

# Grace Notes

VOLUME 96

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

DECEMBER 2009



**FROM  
THE  
PASTOR'S  
STUDY**

**My wonderful friends at  
Rye Presbyterian Church,**

I am so glad to be back with you after my medical leave!

I offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the Christmas season ...

*Thank you, God, for loving us and filling our hearts with joy and our lives with purpose. Thanks for simple things that wonderfully warm our days and nights... or the deepening of this mysterious season with the earth lumbering silently towards the winter solstice...for a hot shower, warm clothes on a chilly morning and gently falling snow...for a late evening mug of hot chocolate, a fun coffee date with a new friend, a crackling fire in the fireplace and a comfy chair with a supply of good books next to it in a basket, for our homes filling up with spicy scents, secrets and surprises, for holiday festivities with people we love coming very soon, for good friends upon whom we can utterly count, for a gentle reassuring connection with you in prayer when we feel sad or alone, for pine trees like church steeples pointing towards you with millions and trillions of tiny lights on them reminding us, O God, that you sent us the light of the world...and that the darkness has never overcome it. Thank you, God! Thank you!! Hear the prayers of our hearts! Amen.*

Whether you are travelling or will be with us, may love fill your homes, your lives and your hearts this Christmas.

With great affection,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Dr. Nancy A. De Vries".

The Rev. Dr. Nancy A. De Vries

## *Christmas Eve Services Thursday, December 24*

### *FAMILY SERVICE*

**4:00 p.m.**

*(Childcare will be available)*

### *CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS*

**with soloists and instruments**

**7:00 p.m.**

### *FESTIVAL CHORAL COMMUNION SERVICE*

**with choir and instruments**

**11:00 p.m.**

## *Cantata Sunday at Morning Worship*

*Sunday, December 13*

### **Chancel Choir and Orchestra**

**Antonio Vivaldi - "Gloria"  
George Frideric Handel - The  
Concerto Grosso op.3 no.4 and the  
Organ Concerto op.4 no.2**

Following the service a festive coffee hour will be held in the Assembly Room.

*(Please note: there will be no 8:30 service today)*

## *Christian Education, Connection, Confirmation And Bible Studies*

### **Christian Education**

The Christian Education program is keeping busy and having fun! This month in Sunday school, we learned about David. We talked about how no problem is too “giant” for God with David and Goliath. Plus, we learned about the importance of friendship and family with the stories of David and Jonathan. As Thanksgiving approached, we talked about ways to pray and how important it is that we give God our thanks and praise. Be sure to check out our beautiful Thanksgiving banners—on which we counted our blessings—on the Christian Education bulletin boards. In keeping with our theme of “being thankful,” Mrs. Rawson taught us wonderful Thanksgiving songs in *Singing Our Faith*. To end the month of November, we kicked off the Advent season by making Advent wreaths after worship on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Coming up in December, we'll be reading Christmas stories, decorating cookies, and generally have a wonderfully festive time! The RPC Youth Group also had a busy month. We went rock climbing, baked and delivered pumpkin bread for our new members, and went on a Toys R Us scavenger hunt to donate toys to the children at the Sound Shore Medical Center.

A note to all members: Please set aside any extra travel-size toiletries, and used DVDs, CDs, or gaming systems that you'd be willing to give away... the Youth Group will be gathering those later on!

### **Middle School Connection**

**Wednesdays, December 2 and 16,  
5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.**

The New Rochelle Rock Club survived our presence last month as the group scaled the heights on their many climbing walls. This month we'll meet twice at the church – December 2 and 16 – and in our own unique “Connection” way welcome the Christmas season!

All sixth to eighth graders are welcome.

### **Confirmation Class**

Last year's class was the biggest class in the last decade – 34 strong – but this year's class tops it by another 10! Again this year we've split into two sections to see to fuller participation and engagement as we work through some of the key questions of faith: Are we all here simply by accident or are we a part of some more intentional plan? If God made the world and declared it good, what on earth happened? What has God done to set things right? And most importantly, where do I fit in this whole scheme? To prompt thought and discussion, this year's ninth graders have written papers reflecting on who they are, about their favorite parts of life, and have even thought about what they might want their own obituaries to say some day. This month, they will be writing a reflection paper on a passage from Luke's gospel. They have been assigned readings from the bible as well as authors like Douglas Miller (*Blue Like Jazz*), and Bill Bryson.

In an effort to keep up the good work, there will be a regular class meeting on Sunday, December 6 in the Westminster Room. On December 13, the class will be meeting after church to do some creative and artistic preparation for the Christmas Eve family service. Best to wear clothes you don't mind getting messy! Reflection papers on a passage from the gospel of Luke are due that day!



**Middle-schoolers climbing  
at The Rock Club in New Rochelle.**

### **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

**December 2 and 16  
9:15 a.m. in the Library**

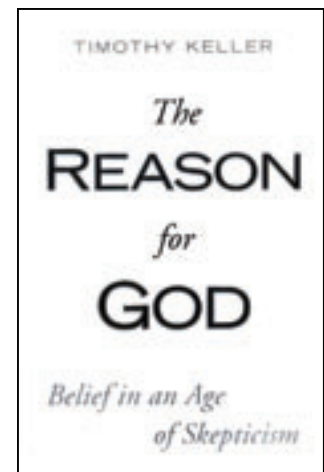
Our reading of the Gospel according to Mark continues.

### **Women's Bible Study**

**Saturdays, December 5 and 19  
9:15 a.m. in the Library**

### **Men's Bible Study**

**Sunday Evenings  
December 6 and 20  
8:00 p.m. in the Library**



### **Men's Bible Study - a look ahead and out of the bible!**

After twelve years of bible studies on Sunday evenings, the men's group will be taking a different course in 2010! Beginning in January, we will be discussing *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller, pastor of Redeemer Church in Manhattan. As one review put it: “*The Reason for God* is written for skeptics and believers alike. It is a response to or perhaps an antidote to the writings of popular authors like Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris. And it is a fine one, at that. So many introductions to Christian beliefs were written many years ago and simply do not resonate with today's skeptics. They assume too much and Keller's volume seeks to fill that void, and it does so well.”

If you'd like to join in, find a copy of the book, dive in, and contact Dan Love to keep up on discussion dates in the new year.

## *Christmas Giving, Stewardship*

### 2009 Christmas Joy Offering

As we enter the Christmas holidays and start thinking about what we want to do for others, it is an especially good time to focus our attention on RPC's Christmas Joy offering. This year the Mission and Outreach Committee has selected two *extraordinary* organizations which it firmly believes deserve our support and generosity. They are **Doctors Without Borders** and **Open Door Family Medical Center**.

**Doctors Without Borders** is an international medical humanitarian organization working in more than 60 countries to assist people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or disaster. Every year, Doctors Without Borders provides emergency medical care to literally millions of people caught in crises around the world. They provide assistance when catastrophic events such as armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, or natural disasters overwhelm populations. They also assist people who face discrimination or neglect from their local healthcare systems or when people are otherwise excluded from even basic health care.

**Open Door Family Medical Center** has offices in Port Chester, Ossining, Sleepy Hollow and Mount Kisco in addition to some school based programs. In 2008, nearly 40,000 individuals were treated at Open Door Family Medical Centers. Over 12,500 children visited Open Door Family Medical Centers representing a 39% increase over 2007. Over 98% of their patients have incomes at or below the federal poverty level. 54% of their patients have no health insurance of any kind. And the need has not lessened since then by any means. One needs only to stop in at one of their centers to see the place bustling with activity and health care providers doing amazing work with so many people who have nowhere else to turn.

Both of these organizations are leaders in their field and provide solid value for the dollars expended. Support of their efforts is money well spent. Contributions to Christmas Joy will be divided equally between the two organizations. Please thoughtfully consider what it

must be like to be without help or hope and give as generously as you possibly can.

We also encourage those willing to do so, to bring layette sets for infants, wrapped in clear plastic, and place them under the sanctuary Christmas tree for delivery to new mothers at Open Door.

Christmas Joy envelopes will be placed in the pews during the month of December or regular envelopes can be designated "Christmas Joy" for this offering. Together during this season of many blessings, may we all appreciate how truly blessed we are and do whatever we can to support these two organizations in their efforts to continue touching lives in incredible ways. Thank you for caring.

### Be An Angel

What would Christmas at RPC be without the beautiful array of wreaths, garlands, poinsettias and trees which adorns our historic church? And what would our worship services be without the wonderful music so gloriously presented by our choir, soloists and instrumentalists? Be an angel and help defray the cost of our Christmas decorations and music. You may do so in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone special, or in gratitude for God's gifts and blessings, family or friends. Just call the church office with your thoughtful donation, or use the envelopes in this issue of *Grace Notes*. To be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, your donation must be received no later than **December 14. Thank you.**

### Stewardship - A Historical Perspective

The following is a reprint of an article that appeared in the **Grace Notes November 1979 issue**, almost exactly thirty years ago. It shows that our church has struggled with difficult economic circumstances before – and prevailed! We hope you will enjoy this charming and enlightening flashback. The current Stewardship Committee can only echo the sentiment expressed in the final paragraph! We've come a long way from colonial days, when the citizenry was taxed to build and maintain a church in every community, to today's Every

Member Canvass where communicant members pledge freely to support our Rye Presbyterian Church. It's interesting to note how some of our predecessors in the intervening years met the budget and coped with money and energy shortages:

**1840-1870** --Partly supported by pew rentals (eight in 1843). in 1861, rents raised from \$5 to \$10, bringing total to \$1900.

**January 2, 1870** --The Ladies of Rye Presbyterian Church, needing funds for church purposes, took a neat, pleasant and efficacious method to obtain them, by holding an Apron Fair, including a showing of Venice by night and excellent cream and cake, so says the Port Chester Daily Item.

**1909** -- Always a little short of meeting current bills during the 1900's, the Church accumulated a deficit of some \$5,000, which was met by a loan from the Rye National Bank. A special appeal was made for more members to contribute. The Finance Committee was requested to "select and appoint a suitable person whose duties shall be that of personally conferring with each of the attendants at this Church, who have not up to May 1, 1909, enrolled themselves as regular subscribers toward the support of the Church, and to solicit regular annual subscriptions from all such, sending a detailed report to each meeting of the Board of Trustees, the remuneration of solicitor to be fixed by Committee."

**1918** --Because of coal shortage, the three Protestant churches in Rye held union services, meeting a month in each building.

**1930's** --The Depression years were keenly felt; every effort was made to cut church expenses. The trustees closed the Church and Church house on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays to reduce expenses of light, heat and upkeep.

How thankful we are for our present-day finance solicitors who urge us gently, but ever so firmly to fulfill our obligation to our church. Their only remuneration is the pride and satisfaction of seeing the good ship R. P. CHURCH sailing so steadily along the course. Let's all put that extra wind in the sails to help it over the finish line!

## Lives in Transition, Women's Association



Barbara Niss teaches  
"Easy Appetizers"

### Lives In Transition Regional Holiday Mixer - December 10: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Lives in Transition launched its first program just before Memorial Day. Since then, the program has served more than 200 participants by providing valuable and practical workshops to help people in the community through difficult career and life changes. The group has met biweekly on Thursday evenings, offering sessions on Self Assessment, Interview Skills, Resume Development, Networking, and Dealing with Stress. The group has also launched a weekday program for participants looking to re-enter the workforce after an extended absence.

On December 10th, Lives in Transition will sponsor a regional networking mixer, joined by five other career networking organizations from the Westchester/Fairfield area. The session will be led by a professional Organizational Development Consultant and Executive Coach, Cindy Herman. Everyone in attendance will have the opportunity to network with nearly everyone else in a highly focused way through a technique called "Super Networking Accelerates Potential"-- SNAP. It is a terrific opportunity for anyone to join the group, give and receive within a collective networking community.

The program is open and free to all, and begins at 7:00 p.m. sharp in the Assembly Room. The program requests

that participants send an RSVP to: [livesintransition@gmail.com](mailto:livesintransition@gmail.com). Stay tuned for the 2010 program calendar. Programs will be held on the first and third Thursday of every month, starting January 7th. Questions? Call Patrick McGunagle at 967 3588 or through [gpm@aol.com](mailto:gpm@aol.com).



Lee Woodruff speaking at the Women's  
Association event

### Women's Association

On Monday, November 9th, Lee Woodruff spoke about her book *Perfectly Imperfect*, and about her experience over the last year. Over 45 people attended and it was quite a successful, entertaining and educational event! Lee spoke highly of the Bob Woodruff Organization and the work they have done since Bob's injury. Please visit their web site [www.remind.org](http://www.remind.org) for more information.

**Easy Appetizers with Barbara Niss** was held on November 18. Barbara said that this is her last year "hosting" the event at RPC. Thank you to Barbara for all of your Easy Appetizer recipes!

The **Thrift Shop Saturday** sale raised over a thousand dollars for our grant giving next June. The Boy Scouts were a great help as well as our fabulously dedicated volunteers. We could not have done it without you! We are now preparing for our **Sunday, December 6 Sale after church service**. Christmas season is upon us. Ho, ho, ho, to the thrift shop go, go, go!

On **December 7**, we having our **annual cookie exchange** and craft making

at Kristin Jautz's house at 10:00 a.m. We will be making Christmas Gel Candles for members of the Sister's Circle, one of our grant recipients. This will be followed by an informal luncheon. Enjoy the glitter of the season and we hope to see you there.

Our Next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 11. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Carver Center where we will discuss plans for the progressive dining and tour the newly renovated Carver Center, another of our grant recipients. The tour will be at 11 a.m.

Please save the date for our Annual Progressive Dinner which is Saturday, February 6th, 2010 from 6 to 9 p.m. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me: Cynthia Deen [cdeen@optonline.net](mailto:cdeen@optonline.net) or call me on 967-8272.



Keenager organizer Jane Mickatavage  
and piemaker Maureen Fearon



### Save the Date - April 24, 2010

**Annual Mission & Outreach Spring Benefit.** This event will have a *nautical* theme so plan your wardrobe choices now!

## *December Schedule of Meetings, Events and Programs*

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

**Deacons:** Wednesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m., at the Love's home

**Session:** Wednesday, December 16, Time and Place will be announced

**Trustees:** Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m., AYC

### **WORSHIP AND STUDY**

#### **Worship on Sunday:**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel (except on December 13)

and 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

**Church School on Sunday:** Regular Church School on December 6, 13, 20  
Enrichment Sunday on December 27.

**Confirmation Sundays:** Regular Class on at December 6, at 4:00 (LZ) and 5:00 (AK), Westminster Room;  
December 13 Christmas Service Project 4:00 (AK) and 5:00 (LZ), Westminster Room.

#### **Men's Sunday Bible Study:**

December 6 and 20 at 8:00 p.m., Library

#### **Wednesday Morning Bible Study:**

December 2 and 16, 9:15 a.m., Library

**Women's Bible Study:** Saturdays, December 5 and 19, 9:15 a.m., Library

### **YOUTH**

**Boy Scout Troop #2:** Tuesdays in December at, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room  
No meeting on December 29

**Cub Scouts: There are no meetings in December**

**Girl Scout Leaders:** Wednesday, December 2, 1:00 p.m., Library

**Connection:** Wednesday, December 2 and 16, 5:30 p.m., Westminster Room

### **MUSIC**

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** Choir Room, Sundays, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.; Thursdays, 7:45 p.m.

**Children's Choir Rehearsal:** Thursdays, 3:45 p.m., Choir Room

**Youth Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m., Choir Room

### **OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS**

**Christian Education Committee:** Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

**Mission and Outreach Committee:** Wednesday, December 2, 6:30 p.m. at the Atwell's

**Sandwichmakers:** Thursday, December 17, 11:00 a.m., Kitchen and Assembly Room

#### **Stephen Ministry:**

Leaders: Tuesday, December 8, and 22, 9:15 a.m., Library

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesdays, December 1 and 15, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Training: December 1 and 8, 6:30 p.m., Library

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

### **OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS**

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

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

**Mr. Westchester/Al-Anon Group:** Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Library

**Homeless Overnight:** The next homeless overnight is Saturday, January 2, 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room

**Dinner at Noon:** Saturday, January 2 at 11:00 a.m. at the Carver Center

**Please Note: The church offices are closed Friday, December 25 and Monday, December 28.**

**PHONE: 914-967-0842 FAX: 914-967-0267**

**Email: [RPC@ryepc.com](mailto:RPC@ryepc.com) Web Site: [www.ryepc.com](http://www.ryepc.com)**

## Sundays/Special Events

### December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent

**8:30** Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel  
**10:00** Communion Worship, Sanctuary,  
Reverend Love preaching. Children's choir singing  
during worship.  
**10:00** Regular church school. Children attend worship  
through children's message  
**4:00** Confirmation Class (L-Z)  
**5:00** Confirmation Class (A-K)  
**6:30** Dessert & Tree Lighting  
**7:00** Youth Group Meeting, Westminster Room  
**8:00** Men's Bible Study, Library

### December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent (Cantata Sunday)

**There will be no 8:30 a.m. Service**  
**10:00** Morning Worship, Sanctuary,  
**10:00** No Church school. Children may stay in church  
or go to the Westminster Room for activities.  
Special Coffee Hour following Worship  
**2:00** Children invited to make Gingerbread Houses in  
the Assembly Room  
**6:00** High School Youth Group in the Westminster  
Room

### December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

**8:30** Holy Communion, Baptism, Crawford Chapel  
**10:00** Morning Worship, Sanctuary, Dr. DeVries  
preaching  
**10:00** Regular church school. Children attend worship  
through children's message  
**4:00** Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary  
**5:00** Pageant Reception, Assembly Room  
**6:00** High School Youth Group in the Westminster  
Room  
**8:00** Men's Bible Study, Library

### December 27 - Christmas I

**8:30** Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel  
**10:00** Morning Worship, Sanctuary, Reverend Love  
preaching. No Church School.  
No High School Youth Group this evening.

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

**RPC's Annual  
CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
Sunday, December 20  
4:00 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary

## Bulletin Board

### Confirmation

**Sunday, December 6**  
Section L-Z meets at 4:00 p.m.  
Section A-K meets at 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday December 13**  
Christmas Project  
Section A-K meets at 4:00 p.m.;  
Section L-Z at 5:00 p.m.

### Tree Lighting and Caroling Party Sunday, December 6

**6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room**  
*Bring a favorite Christmas dessert to share.*  
After some holiday sweets, hot chocolate or coffee, we'll  
gather by the tree on the front lawn to sing carols led by the  
Youth Choir.

### Rye Women's Interfaith Committee Conference and Supper Sunday, January 24, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.

Registration is at 3:00 p.m.  
Community Synagogue  
200 Forest Avenue, Rye, NY  
Speaker: Dr. David Elcott,  
Taub Professor of Practice In Public Service, NYU

### Topic: The Holy Land: Learning to Listen to the Other

Conference & Reception \$15.00  
For more information, please call  
Janet (967-0447) or Emily (698-3718)

### Join us for Family Fellowship To Create Gingerbread Houses!

Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m.  
\$25.00 per family

We must receive your RSVP to purchase houses  
(to [esullivan@ryepc.com](mailto:esullivan@ryepc.com))



## Church and Justice Sunday, Stephen Ministry, Outreach

### Church and Justice Sunday

On January 10 Rye Presbyterian Church will celebrate our 16<sup>th</sup> annual Church and Justice worship service. This service is led by graduates of the New York Theological Seminary's Masters in Ministry program at Sing Sing Correctional Facility - a program RPC has supported for more than 15 years. Other participants are members of the congregation, who meet twice a month with NYTS students and graduates at Sing Sing and 2 other prisons. The service is vivid testimony to the redemptive power of God's grace, as men of many faiths who have served long years in prison join with our congregation in worship of our common God.

This year, as in the last two, an increasing number of graduates of the NYTS program have "come home" - been released from imprisonment. Many of these men were incarcerated for over 20 years and have come back to society with a burning determination to help ensure that others, especially young people, do not follow the paths that led them to prison. We hope that many of these newly released men will be able to join us on January 10, so we might congratulate them on their new-found freedom and offer them our support and prayers in what can be a difficult transition.

Our guest preacher this year will be Ray Rios, who graduated with the NYTS class of 1996, our first full year of working with the NYTS program. While still in prison after graduation, like other NYTS graduates, Ray devoted his many talents to helping other inmates, especially through being a facilitator of Alternatives to Violence Programs (AVP). Ray was released in February 2000, so he's about to celebrate 10 years of freedom. Since release he has worked with Betances Health Center and Housing Works, in both cases providing services to people with AIDS or who are HIV positive. He's an Elder in Gethsemane Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, President of AVP New York and on the National Board of AVP. Church and Justice Sunday is always a service of unique passion and energy, so we hope you will

join us at either the 8:30 or the 10:00 service on January 10.

### Stephen Ministry

## STRRRRRREETCH!

Over the past ten weeks, the Stephen Ministry Training class has been stretching, building, and toning their muscles. They have...

- received instruction which builds a high standard of confidential, one-to-one care.
- participated in exercises which teach good listening skills.
- practiced caring in a way which focuses on the process of healing.

Stephen Ministers understand that no matter how strong we are, a burden can be too difficult to carry alone. The Greek word for burden means "oppressive weight." And, in Paul's letter to the Galatians he emphasizes the importance of Christians carrying one another's burdens.

The story of the paralytic in Mark 2:1-12 illustrates the compassionate skill, trustworthy action, and practiced faith of people committed to carrying one another's burden. The scene opens after Jesus returns home. Local residents are gathering to listen to him. One paralyzed man is being carried by four individuals. We don't know if they are friends, family, or strangers, but at this point they have set aside cultural taboos to get this man to Jesus. Upon discovering the densely populated crowd, the four men climb to the top of the building, dig a hole in the roof, and lower the man through the hole. The passage reveals that the faith of these citizens facilitated Jesus' healing words and in turn the man was free from his physical paralysis.

Stephen Ministers might, or might not be capable of engineering a highly effective break-in. And of course, there is no guarantee of physical healing. But, it is certain that Stephen Ministers have the heart to faithfully show up, compassionately listen, and in so doing help carry another's burden.

For more information on the Stephen Ministry program here at R.P.C., contact: Patrick McGunagle at 967-3588 or

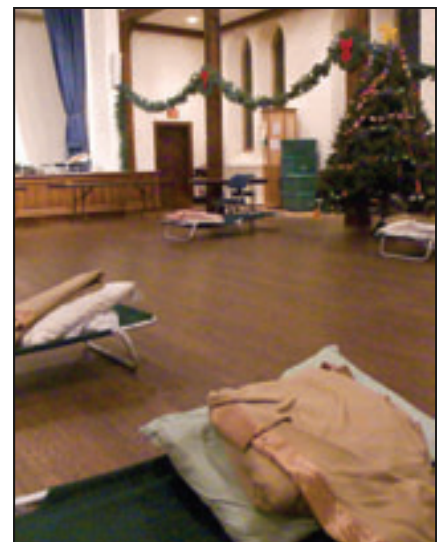
[gpm@aol.com](mailto:gpm@aol.com)) or Carol Love (967-9262) or [clove@optonline.net](mailto:clove@optonline.net)

### Homeless Overnight Volunteers Needed

Originally the word sanctuary was used to describe a sacred place set aside for the worship of God. In time the meaning of this word grew to include a place of safety and protection. The word is now frequently used in this way to describe not only the place, but the act of providing safety.

About one night each month RPC provides overnight shelter to a group of men through a program run by the Open Arms Shelter in White Plains. These men arrive after dark to sleep on cots in the Assembly Room and are gone at day, break rarely seen by any of us. During the time when they are asleep under our roof, we have literally reunited the two meanings of this word.

Each night we provide sanctuary for these men, in addition to staff from the shelter, a volunteer member of our church stays here at the church. After they leave we need to wash the linens they have used. ***We need volunteers to sleep overnight at the church and do laundry once a month for the next sleep over. Won't you please consider helping just one night?*** Our next date is Saturday, January 2, 2010. A schedule of our nights throughout 2010 can be found on a clipboard in the reception area. Please volunteer to either spend the night or help with laundry.



**Rye Presbyterian Church**

882 Boston Post Road, Rye, New York 10580

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage**PAID**White Plains, N.Y.  
Permit No. 1054December 2009 Newsletter  
Dated Material  
Address correction requested**Nursery School Registration for 2010 - 2011**

The Rye Presbyterian Nursery School is in its 51<sup>st</sup> year of educating little ones from the church and community. As a Reggio inspired pre-school we are currently serving 320 children between the ages of 2 and 5, from 9:00-11:30 or 12:15-2:45. **Registration for current students, new church members and new siblings will be held in the Westminster Room on January 5 and 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m..** Church members that enroll during this time are guaranteed entrance. (Church members are those families that have formally joined the church prior to or during the "New Member Seminars" being held in March, 2010, and who are current contributors to the church.)

We are pleased to announce that through the efforts of our Parent Organization, friends, the RPC Women's Association and the RPC Mission and Outreach Committee, we are able to offer full and partial scholarships to families in need of assistance. This year, more than \$70,000.00 has been awarded to 33 students currently attending the nursery school. Our application process is totally confidential, and we hope that parents will make use of this wonderful opportunity, if necessary. Our annual "**Holiday Caroling Party**", which will be held on Friday, December 11, from 3-5:30 p.m., is a main fundraiser for our RPNS Scholarship Fund. Our preschoolers will enjoy a petting zoo, hay rides, a children's raffle of wonderful gifts, "Music with Broadway Babies", a holiday craft in our magical light table room and pictures with Santa. Adults can partake in a bake sale and café of delicious goodies, as well as a silent auction of amazing items. Our celebration ends with parents and children caroling. This special event is sponsored by our RPNS Parent Organization and organized and run completely by parents volunteers.

At RPNS the message of caring is evident through the wonderful actions of all of our parents. Everywhere we turn at the nursery school, we see opportunities to work together for our community. Whether a parent organizes, volunteers or donates for the Holiday Caroling Party, flips and serves pancakes at the annual "Pancake Breakfast" or spends time selling or buying books at the book fair, the children see their parents giving to others, as they support our scholarship fund. Contributing food, birthday gifts and holiday gifts to the New Rochelle Center for Learning, serves local homeless children and families and conveys the same message of "sharing and caring". Our children learn empathy towards others as a direct result of watching their parents involved in "sharing and caring". The children witness the impor-

tance of being a contributing member of a community. This expectation is carried into the classroom, as the children practice working together towards common group goals and projects. The value of this experiential learning reinforces the goals of our nursery school: to empower children to "Respect, Participate, Nurture and Share". As they see their parents' positive acts, they gain invaluable insight to Christian caring.



## *Welcome to the newest members of RPC!*

### **Laura Booth-Freda**

Laura and her 10-year-old 5<sup>th</sup> grader Austen moved just this year to Rye from New York City. In New York Laura was quite active in the life of First Presbyterian Church. “We are very much looking forward to getting to know the Rye and the RPC community better!”



### **Elisabeth Casey**

Born and raised in New York City, Elisabeth’s family came to Rye every weekend and summer. It was at Rye Presbyterian that she was raised and confirmed. Following graduation from Hamilton College, Elisabeth moved back to the city and began working as an Interior Designer for Pamela Banker Associates, and Irvine & Fleming. After pursuing a graduate degree in the field from The New York School of Interior Design, she opened her own firm (Elisabeth Casey Design, LLC) in October of 2006. Elisabeth married Matthew Casey in January 2007, and shortly thereafter moved to Rye. They were thrilled to welcome their son Graham in May 2009, who was just baptized at RPC on October 25th. “We look forward to becoming a part of this wonderful congregation, and to raising our family here!”



### **Bonni and Don Fandetti**

Don and Bonni moved to Harrison in 2005 from Maryland. Don works as a stock analyst for Citigroup, and Bonni, a former teacher, stays home to care for their four children – Julia (7), William (6), and the twins Thomas and Patrick (2). The Fandettis enjoy sports, reading, and spending time outdoors and with animals.

### **Linda Lee**

Linda started to go to church with friends as a young child in Korea. Linda has been attending church on a somewhat regular basis since then through college but during medical school, residency and starting a family, religion was put on hold. Linda says, “Now that our children are the age I was, I vividly remember what great lessons I had at Sunday school and I wanted to give that opportunity to them. Of course, I need to get back my relationship with God again.” Linda and her husband Steven are both physicians; he is an orthopedic surgeon, and she is an ob/gyn. Their children are Kaitlyn (8), Steven (5) and Emma (2). Linda enjoys reading books, running, exercising, playing tennis and golf.



### **Kate McIntosh**

Kate grew up in Moorestown, New Jersey (just outside of Philadelphia), where she was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Kate graduated from Gettysburg College with a business major and played women's lacrosse. She met her husband Brian in college and they have been married for three years. Prior to being at home with five-month-old son Connor, Kate worked for Alliance Bernstein Institutional Investment Management. She and Brian have been living in Rye for the past two years and are very much enjoying the Rye community. Kate enjoys spending time outdoors, running and hiking.

## *Welcome to the newest members of RPC!*



### **Sherry Overholt-Velta**

Sherry Overholt was a member of Plymouth Congregational Church in Miami, Florida until her move to Yale University for graduate school. After receiving her D.M.A. in vocal performance from Yale she spent several years in New York City pursuing a career in opera and concert work. Currently Professor of Voice at Purchase College and Queens College, she now lives in Rye Brook with her husband Lee Velta and 8-year-old daughter Olivia.

### **Yvonne Paris**

Yvonne was born in New York City, and lived a number of years in Puerto Rico where her parents were born. She is a Special Education teacher now retired from work in the New York City Schools. Yvonne has one son, who is 31 years old. She joins RPC by reaffirmation of faith.



### **Rebecca and Cesar Pereira**

The Pereiras moved to Rye in April 2008, a few months prior to the arrival of their twin girls, Caroline and Lillian. They reside on Hickory Drive in Rye's Hix Park neighborhood. Cesar was born and raised in New York City and attended Milton Academy for high school. Rebecca was born and raised in Pawling, New York. Both Cesar and Rebecca graduated from New York University in 2000. They met while working in the Mayor's Office during the Giuliani and Bloomberg administrations. Rebecca went on to pursue a career in education, receiving an MA in Social Studies education from Boston University. During the years prior to the birth of Caroline and Lillian, Rebecca taught middle school English and Social Studies in the Northern Bronx. Cesar went on to receive an MPA from New York University and JD from Boston College. After spending three years working for the City of New York, he is now employed by Peckar & Abramson, P.C. as a litigation associate. Caroline and Lillian

were born on August 5, 2008. "We are all thrilled and delighted to be a part of the lovely community of Rye and now the Rye Presbyterian Church family."



### **Amparo and Ron Sizemore**

Ron and Amparo have been married for 23 years and have been working together for the same amount of time. Their two children attended Rye Country Day School for a combined 16 years and therefore know the Rye community for quite some time. Having recently moved to Rye, the Sizemore's thought it was time to join a church that was closer to home and community. They have been very involved at Larchmont Avenue Church for the past 16 years. Either Amparo or Ron has served on Session, Stewardship, Trustees, Communications, Children Education, technology and Church and Society at any point in time during that time.

Their daughter Nicole is currently a junior at Syracuse University, and their son Nathaniel just transferred to Rye High School and is on the football team. Their niece Daniella is currently living with them for the next couple of years and she is also a junior at Rye High. "We have a beagle named Bogie and we live happily close to town – we commute every day into New York and look forward to many years at Rye Presbyterian."



### **Melissa and Christopher Wirth**

Melissa Mahoney Wirth, daughter of Susan and Daniel Mahoney and granddaughter of Marion Berndt, grew up in Rye and was baptized, confirmed and married at RPC. After graduating from Middlebury College and Teacher's College – Columbia University with an MA and Ed.M, she worked as the Dean of Students at School of the Holy Child and then as the Assistant Director of Admissions at Rye Country Day School where she now coaches soccer and lacrosse. Christopher grew up in Bedford, NY and graduated from Washington College. He is currently the President of First Financial Resources, a wealth management firm in Greenwich, CT. He is also an avid basketball player. Melissa and Christopher welcomed their first child, Zachary John, on January 1, 2009. He will be baptized at RPC in De-