

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER AND SEPTEMBER 24 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Junior and Senior High students, join us this Sunday at 9 am in the Youth Group Room for Teen Scene. Donuts and discussion with Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak this week.

### WORSHIP

Sunday, October 8 ~ Blessing the Animals Service.

Bring your beloved pets and join us as we celebrate all of God's creatures and bless those pets (or pictures of pets you have brought). Please remember to bring your lawn chairs and dress for worship on the lawn.

Sunday, October 15 ~ We pause to reflect in Worship on Domestic Violence.

October is Domestic Violence awareness month, and our denomination suggests setting aside time on Sunday to learn about the issues relating to Domestic Violence.

The Domestic Violence Prevention Ministries of St. Mary/Riverside and St.

Leonard/Berwyn is hosting a west suburban forum on responses to troubled relationships. RPC is a co-sponsor of the event.

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 24, 2017, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Location: North Riverside Commons, 2401 Des Plaines Avenue, North Riverside, IL.

Sunday, October 22 ~ Marks the beginning of the Stewardship Season.

Our theme this year is *Moving Out of Scare City*. For more about the series see the notes below. Genesis 11:1-9

Sunday, October 29 Reformation Sunday.

We celebrate the 500th anniversary of the reformation complete with bagpipes.

Traditionally we recognize this day (actually October 31) as the day Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of All Saints' Church in

Wittenberg, Germany.

*Moving Out of Scare City*. The sense that there is not enough drives greed, fear, and exclusionary behavior. We begin to live in "Scare City" where it seems that death, starvation, feelings of being overwhelmed and swallowed up can lurk around every corner. The Good News is that this is an illusion. A spiritual journey into the truth of abundance offers us an alternative vision of where to live our lives. This series will have us "Moving out of Scare City" and traveling to the vast, open habitats of God's abounding grace.

### PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

*Acolyte*: Devin Zander

*Ushers*: Karla Engel, Monica Wood, Susan and Kaki Lynch

*Liturgist*: Matt Lisle

*Andrew Ministers*: Beverly Aieta and David Harper

*Communion Servers*: Patti Friend, Ellen Hamilton and David Harper

*Flowers* Sunday are given in celebration of her sister Linda Langer's birthday by Paula McCracken.

*Trustees of the Month October*: October 1 & 8: Henry Vogel

October 15: Mike Heine, October 22: George Meyer, October 29: Brad Staibus

**ALL-CHURCH FAMILY WORK DAY**, Sunday, September 24 1-3pm.

### HUMAN SCENE - OCTOBER

During the five Sundays in October, Human Scene will view videos featuring New Testament Professor Joel B. Green as we consider the theme of conversion and transformation, and Bible study as the context for those experiences.

**October 1** – The Way of Conversions – The gradual opening to God's agenda.

**October 8** – Converting All the Way Down – Embodied hospitality.

**October 15** – Transformation of Conceptual Patterns – Reading the world and the Bible well.

**October 22** – Together, Slow, and Steady – More thoughts on reading the Bible in community.

**October 29** – Conversionary Context – Seeing the whole pattern of life the Bible lays out.

**THEOLOGY ON TAP** Begins Monday, October 9, 6:30 pm at Molly's. Plan to join us for dinner and conversation. The conversation will begin at 7:00 and wrap up by 8:00-8:30. Our first study is based on Marin Thielen's book *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most*. You do not need to purchase the book to participate. If you would like to buy the book Amazon has used copies for approximately \$4.00. The study will run for the month of October. This is a great way to bring a friend!

**HOLY LAND 2018**—Plans are underway for our trip to the Holy Land on September 3, 2018. For more information please speak to Dale or pick up an informational flyer from the office. There are also flyers in the information rack outside Dale's office. Official tour brochures have been delayed due to Hurricane Irma.

### **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

- approved letters of transfer for Allison and Jason Gordon to the Burke Presbyterian Church in Burke, Virginia, and for Tarquin Rayfield and Cindy Reynolds-Rayfield to the River Forest Presbyterian Church
- learned that Presbytery had approved Rev. Jackson as our Called Pastor.
- approved forming a committee to review all current RPC policies
- reviewed the first draft of the 2018 budget
- approved allowing elders and deacons who were elected to fill unexpired terms to still be eligible for two consecutive terms of their own
- reviewed the purpose and procedures of the RPC Support and Endowment funds

Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of Session

### **CIVIL DISCOURSE: Achieving Tolerance and Understanding in an Increasingly Polarized Society**

“ Is there a “culture war” in America and, if so, how does it affect you?

“ What steps can be taken to better understand one another and develop common goals?

Join us for our Monday Night Discussion Series, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9:00 pm. Mike McGillicuddy (friend of RPC) and Ellen Hamilton will lead a discussion of these questions and others that might help us to love one another as Jesus commanded despite differing points of view. Coffee and Dessert will be provided.

### **FROM YOUR TREASURER — THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO FOR RPC!**

General Budget snapshot as of July 31<sup>st</sup>

At 66.67% through the year, Revenues at 65.32% of budgeted amount.

At 66.67% through the year, Expenditures at 65.71% of budgeted amount.

Now that summer's over, it's a good time to take a look at your giving so far this year – we need all of your pledges and offerings to meet the needs of the church.

Consider Electronic Giving, weekly or monthly – it stabilizes church income for planning purposes and is one way of giving your offering a PRIORITY among your monthly financial obligations.

**DO YOU NEED ENVELOPES FOR 2018?** If you don't use them, let the office know – we're trying to keep costs to a minimum and save paper. *Another reason to consider electronic giving!!*

**THANK YOU!** I am so pleased that congregation has concurred with Session's recommendation to change the terms of my call from Designated to Permanently installed. Dennis and I have enjoyed our time here and getting to know each of you. I look forward to our journey together. Someone asked about my personal goals in my work here. That is a hard question to answer as my personal goals are related to the goals, and vision Session has developed for our congregation. I hope to continue working towards making us a healthy, transparent, fiscally fit congregation that has a heart and desire for mission, locally, nationally and internationally. — Dale

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** - Are you interested in becoming a member? Reverend Jackson is planning a new member orientation for early November. Please speak to him for more information.

**A NOTE FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**— A few people have asked how the Personnel Committee conducted reviews of staff. All the staff, including the pastor, were evaluated in the same manner. The personnel committee chose a cross-section of the congregation to review each person on a scale of 1-5 with five being the highest. Each staff person was reviewed on their qualifications and how they were fulfilling their position description. Reverend Jackson was reviewed by a staff member, a Session member and congregation members at large. The Congregational members represented males and females, a span of ages from 16 to 70+, new and longtime members.

**CHRISTKINDLMARKT** RPC's Christkindlmarkt will be held on Saturday, November 11, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The cafe offerings will be expanded to include light pastries for early risers, in addition to homemade soups and sandwiches for lunch, and an array of desserts. We are signing up crafters (if you are interested in having a craft booth please contact Susan Lynch, [skstrause@us.ibm.com](mailto:skstrause@us.ibm.com) ). 10,000 Villages will be present with their wonderful assortment of fair trade crafts and gifts from around the world. In early October we will offer an online sign-up through Sign-Up Genius, with the hope many people will offer to bake or make soup, or to work a shift during that day. **PLEASE NOTE – THERE WILL BE NO NEXT-TO-NEW BOOTH THIS YEAR**, so please do not drop off any items.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - We continue to delve into our new curriculum, 'A Joyful Path.' Throughout the school year we will be continually updating the Sunday school section of the bulletin board with weekly affirmations. Encourage your kids to remember these affirmations and ask them to describe their understanding of the meaning behind them.

Our lesson this week concentrates on the Bible and how we use it. It is important to remember that the Bible is a book of stories and that the people who were telling these stories lived in a very different world than our own. We will use a variety of different Bible translations to show the children how words are used in different versions.

**OPEN GYM SUNDAY**— bring your gym shoes and get ready for a fun game of volleyball!

**RINGERS AND SINGERS — JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS!** We meet each Wednesday during the school year from 4:15 – 5:15. Children from ages 5 – 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](mailto:musikhse@comcast.net) or 708-822-0655).

**SAVE THE DATE** - Messiah 2017 is Sunday December 10th at 4 pm.

**THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING** is received the first three Sundays of October. At the national level, working for peace means supporting those working to heal the divisions in violent contexts like South Sudan. It means using our seat at the United Nations table to speak up for the vulnerable around the world. This Offering strengthens the collaboration of the Peacemaking Program and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations with the peace work of global partners through World Mission.

Yet the Offering is as much about our local congregation living out a commitment to peacemaking as it is proclaiming Christ's peace. Twenty-five percent of the Offering stays here at RPC. This year our 25% will be given to the organization BEDS Plus. Since 1988, BEDS Plus has given thousands of homeless people in the surrounding community a safe place to sleep, nutritious meals, and the professional counseling, health and job services necessary to return to stable, self-sufficient lives.

**REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE** – Thank you for your continued support of our refugee family. The biggest challenge right now is having the mother, Mulu, attend English classes. She is most comfortable having her energetic young son with her, but he needs to be in child care at Refugee One so that she can concentrate on her studies. Refugee One is trying to hire a part time baby sitter but they need help raising the funds. They have \$13,000 of the \$20,000 needed. Here is the direct site to use to donate: <http://www.refugeeone.org/childcare> Thank you again for your kindness! Connie Kelly

**OCTOBER 1 POTLUCK** – For a celebratory conclusion to our worship series on Communion, the Deacons are organizing a potluck luncheon immediately after worship on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Come one, come all, please bring a dish to share – one of your specialties! This will be the first of what we hope to be monthly potluck lunches (in lieu of coffee fellowship) – look for more information in Announcements (electronic and bulletin) for the date of each potluck. We hope you will join in the delicious fun!

**PRESCHOOL** is off to a terrific start! We have a fun and joyful class of 24 students from 5 different towns! We will pick apples at a neighbor's apple tree, learn about fall bulbs and plant some by the preschool playground. We will visit Brookfield Zoo to meet our new adopted animal, Magic, the dolphin and take a class. A Riverside Fire Fighter will be visiting our class to teach us about fire safety. Later in the month, we will visit Cantata to sing some scary Halloween songs for the residents. Thank you so much for your aluminum can donations! The money we get all goes directly to BEDS Plus, a homeless shelter in LaGrange.

## EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT COMMUNION BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

Somewhere along the way, certainly by the early medieval period, the Roman Catholic Church stopped giving both bread and wine to the laity. This stemmed from their conviction that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ, and they did not want the peasants to spill Jesus down the front of their shirts. Usually, the officiating priest would consecrate the bread and sip the chalice, but only offer wafers to those at the communion rail. The recipient usually did not touch the wafer, and it was placed directly on the tongue. In Roman Catholic theology, the Mass is a sacrifice, essentially re-sacrificing Jesus for our sins.

By the time the Reformation came along, it was Martin Luther's conviction that the laity should be served both bread and wine. Luther denied that Communion was about re-sacrificing Jesus for our sakes. However, he argued that Jesus is indeed physically present in the elements and that we need to be very careful in how we take communion.

While Luther was pondering communion in Germany, another wing of the Reformation was taking off in Switzerland. First led by Ernst Zwingli and then John Calvin, they agreed with Luther that the Lord's Supper was not about re-sacrificing Jesus, but insisted that Jesus was not present in the elements at all; they are a symbol of the body and blood of Christ.

In what is known as the Zurich Liturgy of 1525, Zwingli wrote, "...the bread shall be carried round by the designated servers on broad wooden plates from one seat to the next—to allow each person to break off a morsel or mouthful with his hand and eat it. In the same fashion, they shall go round with the wine, so that no one need move from his place." The main difference here is that the elements go to the congregants in the pews. Later it was thought to be impractical to pass around a loaf of bread and cup, so they were replaced with small wafers and individual cups. I believe this is where we first get the idea of having small cups and wafers or pieces of bread passed to us as worshipers.

The Lord's Supper is a memorial, an outward sign, and seal of the New Covenant. For Calvin, the Lord's Supper was less about how Jesus is present in the bread and the wine and more about Jesus lifting the believer into God's presence.

**CRAFTY?** We are looking for people who love to make ornaments for the Christmas tree to sell at the RPC Christkindmarkt. Whether you are someone who can crochet snowflakes, knit miniature stockings, make woodland creatures out of pine cones, elves out of clothes pins or whatever is your passion; your talent is welcome. You pick your project and you determine how many (or few) you would like to make. You can make them on your own time or if you can make them in fellowship. Our first crafting fellowship gathering will be on Sunday 9/24 from 3-5pm in the Social Hall. We will gather together to make our chosen Christmas crafts and share in light refreshment. Pick a craft project that you are comfortable doing and bring the materials you need. If you need some ideas contact Susan Lynch ([skstrause@us.ibm.com](mailto:skstrause@us.ibm.com)).

**PECANS** —For years the RPC women have handled the sale of pecans to benefit Erie Neighborhood House. The funds raised benefit their after-school program. The former chairwoman is no longer able to take on this task. If you are interested in handling the sale and distribution of the pecans, please contact the church office for details.

**CARERS CORNER OCTOBER**— This autumn the CARERS trunk will be ready and waiting for donations of nonperishable foods, but remember glass jars and flimsy plastic cups are breakable. First Presbyterian Church in Chicago will distribute your contributions to those in need in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood.

**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 on October 1 at 2 pm, and at the Scottish Home on October 15 at 2 pm.

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE for Fellowship and Study** will meet Wednesday, September 27 at 10:00 am in the Social Hall. All women are welcome to join us for coffee, fellowship and study as we discuss "*Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*" by Melissa Bane Sevier. Lesson Two: "In Community with the Living God" Joyce Van Cura, Leader. In **October**, we will meet Wednesday, October 25 at 10:00 am in the Social Hall to discuss Lesson Three led by Laura Vanags.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR COMPANIONS JOURNEYING TOGETHER**—

Companions, Journeying Together is a prison ministry which consists of sending cards to prisoners. There are packs of 10 cards each near the CARERS trunk near the church office. Please take one or more packs and follow the GUIDELINES listed with the cards. Deadline is Sunday, October 29.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

St. Mary Parish is now offering support and help after losing a loved one. We will walk alongside you on your journey through grief. We will have the opportunity to share our experiences, watch helpful videos, and use a workbook to help journal these life changing events. We understand what you are going through because we have been in that same place. The group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and have successfully rebuilt their lives.

The Grief Support Group will begin on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM in the rectory. Please call Carina at the Rectory (708-447-1020) so we can plan. Sue Galick, Terry Coffey, and Charlie Marino

**SHARE THE HARVEST THANKSGIVING OCTOBER 14**

Taste! Texture! Color! From Our Gardens to Our Plates! It's been a fantastic season of growing and sharing — thanks to YOU, our amazing Share the Harvest growing and pantry partners. We're celebrating the season at our annual Share the Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 14 - 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The location: Salem United Church of Christ, 9717 S. Kostner Ave. in Oak Lawn. We'll gather to give thanks, learn from our guest speaker, Lynne Foster, and then FEAST!

Lynne will help us explore the tastes, textures and colors of God's gifts from Creation. We'll learn how to make the most out of our garden gifts and how to create layers of delight in our recipes! Lynne is Applications Manager/Chef at Vegetable Juices/Naturex, located in Bedford Park. She is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and the Culinary Institute of America. With a grant from their Naturex corporate headquarters, Lynne and other gardeners at Vegetable Juices, have tended a beautiful garden that has produced fresh, healthy vegetables that are being shared with Southwest Chicago PADS, another Share the Harvest partner. So, bring your taste buds on Oct. 14 to the Share the Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration — and feel free to invite a friend or two! There's room at the table for everyone!

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Olivia Meyer 10/1

Justin Chaney 10/5

Tess Luethje 10/8

Judy Armstrong 10/10

Jonathan Cook 10/12

Caroline Tecson 10/16

Kristen Monacella 10/22

Allan Halline 10/25

Emily Hejna 10/28

Andrew Sit 10/2

Caroline Gangware 10/7

Debra Jansky 10/9

Janan Cain 10/11

Margaret Kreimes 10/12

Seth Kazarian 10/17

Caroline Willinger 10/23

Trevor Kazarian 10/26

Brooke Schwarz 10/28

Alice McLean 10/4

Megan Foran 10/8

Adriene Phillipps 10/9

Claire Hejna 10/11

Kristen Smith 10/15

Sylvia Harvin 10/22

Grace Cody 10/25

Gale Teune 10/26

Alexander Smith 10/31