite shapes with sky blue glass.

October Birthdays



Olivia Meyer	10/1	Judy Armstrong	10/10	Grace Cody	10/25
Andrew Sit	10/2	Janan Cain	10/11	Allan Halline	10/25
Alice McLean	10/4	Claire Hejna	10/11	Trevor Kazarian	10/26
Justin Chaney	10/5	Mason Tamlyn	10/11	Gale Teune	10/26
Christine Brakas	10/6	Jonathan Cook	10/12	Emily Hejna	10/28
Audrey Daniels	10/6	Jade Pohlhammer	10/12	Brooke Schwarz	10/28
Ella Schexnayder	10/6	Kristen Smith	10/15	Kaitlyn Tamlyn	10/28
Caroline Gangware	10/7	Caroline Tecson	10/16	Dan Franzo	10/30
Joshua Yachnin	10/7	Seth Kazarian	10/17	Alexander Smith	10/31
Tess Luethje	10/8	Sylvia Harvin	10/22	Joseph Yaley	10/31
Debra Jansky	10/9	Kristen Monacella	10/22		
Vince Pecis	10/9	Caroline Willinger	10/23		

Sharing Our Gifts

Stewardship opportunities

Stewardship in any church is much more than just filling out a pledge card once a year. The Stewardship Committee has been working on developing a year-round calendar of activities to keep the congregation focused on the various aspects of giving that are involved in being a church member. We have a lot of ideas but it's going to take more than a small committee to implement them. The following is a summary of the tasks that we would like to see accomplished. Many of these involve a year-round commitment but with good planning, should not take a huge amount of time on a continuous basis.

Annual – Group to decide on theme and methodology for conducting yearly pledge drive. This group should also put notices in bulletin/Vision and set up minutes for mission for a month or two before Commitment Sunday. The committee is also responsible for tabulating results and sending out thank you notes to pledging families. Time commitment is all year but concentrated in late fall, early winter.

Fall Dinner/Auction – In 2012, this was a very successful event. If put on every year it could generate a good amount of revenue for basic operations or which could be used for mission work. This group should organize solicitation for donations from community and members, food (currently provided by youth group), drink options, publicity and auction set-up. Time commitment is three or four months.

Education – A person/group who would review Presbyterian Church USA and other materials for use in Adult and Youth Christian Ed. We would like to open up conversations about giving in general and need to develop a year-round program for communicating with the congregation. The result would be to make everyone more aware of what they expect from RPC and what they are giving back in return. Time commitment is year-round.

Publicity – A person/group that would help to relay information to the congregation regarding stewardship matters. This could involve monthly topics in the Vision, flyers for special events, updates on RPC websites, etc. Time commitment is year-round.

Pew envelopes – A person who would be responsible for checking on the donation envelopes in the pews. There are four special offerings and the regular Welcome envelopes. Time commitment is year-round.

Mission Promotion – Presbyterian Church USA has several worldwide mission projects during the year. This person or group would be responsible for informing the congregation about these giving opportunities in addition to developing and promoting local RPC giving opportunities. Time commitment is year-round.

Contact Cindy Gustafson at c.gustafson@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in helping out with any of these projects or if you have any questions.

Feed Our Community Day on October 19

Plan to participate in the annual mission outreach event sponsored by the Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of Churches on **Saturday, October 19, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the North Riverside Community Center**. Last year, volunteers packed almost 47,000 meals for local food pantries – this year we are aiming for 100,000 meals. Volunteers will be organized into small group assembly lines, preparing nutritious meals of macaroni and cheese, which will be distributed to local food pantries. It is a fun and rewarding event for young and old alike. [Download more information](#) or [register to participate](#). For more information, [contact Jeanine Buttimer](#).



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)
Kathy Feary (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 Deacon—Keri Burke & Hannah Pecis

Environmental Activism

The Deacons will be hosting Coffee Fellowship on October 20, with a special guest – Commonwealth Edison. A representative will be present to provide information and answer questions about the Smart Meter program. For more hints on how you can help preserve the environment, check the Deacons' Environmental Bulletin Board in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Social Hall.

Our Giving Journey

I can still recall the feeling of overwhelming gratitude in my heart when I joined Riverside Presbyterian Church almost 20 years ago. I felt a little like Archimedes – Eureka! I had found it! I had been searching for a church for some time, and from the minute I entered the doors at RPC I knew I was home. I've been an Elder and a Trustee and I've served on numerous ad hoc committees over the years. My current assignment is as a Deacon, and it's my favorite because it's all about ministering to the members. I especially love our music program and joyfully sing or ring every week for the glory of God. Now that I'm retired, I have more time than money. But my pledge – even though slightly scaled back – is still the first obligation I pay every month. RPC needs all of me – my time, my talents and my treasures – in order to continue to nurture my soul and the souls of our children and grandchildren. My gratitude has a motto – just say Yes! Yes to pledging financial support, Yes when needed to serve on a committee, Yes when a fellow member needs help. Say Yes!

Ellen Hamilton

CARERS Committee

In October we will be accepting all varieties of canned goods—vegetables, fruits, soup, meats and fish. We will be working in conjunction with the Scouts. All food collected will go to the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago.



Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at end of August (67% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$ 176,505	(53.6% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 214,070	(65.0% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 37,565	



New Sunday School Rotation: DAVID

This month we'll finish up an amazing rotation on the 23rd Psalm and begin an exciting new rotation on the life of David. There is much we could learn from this story...God accepts all of us as we are, and works to bring good things out of our mistakes. God can use us despite our weaknesses and flaws as he did with David. We'll explore this in many fun ways with art, by walking a labyrinth, creating a 10-foot Goliath and more!

Memory Verse

He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2 Samuel 7:13

	<u>K & 1st</u>	<u>2nd & 3rd</u>	<u>4th & 5th</u>	<u>Jr. High</u>
October 6	Creation Station	Oasis Place	Manse Kitchen	Computer Lab
October 13	<i>CELEBRATION SUNDAY: All ages meet in Social Hall for group activity</i>			
October 20	Oasis Place	Creation Station	Celestial Cinema	Social Hall
October 27	Gym	Oasis Place	Social Hall	Creation Station

Open Gym Returns

Starting in October OPEN GYM will return on the first Sunday of each month. All kids are welcome to enjoy some supervised free-time in the gym during coffee fellowship (from 11:00 a.m. until noon). Please bring your children up to the gym and wait with them until our childcare supervisors arrive.



Scenes from Sunday School Kick-off on September 8.



We are off to a wonderful school year. We've welcomed back returning families and have added many new folks to our preschool family.

October will be a very busy month. We will be visiting the Fire Station, Library and once again spending Halloween at the Scottish Homes and Cantata singing for the residents in our costumes. Each of these trips are always fun for all.

We still have a few openings in the afternoon class. If you know anyone who is interested please tell them to call the school at 447-1520—we welcome new friends!

Teen Scene

Will take the day off on Sunday, October 6, and then will continue with donuts and conversation every Sunday for the remainder of October. All high school students are invited to join in at 9:00 a.m. in the library.



Girls' Group

Since 2008, Girls' Group is a place for girls in grades 6-8 to gather together to learn how to grow up to be healthy, strong, intelligent, beautiful women who believe they have been created in the Image of God. It is a place to share our struggles and our successes in becoming great women in the face of a culture that tells us we need to be thinner, blonder, taller, sexier, richer and happier. We meet on **Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** at the church for discussion, music, art, special activities/speakers, and fun. Come when you can and bring a friend. Questions? Contact Rev. Michele Monroe-Clark at mmc430@hotmail.com.



Scouts

The cub scouts of Pack 24 are gearing up for another year of fun activities. Our Summer Picnic was held on August 25 at National Grove Forest Preserve in North Riverside. More than 25 scouts and their parents & siblings attended. We had a water-balloon fight, bottle rockets, a bounce house and delicious summer grilled B-B-Q. The first pack meeting of the year was held at the Scout Cabin on September 10. It was unseasonably hot, so we quickly wrapped up our business of recognizing scout advancement, our popcorn campaign and recognizing the service of our Den Chiefs. We then went outside for a campfire where we roasted s'mores and sang a few songs. Several new scouts turned in applications to join Pack 24, and den activities for our new Tigers will begin very soon.

During September, the boy scouts of Troop 24, had their kick-off meeting of the year at the Scout Cabin. Following a cook-out and movie, they camped overnight. On September 15, eight scouts who are certified SCUBA divers went to Haigh Quarry near Kankakee to dive. Over the past two summers, eleven scouts took SCUBA classes at summer camp near Rhinelander, Wisconsin to become certified.

Youth

Youth Group News

We started the year off with a bang in September! Youth group is for all kids 6th through 12 grade. Come join the fun! Here's what we will be doing in October:

Sunday, October 6: Meet at RPC for a game and Yoga—what are the spiritual elements of Yoga? What is the mind-body connection?

Sunday, October 13: Columbus Day weekend—Youth Group *in recess*

Saturday, October 19: Feed Our Community Service Project in North Riverside. Note that this is a **Saturday**. Time 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 27: Annual bonfire and s'mores at the Gregus house!

Regular meeting times are 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. for Junior High and 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. for Senior High on Sunday evenings at RPC. Friends are always welcome! If you have any questions about youth group, please feel free to contact Tara Gregus at taragregus@yahoo.com



Despite some rainy weather, we had a blast at the beach on September 15! We hiked in the Indiana Dunes, kayaked and swam in Lake Michigan, played games and ate a lot of good food.



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. The Presbyterian Women invite all women to join them for Bible Study on Wednesday, October 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Coffee is served.

Lesson 2: God's Call to Serve

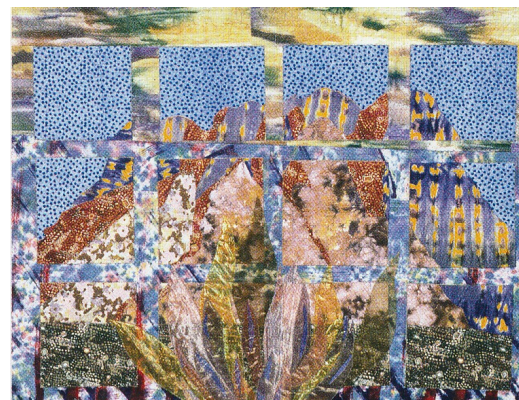
Background Scripture: *Exodus 2:11-4:17*

Key Scripture: *Exodus 2:11-22; 3:1-15*

Key Idea: Just as God called Moses despite his hesitation, we too are called to service even though we may feel inadequate. God's promise to Moses is also to us: "I will be with you." (*Exodus 3:12*).

Have you ever felt like an alien in your own community?

Lesson leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura. Sylvia will lead Lesson 2.



Lesson 2 fabric art: The Burning Bush by Lee Porter. The artist states, "My goal in making this quilt was to give viewers a sense of the disorientation Moses may have felt when he hears the voice and sees the burning bush as described in *Exodus 3:1-3*."

Human Scene

Join the **Human Scene** Sunday School class *every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the upstairs Parlor*. You will have a chance to explore scripture, theology, current events, mission projects, and your own spiritual journey.

October 6 • Rev. Scott Jansen • Forgiveness Case Studies I

How has forgiveness functioned at a national/international level, a small group level, or an individual level? Nelson Mandela's South Africa, the Vietnam War, the Amish of Nickel Mines School, and the Hatfields/McCoys will supply four case studies about forgiveness or the lack thereof. What attitudes towards the "Other" do we find? What can we learn from these cases? Pastor Scott facilitates this class with a heavy dose of breakouts into small groups—saving the "individual" level for the following week.

October 13 • Stan Schade et al. • Forgiveness Case Studies II

In this presentation, questions from the previous week will be discussed by the members in attendance. In some cases there is no correct answer, but the way in which the problems are handled, and recognition of the complexities will be an important aspect of the discussions. There will be opportunities for those who were not in attendance the previous week to make comments, suggestions and new ideas relevant to the proposed situations.

October 20 • Rev. Jan Dus • Living as a Refugee

Rev. Dus is visiting from Prague, Czech Republic for a short time where he has been the Human Resources and Director of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren. Currently, he is Director of Humanitarian and Development Aid. He will be speaking on his apolitical efforts in concert with other churches to provide support to Syrian refugees who escaped from war to leave their homes and run for their lives to other countries.

October 27 • Susan Lisle • "I AM" Part I

In this highly acclaimed documentary, two practical and provocative questions are posed: "What's wrong with our world, and how can we make it better?" Filmmaker Tom Shadyac steps in front of the camera to recount what happened to him after a cycling accident left him incapacitated, possibly for good. Though he ultimately recovered, he emerged with a new sense of purpose, determined to share his own awakening to his prior life of excess and greed, and to investigate how he as an individual, and we as a race, could improve the way we live and walk in the world.

Fellowship, Events & Thanks

Volunteer Spotlight

Our volunteer this month is Sarah Dudak. Sarah has been a member of our church for 30 years and constantly gives of her time and numerous talents. She has served as a Deacon, Trustee, and Elder, cheerfully carrying out all the opportunities each board offers. Sarah is also an excellent baker and cook, and a superb seamstress and quilter. She is very active in the music ministry—singing in the choir; performing duets; being a part of the annual *Messiah* chorus for 25 years; participating as a member of the acaBELLA ringers.

We wish Sarah and her husband, Tom, the best as they get ready to retire to Florida. We will miss her, but know her talents will be put to good use there.

The Stewardship Committee

Pecans



Pecans



Pecans

For years the RPC women have handled the sale of pecans to benefit [Erie Neighborhood House](#). The funds raised benefit the Team Tutoring Program for college-bound high school students. This year, one-pound bags of freshly harvested pecan halves will be sold for \$9.50, with \$2.50 benefitting Erie. Orders will be taken during the church coffee hour on Sundays, or orders can be placed with Carol Sprunger. Pre-paid orders are appreciated. Checks should be made payable to Erie House Women's Auxiliary. Delivery is expected at the end of October or early November.

Reupholstered Chairs Thanks to Anonymous Donor

The Memorial Committee is happy to announce that an anonymous memorial gift was given to the Music Department for reupholstering the manse dining room chairs. These sturdy chairs are now beautifully covered and ready for use by our own RPC musicians, guest musicians, and the children's Ringers and Singers groups.

Messiah December 15

RPC's 28th annual Handel's Messiah will take place on Sunday, December 15, at 4:00 p.m. A 14-member orchestra accompanies a 40+ choir with four professional soloists. This performance is child-friendly! We don't do the entire Messiah; the performance lasts about 1 hour and 20 minutes. We welcome young singers to join us as well. We have had children from 5th grade and up sing with us in the past. RPC hosts an amazing Wassail Bowl Reception immediately following the performance. Interested in participating? Contact Sally Sloane at musikhse@comcast.net

Riverside Presbyterian Church

Now that we have made a difficult move out of Riverside, it was certainly welcoming to receive the sanctuary flowers. We enjoyed a visit with the Dvoraks and welcomed them to our new home, Plymouth Place.

Our church home at Riverside Presbyterian will always remain dear to us.

Thank you so much for the flowers.

Fondly,

Sue & Scuff Gross

Please check the
Website for the
most recent
calendar
updates!



October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	2 Office Closed 4:15p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	3 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	4	5
6 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Open Gym 1:30p Cantata Service	7 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	8 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	9 Office Closed 4:15p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	10 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	11	12
13 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	14 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg	15 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	16 Office Closed 4:15p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session Mtg	17 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	18 10a CARERS Comm Mtg	19
20 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Service Vision Deadline	21 5:15p Volleyball	22 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	23 Office Closed 10a Pres. Women Bible Study 4:15p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	24 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	25	26
27 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	28 5:15p Volleyball	29 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	30 Office Closed 4:15p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	31 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group 		

Save the date! Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas Pageant will be at 10:00 a.m. on **December 8**. Watch your mailboxes for more information.

RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Place mailing label here

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

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