



The Vision

March 2014

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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Why I'm Not a Christian Scientist

As many of you know, I was not raised in a Christian home. When I converted to Christianity at age 22, I spent a few years deciding which was the right denomination for me. One of the early candidates was the Christian Scientists.

I firmly believe in the power of prayer. It was largely the power of prayer that caused my conversion to Christianity. I believe that God makes a difference in our lives. I feel very strongly about making the most of God's help, and that was something shared by my Christian Scientist friends.

Nevertheless, I chose the Presbyterian Church. Space does not permit a full analysis, but, to oversimplify, it seemed to me that the Presbyterians believed that God's Holy Spirit was active

everywhere, working *through* everyone; while the Christian Scientists believed that the Holy Spirit acted frequently in *spite* of everyone.

As a Presbyterian, I believe that God helps everyone. The research doctors and technicians who explore new treatment plans (whether they are Christian or not) are among those whom God helps. When I was diagnosed fifteen years ago with high cholesterol, of course I prayed for my health. However, I also had no reservations about taking a daily Omega-3 supplement. I thanked God for all the doctors and all the research work that had gone into the scientific discovery that Omega-3 pills are effective in managing high cholesterol. I still take those pills fifteen years later.

It sometimes saddens me when I see people too casually and too thoughtlessly dismissing the power of God as it comes to us through prayer, through the Holy Spirit and through Christian fellowship. I have made comments about my feelings in a **Vision** article in the past.

However, those comments should not be interpreted to mean that, because I want to lift up the significance of God's powers in some areas, I therefore must neglect or dismiss the power of God in other areas. No. I too place great value on the power of God as manifested in scientific and medical research. I just don't spend as much time promoting that form of God's power because, in my observations, that is not the form of God's power that is most frequently neglected in our culture.

I don't want anyone to ever feel guilty on my account for making the maximal use of divinely inspired medical technology and science. I may want you to feel guilty for neglecting your prayer life (☺). But, I am wholly supportive of any wellness plan that is scientifically shown to be effective. Please know that I am very deliberately and consciously not a Christian Scientist.

Your brother in Christ,
Scott



Worship

March Worship Schedule

March 2 *Exodus 24:12-18* and *Matthew 17:1-8* “Downton Abbey” On this Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, we consider the perspective of the observers. While God communed with Moses, what was it like for the servants waiting on the side of the hill? While Jesus conferred with Moses and Elijah, what was it like for Peter, James and John as they waited on the side of the hill? We will have a skit today replacing the sermon. Today is also Jazz Sunday. We have a special surprise guest for the kids’ sermon. And we also have communion today.

March 5 Ash Wednesday Family Worship 7:00 p.m. Readings will come from *Jonah 3*, *2 Corinthians 6*, and *Matthew 6*. Some brief open discussions of the readings will follow. Hymns will be 461, 85 and 508. The service will include the imposition of ashes, and Communion by intinction.

March 9 *Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7* “Wisdom—Blessing or Curse?” Is the knowledge of good and evil a blessing or a curse? Were Adam and Eve better off before or after they received it? If we had an opportunity to eliminate this knowledge from our souls, would we go for it? How did such knowledge make primitive tribal life worse or better? Would we choose to remain infants eternally if we could?

March 16 *John 3:1-17* “Confirmation Sunday” Today’s “sermon” will focus on what issues of faith are most pressing for our confirmation class of 2014. They will also be received as new members during worship. And, it’s possible that some of them will be baptized.

March 23 *Exodus 17:1-7* “When It Seems God Is Absent” The Hebrews left Egypt to wander around in the desert because they were following God’s clear calling. But, once in the desert, they were not patient when they were unsure of the master plan. Rather than waiting patiently, they began to imagine that God was not really among them after all. Do we ever wonder if God is really with us? How do we endure those seasons when our cries for help go unanswered?

March 30 *John 9:1-41* “Lenten Stages of Faith” The blind man goes through various stages of faith. What spurs his faith forward? How do we continue to grow in our spiritual journeys toward ever-deeper levels of faith? How do we balance the message that all persons at all stages of faith are loved by God with the message that we ought to strive for greater levels of faith?



March Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak](#)
For flower contributions, please contact the [RPC Office](#)
Potential Acolytes and Liturgists, please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#)



	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
March 2	Hollie Miezio	OPEN	Ellen Hamilton, Hannah Pecis, Frank & Claire Gangware	OPEN	Preschool
March 6 Ash Wednesday	Roberta Gates, Mike & Gwen Heine, Elizabeth Musick, Steven Teune, Susanne Vogel	OPEN	Deb Pike	None	None
March 9	Youth	OPEN	Lancaster-Schramm Family	Brian & Susan Zander	Ruth Svestka Paige Rambeaux
March 16	Lynda Nadkarni	OPEN	Will & Susanne Vogel Ranft Family	Ourth Family	Christian Ed Confirmation Sunday
March 23	Michael Aieta	OPEN	Schwarz Family	OPEN	Henry & Debra Vogel Family
March 30	Paige Rambeaux	OPEN	Sanlee Radigan, Tom Radigan, Marjorie Lewe	OPEN	OPEN

Session Highlights

In February, the Session:

- ◆ Received Jason and Allison Gordon as new members
- ◆ Elected Elizabeth Musick, Sandra Kappmeyer, Sylvia Schade and Laura Vanags as Commissioners to Presbytery
- ◆ Noted that the yearly Per Capita assessment that RPC must pay in 2014 for each confirmed member is \$31.18. Each member is asked to reimburse RPC for this amount, which supports the work of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.
- ◆ Asked the trustees to continue exploring the possibility of rental of church space to an organization planning a summer day camp.
- ◆ Approved a comprehensive new policy regarding the oversight of the Preschool and its integration more fully into RPC as one of its missions.
- ◆ Received the resignations of Jenny Kolinski, Director of Christian Education, effective at the end of the school year and Tara Gregus, Youth Group Advisor, effective following the Mission Trip.
- ◆ Congratulated Rev. Jansen on receiving a certificate from McCormick Seminary designating him as an Environmental Minister and also for his completion of True North Boundary Training, a seminar relating to interactions between pastors and parishioners.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

Worship at Cantata and Scottish Home

Won't you volunteer to attend one of the monthly worship services that RPC provides for seniors in assisted living? Each service lasts about an hour, and includes scripture, a message, music and fellowship.

Children are especially welcome. Contact Steve Marcus for further information.

Cantata (formerly British Home) - 1:30 p.m. on March 2

Scottish Home - 2:00 p.m. on the March 16

Home Communion

If you are unable to attend church and would like to have communion brought to you at home, please notify your Deacon or the church office.

March Birthdays



Mikey LeBeau	3/3	Bill Lancaster	3/14	Nicki Booton	3/25
Marilyn Slanec	3/4	Carter Staubus	3/14	Joyce Van Cura	3/25
Mary Crang	3/5	Aaron Booton	3/15	Michael Cokins	3/26
Scott LeBeau	3/6	Remy Hilpp	3/15	Michael Conroy	3/26
Michelle Roblee	3/6	Colleen Cody	3/17	Randy Womack	3/28
Mary Rob Clarke	3/7	Asher Monacella	3/17	Joseph Aieta	3/29
Thom DeVries	3/9	Luke Staubus	3/19	Carrie Schade	3/29
John Haugland	3/10	Harrison Nolan	3/20	Eric Jensen	3/30
Steve Marcus	3/10	Diane Chaney	3/22	Sarah Dudak	3/31
Cindy Gustafson	3/11	Karen Doornebos	3/23	Terrence Jordan	3/31
Lauren Vogel	3/12	Alyssa Schwarz	3/23	Donna Ulrich	3/31
Emma Yachnin	3/12	Anna Tess	3/23		

News of Camp Saugatuck

You may have read in the newspaper or seen on television that Chicago Presbytery is facing a multi-million dollar debt due to the settlement of a lawsuit regarding misconduct by one of its former employees during the 1990s. In order to prevent further harm to the victims, the court supported a confidential agreement requested by the victims to keep the details private. This has been no secret; pastors and elders of all Presbyterian churches have been informed by the Presbytery all through the process.

As Presbyterians, it is important for us to know about our church's response. Once informed of the misconduct:

1. The Presbytery prevented the perpetrator from serving in any church or ministry position in which further harm could be done.
2. The Presbytery sought as much healing and justice as possible by expressing genuine remorse directly to the victims and making a significant financial settlement.

The Presbytery has been as open and transparent about what happened as possible, given the court order to avoid re-injuring the victims.

To retire the debt, the Presbytery reluctantly sought a buyer for Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck, Michigan. That sale has closed and the camp is no longer Presbytery property. A task force is in place to determine the most effective replacement camping options in other venues, using some of the money from the sale. Camping ministry will continue, though at another location.

We Presbyterians have tried to act as openly, fairly, and faithfully as possible in dealing with this injustice. Let us keep those who were harmed many years ago in our prayers, as well as those who are currently seeking a viable alternative camping ministry for the Presbytery. If you have any questions about this situation, please contact Pastor Scott.

From the Assembly: Meeting Summary 2/8/14

The meeting began with TAG Talks (similar to TED), a new way to facilitate discussion, share new ideas, and spark creativity. An overture to allow Presbyterian ministers to preside at same-gender weddings was passed along to the General Assembly for their consideration. The Presbytery adjourned to meet in a closed session regarding selling the camp property. The purchase price remains \$10M, with \$9M paid up front and \$1M payable within 18 months. The sale will close by February 14. The amendment was approved, thus enabling the Presbytery to pay off its debt. Since several RPC members have expressed their support for an alternative solution, please note that their views were represented - unfortunately to no avail.

Laura Vanags

For more information about the meeting, see the Presbytery's website at <http://www.chicagopresbytery.org/2014/02/10/february-8th-2014-assembly-summary/>

Not Too Late to Donate to Blankets +

RPC annually supports Blankets+, a ministry of Church World Service, assisting people worldwide who are affected by a natural disaster. Church World Service works in partnership with communities to identify their needs, providing such things as blankets, tents, food and emergency supplies; tools and seeds for refugees returning home to plant; wells for safe drinking water and crop irrigation; and literacy training and microcredit loans. Checks should be made payable to Riverside Presbyterian Church, with "Blankets +" in the memo line. Your contributions help provide the means to transform lives and communities recovering from a disaster.

CARERS Corner

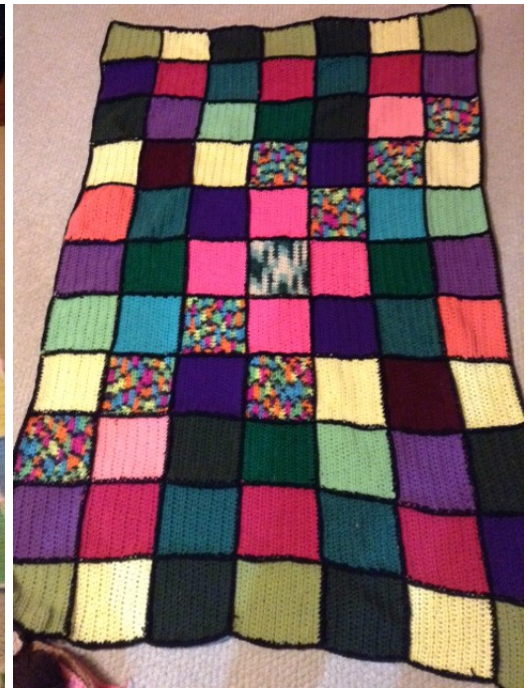
In March, the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago is asking for canned meats and fish, one-dish meals and ready-to-eat meals of all kinds. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping families needing meals during the winter months.



Project Linus: Providing Security Through Blankets



Last year, the RPC Girls' Group participated in a craft project, with the help of Colleen Muller and other RPC members, to knit or crochet blocks to make afghans for veterans at the Hines VA Hospital. Members who enjoyed that project have continued to create squares to make afghans for Project Linus. Project Linus provides homemade blankets, quilts and afghans, lovingly made by volunteers, to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. Several of the afghans are pictured below. Please contact Colleen for more information at bileen81@yahoo.com. To learn more about Project Linus, visit www.projectlinusoakpark.homestead.com.



Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at end of January (8% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$ 29,817 (9.3% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 27,599 (8.7% of budget)
Balance	\$ 2,218

Flower Delivery

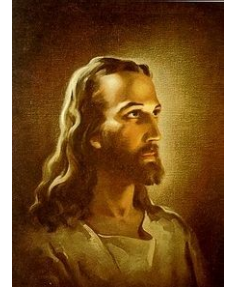
When we have fresh flowers in the chancel, Deacons deliver them to homebound members needing some cheer. By the way, please consider sponsoring fresh flowers some Sunday, especially if you have a birthday, anniversary or memorial to honor. The sign-up is in the hallway leading to the social hall.



Children

Images of Jesus in Art

This month we'll finish up an awesome rotation on Jesus' baptism, then begin the exploration of images of Jesus in the arts. Children will do this in many ways: through music, film studies, and two-dimensional and three-dimensional art work. They'll be viewing amazing works of art as well as creating their very own. Don't miss out on the fun!

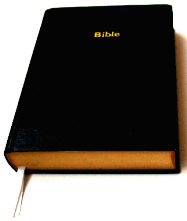


[The Head of Christ](#) (1941)
Warner Sallman

March Memory Verse

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. —*John 1:5*

	K/1 st	2 nd /3 rd	4 th /5 th	6 th /7 th /8 th
March 2	Creation Station	Manse	Celestial Cinema	Oasis Place
March 9	<i>CELEBRATION SUNDAY: All classes meet in the Social Hall for a group activity</i>			
March 16	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema	Creation Station	Manse Kitchen
March 23	Celestial Cinema	Oasis Place	Manse Kitchen	Creation Station
March 30	Manse Kitchen	Creation Station	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema



2nd Grade Bible Presentation Sunday

April 27 is a special day for RPC's 2nd graders. It's Bible Presentation Sunday, a long-standing RPC tradition! Please join us for this special day to celebrate with the 2nd grade Bible recipients and their families. We'll also enjoy some Bible Presentation 'Sundaes' in the Social Hall during coffee fellowship. On April 6, 2nd graders will participate in their own special Sunday school class to help them prepare for their special day.

Fish Banks: One Great Hour of Sharing

A great way to share our blessings is through "One Great Hour of Sharing." Fish Banks will be distributed to Sunday school children and youth in mid-March and will be collected on Palm Sunday and Easter. Every penny counts!



A highlight from our February Sunday school rotation was a special visit by John the Baptist (looking strangely similar to Fred Mitchell).



Confirmation

The 2013-2014 Confirmation Class began in September and will conclude by welcoming those students proceeding with confirmation into membership of RPC on Sunday, March 16. Please join us at the 10:00 service and at Coffee Fellowship afterwards to welcome this great group into our church family!



Dima Aieta



Claire Hejna



Jack Jurgens



Samantha Miezio



Elijah Ourth



Adeline Pecis



Caroline Willinger



Brian Wolff



Eric Wolff

Not pictured: Michalle Krefft and Lorel Meyer

Youth

Youth Group Mission Trip

Every summer, our senior high kids go on a mission trip. Our current eighth grade kids who are graduating at the end of this school year are also eligible to attend the mission trip. This is a long-standing tradition in our church and a wonderful week of hard work and lifelong memories. This year's trip will be to Washington, Illinois, where we will participate in post-tornado clean-up and construction projects. The dates are Sunday, June 16, through Saturday, June 21. We have room for 24 students and 6 adult chaperones. Additional information is available [on our website](#). If you have questions, please feel free to contact Tara Gregus at taragregus@yahoo.com.

Teen Scene

High school students sophomore and older are invited to attend weekly classes on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the RPC Library. The photos below were taken at a recent class with Karl Meyer. The congregation was able to enjoy the fruits of their labor at coffee fellowship.



It's that time again. Our annual Book Fair and Raffle begins on March 1. This is the preschool's biggest fundraiser, which allows us to buy new materials for the children. It's also time for preschool to host the Coffee Fellowship on March 2, so please join us. We look forward to seeing you. And if that isn't enough to start off our month, March is sure to be a "kick" as the preschool hosts its annual *Dads' Night - Let's Have a Ball*. The preschoolers will share an evening filled with songs, play, projects and snacks for each of their dads. As always, it is sure to be an evening filled with fun! The preschool still has some openings for the 2014-2015 school year. If you know anyone looking for a wonderful school, have them give us a call!



Scouts

February events for the cub scouts included the Blue & Gold banquet held on February 23 at the Riverside Golf Club. Cub scouts of all ages were recognized for their achievements, and fifth grade Webelos scouts "crossed over" to become boy scouts. The Troop is looking forward to welcoming these 15 scouts to the Troop. Also in February, boy scouts from Troop 24 took second place in the annual Klondike Derby. Even more impressive was the first aid provided by six Troop 24 scouts to an injured scout from another troop. Later in the month, twenty-seven boy scouts and leaders spent a weekend skiing at Alpine Valley in Wisconsin before returning to Riverside to participate in the Pack's crossover ceremony.

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 next meeting is **Wednesday, March 26**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. All women are invited. Coffee is served.

Lesson 6: Becoming A Holy People

Background Scripture: *Exodus 19 and 24; Deuteronomy 7:1-11*

Key Scripture: *Exodus 19:3-6; 24:3-8, 15-18; Deuteronomy 7:7-9*

Key Idea: In the covenant relationship, God offers us abundant blessings. We honor this covenant through the choices we make each day. Consider your covenant with God. A covenant is a two-way promise between God and God's people. Choices are a part of life. Every day we decide how we are going to live faithful lives.

Lesson leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade and Joyce Van Cura. Joyce will lead Lesson 6. Come and join this nice group of friendly ladies.



Receiving the Law by Lee Porter
The artist states: "On the mountain, God speaks to Moses about a covenant between God and God's people. God spells out this relationship with the gift of the law and, in this way, provides a way to maintain a just and caring society."

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.

March 2 — Joseph "Standing Bear" Schranz, President,
Save Our Ancestors' Remains and Resources Indigenous Network Group Foundation

Sacred Sites, Repatriation and Environmental Issues of Native American Culture

Joseph has over 40 years of work on native issues and has worked extensively with different native communities throughout Illinois and the Midwest. He will speak on these issues and the many efforts that he has successfully made, many under appointments by Governors Blagojevich and Quinn. He wishes to bring an understanding of these issues and an appreciation of native culture to our community.

Watch for topics for the remainder of March in the weekly announcements and Sunday bulletins.



L.E.A.D. Leadership Education and Development

LEAD is an annual church leadership training event. Not just for church officers, LEAD training is open to all, including friends from other denominations. The 2014 event will take place on March 1 at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church. Advance registration is best, and you can [register online](#), but walk-in registration is accepted. A complete list of classes available can be found [on our website](#). The cost is \$15.

Do you need a ride to church? Or know someone who does? Deacons love to get to know members better by providing rides to and from the Sunday service. Please contact either Frank Gangware or David Harper, and one of them will find a super Deacon Driver for you.

Fellowship & Events

Fellowship Committee News

Thanks to all who came to our first mid-week fellowship event of 2014. Our Valentine Dinner and Game Night proved to be a fun evening of food and fellowship. If you missed out, there will be many other opportunities to join us. Watch this space, your bulletin, your Friday email announcements, and the church Facebook page for information on upcoming events.

The Fellowship Committee needs help providing Sunday morning Coffee Fellowship, and we are prepared to help make it doable. First of all, we want to make it clear that all that is required for coffee fellowship is coffee and fellowship. Food is optional, and we are encouraging volunteers to keep it simple. Don't try to do it all yourself. Grab some family members or friends and host together – it's both easier and more fun to host with others. Just pick a Sunday that works for you and sign up on the easel outside the Social Hall. Second, don't let the coffee pot or the dishwasher intimidate you. If you don't feel comfortable with these, let us know ahead of time and we'll arrange for someone who can either teach you how to use them or run them for you. Questions? Contact Susan Lynch, Lily Lisle, or Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak.



Open Mic Night

Mark your calendar for our annual Open Mic Night, April 6, 2014. The "Youth Cafe" will again be open to provide meals and snacks while you enjoy a range of talents on stage. Are you a musician? thespian? comedian? story teller? mime? magician? puppeteer? poet? dancer? acrobat? snake charmer? hypnotist? No matter what you do, we'd love to see you do your thing! Sign up or call John Haugland if you'd like to perform!

My dear Church Members,

Thank you sincerely for the delicious platter of Christmas cookies. It was so very nice to visit with Susan Lisle, the "bringer" of the goodies.

Harriet Kweton



Dear RPC,

Thank you so much for your wonderful box of goodies. I so much enjoyed the treats but especially will appreciate the handmade card and ornaments. I hope you have a wonderful and blessed New Year.

Wilma Steenland

Dear Church Family,

Your gift of \$200 has been received with a appreciation and thanks. It will be used to assist families and individuals affected by the tornado.

Yours in Christ,
Washington Presbyterian Church

Riverside Presbyterian Church,

Thank you all so much for your prayers, phone calls and support.

With love from the family of Marian Daley,
The Crawfords

Pancake Breakfast March 1

Our scouts invite all our RPC family and friends to attend the annual Scout Pancake Breakfast, to be held in the RPC Social Hall on Saturday, March 2, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door, Children under 5 are free. See any Pack 24 Cub Scout or Troop 24 Boy Scout for tickets, or [contact Nancy Hopkins](#).



Please check the
Website for the
most recent
calendar
updates!



March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7a-1p Scout Pancake Breakfast  LEAD Conference
2 9a Sunday School 10a Worship Jazz 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Cantata Worship	3 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	4 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	5 Office Closed 7p Ash Wednesday Servide	6 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	7	8
9 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Endowment Comm Mtg	10 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	11 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	12 Office Closed 4:15p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	13 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	14	15 6p Confirmation Banquet
16 9a Sunday School 10a Worship Confirmation 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Worship Vision deadline	17 5:15p Volleyball 	18 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg	19 Office Closed 4:15p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7p Session Mrg 7:30p Chancel Choir	20 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	21 10a CARERS Comm Mtg	22
23 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	24 5:15p Volleyball	25 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	26 Office Closed 10a Pres. Women Bible Study 4:15p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	27 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	28	29
30 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	31 5:15p Volleyball					

RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Place mailing label here

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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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