



The Journey of RPC— Labyrinth to Imagine

Over near the new manse where the Marshalls live, tucked in the corner of Rye Town Park is a hidden treasure. I didn't even know it existed until Jean-Paul initiated bringing the middle school youth to see it. Rye has a labyrinth!

If you don't know what one is, you are not alone. It is an ancient spiritual practice that was adopted by the medieval church, with the best known such labyrinth built into the floor of the Cathedral in Chartres. Unlike a maze, which has multiple ways to go (and get lost!), a labyrinth is a single path that leads eventually to "the center." For some, it was a substitute for a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. For most, the labyrinth became a spiritual practice of prayer "along the way" as one slowly walks the path and finds their spiritual center. I encourage you to go find it and take some time to walk and pray your way through it! While their pace was slightly faster than most, our middle school youth very much enjoyed the experience there last month.

As a symbol of the Christian journey, the experience is fitting. Sometimes the journey is straightforward and the feeling of progress is strong. At other times, it feels like one is losing ground and wandering far from the center and the presence of God. Sometimes while walking with others, we feel scattered and isolated, while some days we have a clear sense of being united in our progress and direction.

All such experience is a part of nearly every journey of faith – for both individuals and churches. Over its two centuries of existence, Rye Presbyterian has had its fair share of ups and downs as well as days when it has felt like it was going nowhere. It has also known times of conflict and division. But being burned to the ground during the Revolutionary War – definitely a low point!

Yet, it is my clear sense that in these last few years – the half-decade coinciding with our Imagine Initiative – this church has taken amazing united steps forward on its journey to live the faith and serve our local community. Five years ago, the leadership of the church knew there was much work to be done, and steps that we needed to take to make significant investment in our facilities,

and to invest in new staff and ministries. Under the wise and generous leadership of the Imagine Team, headed by Gabby and Don McCree, the congregation rallied. Together, we imagined what God might be calling us to be and do, and together, by the Spirit's leading, we set out to see those dreams become reality.

Five years later, we know God has been good, and through the generosity and hard work of this congregation, we have seen far beyond our imagining. The list of all that has been done and the lives that have been touched through Imagine is truly amazing and far beyond the scope of this page – from painting the sanctuary, to full investment in our third pastor living in Rye, to the Coming Home program for the formerly incarcerated now in its fourth year. It has been a unique and amazing journey. It had its labyrinthine days, but they have been mercifully few!

This month we will celebrate the culmination of this chapter in the life of RPC. During worship on June 9, and at the picnic following, we will take a look at all the ways God turned our imaginings into reality over these last five years. We will again say thank you to all who made it possible, and we will continue to imagine how we can faithfully journey the winding labyrinth with God into the future.

I'll see you at the labyrinth, and here to celebrate Imagine on June 9!

Imagine
"BY GOD'S POWER ACCOMPLISHING FAR MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE"
EPHESIANS 3:20

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Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2019



Charlotte Ausfahl, daughter of Corinna and Tom Ausfahl
Cameron Bibas, daughter of Yvonne and John Bibas
Jonny Boxford, son of Molly and Justin Boxford
James Donovan, son of Karen and Jim Donovan
Caroline Drake Frase, daughter of Laura and Jeffrey Frase
Jessie Gadaleta, daughter of Caroline and Frank Gadaleta
Sophia Hofmann, daughter of Camilla and Christoph Hofmann
Abby Holtman, daughter of Gloria and Jeff Holtman
Sam Johnson, son of Lisa and Kevin Johnson
Katie Knight, daughter of Emily and Paul Knight

Eric Lonnegren, son of Lisa and Mark Lonnegren
Alexandra Olsen, daughter of Katherine and Peter Olsen
Caroline Olsen, daughter of Katherine and Peter Olsen
Callista Radtke, daughter of Cory Anne and Stefan Radtke
Katherine Schultz, daughter of Wendy Hyer and Michael Schultz
Kyle Simandl, son of Liz Dow and Craig Simandl
Julia Svoboda, daughter of Catherine and Donald Svoboda
Sydney Thompson, daughter of Sarah and BJ Thompson
Michael Bradford Turner, son of Tracy and Chris Turner
Catherine Williams, daughter of Cate Porter and Andrew Williams



Nancy and Bob Steed are honored for 25 years of leadership of the RPC Prison Ministry.

BRAVO!

Adult Education, Nominating Committee, Friendly Visitors, Picnic

SUNDAY MORNINGS ADULT EDUCATION
THROUGH JUNE 16
9:00-9:45 A.M., WESTMINSTER ROOM



This lectionary-based study engages adults in a deeper exploration of biblical texts. Join us as we explore the scriptural texts that are used in worship. Each session is a stand-alone session, so participants can join the study at any point.



Election of Church Officers

The next election of church officers is in November, to begin serving in January 2020, but now is a good time to ponder how you or someone you nominate might best serve God and RPC in a leadership role. The Nominating Committee is already at work compiling a list of church members interested in serving.

We learn from Scripture that there are many ways for each of us to serve, as we each have unique gifts and qualifications. Our church will grow still stronger with Boards that reflect the diversity of our congregation.

Please prayerfully consider suggesting yourself or someone you admire to be considered to serve as a church Elder, Deacon, Trustee (each serves a three-year term), or member of the Nominating Committee (each serves a two-year term).

The Recommendations Form can be accessed in several ways: in church bulletins during the month; in your email; or on our church website (click [here](#)). Completed forms may be returned to the box by the church reception office or via email to nominations@ryepc.com.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Mary Versfelt (Chair), Sarah Barringer, Karen Beatty, Bob Connor, Carolyn Cunningham, Kristin Jautz, Doug MacLaury, Addy Park, and Julia Thomas.



“Coming Home”

Graduation

Sunday, June 2, 2:00 p.m.,
in the Assembly Room.

All are welcome.



All-Church and *Imagine* Celebration!

Sunday, June 9,
in the Grape Arbor, following 10:00 a.m. worship

Come and celebrate the end of the school year . . .
AND the culmination of the IMAGINE Initiative!



Featuring RPC picnic favorites:
Sliders from Jerry’s, Hot Dogs,
AND the Ice Cream Truck!



Please bring a dish according
to your last name:

A-K: wraps or sandwiches / L-S: side dish or salad / T-Z: fruit or dessert

Food may be left in the kitchen before worship.

Volunteers are needed to set up, serve, and clean up. Please sign up at the clipboard station,
or email Jean-Paul Marshall.

Christian Education



Sunday School

During the month of June, we make our transition into Summer Sunday School! This summer our children will engage a verse-by-verse study of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9b-13 with the hope that it helps them embody the prayer's message in their daily lives. Each Sunday our children will be invited to experience this well-known prayer through creative art, reflection, and discussion! This curriculum even comes with its own take-home materials so families can join us in engaging the Lord's Prayer together at home. Below are the themes and texts for each week:

June 2: Acts 16:16-40 (Paul and Silas)

June 9: Acts 2:1-21
(A Spirit-Powered Faith)
Annual Picnic

June 16: Matthew 6:9-13
(The Lord's Prayer)
Summer School starts!

June 23: Matthew 6:9
(Praying to whom?)

June 30: Matthew 6:10
(Praying for what?)

The Flat Jesus Project: During Sunday School on June 9, each student will get their own paper cutout of Jesus to take with them on their summer adventures as a fun reminder that Jesus is always with them, every day and every moment of their faith journey! We invite families to take photos of their Jesus as he walks

with them and share them with us throughout the summer.

If you wish to share your photos, please send them to Jean-Paul Marshall, jmarshall@ryepc.com.

Annual Picnic: Our annual picnic will be on Sunday, June 9, in the Grape Arbor following the 10:00 a.m. service and Sunday School. Please look for the sign-up for side dishes from the CE Committee in this issue of Grace Notes. Come enjoy some time with the children and the teachers of our wonderful Sunday School program while enjoying hot dogs, sliders, and ice cream! Hope to see you there!

Summer Sunday School starts June 16.

Summer Sunday School Teaching Opportunity: We seek to guide and nurture children on their journey of faith throughout the whole year, even the summer! We are seeking out volunteers who wish to be a part of that work! Volunteers will help lead a lesson each Sunday for a multi-age group consisting of pre-K through 5th grade children. For those who are interested in teaching throughout the year, the summer is a great way to experience how supported our volunteers are and how fun it is to walk alongside children on their journey of faith. Whether you can help the whole summer or just a few weeks, if interested in being a part of this work, please contact Jean-Paul Marshall, jmarshall@ryepc.com.

Connection

Wednesday, June 5:

Year-end Picnic

5:30-6:45 p.m. at the Love home—
900 Boston Post Road
(two doors down from the church)

High School Youth Group

All 9th-12th graders are welcome at
RPC's High School Youth Group!

Sunday, June 9:

NOLA Tie-Dye & Dinner

6:00 p.m., RPC Kitchen

All participants of both June and August NOLA trips are invited to join us for tie-dyeing shirts, pizza, and games!

Teaching Assistants: High school students are invited to join in on guiding and nurturing children on their journey of faith through our Summer Sunday School program! Each assistant will assist one of our Teaching Volunteers in leading a combined class for PreK-5th grade. If you have a passion for working with children and/or teaching, this is a great opportunity to live into that passion within our community of faith. Also, we do offer community service hours for each morning you help teach. If interested in sharing your gifts with us this summer, please contact Jean-Paul Marshall (jmarshall@ryepc.com)!

We are on Instagram!

Username: ryepresyouth

Updates through GroupMe!

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



Connection—the Middle School Youth Group—enjoy time together following their experience at the Rye Town Park labyrinth.

Music Notes, Thrift Shop News



From Jason Charneski



Summer Opportunities

2019 Summer Volunteer Choir—Open to All Ages!

We hope you will choose to raise your voice in song as a member of the summer volunteer choir on any or all of the following Sundays in the 10:00 a.m. service: June 16, June 23, June 30, July 7, July 21, July 28, August 4, and August 11. We will meet

in the chapel each of those mornings at 9:30 in order to learn and rehearse a simple piece of music that will complement the theme of the readings and sermon. The logistics are such that we do not wear robes, you can sit with your families or friends, and you sing from the chancel steps. Please let Jason Charneski know if you would like to participate: 967-0842, ext. 16, or e-mail him at jcharneski@ryepc.com.

2019 Summer Instrumentalist Opportunities.

Do you play an instrument? If so, and you would like to play something in one or more worship services this summer, please let Jason Charneski know (967-0842, ext. 16, or email jcharneski@ryepc.com. How wonderful it is when God's people share their gifts, skills, and talents!

Jason

Thrift Shop News . . .



**The Thrift Shop
Has raised \$80,000 this year,
setting a record!**

**Joan Kellogg Award
for Outstanding Service**



Nancy Bassett, Ann Cassata, and Cindy Kuster are this year's Joan Kellogg award winners. They all have given years of service to the Thrift Shop and we appreciate all of their dedication and hard work.

Each of them will choose one or two of the Thrift Shop grant recipients to receive an extra award.

Thank you, Nancy, Ann, and Cindy!



A BIG Thank-You to our Thrift Shop Volunteers!

Thank you to all Thrift Shop volunteers for your time, hard work, and dedication in making the Thrift Shop a success again this year.

**THRIFT SHOP
CLOSING FOR THE SUMMER
LAST DAY: Thursday, June 13
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

We will reopen on September 12!

Donations accepted during the summer.

Drop off downstairs on the left hallway. *Please note:* Due to storage constraints we will not be accepting books, floral glass vases, drapery, or electronic equipment this summer. Children's books will be accepted again in September.

Any questions, contact [Suzanne Davies](#)

Bible Sunday, Gospel According to Peeps

Bible Sunday . . .

It was a day of celebration on May 14 as Mother’s Day was the occasion for giving bibles to high school seniors and first graders! A very special thank-you to Arthur Henderson for another year offering his gift of calligraphy as he hand-inscribed every bible—49 in all this year.



A prayer for our seniors:

*May the peace of Jesus Christ go with you,
wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.*



The 8th Annual Gospel According to Peeps Challenge

At coffee hour on Sunday, March 31, our church school classes presented us with a wonderful display of imaginative creations. This year, the PEEple’s Choice award went to 4th & 5th graders presentation of “The Last Supper.”

Congratulations to all!



Eddie Zheng Concert, WA Grant Awards Luncheon, Friendly Visitors



Eddie Zheng, organ
 RPC's first Knock Intern in Sacred Music

music by J. S. Bach, Calvin Hampton,
 Olivier Messiaen, Florence Price, Louis Vierne, and
 Charles-Marie Widor

Sunday, June 2, 2019
 11:15 a.m.

following 10:00 a.m. worship

Rye Presbyterian Church 882 Boston Post Rd. Rye, NY 10580
 www.ryepc.com 914-967-0842

Annual Women's Association

GRANT AWARDS LUNCHEON

Monday, June 10,
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

RPC Grape Arbor

(weather permitting—Assembly Room in event of rain)

This is the one time of year when we are able to honor and recognize the organizations that we are fortunate enough to support through the success of our Thrift Shop.

Each year the Thrift Shop gives grants to approximately 20 Westchester organizations, groups that serve women, children and other under-served populations. The luncheon is a great time to see first-hand all the good work that our Thrift Shop does for our community.

There's a sign-up sheet at the clipboard station outside the Assembly Room. All church members are welcome and encouraged to come!

Any questions, please email [Suzanne Davies](mailto:Suzanne.Davies@rpcny.org)

Friendly Visitors

The Friendly Visitors program seeks to match volunteers with those who would appreciate a caring, supportive relationship. No prior care-giving experience is needed, just a desire to bring a kind presence to a fellow parishioner or community member. The program will work to match the needs of each individual and volunteer for regular visits. Priority is given to the RPC community, however we also extend outreach to local senior care facilities. If you would like a visit or would like to learn more about being a Friendly Visitor, please contact Jerralee Ernst at jerraleemiles613@gmail.com.



Weekends in June, Bible Study

Sunday, June 2

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room
- 9:00 a.m. Choir warm-up
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship & Communion in the Sanctuary
Sunday School
- 11:15 p.m. Eddie Zheng Concert / Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Coming Home Graduation / Assembly Room
- 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library

Sunday, June 9

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal / Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. Choir warm-up
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
Sunday School sings
Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. End of the School Year & Imagine Picnic / Great Lawn
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth / Kitchen & Westminster Room

Sunday, June 16

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room
- 9:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal / Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
Summer Sunday School

Sunday, June 23

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 9:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal / Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
Summer Sunday School
- 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library

Sunday, June 30

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 9:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal / Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
Summer Sunday School
Commissioning of NOLA Youth Mission Trip

Saturday at 5 Worship

Saturday at 5 Worship is taking a break for the summer.
Services will resume in the fall on
Saturday, September 14.

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sundays, June 2 and 23, at 8:00 p.m., in the Library

The reading and reflection on the Gospel of Luke goes steadily on (and at our pace, may do so for some time . . . but what is the rush?). We meet at 8:00 p.m. in the church Library on Sunday, June 2 and 23.

If you'd like to be on the email reminder list, please contact Dan Love at dlove@ryepc.com.

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion

**Wednesdays, June 5 and 19,
at 10:00 a.m., in the Library**

Through the month of June, and before we pause for the summer, the Wednesday study will continue its journey through the Old Testament, stirred by the creative minds at The Bible Project. If you haven't seen their website, it is worth a look (click [here](#)!).

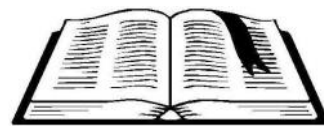
All are welcome to join in on Wednesdays, June 5 and 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. Contact Dan Love—dlove@ryepc.com for more information.

Women's Bible Study

**Saturdays, June 1 and 8,
at 10:00 a.m., in the 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
(desantiscw@aol.com).



Please keep the 22 high schoolers and six chaperones traveling to Louisiana in your prayers. We'll be commissioning them in worship on June 30, the day they depart for a week of ministry and mission in New Orleans!

June Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Wednesday, June 19, 7:00 p.m., Park residence
Trustees: Wednesday, June 19, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room
Session: Wednesday, June 26, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

WORSHIP AND STUDY

Worship on Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Prayer Gatherings: Sundays, June 2, 7, & 16, 8:40 a.m., Library; June 24 & 30, 9:40 a.m., Library

Adult Education: Feasting on the Word

Sundays, June 2, 9, & 16, 9:00-9:45 a.m., Westminster Room

Sunday School: Regular Sunday School on June 2 & 9

Summer Sunday School: June 16, 23, & 30

Men's Bible Study: Sundays, June 2 & 23, Library

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion: June 5 & 19, 10:00 a.m., Library

Women's Bible Study: Saturdays, June 1 & 8, 10:00 a.m., Library

YOUTH

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

Connection: Wednesday, June 5, 5:30 p.m., Year-end Picnic, Love home

High School Youth Group: Sunday, June 9, 6:00 p.m., NOLA Tie-Dye and Dinner / Kitchen

MUSIC

Summer Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, June 16, 23, & 30, 9:30 a.m., Chapel

Children's Choir Rehearsal: Sunday, June 9, 9:30 a.m., Chapel

OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

3 Ts: Tuesday, June 18, 10:00 a.m., Library

Coming Home Graduation: Sunday, June 2, 2:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Friendly Visitors: Monday, June 3, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room

Mission & Outreach: Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m., Library

Stephen Ministry:

Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, June 4, 6:00 p.m., Library

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesday, June 4, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Thrift Shop: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., June 6 & 13 (last day open, closes for summer, reopens Sept. 12)

Women's Association: Monthly Meeting, Monday, June 3, 9:00 a.m., Library

Women's Association Annual Grant Awards & Luncheon: Monday, June 10, 11:30 a.m., Grape Arbor

Worship & Music: *Tentative*—Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 p.m., Conference Room

OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar



This school year our five-year-old students embarked on an in-depth study of bridges. The class learned about the parts of a bridge and how different types of bridges are constructed. Words such as foundation, beam, suspension, arch, and cables became part of their vocabulary. The students researched the locations of notable bridges near and far. One of the favorite bridges that they studied was the Brooklyn Bridge.

In order to make the curriculum come alive for the students, the class took a memorable field trip to the Brooklyn Bridge! It was incredible for the students and their family members to experience a guided tour of the children's favorite bridge!

The class learned that when the Brooklyn Bridge was finished in 1883, it was the first steel-wire suspension bridge ever constructed and the longest suspension bridge in the world. They also learned that the Brooklyn Bridge took 14 years to build and that it is one of the most resilient bridges ever built. (In fact, 21 elephants from Barnum Bailey Circus crossed the bridge to prove it was sturdy.) When the Brooklyn Bridge first opened, it cost one penny to cross over the bridge. In addition, the children learned that the bridge is 135 feet above the water so tall ships can pass under.

The class had the opportunity to see up close how this magnificent bridge spans the East River and connects Brooklyn to Manhattan. This amazing trip to the Brooklyn Bridge represents an emergent curriculum culminating experience at its best!



Rye Presbyterian Church Staff

[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

Rye Presbyterian Church

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We are a Stephen Ministry church.