# Grace Notes

June 2022 • Vol. 226



## **Proliferation of Pentecost**

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When I served as pastor of NorthPark Presbyterian Church in Dallas, TX, less than a half mile from our church campus was the Bible Arts Center, a non-denominational museum that featured biblical related artwork. The centerpiece of the museum was a mural, one of the largest paintings in the world at the time, entitled, "The Miracle at Pentecost" by artist Torger Thompson, based upon Acts 2:1-21. (See photo above.)

Thompson started as a chart artist, doing Bible story drawings in local Dallas churches. He eventually caught the eye of a Dallas patron who commissioned him to do the mural, completed in 1969, which measured 124 feet wide by 20 feet tall. It was the centerpiece of the museum from 1969-2005. In June of 2005 the museum was gutted by fire and the painting was destroyed. It would take five years for the non-profit museum to rebuild. It reopened on Good Friday of 2010, renamed the Museum of Biblical Art. On the day of the reopening, Scott Peck, the museum director, was quoted in the local paper as saying, "Before the fire, the *Miracle at Pentecost* painting was the focal point of the museum. Now, it has several."

Is there some biblical truth to be found in this story? "Before the fire, the painting was the focal point, but now there are several." We know from Acts 1:15 that there are at least 120 followers of Jesus present when the Pentecost Proliferation, the spreading of God's Spirit, takes place. It interesting that this is 10 times the number of disciples that had been with Jesus for the past three years. The original 12 disciples (followers or students of Jesus) is\\are now multiplied ten-fold as they now become known as "the apostles" (those who are sent).

Then it happens – the Spirit comes upon them. Acts 2:1-4: "<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."

Following the proliferation of the Spirit, Peter shares with even a larger number who had gathered as a result of the Spirit coming upon the apostles, and after hearing his testimony, another 3,000 people believed and were baptized. That's a multiple of 25 over the 120. Talk about a proliferation of power! No longer was just Jesus the focus, or the twelve, or the 120, or even the 3,000. The rest of the Book of Acts is about how God's Spirit, how God's power, is proliferated far beyond Pentecost, fulling Jesus' words, "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Before the fire (Pentecost), there was a particular focus point, now God's Spirit has been proliferated to a myriad of places.

Sunday, June 5, is the Day of Pentecost. For us at Rye Presbyterian Church it will be a day filled with celebration. Not only is it Pentecost, often referred to as the birthday of the Church, we will also be welcoming our 2022 Confirmation Class, as well as sharing in the Sacrament of Communion. This will be a particular focal point for us. May it also again be the launching point for us as God's people who are sent to proliferate the power of Pentecost in the world. May we be like Paul, who we are told in the final verses of the Book of Acts, was "proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance." May it be so.

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# **Pentecost Offering**

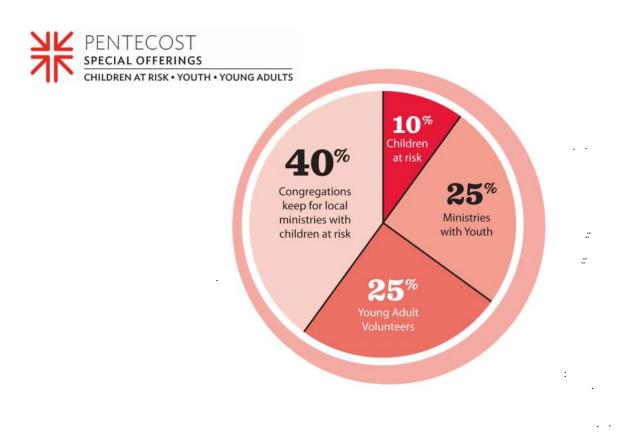


At Pentecost, we celebrate God's pouring out of the Holy Spirit so that everyone may hear and know a word of welcome. We are all connected in God's household — living, learning and celebrating as the church ... together.

In this season of new awakening, we look particularly to children, youth and young adults for their new thoughts, approaches and questions. The psalmist reminds us that faith is established in our earliest years, saying, "For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth." These youngest members of the household of faith need our support to reach their full potential in faith and life. We all have important roles to play in their journey. And while we teach and lead, we often find that these younger ones give us new insights into our own faith and in how the Holy Spirit is moving in our world. Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering, one of the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that we receive at Rye Presbyterian, support ministries with children, youth and young adults in our community, across the nation and around the world.

As we prepare to receive the Pentecost Offering, remember that 40% of the offering remains in our community. As we did last year, our 40% will be used to support the Open Door Medical Clinic's Baby Bundle program. The remainder of the offering is forwarded to the denomination so that young adults can form a foundation for their lives through a year of service in the Young Adult Volunteer Program; youth can be among the 5,000-plus having mountaintop experiences in worship, play and faith formation at events like the Presbyterian Youth Triennium; and children can receive educational support through the Educate a Child, Transform the World initiative.

During this Pentecost season, as we celebrate God's gift to the church of Spirit-led energy, intelligence, imagination and love, you are invited to join us in celebrating our part in building lives of faith among our children, youth and young adults. These younger members of the household of faith are not just the future of the church — they ARE the church. Please give generously. The offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, June 5.



# Nominating Committee, Stephen Ministry, Empty Bowls



## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS**

The Nominating Committee is compiling a list of church members interested in serving as church officers or

as members of the Nominating Committee. Please feel free to suggest yourself or someone you know for consideration. The Nominating Committee values and encourages self-nominations. Before nominating someone, please review the brief description of each Board found following the Recommendation Form found on the link below. Each elder, trustee, and deacon serves a three-year term. Members of the Nominating Committee serve a two-year term. Terms begin in January 2023.

The Nominating Committee would appreciate receiving your ideas and expressions of interest now. *The Recommendations Form can be accessed <u>here.</u> Please return the form to the church office or via email:* 

#### <u>nominations@ryepc.com.</u>

Note that there is also an option on the site to submit your recommendations directly online.

## **CARING CONNECTIONS**

## Save the Date! Stephen Ministry Course Fall 2022 at RPC

Caring Connections, a Stephen Ministry-based training course, has been helping RPC members become better listeners and caregivers since 2004. Planning is in the works for our eleventh offering, now open to all who wish to explore and improve skills that help people in need. The eightweek program is held on Tuesday evenings between Saturday retreats on September 17 and November 19th. Those interested in becoming a Stephen Minister should definitely take the course, which includes additional sessions in 2023. Classes will be led by our clergy and RPC Stephen Leaders.

For more information and to register, contact Carol Love, <u>cloveny@optonline.net</u>



After a pandemic hiatus, it was wonderful to have clay back in the house! The middle school youth hosted and worked with our friends at the Clay Art Center and so many showed up to buy the amazing Kettle bowls made for this event. Delicious soup was generously provided by Kitchen Cuisine, and as has been tradition for many years, the good folks at the Kneaded Bread in Port Chester provided their yummy goods! With all this coming together, we raised over \$2,500 all to go to hunger relief locally through the Carver Center and Meals on Main Street. Thank you to one and all!







# Christian Education, Rise Against Hunger

During the month of June, we make our transition into Summer Sunday School! As a combined class for PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade, we will continue our journey through our Sunday School curriculum called **Celebrate Wonder**, which seeks to engage our children's natural sense of wonder and curiosity to help them understand God's love! Through opportunities for reflection, engaging activities, and spiritual practices, our children will be given a safe space to ask big questions and help them live into their identities as beloved children of God. Below are the stories we are engaging this month:

- June 5: Acts 2:1-41 (Pentecost)
- June 12 End-of-the-Year Celebration June 19: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
  - (Spiritual Gifts)
- June 26: Galatians 5:22-23 (Fruit of the Spirit)

We invite families to engage these stories together at home. This curriculum comes with its own Take-Home pages that invite families to read, wonder, and pray together. These pages will be sent with your children every Sunday morning. We will also include these pages in our **weekly Christian Ed newsletter**. If you would like to receive these pages and are not already signed up for our newsletter, please contact Rev. JP (jmarshall@ryepc.com).

#### Middle School Connection

All 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome at RPC's Connection!

•Wednesday, June 1, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms. We'll take time to catch up with one another over pizza, play some games, and reflect together.

•Wednesday, June 15, 5:30 p.m., Grape Arbor & Great Lawn. We'll meet for hamburgers, hot dogs, and some end-of-the-year fun! Current 5th graders are invited to come hang out with the Connection youth group

•Saturday Morning Donuts & Lawn Games: Throughout the summer, we will meet on the Great Lawn on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for donuts, lawn games, and connection. Let Rev. JP (<u>imarshall@ryepc.com</u>) know if your youth will be joining us so we can make sure to have enough donuts. We will gather on the following Saturdays: June 25, July 9, July 23, August 20.

Let **Rev. JP** (<u>imarshall@ryepc.com</u>) if know if you'd like to be on the **parent email list**. All updates about Connection gatherings will be put on the website each month.

#### **Updates through Remind!**

Text @rpccon to 81010 or sign up at: https://www.remind.com/join/rpccon

#### **High School Youth Group**

All 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome at RPC's High School Youth Group!

#### •Sunday, June 5, 6:00 p.m.,

**RPC Kitchen.** All NOLA participants are invited to join us for tie-dying shirts, pizza, and games.

•Sunday, June 5, 12:00 p.m., Jay Heritage Center, (210 Boston Post Road). Join us as we partner with Jay Heritage Center in planting, maintaining, and harvesting organic garden beds on Sunday afternoons. All the produce harvested from the beds will be given to Caritas to distribute to families in need. Let Rev. JP (<u>imarshall@ryepc.com</u>) know if you are planning on joining us.

•Sunday, June 12, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room and Great Lawn. Join us for an evening of outdoor fun with food and lawn games. Current 8th graders are invited to come hang out with the high school youth group.

•Saturday Morning Donuts & Lawn Games: Throughout the summer, we will meet on the Great Lawn on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for donuts, lawn games, and connection. Let Rev. JP (<u>imarshall@ryepc.com</u>) know if your youth will be joining us so we can make sure to have enough donuts. We will gather on the following Saturdays: June 25, July 9, July 23, August 20.

High School Youth Group is on Instagram: Username: ryepresyouth Updates through Remind! Text @ryepre to 81010 or sign up at: <u>https://www.remind.com/join/ryepre</u>.



Thank you to everyone who helped us pack over 10,000 meals!







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# **Music Notes**



by Jason Charneski

#### Hear and See Teddy Play Both Organs

Please plan to stay following worship on Sunday, June 5, in order to see and hear Teddy Cheng, our Knock Intern in Sacred Music, offer a 45-minute concert utilizing the resources of both organs – chapel and chancel!

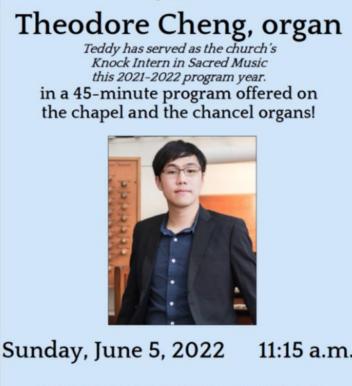
Teddy's last Sunday with us will be June 12; thus, this is an appropriate way for him to share his gratitude toward the church and for us to express our thanks to and support of him.

#### Volunteer Summer Choir Returns

In yet another step back toward normal, we will resume the custom of having a volunteer pick-up choir offer a simple, yet lovely piece of music within the 10:00 a.m. service many Sundays this summer (June 19 through August 7). Please let me know (jcharneski@ryepc.com) if you'd like to sing and on which Sundays (in order for me to plan and prepare materials). We'll meet at 9:30, in the chapel, to rehearse. The only requirement is a love for singing!

**Rye Presbyterian Church** 

presents



CDC "Community Level" COVID standards will apply.

Rye Presbyterian Church 882 Boston Post Rd. Rye, NY 10580

# Then the Organ and the Choir Were Located in the Balcony (Continuing from last month's newsletter)

In 1908, a new organ, built by the Hillgreen, Lane & Co. of Alliance, Ohio, was installed in the balcony. This replaced the 1872 organ that had been located in the northeast corner of the main floor (that organ was sold to a church in Memphis, Tenn.). Why a new organ and why the placement of it in the balcony?

From what I can determine (based upon photos and having read the church history), the need for additional congregational seating on the main floor, coupled with the desire to have a choir (likely 8 professional singers at that time) led to this arrangement. Photographs from the period and current visual evidence (stair in front of the window, filled-in arches, odd ceiling lines in the narthex, inscriptions in the wood screen at the front of the balcony) lead me to theorize that the balcony was built in 1908 specifically for this purpose; i.e., it was not included in the original 1870 design plan.

There is one element that remains from this era: in the appropriate level of the tower (behind the filled in arch at the balcony level), there is the electric blower that supplied wind to the organ in the balcony.

Next month, we'll explore the construction of the current chancel (1947) and the move of the organ into the chambers above and behind the current pulpit.



Organ + 1908-1947 Choir gallery

## **Upcoming Events**



After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Dinner at Noon program at

Carver Center is once again serving a hot meal every Saturday to those in need. Dinner at Noon is a volunteer collaboration between local faith based groups including Rye Presbyterian Church, Community Synagogue, and Resurrection, with each group managing several Saturdays during the year. On April 30, RPC's team of seven volunteers spent the morning plating and serving dinner to about 30 guests at the Carver Center.

We are in need of 6-8 volunteers to help on June 25 from 9:30am until 12:30pm. Volunteers will set tables, plate food, serve meals to guests, bag meals to go and clean up. While guests in the dining room are not required to wear masks while they are eating, volunteers do wear masks and gloves.

Please contact Hollis O'Rorke (<u>hbororke@mac.com</u>) if you are interested in volunteering on June 25th.

If you are not able to volunteer on June 25, please consider donating baked goods (homemade or store bought) to serve with the meal.



Dinner at Noon participants

#### WESTCHESTER COUNTY MOBILE SHREDDER On-site at RPC - Tuesday, June 21, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The Westchester Country Mobile Shredder will be in the parking lot at Rye Presbyterian Church from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Please enter the church parking lot from Parsons Street and stay in your car. Someone will assist you with your documents.
Box up your documents and:

Bring your confidential personal papers for shredding.
Remove all large binder clips and covers.

• Paper clips and staples are ok.

Can't come Tuesday?

A locked bin will be available in Assembly Room for drop-off of materials beginning Friday, June 18.

# **Baby Bundle Project**

Please join our partnership with Open Door Family Medical Center to support new parents in giving their babies a healthy and safe start in life.

Between Mother's Day and Father's Day we will be collecting all the essentials for creating a Baby Bundle for new moms and dads at Open Door to welcome their newborns. Baby Bundles include diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream, infant thermometer, health and grooming kits, sleep sacks, sleep and play pajamas, onesies and other clothing, board books, and small infant toys. The entire baby bundle can be purchased for \$200 per newborn.

There are bassinets on display in the hall outside the first floor Welcome Area and in the RPNS entrance for the church. Please feel free to drop your donations off in the bassinets during your month-long drive.

You can also order items to be sent directly to Open Door through the Amazon Open Door Baby Registry at: <u>https://</u> rebrand.ly/Baby-Bundle-Wishes

And if you would like to contribute "Beyond the Bundle" to help support prenatal care, education, and wellness classes, please make your check out to RPC and indicate "M&O Open Door" on the memo line. You may also donate online at: <u>http://</u> ryepc.com/article/baby-bundle-project-donations/





# Weekends in June, Worship, Giving

# Weekends in June

#### Sunday, June 5

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Warm-up / Chancel
10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion / Sanctuary/Hybrid
11:15 a.m. Teddy Cheng Organ Recital / Sanctury
6:00 p.m. NOLA meeting / Grape Arbor & Kitchen

#### Sunday, June 12 — Confirmation Sunday

11:00 a.m. Church Picnic, Grape Arbor6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group / Assembly Room

#### Sunday, June 19

8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel 10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary/Hybrid

#### Sunday, June 26

8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel 10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary/Hybrid -Baptisms, NOLA Trip Commissioning

## 8:30 A.M. WORSHIP TO RESUME

8:30 a.m. worship with communion in the Chapel will resume for the summer, beginning June 19.

## In Memoriam

*Scott Pierce II*, May 7, husband of Janice, and father of Kent, Kim, Brett, and Derek

*Trevor Willis*, April 24, father of Chris Willis, father-in-law of Gail, and grandpa of Andrew and Mark

> Nora Bryant, May 17, sister of Kitty Buttigieg

*Cynthia Strawn Snell, May 23,* mother of Scott Snell, mother-in-law of Sarah, and grandmother Caroline, Sydney, and Hunter



Darcey Elizabeth Lloyd, April 21, daughter of Kellie and David Lloyd

John (Jack) Daniel Eyler, May 17, son of Jennifer and Todd Eyler

## Worship in the Sanctuary In Person

As conditions and guidances change, please <u>click here</u> for updated Covid protocols.

#### Worship from Home online on Zoom or YouTube

10:00 a.m. Every Sunday Bulletin and further instructions on joining via Zoom or YouTube are on the website at https://ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/

## Sunday Services also Online via Live Stream!

Bulletin and instructions on joining via Zoom or YouTube are on the church website: ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/

## DIAL IN TO SUNDAY WORSHIP!

*To attend worship by using your phone, call 1-646-558-8656 then enter this Meeting ID: 560 770 303* 



Online donation options are available on the RPC Website Giving page.

To access, go to <u>ryepc.com/give</u> or scan the QR Code to the right with your cell phone. Please contact Maida Robinson: <u>mrobinson@ryepc.com</u>



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## **Bible Studies, Meetings**

#### **BIBLE STUDIES**

#### Men's Bible Study

### Sundays,

#### June 5 and 19 8:00 p.m. in the Library with Zoom option

Our Sunday evening reading and reflection on the Acts of the Apostles continues steadily on, but will slow down a bit through the summer. We will meet at 8:00 p.m. in person in the church library on Sundays, June 5 and 19. For those of you who can't make it in person, we will have a Zoom option to tune in. If you'd like to be on the email reminder list, Please contact Dan Love (<u>dlove@ryepc.com</u>).

#### Monday Morning Bible Discussion

#### June 6 and 13 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

As June begins, the Monday morning discussion group will be continuing its work on the Gospel according to Luke. All are welcome to join in on Mondays, June 6 and 13, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. After these three meetings, we will be pausing for the summer and restarting on September 12. Contact Dan Love (<u>dlove@ryepc.com</u>) for more information and to receive the Zoom link.

#### Women's Bible Study

Saturday, June 4, via Zoom For further information, contact Cynthia De Santis (cynthialwells@gmail.com)

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#### WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the RPC Library and via Zoom

# Undistracted by Bob Goff

Please e-mail questions to: Alicia Baldwin (<u>alicia.baldwin@verizon.net)</u> or Courtney Bennett (<u>Courtneybennett910@gmail.com</u>)

#### JUNE MEETINGS

**Board Meetings** Deacons: Wednesday, June 8, 7:30 p.m., off-site Session: Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 p.m., at All Souls Parish, 55 Parkway Dr, Port Chester Trustees: Wednesday, June 15, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room/Hybrid **Bible Studies** Men's Bible Study: Sundays, June 5 & 19, 8:00 p.m., Library with, Zoom option Monday Morning Bible Discussion: June 6 & 13, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Women's Bible Study: Saturday, June 4, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom Women's Discipleship: Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m., Library Youth Confirmation Rehearsal: Saturday, June 4, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary **Connection:** -Wednesday, June 1, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms, pizza & games - Wednesday, June 15, 5:30 p.m., Great Lawn, hamburgers & hot dogs - Saturday, June 25, 10:00 a.m., Great Lawn, Donuts & Coffee **High School Youth Group:** -Sunday, June 5, 12:00 a.m., Jay Heritage Center - Sunday, June 5, 6:00 p.m., RPC Kitchen, tie-dying - Sunday, June 12, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room & Outdoor Lawn - Saturday, June 25, 10:00 a.m., Great Lawn, Donuts & Coffee **Other Church Meetings** Theodore Cheng, Organ Concert: Sunday, June 5, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary & Chapel Nominating Committee: Thursdays, June 9, and Thursday, June 29. 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room/hybrid Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, June 7 & 14, 7:30 p.m., Library **Stephen Ministers:** -Prime Ministers: Monday, June 6, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

**3Ts:** Tuesday, June 21, 9:50 a.m., via Zoom

Contact <u>Jane Mickatavage</u> (914-967-8622) or <u>Nancy Steed</u> (914-328-9658).

Thrift Shop: Thursdays, June 9 &16, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Assembly Room.

# **Rye Presbyterian Nursery School**

## Greetings to the RPC Community From Kristin Bassett Kumar

We are thrilled to bring back our RPNS community events this spring! We hosted our Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night on the Great Lawn on a beautiful spring evening. Families were greeted by music from an accordion player. Everyone enjoyed homemade tomato sauce, delicious meatballs, and tasty chicken cutlets all cooked by Mrs. Sculti! Children enjoyed playing alphabet and animal bingo with prizes! A visit from the ice cream truck ended a fabulous evening!



<u>The Rev. Daniel Love, Co-Pastor</u> <u>The Rev. Dr. John Miller</u>, Co-Pastor <u>The Rev. Jean-Paul Marshall</u>, Associate Pastor for Christian Education <u>Jason Charneski</u>, Director of Music and Organist <u>Lisa Rawson</u>, Director of Choirs for Children and Youth Theodore Cheng, Knock Intern in Sacred Music <u>Maida Robinson</u>, Chief Administrative Officer <u>Peggy Berretta</u>, Administrative Assistant <u>Denise LeVan</u>, Pastoral Assistant <u>Juan Velasquez</u>, Head Sexton/Building Manager Alonso Osorio, Sunday Sexton

Rye Presbyterian Church 882 Boston Post Road, Rye, New York 10580 / Tel: 914.967.0842 / <u>www.ryepc.com</u>