

# Grace Notes

VOLUME 92 RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 882 BOSTON POST ROAD • RYE • NY • 10580 SUMMER 2009



## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

This was not the end of the story, however. Recognizing that the families of our congregation are a great gift to our shared life and vitality, and the Christian nurture of our children is a sacred trust, the Session authorized the convening of a special “Christian Education Task Force” to take a careful look at what our strengths and resources are in Christian Education and to think critically about where we want to go. How and where might God be calling us? How best are we to faithfully respond? What do we want for our children and for ourselves? How can we get to these places with the resources we have at hand? The Christian Education Task Force is a committee of seven church leaders passionate and knowledgeable about Christian Ed – Sam Croll, Cynthia De Santis, Kristin Jautz, Jan Kelsey, Greg Lyon, Dan Love and I. We have been busy at work for several months, with exciting developments unfolding. We plan to have things in good order for the fall season and look forward to updating you in the coming weeks.

Faithfully yours,

*Nancy A. De Vries*

Nancy A. De Vries  
Pastor and Head of Staff



Dear Members and Friends of Rye Presbyterian Church,

Susie McNiff has been Interim Director of Christian Education at Rye Presbyterian Church for five years. She was named to that position by Dr. Richard Murdoch, who knew when the Rev. Katie Pate resigned as Associate Pastor for Christian Education that Susie McNiff would provide a warm welcome and embracing presence for families and children who are part of the Rye Presbyterian Church family. Dick Murdoch was on target, and we are forever in his debt for the wisdom that guided that choice and helped to see our congregation through a sometimes difficult period of transition and change.

Susie has served us joyfully and well in this part-time position, always wrapping us in gracious friendliness and convivial hospitality as the director of our Sunday School program, planning surprises and treats for our children, resourcing our teachers, and encouraging us.

We will miss her!! Susie has accepted an offer to be the full time Director of Christian Education at St. James the Less Episcopal Church in Scarsdale, New York, and will begin there on August 1, 2009. Her last day with us is June 30, and she was honored in worship and the picnic on Sunday, June 14. We thank God for sending her to us, and we thank Susie for her warmth, grace, and affection for us, her delightful and sometimes unanticipated humor, and her collegial presence. We wish her God's grace as she returns to her Episcopal roots, and are grateful that she and her family will be remaining in Rye.

So, what is ahead for us in Christian Education?

Earlier this year, necessarily compelled by the impact of the economic downturn on the RPC budget, church officers regretfully put aside the search for an ordained and installed pastor for Christian Education and Nurture because funding in the present and future was uncertain.

**Farewell Susie!**

## Confirmation



### Confirmation Class—2009

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One of the largest groups in recent RPC history, the young adults in the confirmation class worked hard on their way to confirmation. As the elders who met with them attested, they were thoughtful and articulate about their confirmation commitments. On May 3, the church celebrated as we welcomed 28 new members into the life, worship and mission of the church.

#### **Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2009!**

Kathryn Brody, daughter of Gayle and Charles Brody  
Jack Carlisle, son of Karen and Tim Carlisle  
Kirsten Colwell, daughter of Nicole and Marcus Colwell  
Harrison Croll, son of Ann and Sam Croll  
Andrew Davis, son of Bridget and Mark Davis  
Christian De Santis, son of Cynthia and CJ De Santis  
Thornton Ellis, son of Elizabeth and David Ellis  
Claire Gambee, daughter of Elizabeth and Bob Gambee  
Robert Grusky, son of Hope Eiseman and Robert Grusky  
Kevin Hatch, son of Kerry and Ed Hatch  
Miles Hirson, son of Mona and Miles Hirson  
Wilson Hunt, son of Cheryl and John Hunt  
Robert King, son of Reedie and Steve King  
Madeleine Kinker, daughter of Lynda and Cort Kinker

Katrina Kohn, daughter of Kyle and Paul Kohn  
Robert Kuster, son of Cindy and Jim Kuster  
Grace Leishman, daughter of Valarie and Scott Leishman  
Taylor Love, son of Carol and Daniel Love  
James MacKenzie, son of Adrienne Rogers and Derek MacKenzie  
Bridget Nagle, daughter of Wendy and Paul Nagle  
Nolan Panno, son of Loring Allen and Corey Panno  
Nicholas Philip, son of Cindy Hewitt and Nick Philip  
Christopher Reifsnyder, son of Lisa and Don Reifsnyder  
Eleni Speal, daughter of Sue and Edward Speal  
Christopher Springer, son of Pam and Bill Springer  
Matthew Stevens, son of Laurel and Bruce Stevens  
John Waddill, son of Irene and David Waddill

## *Stephen Ministry, Women's Association and Christian Education*

### Timely Topics from Your Stephen Ministry

The spring flowers and climbing temperatures are starting to warm and comfort us. However, for some of us, that warmth may have been dulled by the pain of loss, the stress of a life crisis or simply the trauma and pain that different life stages can bring. *Stress: Constraining forces or influences that can cause bodily or mental tension.* We've all felt it and know what it is. But at times the stress level reaches a point when things begin to break. Don't let your stress reach that point. There are friends who have chosen to help us walk these difficult paths in life and simply hold our hands as we travel life's journeys. These friends have courage and great empathy and compassion. They are trained to help us without interference or judgment, while guarding the privacy of our thoughts and the emotional vicissitudes of our journeys of pain with strict confidentiality. These friends are just like us. They experience life, just as we do, and they want to help. They are called Stephen Ministers and they are accessible to each of us just for the asking. The reason they are called Stephen Ministers is that Stephen was one of the first ministers of the church commissioned by the apostles. His story makes great reading in Acts 6 through 9. He was a friend who wanted to help, stepped up, and helped. If you are in crisis or pain as a result of a trauma in your life, or simply hurting and needing a hand to hold, or a friend, please contact us to find out if the Stephen Ministry program may provide the kind of helping hand and caring you are looking for. For more information about Stephen Ministry, please contact Dr. Nan De Vries or Rev. Dan Love at 967-0842 or Stephen Leader Tav Rogers, at 921-1809.

On June 23, Dr. De Vries will be leading the Stephen Ministers in a journey to "Becoming Closer to God." Everyone who would like to join in this journey is most welcome and encouraged to come. It will be held in the Westminster Room from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars for this very special event!

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

The Garden Party was held on Monday, June 8 in the Assembly Room. Despite gloomy weather, on that day representatives from local Westchester and surrounding communities came together to receive awards and also had an opportunity to briefly highlight what their organization does. Over the years many of the non-profit representatives, WA members and other attendees have said that this is a most meaningful and cherished event. Aside from the fellowship and food, dollars were distributed, connections made, partnerships formed and everyone left with a deeper understanding of the needs of those around us and the wonderful organizations who work to meet them. We hope you enjoyed the day. We continue to look for volunteers who are interested in helping out with our Women's Association activities. The Board members will change in September and if you are interested in any aspect of the Women's Association, please contact Cynthia Deen at [cdeen@optonline.net](mailto:cdeen@optonline.net) or 914-967-8272.

With that being said, we would like to give a big hug and cheer to Nonie Reich, one of our co-presidents, who will be moving on to other volunteer work at the church. Thank you so much Nonie for your hard work and dedication.

At this time, the Women's Association would like to thank Gabby McCree for her continued work on these grants as well as Elizabeth Gambia, who joined Gabby this year in organizing the grants. THANK YOU for your efforts.



**Scenes from the  
RPC Mission Luau and Auction**

### Summer Youth Trip to Roatan

Please keep the group traveling to Honduras in your prayers. We'll be commissioning them in worship at the end of June for their trip July 4-11. Stay tuned to the weekly email updates from RPC for ways to help as twelve from RPC extend the church's ministry to the people of Roatan.

### The Men's Bible Study

A life of freedom? Or a life of rules? What IS the Christian life? The Apostle Paul takes on this challenging issue in his letter to the Galatians – a community of faith struggling with these very issues. Over the summer, the Men's Bible Study will be reading Paul's pastoral letter to this fledgling church, and as always asking – what does it say now to us? During the summer, we will meet on Sundays at 8:00 p.m. in the church library June 14 and 28, July 19 and August 2. If you'd like to be on the email reminder list, please contact Dan Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

For most of the summer, the Wednesday Bible Study will continue to follow the life and times of ancient Israel as recorded in First Kings. All the while we will continue to ask - how does this fascinating story relate to our story.

We meet on Wednesday's at 9:15 a.m. in the library. Our summer dates are June 10 and 24; July 8 and 22.

If you'd like to be on the email reminder list, please contact Dan Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).



## *Stewardship, RPNS, Impact*

### Stewardship 2009



Dear Fellow RPC Members,

Our congregation has shown its *"Faith for the Future!"* To date, our congregation has pledged a total of \$970,509 for the 2009 operating budget. This is a wonderful response and shows the depth of support and love that you all have for our church.

The matching gift so generously supported by the Tilles family bequest was a great success and added an additional \$90,312 to the campaign. This means that a total of \$1,060,821 was raised which is less than a 2% decline from the 2008 pledges.

*Given our challenging economic times, this is an extraordinary result and I thank everyone who made this happen!*

I hope when your tulips and daffodils came up this spring, you remembered the symbolism of *"Faith for the Future"* and how what we do today makes a better future possible.

Sincerely,  
Pam Kindler  
2009 Stewardship Chairman



One of the highlights of the Mission Auction!  
David Walker and Catherine Parker

### Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

The **RPNS Teacher Appreciation Luncheon** was held on May 5. We took a special moment to honor two amazing three year old teachers who have taught at RPNS for the past twenty years ~ Jeannie Kolb and Dawn Mytych. We also congratulated Julie Cotter and Mary Szamborski for their ten years of dedicated teaching with us. We are indebted to these teachers for the continuity, dedication and commitment that they bring to our RPNS children and families. Our love and gratitude is also given to Lisa Johnson, who organized this event for the final time, after many glorious Teacher Appreciation Luncheons these past years. Lisa leaves us, with the graduation of her last son Sam, having been an active participant throughout the nine years when all three of her children attended RPNS. She has served for several years on the Board of Directors, where she was instrumental as we began our "Reggio" journey, and she continues with her support to this day! We will miss her dedication to RPNS, its families and its staff.

### RPNS at the Rye Free Reading Room and Nature Center

We are thrilled to be able to display our children's work at the Rye Free Reading Room for the next month! The library has set aside 72 linear feet of wall space as you enter the Children's Room, for monthly displays throughout the year from each of the nursery and elementary schools in Rye. We are delighted to be the first preschool to be invited to have this wonderful opportunity! Please be sure to visit and view the 16 documentation panels highlighting children's thinking and work from this year. Included is a description of RPNS, excerpted from the school's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Book. In addition, our 5 year old's documentation panel of line printing the ABC's and then collaging with natural materials will be displayed at the Rye Nature Center. Please visit both rich displays of the work of our children supported by our teachers.

### The Year with IMPACT

As the school year winds down, so does IMPACT, Rye's Ecumenical Youth Ministry. This past year IMPACT has performed an incredible mission of service through many activities. The group prepared meals for the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, based at the Trinity Retreat in Larchmont; conducted a successful Thanksgiving Food Drive for Holy Rosary Food Pantry; helped the Red Chair Project with a home renovation in New Rochelle; and held a wonderful Children's Christmas Party complete with Santa at Seneca House, Bronx, NY. In addition, we forged some new bonds and participated in several holiday activities with My Second Chance, a ministry based in Port Chester. We helped prepare and serve Thanksgiving dinner, hosted a Children's Christmas party also complete with Santa, spread lots of LOVE with a Valentine Party, and honored the women of those residences with a Mother's Day dinner prepared and served by members of IMPACT. Two other events were also very meaningful for IMPACT members. The Habitat for Humanity trip to Corpus Christi, TX, was an incredible journey and deeply touched every participant. The Easter Sunrise Service was breathtaking, and very inspiring. It was planned and performed by members of IMPACT. "Our members are very involved and truly want to serve others. They show random acts of kindness and selflessness in everything they do and I am so proud to be able to work with such an incredible group of young people," said Bernadette Hunter, Adult Leader of IMPACT.



IMPACT Easter Sunrise Service

## *Sundays in June, July and August*

### **June 7**

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

**10:00** Holy Communion, Sanctuary. Dr. De Vries will be preaching.

**10:00** Church School. Children go directly to their classrooms.

**4:00** Children's Choir Concert in the Sanctuary followed by Potluck dinner, Assembly Room.

### **June 14**

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

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

**10:00** Last day of Church School. Children attend worship through the children's message.

**11:00** End-of-Year Picnic, Grape Arbor.

### **June 21 Summer Church School begins today.**

**8:00** Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel.

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

**10:00** Summer Church School.

### **June 28**

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

**10:00** Morning Worship, Sanctuary. Commissioning of the Youth Mission Trip.  
Reverend Love will be preaching.

**10:00** Summer Church School.

### **July and August — Crawford Chapel — Summer Church School**

#### **July 5**

**8:30** and **10:00** Communion Worship. Reverend Richard Martin will be preaching. No church school.

#### **July 12**

**8:30** Communion Worship, **10:00** Morning Worship. Dr. De Vries will be preaching.

#### **July 19**

**8:30** Communion Worship, **10:00** Morning Worship. Dr. De Vries will be preaching.

#### **July 26**

**8:30** Communion Worship, **10:00** Morning Worship. Reverend Love will be preaching.

#### **August 2**

**8:30** and **10:00** Communion Worship. Reverend Love will be preaching.

#### **August 9**

**8:30** and **10:00** Communion Worship. Reverend Love will be preaching.

#### **August 16**

**8:30** and **10:00** Communion Worship. Dr. De Vries will be preaching.

#### **August 23**

**8:30** and **10:00** Communion Worship. Dr. De Vries will be preaching.

#### **August 30**

**8:30** and **10:00** Communion Worship. Dr. De Vries will be preaching.

**During June, please join us for coffee in the Assembly Room after ten o'clock worship.  
During July and August, coffee hour will be held in the Grape Arbor.**

## Bulletin Board

### Summer Sunday School

RPC kids, before heading to the beach, come worship and learn with us this summer! The theme for our Summer Sundays is “*Mission Stories From Around the World*” Each Sunday, after the children’s message, young people (ages 4-12) will gather in the Youth Room.

We’ll read lessons, enjoy crafts, games and activities.

Sundays, from June 21 through August 30  
**(no church school July 5)**

Volunteers are needed! Please call Susie McNiff at 967-0842 x17 or email to [ce@ryepc.com](mailto:ce@ryepc.com)



### Home from college?

#### Looking to get out of the house a little?

Carol and Dan Love will be hosting a cook-out for all college age-ish young adults on **Thursday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m.**

See some old friends, meet some new ones, make some plans for making the most of this summer!

Email Dan at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com)

### Summer Beach Party

**Save the date!**

**Wednesday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m.**

at Rye Town Beach

Bring the children for an evening of fun, fellowship and fireworks at the beach.

Hosted by the  
Congregational Life Committee.

### Children’s Choir Rehearsal Moves to Thursday!

Beginning this fall, the Children’s Choir rehearsals, which were previously held on Tuesday afternoons from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. will move to Thursday afternoons at the same time. Rehearsals will continue to be held in the Choir Room in the education wing of the church.



**Many thanks to Scott Cannell, the Mission & Outreach Committee, and to all who made the Mission Auction such a fun and successful evening!**

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

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

**Deacons:** Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 p.m., Library  
**Session:** Wednesday, June 24, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room  
**Trustees:** Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 p.m., Youth Room

### **WORSHIP AND STUDY**

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

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

10:00 a.m. June Worship Services are in the Sanctuary. Beginning **July 5**, worship will be held in the Chapel.

**Church School on Sunday:** Regular Church School on June 7

June 14, Last day of Church School - Picnic in Grape Arbor

**Men's Bible Study:** June 14 and 28; July 19 and August 2, at 8:00 p.m., Library

**Women's Bible Study:** June 6 and 13 at 9:00 a.m., Library

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** June 10 and 24; July 8 and 22; and August 5 at 9:15 a.m., Library

### **YOUTH**

**Boy Scouts Troop # 2:** June 2 and June 9 at 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

**Cub Scout Leaders:** June 10 at 7:00 p.m., Youth Room

### **MUSIC**

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** Choir Room, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. during the month of June only.

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

**"Becoming Closer to God"** with Dr. De Vries, Tuesday, June 23, in conjunction with the Continuing Education Program of the Stephen Ministry, Westminster Room

**Mission and Outreach Committee:** Tuesday, June 9, 6:30 p.m., the Atwell home

**Sandwichmakers:** Thursday, June 18 and August 20 at 11:00 a.m. Kitchen and AR (Not in July)

#### **Stephen Ministry:**

Leaders: Tuesdays, June 9, (9:15 a.m.) June 23 (10:00 a.m.), July 21 and August 11, 9:15 a.m., Library.

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesdays, July 21 and August 11, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room.

**Thrift Shop:** Thursday June 4 and 11, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Downstairs.

**(June 11 is the last day of the Thrift Shop until September)**

### **OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS**

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

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

**Homeless Overnight:** June 6 and July 18

**Lives in Transition:** Thursday, June 11 and 25 at 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

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

**Ward Institute Parent's Open House** is on Tuesday, June 30, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Assembly Room

**Ward Institute** begins July 6, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

**Email: RPC@ryepc.com Web Site: www.ryepc.com**

**Please note the Church Offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd to commemorate the July 4th holiday.**

Summer 2009 Newsletter  
Dated material  
Address correction requested

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## *Rye Presbyterian Church Women's Association, New Website Information*

### RPC Women's Association Rocks the Boat

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Association sponsored a much anticipated trip to Hunt's Point and the Bronx River to visit Adam Green and his organization, called "Rocking the Boat." Through a variety of classroom and "on water" programs based on the traditional art of boat building, Rocking the Boat assists "at-risk" youths in New York City to become empowered and responsible adults. **It is one of 31 grant recipients funded by the RPC Thrift Shop to be honored June 8<sup>th</sup> in the Grape Arbor at RPC.** For the article and photos please go to the church website.

### The NEW RPC Website

Take a look at the new "face" of RPC on the internet at [ryepc.com](http://ryepc.com)! Many thanks to elders Bob Sawyer and Dolores Eyler for making it happen!

