

# ROGERS PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The People's Press

December 2009/January 2010

## Celebrating 100 Years

In 1909, a small group of dedicated and motivated Christians gathered in the Rogers Park neighborhood and requested that the Presbytery of Chicago help them to organize a new church. After canvassing the neighborhood and finding forty persons of Presbyterian persuasion, they began worship services and a Sunday school, and called the Reverend James L. McBride to become the pastor of their church-to-be. Immediately after the arrival of their pastor, a petition containing fifty-one signatures was prepared and sent to the Presbytery.

On January 13, 1910 a committee of the Presbytery of Chicago granted the new congregation their charter, and organized the Rogers Park Presbyterian Church. Since then, although waxing and waning in membership numbers at different times, our RPPC congregation has remained a faithful witness to God in this community; proclaiming the good news, reaching out in love, sharing our resources, and welcoming all those who would join us for worship, fellowship, and mission. As we look back over the years, we are reminded that it is God's faithfulness to us that has enabled us to continue in our life and work. So our motto and theme for our Centennial Year is "**Faithful in all Seasons,**" as we recall and depend upon God acting for us and through us in this time and place.

We will celebrate our hundredth anniversary with a variety of events, beginning Sunday, January 10, 2010 with a renewal of our baptism in worship, and a birthday party to take place after the service. All are invited to come and bring family, friends, and neighbors as we share cake and stories. Everyone is invited to bring a present for the church. You will find our wish list below.

Our next scheduled event will be a special worship and dinner on May 16, 2010, to which former pastors and members will be invited

back, along with Presbytery staff and churches, local dignitaries, and community organizations



and leaders. We are also planning a special concert by the Chicago Children's Choir in the fall, the date of which is yet to be determined. Please mark these occasions on your calendar and plan to join in the celebrating. Also be alert for more information about activities and opportunities in upcoming newsletters and on our website at [www.rogersparkpresbyterian.org](http://www.rogersparkpresbyterian.org). Our hope is that our RPPC Centennial Year will be a time in which we look back together with thanksgiving and look forward with hope - as we seek to be faithful in the seasons to come, and to depend upon God, who is ever faithful in all seasons.

## RPPC's 100-Year 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 give.

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## Office/Administration

Envelops (No. 10, business size)  
Ink cartridges  
Manila folders  
Photo paper  
Postage stamps  
Printer for computer  
Reams of white and color copy paper  
(legal and letter size)

## Fellowship Lunches

Coffee  
Cups  
Dish soap  
Dishtowels  
Juice mixes  
Napkins  
Paper plates  
Paper towels (rolls)  
Tea bags  
Utensils (plastic)

## Stewardship/Maintenance

Brooms  
Mops  
Light bulbs  
Paper towels (trifold)  
Salt for walks in winter  
Snow shovels  
Toilet paper  
Vacuum cleaner

## Clothing Pantry

Camcorder  
Clothing racks  
Disposal diapers

## Capital improvements

Basic tools  
Dishwasher  
Drapes  
Flooring for fellowship lounge and hall  
Gift cards to Lowes  
Lawn mower  
New stackable chairs  
New folding tables  
Refrigerator

Stovetop with oven  
Window air conditioners

## Nurture

Sunday school supplies

## Invitation

Stamps  
Advertising space  
Articles from writers

## Worship

Banners  
Candles  
Cloth for communion table  
Music  
Stand for Christ candle

**Note: (Contact the Church office if you have questions about items on our list.)**

## Committees

### Nurture Committee

The New Year is upon us and the 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. Please contact Jeremy Cowan.

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 December and January for activity planning. Come and explore your creative ideas! For information, please contact Jeremy Cowan.

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## Stewardship Committee

### *1. A Wealth of Time, Talents, and Resources*

We thank everyone who shared the work of our fall stewardship campaign. God has truly blessed our congregation with generous hearts and a wealth of time, talents, and resources. As of November 15 we had received 18 pledges (almost twice as many as last year) totaling \$24,000. Even more exciting is the number of hours, skills, and energy promised to the work of the church. We cannot do the things we do and would like to do without the efforts of all our members and friends.

If you have not had an opportunity to turn in a pledge and would still like to do so, you may request a pledge sheet from the office and drop it in the offering plate on any Sunday. We understand that a pledge is an expression of our best intention, and that occasionally circumstances and changes may occur that make it hard to keep up, or perhaps, enable you to give more. If you need to make changes to what you pledged for 2010 we hope you will let us know.

Offering envelopes for 2010 will be available for pickup at the church on December 22, 2009. The time and talent portion of your pledge will be turned over to the appropriate committee so they can contact you throughout the year when your time and talent is needed, and ask you to volunteer. Pledges are wonderful, and it is our people's faithful follow-through that make the pledges real and meaningful, and that keep our church going. Thank God and each of you for your commitment to the ministry and mission of the Rogers Park Presbyterian Church. We could not do it without you.

### *2. Per Capita Giving*

The "per capita" is our share of the cost of being a "connectional" church, connected to

the Presbytery of Chicago and to the Synod of Lincoln Trails, as well as the Presbyterian Church USA. The "per capita" for 2010 is \$28.29 per member, that is: \$6.15 to support the work of the General Assembly, \$3.60 for the Synod, and \$18.54 for the Presbytery of Chicago. This money covers the cost of committees, meetings, staff, training, resources, and more. You will find an envelope in your box for this purpose. We hope you will see it as a way to extend your giving beyond the local church and being a part of something much larger.

You are invited to be a part of our Stewardship Committee. If you are handy with tools and have the know-how and the attitude, and would like to help take care of RPPC, please come and sit in on the regularly scheduled meetings on the third Sunday of the month, after Fellowship hour.

For more information call Elder **Peter Horth** at **773-407-6327** or email him at **[peter@goodnewspartners.org](mailto:peter@goodnewspartners.org)**.

## 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, which is charged with overseeing and planning worship, is seeking your thoughts and opinions, in a three-page survey that we have prepared. In January we will use three consecutive Sundays (January 17, 24, and 31) to look at, clarify, and answer the questions on our three-page survey.

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We have attached the survey for you to look at ahead of time, so that you can come with your questions and have time to think about your responses. Worship is our response to God, individually and cooperatively. Recognizing that worship is a matter of deep personal preference, experience, tradition and faith, corporate worship nevertheless reflects the preferences, experiences, traditions, and faith of many. It creates a greater challenge in planning and a greater depth and wholeness in our shared experience. The Worship Committee needs your input as it seeks to plan worship that is more meaningful, more real, more responsive, and more faithful. Please take some time to look over the survey attached, to jot down some response, and be prepared for our time together in January.

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

## **Choir News!**

Rogers Park Presbyterian Church's Adult Choir is pleased to welcome two new members, soprano Stephanie Polito and alto Malkah Hegel. They are joining the loyal ranks of soprano Diane Richmond (soon to leave for the winter), alto Nancy Johnson, tenor Harold Johnson, and bass Herb Schroeder (who often doubles on recorder). New members - both singers and instrumentalists - are always welcome. Our usual rehearsal is Tuesday night at 7pm. Please contact the church office to let us know you are coming so we will have music for you!  
Mary Clare Cadieux, Choir Director.

## **Clothing Pantry Sponsors Christmas Baskets**

The Clothing Pantry supports the Church's mission of reaching out to all who are in need, serving families in shelters, the unemployed or underemployed, residents of nursing homes, and new immigrants.

This season the Clothing Pantry, with the support of Elder Maurice Glover as program coordinator, has been facilitating informational meetings about 2010 US Census jobs as well as assisting four young men to land jobs this Advent season with the United Postal Service!

A special and rewarding challenge for the Clothing Pantry is providing children with adequate school supplies, uniforms, coats, boots, gloves, scarves and hats during the school year. Infant formula, donated by Infant, Inc., is provided to mothers of babies. This year we would like to thank a new donor, the Hispanic Christian Association, for back-to-school backpacks contributed in August. We also especially thank First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange for their continued support of providing funds and clothing donations for more than 20 years.

As the Holiday season approaches, the Clothing Pantry sponsors a toy-give-away, along with Christmas baskets for needy families. In order to maintain consistency for Christmas baskets, the Pantry is asking all donors to make their gifts monetary. Happy Holidays!  
For more information, please contact Elder Franklin Rhodes, Clothing Pantry Director.

## **RPPC Community Choir**

Elders Maurice Glover and Frank Rhodes are planning to restart the RPPC Community Choir. If you are interested in singing, playing or directing a community choir, please contact Elders Maurice Glover or Frank Rhodes at 773-262-3667 or [rogersparkpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rogersparkpres@sbcglobal.net)

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## Board of Deacons

### Appreciation to the Board of Deacons and to You!

I am very pleased to express my appreciation to the current Board of Deacons for their unwavering support to make a success of our responsibilities in working with Good News Kitchen dinner sponsorship, where the number of people to feed is pushing close to 200 per night. With the help of the congregation, we have really kept up our end of the responsibility! I would also like to thank the Deacons for happily stepping in and helping with extra and special coffee hours while the church staff was in transition.

To the members and friends of Rogers Park Presbyterian Church, our first and foremost duty is to help you with emergency needs and assistance or to lead you to additional resources. However, the number of requests has recently been low. If you are doing really well, and do not need help from the Deacons, this is truly a blessing, but remember that you are our first priority for assistance, so please do not hesitate to make a request if you are in need.

Many thanks to the following members and friends who have already agreed to help out with Good News Kitchen dinners this year and next: Jan Berg, Michael Chisholm, Elsie Dirackor, Fiji Frimpong, Malkah Hegel, Peter Horth, Wayne Kusy, Monique Johnson, Essie Jones, Georgette Joseph, Debbie Paton, Divine Puplanmpu, Diane Richmond and Phil Semrau. The Board of Deacons thanks all of you who support the Deacons Fund now, in the past, and in the future. God Bless you.  
Suzette Johnson, Moderator, Board of Deacons



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## Members & Friends News

### Thanking Us for Our Prayers

"Thank you so much for your past, present and future prayers. Our family is stronger. Have faith, courage, believe, and the strength to go on with hope for the future."  
From the Rhodes-Dixon Family.

Submitted by Franklin Rhodes' sister  
Nazarnova

### Baitian Ming's Travel Blog in China (Formerly known as Tom Berg)

One of the children who grew up at this Church, Tommy Berg, is now living in China, where he is known as Baitian Ming. Tom is writing a travel blog about his experiences, which include traveling with a bike club and teaching English at a Chinese middle school. If you are interested in following Tom's life in China, go to [www.travelpod.com](http://www.travelpod.com). In the "find traveler box," put in Baitian Ming, (his Chinese name), then click on "more Baitian Ming trips."

Tom plans to live in China for the next two years in the city of QiQihar in northeast China, about 1,500 miles north of Beijing.  
Submitted by Jan Berg

## Ponderings of the Pastor

Advent is one of my favorite times of the year. Perhaps it is because I am a procrastinator, and I need a specified and extended time to prepare. It may also have to do with my delight in the expectation and my disappointment when it is all over so fast. Maybe it is my love of the advent hymns and scripture texts that speak of God doing a new thing, of justice and peace, of comfort and healing, of babies and beginnings. Maybe it is the lighting candles against the darkness. Maybe it is the gathering of friends and families participating in old traditions and making new ones. When it comes right down to it, it is all the above and, even more, it is the

hope and anticipation of God breaking into our lives and into the world in such a way that we will be changed, renewed, compelled to live more fully and wholly. *May Advent be a season of hope and anticipation for you, and may this Christmas season be that time when all is fulfilled.*

## I Am Silent...and Expectant

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given.  
I would be silent now,  
Lord, and expectant...  
that I may receive,  
the gift I need,  
so I may become the gifts others  
need.

(by Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace, c.1984)

## Activities at RPPC

### *Sundays:*

RPPC Service begins at 11AM until after Father's Day.

Bethel Ghanaian Presbyterian congregation service is at 1PM in the sanctuary on Sundays with Bro. Paul Asiama.

United Haitian Church morning service at 11:30AM in the Boardroom and at 7PM, evening service is located in the Fellowship Hall.

### *Mondays thru Fridays*

Christopher House Head Start School at 8AM to 5PM. Ages 3 to 5.  
Call 773-274-5477. Enrollment is currently open.

### *Tuesdays and Wednesdays*

English as a Second Language Classes at 6PM to 8:30PM. Teachers are needed to volunteer.

### *Tuesdays and Saturdays*

Clothing Pantry  
Tuesdays 10AM to 1PM  
Saturdays 11AM to 2PM

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## ***Wednesdays***

United Haitian Church Bible Study at 7PM in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Rev. Radel Ilmet.

## ***Thursdays***

Cook County Program – Communities Dare to Care

## ***Fridays***

Advent Bible Study  
The third and forth Fridays in December conclude Advent bible study with Jackie Forbes at 7PM during Advent season.

St. Augustine Fellowship meetings are from 7PM to 9PM in the Boardroom on the first floor.

Chicago Public School's (CPS) SMART Program – Participation in the CPS's SMART Program is by appointment. Please contact Sherry Heard @ 773-535-8067 or email [sbheard@cps.k12.il.us](mailto:sbheard@cps.k12.il.us) for more information.

## **UPCOMING Events and Special News and Dates**

### **INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 5PM to 8PM.  
Hosted by First Presbyterian Church, 824 Waukegan Rd., in Deerfield. Call Rev. Samuel J. Akhtar: 773-301-1050 for reservations by December 7, 2009.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Session acted to call a congregational meeting for December 13, 2009, immediately following worship for the purpose of hearing reports, electing officers and acting on financial matters recommended.

### **RPPC Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols @ 7PM**

**The Youth Group 2010 calendars and writing pads sale!** Please see the order sheet in the

Narthex for samples and descriptions before the new year arrives!

See Jeremy Cowan, Michael Chisholm or Monique Johnson for more information.

### **New members class to be scheduled for January!**

All those interested in exploring the meaning of church members are invited to attend in January. The days and times are to be decided by participants. Please contact Pastor Debbie @ 773-262-3667 for more details.

### **Hospice Volunteer Training**

You can make a difference in the lives of others in your neighborhood. Join us for an introduction to our programs and volunteer opportunities on the **fourth Tuesday of each month** at 2050 Claire Court, Glenview. Contact: Elizabeth Grantner 847-556-1982.

### **(L.E.A.D.) – Save the Date!**

Leadership, Education And Development for the whole church is what LEAD is all about. Keynote: The Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter, Director, Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Saturday, March 6, 2010 @ 8:30 to 3PM at First Presbyterian Church, 302 North Dunton, Arlington Heights, IL 60004