



Once again we've decked the halls of the Miller manse for Advent and Christmas. Included in our Christmas decorations is a collection of crèches. Each time I unwrap them I am reminded of the poem entitled "Christmas Eve" (based on Luke 2:1-14) written by one of my seminary

mentors, David Steele. I want to share it with you here, along with a prayer from the Church of Scotland Common Order.

We place the precious Christmas manger
Upon the mantle . . . out of danger.
Hand-painted Kings from Hummel lands
Are putty in young, chubby hands;
And glass-blown sheep are too exquisite
And fragile for a child to visit.
So, while we like them very much,
We ask the kids to look . . . DON'T TOUCH!

But once, I saw on a low table,
Mary, Joseph, star and stable,
The Babe, some sheep, and several kings
Heavy, sturdy, rough-hewn things.
Here children dawdled—took their ease,
Read the sign: "Come, touch us, please."
And every child produced a fresh
Arrangement of that Christmas Creche.

While donkeys watched the Baby sleep,
Angels petted woolly sheep.
And Mary rested from the noise
As Joseph chatted with the boys.
Each child knew to some degree
Just how that scene was meant to be.
I watched, with quite a little mirth
Them orchestrate the Holy Birth.

So God, for her who understands,
Entrusts His coming to our hands.
He urges us now to begin
To place ourselves, our kith and kin. . .
And choose, among the many choices,
Where best we'll hear those angels' voices;
And join that Hallelujah Chorus
Knowing God's at hand . . . and for us.

So, friends, with bright and shiny faces,
The King is coming! Take your places!

A Prayer for Christmas Day

(Taken from the Church of Scotland Common Order – 1994.)

Today, O God,
the soles of your feet
have touched the earth.
Today,
the back street, the forgotten place
have been lit up with significance.
Today,
the households of earth
welcome the King of heaven.
For you have come among us,
you are one of us.
So may our songs rise to surround your throne
as our knees bend to salute your cradle.
Amen.

Peace,

The Christmas Season



Pizza & Gingerbread House Party

Sunday, December 8 / 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Tree-Lighting

Sunday, December 8 / 7:00 p.m.

Cantata Sunday

Monteverdi *Beatus Vir* and Vivaldi *Magnificat*
Sunday, December 15 / 10:00 a.m. Worship

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22 / 4:00 p.m.



Christmas Eve



Family Services

with Live Nativity and Candlelighting
3:30 & 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

with the Chancel Choir and String Quartet
10:00 p.m.

Christmas Season 2019, Year-End Giving

~ RPC Family Fellowship ~

Pizza & Gingerbread House Party!



Join us for Gingerbread House decorating and a Pizza Dinner and stay for the Tree Lighting at 7:00 p.m. Once the trees have been lit and dessert enjoyed, your house will be dry and ready to take home.

Sunday, December 8,
Assembly Room: 6:00–7:00 p.m.

RSVP to Rev. JP (jmarshall@ryepc.com)
with how many houses you'll need.



SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 8,
7:00 P.M.

All are invited to this special event that ushers in the Christmas season!
Carols around the trees on the front lawn to welcome in the Christmas season with dessert following at the Miller manse,
890 Boston Post Road
Please bring a favorite Christmas dessert to share.

Cantata Sunday

December 15, 10:00 a.m. Worship



Monteverdi
Beatus vir



Vivaldi
Magnificat

RPC Chancel Choir, soloists,
accompanied by
a 14-piece orchestra

Please note:

There will not be a service at 8:30 a.m. on this day.

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant



Sunday,
December 22,
at 4:00 p.m.
in the
Sanctuary

Thrift Shop Annual Christmas Sale



Sunday, December 8,
During 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

The Thrift Shop brings up the *best* of the Christmas donations. Some are brand new! Many, many lovely items, including trees and tree stands, and great gift options such as a supplemental teacher gift, for example. All the platters, baskets, and holiday plates you need for Christmastime entertaining. Brighten up your house without spending a fortune.

Note: we are looking for donations—if you're purging as you get out your Christmas decorations, please think of us. Contact [Suzanne Davies](#) for further information.

As always, at the Thrift Shop you can *have fun and do good!*

YEAR-END GIVING

YOUR CHARITABLE DEDUCTION

As 2019 and the Imagine Initiative come to an end, please keep in mind the church financial records will close on **Monday, December 30, 2019, at noon**. All checks must be received by **December 31** to qualify for a charitable deduction in the **2019 tax year**.

As you make your year-end gifts to the church, please note the purpose in the memo line or on the envelope—Imagine, Annual Giving, Christmas Joy Offering, Christmas Flowers & Music. Separate checks for gifts are appreciated.

PLEDGE BALANCE

If you would like to check your annual giving and Imagine balance online through Access ACS, please [click here](#).

DONATING STOCK TO RPC

Gifts of stock to RPC are cleared through Janney Montgomery Scott LLC DTC #0374. For further credit to Rye Presbyterian Church Acct. #8926-9870. It is helpful as well to note that the church's legal name is the **Presbyterian Church in the Town of Rye**, and our tax ID is 13-1740299. If you have questions or a problem, contact Geoff Beringer at:

Janney Montgomery Scott
The Beringer Weinstock Group
800 Post Rd., Darien, CT 06820
Tel: 203-662-6360

To insure that your donation is accurately recorded at RPC, please also forward a copy of your letter of instruction to:

Maida Robinson
mrobinson@ryepc.com.

Stewardship Update, Christmas Joy Offering



Stewardship 2020 Update

As of November 25, here's where we stand:

- Annual Stewardship for 2020: 170 pledges for \$890,000, up \$83,000 from 2019!

It is not too late to be included!

To make pledges for Stewardship 2020, please contact the church office at 967-0842, or pledge online [here](#).

Those who have made annual Stewardship pledges by December 9 will be gratefully acknowledged by name in the December 15 worship bulletin.

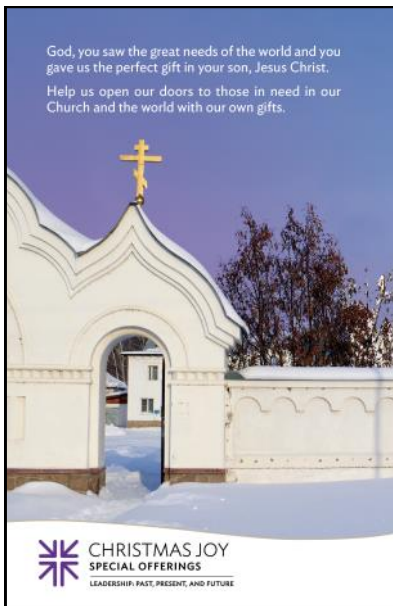
The church leadership, along with your Stewardship Committee, is deeply thankful for the generous response of the congregation to our 2020 stewardship campaign. As we celebrate 150 years of the open doors of our sanctuary, we thank you for opening your hearts to be a part of this work of this church in the coming year.

A heartfelt thank you to all who have sent in your pledges already – you have stepped into the doors of the future with faithfulness and generosity!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Shopping with Amazon this season?
Make RPC your charity of choice at smile.amazon.com.

The Christmas Joy Offering



Every year during this season of Advent and Christmas, Presbyterians around the world share with others in need through our church-wide Christmas Joy offering.

This Offering supports two great missions.

The Christmas Joy Offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (BOP), which provides critical financial assistance to both current and retired church workers to support them through life's challenging circumstances.

In 2018, \$1.2 million of gifts were used to provide financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need. The BOP provided income supplements to nearly 325 households, assisting retired church workers and their surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves. Housing supplements from the BOP helped more than 262 households remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care. Finally, Shared and Emergency Grants helped more than 291 households face times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.

The second mission is the PC (USA), which has a very strong historical commitment to higher learning, and which promotes education and leadership development through the establishment

and support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our future leaders of color can receive much needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges. In 2018, \$1.0 million of gifts were used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools. Many of these students are the first in their families to enroll in higher educations. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years.

We will have offering envelopes in the sanctuary pews starting Sunday, December 1, and the Christmas Joy Offering will continue until Sunday, December 22. Thank you, in advance, for your continued generosity.

“Christmas Joy” envelopes will be in the pews beginning Sunday, December 1. Please note **Christmas Joy** on the memo line of your check.

To donate online, [click here](#).

Christian Education, Christian Education Newsletter, Confirmation

Sunday School

This month we are celebrating the season of Advent, the season of waiting, longing, promise, and preparation. Advent reminds us that even as we remember all that God has done for us, we still long for a time when the brokenness of our world will be transformed into the fullness of God’s reign. This all leads up to the celebration of Christmas, where the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come – Jesus Christ our Savior.

We will incorporate a focus on the Advent season into our Sunday morning classes as we continue to invite our children to live into and out of God’s story of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. We invite families to engage these stories together at home! You can do this by following along at:

<https://digital.dwellicurriculum.org/>, which gives parents a glimpse into what we will focus on each week.

Middle School Connection

Connection, RPC’s Middle School Youth Group, is open to all 6th–8th graders.

Wednesday, December 4,

5:30-6:45 p.m., Youth Rooms:

We’ll meet for a pizza dinner, an Advent reflection, and some “Christmas spirit.

High School Youth Group

All 9th–12th graders are welcome at RPC’s High School Youth Group!

Saturday, December 7,

9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Meet at RPC:

We’ll help serve those in need at “Dinner at Noon” at the Port Chester Carver Center. Please RSVP to:

Rev. JP (jmarshall@rvepc.com).

Sunday, December 15,

1:30-2:30 p.m., Marshall Manse:

Join Susie and JP at their house for some hot chocolate and snacks as we decorate Christmas cookies to hand out during caroling later that night.

Sunday, December 15,

6:00-8:00 p.m., Youth Rooms:

We will meet in the Youth Rooms for a quick pizza dinner before we head out to sing and spread Christmas cheer in our community!

We are on Instagram!

Username: rvepresyouth (click [here](#)).

Updates through GroupMe!

Please email your name and phone number - jmarshall@rvepc.com.

Updates through Remind!

Text @ryepr to 81010 or sign up at <https://www.remind.com/join/rvepr>.

Confirmation 2020

An accident? A series of lucky mutations? Why are we here? And if God made the world and declared it good, what went wrong? And how, in the middle of busy lives, do we better connect with the God of the universe?

These are the questions on the plate of the confirmation class as they reflect on who they are, and their sense of what God is up to in the world. This month, they will be writing a brief paper on their thoughts and questions about all that we have covered so far.

In an effort to keep up their solid work, there will be regular class meetings on Sunday afternoons, December 8 and 15, in the Westminster Room.

Advent Calendar:

This year we have created an Advent Calendar for our whole community to use during the season of Advent! Starting December 1, each day brings an opportunity to live into the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. It is our hope that this calendar helps you experience God's presence in your daily lives and inspire you to share God's love with your neighbors during this season of Advent. To receive a copy of this calendar, keep an eye out for physical copies at all sanctuary entrances starting Sunday, December 1, and the PDF version in our weekly emails!

Connection Shows Up & Makes

The Connection group enjoyed a time of showing and making!



Stephen Ministry, Caritas, Nola, Christmas Flowers & Music

In December Darkness

The whole world waits in December darkness
for a glimpse of the Light of God.
Even those who snarl "Humbug!"
and chase away the carolers
have been seen looking toward the skies.
The one who declared he never would forgive
has forgiven,
and those who left home
have returned,
and even wars are halted,
if briefly,
as the whole world looks starward.
In the December darkness
we peer from our windows
watching for an angel with rainbow wings.
to announce the Hope of the World.

"Kneeling in Bethlehem" by Ann Weems

If you would like more information about the hope found
when meeting with an RPC Stephen Minister, please contact:
Patti Adimari (914-844-8974; pattirvs@optonline.net)
or RPC Clergy.



2020 Summer High School Mission Trips to New Orleans



Continuing our work in places
of need, next year there will be
a trip to New Orleans: June
28—July 4. For those interested
in learning more, there will be
an information session on Sun-
day, December 15, in the Westminster Room immediately
following worship. We will also discuss interest in a second
trip for August 2-8. Sign-up for the trip will begin online on
Monday, January 6, at 8:00 p.m. and will require a \$100 non-
refundable deposit. Space is limited, so please mark your
calendars. Contact Rev. JP (jmarshall@ryepc.com) with
any questions.

Contemplative Saturday at 5 Service December 14 in the Chapel

*Come, enter God's presence.
Find your center.*



Caritas of Port Chester

Caritas of Port Chester, located in central
Port Chester, at St. Peter's Episcopal
Church, 19 Smith St, will provide approx-
imately 190,000 meals in 2019 through their
five-day-a-week Soup Kitchen and twice-
weekly Choice Pantry.

There is a small staff, but it is the volunteers that help
Caritas PC accomplish its work. RPC members are invited to
become part of this effort. Volunteers are needed in the Sous
Chef program that preps the lunch meals and in the Choice
Pantry as stockers and personal shoppers.

The Sous Chef program requires a commitment of one
weekday a month from 9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m., helping to prep
and serve the meals. Volunteers for the Pantry can come
either Wednesdays (8:00-9:30 a.m.) or Saturdays (7:00-9:30
a.m.). Any student 14 years or older can volunteer and earn
community service. Families can volunteer, too.

It will be the best time you've ever had volunteering. For
more information contact: Pat Hart at Caritas PC, 914-305-
3967 or info@caritaspc.org.

THE GREENING OF THE KIRK



Yes, it feels early . . . but it's almost that
time when RPC elves gather together to
decorate the Sanctuary for the holidays.

Come by on **Wednesday, December 4,**
from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

As usual, there will be food and drink,
music, and lots of merriment.

Please contact [Kristin Jautz](mailto:Kristin.Jautz) if we can
count on you this year!



Be an Angel!

What would Christmas be without the
beautiful flowers and glorious music in
our historic church? Please help defray
the cost of our Christmas flowers and
music. Use the designated envelope in the
pew rack. Please indicate "Christmas Flowers & Music" on
the memo line of your check.

You may also donate online—[click here](#).

For your gift to be acknowledged in the
Christmas Eve program, your donation *must* be received no
later than **Monday, December 9.**

Music Notes



From Jason Charneski

Cantata Sunday:

December 15, in 10:00 a.m. worship

Be sure to come to 10:00 a.m. worship on December 15, as that day will be our annual Cantata Sunday! The Chancel Choir and soloists will offer two works by composers who worked in Venice: the *Beatus vir*, a setting of Psalm 112, by Claudio Monteverdi, and the *Magnificat* (a setting of Mary's song of praise, found in the Bible at Luke 1:46-55) by Antonio Vivaldi. In addition, the orchestra will present two movements from Bach's *Concerto in C Minor for Violin and Oboe* (BWV 1060a) and the last movement of Vivaldi's *Concerto in A minor for Two Oboes* (RV 536). A festive reception will follow the service. Cantata Sunday is made possible through the generosity of Ann and Samuel Croll, Susan and Dod Fraser, and Pamela Kindler.

An Invitation:

Join the Chancel Choir for Christmas Eve!

Attention all, especially those of good voice and those college students who will be home for Christmas: Please let me know (jcharneski@ryepc.com) if you'd like to sing in the Chancel Choir for the 10:00 p.m. service (Candlelight Lessons and Carols) on Christmas Eve.

So that you might plan accordingly, the warm-up that evening will begin at 9:00 p.m. Rehearsals for Christmas Eve music will commence on December 1 as a part of the choir's regular weekly rehearsal (following the 10:00 a.m. service).

Rye
Presbyterian
Church

Magnificent Music
2019-2020

Cantata Sunday

Music for Choir, Solo Voices, and Orchestra

Vivaldi: Magnificat

Monteverdi: Beatus vir

Bach: Concerto for Violin and Oboe



Sunday, December 15, at 10:00 a.m.

A festive reception will follow the service.

Cantata Sunday is made possible through the generosity of donors.

David Coleman Concert, Coming Home

STANDING O FOR THREE CHORDS AND THE TRUTH



gree, a license in horticulture and nursery management, he discovers he has to start at the bottom again, in Jim Croce’s “Car Wash Blues.”

During his narrative segments, David also shed some overall light on the prison experience. Prison is a very dangerous place, where one must always be on one’s guard. The Correction Officers are often more to be feared than the inmates. Yet there are some on the staff of various prisons who took pains to steer David in the right direction. He also noted that the presence of volunteers is a central element in rehabilitation. When meeting with volunteers, even for a brief couple of hours, inmates can be free to open up, experience a sense of humanity, and understand there are individuals on the outside eager to help them in the present and welcome them on release.

At the end of the concert, David invited the audience to join him in the chorus of “Soulshine”:

Soulshine

It’s better than sunshine

It’s better than moonshine,

Damn sure better than rain

Hey now people don’t mind

We all feel this way sometimes

You gotta let your soul shine, shine till the break of day.

On November 17, David Coleman gave a moving and memorable concert, *Three Chords and the Truth*, for a rapt audience of about 100. At the end, David received a well-deserved standing ovation. In the concert, David was accompanied by Robert Pollock, a brilliant violinist and guitarist with whom he had been incarcerated. After each of the 12 songs that David sang while playing his guitar, he read a brief narrative from his life story. It is a harrowing story of an abusive childhood, followed by truancy in his early years, and petty crimes in his early teens, which earned him two years in a juvenile detention facility. After his release, life was no better and he resumed his criminal ways. Ultimately, he killed another person for which he was sentenced, at age 17, to 25 years to life. He was released less than three years ago.

The songs David sang, half of which he wrote, put into music pieces of the narrative of David’s life. For example “Pill Poppin’ Man” recounts his serious addiction to drugs (which he stopped taking, along with alcohol, about 30 years ago) or “Coffin Dancer,” describes the trajectory that crime and violence were taking his life. The arc of David’s life touches the bottom in “Battle of the Soul,” which contains this refrain:

Do I have the strength to die
the death that opens the gate
the courage to gaze beyond
the abyss where God awaits

Is it worth the pain
pulling myself apart
Rebuild the foundation
Have a change of heart

After this song, the arc of the music in the concert, as well as the arc of David’s life, swung back up, including a lovely song he wrote for this concert called “Before You Leave” as a reflection on re-connection with his mother. In the last solo song, after he was released, having earned a bachelor’s degree, a master’s de-

This was a fitting end to an evening which, for all its stories of abuse, anger, crime, and prison, in the end was a testament to the power of music to enrich the human soul.



COMING HOME is Coming Back in 2020, beginning February 6

Our **COMING HOME** program seeks to empower those who are returning to the community from incarceration. This 18-week program pairs RPC congregants with the formerly incarcerated to help them transition back to their communities. Coming Home provides life skills, goalsetting, and sharing personal stories in a safe, supportive community.

A key component of this program is the relationships that develop between mentors (volunteers from our congregation) and program participants. We are in need of those who are willing to serve as mentors. If you are willing to do so, or simply want to know more about this ministry opportunity, please contact John Miller at jmiller@ryepc.com, or at (914) 967-0842.

We will also need folks who are willing to serve as cooks and hosts as each evening includes a meal prepared and served by RPC congregants, who share table fellowship as well. Again, please contact John Miller if you could assist in this important role.

For more information, contact Pastor John Miller at jmiller@ryepc.com, or at (914) 967-0842.

October Events

Pumpkin Carving at RPC

On Sunday, October 27, twenty-five families gathered for a super fun night filled with delicious food, the carving of pumpkins, and great company!

Thank you to everyone for coming out and making this event a fantastic time!



RPC deacons prepare care packages for RPC college freshmen to get them through the end of the first semester.



Weekends in December, Bible Study, Live Nativity

Saturday, November 30

5:00 p.m. Contemplative Service / Chapel

Sunday, December 1: 1st Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room

10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion / Sanctuary
Sunday School
-Children attend worship through children's message

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

Saturday, December 7

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study / Library

5:00 p.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel

Sunday, December 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room

9:00 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal / Jason's office

10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion / Sanctuary
Children's Choir sings
Sunday School
-Children attend worship through children's message

11:00 a.m. Thrift Shop Sale during Coffee Hour / Assembly Room

11:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal / Westminster Room

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal / Choir Room

4:00 & 5:00 p.m. Confirmation / Westminster Room

6:00 p.m. Gingerbread House Party / Assembly room

7:00 p.m. Tree Lighting followed by dessert at Miller manse

Saturday, December 14

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study / Library

5:00 p.m. Contemplative Service / Chapel

Sunday, December 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Cantata Sunday—No 8:30 a.m. Service

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room

9:15 a.m. Youth Choir / Jason's office

10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary
Enrichment Sunday: PreK-3rd grade in Westminster Room; 4th-8th grade remains in worship.

11:00 a.m. Live Nativity rehearsal / Westminster Rm & Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. NOLA Information Meeting / Westminster Room

4:00 & 5:00 p.m. Confirmation / Westminster Room

6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group / Youth Room

8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library

Saturday, December 21

5:00 p.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel

Sunday, December 22: 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room

9:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal / Jason's office

10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary
Youth Choir sings
Sunday School
-Children attend worship through children's message.

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal / Choir Room & Chancel

4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant & Reception / Sanctuary & Assembly Room

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

3:30 & 5:00 p.m. Family Services with Live Nativity & Candlelighting

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 28

5:00 p.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel

Sunday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary
Enrichment Sunday: PreK-5th grade in the Westminster Room, Middle School remains in worship.

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sunday, December 15
at 8:00 p.m. in the Library

Contact [Dan Love](#) if you'd like to be on email reminder list.

Monday Morning Bible Discussion

Monday, December 9
at 9:30 a.m. in the Library

Our tour through the highlights of the Hebrew Scriptures continues on **December 9**. This month we will slow down just a bit to take in and study a few of the psalms. All are welcome to join in - 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. in the church library.

Contact [Dan Love](#) if you'd like to be on email reminder list.

Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.,
December 7 & 14, Library

Please join the Women's Bible Study twice monthly on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Library. A warm welcome and hot coffee await!

For further information, contact [Cynthia De Santis](#)



LIVE NATIVITY
Family Christmas Eve Services
at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.

For further information, contact [Lisa Rawson](#).

December Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDINGS CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, AND THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS

BOARD MEETINGS

Trustees: Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m., home of Karen and Graham Beatty
Deacons: Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 p.m., Love Manse
Session: Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 p.m., TBD

WORSHIP AND STUDY

Worship on Saturday Evening in the Chapel:

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., December 7, 14*, 21, & 28 (*Contemplative Service on Dec. 14)

Worship on Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel (*Note: There will not be an 8:30 a.m. service on December 15*)

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary;

December 15 at 10:00 a.m.: **Cantata Sunday**, Monteverdi *Beatus vir* and Vivaldi *Magnificat*

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24, in the Sanctuary:

3:30 & 5:00 p.m. Family Services with Live Nativity & Candlelighting

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service and Lessons & Carols with Chancel Choir & String Quartet

Prayer Gatherings: Sundays in the Library at 8:40 a.m.

Adult Education:

Sundays, 9:00-9:45 a.m., Westminster Room: "Coffee & Conversation": December 1, 8, 15, & 22

"Everything You Missed or Forgot from Confirmation": Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Library, December 17

Sunday School: Regular Sunday School on December 1, 8, & 22

December 15 (Cantata Sunday): Enrichment Sunday: PreK-3rd grade in Westminster Room;
 4th-8th grade remains in worship

December 29—Enrichment Sunday: PreK-5th grade in the Westminster Room, Middle School remains in worship.

Confirmation: Sundays: December 8 & 15, 4:00 & 5:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Men's Sunday Bible Study: December 15, 8:00 p.m., Library

Monday Morning Bible Discussion: Monday, December 9, 9:30 a.m., Library

Women's Bible Study: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m., December 7 & 14, Library

Women's Discipleship: Tuesdays, December 3 & 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Library.

YOUTH

Boy Scout Troop #2: Every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Connection: Wednesday, December 4, 5:30 p.m., Youth Room

High School Youth Group: Saturday, December 7: Dinner at Noon, 9:00 a.m. meet at RPC

Sunday, December 15: Cookie Decorating, 1:30 p.m., Marshall Manse;

Pizza Dinner followed by Caroling: Meet at 6:00 p.m., Youth Rooms

MUSIC

Chancel Choir Rehearsal:

Sundays, December 1, 8, & 22, 11:15 a.m. / Choir Room

Thursday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., Choir and Orchestra rehearsal / Sanctuary

Children's Choir Rehearsal: Sunday December 8, 9:00 a.m., Jason's office

Youth Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, December 8, 11:00 a.m., Westminster; December 15, & 22, 9:00 a.m., Jason's office

OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

3 Ts: Tuesday, December 17, 10:00 a.m., Westminster Room

Pizza & Gingerbread House Party: Sunday, December 8, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Christmas Tree Lighting: Sunday, December 8, 7:00 p.m. Dessert follows at the Miller manse.

Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal & Pizza Party: Thursday, December 19, 3:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 22, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Greening of the Kirk: Wednesday, December 4, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Mission & Outreach: Wednesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m., Library

NOLA Youth Mission Trip Informational Meeting: Sunday, December 15, 11:00 a.m., Westminster Room

Stephen Ministry: Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, December 3, 6:00 p.m., Library

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesday, December 3, 7:00 p.m., Library

Thrift Shop: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Annual Christmas Sale: Sunday, December 8, during Coffee Hour following 10:00 a.m. worship

Women's Association: Monthly meeting, Monday, December 2, Library

Worship & Music: Wednesday, December 4, 7:30 p.m., Conference Room

OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS

Helping Hands: Thursday, December 19, Kitchen & Assembly Room

AA Rye Harrison Group: Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room

AA Group: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

Mr. Westchester/Al-Anon Group: Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Library

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

The Magic of a Cardboard Box!



In one of our classes we observed the children creating different types of structures, buildings, homes, and forts in the dramatic play and block areas of the classroom.

The students had been working together very successfully each day with great intention. It was fascinating to observe, and we knew we needed to continue to support and drive this interest in the class! Mrs. Sculti shared a story of



her trip to Tripodi's Appliance Store in Port Chester!

Mr. Tripodi discovered that Mrs. Sculti was a preschool director and offered to donate a large box for a class. Mrs. Sculti shared this with the students and they were eager to use the box donation in a classroom space. As a class, the children agreed upon building a fort, or as one child pointed out, "A space that is a little house for us."

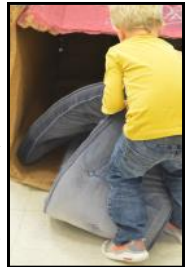
As to be expected, everyone wanted a chance to go inside the new home. The children tested it out and figured out that two child-sized bodies could fit in the box. The children were curious to see if an adult could fit in the box. When Mrs. Bellotti visited the classroom to take attendance, they asked her to see if she could fit in the new home.



She tried it out and fit perfectly inside. She did mention that it was little hard on the floor and was wondering if the children were

planning on putting in something softer on the inside.

Mrs. Sculti remembered that she spotted a cushion on the church side and asked some students if they wanted to ask the church if we could borrow it for the new classroom space. Three children volunteered to take a trip over to the church. They found the cushion in the Assembly Room and carried it over to the church office. They asked the church receptionist, Denise, if they could borrow it. She called Mr. Juan for approval and he said: "Yes, you can borrow it for 14 days. The church will need it back for the bench in the hall at that point." Mr. Juan helped the children carry the cushion up the steps and they showed him their new space. He loved it! Thank you Mr. Juan for sharing the cushion with us!



[The Rev. Daniel Love](#), Co-Pastor

[The Rev. Dr. John Miller](#), Co-Pastor

[The Rev. Jean-Paul Marshall](#), Associate Pastor for Christian Education

[Jason Charneski](#), Director of Music and Organist

[Lisa Rawson](#), Director of Choirs for Children and Youth

[Maida Robinson](#), Chief Administrative Officer

[Peggy Berretta](#), Administrative Assistant

[Denise LeVan](#), Pastoral Assistant

[Juan Velasquez](#), Head Sexton/Building Manager

Richard Gress, Knock Intern in Sacred Music

Rye Presbyterian Church

882 Boston Post Road

Rye, New York 1058

Tel: 914.967.0842

www.ryepc.com

We are a Stephen Ministry church.