

# Grace Notes

VOLUME 82

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

MAY 2008



## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

### *The Twenty-third Psalm*

A wonderful and favorite Bible passage of Christians across the centuries is Psalm 23. Tradition holds that King David wrote it, and we may remember that he was a shepherd himself in his young years. It is beautiful — lyrical and comforting — and is known by Christians all over the world. Perhaps the most commonly memorized version is that found in the King James Bible.

Presbyterians in my generation (don't ask!) memorized it as children in the King James Bible, along with the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, and Psalm 100. Also in that childhood canon of memorization were the Gloria Patri, a few table graces, "Jesus Loves Me," "Silent Night," "Fairest Lord Jesus," and an old favorite of my mother's, "Onward Christian Soldiers." There are others.

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, memorization of scripture fell out of fashion for a while. This is a shame! The internalization of Bible passages and hymns can bear us up in dark nights of the soul, can guide us when we most need it, and can infuse our hearts with a sense of Divine Presence when we would otherwise perceive ourselves to be utterly forsaken. Such deep internal knowledge consciously and unconsciously helps shape who we are. The precepts in these passages and hymns become both the strong foundation on which we stand, "a light unto our path" when we need guidance, and provide us with a sense of home that no storm or external disaster can take away. Such knowing of scripture deepens and confirms Christian spirituality.

On the first Sunday in June, 2008, Rye Presbyterian Church will have a very special service based on Psalm 23. The sermon, liturgy and music will celebrate and explore its themes. The sermon will focus on this psalm, and Kevin Walters and the choir are planning a setting of it in English by Ralph Vaughan Williams and a setting in Hebrew com-

posed by Gerald Cohen. Amanda Hanzlik will be directing the children singing the psalm to the tune, "Crimond," as it is commonly sung from the Scottish Psalter, also known as "The Lord's My Shepherd."

If you never memorized Psalm 23, this would be a wonderful time to do it. There is a contemporary version on our website, or try the incomparably beautiful King James.

As you prepare for June 1, consider listening to recent settings of Psalm 23. A hauntingly beautiful and unusual example is to be found in Bobby McFerrin's collection, *Medicine Music*. He dedicates it to his mother, who clearly has been his good shepherd and the communicator of loving kindness to him.

Take a moment in the next few weeks to look at three stained glass interpretations of Psalm 23 in our own beautiful building. The Library is the setting for a beautiful four-paneled window interpretation. This window, given in memory of Isabelle Rutherford Matthews Corning, a teacher in the RPC Sunday School for 45 years, is lovely and winsome. In the south transept of the Sanctuary is another depiction of Jesus as the Good Shepherd — an image from Psalm 23. The center of the Great Chancel Window, the crowning jewel of the sanctuary, is a lovely and moving depiction again of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

I hope you will be able to be here on June 1. It will be a wonderful Sunday for our church

Yours in Faith and Friendship

*Rev. Nancy A. De Vries*

Dr. Nancy De Vries ☩

### Thanks to you...

The Mission and Outreach Committee has received a total of \$11,535 from RPC's One Great Hour of Sharing offering, including \$100 from the Sunday School children. These funds will be divided equally between world-wide Presbyterian assistance programs and the Bob Woodruff Family Fund. They will help "darkness shine as light" through our denomination's disaster aid, hunger relief and self-development projects and through the Woodruff Fund's advocacy for and direct aid to service men and women who have received traumatic brain injury or suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome from duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mission and Outreach extends our deepest appreciation to the RPC congregation for your generosity.

## Christian Education, Mission and Fellowship

### Church School

May is a festive month in the life of our church school. On **May 4**, younger children will gather in the chapel for their final service of the school year. They will celebrate with the junior choir in worship and song. At the same time, our ninth graders will gather in the sanctuary as the congregation celebrates their confirmation. They have worked hard all year with Reverend Love. Please join them for this special event as we rejoice in this momentous milestone on their Christian journey.

#### Presentation of Bibles to First Graders

On **May 18**, our first graders will each be given a children's Bible. This beautifully illustrated Bible is an acknowledgement of their growing faith and quest for biblical knowledge.

#### Teacher Recognition Luncheon

After the service on **May 18**, teachers will gather in the library for a special Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon. This occasion will celebrate our dedicated teachers and all that they have given our children and congregation.

#### Good Shepherd Service

On **June 1**, during the service, our young people will recite the 23rd Psalm in unison. Our church school children are working hard memorizing this sacred psalm. Please join us for this special Good Shepherd service.

As we end our school year, we pause to give praise and thanks for our children and teachers who serve as a reminder of the Holy Spirit at work in the life of our church. The joy and learning found in the classrooms on Sundays reminds us of our obligations as Christians in the world. Let us go forth in the world and rejoice!

### IMPACT

IMPACT will have a regular meeting this month on Sunday, **May 4, at 5:00 p.m. in the Youth Room**. Our end-of-year BBQ is scheduled for **Sunday, May 18, at 5:00 p.m. on the Great Lawn**.

### Middle School Connection

RPC's Middle School Connection meets this month on **Wednesdays May 7 and 21 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Westminster Room. All middle school youth are welcome to attend!

### Confirmation Class

#### Sunday, May 4, 2008

##### Breakfast

for confirmands and families  
**8:45 a.m., Assembly Room**

Worship with communion  
**10:00 a.m., Sanctuary**

The confirmation class has worked hard over these last eight months learning the basics of the faith, reflecting on their own beliefs, working to live out their faith in everyday life. In the last month they have crafted Statements of Faith, personal statements of where they are in their journey of faith.

Last month, the class had a meeting with the Session of the church to be approved for full adult membership. Prior to that time, they each met individually with elders of the church to talk about their statements, and their plans for beginning their adult life as a disciple of Jesus and a member of Rye Presbyterian Church. As adult members of the church, this is truly a beginning and not an end. Confirmation is a public affirmation of faith, and a public commitment to continue the journey of faith in the context of the life of the church.

On **May 4**, we will celebrate this new beginning as we worship and welcome the new members to the table of fellowship. The festivities will begin with a breakfast for confirmands and their families at **8:45 a.m. in the Assembly Room**. Worship with Confirmation and Communion will be at 10:00 a.m. (Please note that the worship service this morning will run past 11:00 a.m.) There, with the confirmands, we can all reconfirm our commitment to be disciples on the way of the Lord.

### Parenting your Teenager

Are they headed in the right direction or headed off the track? Am I not doing enough to help them, or am I doing too much?

The teen years are confusing — and maybe even especially so for the parents of teens. This five-week study will be facilitated by rookie teen parent, Reverend Dan Love, and mother of four, Susan Skelsey. Together, we will take a look at the challenging landscape to be navigated by teens and their parents. Utilizing resources by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, clinical psychologists and family therapists, we will explore issues of identity, turmoil and faith, and how to develop skills to be more effective in our parenting.

While we met once in April, all are still welcome. We will meet on **Monday evenings in the Library at 7:30 p.m. from April 28 to June 2, except May 26**. A \$15 registration fee will help defray costs. Please sign up at the reception desk or by contacting Reverend Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

**May 7 and 21, 9:15 a.m. in the Library.** All are welcome to join in this study of the rise and fall of King David.

### Men's Sunday Evening Bible Study

This month we gather on **May 4 and 18 at 8:00 p.m. in the Library**. Paul's words to the church at Corinth...how are they speaking to us?

### Women's Saturday Morning Bible Study

We will meet this month on **May 3, 17, and 31 in the Library**. All are welcome to join in this continuing study of the Book of Luke.

## Sundays in May



## The Bulletin Board



### May 4 — Easter VII

Confirmation Sunday  
8:30 Holy Communion,  
Crawford Chapel.  
8:45 Confirmation breakfast,  
Assembly Room.  
10:00 Communion worship and  
Confirmation, Sanctuary.  
Dr. de Vries preaching.  
10:00 Church School.  
Children go directly to Chapel.  
5:00 IMPACT, Youth Room.  
8:00 Men's Bible Study, Library.

### May 11 — Pentecost

8:30 Holy Communion,  
Crawford Chapel.  
10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary.  
Reverend Love preaching.  
10:00 Church School.  
Children attend worship through the  
children's message.  
11:00 Silent Auction, Assembly Room.

### May 18 Trinity Sunday

8:00 Holy Communion, Crawford  
Chapel.  
10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary.  
Dr. De Vries preaching.  
10:00 Church School.  
Children attend worship through the  
children's message.  
11:15 CE teacher appreciation luncheon,  
Library.  
5:00 IMPACT, final meeting and  
barbecue, Great Lawn.  
8:00 Men's Bible Study, Library.

### May 25 —

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford  
Chapel.  
10:00 Family Worship, Sanctuary.  
Reverend Love preaching.

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

### UPDATE YOUR CHURCH FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH

If you need a new family  
photograph taken for the picture  
boards outside the Westminster  
Room, or if you are a new member  
who missed having one taken when  
you joined RPC, come to the library  
on **Sundays, May 4 and 11** to remedy  
that situation!

RPC's Fabulous Outreach Benefit  
presented by the Mission and Outreach Committee

**Festival de Diez de Mayo**  
**Saturday, May 10, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.**  
**Assembly Room**

**Wine-tasting, dinner, live and silent auctions,  
line dancing, and more!!!**  
**\$50 per person**                      **free on-site babysitting**

Come for fun and fellowship to benefit our church's community outreach projects. Bring your friends and neighbors, too! Sign-up now at the Reception Desk, by phone or email to Carol Norton at 914-967-0119 or seneca2580@verizon.net, or call Scott Cannell at 914-428-7282.

Reservations are needed by Friday, May 2. Please send your check to Emily Irving in the church business office and mark it "M&O Benefit."

Thanks and see you there!

We welcome silent auction items, with a minimum value of \$50, please, due to space limitations. Please bring them to the Assembly Room on Friday, May 9, or Saturday, May 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or call Scott or Carol to make other arrangements.

Please join us for

**The Women's Association**  
**Annual Garden Party**  
**and Grant Awards Luncheon**

**Monday, June 2 11:30 a.m — 2:00 p.m., Grape Arbor**

Come and get to know many wonderful community organizations;  
then join us as we hand out the 2008 grants!

Sign up at the Reception Desk, or RSVP to [bptown@mindspring.com](mailto:bptown@mindspring.com)  
This is a time to celebrate the work of many! All are welcome!

### Annual Church School Picnic

**Sunday, June 8**  
**immediately after worship under the Grape Arbor**

Come and honor our graduating Seniors  
and celebrate the end of the school year!

Featuring those RPC picnic favorites: the hot dog cart and ice cream truck!

If your last name begins with...

A — F: green, vegetable or pasta salad

G — S: sandwiches or a side dish

T — Z: dessert — fruit salad, cookies, etc.

Food may be left in the kitchen before worship. Volunteers are needed to set up, serve, and clean up. Please sign up at the Reception Desk or call the Church Office, 967-0842, x 17 with any questions.

# May Schedule of Meetings, Events and Programs

## BOARD MEETINGS

**Deacons:** Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m., Library.

**Session:** Wednesday, May 28, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room.

**Trustees:** Wednesday, May 21, 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:** Sundays: May 11 and 18, Regular Classes, 10:00 a.m.; Chapel, May 4;  
Family worship, May 25.

**Confirmation:** Sunday, May 4 — Confirmation Breakfast, 8:45 a.m., Assembly Room;  
Confirmation, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary.

**Men's Bible Study:** Sundays, May 4 and 18, 8:00 p.m., Library.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** May 7 and 21, 9:15 a.m., Library.

**Women's Bible Study:** Saturdays, May 3, 17 and 31, 9:15 a.m., Library.

## YOUTH

**Boy Scouts Troop #2:** Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room.

**Connection:** Wednesdays, May 7 and 21, 5:30 p.m., Westminster Room.

**Cub Scouts:** Den Leaders, Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 p.m., Youth Room;  
Pack Meeting, Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room.

**Girl Scout Leaders:** Wednesday, May 7, 1:00 p.m., Library.

**IMPACT:** Sundays: Regular Meeting, May 4, 5:00 p.m., Youth Room;  
End of Year Barbecue, Great Lawn, May 18, 5:00 p.m.

## MUSIC

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** Sundays, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m., Choir Room.

**Children's Choir Rehearsals:** Tuesdays, 3:45 p.m., Chapel.

## OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

**Christian Education Committee:** Wednesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m., location TBA;  
Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, Sunday, May 18, 11:15 a.m., Library.

**Mission and Outreach Committee:** Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 p.m., Library;

Auction and Tex-Mex Dinner, Saturday, May 10, Assembly Room, Library, and Kitchen;  
Continuation of Silent Auction, Sunday, May 11, 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m., Assembly Room.

**Parenting Workshop:** Mondays, May 5, 12, and 19, and June 2, 7:30 p.m., Library.

**Sandwichmakers:** Thursday, May 15, 11:00 a.m., Kitchen and Assembly Room.

**Stephen Ministry:** Leaders — Tuesday, May 13, 9:15 a.m., Library;

CE and Supervision — Tuesdays, May 6 and 20, 6:30 p.m., Westminster Room and Library.

**Thrift Shop:** Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m., Downstairs.

**Women's Association:** Board Meeting, Monday, May 5, 9:15 a.m., Library;

Cloisters trip, Tuesday, May 6, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Worship and Music Committee:** Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m., Kevin's office.

## OUTREACH, SUPPORT GROUPS AND OTHER EVENTS

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

**AA Rye Harrison Group:** Mondays, except May 26, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room.

**Dinner at Noon:** Thursday, May 16, 5:00 p.m. and Friday, May 17, 9:00 a.m., Kitchen.

**Homeless Overnight:** Saturday, May 17, 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room.

**Mr. Westchester/AlAnon Group:** Mondays, except May 26, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room.

**Rye Association for the Handicapped:** Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m., Westminster Room.

**Rye Youth Council Breakfast:** Thursday, May 22, 7:30 a.m., Assembly Room.

**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)**

**PLEASE NOTE: The Church offices will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26.**

# STEPHEN MINISTRY



## WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH...

Here's the thing about living in a "Type A" town like Rye - we all want to be in control. We like having the power to choose exactly what is going to happen and when. But every so often, it doesn't work out that way. When something unforeseen happens and we realize that we are not in charge, we feel lost, overwhelmed, angry, even terrified. Stephen Ministers are trained to help when things spiral out of control. They are ready to walk alongside someone who is suffering, and they can provide support and encouragement. They listen, and they don't judge. So when the going gets tough, you don't need to go it alone. As the old saying goes, "A burden shared is half the burden," — and there is a Stephen Minister ready to help you carry yours.

For more information or a confidential conversation, please contact Dr. De Vries or Reverend Love at 967-0842, or Stephen Leader Tav Rogers at 921-1809.

## Dinner at Noon

As a congregation, one of the ways in which we are able to put words into action is through the program, Dinner at Noon. This program, which is overseen by Helping Hands of Westchester, asks local congregations on a rotating basis to prepare and serve lunch every Saturday at the Carver Center in Port Chester. Our congregation has this blessing a little less often than once each month, with the next date being **May 17**. Depending on the time of year we serve from 50 to 100 guests.

Generally, we meet at the Carver Center at 10:30 to organize things. We serve the meal between 11:30 and 11:45, and by 12:30 we are finished and on our way home. In order to do this properly we need about 10 volunteers who may include children, who are a great help to us and a joy to our guests. Although the food for the meal has been arranged beforehand, additional gifts of baked goods, floral arrangements and other kindnesses are welcome.

For additional information or to tell us that you'd like to join us, or both, you may contact Deacons Linda Goldstein at willgsg@optonline.net or Michael Ghitelman at michael.ghitelman@gmail.com.

## SILENT AUCTION PRIZE— A TRIP TO SING SING!

At the 2007 Silent Auction, ten RPC members, impelled by faith, interest, curiosity, or the words of Jesus, signed up to visit Sing Sing and the New York Theological Seminary's Class of 2008 who are studying there. After various bureaucratic entanglements, the visits took place March 27 and April 10. They were well worth the wait! Each group met with the 12 members of the Class, plus two inmate staff members, in their windowless classroom under the Sing Sing Chapel. The March 27 session was led by Dr. Edward Hunt, Director of the NYTS Sing Sing program, and the April 10 visit by Julio Medina, himself a graduate of the program and the Executive Director of Exodus Transitional Community.

We all sat in a circle for an informal discussion of life in prison, the men's hopes and plans for a productive future on the outside, their family relationships, the pain they feel for their victims and the dreams that they shattered, and the hard road they will need to travel to prepare themselves properly for a successful life of freedom. The discussion was thoughtful, intense, funny, introspective and much more. The men welcomed the group with open minds and hearts, and by the time the visit was over, new friends were made and much was learned about a world that most people would like to pretend doesn't exist. As one of the visitors, Kristin Jautz, said: "It was extremely powerful to put faces, names and life stories to nameless prison statistics. We met men who had committed atrocious crimes, and yet we found much common ground. Their honesty and spirituality touched all of us."



Helping Hands for the Homeless — Dinner at Noon

**PLEASE NOTE  
THE DEADLINE  
FOR THE  
SUMMER ISSUE  
OF GRACE NOTES:  
SATURDAY, MAY 10**



**Habitat for Humanity Trip to Florida**

A natural instinct of most human beings is to reach out in support of one another. How do you turn a community service trip into a unforgettable demonstration of spirit? Just ask the 15 kids from Rye and New Rochelle High School how. They not only met the challenges of building houses for those in need in North Ft. Myers, Lee County, Florida, for Habitat for Humanity over their winter break, they met another, unforeseen challenges with good old Yankee ingenuity, positive attitudes and creativity.

Little did we know what awaited us on our return flight home. The New York area had been buried in 8-10 inches of wet snow the day before, creating all kinds of flight delays for people trying to get back to New England. When we arrived at Ft. Myers Airport at 5:00 a.m. for our 6:00 a.m. flight we were told by a delightfully confident airline agent that our

flight was delayed due to mechanical failure and that we would know more by 11:00 a.m.

Ft. Myers was not prepared for the magic that was about to descend upon Terminal C and change it into a thoughtful caring "community." It happened somewhere in the middle of napping, eating, the "Terminal Olympics," the massive game of duck, duck, goose in the center of the terminal or the "Human Scavenger Hunt," with numerous people sharing their distress stories and commonalities. It was the kind of thing that occurs to transform strangers into friends, exchanging addresses and phone numbers to keep in touch. Customer Care informed us that we were famous in the terminal, and even in Houston..."Oh, you must be the group from Rye!" People heard about us and came from all over the airport to pass the time and be entertained by our friendly positive attitudes. We all became quite well acquainted with much of the staff in the terminal just by our friendly, affirmative presence.

Talk about kids being resilient, flexible, entertaining, creating companionship and camaraderie, and above all, a positive attitude in the face of adversity... wow! They turned the terminal into a community through the commonality of distress. Their positive attitudes never wavered and this had a major impact on their ability to help and give back to others.

Cudos to those kids who decided to use their vacation to make a significant difference in the world they live in and create a memory that could last for a lifetime. "It is not a matter of circumstance but of choice. Choose to live a life that matters," Michael Josephson says. This was a far reaching example of generosity and compassion for our fellow human beings demonstrated in unforgettable spirit.

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