

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

September 2014

# **How The Church Makes Progress**

The word "conflict" is a very passion-charged word. What emotions are stirred within you by the word "conflict?" If you had to list three emotions, what would they be?



When I explore relationships with couples in premarital counseling, I always ask them to tell me about a time when they had a conflict. How did the conflict arise? How did they manage it? How did they resolve it? These

discussions always remind me how important Christian principles are for managing conflict.

Engaged couples in premarital counseling are those who have found a way to manage their conflicts positively—otherwise, they would not be there. Universally, they tell me that they talked things out, listened carefully to the concerns of both parties, and found new ways of relating that have brought them closer together in love than ever before. Think of your own long-term relationships. If they have continued to draw closer, I'd wager that you have had numerous conflicts that you have resolved in this manner.

We sometimes imagine that conflict is an "evil" or a "problem." Yet, in Bible times, the people of God lived lives that were full of conflict. In fact, whenever you have a story where God was especially powerfully present with God's people, you will notice that there is some kind of conflict afoot. Whether you think of Moses fleeing from Egypt, or Isaiah debating with the prophets of Baal, or Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemene, the times of God's extraordinary presence were also times of major conflict.

Take Acts 6:1-7 for example. The early church had a conflict on how their leaders ought to operate. It was also a conflict about food (as so many in the Bible are). They got together, talked it out, everyone made changes, and the church grew stronger. The same is true for Acts 15, and of many, many other stories. This is the rhythm for church growth. It is also the rhythm for a growing/healthy marriage.

In *Matthew 18:15-17*, Jesus spells out a very specific "operational manual" for how to manage conflicts. The importance of this cannot be overstated. Jesus did not give an "operational manual" for how to do Communion or Baptism (leading to many future debates). But he did take the time to spell out the exact process for managing conflict. The key is that the two principal parties have to sit down together to talk as the very first step. There can be no substitute for this as the first step. It may seem more natural to say nothing, or to speak first to someone who will listen with a more friendly ear toward your position. This is why Jesus gave us *commandments*—so that we would avoid doing whatever is natural when doing what is "natural" is actually a sin.

The words "dangerous opportunity" are often used as a rough translation for the characters of the Chinese word for "crisis." I'm not convinced that every crisis is a "dangerous opportunity." However, I would say that every conflict is a "dangerous opportunity." Whether it leans toward "danger" or toward "opportunity" depends entirely on our faithfulness to the operational manual that Jesus gave us.

Your brother in Christ, Scott

# **September Worship Schedule**

**September 7** *Matthew 18:15-20* "Conflict is a Dangerous Opportunity"

What feelings are evoked by the word "conflict?" How should a Christian respond when there is a disagreement within the church? Jesus knows that conflicts will arise within the church family—folks will disagree; and he gave specific advice on how to address such conflicts. What are the core principles of a Christ-like response to conflict? Today is Sunday School Kickoff Sunday, so there will be some emphasis on education arising from thoughts that challenge us. We will also celebrate Holy Communion.

#### **September 14** *Matthew 18:21-35* "Christian Forgiveness"

Why are Christians supposed to forgive, and what exactly does it mean to forgive another person? How does a strong focus on our own need for God's forgiveness for our own sins help us to view others in a more Christ-like manner? What if there is no agreement on who needs to be forgiven? How does forgiveness between two children of God appear from God's perspective?

#### **September 21** *Matthew 20:1-16* "Why We Care for Pets"

Jesus asks whether we should care for laborers who are less productive. How do social systems change when we intentionally care for members who are not very productive? How does it change our values if we care for a pet? Today is *Blessing of the Animals* Sunday. Please bring your well-behaved pets plus a lawn chair if you are able. Worship will be outdoors if it is not raining.

#### **September 28** *Matthew 21:23-32* "Words and Deeds"

Which is better in this parable, the son who said the right words or the son who did the right deeds? What does it mean to "believe" the message of the gospel? What evidence indicates that such belief exists? The chief priests were afraid to speak the truth, for fear of the crowds. Jesus also shared that position to some extent. His point was that judgment is far more dependent on our deeds than on our words.

# 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 - September 7, 1:30 p.m.

Scottish Home - September 21, 2:00 p.m.



# **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 will be held on **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.

### **Session Notes**

In August, the Session:

- learned of a very generous bequest to RPC in loving memory of William F. and Eva Lee (Gerry) Hejna;
- accepted, with regret, the resignation from RPC of the Miezio and Kolinski/Pecis families;
- designated the theme of the Stewardship Drive as *Review our Past; Share our Future;*
- accepted the resignation of Michael Aieta from the Session;
- planned to hold a special Session meeting to discuss finance and budget issues and ways to eliminate an annual deficit;
- received an internet users policy, prepared by Laura Vanags, to be signed by all with access to RPC's computers.

Mary Ann Sadilek Clerk of Session

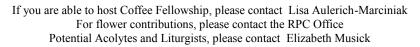
# **September Birthdays**



Emily Cain	9/1	Robbie LeBeau	9/8	Lowell Morrison	9/23
Frank Gangware	9/1	George Meyer	9/9	Greta Schramm	9/23
Nancy Hopkins	9/1	Gwen Heine	9/10	Scott Schwarz	9/23
Austin McKain	9/1	Donna Cermak	9/11	Roy Thorsen	9/23
Joan Shurtleff	9/1	John Franzo	9/12	Chloe Floros	9/25
Cade Friend	9/2	Peter Jansen	9/12	Brooklyn Hastings	9/27
Ja'Net Deason	9/3	Nuala Lubeck	9/14	David Schade	9/27
Allan Chard	9/4	Bob Sprunger	9/14	Andrew Staubus	9/27
Scott Jansen	9/5	Betty Jirsa	9/17	Michael Aieta	9/28
Jonathan Jansky	9/5	Janet Paarlberg	9/17	Jacques Doornebos	9/28
Marika Floros	9/6	Kate Chard	9/18	Jeff Cermak	9/30
Debbie Lubeck	9/6	April Pratico-Floros	9/21	Michael MacDonald	9/30
Tim Gates	9/7	Kris Carlson	9/23	Bennett Regan	9/30



# **September Opportunities**





	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
September 7	Lynda Nadkarni	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
September 14	Youth	OPEN	OPEN	Elizabeth Musick	OPEN
September 21	Susan Lynch	No acolyte	OPEN	Paula McCracken	OPEN
September 28	Elizabeth Musick	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Trustees for September are Cyril Friend and Jim Marciniak.

#### **CARERS Corner**

The CARERS Committee is proud to support the BEDS+ program during the month of September. The mission of BEDS+ is to provide emergency overnight shelter and to assist the homeless people of West Suburban Cook County to become self-sufficient. CARERS asks RPC to use the month of September to provide such items such as hot drinks (decaf coffee, tea, cocoa) or cold drinks (lemonade, cider, dry mixes) as well as paper goods such as napkins and paper towels. They have requested that we no longer send regular coffee, just decaf. Thank you in advance for your 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.



# **Project Linus**

Colleen Muller asks for assistance from knitters or crocheters to make 6-inch squares for afghans for Project Linus. Worsted weight yarn is requested. Contact Colleen if you have questions at bileen81@yahoo.com

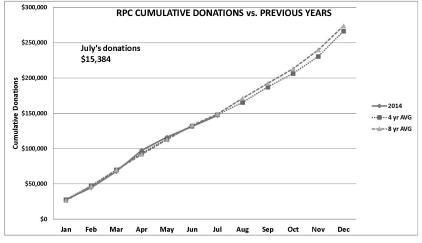


# Help RPC's Music Archives: Sponsor a Drawer

Did you know that RPC has well over 1,000 pieces of choral music – unison, solo, 2-part, 3-part, 4-part, for organ, for piano, for orchestral accompaniment, with bells, without bells - whew! Members of the RPC Chancel Choir have spent hours and hours cataloguing this music to make it easier to find. What treasures we've uncovered along the way!

We have the file cabinets, we have the music, but we are badly in need of new folders to replace the raggedy originals. We have 36 drawers to fill with newly organized files. Will you help us by *sponsoring a drawer for \$25*? If you do, the Chancel Choir will sing your favorite hymn as a choral benediction one Sunday and dedicate it as you wish. Not to mention that you will have the everlasting thanks of the Choir and especially Dr. Sally, who has to hunt for music 52 weeks a year.

Please contact Ellen Hamilton (ellen.hamilton@mac.com) or Sandy Kappmeyer (skappzan@aol.com) if you wish to contribute.



# **Finance Update**

We are still doing great with your giving, letting us sponsor a great pre-school, Sunday school and youth program.

# **Deacon Doings**

We do mission work in partnerships! Deacons serve to reinforce the church's personal connection with its members. Deacons are assigned to RPC members by the first letter of the member's last name.

Kathy Feary (A-Bo)	Jeanine Buttimer (Hi-Ka)	Nancy Dvorak (Pf-R)
Dave Harper (Bp-Ce)	Ellen Hamilton (Kb-Li)	Frank Gangware (Sa-Se)
Andrew Kiwiet (Cf-Cy)	John Haugland (Lj-Me)	Sandra Kappmeyer (Sf-Sm)
Donna Mitchell (D-Fl)	Gwen Heine (Mf-Ne)	Susan Lisle (Sn-T)
Marilyn Slanec (Fm-G)	Stephen Marcus (Nf-Pe)	Deb Pike (U-Wa)
Sally Sloane (Ha-Hh)		Steve Teune (Wb-Z)

Youth Deacons: Keri Burke and Hannah Pecis

**Deacon Donations** • At a recent Human Scene, the Deacons presented a check for \$250 to Tina Rounds, Executive Director of BEDS+ to assist that organization in its very worthy mission.

**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** • 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.

**Worship Services 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*.

Cantata Worship - 1:30 pm on the first Sunday of every month.

Scottish Home Worship - 2:00 pm on the third Sunday of every month.

**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* – September 28). The environment will thank you!

**Rides to Church •** 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.

**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.

**Flower Delivery** • When we have fresh flowers in the chancel, Deacons deliver them to homebound members needing some cheer. 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.

# **Strawberry Social**



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# Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

This year's study is Reconciling Paul—a Contemporary Study of *2 Corinthians* by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, with suggestions for leaders by Irene Pak. The next gathering will be on Wednesday, September 24, at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Coffee is served.

Lesson 2—Paul in the Context of Ancient Corinth This lesson is intended to offer a basic outline of 2 Corinthians, provide important historical background about the church Paul founded in Corinth, and give an overview of

the issues facing the church in Corinth.

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

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling."

1 Corinthians 2:2-5



Come Unto Me, north aisle window, Christ Church, Port Sunlight, Wirral Merseyside, UK

#### **Human Scene**

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.

September 7 — Richard Walton, Church Outreach, The Stronghold, Oregon, IL

**Stronghold** — **What We Have to Offer**—Situated along the bluffs of the Rock River, Stronghold has served as the site of many retreats, summer camps, reunions and other events for over 50 years. Owned and operated by the Blackhawk Presbytery, Stronghold is an ideal facility for almost all your small and large group needs with seven overnight retreat facilities, numerous large and small group meeting spaces and 300+ acres of trails and woodland. Stronghold is a year-round gem for many retreat groups, and we are looking to share some of that information with you.

September 14 — Elephants in the Church, Part I; Led by Roberta Gates, RPC

Conversations We Can't Afford to Ignore, I—We will start an open discussion on creating an atmosphere for conversation, and learn situations when enough is enough. Basic readings and guides will be made available in print for all to participate. Booklet readings will be available in advance for this and the following two Sundays.

September 21 — Elephants in the Church, Part II; Led by Ron Smith, RPC

Conversations We Can't Afford to Ignore, II—We will consider weighing facts without thumb on the scales and then discuss a Christian perspective on "marketing."

September 28 — Elephants in the Church, Part III; Led by Doreen Sterba DeZur, RPC

Conversations We Can't Afford to Ignore, III—An introduction of our new Director of Children's Education will precede discussions of "Saints and Sex" including the source of sexual sin, temptation and faithfulness.

# **Sunday School Kick-Off**

We will have our Sunday School kick-off on Sunday, September 7, at 9:00 a.m.. We have a fun morning planned. There will be a time to meet and greet, to make our name tags for the year and to play some games. We will also be introducing the theme for the year. The overarching theme is Covenant. It is our hope that as we look at the covenants in the Bible between God and God's people that we also will covenant with each other to treat each other with respect as well as friendship. Our first rotation for the fall will be on Noah and the covenant that God makes after the flood. Come on Sunday, September 7, and meet your classmates and teachers and shepherds. As usual, the day will follow the pattern of Sunday School, worship, and then a picnic. If you have not already filled out a Sunday School Registration form, you may also do that on the on September 7.

# Calling All Shepherds and Teachers

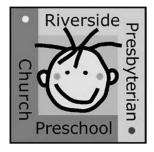
We are still looking for a few more shepherds, as well as teachers, for our Sunday School classes. We also are in great need of people to help out with our Godly Play area on Sunday mornings. We are deeply grateful to those who have already stepped forward and accepted the call to work with the children, but we still need some more caring souls. Please call or e-mail Doreen at dezurd@sbcglobal.net to sign up. You won't regret it!

# **Blessing of the Animals Sunday School Activity**

September 21 is our *Blessing of the Animals* Sunday, and we are planning a special activity for the children and youth. As we have a time to bless our own pets, we will also be a blessing to homeless pets. Just as Noah cared for the animals of God, we will too! During Sunday School that day all the children will be together and we will make pet treats to give away, but the children will also be organizing donations for the Humane Society. Of course to do that, they need donations. Please bring your donations of pet items to church on the September 7, 13 and 21. The members of our youth group will deliver the goods. We will collect: dry dog/puppy food, dry cat/kitten food, kitty litter, and bleach.

# **Calling all Ringers and Singers**

Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 17. Since 2006, RPC has been home to two children's choirs: the Riverside Ringers and the Riverside Singers. These groups are led by Elizabeth Musick, Sally Sloane and Donna Ulrich on a volunteer basis. We meet each Wednesday during the school year from 4:15 to 5:15. Children ages 5 through 12 are welcome to join our group. No RPC affiliation is necessary and there are no fees! We work on vocal techniques, following musical scores, learning to read rhythms, working together in a musical ensemble, hand chime ringing techniques, ensemble discipline, percussion instruments including xylophones, and following a conductor. Much of our music follows the liturgical church year and we include brief lessons on scripture. Many children from this group have gone on to ring with our pre-professional handbell ensemble, the acaBELLa Ringers. Please contact Sally Sloane if you have a child interested in joining us (musikhse@comcast.net).



#### **Preschool News**

The Riverside Presbyterian Church Preschool is proud to announce the appointment of the teachers for the 2014-15 academic school year. They are all residents of Riverside and come to the preschool with a wealth of experience and education. Both teachers, Joe Schueller and Connie Burris-Marhoul have a Master's in Education, while assistant Michelle Lawler comes to the program with a Master's in Social Work. They will be led by Susan Lisle who has a degree from the University of Illinois in Early Childhood Education and is a member of the Riverside Presbyterian Church.

The first day of Preschool is Tuesday, September 9, and openings are still available. Please call Susan Lisle or e-mail the Preschool at rpcpreschool@sbcglobal.net or call 447-1520 for information. Your child can register as soon as he or she turns three.

# **Youth Group News**

Rally Day is right around the corner, and will mark the start of our Youth Group year. Matt looks forward to meeting and getting to know all of our youth here at RPC, and is excited to roll out the events that will be happening this September. Also, we are looking for adult volunteers to come help out with youth group. Forms will be available for interested volunteers on the Youth bulletin board outside the church office. You can also contact Matt Gauen, Director of Youth Ministries, at mjgauen@gmail.com, if you are interested in volunteering with our youth. Weekly meetings will be on **Sunday nights.** Times, unless otherwise indicated, are as follows: **Junior High 6:00-7:15** and **Senior High 7:30-8:45.** Parents, *please be prompt in dropping off and picking up* your child or children from weekly meetings. Here is the schedule for September:

**September 7:** Kick-off party! Come meet your new youth director and play some get-to know you games!

**September 14:** Discussion night: Expectations for the Year.

**September 21:** Doggie treat delivery day! BOTH GROUPS. As a part of our Blessing of the Animals service, we will deliver the doggie treats made during Sunday School. We will leave shortly after fellowship time is over and return early afternoon.

September 28: Discussion and game night

Friends are always welcome, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact Matt at migauen@gmail.com.

# Girls' Group is Back and Better Than Ever

Calling all girls in junior and senior high! The Girls' Group will meet on Wednesday evenings starting September 10. Girls in 6th-8th grade will meet from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. and girls in 9th-12th grade will meet from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Watch your email for our September schedule! Questions? Contact Tara Gregus at taragregus@yahoo.com.



#### **Scouts**

Forty-six aviation-oriented cub scouts & families from Pack 24 participated in the first Airfest Camporee at the Lewis University Campus in Romeoville, August 8-10. Nearly three thousand scouts & family members participated in this event, which was coordinated by the Rainbow Council. Some of the other scouting units came from as far away as Florida. Some of the highlights of the event included a discovery flight in a small aircraft for one of our scouts; exhibitions featuring basketball-playing robots and airborne drones; displays of dozens of aircraft and airport trucks; hands-on activities such as flight simulators, weather

charting, and crafts; demonstration of synchronized kite flying and falconry; evening entertainments included a laser show and epic fireworks. If there is another Airfest next year, Pack 24 will be back!

Troop 24 sent 50 scouts to Camp Tesomas near Rhinelander, Wisconsin in July. This was the Troop's third year at Tesomas, which is one of the premier scout camps in the nation. In addition to the regular merit badge classes and normal scout activities, several scouts became PADI-certified divers. Other activities included a zip line, ATV courses, and a climbing tower. We've already booked our campsite for 2015! Later in July a group of older scouts traveled to Camp Daniel Boone near Asheville, North Carolina, for a week of whitewater rafting on five different rivers.



# **Fellowship**

We believe God smiles when his people spend time having fun together!

# Friday Fellowship

A heartfelt thank you to the hosts of our first two "Friday Fellowship" events. At the end of July, Ellen Hamilton invited us over despite having put her back out. In August, the Lisles hosted right after Susan was named as the new Preschool Director and had put in an overwhelming couple of weeks of organizing and interviews. And yet, our hosts (as well as the attendees) claimed it was fun! The format is designed to make hosting simple – just open your home and we'll take care of the rest. If you're interested in hosting a Friday gathering, please contact Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak or Susan Lynch.

#### **Picnic**

The annual Sunday School Kick-off Picnic will be held immediately following the church service on Sunday, September 7. Weather permitting, we will be on the church lawn. The Fellowship Committee will provide grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages. If possible, we would appreciate those attending to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share, and lawn chairs or a picnic blanket to sit on. There will be a few tables and chairs set up for those for whom this is difficult.





# Olde English Fair

Mark your calendars now for an RPC "field trip." On October 4, we will car pool to Oregon, Illinois, to attend the Stronghold's Olde English Faire. For more information, there will a poster outside the Fellowship Hall, or visit <a href="http://www.strongholdcenter.org/englishfaire.html">http://www.strongholdcenter.org/englishfaire.html</a>. Watch the bulletin and the Friday announcements for more Fellowship opportunities!

# **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 <a href="mailto:bileen81@yahoo.com">bileen81@yahoo.com</a>.





August Friday Fellowship at the Lisle home.

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!



# September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	2 6:30aMen's Forum 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	3 Office Closed	4 6:30a Women's Forum	5	6
7 Pa Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Sunday School Kick- off Picnic 1:30p Cantata Worship	8 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	9 6:30a Men's Forum	10 Office Closed	11 6:30a Women's Forum	12	13
14 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Endowment Comm Mtg	15 5:15p Volleyball	16 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons	17 Office Closed 7:00p Session	18 6:30a Women's Forum	19	20
21 9a Sunday School 10a Worship—Animal Blessing 11a Coffee Fellowship	22 5:15p Volleyball 7p Preschool Advisory Mtg	23 6:30a Men's Forum	24 Office Closed	25 6:30a Women's Forum	26	27
28 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	29 5:15p Volleyball	30 6:30a Men's Forum				

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

#### RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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: <a href="https://www.rpcusa.org">www.rpcusa.org</a>

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