

# Grace Notes

VOLUME 85

RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 882 BOSTON POST ROAD • RYE • NY • 10580

OCTOBER 2008



## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

It's a good idea, in this season of political decision making and voting, to engage in productive discourse with those with whom we agree and those with whom we differ, and to consider prayerfully and carefully, using both minds and hearts, other persons who will be impacted by our decision making, that we decide not only for ourselves, that we fully consider the humanity of those who our decisions will impact, and that we not do unto others what we would not have done to our own selves and loved ones. This is our calling as the Body of Christ in the world.

Faithfully yours,

*Nancy De Vries*

Dr. Nancy De Vries ✦

The great Jewish philosopher, Hillel the Elder, is quoted, "If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?"

Other great persons of faith have expressed similar thoughts. One of my favorites is Martin Buber whose mystical work, *I and Thou*, pushes us to refuse to fail to see the humanity in every other human being. It is a profoundly relevant foundation for moral decision making. It is much harder to deceive, oppress or kill a person whom we see as fully human, the "I," as opposed to an "it."

Leo Tolstoy wrote

If you cannot do unto others what you would that they should do to you, at least do not do unto them what you would not that they should do unto you...if you would not be made to work ten hours at a stretch in factories or mines, if you would not have your children hungry, cold, or ignorant, if you would not be robbed of the land that feeds you, if you would not be shut up in prisons and sent to be hanged for committing an unlawful deed through passion or ignorance, if you would not suffer wounds or be killed in war—do not do this unto others. All this is so simple and straightforward...that it is impossible for the simplest child not to understand, nor for the cleverest man to refute it. It is impossible to refute this law especially because this law was given to us not only by all the wisest people of the world...but because it is written in our minds and hearts.

### Peacemaking 2008

"Blessed are the peacemakers"...but how and where will we bring peace to our world? Perhaps a good way to start is with the Presbyterian Peacemaking offering on World Communion Sunday, October 5.

On that day, our church will join with Presbyterian churches worldwide to collect a special offering for peaceful endeavors. One fourth of our contributions will be given to Doctors Without Borders, a stellar performer in over 70 countries, in support of their international medical relief programs. Another 25 percent is directed to presbytery and synod peacemaking initiatives. Fifty percent of the offering is designated for peacemaking work carried out by the whole denomination to support global humanitarian and reconciliation efforts.

Mission and Outreach encourages you to read the Peacemaking Offering inserts which will appear in RPC's Sunday bulletins for a fuller picture and to see how lives are changed, communities are transformed, and people are given hope.

Please make a commitment to peacemaking and give prayerfully and generously to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering.

## Christian Education, Mission and Fellowship

### Church School

On Saturday, September 6, forty of our teachers gathered to listen, share and plan for the year ahead. Our workshop began with an introduction and presentation from our pastors, the Reverends Nancy De Vries and Dan Love. We were energized as we renewed our commitment to teach and walk with our children on their faith journeys. We are blessed to have such a devoted and enthusiastic group of teachers!

The following day three hundred children filled the sanctuary and classrooms. The halls bustled with cheerful faces, songs, lessons and prayer. After church, the entire congregation shared in a festive fall picnic hosted by Congregational Life. It was a glorious day and a wonderful beginning to what will be a wonderful year!

This is our first year using *We Believe*, a curriculum written and published by educators from the Presbyterian Church USA. This fall, we will focus on the stories of the Old Testament. Children will become familiar with the lives of Moses, Deborah, Hannah, and Samuel. Young people will begin to understand the historical context and importance of events leading up to the birth of Jesus.

Over the next few weeks, each child will be given a RPC church school folder. The folder contains a schedule for the year, a letter from our senior pastor, and materials about our children's choir. If your child has not received a folder, please contact the Christian Education Office and we will get one to you.

### Middle School Connection

We meet this month on Wednesdays, October 1 and 15, at 5:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room. All middle school youth are invited to join in as we eat, have fun, and learn a bit more about what it means to be the people of God. Bring a friend! And mark those calendars for the indoor rock climbing trip scheduled for **Friday, November 7!**

### Confirmation Class

With orientation and introductions under the belt, the confirmation class is off and running for another year! Classes begin this month after we commission them for their year of study **during worship on October 19**. Soon they will be wrestling with the deeper questions of the Christian faith – who IS God? And what does God want to do with me? In addition, each confirmand will be matched with a mentor who will pray for them and help guide them through the year. The class will also be working through *The Study Catechism*, a recent work of the denomination that spells out the essentials of our shared faith. Please keep the class in your prayers this year!

### Children's Communion Workshop – Saturday, October 4

The Lord's Supper. Communion. Eucharist. A piece of bread and a bit of juice? What is all that about?!

If your child or children have expressed interest in learning more about the Lord's Supper, here is an opportunity for you to grow in your faith together. On **Saturday, October 4, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**, intrigued children in the first through fourth grades are welcome to come with a parent to this special workshop. Together we will explore the meaning of the sacrament and how we celebrate it here at Rye Presbyterian Church. Children will then be invited to take communion during worship the following day.

Space is limited, so please sign up at the church reception desk. For more information, contact Reverend Love.

### Men's Sunday Evening Bible Study

**October 5 and 19  
8:00 p.m. in the Library**

### Prayer Chain Contact

Please call Lynn Ferguson at 203-869-7699 if you, or someone you know, would like to be included in the church's prayer chain.

### Richard E. Murdoch Award

Each year, the Mission and Outreach Committee presents the Richard E. Murdoch Award to a member of Rye Presbyterian Church or the community who has shown meaningful commitment to outreach and service in the region. The criteria for this award are dedication, cooperation, compassion and effective results in the recipient's cause or program. A grant of \$2000 to the recipient's choice of charitable organizations accompanies this award. In addition, the name of the recipient is added to the plaque which hangs on the wall in the Westminster Room hallway just past the Reception Desk and lists all who have received the award.

The Mission and Outreach Committee feels that the Murdoch Award recognizes the importance to our congregation and to the community of the vital role outreach and Christian concern play in the vision and character of Rye Presbyterian Church.

The 2008 Murdoch Award will be presented during the 10:00 o'clock church service on **October 19**. We invite everyone to be present for this time of recognition and celebration.

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

**October 8 and 22  
9:15 a.m. in the Library  
Second Samuel**

We've followed David's rise to glory and the great promises made to him by God. And now the problems emerge for this great leader. All are welcome to join this study and discussion as we continue our journey through this fascinating narrative seeing what it has to say to us and our life of faith today.



**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

Sitting in worship on Sunday mornings, you might have noticed the little laminated pew cards, with information about the Stephen Ministry. Four years ago, shortly after the program was introduced at our church, I was sitting with my (then) four-year-old son in the pew when he pulled out such a card and looked at it with curiosity. He couldn't read it yet, but it reminded him of something. We had just gotten back from a visit to relatives in Germany, and on the long return flight he had been fascinated by the emergency booklet's images of slides, rafts and life vests, studying it with great interest. My son turned to me and, in his best church whisper, said gravely, "Mommy, are these the emergency instructions?" Of course I laughed at first, but then I paused, thought, and replied, "Well, actually, yes. They are."

So when the ride gets more than a little bumpy, remember that there are Stephen Ministers right here at RPC who are trained and ready to walk with you, to share your burden, and to help you through whatever crisis you might be facing. And next Sunday, pick up one of these little cards. You may even take it home with you. Reading these emergency instructions might make a big difference in your life one day.

For more information or a confidential conversation, please don't hesitate to call the Reverend Dr. Nancy De Vries or Reverend Dan Love at 967-0842, or Stephen Leader Tav Rogers at 921-1809.

**Women's Saturday Morning Bible Study**

**October 11 and 18  
9:30 a.m., in the Library**



**"AS BREATH IS TO LIFE..."  
A RETREAT ON PRAYER**

"So are you to me as breath is to life...  
or as sweet seasoned showers  
are to the ground..."

*Wm. Shakespeare*

Save the Date!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8  
RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The Women's Association invites the women of our congregation to this extraordinary day for strengthening ourselves in God, for the deepening our prayer lives. The retreat will be led by Sister Carol Andrew Murray of the Order of St. Helena. The OSH is a religious order for lay and ordained women in the Episcopal Church whose calling and life are focused on prayer. Sister Carol Andrew Murray is a sister, a priest, and an educator of notable spiritual depth who has led retreats and adult education with unusual skill and spiritual sensitivity across many years.

The projected time is 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
More information will be forthcoming.

# Sundays in October



## The Bulletin Board



### October 5

**8:30** Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel.

**8:30** Peacemaking

**10:00** Communion Worship, Sanctuary. Reverend Love preaching.

**10:00** Church School. Children attend worship through children's message.

**8:00** Men's Bible Study, Library.

### October 12

**8:30** Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel.

**10:00** Morning Worship, Sanctuary. Dr. De Vries preaching.

**10:00** Church School. Children attend worship through children's message.

**11:30** Teachers' College, Library.

### October 19

#### Stewardship Sunday

**8:30** Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel.

**10:00** Morning Worship, Sanctuary. Reverend Love preaching.

- Commissioning of Confirmation Class.

- Presentation of Richard E. Murdoch Award, Sanctuary.

**10:00** Church School. Children attend worship through children's message.

**11:15** New Member Orientation, Library.

**8:00** Men's Bible Study, Library.

### October 26

**8:30** Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel.

**10:00** Morning Worship, Sanctuary. Dr. De Vries preaching.

**10:00** Church School. Children attend worship through children's message.

**11:15** New Member Orientation, Library.

**4:00** Women's Association Halloween Party, Assembly Room

Please join us for coffee hour in the Assembly Room after ten o'clock worship.

Join the RPC Women's Association for

### A Ladies' Night Out Monday, October 6, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Cynthia Deen's's home at 55 North Street in Rye**

Refreshments will be provided. There is no charge. Bring a friend!!

Please sign up at the Reception Desk  
or rsvp to Nonie Reich at nonie.reich@verizon.net.

**We are looking forward to seeing you for some fun and fellowship!**

**International Lunch goes to the Land of the Rising Sun...  
and it's right next door!**

### KOO JAPANESE RESTAURANT 17 Purdy Avenue, Rye, Phone: 967-9888 Tuesday, October 21, at 12:30.

The lunch is simply a time and place where whoever is free that day shows up. Don't be intimidated if you don't know anyone — we're friendly! Bring a friend! Meet some really great people! Cindy Kuster calls the restaurant the day before with a number, so let her know — CKuster@aol.com, or 925-2312 — if you are planning to come. Also, let her know if you are not currently on the email list, but wish to be included in the future.

Cindy's cell, if something goes wrong that day: 914-282-1956

Note: Koo is a little on the pricey side,

Bring your goblins and ghouls and join us for the

### Annual Family Halloween Party

**Sunday, October 26**

Games, crafts and spooky stories  
for our young children and their families

SAVE THE DATE!

### HOLIDAY COOKING: EASY APPETIZERS WITH BARBARA NISS

**Wednesday, November 12, 11:45 a.m., RPC Kitchen**

# October Schedule of Meetings, Events and Programs

## BOARD MEETINGS

**Deacons:** Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 p.m., Library.  
**Session:** Wednesday, October 22, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room.  
**Trustees:** Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 p.m., Youth Room.

## WORSHIP AND STUDY

**Worship:** Sundays, 8:30 a.m., Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel; 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship, Sanctuary.  
**Church School:** Regular Church School, Sundays, October 14, 21 and 28; Family Communion Worship, October 5.  
**Communion Workshop:** Saturday, October 4, 9:30 — 11:00 a.m., Westminster Room.  
**Confirmation:** Commissioning, Sunday October 19, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary;  
Regular Class, Sunday, October 19, 11:00 a.m., Westminster Room.  
**Men's Bible Study:** Sundays, October 5 and 19, 8:00 p.m., Library.  
**New Member Orientation Classes:** Sundays, October 14 and 21, 11:15 a.m., Library.  
**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** October 8 and 22, 9:15 a.m., Library.  
**Women's Association Retreat: *As Breath is to Life*:** Saturday, November 8, 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.  
**Women's Bible Study:** Saturdays, October 11 and 18, 9:15 a.m., Library.

## YOUTH

**Boy Scouts Troop #2:** Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room.  
**Connection:** Wednesdays, October 1 and 15, 5:30 p.m., Westminster Room.  
**Cub Scouts:** Den Leaders: Wednesdays, October 8, 7:30 p.m., Youth Room;  
Pack Meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room.  
**Girl Scout Leaders:** Wednesday, October 8, 1:00 p.m., Library.  
**Women's Association Halloween Party:** Sunday, October 26.

## MUSIC

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** Sundays, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m., and Thursdays, 7:45 p.m., Choir Room.  
**Children's Choir Rehearsal:** Tuesdays, 3:45 — 4:30 p.m., Chapel.

## OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

**APNC:** Mondays, October 6 and 20, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room.  
**Christian Education Committee:** Wednesday, October 8, 7:30 p.m., Library.  
**Mission and Outreach Committee:** Wednesday, October 1, 7:30 p.m., Library.  
**Sandwichmakers:** Thursday, October 16, 11:00 a.m., Kitchen and Assembly Room.  
**Stephen Ministry:**  
Leaders: Tuesdays, October 7 and 21, 9:15 a.m., Library;  
Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesdays, October 7 and 21, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room and Library;  
Refresher Course, Saturday, October 18, 8:30 a.m., Library.  
**Thrift Shop:** Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m., Downstairs.  
**Women's Association Board Meeting:** Monday, October 6, 9:15 a.m., Library.  
**Women's Association Ladies Night Out:** Monday, October 6, 7:00 p.m., Cynthia Deen's home.  
**Women's Association International Lunch:** Tuesday, October 21, Koo Japanese Restaurant, 17 Purdy, Rye, 12:30 p.m.  
**Worship and Music Committee:** Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 p.m., Kevin's office.

## OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS

**AA Rye Harrison Group:** Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room.  
**AA Group:** Thursday evenings, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room.  
**Homeless Overnight:** Saturdays, October 4 and 18, 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room.  
**Mr. Westchester/AIAnon Group:** Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Library.  
**Rye Association for the Handicapped:** Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m., Westminster Room;

Please note that the church offices will be closed on Columbus Day, Monday, October 13.

PHONE: 914 967-0842  
Email: [RPC@ryepc.com](mailto:RPC@ryepc.com)

FAX: 914 967-0267  
Web Site: [www.ryepc.com](http://www.ryepc.com)

## New Member Orientation

All those who are interested in becoming a member of Rye Presbyterian Church are invited to take part in the New Member Orientation classes. The classes are **Sundays, October 19 and 26**, immediately following worship in the church library. Childcare will be available.

In the classes, we will explore what it means to be a Presbyterian in general, and what it means to actively live the faith together as a part of this particular church. In addition, there will be a dinner on **Sunday evening, November 2 at 6:00 p.m.** This is a time to share a meal with officers of the church and other members of the new member class. Following the dinner, the Session will 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, November 9.**

Anyone wishing to find out more about joining the church should contact one of the pastors or the church secretary.

## RPNS 50th Birthday Celebration

Even though Hannah's rains threatened our 50th birthday celebration, approximately 300 current and past parents, children, staff and board members weathered the storm to celebrate our 50 years with RPNS children and families. Our intentions were to recognize all of the people who have made this 50-year journey with us, but our remarks were cut short due to the necessity of moving our party indoors.

My love for the RPNS and the RPC community stems from the full circle of connectedness that I continually experience in my role as director. How wonderful it was to see many of our founding directors. Jane Jackson, board member, RPNS teacher, parent and grandparent of RPNS students, was there to watch her grandson, alumnus Jack Tobin, perform with his band, *November Juliette*. Jean Harvey, another of our school's founding board members and parent, joined her son, Doug McKean, an alumnus of one of the first RPNS classes and current board member. Carolyn Cunningham, founding board member, parent and grandparent was there to celebrate with her daughter, Cathy McFarland, RPNS alumna, parent and current teacher. Our visitors viewed the rich classroom environments and panels documenting the children's work. Without the vision and dedication of these founders, our original director, Maria Belden, my predecessor, Mary Waterbury, and many others unnamed, RPNS would not be the exceptional preschool we celebrate today. I was surprised and delighted to be acknowledged for my 25 years as director, with the dedication of a teak bench, which will grace the Great Lawn.

This celebration would not have been possible without the participation and support of many dedicated people:

- The staff and children who explored what they loved most about RPNS: friends, teachers, pets, playground, the bell tower. Children expressed their joy through drawings, a school model and clay wind chimes hanging in the playground. A huge birthday cake was also painted to be on the roof, but Hannah's rains prevented this.



RPNS well wishers enjoying the cupcake birthday cake

- The 2007/8 and 2008/9 Boards of Directors who responded to the need to recognize these past 50 years of service to children and their families by planning and providing funds for our meaningful celebration.

- Lisa Johnson and Cynthia Deen, who worked tirelessly to put together the many details, planning food and entertainment; and to their families, who sorted old pictures into posters of remembrance, created and ran the children’s games and helped with clean up

- The Reverend Dr. Nancy De Vries, for her warm welcome and words of grace; and to Reverend Dan Love for his collaboration during the planning process

- Emily Irving and the dedicated RPC staff—for their planning and help in arranging our party right up to the last minute

- Alfredo, Gonzalo, and Daya for their preparation and clean up after such an extravaganza, late into the night, so that our beautiful building would be ready for Welcome Back Sunday a few hours later! Jackie Blanchard, a supporter of RPNS for as long as I can remember, came to celebrate as well.

- All of the former pastors and associate pastors who have partnered with us during the 50 years

- The Session, Trustee and RPNS board members, RPC church members and RPNS parents who have worked together in partnership over the years to maintain and update this beautiful Education Wing, playground and grounds. Their vision and fiscal support have provided for the alterations and repairs so necessary throughout 50 years—right up to the beautiful new sidewalk to Milton Road!

We have created an identity book that contains the children’s work and words, graphic representation and photos, a timeline and an overview of our philosophy. There are copies in the RPC Narthex and at the Reception Desk. Please be sure to pick one up!

I am most grateful for this caring community of people who have shared their love and support, their trust and loyalty, their faith and vision. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Flood, RPNS Director



The Deen Family



John Tobin and his band, *November Juliette*

**Stewardship 2008-2009**

As you may know by now, our 2008-09 Stewardship Campaign is well underway. Our 2007-08 campaign was record breaking, but we must not rest on our laurels. In order to support the life of the church we must continue to be as generous as we can. We are on a path to where we need to be, but we have not achieved the level of support our church needs and deserves.

One of our important goals is to exceed the percentage of church member families pledging this year over last. More participation at any level will be a victory!

Please remember to make your pledge as soon, and as generously, as you can. Pledge cards are available through the church office.

**Grace Notes Deadline**

The deadline for the November issue of Grace Notes is October 14. Please submit your articles to Robin Russell at rdhr@mindspring.com.



Kathy Reames

**Please Welcome RPC's New Administrative Assistant**

Kathy Reames has begun as Rye Presbyterian Church's new Administrative Assistant. She will be in the office daily, Monday through Friday. Kathy comes to us from New York Medical College in Valhalla where she held the position of Program Admin-

istrator/Residency Coordinator for the Department of Orthopedic Surgery. Prior to her position at New York Medical College, Kathy was employed by the Westchester Medical Center for fourteen years as the Executive Assistant to the Medical Staff and Interim Secretary to the Hospital's Board of Directors. She is a resident of White Plains. Please stop by the office and welcome Kathy to RPC!

**Chancel Flowers**

Did you know that flowers in the chancel may be dedicated in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special person or occasion, or perhaps in gratitude for life's blessings? If you would like to help our church defray the cost of the weekly floral arrangements which grace the communion table, please consider making a contribution. Just call Kathy in the church office at 967-0842, extension 11, with the information you would like to have included in the Sunday bulletin.

October 2008 Newsletter  
Dated material  
Address correction requested

