



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

August 2016

Why do we have to keep changing?!?!?

Why is everything so different?!?!?!?

Both are questions that I have heard lately. Actually, I have heard those questions for over 20 years in ministry. Why change? It is simple really; if we do not change we will become obsolete. We change all the time in our lives: we change what we wear; we change what we eat, we change what we drive; and we change our hair. Recently, I came

across an article by Elaine A. Heath, who is the dean of Duke Divinity School. She says: *We, the church, have to make a choice day by day to get over ourselves or we will miss God's call. Getting over ourselves means trusting God while we learn new skills that are grounded in ancient wisdom. It means letting go of habits and comfort zones that we label "tradition," but which keep us from embracing the real tradition—aligning ourselves with God in Christ who is making all things new.*



We in the church are not necessarily very good at letting go, but if we don't, if we continue to cling to old ways of doing things, we fail our calling to bring about God's kingdom. Heath continues by saying: *We are in the middle of rapid, unprecedented culture shifts that are driven by changes in communication and information technology, economics, political upheaval, religious turmoil, and escalating violence. In this context many people in the inherited church live in a state of grief because of the increasing failure of their programs, activities, and worship gatherings to make a difference. What used to work in reaching neighbors with the gospel, no longer does. Because of the anxiety of failure in the system it is increasingly difficult for declining churches to imagine a lively future that looks different from a lively past. The thought of taking risks, of concerning itself more with its neighbors than itself is terrifying to the stuck, backward looking church. This is the church that must now get over itself.*

I love the idea that we must get over ourselves, the changes that we must make are not just a worship style. *It is not one thing. While many of the communities love ancient, traditional liturgy such as Evensong, and a great many are sacramental, some of them are so loosely organized as to seem scarcely more than a handful of friends, gathered around the Bible and a good craft beer. On the whole there is much more commitment to engage issues of social and environmental justice than is the case in the average inherited church,* Heath concludes.

You may want to [read the entire article online](#). If you are unable to access the article, there will be paper copies in the church office.

Dale

Worship & Music

Worship Schedule for August

We continue our series on the *Gospel According to Disney*.

August 7 *Pocahontas*
August 14 To be announced
August 21 *Lilo & Stitch*
August 28 *Zootopia* and our Animal Blessing Service



All Creatures Great and Small

On Sunday, August 28, we will hold our annual Animal Blessing Service outside on the church lawn. Pets should attend on a leash or in appropriate carrier. While some 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, without animals.

We NEED you.
Can you HELP?

In a thriving family everyone helps. Each Sunday it takes a crew of volunteers to make our worship service successful. We have a new Sign-up bulletin board outside of Dale's office next to the CARERS trunk. This is a one-stop sign-up area for all opportunities to serve on Sundays. **Anyone** ... not just members, not just adults, not just commissioned elders and deacons...but **anyone can serve in any of these roles**. So pick a week and a job and sign up! The office will send you a reminder and instructions for the job. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Susan Lynch, co-chair of the Worship & Music Committee.



August 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
August 7	Dennis Cobb	Laura Vanags, Karl-Heinz Meyer, Elizabeth Musick, Paula McCracken	Jon & Deb Jansky	OPEN
August 14	Paula McCracken	Doug Asbury, Steve Marcus, Dennis Zander, Sandy Kappmeyer	OPEN	Susan Lynch
August 21	Kaki Lynch	Mike and Roberta Gates, Dennis Zander, Susan Lynch	Mike & Gwen Heine	OPEN
August 28	Susan Lynch	Brian, Susan, Devin and Jaden Zander	OPEN	OPEN

Finance Help Needed

The Finance Committee accepted with regret the resignations of Cindy Reynolds and Roberta Gates as Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary for RPC. Cindy has volunteered her time as the Financial Secretary for 13 years, and Roberta for six. During their time, they have converted the membership database and fellowship records from a manual process to a streamlined, electronic process, among many other contributions. Their efforts are appreciated and will be missed.



If you would like to volunteer to help count the offering please speak to Ellen Hamilton or Pastor Dale.

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee is pleased to announce the purchase of one of the three AV Monitors with stand and cables for the Sanctuary. We wish to thank all those who have made donations to the Memorial General Account over the years since it is from these gifts that this purchase was made.

What are Those Deacons Doing?

We all know the story of the good Samaritan, but this past June the deacons took it to a much bigger level. On June 29, the Village of Riverside Police Department, and the Riverside Presbyterian Church held a meeting to bring awareness to the heroin problem in the suburbs. Spearheaded by Steve Marcus and David Harper, the police department was contacted to set up an educational meeting to discuss how heroin is no longer a city problem, but has reached out to the suburbs. There were two items that really caught my attention. Everyone whether they know it or not, knows someone who is taking heroin, or knows a family affected by it. Second, we've all seen police cars that read on the back that this car was purchased by assets seized in drug arrests. That is no longer happening. People are not driving to pick up their drugs, they are using mass transportation. Once the train stops in drug neighborhoods, the buyers are escorted by gang members to and from the train so the heroin can be purchased. It's sad, and it's getting worse. There was a lot of information given, and it is reassuring to know that the Riverside Police department is acting on it. It should also be noted that Diane Chaney was present to answer any medical questions.

Steve Teune



Michelle Hejna 8/1
Jerry Buttimer 8/2
Justine Finn 8/2
Lynn Shannon-Labotka 8/2
Samantha Doornebos 8/4
Aidin Liberty-Bouse 8/4
Elizabeth Musick 8/4
Claire Gangware 8/5
Sue Gross 8/6
Scott Schulze 8/10
Joseph Dvorak III 8/11
Larry Allen 8/13
Alyssa Lancaster 8/13
Carrie Staubus 8/15

Maggie Hejna 8/14
Steve Feary 8/16
Kip Friend 8/16
Samantha Friend 8/16
Lily Lisle 8/16
Charlotte Tagliere 8/16
Susan Deems-Dluhy 8/17
Jordana Jantze 8/17
Marc Scheetz 8/18
Will Vogel II 8/18
Jaden Vonesh 8/18
Harriet Kweton 8/20
James Long 8/20
Carol Walker 8/20

Brianna Allen 8/21
Lauren Cody 8/21
Marjorie Lewe 8/21
Amanda Schwarz 8/21
Tara Vonesh 8/21
Haley Rayfield 8/22
Ellary Hastings 8/24
Dima Aieta 8/25
Joyce Dobrzanski 8/25
Sydney Cokins 8/26
Kathi Roccanova 8/27
Margot Carlson 8/30
Angelina Krug 8/31

Trustees for August are Wayne Penn and Thom DeVries.

Sharing our Gifts

CARERS Corner

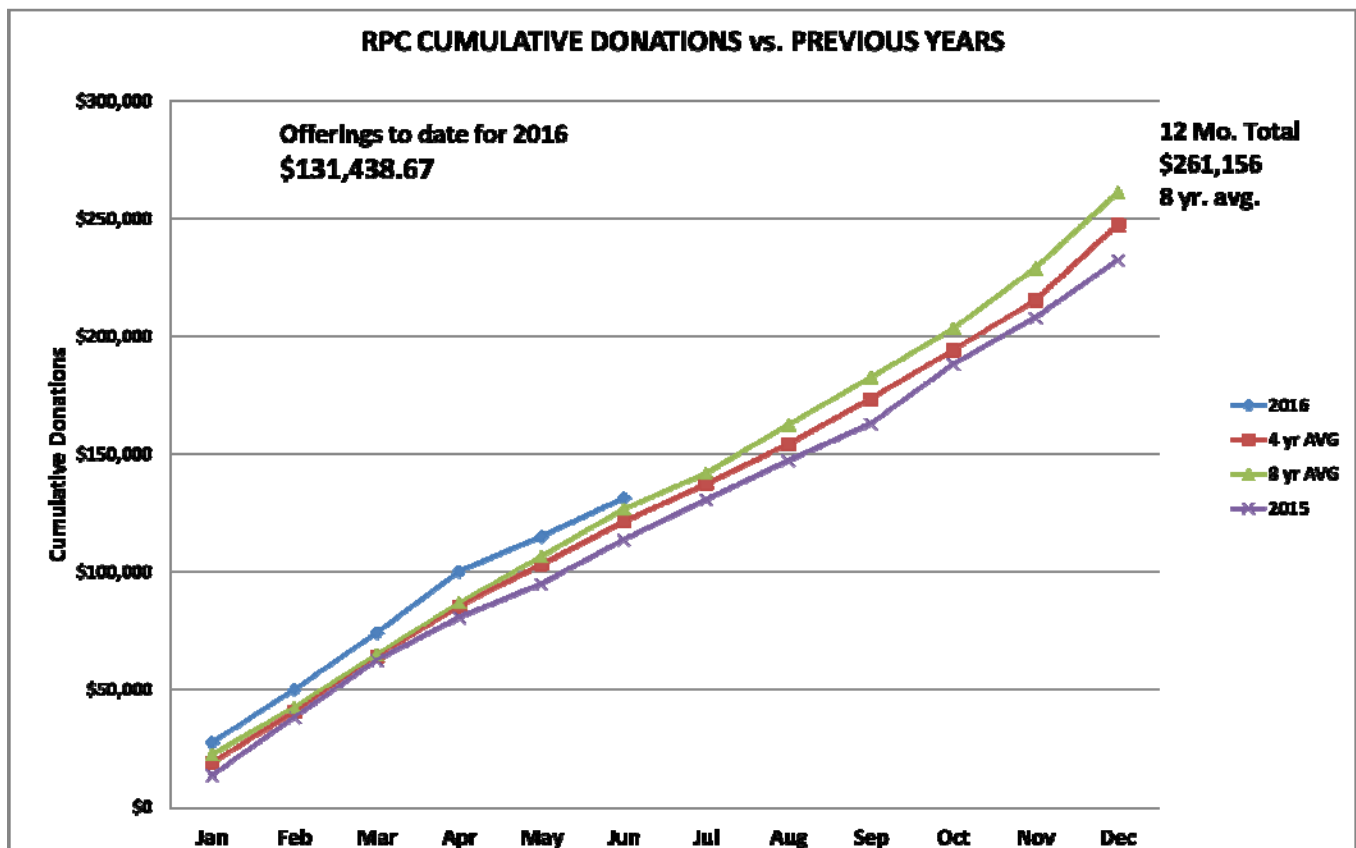
The First Presbyterian Church of Chicago, along with Woodlawn Ministerial Alliance, started a food pantry in the 1970's. The food pantry and a weekly hot meal program continue to this day, with the support of partner congregations, including our own. These programs meet the needs of 300 people in the Woodlawn community each week. Canned goods needed this August are meat, vegetables and fruit.



Presbyterian Women Donate

The Presbyterian Women donated \$325.60 to the Presbytery Women—Presbytery of Chicago, for four projects that support the critical need for education and healthy environments in the areas they serve:

- ♦ A school for girls by *Building Minds* in South Sudan;
- ♦ *Heartland 180*, a core values and life skills training program for at-risk youth in Overland Park, Kansas;
- ♦ *Habitat for Humanity's* repair of manufactured homes in the East Bay and Silicon Valley of California;
- ♦ DART's *Closing Off the School-to-Prison Pipeline Program* in mid-Kentucky, Scioto Valley, the James, Charleston, and Greater Atlanta Presbyteries.



We are halfway through our year of pledges and donations. Between financial donations and donations of time and talent we are doing well. The success of the preschool, youth mission trip and the Vacation Bible School science camp were due to considerable contributions of time, talent and donations. May the second half of the year show even greater commitment to God's work. Thank you all.

Vacation Bible School



This year's Science VBS was a smashing success! With 23 kids in attendance, we spent our mornings studying rocks, creating slime, making elephant toothpaste, and so much more! The kids learned how science and faith are interconnected and had a great time while doing it. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time, as well as those who donated items. We could not have done it without your support.



Mission Trip

The RPC Senior High youth embarked on their 2016 Mission Trip to Martin County Kentucky with the Appalachia Service Project on a hot and sunny morning on June 25. We trekked to Columbus, Ohio, where we stopped at the Gauen household for food and fellowship, as well as an exercise from ASP designed to prepare us for the trip ahead. We stayed at the First Presbyterian Church of Westerville, Ohio for a night and were treated to breakfast at the church the following morning. We then made the journey down to Kentucky.



What followed was a week of intense work and labor on two houses in Martin County, Kentucky. We split into two teams, team *Phish Food* and team *Tonight Dough* (named for Ben and Jerry's ice cream flavors, by the way!). Each crew worked on separate projects that included building a new deck, underpinning houses, digging holes, pouring concrete, finishing trim around living rooms, painting, sawing, cutting wood, drilling and doing all sorts of other activities.

We met amazing people as well. We paired with a group from Trumbull, Connecticut, and met two amazing families who welcomed us into their homes for a week. We learned an ASP saying, that the Appalachia Service Project is about relationship building, with home repair on the side.

Thank you to the amazing adult leaders who joined us on this trip: Cyril Friend, Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak, Doug Harvin and Sandy Kappmeyer, who were instrumental in such a successful, fulfilling week. Thank you to Abby, Alyssa, Kaki, Michael, Sylvia, Eva, Rachel, Laura, Natalie, Kip, Josh and Olivia for your hard work, your compassionate hearts, your patience and your talents on this trip.



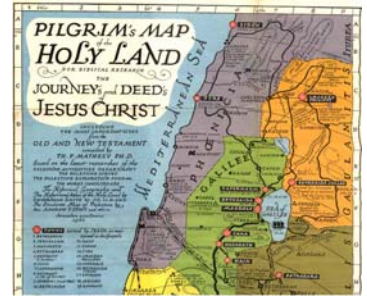


Children & Youth

Sunday School/Youth Group Kick-Off

Join us as we kick off the new year of Sunday school on September 11 at 9:00 a.m. We'll be traveling through the Holy Land this year. Come and get your passport's first stamp and celebrate the start of the new school year!

Youth Group (both Junior and Senior High) will start back up with the Sunday School season on September 11. The Girls Group will meet the week of September 12.



Scouts



Troop 24 sent 47 scouts and 13 adult leaders to summer camp in Wisconsin in July. We also had one scout serving at Camp Tesomas as a camp counselor. Eight scouts spent a week backpacking on Isle Royale (pictured below), and eight members of our Troop went on a 4-day ATV trek. Troop 24 is one of the largest troops in the area, and will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2017. RPC has sponsored Troop 24 since 1939.

Stuffed Animal Drive

Elijah Ourth would like to thank you for your donations of stuffed animals for his Eagle Project. He collected over 800 animals, which will be going to pediatric patients at the Cicero Health Center.





Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes, by Judy Yates Siker, with Suggestions for Leaders by Patricia Lynn Miller.

Gathering: Wednesday, August 26, 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Social Hall.

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’s the word on the street? Who do people say I am?” Now that’s a good question. It is such a good question that we, as



The Healing of the Blind Man at Bethsaida
Mark 5:22-26, Julie Stankova, 2010, Bulgaria

Presbyterian Women, are going to spend this study raising that question again and again. We will look for the answer in some likely—and unlikely—places. Of course, we will listen to how our four Gospel writers portray Jesus. They are, after all, our foremost authorities on Jesus in the scriptures. We will also see how the apostle Paul describes Jesus to the members of the early house churches as they struggle to understand what it mean to be Jesus’ followers in the ancient polytheistic world.

Lesson 1: According to Mark

Background Scripture: Mark 1-8

Key Scripture: Mark 8:27-33

Key Idea: Jesus is not the Messiah they expected, but he is indeed God’s Son.

Lesson Leader: Elizabeth Musick



Left: At the conclusion of their 2015-2016 Bible Study, the Presbyterian Women’s recognized their leaders for their devotion and outstanding leadership.

From left to right: Kate Chard, Sylvia Schade, and Elizabeth Musick.

Not pictured: Joyce Van Cura

Human Scene

In August, Human Scene will be exploring some interesting topics. Join us each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor for new perspectives and lively discussion as we reflect upon our common life together as Christians in the world. Pastor Doug Asbury is moderating our summer Human Scene classes.

August 7 - TED Talk, *Politics and religion are technologies*, with Noah Feldman

August 14 - TED Talk, *How to spot a liar*, with Pamela Meyer

August 21 - TED Talk, *Our buggy moral code*, with Dan Ariely

August 28 - TED Talk, *The pattern behind self-deception*, with Michael Shermer



Sunday School Teachers & Shepherds Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help during Sunday school. Teachers are needed for 2-week rotations for grades K-5, as well as 4-week rotations for grades 6-7. We also need shepherds for the school year. Interested? [Contact Susan Zander.](#)

Events



Kick-Off Sunday

We will have our Sunday School Kick-Off on Sunday, September 11. After our Sunday service, in place of Coffee Fellowship, please join us for our annual picnic. We will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs outside—weather permitting—and would love for you to bring a side dish or dessert to share (and a lawn chair or two!) Please contact Karl-Heinz Meyer at kalle1015@aol.com or Deb Jansky at newhorizons002@gmail.com if you can contribute. See you there!

Strawberry Social


Despite a downpour, RPC's annual Strawberry Social was full of fun, fellowship, and photos. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee, all those who helped, who baked cakes, and who attended.



Please check
the Website for
the most recent
calendar
updates!

August 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:15p Volleyball	2 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons Mtg	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4 6:30a Women's Forum	5	6
7 9a Human Scene 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Open Gym 2p Cantata Worship	8 5:15p Volleyball 7p Fellowship Comm Mtg 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	9 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg 7p CCY Mtg	10 <i>Office Closed</i>	11 6:30a Women's Forum	12	13
14 9a Human Scene 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Andrews Minister Mtg	15 5:15p Volleyball	16 6:30a Men's Forum	17 <i>Office Closed</i> 7p Session Mtg	18 6:30a Women's Forum	19 10a CARERS Comm Mtg	20
21 9a Human Scene 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Worship Vision Deadline	22 5:15p Volleyball	23 6:30a Men's Forum 10a Staff Mtg	24 <i>Office Closed</i> 10a Presb. Women Bible Stidy	25 6:30a Women's Forum	26	27
28 9a Human Scene 10a Worship: Blessing of the Animals 11a Coffee Fellowship 	29 5:15p Volleyball	30 6:30a Men's Forum	31 <i>Office Closed</i>			

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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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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