

# THE PRCC NEWS

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH MARCH 2011 ° VOLUME TWO ° ISSUE SEVEN

## A WORD OF GRATITUDE IN A TIME OF LOSS

**IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER IS A FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROL OF MINE.** The bleakness of midwinter itself is not. The cold, the snow, the seemingly sunless days gather gloom all around. This year, the bleakness of midwinter was magnified by the death of my mother, Dorothy McCleneghan, just before dawn on 30 January. Though we—my siblings and my mom along with the medical team—had made the decision to accept hospice care for mom back in October, her eventual decline and death were no less devastating. Though she would have been 87 years old this coming September, her death was no less heart-rending. With disconcerting frequency at the funerals and memorial services at which I officiate, I catch snippets of comments to the effect that, “Well, he/she led a good long life.” While this is true, the unstated intention seems to somehow diminish the profound tragedy and loss which accompany any death. Because someone has come to an advanced age does not minimize the meaning or the substance of that life. As my sister Mary and I packed away Mother’s things from her assisted-living apartment, we took time with the family photographs. There, in a small black-and-white snapshot from the earliest days of the Great Depression was an image of my mother, young Dorothy, a little girl not-quite ten years old. Yes, an 87 year-old mother, grandmother, great-grandmother died that wintry morning, but so did that little girl—along with a teenager and a young bride and mother and...

**DRIVING BACK TO THE WARMTH OF MY SISTER’S HOME THROUGH THE STEEL GRAY OF THE MICHIGAN WINTER** a quite gnawing began somewhere within me. Unrecognizable at first, it soon made itself know and the gnawing need to return to my own home with Lauri, to gather the children around, to stand in the presence of the grandchildren, to embrace and be embraced one and all. At the very same time, it was the gnawing need to return to my faith home, my family of faith, here in our beloved congregation, this place where the presence of God’s grace is so palpable so often.

**YET GRIEF IS PERSISTENT, ISN’T IT?** As we turn away from the edge of the abyss that is our loss and grief, initial steps are tentative. Death is loath to let us return to life. The first dark snowy evening back home, I ran hard against the wall. Driving around town, I heard myself confess out loud, “I am deeply depressed.” Moving forward—in my car—with life—seemed daunting, to say the least.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL THE CARDS AND LETTERS**, as the old jingle has it. Again: Thank you, thank you for the cards and letters and emails and quiet, care-filled conversations. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for being my family of faith. I drove into the driveway that evening to find the mailbox filled with the first wave of cards and notes from you. Stepping stones leading back to life. Most of all, thank you for joining with me in worship that first Sunday back. Gathered as God’s beloved community, I was overwhelmed by the healing presence of the Holy Spirit blowing from the heart of God and through each one of you. Something transcendent and transforming takes place when we are together as God’s people in this place. Thank you for offering a more than generous share in it.

**WHEN THE DAYS BETWEEN THE EPIPHANY AND ASH WEDNESDAY COME ROUND AGAIN EACH YEAR**—the days of bleak midwinter, I make certain to include one particular hymn in a Sunday’s worship. It is a hymn that speaks of God’s presence, God’s gracious presence radiating in the darkness. Three weeks ago Sunday, the Spirit suggested the time had come to sing and so we did:

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ the true the only light,  
Sun of righteousness arise, Triumph o’er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar in my heart appear.*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn, unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day’s return Till Thy mercies beams I see,  
Till they inward light impart, Cheer my eyes and warm my heart.*

*Visit then this soul of mine; Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me radiance divine; Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.*

Thank you for being present to sing together the words of our faith in a time of such loss.

Grace and Peace,

Brett

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Everett Allchin	3/1
Eric Biedke	3/1
Mark Hahn	3/1
Chris Holland	3/1
Benjamin Sacor	3/1
Michael White	3/1
Margaret Kuss	3/3
Ellen Upton	3/3
Taylor McCleneghan	3/4
Drew Doubek	3/5
Katie Berndtson	3/6
Judith Matzen	3/6
Katie Shotsberger	3/6
Shellie Sturmer	3/6
Joe Baratta	3/7
Christine Ewald	3/7
Sue Farrell	3/7
Bob Johnston	3/7
Norma Simmons	3/7
Elizabeth Solomon	3/7
John Davis	3/8
Mike Iberl	3/8
Corby Ryan	3/8
Jenny Lau	3/9
Marc Saladino	3/9
Carole Jackson	3/10
Harriet Irwin	3/12
Michael Kemerer	3/12
David Solomon	3/12
Courtney Vinopal	3/12
Laura Walsh	3/12
Therese Wehman	3/12
Betty Eastman	3/13
Ginny Feurer	3/13
Charles Janes	3/13
Colin Wehman	3/13
Molly O'Brien	3/14
Luke Reboletti	3/14

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN MARCH

### SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS:

**8:30 AM—9:15 AM:** Chapel Worship

Coffee Hour between and following Worship

**10:00 AM—11:00 AM:** Sanctuary Worship

**10:00 AM—11:15 AM:** Sunday School

*\*Our nursery is open every Sunday 8:30 AM to 11:30AM for children ages infant through five.*

### March 6th—Transfiguration Sunday Holy Communion

Family Service, Presentation of Bibles to 3rd graders,

Pancake Breakfast!

Sermon: *Wisdom To Live By*

Text: Job 9:1-12

### Lent

### March 9th—Ash Wednesday Observance

**6:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion

### March 13th—The First Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *Easter Faith Before There Was An Easter*

Text: Job 19:23-27

**March 16th**—Pastor Brett will be the guest preacher at the Chicago Temple/  
First United Methodist Church, 77 W. Washington St.,  
Chicago as a part of the Wed. noon Lenten worship services.

Sermon: *Everything's Going To Be Alright...Sort Of*

### March 20th—The Second Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *A Winner, A Loser, And A Lover*

Text: Ecclesiastes 12:1-7, 13, 14 and selections from  
Song of Solomon

### March 27th—The Third Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *The Not-So-Dumb Ox*

Text: Isaiah 1:1-9, 6:1-8

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Paul and Charlyn Rauch who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 25th. They were married right here in PRCC on February 25, 1961.

We also congratulate Nic & Doug Kremer on the birth of their second son, Matthew Michael Kremer, born February 24, 2:53 p.m., weighing in at 7lbs., 4oz., 21" long. Everyone is doing well.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### PRAYER MINISTRY

**We keep in our prayers:** Donald Anderson (Siri Nelson's father), Stephanie Beery and her grandsons, Phil Berent, Michael Bianchi, Randal Carpenter (father of Cheri Carpenter), Evelyn Claire, Marie Degaard, Don (co-worker of Martha), Bob Douglass (brother of Dave Douglass), Winnie Erickson, Brian Fogarty, Shirley and Virgil Grand's great-grandsons, Rick Hoyt) co-worker of Mary Crowl), Gary Hughes (father of Cindy Coggin), Alice Keating, Candace Kidston, Grace Koenig and her family, Walter Kotecky (Bernice Zabawski's brother), Jim Lego (Mary Biardo's brother), Lou Limper, Alexis Marsh, Elsie Matthys, Jimmie McSpadden, Evelyn Miller (Judy Artrip's mother), Lurana Nelson, Chester and Leo Netko (father and uncle of Cindy Winter), Pauline Numrych, Carol Potter, Geri Sell, Leah Schaul, Josh Timm, Yoshiko Urasaki, Ben Wright (father of Grace Curtis).

*If you or a loved one is listed in our weekly prayer list, we hope you will find comfort in knowing that Stephen Ministers are praying for those listed.*

**We also keep in our prayers the following friends and family:**

- Prayers of joy celebrating the birthdays of Ben Curtis and his father Tom Curtis.
- Prayers for my daughter-in-law's father who has lung cancer and is in intensive care from Beth Parsch.
- Prayers for Rena Van Tine's father as he struggles with heart problems and for the Van Tine family as they care for him.
- Prayers for those whose hobbies and passions entail any amount of personal risk or danger and for their loved ones who are concerned for their safety and well-being.
- Prayers for my sister, Beverly, who was just diagnosed with breast cancer and an uncle who is in hospice care.
- Sharon Kemerer's nephew Steve, who is recovering from emergency abdominal surgery.
- Prayers of joy from Larry and Nadya Zimmerman for our fathers' birthdays, Lawrence Zimmerman is 92, and Roy Nelson is 89.
- Prayers for a safe return for Kelly Plach who is returning to pharmacy school in St. Louis working towards finishing her 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- Prayers of safety for Sue and her team serving on a medical mission trip in Haiti.
- Prayers of healing for Rick, a co-worker, who is starting chemotherapy for tongue cancer.
- Prayers for a friend undergoing a stem cell transplant.
- Prayers for a family facing eviction.
- Prayers for Edith Mandolini for good health.
- Prayers for Henry Ristau, godfather to Pauline Numrych, who passed away at 101.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Fabisch	3/15
Elsie Matthys	3/15
Joshua Nelson	3/15
Dawson Ross	3/16
William Kopecky	3/17
Lucy Sacor	3/17
Sam Calabrese	3/18
Serena Hohmann	3/18
Doris Sikorsky	3/18
Heather Rose Wind	3/18
Judy Foster	3/19
Julian Showalter	3/19
Judy Sindt	3/19
John Hurd	3/20
Courtney Schaul	3/21
Michael Doubek	3/22
Zachary Reboletti	3/22
Brady Rujawitz	3/22
Nichole Spunar	3/22
Rebecca Lapp	3/23
John Cox	3/24
Janet Parker	3/25
Tyler Stopa	3/25
Bill Thon	3/25
Adam Foster	3/26
Martha Bridges	3/27
Evan Curtis	3/27
Jason Foster	3/27
Jake Hennessy	3/28
Chuck Manson Jr.	3/28
Ellen Dishneau	3/29
Shannon Hurd	3/29
Paul Wright	3/29
Virgil Grand	3/30
Gary Johnson	3/30
Jim Nolan	3/30
David Baratta	3/31
Richard DuSold	3/31

## YOUTH SCOOP—MARCH SCHEDULE

### Head2Heart Middle School Youth Group Wednesday, 6:30-8pm (unless otherwise noted)

March 2	Media & Materialism Pt 1
March 3 Thurs 4:30	Beatles Nights final set-up
Mar. 4, 5 Fri, Sat 7p	<b>BEATLES NIGHTS</b>
March 9 7:30	Ash Wednesday Service – youth write a reflection about what Ash Wed. means
March 16	Media & Materialism Pt 2
March 23	God & Science
March 30	OFF – Spring Break

*Events open to all youth & friends!*

### High School Youth Group Sunday, 6-7:30pm (unless otherwise noted)

March 3 Thurs 4:30	Beatles Nights final set-up
Mar. 4, 5 Fri, Sat 7p	<b>BEATLES NIGHTS</b>
March 6	Random Act of Kindness: Care Package for Nic Kremer
March 13 5p	Youth Leader Meeting
6p	Going away party for Devan Shah
Mar. 17 Thurs 7:30	<b>INT'L MISSION TRIP FAMILY MEETING</b>
March 20	“What Would Jesus Buy?” Movie
March 27	OFF – Spring Break

*Events open to all youth & friends!*

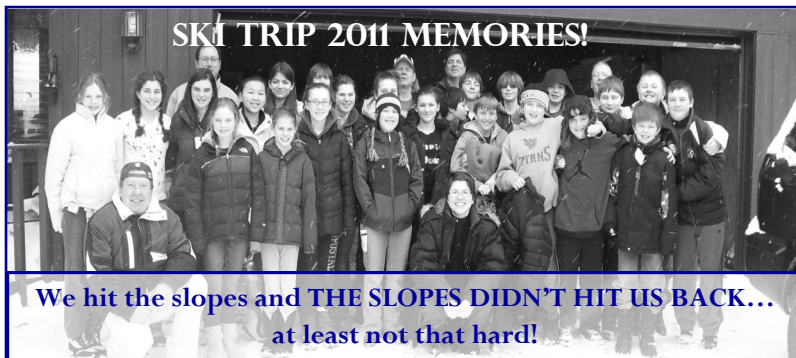


### **BEATLES NIGHTS 2011!!**

Friday & Saturday,  
March 4 & 5

SHOWS START @ 7P

***PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY  
AND SUPPORT THE YOUTH OF PRCC!***



### **YOUTH SUNDAY 2011: ANIMAL HOUSE OF WORSHIP**

Thank you to all the youth & adults who worked so hard and so faithfully to create a FABULOUS worship experience for the whole church! YOU ROCK!

And thank you to everyone at PRCC for welcoming the powerful insights of our youth as we all journey together with God!

### **SPRING STOCK SALE! YOUTH RAISE \$ FOR COSTA RICA!!!**

The youth group will be selling stocks (\$5 each) at church from **March 13 through April 24** in the Park Place Room. The Stock Sale is a fun way for people both inside and outside the church to help support our youth ministry, including the summer youth mission trip to **COSTA RICA!**

*To share in Youth Stock Sale proceeds, youth must:*

1. Sign up to sell stocks inside church at least two shifts, March 13 through April 24 (there are two shifts each Sunday morning).
2. Sell at least four stocks to people outside the church until May 22. Youth can pick up the outside stocks and ledger from Pastor Nicole or print them online.

**These stocks are due May 22 so the youth have time to raise as much money as possible from friends, family, teachers, and neighbors. All outside stocks are credited directly to the youth who sell them!**

To find more information about the 2011 Stock Sale and **sign up for shifts** go to [www.prccyouth.org](http://www.prccyouth.org) and follow the links under “EVENTS” to “Youth Stock Sale”

## STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE BY KATIE REBOLETTI



“He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted...to comfort all who mourn.”

From Isaiah 61: 1&2

“Weep with those who weep.” Romans 12:15

*“God needed another angel in heaven.”*

*“At least you have a healthy child.”*

*“You’ll have another child.”*

*“It is God’s will.”*

These were remarks, from well-meaning people, that fell on the ears of my friend, Mary, when she suffered a miscarriage, some years ago. The words were meant to comfort, but instead, they hurt. But one day, a neighbor came to Mary’s door, with a bottle of wine, and some chocolate chip cookies, and with tears in her eyes, said, “I didn’t know what to do, so I just came.” Another neighbor came and said, “My sister had a miscarriage. I know how sad she was, and how sad you must be.”

Mary appreciated the concern of her family and friends. She understood that they believed it would help her to “look on the bright side,” but somehow it didn’t. She also knew the deep comfort she felt from her neighbors, who showed up, and invited her to feel and share her pain.

Dr. Kenneth Hauck, the founder of Stephen Ministries, in his book, “Don’t Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart,” notes that “the Greek word translated as ‘comfort,’ has the basic meaning ‘to call alongside.’ When Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit in John 14:26, he referred to the Spirit by the name Comforter—the one called to your side.”

One of the guiding visions of Stephen Ministry, is that people who are suffering, need someone to “come alongside” them, to show up, to listen, and to care.

If you or someone you know, needs someone to come alongside for a time, please contact Pastor Brett (847-825-3164) or Ginny Feurer (847-299-1781)

## CELEBRATE SECOND ADULTHOOD

### WEHMANS TO ENTERTAIN AT “KSC” - ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARTY MARCH 15

It’s time for more fun for the PRCC seniors at Kindred Spirits Café! Kent O’Wehman and son Neal O’Wehman will entertain KSC guests playing music on four keyboards! How lucky can we get on St. Patty’s Day?!

Wear a bit o’ the green and head our way for a fun time starting at 11:30 a.m. in Jordan Hall. Just bring a sandwich (or corned beef and cabbage if you prefer), and we’ll have beverages, desserts, and music ready for you to enjoy. Especially for seniors (self-define please) but all are welcome.

Kindred Spirits Café meets every Tuesday in Jordan Hall from 11:30 to 1. Bring a brown bag lunch, and we’ll provide the rest. Please join us any week!

### SCAM SAFETY NET

If you receive an email for someone claiming to need your help getting money out of a foreign country, do not respond. Forward such scams – including all the email addressing information – to [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov). If you’ve lost money to one of these schemes, call the Chicago Secret Service field office at 312-353-5431.

### STOP DIABETES IN ITS TRACKS

(from John Hopkins Medical Letter)

Many people on the brink of developing diabetes can stop it in its tracks by changing their lifestyle. That’s the message from a follow-up analysis of the landmark Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP).

For 10 years, researchers tracked 88% of the participants from the original DPP study Diabetes developed in 34% fewer people who made lifestyle modifications (such as losing 7% of initial body weight or exercising 150 minutes/week) compared with the placebo group. By comparison, 18% fewer people who took the anti-diabetes drug metformin went on to develop the disease over the course of a decade.

### REAL WOMEN WEAR BLUE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

The American Cancer Society is urging community members to get screened for colorectal cancer. This is especially important for people 50 and older. On March 9<sup>th</sup>, women are asked to wear something blue as a reminder to others about colon cancer screenings.

*March Is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.*

#### **A moment’s thought:**

*In looking at the various means of developing compassion, I think that empathy is an important factor. Attempt to increase compassion by trying to empathize with another’s feelings or experience by using your imagination, your creativity, to visualize yourself in another’s situation.*

— His Holiness the Dalai Lama in *The Essence of Happiness: A Guidebook for Living*

## “LE CHEAP BOUTIQUE” COMING SOON!

**WANTED:** GENTLY USED JEWELRY INCLUDING RINGS, BRACELETS, WATCHES, EARRINGS AND NECKLACES, AS WELL AS HANDBAGS, BELTS, HATS, SCARVES AND MEN'S TIES FOR CIRCLE 10'S JEWELRY AND ACCESSORY “LE CHEAP BOUTIQUE” SALE.

Gently used jewelry and accessories may be things you simply don't wear any longer. Perhaps your personal style has changed or you just have items and you're unsure what to do with them. Your unworn jewelry and accessories become someone else's treasures! We hope to collect a wide variety of jewelry, from precious stone to costume.

Donated items can be dropped off in the basket in the PRCC office.

Items will be cleaned, displayed, and priced for PRCC members and their friends to purchase at Circle 10's “Le Cheap Boutique” Sale on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from  
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Great Hall.

All money raised will fund Circle 10 projects. Some of the projects we have funded this past year are; CROP Walk, St. Paul Sunday Night Suppers, Feed My Starving Children and our Circle 10 bereavement. Circle 10 bereavement provides food at the wake for PRCC members who have lost an immediate member of their family.

If you have questions, contact Tricia Williams at 847-685-0887 or [triciablakew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:triciablakew@sbcglobal.net) or Jamie Knoblauch at [jamie.knoblauch@ameritech.net](mailto:jamie.knoblauch@ameritech.net).

## MESSAGES TO THE CONGREGATION

Thank you to all who collected the Jewel Reward Stickers. PRCC had a stellar performance by collecting 2,256 stickers which translated to 26 various sizes of pots and pans. The whole donation was delivered to Good News Partners to use in their kitchen but also to distribute to people they assist into transitional housing.

Thanks again for supporting this effort. They are very grateful for our generosity!!

*Liz Swanson*

Thanks to everyone who came to the Circle 2 Valentine's Bake Sale. We have such fun making cute creations, and we love to see the congregation enjoy the treats! Most of the funds will be donated and some will be used for future Circle events.

*Teri Biedke*

Anne Schwartz and her family want to say thanks for the many cards and prayers sent on the death of my Mom, Marjorie Marshall. She attended many services and events at PRCC when she was able and so enjoyed and appreciated meeting you. God bless you for your rich and heartfelt outpouring of love and care at this difficult time.

*Anne and Family*

## 2011 LENTEN HEALTHY EATING CLASS

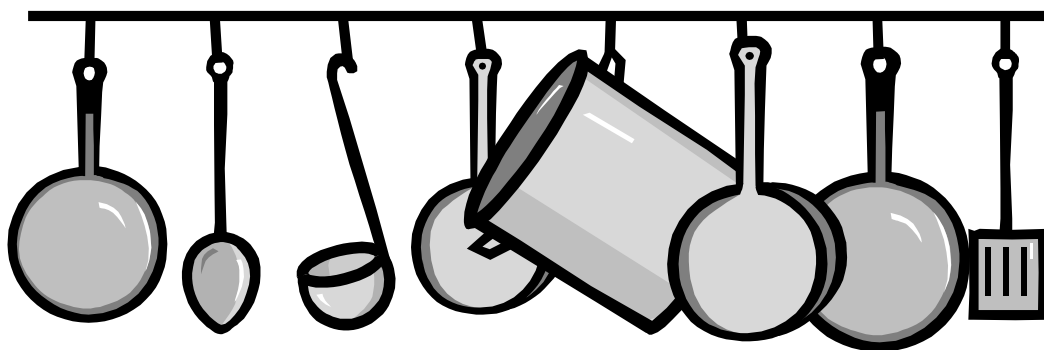
### THE JOY OF MINDFUL EATING

Please join us for this year's classes on healthy eating. Each class will meet in Jordan Hall after the 10 o'clock worship on Sundays from March 13 through April 17. Each will be about an hour long, and there will be a healthy snack served.

**We have a great line-up for you this year, including the following classes:**

- How to Build a Healthy Pizza (especially for pizza lovers and families)
- Bethel New Life: Their Road to Nutrition
- How to Keep Your Kitchen Healthy
- Growing a Spice Garden
- Composting: Just What Is It and Can I Play?
- Exercises in Mindful Eating and Viewing of *Julie and Julia*

We will also have an evening field trip on Thursday, April 7 to Whole Foods in Sauganash. We'll sample some products during a tour of the store and see their chefs demonstrate how to make a healthy, nutrient-rich recipe. Unlike the Sunday classes, this class will require registration because it is limited to 20 adult participants.



If you have wanted to begin eating more healthily, come to one or all of these classes.

You'll learn, you'll eat, and you'll have fun!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

### MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>

No Sunday School

One Worship service at 10:00 followed by an all church pancake breakfast. My Bible Students formally receive their Bibles in worship. After eight weeks of intensive Bible study, our new scholars will receive their Bibles.

### MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>

Sunday School Picture Day

Wear your smile and be sure to come to Sunday school so you are in your class picture. We are going for 100% attendance on picture day. ( *Day light saving time begins* )

### MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>

Healthy Eating For Kids

Marie Clapper's annual Lenten program series on healthy eating will focus on kids and pizza making. This program takes place after worship and kids are welcome.

### MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>

Holy Communion Class

This is a three-week class that prepares 2nd graders for their first communion. All are welcome to take communion at our church regardless of age, but this is a nice way to help teach kids about the meaning behind the sacrament. We attempt to schedule this class so that it aligns with Maundy Thursday for their first communion. Children that were unable to attend the class in previous years are welcome to join this year's class.

### MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> AND APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>

Spring Break — No Sunday School

## VBS 2011: SHAKE IT UP CAFÉ!

### *WHERE KIDS CARRY OUT GOD'S RECIPE.*

**When:** June 27-30, 6-8 p.m.

**What:** Vacation Bible School @ PRCC

**Who:** Preschool - 5th grade

**Kids:** will explore the Bible as an exciting cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's word. Kids will learn through interactive lessons including cooking, crafts, simple science projects, music and games.

**Adults:** We need you! Please contact Carol Longman or Teri Biedke if you are interested in helping with VBS. Parents, seniors and youth please join the fun and help with VBS.

If you have any questions please contact: Carol Longman [carol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:carol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org) (847) 823 - 3164

# PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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847-823-3165 (fax)

Email:  
office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Office Hours: 8:30 AM—12 PM,  
1:00 PM-4:00 PM  
Monday through Friday

Medical Lending Closet Hours:  
9:30 AM—12:00 PM  
Monday through Friday

## *Our Staff:*

*Rev. Dr. Brett McCleneghan*  
Senior Minister

*Rev. Ms. Nicole Urbach*  
Associate Minister

*Marie Clapper*  
Director of Pastoral Services

*Carol Longman*  
Director of Christian Education

*Sasha Gerritson*  
Minister of Music

*Rick Hagedorn*  
Organist

*Nicole Kremer*  
Parish Coordinator

*Patrice Dombro*  
Parish Secretary



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## MARCH 2011

### SAVE THE DATE!

### “Le Cheap Boutique” 2011!!

Sunday,  
April 10th  
9 am -12pm  
PRCC Great Hall