Rye Presbylerian Church

Grace Notes

March 2022 • Vol. 223



40. Maybe it is me, but it seems to show up quite often – in the Bible and elsewhere. A quarantine? From the Italian for 40 – during the bubonic plague it was the number of days a ship had to remain in the Venice harbor before landing. 40 days of rain on Noah and his family in the ark. 40 years for the people of Israel in the wilderness as they exit from Egypt into the Promised Land. Moses spends 40 days with God on Mt. Sinai before returning with the commandments. Goliath taunts the armies of Israel for 40 days before David emerges to save the day. After his baptism, Jesus spends 40 days in the wilderness before beginning his ministry. WD-40? The fortieth "water displacement" formula tried by scientists that finally worked! Pregnancy... 40 weeks. 40 days in Lent.

Is that all just random? Maybe it is. Maybe we could find similar occurrences for just about any number. But at least in the Bible the number 40 surfaces repeatedly. Perhaps it is just a poetic way of saying "a long time." But almost always it represents a time of waiting and a time of preparation. It is time of testing and clarification before a new chapter begins. It is enough time for some actual change to take place. It seems to be part of God's way.

As we prepare to enter the third Lent of this pandemic, perhaps it is time to enter Lent more fully – and more intentionally. The last two Lents felt more forced upon us. As one meme put it regarding Lent 2020 – "I had no idea I was going to have to give up so much for Lent." This year, with hope, it is a different situation with a new hopeful chapter coming before us. And as we look at the potential end of this wilderness time, there are decisions to be made. How will we live in that new chapter? Who will we be in that chapter? What lessons of the last two years have we learned? What will we leave behind as we enter the new? What will we take in and invest ourselves? What direction will we go?

These are among the many deeper spiritual questions that are before us. The 40 days of Lent offer us a unique opportunity to enter those questions more fully and more intentionally. In so doing, it goes beyond "giving up" something for the next 40 days. Taking a break from chocolate may be fine and may in fact be a good idea. That probably depends on your current chocolate habits. Less gaming for 40 days? Probably a good thing as well. But with what will we fill our spirits and our increasingly precious time in the absence of such things? Do our choices help us align more fully with the One who created us and calls us to lives of integrity, generosity and service? Do they lead us further into the truth of who we were made to be and how we are to live our lives?

40 days. Let's try it. Let's linger a little longer in that place where God has met God's people for hundreds of years. Recenter. Re-focus. A new chapter lies ahead.

Wishing you a Holy Lent,



What's Inside?

Page 2:	One Great Hour of Sharing,
	Davidson Gordon Quiet Service Award
Page 3:	Ash Wednesday, Lent Contemplative
	Services, Stephen Ministry
Page 4:	Planned Giving
Page 5:	Christian Education, Confirmation,
-	The Peter Bishop Scholarship
Page 6:	Music Notes, Children's Choirs,
-	New Member Discussions, Thrift Shop
Page 7:	Rye Women's Interfaith
Page 8:	Weekends in March, Giving, NOLA Bingo
0	Fundraiser
Page 9	Bible Studies, Meetings
Page 10:	Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

One Great Hour of Sharing, Davidson Gordon Quiet Service Award

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (March 2 – April 17), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

 Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- Receives 36% of funds raised

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues
- Receives 32% of funds raised



Receives 32% of funds raised

THE DAVIDSON GORDON QUIET SERVICE AWARD

As we bid them farewell before their move to North Carolina, Amparo and Ron Sizemore were given the Davidson Gordon Quiet Service award. Ron and Amparo gave much of their energy and time to RPC – from Amparo's service as a Trustee and Stephen minister, Ron's work on Session and with the Coming Home program, to their creative and generous genius in handling all of RPC's printing needs for years.

We are grateful and will miss you!

(2)

Ash Wednesday, Lent Contemplative Services, Stephen Ministry



March 2 Worship at 7:00 p.m. In the Sanctuary and via Zoom and YouTube LENT CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICES Saturdays at 5:00 p.m., March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2 & 9.



Join in-person in the chapel every Saturday evening of Lent at 5PM for a 30-minute time of contemplative worship. There will be music, silence, prayer, and time for reflection on scripture—a quiet moment to re-center and re-focus as we journey through Lent together.



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 which help people in need. The 8-week program begins with a September Saturday retreat and ends before Thanksgiving. 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>, or any of the other following Stephen Leaders: Patti Adimari, Elizabeth Lukes, Allison Reynolds, and Becky Ruegger.

> Rye Presbyterian Church 882 Boston Post Road, Rye, NY 10580 914.967.0842 / www.ryepc.com

Planned Giving



Since the early days of Rye Presbyterian Church, members have generously recognized the church in their estate plans, resulting in important support for our programs and for the maintenance of our facilities. Having recently marked the 150th anniversary of our sanctuary, we believe now is the time to invite our members to consider making this type of gift to Rye Presbyterian Church. Called Planned or Legacy Giving, it differs from our regular annual stewardship campaign. Instead, it looks to the future in helping to fund the church's endowment. It can include naming the church in a will or trust document, or adding the church as a beneficiary under a retirement plan or insurance policy. Other ways of giving include donating real estate or other assets no longer needed by your family or by creating a charitable trust that can provide income to you during your life and benefit the church at a later date. The decision to explore these types of gifts is a personal one and should be structured to fit your own situation.

On Sunday, March 13, the Rev. Dr. Rose Niles of the Presbyterian Foundation will preach at Rye Presbyterian Church during our 10:00 a.m. worship service on the importance of this Planned Giving opportunity. Afterwards, she will host an informal question and answer session for parishioners, in person and via Zoom. Please reach out to Dr. John Miller or Rev. Daniel Love if you have immediate questions. The Planned Giving Committee of the Board of Trustees thanks you in advance for considering this creative way of allowing the legacy of your generosity to live on. The leadership of the church on both the Session and the Trustees welcome and encourage your participation in this Legacy Giving plan.

Planned Giving Taskforce: Richard Bott (Chair) (Trustee), Leslie Bradford, Demie Duckworth, and Jeff Holtman (Trustee).

Christian Education, Confirmation, Peter Bishop Scholarship



This March we 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, music, 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:

Mar. 6 Luke 8:40-42, 49 (Jarius' Daughter) Mar. 13: Luke 18:35-43 (A Blind Man is Healed) Mar. 20: Matthew 26:17-35 (The Last Supper) Mar. 27: Matthew 26:36-46 (In the Garden)

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 home 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

Middle School Connection

All 6th – 8th graders are welcome at RPC's Connection!

• Wednesday, March 2 6:00-7:30 p.m., Youth Rooms & Sanctuary

We will meet for dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Rooms and then go together to the 8:00 p.m Ash Wednesday service. Parents and siblings are also invited to come together for a meal and fellowship in the Assembly Room while our middle school youth are at Connection before the service. We will have chicken and a side dish available and ask, if possible, that families bring an item to share. Using this Sign Up Genius link (*click here*), please indicate roughly how many family members will join for the dinner and what you would like to bring. We hope you can join us for some fellowship and then the 7:00 p.m. service.

• Wednesday, March 23

5:30-6:45 p.m., Youth Rooms We'll take time to catch up with one another over pizza, play some games, and reflect on the Lenten season.

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

YOUTH High School Youth GROUP Group

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

• Sunday, March 6, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p,m., Assembly Room

Join us for our annual NOLA Bingo Fundraiser following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

• Saturdays, March 26 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., The Sharing Shelf (47 Purdy Ave.)

Join us as help the Sharing Shelf sort and fold clothing at their warehouse. Space for each Saturday morning is limited to 9 youth. Parents welcome to join us as well. If you are interested in helping out, please let **Rev. JP know**—

(jmarshall@ryepc.com) know.

• Sunday, March 27

6:00-7:30 p.m., Chapel Join us for Vespers, where we invite our high school youth to slow down in the midst of all the busyness for a time of intentional connection and prayer. We will begin our time together with a moment of connection and food. Please let **Rev. JP** (<u>imarshall@ryepc.com</u>) know beforehand if you plan on joining us for Vespers. Also, if you have a specific concern you would like us to pray for, please feel free to reach out, even if you are unable to attend!

We are on Instagram: Username: ryepresyouth

Updates through GroupMe! Join our youth group chat for updates and keeping in touch with one another! Pleasse send **Rev. JP** (<u>imarshall@ryepc.com</u>) either your cell phone number or email.

Confirmation

Class meets this month on Sunday, March 27—4PM and 5PM in the Westminster Room. First drafts of your Statements of Faith

are due that day as well!



THE PETER BISHOP HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Since 1968, Rye Presbyterian Church has awarded grants to graduating high school seniors who are going on to college studies. The award is in memory of Peter Bishop, son of a former pastor of RPC.

The number of grants and the amounts awarded each year vary, but it is a one-time award given to students demonstrating academic promise and financial need, with priority consideration given to those seniors who have been active in the life of Rye Presbyterian Church.

If you are a Rye High School senior, application for this scholarship is done through the guidance office at RHS.

If you are not a student at Rye High School, but wish to apply for the scholarship, please contact <u>Rev.</u> Love for more information.

Music Notes, New Member Welcome Discussions, Thrift Shop



by Jason Charneski

Children's and Youth Choirs to Resume Singing

The first step we will take toward normality this month will be focused on the Children's and the Youth choirs: they will meet regularly for rehearsals! Please contact Lisa Rawson (<u>lrawson@ryepc.com</u>) for more details about rehearsal times and COVID safety protocols.

Jazz Sunday on March 20

The second step we will take toward normality this month will be the return of Jazz Sunday. Please be sure to attend worship (in person, if you can!) on March 20 as Dr. Jeremy Fletcher leads a jazz combo in providing the instrumental music and accompaniment for our singing that morning. Jeremy has written a new anthem, *Give Ear and Come to Me* – based on Isaiah 55:1-3, for the Chancel Choir to sing that morning.

For Your Educational Enrichment: The Music and the Stories of Four Fascinating Composers

February was Black History Month. A good amount of the music offered in worship was written by Black composers. From arrangements of spirituals to service music to more "concert" music, we touched only the tiniest bit of the peak of the proverbial iceberg of this rich heritage. Since I do not have the space in the weekly orders of worship to share the totality of what inspired the composers (never mind their personal stories), I offer these names of four composers – all Black women – for you to mine for information online about them: Margaret Bonds, Dorothy Rudd Moore, Florence Price, and Mary Lou Williams.



Calling all Children in grades 1-6 For Children's Choir! Calling all Youth in grades 7 and up For Youth Choir!

This month both choirs will resume! New members are welcome! Covid safety measures will be observed.

Contact Lisa Rawson, our Director of Choirs for Children and Youth, who can answer any questions about this short, but exciting, choir season!

Lisa can be reached by email at <u>lrawson@ryepc.com</u>. Children's Choir—Thursdays, 3:30-4:15 pm, in the Sanctuary, beginning March 3

Youth Choir—Sundays after worship, in the Chapel, dates TBD based on youth schedules.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME DISCUSSIONS Sundays, March 20 & 27, 11:15 a.m., via Zoom

Perhaps you've been coming to RPC a long time, or perhaps you are brand new to the area or the church. Either way, if you've thought about taking a further step into the life, community, and mission of RPC, this is a great time to explore it. All those who are interested in finding out more about what it means to be a member of the Rye Presbyterian Church are invited to take part in the New Member classes. The classes are Sundays, March 20 and 27, at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.

In these classes, we will explore what it means to be a Presbyterian in general, and what it means to actively live out our faith together as a part of this particular church. In addition to the Sunday classes, for those choosing to join the church, there will be a meeting with the leadership of the church on Sunday evening, April 3, at 7:00 p.m. This is a time to meet the officers of the church and for the Session to meet briefly to approve the new class for church membership. Public welcome and recognition of the new members will take place during worship on Sunday, April 10.

Anyone wishing to find out more about joining the church should contact Peggy Berretta in the church office – <u>pberretta@ryepc.com</u> or 967-0842 x11.



AN EVENING OF THRIFT SHOPPING

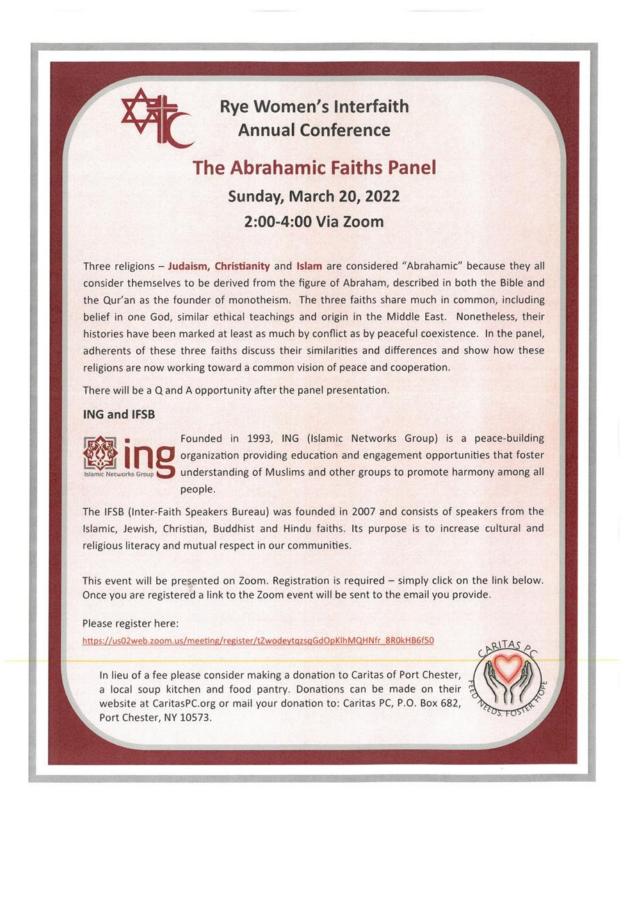
Wednesday, May 4

Our December sale was so successful, we once again invite the congregation and their friends for a special evening at the Thrift Shop on Wednesday, May 4, 5:00-7:00 p.m. The sale will be held in the Assembly Room and will feature our finest treasures, just in time for Mother's Day.

Hope to see you there!

(6)

Rye Women's Interfaith Annual Conference



Weekends in March, Giving, NOLA Bingo Fundraiser

Weekends in March

Saturday, March 5

5:00 p.m. Contemplative Service / Chapel

Sunday, March 6

9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Warm-up / Chancel
10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion / Sanctuary & Online
11:00 a.m. NOLA Bingo Fundraiser / Assembly Room
11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Chapel
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group / Youth Rooms

Saturday, March 12

5:00 p.m. Contemplative Service / Chapel

Sunday, March 13

9:15 a.m.	Chancel Choir Warm-up / Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Worship / Sanctuary & Online
	Rose Niles, Guest Preacher
11:00 a.m.	Planned Giving Information Mtg. / Assembly Room
11:15 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room
8:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study / Library & Zoom

Saturday, March 19

5:00 p.m. Contemplative Service / Chapel

Sunday, March 20—JAZZ SUNDAY

9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Warm-up / Chanel
10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary & Online
11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room
2:00 p.m. Rye Women's Interfaith / via Zoom

Saturday, March 26

5:00 p.m. Contemplative Service / Chapel

Sunday, March 27

9:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal / Westminster Room
9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Warm-up / Chanel
10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary & Online
-Youth Choir sings
11:00 a.m. New Members Discussion / via Zoom
11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room
4:00 & 5:00 p.m. Confirmation / Westminster Room
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group, Vespers / Chapel
8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library & via Zoom



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

To access, go to <u>ryepc.com/give</u> or scan the QR Co with your cell phone.



Please contact Maida Robinson: mrobinson@ryepc.com

if you have any questions or need assistance.

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





NOLA Bingo Fun for all ages! Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser Sunday, March 6, 11:15a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room Prizes will be given to winners and snacks provided for all!

If you do not wish to play Bingo, but would like to contribute, we will gratefully accept contributions.

All proceeds from the event go towards the Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans.

Bible Studies, Meetings

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sundays, March 13 & 27

8:00 p.m. in the Library with Zoom option

We continue our work on the Acts of the Apostles—all are welcome to join in! If you'd like to be on the email reminder list for this gathering, please contact Dan Love, <u>dlove@ryepc.com</u>,.

Monday Morning Bible Discussion

March 7, 14, 21, & 28

9:30 a.m., via Zoom All are welcome to join in this ongoing reading and discussion of the Gospel according to Luke. Please contact Dan Love, <u>dlove@ryepc.com</u>, if you would like to join in!

Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, March 5 & 12, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom For further information, contact Cynthia De Santis (cynthialwells@gmail.com)

WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Wednesday Mornings 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the RPC Library and via Zoom

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



Our high school helping prepare pantry bags at Bread of Life.

MARCH MEETINGS

Board Meetings

Deacons: Wednesday, Mar. 16, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom **Session:** Wednesday, Mar. 23, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom **Trustees:** Wednesday, Mar. 30, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Worship

Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, Mar. 2, 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary, Zoom, and YouTube

Lent Contemplative Services: Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2 & 9, Chapel, in-person only

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study: Sundays, Mar. 13 & 27, 8:00 p.m., Library with, Zoom option

Monday Morning Bible Discussion: Mar. 7, 14, 21, & 28, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Women's Bible Study: Saturdays, Mar. 5 & 12, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Women's Discipleship: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., Library

Youth

Confirmation: Mar. 27, at 4:00 & 5:00 p.m., Westminster

Connection: Wednesday, Mar. 2, 6:00 p.m., Youth Rooms, & Wednesday, Mar. 23, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms.

High School Youth Group: -Saturday, Mar. 26, 10:00 a.m., Sharing Shelf

-Sunday, Mar. 27, 6:00 p.m., Vespers, Chapel

Music

Chancel Choir: Meet 9:15 a.m., sing at 10:00 a.m. service, rehearsal following service (11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) Children's Choir: Thursdays, 3:30 p.m., Sanctuary Youth Choir: Sundays, TBD, Chapel

Other Church Meetings

All Souls Team Meeting: Thursday, Mar. 24. 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

Mission & Outreach: Wednesday, Mar. 9, 7:30 p.m., Zoom **New Members Welcome Discussions:**

Sundays, Mar. 20 & 27, 11:15 a.m., via Zoom

NOLA Bingo: Sunday, Mar. 6, 11:15 a.m., Assembly Room Personnel Committee: Monday, Mar. 13, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom Stephen Ministers:

-Prime Ministers: Monday, Mar. 7, 8:30 p.m., via Zoom

3Ts: Tuesday, Mar. 15, 9:50 a.m., via Zoom Contact Jane Mickatavage (914-967-8622) or

Nancy Steed (914-328-9658).

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

Worship & Music: Monday, Mar. 14, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

In February, the classes celebrated the Lunar New Year. They read books to learn about how many people prepare for and celebrate the new year. They also learned that each year has an animal assigned to it and that this is the Year of the Tiger. The children made paper lanterns by decorating red paper with gold paint. They then cut lines in the folded paper and connected the ends to complete their lanterns.

During circle time, the teachers shared the story of the Chinese Zodiac using animal puppets as props. After the children were familiar with the story, the puppets and numbered animal cards were placed in the math center for the children to explore independently. To tell the story, the children needed to reference the numbered cards and put the animals in order. This was a fun way to incorporate language skills, literacy, and math as we practiced recognizing and ordering numbers.

The children also learned that during Lunar New Year, it is bad luck to write anything in red. All week, the children gathered any red writing utensils and added them to a jar in our classroom. At the end of the week, we played an estimation game to estimate how many red writing utensils were found.







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

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