



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.

Inside this issue:

Worship	2
Church News	3
Sharing Our Gifts	4
4th of July	5
Mission Trip	6
Adults	8
Christian Education	9
Fellowship	10
Calendar	11

The Vision

August 2014



Worship the Lord

The word "worship" is often used too casually to be fully appreciated.

First of all, *why* should we worship the Lord? Most people would refer to God's power and majesty. God is far bigger and more powerful than anything we can imagine. God has brought the universe into being by imparting order to the existing chaos. Without God, no "thing" would exist, for the universe would be a chaotic pile of energy, bereft of any organizing principle. When we look at the stars in the sky and imagine the sheer size of God, one naturally feels drawn to worship.

That's all perfectly valid. However, I prefer to worship God because of God's pure goodness. No other being is characterized by perfect agapé love. Everyone else is sinful and selfish to some extent. To me, it is primarily this perfect goodness that makes God worthy of praise.

Either of those is a wonderful reason to worship God. A third possibility is to look at what God has done "for me." Despite the many popular songs that lift up the "usefulness" of God, I do not feel that any assessment rooted in my own selfishness can be an appropriate reason for worship. If God becomes angry at me (because of my own sin) and stops helping me, does that make God less worthy of worship? Hardly! If I worship God solely for what God does for me, it would seem that I am worshipping a genie/servant whose only value is based on me; thus I am really only worshipping myself.

So, there are two good reasons to worship God—God's majestic power, and God's uniquely perfect love. The second question is *how* do we worship? Most Christians around the globe practice a time of falling down on their knees. Presbyterians do not, mostly because we do not want to exclude anyone whose bodily condition would prohibit that posture. However, falling down on one's knees is a perfectly wonderful method of worshipping God. The goal of worship is to diminish our own egos, our own sense of self-importance, and to replace that with our devotion to God. To the extent that we feel humbled, childlike, and loved, we have done well in our efforts to worship.

Worship is not an opportunity for self-aggrandizement. It is not to be done only when you are featured, or when your kids are featured, or when your favorite music is to be played, or when it fits conveniently within your schedule. The point of worship is to recognize that your concerns are not that important. The focus is not to hear a great sermon or to feel affirmed by an announcement praising your efforts. The focus is on your passion for praising God.

Of course, much of what we do is based on mixed motives. We are imperfect sinners. We do not need to become perfect and godlike before we are permitted to praise God. Nevertheless, we should bear in mind what the word "worship" actually means.

See ya' at church,
Scott

Worship

August Worship Schedule

August 3 “5,000 Hungers” *Matthew 14:13-21*

What was more important to the folks who went out to listen to Jesus—the bread that they received, or the sense that they had been in the presence of God? What sort of hungers do we bring to our modern worship services? How does God address our hungers through the sharing of the Lord’s Supper? What kind of nourishment do we receive? Today we will celebrate Holy Communion.

August 10 Guest Preacher Richard Engstrom visits today while Scott is away on study leave.

August 17 A Guest Preacher to be determined will visit today while Scott is away on study leave.

August 24 “Focus on the Positive” *Romans 12:1-8*

Why does Paul ask his peers not to think too highly of themselves? What happens when we try to make helpful suggestions in areas that are not the areas of our spiritual gifts? Does anyone have an abundance of every one of the spiritual gifts? How should we manage when others in God’s family are making decisions that we think are mistaken?

August 31 “The Christian Report Card” *Romans 12:9-21*

Paul lists a bunch of criteria for our self-assessments as disciples of Jesus. How do we rate ourselves according to these criteria? What successes should we be celebrating? What areas for improvement can we identify?

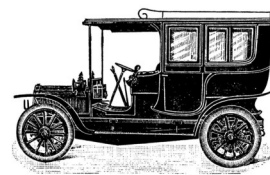
Worship at Cantata and Scottish Home

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.

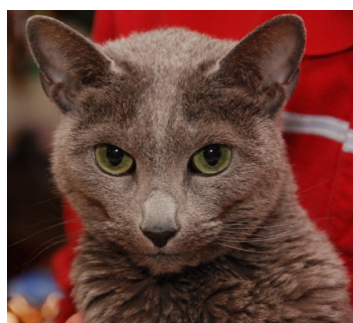
Cantata - 1:30 p.m. on August 3

Scottish Home - 2:00 p.m. on August 17

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 any of the Deacons and he or she will find a super Deacon Driver for you.



All Creatures Great and Small



We are happy to announce the Sunday service where we acknowledge the beauty and value of all God’s creatures again will be held this fall. *Blessing of the Animals Sunday* will be held **September 21** outdoors on the RPC lawn. Beloved pets should attend on a leash or in an appropriate carrier. Be cautious and control your pet when children or adults approach. Even the best behaved pets get over-stimulated in the midst of many people in a strange situation and can jump, snap, or even bite uncharacteristically out of fear. Arriving a bit early, “airing” your pet and bringing along appropriate supplies for cleaning up after your pet are strongly encouraged. While some folding chairs will be provided, feel free to bring along lawn chairs, if you have them. In the case of rain, the service will be held in the church sanctuary, where animals are not permitted.



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

Deacon Doings

Bike to Church Have you joined the biker gang? If you are able, please join cycling Deacons by biking to church on the last Sunday of each month (next *Bike to Church* – August 31!). The environment will thank you!

Share the Harvest The crops are coming, the crops are coming! Please bring any fruits or vegetables you can share when you come to Sunday worship and place them in the baskets in the hallway leading to the Social Hall. The bounty will be delivered on Monday.

RPC Farm. And speaking of *Share the Harvest*, check out the abundant, healthy plants nurtured by our own Farmer Steven Teune, in the plot on the north lawn in front of the Manse. Steve's green thumb benefits *Share the Harvest* as well as supporting RPC's environmental mission.

Deacon Donations. At the July meeting, the Deacons authorized donations of \$250 each to Washington Presbyterian Church (flood relief) and PeopleCare (senior assistance).



August 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
August 3	Dennnis Zander	OPEN	OPEN	Shuppara Family	OPEN
August 10	Youth	OPEN	OPEN	Nea Stack	RPC Women's Choir
August 17	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Will & Susanne Vogel	Bryan & Susan Zander
August 24	Joyce Van Cura	Steven Staubus	OPEN	OPEN	CARERS Committee
August 31	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Trustees for August are Lou Heine and Caroline Tecson.

Sharing our Gifts

CARERS Corner

In August we are requesting canned goods for fall—soups, stews, canned meat and fish, etc. for the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.



We Care

In the past, RPC customarily delivered huge "We Care" posters for different occasions to our members. Starting in September, on a smaller scale, you'll find caring index cards in the pew pockets, which will be gathered and delivered via the Deacons. Your personalized well-wishes will mean so much to our members.



Flowers

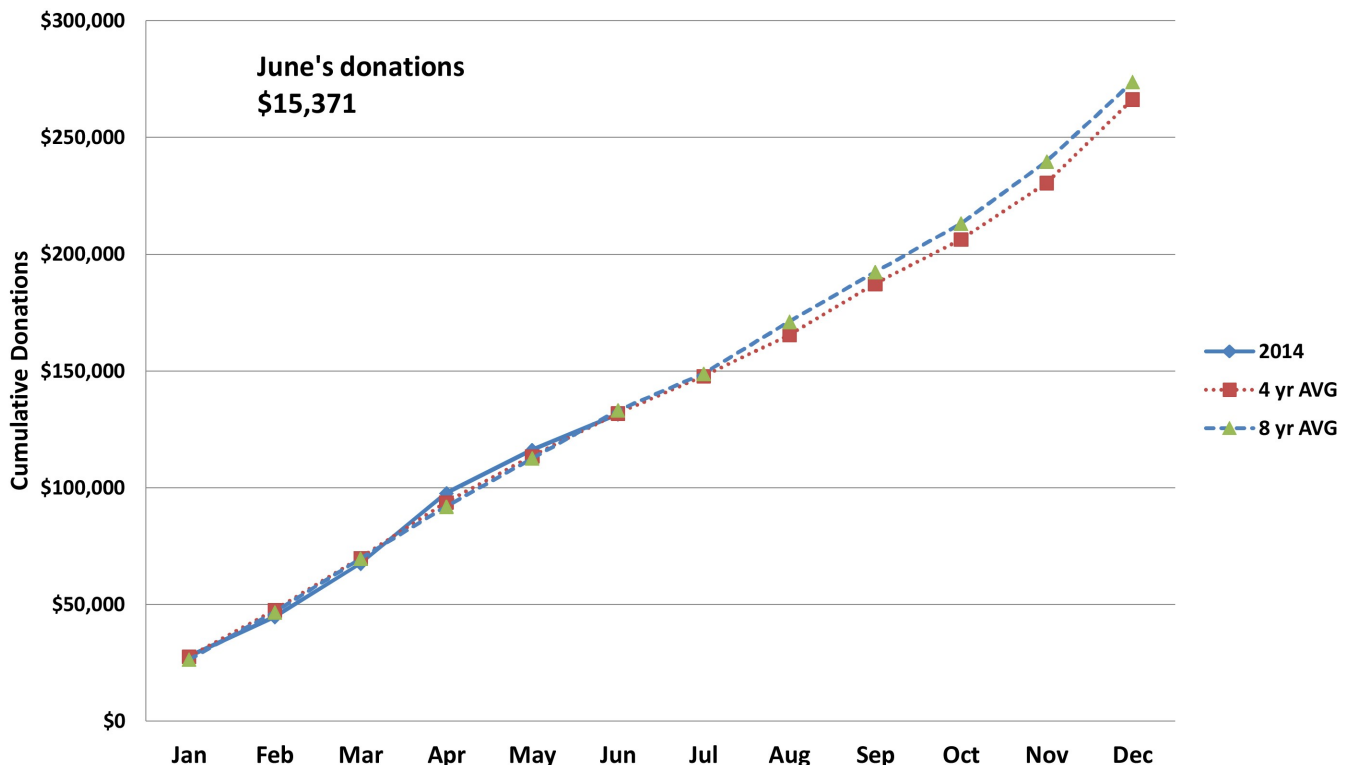
When we have fresh flowers in the chancel, Deacons deliver them to homebound members needing some cheer. By the way, please consider sponsoring fresh flowers some Sunday, especially if you have a birthday, anniversary or memorial to honor. The sign-up is in the hallway leading to the social hall.

Board of Deacons' Cents-Ability Opportunity

Is your Cents-Ability can/jar/mug/dish/bowl half full of coins you've collected daily so far this summer? If "YES" that's GREAT! If not, there is certainly still time to join in with your support to raise summer money at RPC to help the hungry in the Presbytery of Chicago. Put out a container and start putting coins in it for our end of summer collection in September.



RPC CUMULATIVE DONATIONS vs. PREVIOUS YEARS



Donation of funds is keeping us on track to match our efforts of previous years, thus permitting our mission work to continue as planned. We have also been blessed with many, many hours donated by members and friends of the church family to the glory of God.



The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all those who worked on the *Missing Piece s You* 4th of July Parade float and those who marched in the parade and/or worked our booth. We all had a lot of fun representing such a great church family.



Mission Trip

Mission Trip 2014

From Monday, June 16, to Friday, June 20, a group of 19 teens and 4 adults from Riverside Presbyterian Church worked doing post-tornado cleanup in the town of Washington, Illinois. It was a hot week and the work was back-breaking, but everyone worked extremely hard. Our work consisted of clearing small debris (mainly shingles) from both public land and private property, clearing brush from downed trees and raking up debris from tree stump removal. We stayed at the Washington Presbyterian Church, and after a long week of hard work, enjoyed an afternoon on Lake Bloomington at the lovely home of Brooke Schwarz's parents. The adult leaders on the trip were Lisa Marciniak (her fourth trip!), Jim Marciniak and Jenny Kolinski (their first mission trip) and Tara Gregus (her ninth and final trip). Thanks to all in the congregation who supported our efforts through fundraisers and prayers!





On November 17, 2013, a tornado struck Washington, Illinois. Although only one person died, 1,100 homes were damaged or destroyed by the tornado. The damages were estimated to be \$935 million. Months afterward, there is still clean-up to be done.



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will begin a month earlier than usual, on Wednesday, **August 27, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Social Hall. All women are invited. Coffee is served.

This year's study is *Reconciling Paul—a Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians* by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, with suggestions for leaders by Irene Pak.

Paul's writings are some of the most influential in Christianity. Revisiting the struggles Paul faced and the authenticity and integrity

of his theology is an essential task for churches today in the midst of great change.

Paul, like us, wrestled with and questioned his faith as he tried to live as authentically as possible in an ancient world that, like ours, was also in the midst of great change. What can we learn from visiting *2 Corinthians* and considering Paul's theology and ideas as they relate to the context of our time?

Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty invites us all to read Paul's letter afresh in light of today's issues. Concepts of shared partnerships, power in weakness, healing, reconciliation, love, and a new apostolate all figure prominently in her reading of Paul.

Lesson leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura. Elizabeth will lead Lesson 1—*The Promise and Problem of Paul*.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 1:2*



The Life of St. Paul, entrance, St. Paul's Church, Hampshire, UK
Created by Jude Tarrant, 2011



RPC Seeks Applicants for Preschool Positions

Interested parties are invited to apply for positions with the RPC Preschool, to start on September 2. Positions available include Director, Teacher (2 positions) and Teacher Assistant. The position of Preschool Director requires a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. Teachers must have a minimum of 30 semester hours of college credit, of which six hours must be in Early Childhood Education. For the Teacher Assistant position, some college education is preferred. Preschool staff work 24 to 28 hours per week. The application deadline is August 1 for the Director position, and August 5 for the Teacher and Teacher Assistant positions. To apply, please forward a letter of interest and resume to Mary Crang at mary.crang@gmail.com.

Christian Education

Sunday School Kick Off!

Mark your calendars! Kick-off Sunday is September 7. I am looking forward to the chance to meet all of the children, youth, and their families in the coming weeks and, of course, on the 7th! The 2014-2015 Sunday School theme will be unveiled at 9:00 a.m. with a kick-off celebration, which will be held outside, weather permitting. It's going to be a great school year at RPC. If possible, please get your registration form to the church office prior to the start of Sunday School on September 7. Registration forms can be found on-line at www.rpcusa.org/files/Sunday-School-Registration-Forms.pdf. Plan to be a part of the education program at RPC and explore the ways that together our faith can grow.

Doreen Sterba DeZur

Calling all Volunteers for children and youth!

Although summer is in full swing, Sunday School preparations for the fall are well under way. I am excited to be here at RPC and am excited about the prospect of working with you all in our Rotation Model of Sunday School for the children, as well as Conversation Topic Time with the Senior Highs. What I need to know to set up the schedule is: 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 and youth of our church family! Contact Doreen Sterba DeZur at dezurd@sbcglobal.net

Human Scene

The Adult Christian Education class, *The Human Scene*, will resume meeting on Sunday, August 17. Join the **Human Scene** class *on Sundays 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.

August 17 — BEDS Plus: An Overview of How We Provide for Those in Need

Tina Rounds, Executive Director & Diane Kassel, Shelter Operations Manager, BEDS-Plus Care, Inc., LaGrange, IL
BEDS' mission is to help homeless individuals obtain stable, affordable housing & provide a continuum of professional supportive services & emergency overnight shelter. Volunteers are vital to achieving this mission. Each year volunteers donate more than 15,000 hours.

August 24 — Introduction To The Coptic Orthodox Church

Dr. Refaat Malek from St. Mark's Coptic Christian Church, Burr Ridge—**Dr. Malek** will provide a brief overview of the Coptic Orthodox Church, its doctrines, and the highlights of the Christian faith in Egypt. He will discuss the Coptic Church's Seven Sacraments, and discuss the persecution of Copts in Egypt as well as problems in Western countries, including the U.S.

August 31 — No Human Scene scheduled due to the Labor Day Holidays



The half-size (252 foot long) replica of the Washington D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be at Proksa Park, 3001 South Wisconsin Avenue, in Berwyn from August 7 through August 11, 2014. The wall is open to visitors 24 hours a day.

Fellowship



Fellowship in August

Join us for **Friday Night Fellowship Party** at the home of Susan and Matt Lisle, 362 Audubon (corner of Longcommon/Audubon) on August 8, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Please bring an appetizer and a beverage to share. Instant party! All 21 or over are welcome.

We will hold a **Back to School** themed Family Fellowship dinner and activity on a Wednesday evening later in the month. Please keep an eye on the weekly announcements and the bulletin for specific date and time.



The Fellowship Co-Chairs thank all who volunteered to help with the Strawberry Social—from our talented bakers, servers and set up/strike down crew to our very dedicated committee members who wore many hats (and aprons) throughout the event. With your help the Social was a huge success. We served over 200 people from RPC and the community. A special “thank you” goes to Karl Meyer whose creative and artistic talents made both the Strawberry Social and the Parade float simply spectacular!

Fellowship Committee Invites You

The Fellowship Committee is always looking for people interested in helping plan events and outings for the RPC family to spend time together. Please consider attending our next Fellowship Committee Meeting, on Sunday, **August 3**, at 11:15 a.m. in the Westminster Room.

To the congregation at RPC:

I want to express my sincerest thanks for the lovely sendoff you gave me at worship on June 1 and for the beautiful Higgins Glass bowl. It holds a place of honor in my home and in my heart. Thanks also to Lynda Nadkarni for her kind words. I will always look back on my six years serving the youth of our congregation with great fondness.

*With love,
Tara Gregus*



New Women's Fellowship Opportunity

If you're not an early riser but you want to spend some time in weekly fellowship with other women in the church to share our journeys and support one another, let's get together and do it!

Colleen Muller is organizing the group. Contact her at bileen81@yahoo.com

Please check the
Website for the
most recent
calendar
updates!



August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Christian Ed Comm 11:15a Fellowship Comm 1:30p Cantata Worship	4 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm	5 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Personnel Comm	6 Office Closed	6:30a Women's Forum	8	9 4:30p Wedding
10 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	11 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm 7:30p Trustees Mtg	12 6:30a Men's Forum	13 Office Closed	14 6:30a Women's Forum	15 10a CARERS Comm	16
17 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Worship Vision Deadline	18 5:15p Volleyball	19 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons' Mtg	20 Office Closed 7p Session Mtg	21 6:30a Women's Forum	22	23
24 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	25 5:15p Volleyball	26 6:30a Men's Forum	27 Office Closed	28 6:30a Women's Forum	29	30
31 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	<p style="text-align: center;">Memorial Service for Karena Mendoza A memorial service will be held on Sunday, August 10 at 3:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street, Oak Park. Everyone is welcome.</p>					

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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Organist Emerita: Arline Robbins



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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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