



The Vision

July 2016

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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To Dream Again

The following excerpt is from *To Dream Again* by Robert D. Dale:

What we expect from life is usually what we get.

In Winnie the Pooh, Pooh and Piglet take an evening walk. For a long time they walk in companionable silence. Finally, Piglet breaks the silence.

He asks, "When you wake up in the morning, Pooh, what's the first thing you say to yourself?"

Pooh responds: "What's for breakfast?"

And then, "And what do you say, Piglet?"

Piglet replies, "I say, I wonder what's going to happen exciting today?"

Friends, small expectations yield meager results! We can choose a 'breakfast dream' or an 'excitement dream.' As we concluded our sermon series on what it means for us to capture the vision that God has for us as a congregation, I invited you to dream. To ask yourself, "What if . . ." What if we had faith that God could make our most wonderful and outrageous dreams come true?

You recently shared your dreams with me and while I do not have space here to share them all, I thought you might enjoy a summary and, who knows, maybe this will spark your imagination, and you will think of a new dream to share.

First, some of you dreamed about upgrades or changes that need to be made the facility. As I said in a sermon recently, some of your hopes and dreams were focused on the building or the manse, and we certainly are responsible for caring for those structures; but friends, those are not the dreams that will lead to a bright growing future. Most of you dreamed about hands-on mission possibilities; these are mission opportunities that require more than merely writing a check. More than one person suggested taking yearly ADULT mission trips to countries such as Africa or Brazil. Four people dreamed of hosting a Soup Kitchen in our very own Social Hall. There was a desire to minister to those who suffer from substance abuse and mental illness. Some of you dreamed of working in our very own mission field, including working with the homeless and underprivileged in the city of Chicago. These mission opportunities seem to take a more hands-on approach than we currently do. They are in many cases the next step from writing a check or bringing a donated item for another church or group to deliver to those in need.

Church News

(Continued from page 1)

There were an equal number of folks who talked about worship. Many of you are excited to think of new ways to worship and want to bring energy and excitement to our time on Sunday morning. You dreamed of using technology, monitors and screens. You dreamed of including even more global and world music in our repertoire and dreamed of other Sundays that resembled “Jazz Sunday.” Some of you dreamed of worshipping outside on Sunday mornings and holding evening services “under the stars.”

There were many more dreams, and I shall share more with you next month. For now, I close with this from Dr. Benjamin Hooks, former president, NAACP:

It must be borne in mind that the tragedy in life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal.

The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach for.

It isn't a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled.

It is a calamity not to dream.

It is not a disaster not to be able to capture your ideal.

It is a disaster to have no ideal to capture.

It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars. It is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for.

May [we] reach for the stars – and be bold and joyful in the attempt!

Dale

Worship Series

In July, we will begin using a thematic approach to worship. The thematic approach is called a Worship Series. For several Sundays, we will explore a theme or idea with scripture readings expanding on the theme. We will strive for sensory-rich worship, because individuals understand and interact with God, the Holy Spirit and the Word in diverse ways through various sensory experiences.

We will employ a multi-media approach to provide a sensory-rich experience such as continuing the use of flowers and color in the sanctuary, incorporating music, dance, and art, or by engaging the congregation in active participation through writing, moving, or creating.

To aid in creating a multisensory worship experience, the Session has approved placing monitors in the sanctuary. We are seeking donors who are able to give over and above their regular support of RPC. If you would like to help defray the cost of the monitors and their installation, please speak to Pastor Jackson or Susan Lynch, moderator of the Worship & Music Committee.

The Gospel According to Disney Worship

The *Gospel According to Disney* series will explore the role that the animated features of Walt Disney play on the moral and spiritual development of generations of children. If you're under the age of 100, chances are you were once one of Disney's little charges. Fables such as *Bambi*, *Pinocchio*, and *Dumbo* taught generations of children about the importance of honesty and believing in yourself; they oriented children's sympathies toward the underdog and the outcast. The series begins Sunday, July 17.



Worship at Cantata and Scottish Home

The Deacons welcome any and all congregation members to join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata (the British Home) on July 3 at 2:00 p.m., and the worship service for the residents of the Scottish Home on July 17 at 2:00 p.m.

Session Notes

In June, the Session:

- ◆ received, with regret, the resignation from membership of Lucille Christensen and Dan Christensen, who now live permanently in Florida;
- ◆ extended through July, 2017, the agreement with Rev. Doug Asbury for Manse usage;
- ◆ approved the purchase of video monitors, stands, and camera to be placed in the Sanctuary to support a multimedia approach for Worship to be implemented by The Music & Worship Committee; noted that Rev. Jan Edmiston, who has worked with RPC, was elected Co-Moderator of the PC(USA)General Assembly

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

July 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	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
July 3	Karl-Heinz Meyer	Gwen and Mike Heine Paula McCracken Laura Vanags	OPEN	CARERS & Presby. Women's Bible Study
July 10	George Dluhy	Matt, Susan & Natalie Lisle Fred Kitch	OPEN	Cindy Reynolds
July 17	Ruth Svestka	Paula McCracken Donna and Jim Ulrich	OPEN	OPEN
July 24	Roberta Gates	Allan and Kate Chard	Elizabeth Musick	OPEN
July 31	OPEN	Dennis Zander and Sandra Kappmeyer	Ellen Hamilton	OPEN



Emily Kedzie 7/1
Stephanie Messner 7/1
Elowyn Scheetz 7/1
Jim Ulrich 7/1
Taylor Jurgens 7/2
Deb Pike 7/3
Stephan Meuyou 7/6
Patti Perry 7/6
Ryan Colbrese 7/9
Jim Marciniak 7/11
Quinn Risley 7/11
Avery Long 7/13
Greg Franzo 7/14
Ingrid Nolan 7/15

Murphy Regan 7/15
Catherine Glawe 7/16
Lorraine Meyer 7/16
Cooper Sahlas 7/17
Lynda Nadkarni 7/18
Cody Kazarian 7/20
Margaret Vacek 7/20
Mary Louise Schwarz 7/22
Ellen Allen 7/24
Jean Tess 7/24
Allie Burke 7/25
Lisa Burke 7/25
Cyril Friend III 7/25

Jordan Ballerine 7/26
John Lynch 7/26
Tyler Pratico-Floros 7/27
Sally Sloane 7/27
Keegan Buttimer 7/28
Andrew Kiwiet 7/28
Alia Vonesh 7/28
Kendall Hastings 7/29
Amanda Hejna 7/29
Dale Jackson 7/30
Kirsten Jantze 7/30
Susan Zander 7/30
Wesley Deason 7/31

Sharing our Gifts

CARERS Corner



July is *Stars and Stripes* month. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 187 will be accepting our donations for their “Packages Abroad” program. Everything we donate will be used by a member of the armed services deployed abroad and by those who visit the USO at O’Hare Airport. The long list of materials will be posted on the wall next to the trunk in the RPC foyer. It includes non-perishable snacks, personal care products, and fun items to occupy off-duty hours.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 187 is also hoping that we will submit a list of service men and women deployed abroad from our own families, friends and neighbors. Let the church office know the name of the GI, and his or her FPO (Free Post Office) address or their APO (Army Post Office) address. The Auxiliary will be sure to send a card or package out to that GI.

Share Your Soles

In June, members and friends of RPC donated forty pairs of shoes to [Share Your Soles](#). The collection barrel will remain in the foyer next to the CARERS trunk. Please continue to give new or gently used footwear.



School Supplies

The RPC annual school supplies drive will focus on items for **elementary** school for needy children in west suburban communities serviced by [Community Support Services](#) (headquartered in Brookfield). Please bring items to the appropriate baskets in the church lobby for distribution in early August.

What are Those Deacons Doing?

Well, we do a lot of things, and one of them is listen to you. In the last church survey a number of people wrote down that RPC should help sponsor a refugee family. For the last 6 months or better, we have done research, had people come to our meetings to speak, sent e-mails, and at our last meeting we voted unanimously to do just what you requested. We have formed a sub-committee, Riverside Refugee Rescue, or R3, to work with and learn from Ascension Lutheran church as they have sponsored refugees previously. In addition, we will be working with the group [Refugee One](#), located on the north side of Chicago. As Dale said in a sermon, it's one thing to write a check, but it's another thing to actively do something. This is just one of the things your Deacons are doing.

Steve Teune

From the Financial Secretary

When collecting cash donations for special offerings, tickets, auction items, etc., please provide the names and corresponding amounts for those who contributed cash so they can be recorded on RPC contribution statements. We know this is not always possible, but would like to record as much information as we can, so our members have accurate records.

RPC 2016 Second Quarter contribution statements will be emailed by July 7 for those who have an email on file, and mailed for those who do not. If you have not received your statement by July 10, please contact us at financialsecretary@rpcusa.org. Thanks!

Cindy Reynolds



Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Halfway through the Gospel of Mark, as Jesus and his disciples are on their way to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus turns to his disciples and asks, “So, what is the word on the street? Who do people say that I am?” It seems like a reasonable question to ask the people who travel with you and who have the opportunity to hear what folks in their towns and villages are saying about their teacher. “Well,” they answer, “some say you are John the Baptist (back from the dead): others think you are one of the prophets, maybe Elijah, maybe another one.” Then Jesus looks them squarely in the eyes and asks, “Yes, but who do *you* say that I am?” Now *that’s* a good question. It is such a good question that we, as Presbyterian Women, are going to spend this study raising that question again and again.

Please join us for our first gathering on this topic on Wednesday, **August 26**, at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Social Hall. Our new course for 2016-2017 is entitled *Who is Jesus?*

What a Difference a Lens Makes, by Judy Yates Siker, with suggestions for leaders by Patricia Lynn Miller. Study books are \$8. Please contact Carol Sprunger to get your copy.

All women are invited to join us for Bible study.



Joyce Van Cura (left) with Nancy Dvorak (right).

AAUW Honors Joyce Van Cura

At its annual meeting in March, the Riverside Branch of the American Association of University Women honored Joyce Van Cura, with a \$500 gift made in her name to the AAUW Educational Foundation, which provides money to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change. Joyce joined the Riverside Branch in 1983. She holds a B.A. from Bradley University and an MSLS from the University of Illinois. Joyce has held many branch positions, most recently Co-Membership Vice President.

Human Scene

The Human Scene will bring our series on Islam to a close with one more TED Talk on **July 3**, *What does my headscarf mean to you?* featuring Yassmin Abdel-Magied. Then we'll turn our focus toward faith, discussing the following questions:

July 10—*How can I believe in both science and creation?* (a follow-up to our science-based VBS July 6-8)

July 17—*How can I believe in a God I can't prove?*
July 24—*Can I trust the Old Testament (or the Bible in general)?*

July 31—We'll hear another TED Talk with Lesley Hazleton discussing *The doubt essential to faith*.

Come join us for good fellowship and lively discussion on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the parlor.

Many heartfelt *Thank You's* to our RPC friends who have been so supportive during Joyce's recent surgery. Your prayers, telephone calls, cards, and flowers were greatly appreciated and made a difference. Joyce is now recovering at home from a successful surgery. Please continue to keep her in your prayers as she faces chemotherapy as soon as she regains her strength.

Jay and Joyce Van Cura

Events

Strawberry Social July 13

We are getting ready for the Strawberry Social! Join us as we welcome the community on Wednesday, July 13. We're going to show everyone a great time with homemade treats, ice cream, and (of course) strawberries! There will be activities for kids, music, a fancy cake raffle, and lots of time to visit with friends. How can you help ensure this event is a success? Well, first, mark your calendar and plan on attending. Tickets are available after worship, in the office during business hours, and at the event. Tickets are \$5 each; or, before July 13, you can purchase 5 tickets for \$20. Use the extra ticket to invite a neighbor to join you. We will be serving from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., and hope the fellowship will continue until 9:00.



Lots of volunteer opportunities are available. We can use help with everything from baking to ticket-taking; slicing cake to scooping ice cream; decorating to clean-up; and everything in between. To help, visit [Sign-Up Genius](#) to see where your help is needed most. Finally, say a prayer for good weather. We've been blessed in the past; let's keep a good streak going. Thank you!



Abigail Schwarz (left) and Hannah Ranft (right)
Recipients of AAUW Riverside Branch grants

RPC Members Receive Scholarships

The Riverside Branch of the American Association of University Women recently awarded scholarships to Abigail Schwarz and Hannah Ranft.

Abby received the Anne Willard Art & Citizenship Grant. Abby plans to attend North Central College in Naperville, Illinois.

Hannah received the S.T.E.M. Fields of Study Grant. Hannah will be attending Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Both Abigail and Hannah are 2016 graduates of Riverside Brookfield High School.

Each year the Riverside Branch of AAUW raises funds to provide grants to two outstanding young women from RB as they begin their college careers.








Girls Group

In June, the RPC Girls Group had a sleepover at Ogden Dunes. Four of the girls are pictured at left with Girls Group Advisor, Tara Gregus, and Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak.

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!

July 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
					1	2
3 9a Human Scene 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Cantata Worship	4 <i>Office Closed</i> 5:15p Volleyball 	5 6:30a Men's Forum	6 VBS 9:30a 	7 6:30a Women's Forum VBS 9:30 a 	8 VBS 9:30a 	9
10 9a Human Scene 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	11 5:15p Volleyball 7p Fellowship Comm Mtg 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	12 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg 7p Children & Youth Comm Mtg	13 <i>Office Closed</i> 6p Strawberry Social 	14 6:30a Women's Forum	15 10a CARERS Comm Mtg	16
17 9a Human Scene 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Worship Vision Deadline	18 5:15p Volleyball	19 6:30a Men's Forum	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21 6:30a Women's Forum	22	23
24 9a Human Scene 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	25 5:15p Volleyball	26 6:30a Men's Forum	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28 6:30a Women's Forum	29	30
31 9a Human Scene 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship						

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

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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)