

Grace Notes

VOLUME 109 RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 882 BOSTON POST ROAD • RYE • NY • 10580 APRIL 2011



From the Pastor's Study

The Road to Resurrection

This past Saturday I sat next to a friend in the sun drenched worshipful Miller Chapel at Princeton Theological Seminary as Professor Peter Paris, who teaches African and African American Church History, ascended the stairs to the lofty pulpit in the center of the front of the room to begin a meditation on the tradition of spirituals. When he rose, a sweet rich fulsome bass voice behind him filled the air with "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Wade in the Water." We were immediately transfixed – transported to place of spiritual richness and deep beauty. The music ended and all was quiet. Professor Paris opened with the assertion that only persons who understood both suffering and hope could successfully *sing* the spirituals. It is the starting place of the heart.

The spiritual experience of coming to Easter Sunday is similar. There is a great deal that comes before the moment, after Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi, that Jesus set his face to Jerusalem. There is so much more, after. Living that story is how we can prepare for Easter. With all my heart, I encourage you to take this holy season of Lent to prepare. The process of coming to the empty tomb traverses a rough road, and if we skip over that edgy journey, Easter morning may seem strangely empty.

Let me encourage you to pick up the Gospel of Luke or John and read it in entirety in the weeks remaining in Lent. Please make time for Holy Week services – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday *Tenebrae* and Communion, and Good Friday services – *then* the beauty and glory of our Easter services. Set time aside in your daily schedule to

quietly pray – even if it is only five minutes. If you have fallen away from praying and don't know how to begin again, try reading a psalm, then reflecting on it in silence. On Good Friday, read Psalm 22, which Jesus recited from the cross. When we have taken all of this into ourselves, we may begin to understand the radical hope of the cross.

St. Paul wrote, "*For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*" (Romans 8:24)

As we near the hallowed ground of Gethsemane and Golgotha, may we understand more powerfully the meaning of the cross – and on Easter Sunday be overtaken with joy! For the sign of hope that is Christ's resurrection, for the living Spirit of hope that God has given us, and for all who have nurtured that spirit in us, may God be praised, and we be thankful.

With affection,

The Rev. Dr. Nancy A. De Vries

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*Easter Flower & Music Memorials, Confirmation,
Middle School Connection, Bible Studies, and Youth Group*

Holy Week 2011

Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, April 17

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
10:00 a.m. Worship beginning in the Assembly Room

Maundy Thursday

Service of Tenebrae and Choral Communion

April 21

8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Good Friday Service

April 22

Music from "St. John Passion" by J. S. Bach;
Rosalie Sullivan, soloist, and Edward Arron, 'cellist
12 noon in the Sanctuary

Good Friday Family Service

April 22

3:00 p.m. starting in the Westminster Room

Easter Services

Sunday, April 24

8:00 a.m. Communion in the Chapel
9:00 a.m. Family Worship and Flowering of the Cross in the Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Festival Choral Communion, Sanctuary

Middle School Connection

This month don't miss our April Fools' Day venture to one of the largest cathedrals in the world! Our first meeting in April will be our *Nightwatch* overnight at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City on Friday April 1. Space is limited, so please contact Rev. Love soon to get sign up information.

Later in the month we'll meet again Wednesday April 13. 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. All middle school youth are welcome to join in. Contact Rev. Dan Love if you'd like to be on the email reminder list – dlove@ryepc.com.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

April 13 and 27

9:15 AM in the Library

All are welcome to our ongoing reading and discussion of the Psalms. Coffee at 9:15, bible at 9:30!

Men's Bible Study

Sundays, April 10 and 17

8:00 PM in the Library.

Through this month we'll be continuing our reading and discussion of the book of Revelation. Even if you haven't been a part of the conversation so far, it's never too late to jump in to this most interesting part of the bible! To get on the email reminder list, contact Rev. Dan Love – dlove@ryepc.com

High School Youth Group

The Youth Group will continue our community service activities this month. We'll be volunteering with Dinner at Noon on April 16th and at the Don Bosco Kids Café on April 30th. Don't miss these great opportunities! Operation Flamingo Flock will also be kicking into high gear as the weather warms up. Be sure to send Emily Foon your cell phone number if you would like to participate.



Easter Flower & Music Memorials

Envelopes for your gifts are now available in the pews. Please submit to the church office by Friday, April 8 for inclusion in the Easter Sunday service program.

Confirmation

This year's class in the home stretch! Last month we did a scavenger hunt exploring the many symbols of the faith built into the architecture of this church. (Ever notice how many Stars of David there are in the sanctuary?) Now, with their statements of faith being fine tuned, the class will meet twice this month. On April 3, we'll meet to wrap up last de-

tails, and plan worship for Confirmation Sunday. During the month, each confirmand will meet with an elder or leader in the church to talk about their year and their readiness to confirm their faith. Finally, near the end of the month, the class will meet with the entire Session, and if prepared to do so, to be voted in as the newest members of Rye Presbyterian Church. Stayed tuned for details on that meeting. Finally, on Saturday April 30 at 10 a.m. there will be a rehearsal for the confirmation class in the sanctuary

Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday May 1, with a breakfast beforehand at 8:45 a.m. in the Assembly Room for parents and families of the confirmation class.

*Lenten Service of Music, Christian Education, Women's Association
Stephen Ministry, Women's Interfaith Committee & Lenten Book Group*

Lenten Service of Music

Sunday, April 10

10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

A special Lenten music service featuring our children's choir and the chancel choir will be offered during ten o'clock worship on Sunday, April 10. This service will feature choral music and hymns by American composers and from the American folk tradition. The adults and children will combine to sing the Third Song of Isaiah, "Surely it is God who saves me." From the American folk tradition the chancel choir will sing "Wondrous Love," "I will arise and go to Jesus," and "I will not be moved." Two works by Charles Ives, "Give me Jesus" and "Turn ye" will be included as well as Lee Hoiby's "Inherit the Kingdom," a setting from Matthew 25. It is hoped that these musical offerings in diverse styles will help to strengthen the Lenten journey and open our minds to new levels of meaning and awareness through music. There will be no sermon that day.

Christian Education

During the month of April, the Sunday School will be diving into the stories of Jesus' ministry. We will learn about how he made "fishers of men" of the disciples, walked on water, and preached the Sermon on the Mount. This month also brings One Great Hour of Sharing to a close. Please help and encourage your child to fill their fish bank. The fish will be set free in the "Sharing Pond" on the Assembly Room stage April 3rd and April 10th. Also, don't miss the next Family Fellowship event: A Cinco De Mayo Fiesta on Sunday, May 1st from 6 – 8p.m.. There will be tacos, games for children, and a piñata!

Women's Association

Come join the RPC Women's Association on Tuesday, April 12 at 10:30AM for a tour of the Open Door Medical Facility in Port Chester! Fellowship and lunch at a local restaurant to follow. We will have a chance to meet with staff and see the operation in action. ODMC is a community health service provider serv-

ing over 40,000 clients throughout Westchester County. They aim to provide quality health care and human services at affordable prices to the economically disadvantaged and the underserved. You can check out more information at www.opendoormedical.org. Open Door is one of our long time grant recipients, so come see where those hard-earned thrift shop dollars are going and bring a friend! We will meet at 5 Grace Church Street in Port Chester. You can park at the Stop and Shop across the street. Please sign up at the reception desk or RSVP to kristinjautz@verizon.net. If you can, please bring along a new or gently used children's book for their waiting area.



Stephen Ministry

Wanted: Individuals Interested in becoming Stephen Ministers! It is not too late to join the Fall 2011 Stephen Ministry class. We are looking for caring individuals who are interested in joining our program and sharing their gifts.

Our congregation needs well-trained and compassionate caregivers to walk with people who are dealing with a personal crisis. The extensive Stephen Ministry training will enable you to support a care receiver. Previous religious training is not necessary. All you need is a belief in God and the willingness to grow in your faith. Those who complete the training program and engage in a care-giving relationship find that fulfilling the mission of the Stephen Ministry is immensely rewarding. Stephen ministers also learn that while they are caregivers, only God can be the cure giver.



If you would like to learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Stephen Leaders, Patti Adimari at 967-6331 or pattirys@optonline.net or Pam Springer at 967-9372 or springwest@optonline.net.

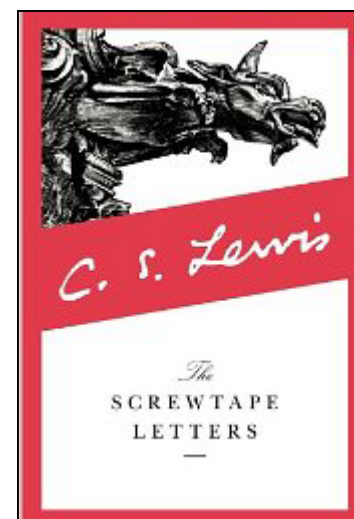
Women's Interfaith Committee

Rye Women's Interfaith Committee is pleased to invite you to a panel discussion entitled "Rituals, Sacraments and Life Cycle Ceremonies". The program will be held on April 8 at 9 a.m. in the Assembly. The program will be moderated by Rev. Dr. De Vries. The panel will also include Rabbi Daniel Gropper of the Rye Community Synagogue, Fr. Matthew Moretz of Christ's Church in Rye and Fr. Robert Verrigni of Rye Resurrection Church. All are welcome!

Lenten Book Group

During the month of April, the Lenten Book Group will continue to discuss *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. The beautifully written novel and takes an innovative look at the "art" of temptation and what it means to be Christian.

The last two sessions will be on Mondays, April 4 and 11 in the library. If you would like to participate, contact Rev. Dan Love at dlove@ryepc.com



Sister's Circle, Lives in Transition, and Mission & Outreach Benefit

Sister's Circle

One of the groups to receive an annual grant from the Women's Association is the "Sister's Circle", a support group for women with loved ones in prison. It is a wonderful group, run by Nancy Steed and Trudi Bunke. We recently received a note from Nancy and would like to share it here. This thank you goes out to all of you who support the Thrift Shop – by donating, volunteering, and by buying. As you can see, it makes a real difference in people's lives!

Last Friday for our monthly Sister's Circle gathering in the city we decided to have a Valentine's Day Celebration. As a treat we opted to go out to an Italian restaurant and pizzeria after first spending a little over an hour discussing the joys and concerns of those present. On the way home, Trudi and I thought about some of the stories that the women had shared.

The mother of one of the "Sisters" had recently passed away, and it was touching to hear that some from our group had attended the service despite the very bad weather and for her to experience the caring and support shown to her by the other women when we were together for our monthly meeting. Another woman was dealing with the enormous range of emotions that are commonly associated with the possible return or denial of a husband after many years of not being together. One of the "Sisters" has struggled with health issues and has felt the support of the women in the Sisters' Circle throughout her ordeal. Another woman's husband was deported when he was released and, for many reasons, the relationship did not go well. We were thrilled to learn that her life has gotten to a much happier place. Still another woman spoke about how she and her husband were doing well since his release. Naturally there were adjustments during the transition, but it was nice to be reminded that there really are some happy stories.

These are just some of the stories of our "Sisters". And then Trudi and I said, "If it weren't for the Women's Association, none of this ever would have been

possible!"

In March it will be our 14th anniversary, and your steadfast support, understanding, and caring has touched lives in ways that must be impossible for you to fully comprehend. So heartfelt thanks again from Trudi and me. We often feel we just never convey well enough what your support has meant to us and to the "Sisters". But, we'll keep trying.

-Nancy and Trudi

Lives in Transition

Thursday, April 7: *"Connect! Develop Relationships That Reap Results!"* If you think networking is passé, think again. Building relationships to land your next position is more important than ever in an era of globalization, technology and constant change. Author, trainer, and executive coach Julie Jansen has helped thousands of professionals find success and satisfaction at work. Julie will focus on the nuts and bolts of networking.

Wednesday, April 20: *"Self Reinvention--Advance Your Chance."* Lee Velta, Managing Director of Impax Communications will focus on the strategy behind networking, how to connect with the people that matter most. Lee will discuss the recent permanent changes to finding jobs, and how to determine your own "touch strategy". Please note that for this session only, our meeting will be held on Wednesday instead of Thursday.

The programs will be held in the Assembly Room. Registration and refreshments begin at 6:45 pm and the program ends at 9 pm.

Lives in Transition is led by volunteers from the RPC and the community, and is free and open to all. If you would like more information, would like to volunteer, or to register for one of the sessions, please send an email to: livesintransition@gmail.com, or call Patrick McGunagle at 967-3588.

Around the World in
80 Days

COME FLY WITH US
Saturday, May 7th 6:30 to 10pm



The RPC Mission and Outreach Benefit:
A Globe-Trotting Adventure!

We'll start with a **Seven Seas Sampling of Wine, Beer & Hors d'Oeuvres** followed by a deliciously international **SURF & TURF BBQ!** Everything for just \$50/person.

Dress is Cheongsams, Jalabas, Turbans, Saris & Spring Casual. Best outfits will be crowned **Raja & Czarina** and win a Wine Prize! Jet Setter Music, Polish/Greek Line Dancing, & Free On-Site Baby Sitting!

Right after dinner, it's M&O's Live Auction which will include vacation time shares, wine by the bottle & case, objets d'art, crystal & jewelry, fantasy golf outings, fun parties, fine dining, theater & sports tickets! Silent Auction bidding ends on Sunday, May 8 (Mothers' Day) at 11:45 a.m.

Please consider making a \$50 minimum donation to bring to RPC on the mornings of May 6 & 7. All proceeds will go to worthy Community Outreach projects. RSVP required by signing up at RPC or by calling Carol Norton at 914-627-0119.

SAVE THAT DATE!

One Great Hour of Sharing and Pictures from March

One Great Hour of Sharing 2011 Special Offering

In light of the recent catastrophic events abroad, the One Great Hour of Sharing Lent 2011 offering will be split evenly between the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Initiative and Doctors Without Borders. Both organizations have staff on the ground in Northeastern Japan and are helping the people impacted by the tsunami. Doctors Without Borders is helping the people in the small isolated Japanese communities in Miyagi Prefecture which have been devastated by the Tsunami. There are essentially no supplies in this community and the needs are unimaginable. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is providing water and food to people who have had their homes and support system destroyed by the tsunami following the earthquake March 11th. Please contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing to help fund these humanitarian initiatives. Envelopes are available in the pews or gifts may be sent to the church office with "One Great Hour" in the memo line.



Pictures from the Welcome Spring! Ice Cream Social



↑ Attendees jumped rope as part of a relay race



Having fun competing in the three-legged race! ↑



← Enjoying ice cream and refreshments in the Assembly Room



Pictures from Ash Wednesday Pretzel Making



*Sundays in April
Special Events*

April 3

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Worship with Communion, Sanctuary
10:00 Regular church school. Children attend worship through children's message.
4:00 p.m. Confirmation (entire class)
7:00 p.m. New Member Dessert

April 10

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary
Lenten Service of Music
10:00 Regular church school. Children attend worship through children's message
8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study, Library

April 17 Palm Sunday

8:00 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Morning Worship, Assembly Room and Sanctuary
8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study, Library

April 24 Easter Day

8:00 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
9:00 Family Worship and Flowering of the Cross in the Sanctuary
11:00 Festival Choral Communion in the Sanctuary

Lenten Service of Music
Sunday, April 10
During 10 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary



Family Fellowship
Cinco de Mayo
¡Fiesta!
Sunday, May 1
6 – 8 p.m. in the Assembly Room
Bring your family for Tacos, Games, Crafts, Mexican Hat Dance, and Piñatas!
RSVP to efoon@ryepc.com

**One Great Hour
of Sharing**

Fish Banks



How Big Will *Your*
Bank Be?

You can return your Fish
Banks to Emily Foon on
April 3 and 10

Save the Date!
The next Keenager Celebration will be
Wednesday, April 13th at 2:00 p.m.

Confirmation is May 1
during morning worship
in the Sanctuary

April Schedule of Meetings, Events and Programs

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m., Library
Session: Wednesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room
Trustees: Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m., Youth Room

WORSHIP AND STUDY

Worship on Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel and
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary.

Church School on Sunday: Regular Church School on April 3, 10, and 17.

No church school on Easter Sunday, April 24

Confirmation: Class on April 3, 4:00 p.m. (Whole group), Westminster Room.

Rehearsal for Confirmation: Saturday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m.

Confirmation Sunday, May 1, 8:45 a.m. in the Assembly Room

Lenten Book Group: *Screwtape Letters*, April 4 and 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library

Men's Bible Study: April 10 and 17, 8:00 p.m. in Library

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: April 13 and 27, 9:15 a.m., Library

YOUTH

Boy Scouts Troop #2: All Tuesdays in April, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room.

Cub Scouts: Pack Meeting: Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Science Night: April 27 at 7:00p.m., Assembly Room

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

Connection: Friday, April 1, Cathedral of St. John, New York City

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, 6:45 p.m., Choir Room

OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Christian Education Committee: Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room.

Mission and Outreach Committee: Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Library.

Sandwichmakers: Thursday, April 21, 11:00 a.m. Kitchen and Assembly Room.

Lives in Transition: Thursdays, April 13 and 20, 7:00 p.m. Assembly Room

Stephen Ministry:

Stephen Leaders: Wednesdays, April 13 and 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesdays, April 5 and 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library

Thrift Shop: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., except April 21, 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.

Homeless Overnight: Saturday, April 16

Dinner at Noon: Saturday, April 16, 11:00 a.m. at Carver Center

Mr. Westchester/Al Anon Group: Monday, April 4 in the Westminster Room, Mondays April 11, 18, and 25 in the Library, 7:30

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

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

April 2011 Newsletter
Dated material
Address correction requested

RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • GRACE NOTES • APRIL 2011 (8)

RPNS

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

To: The Rye Presbyterian Church Community
From: Kathy Price
Administrator, Studio Teacher, Curriculum Coordinator

Recapping our 14th Annual Pancake Breakfast, March 12

Our 14th Annual Pancake Breakfast was a blast. All participants enjoyed yummy pancakes, sausages, bagels, coffee cake, and fruit while listening to Zev, a local favorite, play the guitar and sang. Families also had the opportunity to fashion tiny clay bud vases which are just perfect for spring flowers. Best of all, the Dads were the cooks!

At the Book Fair families bought books for home and gift books for the RPNS classrooms, as well as the New Rochelle Children's Center for Learning. Money collected went to the Eric Wesley Flood Scholarship Fund, an important foundation of our school's scholarship program. More than 600 meals were served – an all time record for RPNS. A great time was had by all!

