Third Wednesday in July for 69 years = Strawberry Social!

Our RPC History book says this:
"The biggest Deacons event remains the Strawberry Social, which started in 1949 and occurred sporadically until becoming an annual event in 1961. In the late 1940’s, the Riverside branch of the Infant Welfare hosted an ice cream social in Blythe Park. It was a failure because of rain. Two more attempts suffered the same fate. When they decided to give up, Doris Miller requested permission for the Board of Deacons to take over the event in 1949. Scotty Wilson persuaded the Jewel Tea Co. to donate strawberries; J.D. Mears got the Dean Milk Co. to furnish ice cream; the ladies of the Church baked dozens of cakes, and the Strawberry and Ice Cream Social was off and running. Tickets were 50 cents which just about covered the costs. Later, the men's cake baking contest and auction was started in the hope of moving the event into the profit column."

Mark your calendar and sign up to help keep the tradition alive!

Sign-up using the sign-up genius https://tinyurl.com/y7hoa6g3.

It takes a village to provide this annual village event. Thanks in advance for your help!

-Lynda Nadkarni

GENESIS: A LIVING CONVERSATION a 10-part series. Writers, artists, psychologists, composers, lawyers, journalists and Biblical scholars discuss the great stories of Genesis. Each part is a stand-alone study, so if you need to miss a study due to travel you can join us when you return. Snacks are provided.

Please bring your favorite beverage (and bring your dinner if you need). The study runs from 6:30-8:15 pm. June 25 – Apocalypse (Noah) - at the home of Connie Nestor, 8102 W 89th Place, Hickory Hills. July 2 – Call & Promise (Abraham & Sarah)
WORSHIP SERIES This summer we explore:
8/5 – Foot washing; 8/12 – Judas;
8/19 – Paul and Women;
8/26 – Heaven, Hell, and the Rapture;
9/2 – Apocalyptic Literature.

SUMMER HYMNS — do you have a favorite hymn you wish was in the hymnal or a favorite hymn we never sing? Contact the office with the title (no matter how new or old it is) and we will sing it one Sunday this summer.

HUMAN SCENE — Meets on Sunday at 9 AM. Led by Stanley Schade.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — This year our VBS will take place July 11-13 from 6:00-8:00 pm. The theme is "God's Earth, Our Home." We will be learning about the ways we can care for God’s world through a variety of games and activities. The older kids will be focusing on a letter writing campaign to help reduce the need for plastic lids and straws at restaurants. We are seeking donations of envelopes and stamps. Registration is online this year, email smozan@icloud.com for more information. We are also in need of volunteers to help lead the activities. Please look for the sign-up genius in your email, or email Susan Zander.

5th SUNDAYS — SAVE THE DATE — The next 5th Sunday is Sunday, July 29th at the Boulevard! We will gather at 9:15 so that we can carpool and leave the church by 9:30 sharp. There will be work projects available for all ages! 5th Sunday shirts are available for $20 – see Patti Friend or stop in the church office to pick one up.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS — Canned vegetables, fruit cups, canned meats, canned soups, small containers of laundry detergent, small boxes of raisins and trail mix. No drink mixes needed at this time.

GARDEN CLUB — Looking for an opportunity to express your artistic talents in the garden? RPC Garden Club is looking for people interested in teaching and learning about gardening, to gather regularly throughout the year and cultivate RPC’s landscape. If you are interested in joining, please contact Susan Deems-Dluhy (gsdluhy@gmail.com; 442-5991) or Patti Perry (pmperryil@yahoo.com; 712-8660). Our first meeting will be in July.

"The earth laughs in flowers."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

CARERS CORNER JULY — Back to School The RPC annual school supplies drive this July will focus on ELEMENTARY school children from our West Suburban communities. Baskets will be lined up in the office entrance hallway. Each will be labeled with the needed items. Community Support Services headquartered in Brookfield will distribute all donations. The CARERS Trunk will also be accepting non-perishable food items for our local food pantries.

FLAT JESUS — If you do not have one already, pick up a flat Jesus after worship in the back of the sanctuary. Color him, cut him out and take him on whatever adventures you embark on this summer! Send your photos of flat Jesus to pastor@rpcusa.org or text them to 502-592-1617 and they will be posted on Facebook and the church website. Flat Jesus serves as a reminder that even when we are far apart, the love of Jesus keeps us together!

FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP — Join us at Connie Nestor’s home on Friday, July 20, for an evening of fun! Bring an appetizer and a beverage to share and enjoy a lovely summer evening with your church family. Meet us at 8120 W. 89th Place Hickory Hills, IL 60457 from 7 - 10 pm. Adults only, please. Please contact the church office or sign up on the board outside Dale’s office if you are interested in hosting a future Friday Night Fellowship.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS — JUNE 2018
-adopted a “no Styrofoam” policy and encouraged the use of real plates or recyclable products at coffee fellowship.
-asked members to bring extra coffee mugs to be used during coffee fellowship
-approved a contract with Randex painting for interior and exterior painting at a total cost of $35,890.
-approved a contract with One-Eleven Flooring Company for all new interior flooring at a cost of $52,830.
-gave the Trustees the authority to approve bids for several improvements under $8,000, unless the bids exceed the estimates.
-removed Edith Wakely from the rolls, at her request, due to her move to Ohio.
-received John and Shannon Thickens by Reaffirmation of Faith and approved the baptism of their daughter, Cameran.
-received Wendy Seifert by Profession of Faith and approved her baptism.
-authorized Rev. Jackson to appoint a committee to coordinate the colors of all materials used in the redecorating, with review by Session.
-discussed in detail the plans and time-table of the upcoming Capital Campaign and the various sub-committees which have been established to assist with the process.
Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk of Session