

Grace Notes

VOLUME 106 RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 882 BOSTON POST ROAD • RYE • NY • 10580 JANUARY 2011



Boxed by Ann Weems

I must admit to a certain guilt
about stuffing the Holy Family into a box
in the aftermath of Christmas.
It's frankly a time of personal triumph when,
each Advent's eve, I free them (and the others)
from a year's imprisonment
boxed in the dark of our basement.

Out they come, one by one,
struggling through the straw,
last year's tinsel still clinging to their robes.
Nevertheless, they appear,
ready to take their place again
in the light of another Christmas.

The Child is first
because he's the one I'm most reluctant to box.
Attached forever to his cradle, he emerges,
apparently unscathed from the time spent upside down
to avoid the crush of the lid.



His mother, dressed eternally in blue,
still gazes adoringly,
in spite of the fact that
her features are somewhat smudged.
Joseph has stood for eleven months,
holding valiantly what's left of his staff,
broken twenty Christmases ago
by a child who hugged a little too tightly.

The Wise Ones still travel,
though not quite so elegantly,
the standing camel having lost its back leg
and the sitting camel having lost one ear.
However, gifts intact, they are ready to move.
The shepherds, walking or kneeling,
sometimes confused with Joseph
(who wears the same dull brown),
tumble forth, followed by three sheep
in very bad repair.
There they are again,
not a grand set surely,
but one the children (and now the grandchildren)
can touch and move about to reenact that silent night.
When the other return,
we will wind the music box on the back of the stable
and light the Advent candles
and go once more to Bethlehem.
And this year, when it's time to pack the figures away,
we'll be more careful that the Peace and Goodwill
are not also boxed for another year!



As we tuck away all that decorated our Christmas season both here in the church and in our homes, as Ann Weems says, let us not pack away the peace and light, the hope and joy they helped us to celebrate.

*May the many blessings of God-with-us,
be with you throughout 2011.*



Christian Education, Confirmation, Connection, Bible Studies and Empty Bowls

Christian Education

Happy New Year! 2011 finds the Church School diving into the Old Testament story of Joseph (yes, he of the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat). This four part classroom unit will culminate on February 13 with a mini-musical presentation of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, performed by the 7th and 8th Grade Sunday School classes.

In additional Sunday School news, on January 9 the 6th Grade class will welcome a speaker who is a graduate of the prison ministry program within Sing Sing. Also, don't miss our fun Enrichment activity on January 16. Lastly, starting in January you will be able to follow along with the curriculum on the website. Subject matter and Bible verses will be listed, so I certainly encourage you to review the Bible stories at home!

Youth Group will be back in full swing in January. On January 9, we'll meet in the Westminster Room at 6 p.m. for pizza and to assemble welcome gifts for RPC's new members. Next up, we'll volunteer with Dinner At Noon on January 22. We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. and go from there to the Carver Center.

Youth Mission Trip: We are headed to New Orleans to serve at the wonderful Annunciation Mission from June 26 – July 3. Be sure to sign up and send in **your deposit by January 31st**! For more information, contact Emily Foon.

The 7th and 8th Grade Sunday School Classes present...



**Sunday, February 13th, 4:00pm
In the Assembly Room
Potluck to follow**

Confirmation

Meetings this month:

Sunday, January 9

4:00 (M-Z) and 5:00 p.m. (A-L) in the Westminster Room

Sunday, January 30

4:00 (A-L) and 5:00 p.m. (M-Z) in the Westminster Room



Middle School Connection

Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

January 12

January 26

All this month we will be meeting at the Clay Arts Center studio so that we can make our clay bowls for the Empty Bowls project. Please come directly to the Clay Art Center at 40 Beech Street in Port Chester.

Men's Bible Study - Talking 'bout a Revelation!

This month, the men of Sunday evenings will be exploring the intriguing, challenging and often misinterpreted book of Revelation. If you'd like to join in and be a part of this ongoing fellowship and conversation, plan to gather on Sunday evenings January 9 and 23 at 8 p.m. in the church library.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

January 5 and 19 at 9:15 a.m.

New Year's Resolution to start reading the bible? OK, maybe not... Either way, it's a great time to jump in this ongoing study. This month we will be beginning an exploration of the songbook of Israel – the Psalms. Some well-known, some obscure, but all from the heart. All are welcome.



Empty Bowls 2011

Sunday, January 30

After a season full of gifts and holiday meals, the **Empty Bowls** project is a vivid reminder that despite all that we have, people right here in our area still go hungry. In this still unsettled economy, the hunger needs locally remain high. The point of **Empty Bowls** is to enjoy a simple meal together while at the same time helping our neighbors in need. This year, for our 11th time, potters from the Clay Arts Center in Port Chester will be working with the middle school youth of our church to bring **Empty Bowls** to RPC.

Following worship on Sunday, January 30, all are invited to the Assembly Room at RPC. There you will find beautiful ceramic bowls created and donated by local artists. Guests are invited to choose a bowl (or two or three – they make fantastic gifts!). With the purchase of a bowl, guests receive a meal of soup made and donated by Cornerstone Caterers. Bread donated by the Kneaded Bread will be there to complement the soup. Tables will be set so that all may sit and enjoy this simple and delicious meal. After the meal, the bowls are to be taken home as a reminder that amid all that we have, there is always someone with an empty bowl.

With all food, bowls, and help donated by local talent, the entire proceeds will be donated to the Town of Rye Interfaith Soup Kitchens in Port Chester. Since its inception in 2000, the Empty Bowls event has raised nearly \$50,000! Come, be a part of this great event!

Church and Justice, Women's Interfaith, Stephen Ministry Women's Association and Stewardship

Church and Justice Sunday

On January 9, Rye Presbyterian Church will celebrate our 17th 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 16 years, through monthly meetings with students in each year's class, as well as graduates who remain incarcerated.

This 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. Coffee hour after the service will also provide an opportunity to meet many of these men and their families and learn more about the positive contributions they are making to society since their release.

Our guest preacher this year will be Gregory Brown, who graduated with the NYTS class of 2006. While still in prison after graduation, like other NYTS graduates, Gregory devoted his many talents to helping other inmates, especially through being an instructor in a Certificate in Ministry program created by Sing Sing inmates in the late '90s. He assisted in leading courses in Pastoral Counseling and Christian History. He was released in August 2009, having served almost 16 years in prison, starting at about age 21.

Since release he has worked as a Case Manager in the HIV field for the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, providing services to people with AIDS or who are HIV positive. Never one to rest, his 5-year plan is to earn a Masters in Social Work and his 10-year plan is to earn a PhD in Behavioral Science, so he can return to teaching, which he says is "my true passion." He also has 18-year old twin sons who have proudly entered college this Fall.

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 9.

Rye Women's Interfaith Annual Conference

Kevin Walters, Director of Music, will be the speaker at the Rye Women's Interfaith Annual Conference to be held at our church on Sunday, January 23, at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Walters has been organist and music director at RPC since 1994. Before coming to Rye he was director of music at Marble Collegiate Church, Fifth Avenue, for twelve years. Mr. Walters is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music with degrees in piano, theory and composition, with further graduate study at Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music and the Royal College of Music in London.

Mr. Walters will speak on Music and Worship, developing the theme of St. Augustus: "He who sings, prays twice."

Stephen Ministry

A shared burden is half the burden.

The turn of the year is a time for many people to reevaluate old habits and to set new goals. The New Year is a chance for a fresh start – and thank God for that! But there are also some among us who are incapacitated by worry, grief, anger or fear. You might know someone who is experiencing such dark nights of the soul.

The RPC Stephen Ministry team would like to remind you that there are trained Stephen Ministers available who are ready to listen, talk, pray with and share the burden of someone in need. We offer confidential, non-judgmental, one-on-one care given as long as necessary. Stephen Ministers cannot change a predicament, but they can walk alongside a person in need and help them to find a way to move into the future, with God's help.

For more information or a confidential conversation, please contact Reverend Dr. Nancy DeVries or Reverend Dan Love at 967-0842, or Stephen Leader Becky Ruegger at 967-2812.

Women's Association

The end of 2010 was a busy time for the W.A. Carlene Spiegel dazzled us in with easy appetizers (recipes available!); the

thrift shop continued brisk business, including the special Christmas item sale; and creativity was tapped in the paper-making event with RPNS (see back page).

Looking ahead we have a number of fun events planned, and we invite you to join us.

A special Bollywood Ladies Night Out is planned for Monday, January 10. We will gather for a delicious dinner buffet at Tandoori Restaurant in Port Chester. Rye artist Priya Tambe will showcase her jewelry, inspired by her Indian heritage. Indian attire is entirely optional. It will be a relaxed and fun evening as we spice up the dark winter night!

Also, please save the date for our annual Progressive Dinner on February 12. This year's theme is "Famous Love Stories" in honor of Valentine's Day. Our most popular event is always a wonderful way to meet new people - so please sign up soon! Our best wishes for a happy and healthy 2011!

Stewardship

Last chance to stand up and be counted! Show the world that you are a faithful member of Rye Presbyterian. If you have pledged, again and again we thank you. Rye Presbyterian's many programs, which support its members and people in our community, would not be possible without your generous support. God calls us to be generous, and to donate what makes a difference to US. We will be thanking all the donors for the 2011 fiscal year in the Annual Report that will be published at the end of January. If you were waiting for bonus news, or to see whether your job was still sound, we understand. Still, if there is uncertainty, please pledge what you feel confident you can give, and if things go well, you can increase your pledge or your donations. Kristin and I (Cindy) are so grateful for the strong support of many of you, and hope our church can count on those of you who have not yet come in with a pledge. Show the world you believe in the legacy of Rye Presbyterian – past, present, and future.

Sundays in January Special Events

January 2, 2011

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Communion Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 No church school. Children will remain in worship with family.

January 9, Church & Justice Sunday

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary
 Elder Gregory Brown, Guest Speaker
10:00 Regular church school. Children attend worship through children's message
11:00 Church & Justice Buffet in the Assembly Room
4:00 p.m. Confirmation (M-Z) and
5:00 p.m. (A-L) in the Westminster Room
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group in the Westminster Room
8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study

January 16

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 Enrichment Sunday. No Church school.

January 23

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary, Commissioning of Stephen Ministers
10:00 Regular church school. Children attend worship through children's message
2:00 p.m. Women's Interfaith Conference / Sanctuary and Assembly Room
8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study

January 30 - Empty Bowls

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary, Ordination and installation of Officers
10:00 Regular church school. Children attend worship through children's
4:00 p.m. Confirmation (A-L) and
5:00 p.m. (M-Z) in the Westminster Room

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

Please note: On Mondays, January 3 and 17, the church office and building will be closed for New Year's and the Martin Luther King Holidays.

Lives in Transition "Create your Second Act" Lee M. Woodruff

**Thursday, January 6, 2011
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Please join us for a special evening as Lee Woodruff shares her very personal life story of adversity, and a message of hope, resilience and re-invention.

This event is free and open to all!

To attend or for more information please email:

Livesintransition@gmail.com

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Spice up your winter
and join the Women's Association
Monday, January 10 from 7 to 10 p.m.
 Tandoori Restaurant in Port Chester
 Indian attire optional!
 Bring a friend and have some fun!
 Cost approx. \$20, cash bar.

International Lunch Returns!

Join us at Koo Japanese Restaurant,
beautiful and reasonably priced.
Thursday, January 20 at 12:30 p.m.
 17 Purdy Avenue, Rye
 Please R.S.V.P. to Cindy Kuster at 914-921-9888.

**The Women's Association cordially
invites you to its
Annual Progressive Dinner**
Saturday, February 12 from 6:00 – 10:30 p.m.
 Special Valentine's Theme:

Famous Love Stories

Appetizers at the home of Kerry Hatch,
dinner at the Church
 Cost: \$60.00 per person

Please sign up at the reception desk or
email kristinjautz@verizon.net

P.S. Don't wait - this event fills up quickly.

January Schedule of Meetings, Events and Programs

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Wednesday, January 19, 7:30 p.m., Library
Session: Wednesday, January 26, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room
Trustees: Wednesday January 19, 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 January 9, 23, and 30
 Family Worship, January 2, Enrichment Sunday, January 16.

Confirmation: January 9, 4:00 p.m. (M-Z) and 5:00 p.m. (A-L)
 January 30, 4:00 p.m. (A-L) and 5:00 p.m. (M-Z), Westminster Room

Men's Bible Study: January 9 and 23, 8:00 p.m. in Library

Women's Bible Study: January 8 and 22, 9:15 a.m. in Library

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: January 5 and 19, 9:15 a.m., Library

YOUTH

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

Cub Scouts: Pack Meeting: Wednesday, January 19 and 26 at 6:30 p.m.
 Assembly Room

Girl Scout Leaders: Wednesday, January 5, 1:00 p.m., Library and Monday
 January 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room.

Connection: Wednesdays, January 12 and 26, 5:30 p.m. for Empty Bowls
 Project at Clay Arts Center, 40 Beech Street, Port Chester.

MUSIC

Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room, Sundays, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.,
 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, January 12, 7:30 p.m.,
 Westminster Room.

Mission and Outreach Committee: Wednesday, January 5, 7:30 p.m.,
 Library.

Sandwichmakers: Thursday, January 20, 11:00 a.m. Kitchen
 and Assembly Room.

Stephen Ministry:

Leaders: Thursday, January 6 and 20, 9:00 a.m., Library.

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesdays, January 4 and 18,
 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room.

Stephen Ministry training, January 4, 6:30 p.m., Library

Stephen Ministry Retreat:

All day training on Saturday, January 8, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 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.

Homeless Overnight: Saturday, January 1 and 15, 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room.

Dinner at Noon: Saturday, January 22, 11:00 a.m. at Carver Center

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

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

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

**Sunday, January 23
during the 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service**

New Officers:

**Training: Saturday, January 22,
8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**Ordination and Installation of
New Officers**

**Sunday, January 30 during the
10:00 a.m. Worship service.**



Lives in Transition in action!



Rye Presbyterian Church

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RPNS

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

To the Rye Presbyterian Church Community from Kathy Price, RPNS Administrator, curriculum coordinator, Studio Teacher

NEW YEARS GREETINGS!

Our December project celebrating the community relationship between RPC and RPNS was the Paper Making workshop for the Rye Presbyterian Women's Association, organized by Cynthia Deen, Deirdre Winters and me. A group of twelve RPC ladies assembled to learn the old craft of papermaking – the same process that our two through five year olds practice and learn in the nursery school. We first discussed why we do this with the young children: the first step is to tear or cut paper into postage stamp size pieces – great for **fine motor** development, (our children participated behind the scene by tearing piles of paper for the workshop); Children then learn to **sequence the next six step process** (sequencing is an important part of reading readiness): put small paper pieces with warm water in a blender and pulse until a thick pulp is formed; pour the pulp into a frame fitted with a small mesh screen on top and bottom; remove excess liquid with sponges; flip the newly formed paper onto newspaper and remove both screens; put in a paper press to remove more moisture; allow the paper to dry for approximately 24 hours. Many of our children add decorative touches to express their **creativity** after the pulp is blended:

leaves and flower petals, glitter, shredded paper. Our children are often encouraged to learn about **charitable donations** through papermaking, such as the class who annually makes notecards to sell and then uses the money to purchase and wrap gifts for a needy family in our Holiday Pals program. The paper made this day was made into notecards as gifts for the women of My Sister's Circle. There was also a cookie exchange with cookies shared to accompany the notecards – a sweet ending to a lovely afternoon!

Enjoy the photos of the ladies and several of their creations!

