



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 & Music	2
Church News	3
Sharing Our Gifts	4
Celebrating Christmas	5
Children	6
Youth	7
Adults	8
Scouts	8
Photos	9
Events	10
Calendar	11

The Vision

December 2016

Liturgical Stoles



Once Jeff and I had designed my green, white and red stole, we decided to combine an Advent and Lenten stole because often congregations use purple for both seasons. The challenge though is that some congregations use Blue for Advent and purple for Lent.

Jeff suggested we use one of his most popular designs called Spectrum, thus allowing us to blend purples and blues. I then reminded him there needed to be a rainbow in the stole, that required him to be creative.

In the end I loved his design.

Advent is a season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ (Christmas) and looks forward to the future reign of Christ. Advent is a preparation for, rather than a celebration of, Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent is not the beginning of the Christmas season. The Christmas celebration begins on Christmas Eve and continues for the next "twelve days of Christmas."

Historically, purple was normally Advent's liturgical color, associated both with the sovereignty of Christ and with penitence. Deep blue is now sometimes used to distinguish the season from Lent. As the color of the night sky, blue symbolizes Christ who in one ancient Advent song is called the "Dayspring," or source of day. As the color associated with Mary, blue also reminds us that during Advent, the church waits with Mary for the birth of Jesus.

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. Because Lent is a period of preparation and repentance it is represented by the color purple.

Dale

I Believe Even When

*I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
And I believe in love,
even when there's no one there.
And I believe in God,
even when he is silent.*

On the first Sunday of Advent we begin our Worship Series *I Believe Even When*.

The story of the birth of Jesus is filled with common themes of human drama: unknowing, doubt, disgrace, fear, oppression, journey, hardship. The words of an anonymous poet begin, "I believe in the sun, even when its not shining..." In this we hear the affirmation of belief in spite of what seems like the absence of light, of love and sometimes, even what feels like the absence of God. By exploring the first chapter of each of the Gospels in this Advent/Christmas series we will acknowledge the presence of hope through Christ "even when..."

Sunday, November 27, *Matthew 1* - I Believe in the Sun

Sunday, December 4, *Matthew 1* - I Believe in Love

Sunday, December 11, *Mark 1* - I Believe in God

Sunday, December 18, *John 1* - I Believe Even When . . .

Saturday, December 24, 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service including the Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 a.m. a Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 1, 2017, 10:00 a.m. Our guest preacher is the Reverend Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderator of the PC (USA). We will celebrate Communion by Intinction



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	Ushers	Advent Wreath	Coffee Fellowship
December 4	Dennis Cobb	Doug, Eva & Sylvia Harvin Jeff & Josh Thompson	Margaret & Justin Kreimes	OPEN
December 11	Susan Lynch	Karla Engel, Claire Gangware Fred & Donna Mitchell	Confirmation Class	OPEN
December 18	OPEN	Cyril, Kip, Cal & Cade Friend	Charlie, Bridget, Victor & Harriet Juister	OPEN
December 25	No Liturgist	Kemp & Mary Rob Clarke OPEN	Dennis Cobb and Dale Jackson	OPEN

Session Notes

In November the Session:

- ♦ Approved a revised Building Use Policy.
- ♦ Approved a new Financial Operations Manual.
- ♦ Approved forming a Session committee devoted to Mission work.
- ♦ Called a Congregational Meeting for December 4, following Worship, to elect church officers and amend RPC bylaws to reduce the number of Deacons from 18 to 12.
- ♦ Changed the date of the December Session meeting to Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m..
- ♦ Reviewed several sections of a proposed Church Operations Manual, which will incorporate all the various RPC policies and procedures into one document.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

Theological Study

In January, we begin our next Theological Study. We are studying the book *Christianity After Religion* by Diana Butler Bass. Bass, one of contemporary Christianity's leading trend-spotters, exposes how the failings of the church today are giving rise to a new "spiritual but not religious" movement. Using evidence from the latest national polls and from her own cutting-edge research, Bass, the visionary author of *A People's History of Christianity*, continues the conversation began in books like Brian D. McLaren's *A New Kind of Christianity* and Harvey Cox's *The Future of Faith*, examining the connections—and the divisions—between theology, practice, and community that Christians experience today. Bass's clearly worded, powerful, and probing *Christianity After Religion* is required reading for anyone invested in the future of Christianity. Watch the bulletin for meeting times.



A Note From Your Finance Team

In early December, we will be sending out financial statements through November 27. Please do us (and yourself) a favor: examine the statement carefully and let the office know if you see any discrepancies. We would like to address any issues now rather than at year-end when we are trying to finalize 2016 results and produce tax statements. Thanks for your cooperation.

December Birthdays



William Carl 12/1
Richard Crang 12/2
Christine Canavera 12/3
Paul Sterner 12/4
Richard Regan 12/6
Steven Staubus 12/6
Martha Heine 12/7
Olivia Glawe 12/8
Jackson Jansky 12/8
Carol Sprunger 12/8
Ellen Mitchell 12/9
Christine Long 12/13

Joshua Ranft 12/16
Chancellor Rayfield 12/16
Elie Meuyou 12/19
Joe Ballerine 12/20
Michael Hejna 12/20
Wesley Sedlacek 12/20
Jimmy Sit 12/20
Clayton Ballerine 12/21
Christopher Halline 12/21
Connor Halline 12/21
Stanley Schade 12/21
Hannah Ranft 12/22

Emma Philipps 12/24
Kaki Lynch 12/27
Michael Lynch 12/27
Joey Richards 12/27
Jacob Dluhy 12/28
Jacob Jansky 12/28
Ethan Ranft 12/29
Cal Friend 12/30
Susan Lynch 12/30
Dessa Myers 12/30
Jordan Messner 12/31
Vicky Vogel 12/31

Trustees for November are Jon Jansky and Lou Heine.

Sharing Our Gifts

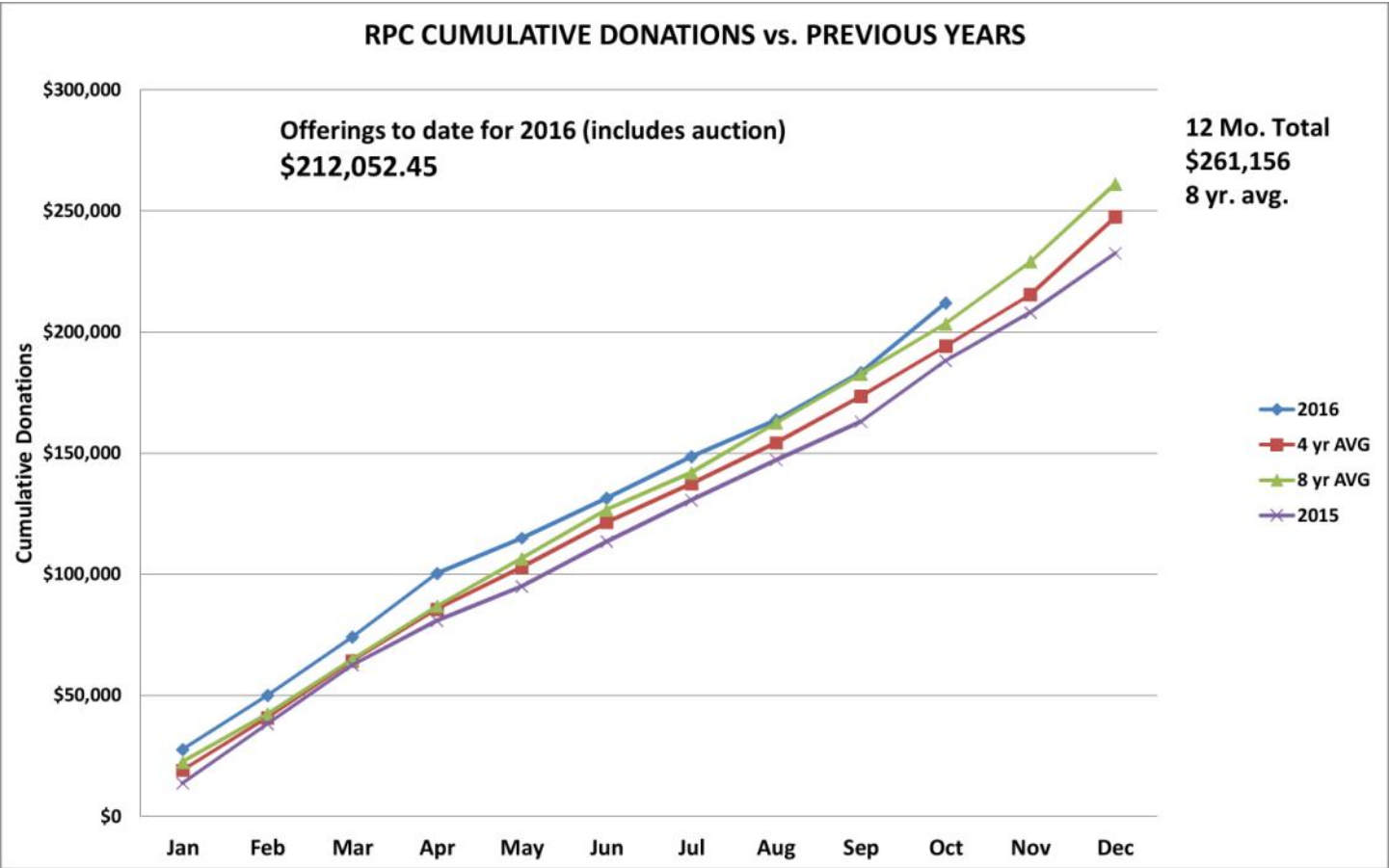
Giving Tree

The CARERS Christmas Giving Tree benefits mothers and children at Constance Morris House. The tree can be found in the Social Hall. It will be 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 Saturday, December 10. Please take time out of that busy holiday season of yours to brighten theirs.



CARERS Corner

To stave off the chill of winter for those in need, please fill the CARERS trunk with hot soups, hot cereals and hot boxed foods. No breakable containers please. The contributions will be distributed to local food pantries.



We continue to exceed previous years donations. Contribution of time is also impressive and much appreciated. The Auction fundraiser was great fun and gave us a real boost raising over \$13,000. As we look forward to next year your pledges are used to set the budget and determine what programs we can support. Please turn in your pledge cards as soon as you can. Helping others gives you perspective on your own situation, and teaches you to be appreciative of what you have. The Global One Foundation describes volunteering as a way to “promote a deeper sense of gratitude as we recognize more of what is already a blessing/gift/positive in our life.”



Holiday 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 from December 18 to December 24. Any that remain will be on display through the holiday season. Forms for Christmas Memorials are available in the rack outside the RPC office, or [on the RPC website](#).



Messiah December 11



George F. Handel's last work of music was not the Messiah. A rare fact is that prior to his death, Handel was actually working on what would be his greatest work of all time, a rendition of "Go Cubs Go"! Sadly, it never became popular until the Cubs starting winning games. To experience his second greatest work, and be

even more amazed than the Cubs winning the World Series, come to RPC at 4:00 on December 11. It is truly a wonderful experience, with less drama than watching the Cubs.

Pick up Christmas Greenery

The Youth Groups thanks everyone who ordered Christmas greenery through their Mission Trip Fundraiser. You may pick up your order at church at the following times:



Friday, **December 9**, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(closed for lunch)

Saturday, **December 10**, 10:00 a.m.-noon
Sunday, **December 11**, after worship-noon

Your generous orders resulted in almost \$500 in proceeds that will help defray the cost of our trip to Heifer International this summer!



Christmas Ornaments

Our own Karl-Heinz Meyer has crafted lovely and intricate ornaments, packaged and ready for gift-giving for this Christmas. Most are in Christmas colors, but a few are in soft pastels, and perfect to commemorate baby's first Christmas. Price is \$20, with ALL proceeds going to the Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser. (Thank you, Karl-Heinz, very generous of you, especially since each ornament takes 4-5 hours to make.) And for something really special, take a look at the larger commemorative RPC 2016 ornaments—with a little surprise printed on one of the petals. \$35, with ALL proceeds



Children

Sunday School December Schedule

We will meet on December 4 for a lesson on Christmas around the world, and on December 11 for a Celebration Sunday with the Youth Group. There will be NO Sunday school classes on December 18 as we get ready for the pageant dress rehearsal following service.

Sunday School will be on winter break on December 25 and January 1. Classes will resume on January 8. Merry Christmas!



2016 Christmas Pageant

This year we will be holding our annual Christmas Pageant on December 24 during the 4:00 p.m. service. We will perform a traditional Christmas play, and you'll get to hear plenty of beautiful music as well! It's sure to be a memorable and meaningful worship experience for all ages. Dress rehearsal for the children participating will be held after the worship service on December 18, followed by a Sunday school Christmas party with food, games and activities. We hope you will join us for the holiday festivities.



Girls Group

Thanks to all who supported the Girls Group in their coffee fundraiser at Christkindlmarkt! All Junior and Senior high girls are welcome to join us for any of our December activities. If you bring someone new, both you and your friend earn a prize. Here's what's happening in December:

Friday, December 2 (3:30-5:30 p.m.): Meet at Tara's house to bake Christmas Cookies

Wednesday, December 7 (7:00-8:00 p.m.): Make Gratitude Journals

Friday, December 16 (4:00-5:00 p.m.): Guest speaker

Wednesday, December 21 (7:00-8:00 p.m.): Christmas Party with White Elephant gift exchange

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all!

Youth Group

The Youth Group has been enjoying a variety of activities together. We've had fun, whether we were playing games or working hard manning the Christmas Café for the Deacons during the Christkindlmarkt. (We've got some really talented "sandwich artists" in the group!) December brings us more opportunities to enjoy each other's company. Please mark the following dates on your calendar if you'd like to join us. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited and are welcome to bring a friend.

Caring Christmas - December 4 immediately following worship: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for lunch, cookie decorating, and Christmas crafts, as we make all kinds of goodies for those in our congregation who are unable to join us for the holidays. This RPC tradition is a favorite of many during Advent. The Deacons are encouraging families to bring a batch of cookies to be decorated and plated during the event and then delivered to our home-bound friends afterward. If you are willing to do that, please [sign up online](#).

Ice Skating/afternoon in the city - December 18 after the pageant rehearsal. If the weather doesn't allow for skating, we'll still go and see the Christmas sights in Chicago. Bring some money for lunch.



The Youth Group worked at Christkindlmarkt in November making and serving food for the Christmas Café.



Adults & Scouts



Christmas Wishes from Presbyterian Women Bible Study

May your home be filled with warmth and good cheer this Christmas season and all throughout the year.

Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, February 22, in the RPC Social Hall, with Lesson 5 led by Kate Chard. Our study is entitled **Who is Jesus?** *What a Difference a Lens Makes*, by Judy Yates Siker. All women are invited.



Human Scene

“Living the Questions 2” program. Each program includes a 20-minute video segment that includes conversations with leading voices of faith, digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices and disciplines. We intersperse the videos with moderator-led discussions on the subject matter. Please join us in December.

December 4: *Living the Questions, Chapter 6: A Passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle.* Little of what most people think of as Christianity has been untouched by the legacy of Paul’s writing and influence. The many understandings of his interpretation of Christianity continue to be re-examined in the 21st century.

December 11: *Living the Questions, Chapter 7: Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians.* There is a reformation afoot in Christianity – a re-visioning of the traditional understandings of Jesus, the virgin birth, substitutionary atonement, and the Christian life as a whole. Long held ideas of divinity and of faith are changing and evolving to reflect 21st century thought and spirituality. Inspired by these fresh insights, progressive Christians can claim a distinctive voice by being in solidarity with the poor, countering the idolatry of wealth, practicing nonviolence, and by seeking justice and inclusivity in a culture dominated by fear.

December 18: *Living the Questions, Chapter 8. Restoring Relationships.* There are three Biblical “macro-stories” that shape the whole of the Biblical narrative: Bondage and Liberation, Exile and Return, Sin and Forgiveness. Each representing a different facet of the human condition, they demonstrate what is necessary for the restoration of relationships on a variety of levels.

December 25: No Human Scene

January 1: No Human Scene

Scouts



In November, Troop 24 Boy Scouts camped at the White Pines State Park and had their annual orienteering hike at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve. Boy Scouts helped plant hundreds of native tree seeds in parkland along the Desplaines River at Riverside’s annual 1,000 Trees service project. Troop 24 Scouts participated in several local Veteran’s Day ceremonies and color guard at an internationally televised rugby game. Scouts and parents enjoyed a family night at Michael Anthony’s restaurant. Fifteen parents were trained to become new Merit Badge Counselors. At the Fall Court of Honor, 33 rank advancements and 153 merit badges were awarded to the Boy Scouts of Troop 24. Pack 24 Cub Scouts welcomed new Scouts and families at their November Bobcat Ceremony. Webelos 2 Scouts prepared to become Boy Scouts, joining Troop 24 at Waterfall Glen and visiting for a troop meeting.

Halloween Photos



On October 29, RPC held a multi-generational Halloween party.



Events



acaBELLa Ringers

RPC's acaBELLa Ringers will be performing at Riverside's Holiday Stroll on Friday, **December 2**, at 6:30 p.m. Join us as we are playing LOTS of Christmas carol arrangements at First American Bank across from Guthrie Park. Come join in Christmas cheer while cheering us on!

Caring Christmas

All are invited to join us on **December 6, immediately after church**, to prepare holiday cheer for our members who are unable to join us for Christmas celebrations. We will gather in the Social Hall for Coffee Fellowship and to do a Christmas craft, cookie decorating, and assembling care packages. If you are willing to prepare cookies, please let Kaki Lynch know, or [sign up online](#).



Riverside Presbyterian Church Presents



Save the Date!

Sunday
December 11th
4:00 p.m.

Wassail Bowl Reception
to follow

Brick Pavers

Need a gift idea for someone who has everything? Consider honoring a loved one for the holidays with a BRICK PAVER in our outdoor worship area. Or share a favorite Bible verse or saying. The proceeds will be added to our Capital Fund to finish paying for the organ restoration. Find forms outside the church office or online at rpcusa.org. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Deems-Dluhy or any trustee.


Tuesday Night Live!

In October and November, we enjoyed a seven-week session of Tuesday Night Live! This included wonderful fellowship over good food and an interesting theological study and lively discussions on the book *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving. This was the first time we've done Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays, and we'd like some feedback. Please contact Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak or Pastor Dale Jackson to let us know if you would be more or less likely to participate if we moved our mid-week programs back to Wednesday evenings. Watch your bulletin and weekly announcements for more information regarding our next session which will begin in January.

Please check
the Website for
the most recent
calendar
updates!



December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30a Women's Forum	2	3 10a Messiah Rehearsal
4 8:45a Confirmation Class 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Open Gym 11:15a Human Scene 11:15a Caring Christmas 2p Cantata Worship	5 5:15p Volleyball	6 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons Mtg 7p CCY Mtg	7 <i>Office Closed</i> 4:15p Ringers & Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	8 6:30a Women's Forum	9	10 10a Messiah Rehearsal
11 8:45a Confirmation Class 9a Sunday School 9a Youth Group 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Human Scene 11:15a Endowment Comm 1:30p Messiah Rehearsal 4p Messiah 6p Wassail Bowl Reception	12 5:15p Volleyball 7p Fellowship Comm Mtg 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	13 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg 7p Session Mtg	14 <i>Office Closed</i> 4:15p Ringers & Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	15 6:30a Women's Forum	16 10a CARERS Comm Mtg	17
18 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Human Scene 11:30a Youth Group 12:30 CCY Party 2p Scottish Home Worship Vision Deadline	19 5:15p Volleyball	20 6:30a Men's Forum	21 <i>Office Closed</i> 4:15p Ringers & Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	22 6:30a Women's Forum	23	24 4p Worship: Christmas Pageant
25 10a Worship: Lessons & Carols 11a Coffee Fellowship 	26 5:15p Volleyball	27 6:30a Men's Forum	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29 6:30a Women's Forum	30	31

WANTED: Leftover Unused Christmas Cards

Consider putting your unused Christmas cards and envelopes into the CARERS trunk for use next year. The cards are used for the [Companions Journeying Together](#) prison ministry. This year, over 220 cards were collected. Many thanks for your dedication to this special outreach.

**RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

116 Barrypoint Road
Riverside, Illinois
60546

Phone: 708-447-1520
Fax: 708-447-1525
Website: www.rpcusa.org

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

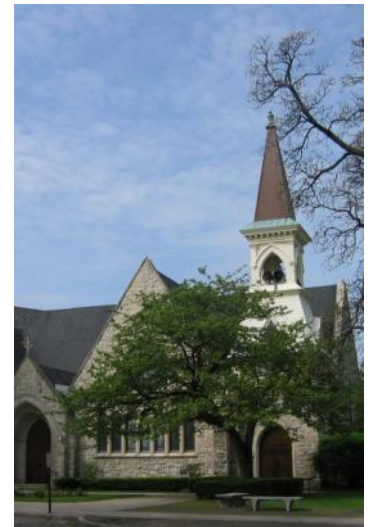
Place mailing label here



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

Riverside Presbyterian Church

Pastor:	Dale Jackson dale.jackson@rpcusa.org
Minister of Music:	Dr. Sally Sloane sally.sloane@rpcusa.org
Director of Children's Education	Susan Zander susan.zander@rpcusa.org
Office Managers:	Linda Hutcheson Donna Jones rpcoffice@rpcusa.org
Girls Group Advisor:	Tara Gregus tara.gregus@rpcusa.org
Preschool Director:	Susan Lisle rpcpreschool@sbcglobal.net
Custodian:	Krzysztof Gieron
Clerk of Session:	Mary Ann Sadilek MASDS@aol.com
Deacons Moderator:	David Harper droyh21@netzero.net
Trustees President:	Jon Jansky
Treasurer:	Ellen Hamilton ellen.hamilton@rpcusa.org
Asst. Treasurer:	George Dluhy
Archivist:	Caroline Tecson
Wedding Coordinator:	Donna Ulrich
Director of Music Emerita:	Mary Ann Sadilek
Organist Emerita:	Arline Robbins



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

Vision Editor/Webmaster:
Nancy Hopkins
nancy.hopkins@rpcusa.org