

The Vision

December 2015

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.

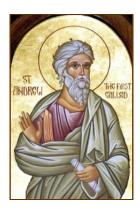
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November 29	1st Sunday of Advent
1,0,0112012	Redemption Is Drawing Near
	Psalm 25: 1-10 Luke 21: 25-36
December 4	acaBELLa Ringers at Riverside Holiday Stroll
	First American Bank 7:00 p.m.
December 6	2nd Sunday of Advent
	Christmas Pageant
	Led by our Sunday School students
	Caring Christmas
	Led by Kaki Lynch and the Deacons 4:00 p.m.
	Christmas craft, cookie decorating, and creating car
	packages for those who are unable to join us for
	Christmas celebrations
	Laughter, fellowship, and a light supper
December 13	3rd Sunday of Advent
	Gathering Outcasts; Bringing Them Home
	Zephaniah 3: 14-20 Isaiah 12: 2-6 Philippians 4: 4-7
	Handel's Messiah
	Led by Sally Sloane 4:00 p.m.
	Wassail Bowl reception following the performance
December 20	4th Sunday of Advent
	In Remembrance of His Mercy
	Micah 5: 2-5a Luke 1: 39-55
December 24	Christmas Eve
	Bringing Salvation To All
	A Service of Lessons and Carols 4:00 p.m.
	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14
	1st Sunday After Christmas
December 27	
December 27	Words To Treasure and Ponder I Samuel 2: 18-26 Luke 2: 15-20; 41-52

Andrew Ministry at RPC

On November 22, nine members were commissioned as Andrew Ministers. This small but dedicated and well-trained group will drive a hospitality ministry at Riverside Presbyterian Church. Starting this Advent season, Andrew Ministers will monitor the Sunday School entrance from 8:50 to 9:10 for visitors and the two Sanctuary entrances from 9:45 to 10:00, and again from 11:00 to 11:15 as visitors exit. Their purpose will be to greet visitors, introduce themselves and offer to help visitors with directions or questions, and to invite them to coffee fellowship. Please help me congratulate and thank the following people for their willingness to serve as Andrew Ministers: Beverly Aieta, Cyril Friend, David Harper, Connie Kelly, Susan Lynch, Bill Muller, Colleen Muller, Lynda Nadkarni, and Patti Perry-Halline.



Over the next several weeks/months the Andrew Ministers will execute several projects to further their hospitality ministry: Guest table in the Narthex parlor with updated informational packets on RPC; Visitor parking spots designated near the church entrance; Improved directional signage to help our visitors feel better oriented and independent in their visit.

How can you help?

- Make a point to be extra cognizant of visitors; always **introduce yourself** when saying hello to someone who is not familiar to you. Sometimes we worry that we will assume someone is a visitor who is really a member we haven't seen in a while ... thus avoiding them. We can greet everyone with "Hi, I'm *insert your name*. I am so glad you are worshiping with us this morning." This does not assume they have never been here!
- ♦ Commit to **signing in on the Blue Welcome Pads**. Even though the liturgist instructs us every week to sign in and pass the blue pads, many of us do not. We all need to take the time to write our names and include our addresses! Visitors will follow the example of the person next to them, and we really would like to follow up with our visitors and invite them back for another visit. Did you know that people shopping for a church always join the one that follows up with them? Help the Andrew Ministers get this very important information name and address by setting the example of signing the Blue Welcome Pads and passing them to the person next to you.
- Invite a friend to attend worship with you!

Respectfully submitted by Susan Lynch, Membership Committee Chair



December Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact Deb Jansky
For flower contributions, please contact the RPC Office
Potential Acolytes and Liturgists, please contact Elizabeth Musick
Potential Ushers, please contact Paula McCracken



	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
December 6	Youth	OPEN	Thom & Nancy DeVries David Schade, Laura Vanags	Claire & Frank Gangware	5th Grade Sunday School
December 13	Susan Lynch	OPEN	Claire Gangware, Fred Kitch Stan & Sylvia Schade	Joyce Van Cura	No Coffee Fellowship
December 20	Doug Harvin	OPEN	Joseph & Dima Aieta Jeanine Buttimer, Caroline Tecson	Poinsettias	Sandra Kappmeyer
December 24	OPEN	OPEN	Ourth Family	Poinsettias	No Coffee Fellowship
December 27	OPEN	OPEN	Lou & Martha Heine Karl-Heinz Meyer, Elizabeth Musick	Paula McCracken	OPEN

Session Notes

In November, the Session:

- approved sending a letter to members and friends requesting funds to complete the organ restoration project;
- approved holding only one Worship Service on Christmas Eve, a family service at 4:00 p.m.;
- noted that the Andrew Ministry training has been completed by nine members who will begin their service in December:
- removed Amanda Wright and Melinda Yachnin from the active roll at their request;
- endorsed the Deacons "Soles for Souls" project of collecting shoes in December for world-wide distribution;
- heard the initial results of the fall Pledge Drive and Every Member Canvass, and will continue contacting those who have not yet pledged with the hope that participation will reach an all-time high.

Mary Ann Sadilek Clerk of Session

Christmas Memorials

Express your love in memory or honor of family and friends through a holiday memorial. All memorials will be printed in the Sunday worship bulletins, and the plants will be displayed in the sanctuary December 20-24. Any that remain will be on display through the holiday season. The cost for an 8" pot of either red of white poinsettias is \$17 and includes a handsome foil cover. We will also gratefully accept donations to the Capital Improvement Fund. Order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins, or can be downloaded here.



December Birthdays



William Carl	12/1	Christine Long	12/13	Clayton Ballerine	12/21
Richard Crang	12/2	Joshua Ranft	12/16	Marty Lubeck	12/25
Christine Canavera	12/3	Chancellor Rayfield	12/16	Kaki Lynch	12/27
Crystal Coffman	12/3	Christopher Halline	12/21	Michael Lynch	12/27
Luke Yachnin	12/3	Connor Halline	12/21	Joey Richards	12/27
Lucille Christensen	12/4	Stanley Schade	12/21	Jacob Dluhy	12/28
Paul Sterner	12/4	Hannah Ranft	12/22	Jacob Jansky	12/28
Richard Regan	12/6	Dennis Sadilek	12/22	Ethan Ranft	12/29
Steven Staubus	12/6	Emma Philipps	12/24	Cal Friend	12/30
Martha Heine	12/7	Elie Meuyou	12/19	Susan Lynch	12/30
Olivia Glawe	12/8	Joe Ballerine	12/20	Hannah Smith	12/30
Jackson Jansky	12/8	Michael Hejna	12/20	Jordan Messner	12/31
Carol Sprunger	12/8	Wesley Sedlacek	12/20	Vicky Vogel	12/31
Ellen Mitchell	12/9	Jimmy Sit	12/20	Amanda Wright	12/31
Louise Gangware	12/11	Virginia Wright	12/20		

Trustees for December are Jon Jansky and Lou Heine

Vegetable Garden 2.0

The church vegetable garden this year was another success! As you may remember this was a project the Deacons took over as part of their mission outreach. The vegetables are grown, harvested and sent to **Share the Harvest**. The garden was also a success in that it was not attacked by Bambi, or any other animals. The gardening results by the numbers:

Collard Greens - 3 bushel baskets

Carrots – 15 pounds

Cucumbers - only three

Tomatoes -3 pints

Peppers -7

A big thank you to David Harper who took the time to send soil samples to the Farm Bureau and had the vegetable garden certified as organic. We will keep it that way!





Our combined Chancel Choir and children's choir (the Riverside Singers) sang at the November 15 service.

Manna Express

The RPC Preschool is offering an opportunity for all of us to purchase things we need and help the Preschool financially at the same time. Working with **Manna Express** you can purchase gift cards from over 300 companies. Use the cards as gifts or use the cards yourself to buy anything from groceries to gifts. You pay the face value of the card, and the Preschool receives anywhere from a 2-8% rebate of the value of the card. Many schools and churches use this program. Manna Express makes its money by buying the cards in bulk. With Christmas right around the corner, it's perfect timing to make your first purchase. See Sandy Kappmeyer or Ellen Hamilton for details and order forms. But if you want Christmas delivery, please get your order in no later than December 9.

CARERS Giving Tree

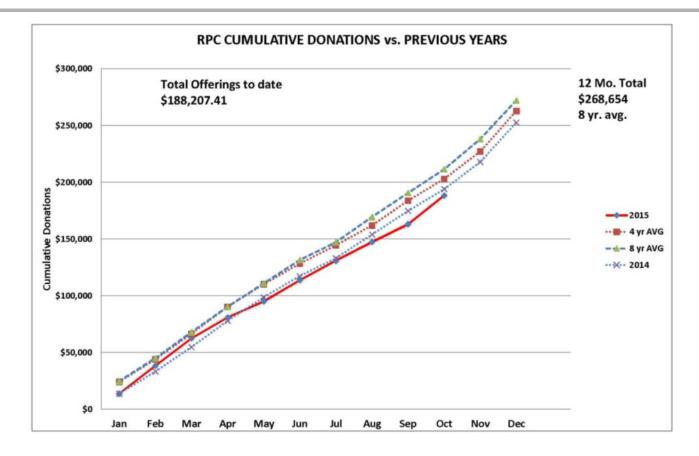
The CARERS Christmas "Giving Tree" in the Social Hall is decorated with paper ornaments listing gift requests. Please take a few ornaments and then shop for the requested items. Place unwrapped gift items under the "Giving Tree" no later than Sunday, December 13. Gifts go to mothers and children at Constance Morris House. Please take time out of that busy holiday season of *yours* to brighten *theirs*.





Deacons to Collect Shoes

In many developing nations, walking is the primary mode of transportation. Bare feet are the entry points for many parasitic worms, and other infections. Scorpion strikes and other insect bites as well as snake bites most often occur on unprotected feet. A good pair of shoes is a life-changing gift. Children can walk to school, parents can work more if they don't lose time to illness or parasitic infections. Any type of footwear, new or lightly used, placed in the large box next to the CARERS chest will be given to <u>Soles 4 Souls</u> to add to their distribution domestically and in 127 countries around the world. A few dollars also will help to defray the average transportation cost of \$2 per pair.



As you can see from the graph we have exceeded expectations and currently are nearly at 2014's level of donations. In fact, our current receipts (all income) exceed that of the average of the last eight years. Clearly, many have counted their blessings and responded with generosity to support God's work at RPC as we reach out to help and support others. Thank you all.

Sharing our Gifts

Pledge Drive Update

Thanks to all the callers for a wonderful kick-off for our 2016 Pledge Drive. And thanks to all of you who have already shown such great support for the future of RPC! To date, we have received 74 pledges, for a total of \$188,879. We still have a ways to go to make our current dreams come true, but this is a fabulous start. If you haven't yet returned a pledge card, please search your heart and contribute towards another wonderful year of serving Christ through our church family.

Holiday Bazaar

Our "First Annual" Holiday Bazaar was a rousing success. Kudos to Sandy Kappmeyer for her vision and hard work and to Karl-Heinz Meyer who really puts the "holiday" into Holiday Bazaar. If you came, you know how fun it was—and hopefully shared a delicious lunch in the cafe. We had 8 crafters/vendors participate, a number of whom were RPC members. Final numbers are not yet in from our crafters' contributions, but we are forecasting a gross of over \$2,000 (net \$1,700 after expenses). A portion of the profits will be contributed to the Youth Group for their stellar work in the kitchen. The balance will be used by the Deacons for mission opportunities in 2016. Thank you!









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2015 Christmas Pageant

On December 6 at 10:00 a.m. there will be a very special worship service led by our wonderful Sunday School children. They will perform a traditional Christmas play and you'll get to hear plenty of beautiful Christmas music as well! It's sure to be a memorable and meaningful worship experience for all ages. Dress rehearsal for all children participating is on Saturday, December 5, in varying shifts beginning at 1:00 and continuing throughout the afternoon, and on December 6 during the Sunday School hour.

December Schedule

We will have a Celebration Sunday with the children at 9:00 on December 13. Sunday School will be on winter break on the following dates: December 20 and December 27. Sunday School classes will resume on January 3. There will be no Godly Play on December 6 so children of all ages can enjoy the Christmas pageant in the sanctuary. Our December Godly Play will take place on December 13, and then will go on break for the remainder of the month. All children ages pre-K through 1st grade are welcome to stay in the childcare room during service.

Sunday School Volunteers: A Blessing to our Children

Many thanks to all of our wonderful Sunday School teachers, shepherds and Godly Play teachers and helpers who shared their time and talents since the beginning of this Sunday School year. Would you like to be a Sunday School volunteer? To volunteer to teach a 4-week rotation of Sunday school, please contact Susan Zander. Lesson plans are provided to match your unique gifts.

Activity Packages

The children, under the direction of Susan Zander and Lynda Nadkarni, made hundreds of activity packages with supplies donated by members of the church for children who are visitors or patients at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital. When children are in the hospital, they do not feel well and it can be scary. Having something to do, new markers and crayons, coloring books, puzzles, etc., cheers them up and keeps them occupied. When children are visiting parents or grandparents who are sick in the hospital, it is often frightening and overwhelming for them. The activity packages bring a smile to their faces and they are happily absorbed while others around them are dealing with hard things.



Thank you so very much for this thoughtful, generous, and much appreciated project! *Emily Rosencrans*



December brings a time of joy and wonder for our Preschoolers! I hope you will be able to join us for our holiday program scheduled for the morning of Thursday, December 17, in the Social Hall. Our party will continue with a special visit from Santa. Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is starting. Applications are available in the rack outside the church office (lower left-hand corner) and are due on or before January 15, 2016. As the year comes to an end, all of us at the preschool extend a special thank you to Linda Hutcheson, Donna Jones, Jeanine Buttimer, Ellen Hamilton, Jim Sit, Jon Jansky and the entire church community for their wonderful support and encouragement of the preschool. Wishing you a very merry Christmas!

Youth Group

December 5—1:00-3:00 p.m.—Christmas pageant rehearsal

Youth interested in assisting with the Christmas pageant, either through a speaking role, or being an usher or a liturgist, are invited to attend the pageant rehearsal on the December 5.

December 6—10:00 a.m.—Christmas pageant

For youth participating in the pageant, there will be a rehearsal at 9:00 a.m., prior to the worship service.

December 6—4:00 – 7:00 p.m.—Caring Christmas

Youth interested in helping to make Christmas presents for home-bound members of our congregation are invited to participate.

December 12—12:30-4:30 p.m.— Middle School Trip

We will head downtown to the Maggie Daley Skating Rink to skate and see the sights . RPC will cover the cost of the Metra Ticket to get downtown. Middle School youth should bring money for the skate rental (as well as spending money!) Friends are free to join us. Please RSVP by December 10 so Matt knows how many tickets to purchase!

December 13: Teen Scene & Middle School Luncheon

December 18: Senior High Holiday Party

We are still looking for a host for this event, but we will have our annual senior high holiday dinner on December 18. Feel free to dress up as we share a dinner and "White Elephant" gift exchange. The price limit will be \$10. We will also have a Gingerbread House contest. If you would like to host, or are interested in attending, please RSVP by December 16.

December 20 & December 27: NO PROGRAM, SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!

Girls Group in December—Come Join the Fun

In November, we had a painting party, held a fundraiser and filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Here's what's happening in December:

Wednesday, December 2: Take Them A Meal: We will cook dinner for a North Riverside family affected by ALS

Wednesday, December 9: Make a bracelet with Erin Leary of BeBuddha Jewelry

Friday, December 18: Christmas Party and caroling!

No Girls Group December 23 or December 30

Girls Group Fundraiser—Gift Bags and Coffee

Do you need a few gift bags to help you with your holiday gift wrapping? The Girls Group is selling 2 different styles of beautiful gift bags (see photos). The "bird" bags come in 4 sizes (S,M,L,XL) and can be used all year long, not just at Christmas! The silver deer with red ribbon bags come in S,M,L. Small and medium bags are \$1 and large and extra-large bags are \$2. All bags come with white tissue. Contact Tara at tara.gregus@rpcusa.org if you would like to purchase any of the bags. We will be selling them until we run out or until Christmas, whichever comes first! The Girls Group is dedicated to building strong young women through service, discussion and fun activities. The funds raised from the sale of the bags, and coffee that was sold at the Holiday Bazaar, will be used primarily for service projects. Thank you for your support.





Presbyterian Women

There will be no Presbyterian Women's Bible Study in December. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

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.

December 6, 13, and 20: Emily Rosencrans will lead a discussion on some of the "minor" prophets in the Bible.

December 27: No Human Scene

Fellowship Committee Needs You

Do you love sharing in fellowship with your church family? Wish we had more opportunity to spend time with one another? Then you may feel called to serve RPC in Fellowship!

- ♦ Host coffee fellowship
- Volunteer to help at fellowship events
- Share your ideas for fellowship events at the monthly Fellowship Committee meeting. Our next meeting is January 10 at 11:15.



Our Girls Group had a painting party in November.

acaBELLa Ringers at Holiday Stroll December 4

Come hear RPC's acaBELLa Ringers during Riverside's Holiday Stroll on **Friday**, **December 4 at 7:00 p.m**. They will playing LOTS of Christmas carol arrangements at First American Bank across from Guthrie Park. Join in Christmas cheer while cheering on our Ringers!



Caring Christmas December 6



All are invited to join Kaki Lynch and the Deacons to prepare Holiday Cheer for our members who are unable to join us for Christmas celebrations. We will gather in the social hall to do a Christmas craft, decorate cookies and put together care packages. Laughter, fellowship and a light supper will be served!

We need bakers: those willing to prepare a batch of scrumptious cookies as well as bakers willing to make naked sugar or spice cookies with Christmas shaped cutters so that our children can decorate them during Caring Chirstmas. If you are willing to prepare cookies or can contribute a dish for the light supper, please let Kaki Lynch know or sign up here.



Messiah December 13

The music of George F. Handel described in two words: Love and Hope.

You are invited on December 13 at 4:00 to listen to what has been described as one the best oratorios ever written. Handel starts out with the foretelling of Christ's birth and the hope that it brings to a lost world. As the music builds not only was Christ born, but he loved us so much that he died for us, and was risen from the dead.

Words like worthy, hallelujah, and glory do not do justice to this sacred music. You have to listen to it with your heart, and fill in the words for yourself.

Handel's Messiah: come for the music, stay for the Wassail Reception following the performance. Join us for the reception in the Social Hall immediately following the performance.

Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed

Please consider signing up to host Coffee Fellowship in December or January. We are in need of hosts. Coffee Fellowship is one of the traditions that makes RPC special. Easy to follow instructions are sent to our hosts. So sign up after worship on the sign-up sheet outside of the Social Hall.



Wednesday Night Live! Returns

Food like jambalaya, Greek chicken, and a baked potato bar in the company of dinner companions like Dennis, Marge, Sally, Mia, and Luke, followed by great videos and discussions on how compassion and the golden rule apply to topics like fair trade, global climate change, and our veterans with people like Mary Ann, Karl-Heinz, Dennis, and Jim....these are the things you missed if you didn't participate in our fall session of Wednesday Night Live! Don't miss out next time. We're planning on another session in February and March, and you're invited. Stay tuned for more information. Interested in helping out in any way? Contact Lynda Nadkarni or Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak.

Please check the Website for the most <u>recent</u> calendar <u>updates!</u>



December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	2 Office Closed 4:15p Ringers & Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	3 6:30a Women's Forum	4	5 10a Messiah Rehearsal 1p Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
6 9a Sunday School 10a Christmas Pageant 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Open Gym 2p Cantata Worship 4p Caring Christmas	7 5:15p Volleyball	8 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg 7p Children & Youth Comm Mtg	9 Office Closed 4:15p Ringers & Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	10 6:30a Women's Forum	11	12 10a Messiah Rehearsal
13 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11:15a Endowment Comm Mtg 1:30p Messiah Rehearsal 4p Messiah Performance Wassail Bowl reception to follow Vision Deadline	14 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees	15 6:30a Men's Forum	16 Office Closed 4:15p Ringers & Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7p Session Mtg 7:30p Chancel Choir	17 6:30a Women's Forum	18 10a CARERS Comm Mtg	19
20 9a <i>Human Scene</i> but no Children's Sunday School or Confirmation Class 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Service	21 5:15p Volleyball	22 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Preschool Comm Mtg	23	24 Office Closed 6:30a Women's Forum 4p Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas	26
27 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	28 5:15p Volleyball	29 6:30a Men's Forum	30	31 Office Closed 6:30a Women's Forum		

Reminder to all groups using the church facilities: The <u>online calendar</u> is up-to-date only to the extent that the RPC office knows about additions and cancellations of events. The calendar in the Vision is accurate only when the online calendar is also correct. Please keep the office informed!

"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: www.rpcusa.org

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