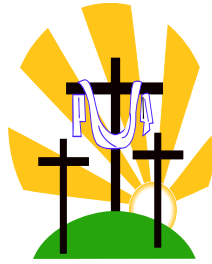


ROGERS PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The People's Press

March-April 2010



Holy Week Services at Rogers Park Presbyterian

Palm Sunday – March 28, 11:00 am
Maundy Thursday – April 1, 7:00 pm
Good Friday – April 2nd, 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday – April 4, 11:00 am



At Lent and Easter

Soup for the Soul: a Lenten Opportunity

From Pastor Deborah Paton

In the Early Christian church Lent was a time of preparation for those who wished to join the church. During the seven weeks before Easter, the students would immerse themselves in the disciplines of the church; the study of the scripture, prayer, fasting, confession, meditation, and service. Then on Easter they would be baptized into Christ and become members of His body, the church.

Later the Lenten observance developed further into a time of reflection and renewal for all Christians, once again making the time to engage in the disciplines of the church and giving attention to their relationship with God in Christ. The habit of giving up something for Lent developed out of the traditions of fasting and sacrificing for others. The observance of Lent is not meant to be a burden upon those who have little or no reason to boast, nor is it meant as a means to limit one's enjoyment of life. It is a discipline that is meant to bring one closer to God, by creating the time and space to focus on God. Lent has always been a time of repentance, as we recognize and name

our shortcomings as Disciples of Christ, and seek the forgiveness offered in the death and resurrection of Christ.

Lent began with Ash Wednesday, continuing through Holy Week, and ends on Easter Sunday with the proclamation "Christ is risen indeed!"

This Lenten season we enjoyed a beautiful and peaceful Lenten experience. The program was called "Soup for the Soul." We gathered at the church on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30pm. We began with February 17th, Ash Wednesday, offering ashes that evening. Each following Wednesday during Lent we begin our time together with a simple meal of soup and bread.

Everyone was asked to bring a can of soup to throw into the pot each week. We had needed volunteers to help set up, bring bread, stir the pot, and clean up from various committees and groups. After we fed our bodies, we used a method of reading and mediating upon scripture called *lectio divina* (meaning "divine reading") to feed our hearts, minds, and souls. If you are unfamiliar with *lectio divina* (see note below), it is easy to learn. We hope you made this one of your Lenten disciplines. Take the time to listen to what God has to say to you.

Lectio Divina - Prayerful Reading

Lectio divina is an ancient method for praying with the Bible and being open to hearing, in the words of Scripture, a personally enlivening and transforming word from God. Begin by choosing a brief passage of Scripture, and a place where you can be quiet and undisturbed in your prayer time. After you have taken a few minutes to quiet your mind, turn your attention to the passage you have selected. Read a short text passage that you have decided upon in advance. Read slowly, letting your awareness rest in turn upon each word, savoring it. As you read, be alert for any particular word or phrase that draws your attention in a special way.



Mark Your Calendars for Youth Group Movie Night!! April 11 @ 3PM



Meditate on this word or phrase, allowing it to engage you fully. Does the word upon which you are meditating connect with some aspect of your own experience? As you hold this word or phrase in your heart, let yourself become aware of any answering words, images, or memories that arise in you.

Respond to the Word you have heard, simply and directly. Your heart may call out in thanks, or praise, or joy. If the Word has been painful, your response might be one of remorse, or anger, or supplication.

As you read and meditate, rest in God's presence, and feel yourself content simply to be with God.

RPPC's 100-Year Anniversary Gift Registry and Wish List

Members may want to mark the Church's Centennial Year with a special gift, and there are many things needed to carry on the work of the church. Some suggestions are listed below for your consideration. A Gift Registry will be maintained in the Church office, and will be put out on the piano in Fellowship Lounge on special occasions throughout the coming months, so individuals and families can sign up for things they would like to donate.

We would like to thank those who have already given to RPPC's birthday gifts, including Jomel Bobbitt, Michael and Daphne Chisholm, Jeremy Cowan, Maurice Glover, Lisa Griffith, Evelyn Hutchinson, Suzette Johnson, Nancy and Harold Johnson, Georgette and Sam Joseph, Pastor Debbie Paton, Franklin Rhodes, and Melody Thomas. We have also received some gifts with no names on them. Please let the church office know which gift you gave so that we can thank you!

Suggestions of gifts that the church needs for day-to-day operation include the following:

Office/Administration

Envelopes (No. 10, business size), ink cartridges, manila folders, photo paper, postage stamps, computer printer, copy paper (legal and letter size)

Fellowship Lounge Kitchen

Coffee, cups, dish soap, dish towels, juice mixes, napkins, paper plates, paper towels (rolls), tea bags, plastic forks, knives & spoons.

Stewardship/Maintenance

Brooms, mops, light bulbs, paper towels (tri-fold), sidewalk salt, snow shovels, toilet paper, vacuum cleaner & bags, Murphy's soap, cleaning cloths.

Clothing Pantry

Clothing racks, disposable diapers, children's summer clothes, new children's socks and underwear. White shirts and blouses size 5 & up.

Capital Improvements

Basic tools, dish washer, drapes, carpet or other floor covering for fellowship lounge and hall, gift cards to Lowes hardware, lawn mower, new stackable chairs, new folding tables, refrigerator, stove top with oven, window air conditioners

Nurture Committee

Sunday school supplies, funds for new program materials from Presbytery and PCUSA publications

Invitation Committee

Stamps and envelopes for mailings, funds for local advertising space, articles suitable for publication from writers in our congregation

Worship Committee

Banners, beeswax non-drip candles, new cloth for communion table.

Music Department

A new stand for the Christ candle

Please contact the church office if you have questions about any of the items on the list. Thank you!

News and Reports of the Committees of the Session

Worship Committee

Enhancing Our Worship. Worship is both a time for us to praise our God through prayer, song, reading of scripture, and seeking of God's will, and it is also a time when God embraces, lifts, listens, set us right again, and empowers us for service. "Corporate" worship is when we do this together, because God calls us together, because we are the visible body of Christ when gathered, because we can help each other in our worship and service of God.



The Worship Committee would like to thank you for completing your Worship Surveys. If you would like to complete a survey, please contact the church office for a form. We still need your input as we seek to plan worship that is more meaningful, responsive and faithful.

For more information, please contact Elder Georgette Joseph, chairperson of the Worship Committee.

Nurture Committee

Nurture Committee is still looking for members and friends interested in educating other members, friends, and children about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Sunday School begins right after the "time with young disciples" segment of the Sunday morning 11AM worship service. Sunday School is provided for children from Kindergarten through 7th grade. Please see Begoña Cowan or Michael Chisholm. A nursery is provided for children up to 4 years old. For infants and small children, please see Maurice Glover.

Young adults from age 13 to 19 are welcomed to take part in the Youth Group meetings in Spring and Summer. Check your regular bulletins for specific dates and times.

Please contact Michael Chisholm Chairperson, if you have any questions.

Stewardship Committee

Our church building has been greatly improved through the efforts of two volunteers. Sam Joseph who has done the necessary interior structural improvements and Sam, Frank and Maurice and other volunteers have expanded the kitchen adjoining our Miriam Pukalo Lounge. Our kitchen has been enlarged and upgraded to better support our fellowship coffee hour. At this writing we were looking for an electric oven for the kitchen.

Patrick, friend of Frank and Maurice, has been enlisted to perform invaluable improvements to our plaster walls. Walls with crumbling plaster have now been resurfaced with exceptional skill. We hope to have the church in great shape for our 100th year celebration in May.

God has given us a beautiful church building. We would like others to benefit from it as well. If anyone knows of any non-profit group needing a safe, clean, elegant place

to meet please have them contact Peter Horth at 773-407-6327 or peter@goodnewspartners.org, or Frank Rhodes at 773-262-2374.

Clothing Pantry

Children in the neighborhood needed winter coats this year and RPPC Clothing Pantry was able to help fulfill that need. Principal Susan Kilbane of the New Field School sent a letter of appreciation to Director Franklin Rhodes, expressing their thanks for our generosity in supplying warm coats during our cold Chicago winter.

Board of Deacons

Deacon Phil Semrau has relocated to California. He was an active Deacon that helped with serving Holy Communion at Atrium Healthcare Center, and also served on the Invitation Committee. We will miss him!

Our next date to sponsor dinner for the Good News North of Howard Community Kitchen is March 29, 2010 at 5:30PM Please sign up to help in the upcoming weeks.

Suzette Johnson, Moderator
Board of Deacons

Per Capita 2010: A Message from RPPC Treasurer Jeremy Cowan

Dr. Jeremy Cowan, RPPC Treasurer, has received a "Beacon of Hope Guiding Leaders" pamphlet for the congregation, regarding the Per Capita contribution for 2010. Each person's per capita this year is \$28.29.

You may pick up a copy of the pamphlet in the narthex. It answers the questions: What is per capita? What do per capita contributions do? How do we calculate each church's share of per capita? The pamphlet also explains how per capita helps our churches - from helping congregations with pastoral transitions to helping prepare people for service as ordained ministers.



Choir News

Rogers Park Presbyterian Church choir welcomes new members! We rehearse on Tuesday evenings, 7pm-8:30pm (except during Lent, when we will rehearse on some Wednesdays, 7:30-9pm, after midweek prayer). Anyone interested should contact Mary Clare Cadieux or one of the choir members to let us know you're coming so there will be music for you and to verify the rehearsal day and time.

Mary Clare Cadieux
Choir Director

RPPC Community Choir

Elders Maurice Glover and Franklin Rhodes are planning to restart the RPPC Community Choir. If you are interested in singing, playing accompaniment, or directing in a community choir group, please contact either Maurice or Franklin at 773-262-3667 or at rogersparkpres@sbcglobal.net

New Members Class Information

All those interested in exploring the meaning of church membership are invited to contact Pastor Deborah at the church office at 773-262-3667 for more details.

24th Interfaith Breakfast at Palmer House Honors Dr. King

by Suzette Johnson,
Moderator, Board of Deacons

Mayor Richard M. Daley addressed Chicago clergy and other religious leaders at the 24th Annual Interfaith Breakfast on January 15, 2010, in honor of the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rogers Park Presbyterian Church was represented by Elder Franklin Rhodes and Deacon Suzette Johnson, who shared a table with several representatives of St. Helena of the Cross Catholic Church in Chicago. The atmosphere of the Palmer House Hilton's Grand/State Ballroom was elegant and peaceful as chandeliers sparkled and reflected jewelry and crystal table markers. Secretary of State Jesse White and US Senatorial candidate Cheryl Jackson, along with Cook

County Board Presidential candidates, the present City Clerk Dorothy Brown and Alderwoman Toni Preckwrinkle mingled with guests. The one and only Reverend Clay Evans and the outspoken Father Michael Pflieger of St. Sabina also moved among the sea of tables reserved for dignitaries.

The Honorable Richard M. Daley welcomed us all with a warm and fatherly opening statement which urged everyone to help each other more for our children's benefit.

The Reverend Willie Barrow, Chairwoman, Emeritus, Operation PUSH opened with an invocation of "Prayer For The Nation" starting with prayer for Haiti and our own first lady, Maggie Daley who has recently had a set back in health.

In Reverend Barrow's prayer she talked about our city not being divided as we were just disconnected. She prayed that we'd get to know each other a little better. For example, when we meet, instead of saying hi and moving on, we could exchange names and not rush away too fast. She prayed that while meeting, we'd: stop talking so much and start doing something. She prayed for our families and especially our children. She also prayed for establishment of foreclosure and human resources departments in our churches to develop because folks are just not going to tell us that they lost their home or jobs; but they will fill out applications for assistance in confidence.

Young disciple, Denzel Talison of Emmanuel Christian School, entertained us with his rendition of "Precious Lord," that amazed the audience, and could bring tears to your eyes and you to your feet! The Edgar Allan Poe Classical School Choir with Barry K. Elmore directing provided music entertainment. The selections included: "Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name," "Praise You," and American Dream."

The keynote speaker, Mr. James Reynolds, Jr., CFA, Chairman/CEO of Loop Capital Markets, LLC discussed the power of hiring interns in terms of giving back to the community.

Shaping young people is a regular part of his schedule as his firm allows young people to attend meetings. The observe deals being made in order to see first hand how success is accomplished. Being from Chicago's Englewood, community, he knows first hand that



education is the powerful equalizer for opportunity. Most of his interns came back to be full time employees in his firm. Mr. Reynolds ended his keynote speech with a special tribute to his mentor, Mr. Michael Scott, Chicago Public School Board President who died so suddenly at the end of last year. He only hopes he can live up to Mr. Scott in his own life.

The Reverend Michael Pflieger, Pastor of Faith Community of St. Sabina provided a moving benediction that complemented the theme of us connecting and helping with each other.

In Our Church Family

Melody Thomas has received an award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for being a "Special Individual". She gives her personal time for blood drives, voter participation, community projects and many efforts to make the workplace comfortable for employees. We join James L. Pollock; Director at Chicago's HUD Enforcement Center, in expressing congratulations and heart-felt thanks to Melody.

Diane and Robert Richmond send their love from their ocean going sailboat Silver Girl, now in Florida, and hope to see us all soon.

Follow up to Jeremiah Worthen Fund

Jeremiah Worthen and his mom, Maria, were in an awful automobile accident near Christmas day, 2009. Maria passed and Jeremiah was injured.

To send donations to the fund, mail to:

Jeremiah Worthen Fund
P.O. Box 60971
Chicago, IL 60660

The Fund will be used for education, housing and/or medical expenses.

Black History Celebration at Morgan Park Presbyterian Church

Morgan Park Presbyterian Church celebrated the accomplishments in the lives of African Americans at

the church's Black History Celebration on Sunday, February 21, along with members of First, Second, Sixth-Grace, and Edgewater Presbyterian churches. African American contributions to society, education, government, the arts, and science were honored and remembered. Although RPPC was invited to share in this exciting event we were unable to do so this year, but we hope to take part with our sister congregations next year, in February of 2011.

In Our Community

\$800 Million Dollars Divided Among Us Based On Our Numbers

Power starts with the CENSUS. Fill out your census form when it arrives in March and raise awareness in the community. 2010 U.S. Census is important because every year \$400 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities for: hospitals, schools, transportation and social services based upon data from the U.S. Census. If you return your questionnaire by April 1, 2010 a CENSUS representative will NOT visit you.

Regular Services and Activities Schedule

Sunday

RPPC Sunday Morning Worship Service begins at 11am in the Sanctuary. After Father's Day, the time of worship is usually moved to 10:00 am for the summer months. Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month during the worship service, and is served one Sunday each month at Atrium Healthcare Center

United Haitian Church Sunday Morning Worship Service begins at 11:30AM in the Boardroom. The evening Worship Service begins at 7:00PM in Fellowship Hall.

Monday through Saturday

Christopher House Head Start School, M-F, 8am to 5pm, ages 3 to 5. Call 773-274-5477. Enrollment is currently open.

English as a Second Language Classes, Tues and Wed, 6 - 7:30pm Teachers are needed to volunteer. Registration is on going.



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Clothing Pantry, Tue 10am-1pm; Sat 11am-2pm.


United Haitian Church Bible Study, Friday, 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Contact Rev. Radel Ilmet.

Cook County "Communities Dare to Care" Program, Thurs. For more information, call the church office at 773-262-3667.

St. Augustine Fellowship, Fri, 7-9pm, in the Boardroom on the main floor.

Chicago Public School's (CPS) SMART Program, participation by appointment. Contact Sherry Heard, 773-535-8067 or email sbheard@cps.k12.il.us for more information.

Looking Forward



April 17 – The 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, a now-global observance of our responsibility for the Earth and its perpetuation as a living planet. For Christians and other religious people, it is especially important as a symbol of our stewardship of the home we have been given by God, and of the sacred nature of the trust in which it has been placed in our hands. "This is our Creator's world!" For news of events, educational materials, and information, go online to www.earthday.org and www.earthdaynetwork.org

Community Meeting to be held at Rogers Park Presbyterian Church

Northside P.O.W.E.R (People Organized to Work, Educate, and Restore) is the community organizing arm of Good News Community Kitchen. This year they are focusing their efforts on organizing people and money in our community around housing concerns, specifically affordable housing and home foreclosure. They are in the process of leveraging money for landlords who keep their rent affordable to rehab their buildings and assisting families in foreclosure or facing foreclosure to mediate with the financial institution holding their debt. This meeting is to gather community people to support their efforts with the government officials and agencies

that hold the power and purse strings. We encourage and challenge each of you to come to the meeting **April 18, 2010 at 3pm** in our sanctuary. Come find out more about Northside P.O.W.E.R's efforts on behalf of our community and lend your support. As host of this event we will need greeters, ushers, and people to work the sign in table. If you are willing to give your time please contact Pastor Debbie.

May 16, 2010- Heritage Sunday, and RPPC's 100th Anniversary Worship Service and Reception. We will celebrate a hundred years of Christian presence in the Rogers Park community, and welcome former members and pastors, representatives of neighbor churches and our community, and other guests to this important event in our church's history.

May 23 – Pentacost Sunday, the 50th Day after Easter, on which the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ, causing their heads to erupt with flames, as they were taken up with the fervor and spirit of God.



An Eastern Orthodox Christian icon depicting Pentacost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the heads of the apostles, fifty days after Easter Sunday. From Wikipedia.