

# Grace Notes

VOLUME 105 RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 882 BOSTON POST ROAD • RYE • NY • 10580 DECEMBER 2010



## In Search of Our Kneeling Places

by Ann Weems

*In each heart lies a Bethlehem,  
an inn where we must ultimately answer  
whether there is room or not.  
When we are Bethlehem-bound  
we experience our own advent in his.  
When we are Bethlehem-bound  
we can no longer look the other way  
conveniently not seeing stars  
not hearing angel voices.  
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily  
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.  
This Advent let's go to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that the Lord has made known  
to us.  
In the midst of shopping sprees  
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.  
Through the tinsel  
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.  
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,  
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.  
This advent, let's go to Bethlehem  
and find our kneeling places.*

*Dear Friends,*

*May we all, amid the "merry chaos," find a bit of room in our inns, and there know the brush of angel wings, and the grace-filled promise of God showing up in surprising places.*

*Daniel Love*

## Cantata Sunday Sunday, December 12

*Music by G.F. Handel, Gerald Finzi, and  
Antonio Vivaldi  
choir, soloists, orchestra  
J. David Jackson and Kevin Walters,  
Conductors*

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

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

## Christmas Eve Services Friday, December 24

**FAMILY SERVICE**  
4:00 p.m.

**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.

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

### **Confirmation**

#### **Sunday, December 5**

Section A-L meets at 4:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room; Section M-Z meets at 5:00 p.m.

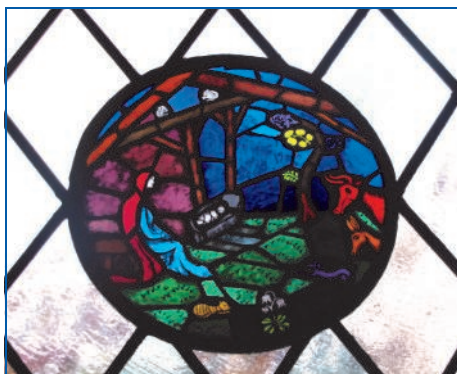
#### **Sunday December 12**

Christmas Project - The entire class will meet at 4:00 p.m.

This year's confirmation class has been hard at work wrestling with 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 we 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 their sense of God in their lives. This month, they will be writing a reflection paper on a passage from Luke's gospel.

In an effort to keep up the good work, there will be regular class meetings on Sunday, afternoon December 5 in the Westminster Room. On December 12, the class will be meeting 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!



*How good are your eyes?  
Can you find this depiction of the  
Christmas story in the windows of  
our church?*

### **Christian Education**

*Greetings from RPC Church School!*

Happy Holiday Season from the Christian Ed department! This month will find us Singing Our Faith, Christmas-style, and focusing on all things Advent in our curriculum. We'll learn about how the Angel visited Mary (Dec. 5) and celebrate the birth of Jesus (Dec. 19). While the adults enjoy beautiful Christmas music on Cantata Sunday, we will put the finishing touches on the Christmas gift boxes we began back in October's Enrichment. These boxes will be donated to Open Door Medical Center, where they will be given out as holiday gifts. Our Family Fellowship event this month is the Gingerbread House Making Party! Join us Sunday, December 5 at 5:30 to make a gingerbread house with your family—these will make a fun (and edible!) holiday centerpiece. Your houses will dry while you enjoy the Tree Lighting and then be ready to take home.

#### *RPC Youth Group*

We will be serving the less fortunate in our community this Christmas season. To start off, we will shop for toys for the Open Door Medical Center. Then, don't miss volunteering at Don Bosco's **Christmas with Santa**: where Santa will distribute toys to all the cute kids we've been playing with this year.

**Sunday, December 5, 12:00** Christmas Shopping for Open Door Medical Center. Meet in the Westminster Room. Please note the time change!

**Saturday, December 18, 9:00 a.m.** (yes, donuts provided) At 12:00: Don Bosco's Breakfast with Santa. Meet in the church parking lot.

### **Christian Ed Committee**

#### **COMMITTEE RECRUITS SOUGHT**

By developing her own curriculum for church school, Emily Foon has breathed renewed life and energy into the church school program. Now, to build on that as we seek to engage more of our young people, from zero through high school, the Christian Education Committee invites anyone interested in working on any aspect of the church school program

to join the Committee. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. during the school year. Contact: Jan Kelsey: [Kelsey179@verizon.net](mailto:Kelsey179@verizon.net).

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

The Men's Bible Study will be held on Sundays, December 5 and 19 at 9:15 a.m. in the Library. We will be starting our reading of the Book of Revelation.

### **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

Wednesdays, December 1 and 15, 9:15 a.m. in the Library. Our reading of the Gospel according to Mark is coming to an end. Time to decide what we'll read next! All are welcome to join this ongoing study.

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

There will be no Women's Bible Study in December, but please join us when our studies resume in January, 2011. The dates will be announced in December.

### **Middle School Connection**

Wednesday, December 1 and 15, from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

The Rock Club in New Rochelle survived our presence last month as the group took to their many climbing walls. In addition to a special trip to see *Joseph* in Bridgeport, CT at The Downtown Cabaret Theatre, this month we'll meet twice at the church – December 1 and 15. In our own unique "Connection" way welcome the Christmas season! All sixth to eighth graders are welcome.



*Carving pumpkins at the  
Fall Family Fellowship event.*

## *Stephen Ministry, Stephen Ministry Education, Women's Association, Church and Justice Sunday*

### Stephen Ministry

*Into this silent night  
as we make our weary way  
we know not where,  
just when the night becomes its darkest  
and we cannot see our path,  
just then  
is when the angels rush in,  
their hands full of stars.*

*Kneeling in Bethlehem*  
by Ann Weems

During Advent, homes with Christmas lights and décor brighten neighborhoods and the wintry night. This tradition is one of many ways we anticipate and celebrate new life. But for those of us going through a difficult time, the holidays can be dark, painful, lonely and wearisome. In her poem, *Into This Silent Night*, Ann Weems helps us imagine God's provision of support, just when we need it. Like the light bearing angels, RPC Stephen Ministers are available to provide confidential, one-to-one care. They will listen, encourage, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: *Patti Adimari, Gail Langeloh, Carol Love, Patrick McGunagle, or Becky Ruegger.*

### Stephen Ministry Education

**December 7: Steven Gilbert, "What do I do with my Anger?"**

Stephen Gilbert is a leading professional in strengthening marriages and families, developing teens, guiding men, and leading individuals out of addiction. Steve is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and an ordained minister. He holds a Masters in Marital and Family Therapy and a Master of Divinity. Prior to working at the Greenwich Center for Hope & Renewal, Steve was Director of the Southern Connecticut Christian Counseling Center in Fairfield, CT, working alongside local churches providing quality mental health care.

The program begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room. For questions or to RSVP please contact Gail Langeloh at 914-967-4126 or glangeloh1@aol.com.

### Women's Association

Sister Cecilia Nya, Nigerian representative to UNANIMA International, a non-governmental organization dedicated to human dignity and peace, recently spoke to a gathering of RPC and other community members. In her inspirational talk at RPC, Sister Cecilia shared her commitment to helping the needy in West Africa and her own journey in faith. Her efforts have focused on programs that empower women to become independent, productive, and healthy – including a health clinic outside the Nigerian capital and an integrated agricultural center in the Country's southwest region. Sister Cecilia's presentation was sponsored by the Women's Association.



*Valarie Leishman with Sister Cecilia*

### Church and Justice Service

**SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY 9, 2011**

Having celebrated Church and Justice Sunday for sixteen consecutive years, it is fittingly described as an RPC tradition. So, on January 9, 2011, the seventeenth iteration of this powerful and meaningful worship experience will arrive. 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 since 1995. They are supported by 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 their fami-

lies and our congregation in worship of our common God.

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 a.m. or the 10:00 a.m. service on January 9 - and stay for coffee hour to welcome these men to the fellowship of RPC.

### Bring in Empty Cartridges

We are now recycling our used inkjet printer cartridges through a program called Empties4cash which pays up to \$4.00 per cartridge. This is a 100% profit fundraiser for RPC with minimal work and it is also great for the environment. Will you help us with this fundraiser? Please bring your empty inkjet printer cartridges to the church. Any inkjet cartridge with a print head can be recycled, regardless of brand or type. Place the empty cartridges in a ziplock bag to prevent leaks and put them in the box at the RPC Reception Desk. *If you have any questions please contact Jan Kelsey at kelsey@fordham.edu.*



***Don't miss the parade of angels and shepherds at the Christmas Pageant - December 19!***



## Christmas Joy Offering, Peacemaking and Stewardship Committee

### Christmas Joy Offering

As we enter the Christmas season and reflect on the year coming to a close, 2010 has happily been a year marked by human resilience in the face of adversity. Numerous catastrophic events around the globe have challenged the human spirit this year. But perhaps the most uplifting event was the freeing of all 33 Chilean miners after being trapped a half mile underground for 69 days. This rescue seemed nothing short of a miracle and demonstrated the importance of strong physical and mental fortitude, and a healthy measure of hope, in human survival. So with these basic needs in mind, the RPC Mission and Outreach Committee has selected two extraordinary organizations that it believes deserve our support and generosity in this year's Christmas Joy offering. They are Open Door Family Medical Center and the Bob Woodruff Foundation.

**Open Door Family Medical Center**, acting as the family doctor and health-care home, attends to the physical and emotional well-being of more than 40,000 individuals in Westchester County. It also supports nearly 3,000 additional children through school-based health programs. With offices in Port Chester, Ossining, Sleepy Hollow and Mount Kisco, Open Door operates in underserved communities where 93% of its patients have incomes below the poverty level. Some 54% of Open Door patients have no health insurance. This past year, they received the highest level of recognition as a patient-centered medical home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. With independent accolades such as this, Open Door is truly an organization we can all be proud to support.

**The Bob Woodruff Foundation**, founded by fellow RPC members and Rye residents, Bob and Lee Woodruff, works to provide support and resources to injured service members, veterans and their families. The organization has a special emphasis on the "Hidden Injuries of War" Traumatic Brain Injury and Combat Stress. With a mission to go beyond the slogan "Support our Troops"

with meaningful actions, the BWF has raised over \$8.5 million to educate the public about the needs of service members returning from war, collaborate with key federal, state and local experts and invest in national and community-based support programs. The full scope of BWF's mission can be found at [www.ReMIND.org](http://www.ReMIND.org).

Both of these organizations have been pioneers in their fields, and provide tangible results for the dollars expended. Support of their efforts is money well spent, and contributions to Christmas Joy will be divided equally between them. Please thoughtfully consider what it must be like to be without basic health services or, importantly, the hope of receiving them, and give as generously as you possibly can.

Christmas Joy envelopes will be placed in the pews during of December or regular envelopes can be designated "Christmas Joy" for this offering. Together during this year of recovery and resilience, may we all appreciate how truly blessed we are and do whatever we can to support rejuvenation of the human spirit for those in need. Thank you for your caring and contributions.

### Peacemaking Offering

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their contributions to this year's Peacemaking offering. Together we have shown that we can reach a helping hand out to the children and families of Pakistan who have been left destitute by monsoon flooding, and also provide financial support to the National Presbyterian Church's training workshops and outreach on peace. Bringing peace to the world may seem like a utopian dream, and something best left to global leaders to negotiate behind closed doors. But people are on the front lines, doing something – and we can, and should be, right behind them, helping them to do their work. This year \$1899 has been sent to the NPC Peacemaking Ministry ([www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering)) and \$1899 has been contributed to Save the Children's emergency relief program for flood-affected children and their families across Pakistan.

[www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org). Thank you for your support.



Children of Pakistan

### Stewardship Committee

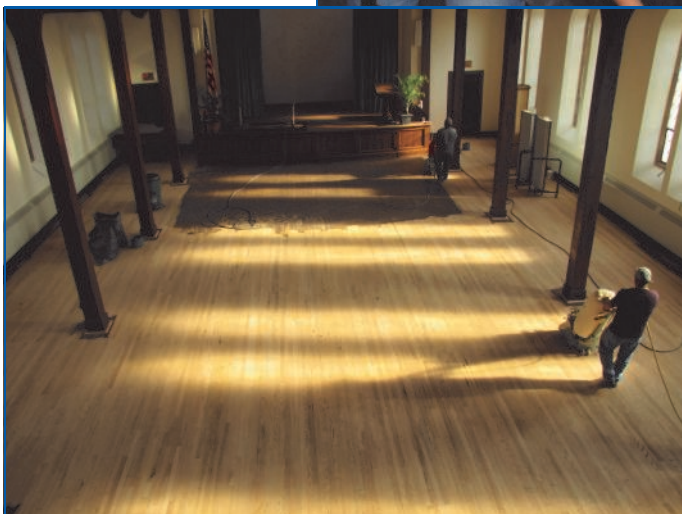
If they haven't yet, the Trustees need to hear from you! The phonathons are finished. Letters and post card reminders have gone out. Have you pledged yet? As of mid-November, we were rolling along, but pledges were coming in a bit more slowly than last year. Yet the Trustees and Elders can NOT wait to plan for next year's budget. The process is already well under way. Please stand up and be counted!

As we did last year, we will thank all the people who have pledged, in the bulletin of December 12 (Cantata Sunday). It is appropriate to thank the members of RPC who have committed financially to our church. We hope that includes you. Please remember to pledge what is meaningful to you. If you're having a horrible year and can only pledge \$25, that's fine. If you're having a great year, \$10,000 will make a huge difference in our ability to fund programs and outreach. Giving in a meaningful way makes you a meaningful

part of the amazing work that RPC does in our community and around the world. Remember: our church's legacy now rests on all of our shoulders. Together we can share the financial responsibility and carry on our church's work – God's work - in a mighty way.

Please pledge by December 7 to show your support for RPC so your name can be listed in the bulletin for that Sunday. A final list will be published in the Annual Report at the end of January.

## Rye Presbyterian in Action



**Never a  
dull  
moment  
at  
RPC!**



*Thrift shop volunteers trying out the Christmas wares...  
Middleschoolers climbing the walls at The Rock Club...  
Restoration work being done on the Thrift Shop door...  
Assembly Room floors getting refinished...  
Brand new boilers efficiently humming along!*

## Sundays in December

### December 5

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel  
 10:00 Communion Worship, Sanctuary  
 Reverend Love preaching  
 10:00 Regular church school. Children attend  
 worship through children's message  
 11:00 Singing our Faith/Chapel  
 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class/WR (A-L)  
 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class/WR (M-Z)  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group / Westminster Room  
 6:30 p.m. Tree Lighting/Desserts in the  
 Assembly Room

### December 12 - Cantata Sunday

*No 8:30 service today.*

10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary  
 10:00 No church school. Enrichment Sunday  
 4:00 p.m. The entire Confirmation Class will meet  
 for a Christmas project.

### December 19

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel.  
 10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary, Dr. DeVries  
 preaching, Children's Choir singing.  
 10:00 Regular Church School. Children attend  
 worship through the children's message  
 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant

### December 26

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel  
 10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary, Dr. De Vries  
 preaching  
 10:00 No regular Church School. Children will  
 stay and worship with family.

## Holiday Craft and Cookie Exchange

Monday, December 6, 2010  
 12:30 – 2:45pm  
 in the RPC Assembly Room

We will learn the beautiful art of papermaking with the help of Kathy Price and Deirdre Winters from RPNS.

As in years past, we will share some of the results with the women of the Sister's Circle, a support group for women with loved ones in prison. Come and help us spread some holiday cheer!

RSVP to kristinjautz@verizon.net or sign up at the reception desk.

## Bulletin Board

### Tree Lighting and Caroling Party Sunday, December 5

All are invited to this special event that ushers in the Christmas season!  
 Bring a favorite Christmas dessert to share in the Assembly Room at 6:30 p.m.  
 After some holiday sweets, hot chocolate or coffee, we'll gather by the tree on the front lawn to sing and welcome the season.

### RPC's Annual CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 19  
 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

### Family Fellowship Gingerbread House Making



Sunday, December 5th, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
 in the Assembly Room

Please RSVP to efoon@ryepc.com.

### Help New Mothers!

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

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

### BOARD MEETINGS

**Deacons:** Wednesday, December 8, 7:30 p.m., The Love's Home  
**Session:** Wednesday, December 22, 7:30 p.m., location to be announced  
**Trustees:** Wednesday, December 8, 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. Worship Service in the Sanctuary

**Church School on Sunday:** Regular Church School on December 5 and 19  
 December 12 is Enrichment Sunday and December 26 is Family Service

**Confirmation:** Classes will be held on Sunday, December 5 at 4:00 p.m. for Section A-L and  
 5:00 p.m. for Section M-Z

December 12 - The entire class will meet at 4:00 p.m. for a Christmas project.

**Men's Bible Study:** Sundays, December 5 and 19, at 8:00 p.m., Library

**Women's Bible Study:** No class in December. Bible study will resume in January, 2011.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** Wednesday, December 1 and 15 at 9:15 a.m., Library

### YOUTH

**Boy Scouts Troop # 2:** Every Tuesday in December at 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

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

**Connection:** Wednesday, December 1 and 15, at 5:30 p.m., Westminster Room

**Youth Group:** Saturday, December 18, volunteer at Don Bosco's "Breakfast with Santa"

### MUSIC

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

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

**Youth Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Choir Room

### OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

**Christian Education Committee:** Wednesday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

**Mission and Outreach Committee:** Wednesday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m., Library

**Sandwichmakers:** Thursday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m. Kitchen and AR

#### Stephen Ministry:

**Leaders:** *Thursdays, December 2 and 16, at 9:00 a.m., Library*

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesdays, December 7 and 14, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room.

Stephen Ministry training will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the 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

**Lives in Transition:** Thursday, December 2 and 16 at 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

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

**Dinner at Noon:** December 4 at Carver Center (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

**Homeless Overnight:** December 4 at 5:00 p.m.

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

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

**Notice: The Church building and offices will be closed on Monday, December 27 for the Christmas Holiday and Friday, December 31 to celebrate the New Year.**

## Rye Presbyterian Church

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(8)

### Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

#### RPNS

#### “Getting Rye Kids Playing Actively OUTSIDE” Nature Deficit

*From Kathy Price, Administrator,  
Curriculum Coordinator, Studio Teacher*

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- The CDC reports that obesity rates in children now stand at 17%; triple in a generation.
- Vigorous aerobic activity is correlated with specific growth in the brain, and higher IQ scores.
- Children who play in nature handle stress better and play more creatively.
- Outdoor play time reduces symptoms of ADHD, improves focus, heightens senses, reduces fidgetiness, and improves mood.
- Howard Gardner, well known Harvard educator, has expanded his list of multiple intelligences to include “Naturalist Intelligence.”

- By the 1990’s the radius around the home where children were allowed to play on their own had shrunk to 1/9<sup>th</sup> of what it was in 1970.

As the RPNS *Heard in Rye* representative, it was my privilege to organize and moderate a distinguished panel of community leaders which included Dr. Paul Donahue, clinical psychologist; Stephanie Low from Rye Youth Council and RCPS; Christine Siller, Director of Rye Nature Center; Sally Rogol, Superintendent of Rye Rec, and Ed Phillip, Head of Programs for Rye Y. These leaders of Rye organizations with programs for young children spoke about concerns related to overscheduled young kids; children who are overly plugged into tech devices and losing touch with the ability to play spontaneously (unstructured outdoors time, recess and playdates). A lively discussion occurred among the panelists and parents. Handouts from this program are available

in the front of RPNS near the main office. There is a list of six natural areas close to home and little known places to play outside with kids (do you know about Cranberry Lake Preserve in West Harrison? “It’s like being in Maine” said one parent). There is also an opportunity to sign-up for a Back to Nature playgroup outlined in one of the handouts. Help yourself!

