

Grace Notes

VOLUME 98 RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 882 BOSTON POST ROAD • RYE • NY • 10580 FEBRUARY 2010



FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Lent begins on February 17, 2010...Ash Wednesday. Lent is the liturgical season of walking with Christ, metaphorically speaking, through his ministry, his suffering and passion. We observe forty days because Jesus began his ministry with a forty day period of fasting in the wilderness following his baptism in the Jordan River, prior to the beginning of his public ministry. When Jesus came out of the wilderness, John the Baptist, his cousin who had baptized him, was sitting in Herod's prison awaiting death.

In *Looking at Stars*, Jane Kenyon penned,
The God of curved space, the dry
God, is not going to help us, but the son
whose blood splattered
the hem of his mother's robe.

Kenyon's unconventional words catch that mystery of all grace in which the care of the Lord of the Universe is made visceral in the human experience of the suffering of Jesus. Sometimes we shy away from this deeper side of Christianity, but without it, we are admirers more than participants in Christian life—and something is missing.

Lent gives us an opportunity to walk more deeply with Jesus and God. In addition to Sunday morning services, these faith-deepening opportunities are offered...

Ash Wednesday Service in Crawford Chapel on
Wednesday, February 17, at 12:00 noon,
Nancy De Vries officiating.

Ash Wednesday Communion Supper and Service,
On Wednesday, February 17, at 6:00 PM in the
Westminster Room. Please sign up at the Reception
Desk or send an email to kreames@ryepc.com, so
that we can plan supper for you appropriately.

"The Politics of the Cross," a presentation on the politics and historical background of the crucifixion of Jesus, led by Nancy De Vries. Monday evening, February 22, in the Library.

Children's Communion Workshop, Saturday March 6, at 9:30 AM, led by Daniel Love.

Faith, Fireside and Verse, an evening of Christian Poetry by the fire at the 890 Manse, at 7:00 PM on March 8 with Kevin Walters and Nancy De Vries.

Mozart's Requiem, Palm Sunday afternoon, March 28 at 4 PM with the combined choirs of Christ's Episcopal and Rye Presbyterian Churches, in our own sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae and Choral Communion at 8:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Good Friday Service, April 2 at 12 Noon in the Sanctuary, Daniel Love preaching.

Family Good Friday Service, April 2 at 3:00 PM, led by Daniel Love.

Palm Sunday Services, Sunday, March 28 at 8:30 and 11:00 AM.

Easter Services, Sunday, April 4.

8:00 a.m. Easter Communion service in the Chapel

9:00 a.m. Family worship and Flowering of the Cross in the Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Easter Festival Choral Communion Service in the Sanctuary

Come...for all is prepared....

The Rev. Dr. Nancy A. De Vries, Pastor

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Christian Education, Confirmation, Mission & Outreach, Connection, Bible Studies, Church & Justice

Christian Education

Happy February from Christian Education!

January started off great in Sunday School: we kept the Christmas spirit alive by celebrating Epiphany. We ate King Cake, created the Magi's "gifts," dressed up as kings and queens, made beautiful crowns, and recreated the Magi's journey to Bethlehem with a life-size board game. 5th, 6th, and 7th/8th grades participated in Church & Justice Sunday with meaningful presentations from guest teachers, Angel Torres and Ernest Henry.

On Martin Luther King weekend, the Sunday School made blankets for children affected by the earthquake in Haiti. We also took up a collection to help with relief supplies over there. On Monday the 18th the Youth Group met at Don Bosco's to participate in community service in honor of Martin Luther King. We worked hard and had a great time!

On the 24th we studied Jesus' baptism and then went on to talk about our own baptisms on the 31st. On the 31st, the Youth Group met to discuss hunger.

Since most of the world lives on less than \$1 a day, we went to the A&P to see if we could feed a family of 5 nutritious meals for \$5 a day. Then we tried \$1 a day. It's hard work!

February Youth Group Events

Saturday, February 13: Dinner at Noon. Meet at the Carver Center from 10:30 – 12:30

Sunday, February 28: Games and activities discussing hunger in the world and in our community.

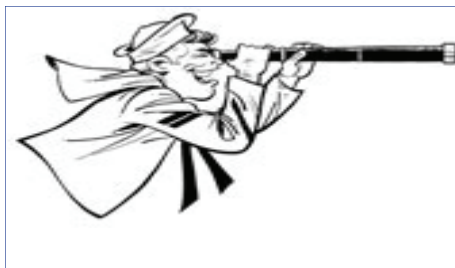
Confirmation

Meetings this month:

Sunday, February 7

4:00 (AK) and 5:00 p.m. (LZ)
in the Westminster Room

**Winter Ski Trip to Vermont
February 26-28
Registration forms are due
2/7!**



April 24 ... Save that Date, Mate!

Landlubbers' BBQ & Auction

M & O Fundraising Fun April 24, 2010. Impress your favorite crew, starting at 6:30 p.m. with Beach Bum Hors d'Oeuvres, Lagoon Seafood Bar, Wine Sampling and Mermaid Music, followed by an all-you-can-eat BBQ dinner with Line Dancing, culminating in a big splash LIVE AUCTION from 9-10 p.m. It's whites, blues, beach and boating casuals. Best-dressed couple will be crowned KING CRAB & QUEEN TUNA and win a Wine prize! And FREE BABY SITTING on site! For \$50 per person!

Yes, this year is still financially tight for many of us. But others badly need your help. Your donations and participation in this auction typically raise over \$25,000 that go right out in grants to important organizations that serve many needs in our community. If you have something of special value (over \$50 please), like a time share, entertainment tickets, fine art or collectibles, a golf round or a fine dining experience, please consider donating it to this fundraiser. Contact Carol Norton at 967-0119.

Middle School Connection

Regular meetings on Wednesdays,
Feb. 3 and 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Save the Date – Connection goes to St. John the Divine on March 12-13.

If you'd like to get email updates about this ongoing middle school youth group, contact Rev. Dan Love at dlove@ryepc.com

Men's Bible Study - The Reason for God

Sunday, February 28 at 8:00 p.m. in the Church Library. Join us as we work our way through Tim Keller's book, *The Reason for God*. If you'd like to get email updates about this ongoing gathering, contact Rev. Dan Love, dlove@ryepc.com

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

February 10 and 24

9:15 a.m. in the Library

Our reading of the Gospel according to Mark continues!

Church and Justice

RPC held its 16th annual Church and Justice Service on January 10, and it was, as always, a service of passion, pride, spirituality and grace. We were pleased to share our sanctuary with over 100 guests, graduates of New York Theological Seminary's Masters Program at Sing Sing, their families and friends, and others engaged in prison ministry in this area.

After the service, our guests gathered for a festive luncheon. It is our tradition that each guest speak briefly about their journey, work, and family, or anything else that moves their hearts. These are extraordinary testaments to the power of God to transform the lives of men and women to do positive work in society. Those present also expressed their deep gratitude to RPC for being their friends over the years of incarceration. And many of wives gave praise and thanks to the Sisters' Circle, which is supported by the Women's Association tirelessly led by Nancy Steed, Estelle Williams, and Trudi Bunke for over 12 years.

One of the graduates bears mention: Dewey Bozella, who graduated with the Class of '06. In October, 2009, Dewey was *exonerated* by DNA evidence after serving *twenty-seven years* for a crime he didn't commit. He went to prison without a high school degree and came out with a Masters. Dewey was without anger; instead he is determined to be a contributing, positive member of society. A remarkable attitude!

Stephen Ministry, Women's Association, Lives in Transition

Stephen Ministry

Gifts for the New Year

A new calendar year often brings resolutions, fresh starts, hopes & promises. The magi traveled a long distance, with gifts in hand, believing in God's promises. Stephen Ministry at RPC is committed to encouraging those who journey with hope toward healing.

Five new Stephen Ministers have joined in this hope. In January, **Nancy Jane Carson, Gloria Fusillo, Gail Langeloh, Donna Parratt, and Ana Maria Pontes** completed thirteen weeks of training. These women are among the seventy-one Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders who have been commissioned to share their gifts with the people of RPC and surrounding community.

In addition to the commitment made to meet one-to-one with a person whose life journey has become rigorous, these five new Stephen Ministers will join in the bi-monthly **Continuing Education** program. Every other Tuesday evening, Stephen Ministers gather to collect insight and information presented by doctors, therapists, ministers, social workers, and other humanitarian specialists. Opportunities for reflection, spiritual growth, and fellowship are also provided.

When asked about their experience as a Stephen Minister, this is the gift one individual received: **"In a single word, rich. The relationship with my care receiver—the core of the Stephen Ministry—has been deeply fulfilling. But beyond that, I've been blessed by new friendships with my fellow Stephen Ministers and have learned invaluable life skills that extend well beyond the confines of the program."**

If you're interested in more information about being a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader, please contact Patrick McGunagle (967-3588 or gpm@aol.com) or Carol Love (967-9262 or cloveny@optonline.net).

Women's Association

The Women's Association had their January meeting in the library as usual. We postponed the tour of the Carver Center due to several extenuating circumstances. Keep an eye out for the tour in April. The Carver Center has undergone some administrative and facility changes and will be an interesting rediscovery for those who come.

Please note the upcoming events:

- **Saturday, March 6 the Womens' Association** will be sponsoring a Retreat focusing on Spirituality and Art.
- In April we are planning a tour of the Carver Center and a lunch out.
- **Monday, May 3** a Ladies Night out will be held at the home of Bobbi Keeshan from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **On Monday, June 7**, the Grant Award Luncheon and Presentation will be held at RPC.

RPC's Got Talent Show

What is a talent show without talent?

If you sing, dance, act, juggle, play an instrument, tell jokes, lip sync or have something you might do at the RPC NON-ANNUAL "Talent" Show, please pick up **your registration form at the reception office**. Don't be SHY!! It will be great FUN. It is your chance for fame and glory. RPC committees will be looking for an act to sponsor. Children's acts are welcome as it is an intergenerational event! Come one, come all. Dress rehearsals, Friday and Saturday, May 7th and 8th and the show will be the evening of **Friday, May 14th**; so save the date for family fun. Nancy Steed and Cynthia Deen are co-chairing this family fun event.

A Special Thank you

We are very grateful to the Christmas elves who "de-greened" the kirk one wintry Wednesday morning in January. Our appreciation is extended to Milly Cordtz, Jim Fuhrer, Kristin Jautz, Dwight Kellogg, Nonie Reich, Robin Russell, Rita Schubert and Terry Weil. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Lives in Transition

February Offerings - February 4 and February 18, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Assembly Room

February 4th: **"All About You: Connecting Who You Are With What You Do."** This will be an evening of small group discussions focusing on self-assessment. The groups will be facilitated by experienced leaders and representatives from the business community. Participants will have an opportunity to share and in the true spirit of give and get, we will address individual issues and learn from each other.

February 18: **"LinkedIn Workshop."** LinkedIn is a networking website that connects you to trusted contacts and helps you exchange knowledge, ideas, and opportunities. Whether you are just looking to get started or already an advanced user, the Lives in Transition LinkedIn Workshop will help you get the most from this powerful resource. Trainers will conduct hands-on break-out groups that will demonstrate the specific feature of LinkedIn focus toward the individual's ability. These break-out groups will also provide opportunities for sharing personal success stories and strategy. Please indicate your LinkedIn experience level with your RSVP: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced. Being a Linked In user is not a requirement, but we recommend you familiarize yourself with www.linkedin.com and register for this free service before the session.

The program is open and free to all. For more information, to attend one of the sessions, or to volunteer to serve as a resource, please RSVP by email: livesintransition@gmail.com.



Blankets for Haiti

Sundays in February

February 7

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Communion Worship, Sanctuary,
 Dr. De Vries preaching. Children's chapel.
10:00 Regular church school. Children
 attend worship through children's message
11:00 Annual Congregational Meeting
4:00 Confirmation Class (A-K)
5:00 Confirmation Class (L-Z)
6:00 Youth Group Meeting, Westminster
 Room

February 14

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary,
 Rev. Love preaching
10:00 Enrichment Sunday. Children attend
 worship through children's message.
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group in the
 Westminster Room

February 21

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary,
 Dr. De Vries preaching
10:00 Regular church school. Children
 attend worship through children's message
6:00 High School Youth Group in the
 Westminster Room

February 28

8:30 Holy Communion, Crawford Chapel
10:00 Morning Worship, Sanctuary,
 Dr. De Vries preaching
10:00 Regular church school. Children
 attend worship through children's message
6:00 High School Youth Group in the
 Westminster Room

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 17

Communion Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

Communion Service at 12:00 noon
 and 7:00 p.m.

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

Special Events

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 7, 11:00 a.m.
 following Morning Worship

The RPC Women's Association 2010 PROGRESSIVE DINNER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT 6:00 P.M.

THIS YEAR'S THEME: "AMERICANA"
 COME SOLO OR BRING YOUR PARDNER!

Appetizers at the home of George and Robin Russell
 2 Flagler Drive, Rye

Dinner and Dessert at Rye Presbyterian Church
**COST: \$50 PER PERSON - PLEASE PAY IN ADVANCE AS
 THIS IS A CATERED EVENT.**

Please bring an appetizer or dessert.
 Sign up at the RPC reception desk or reply to Cynthia Deen
 at cdeen@optonline.net

Please include names, number of people attending,
 phone number and whether you will bring an appetizer or dessert.
 WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

The RPC Women's Association's International Lunch

Le Déjeuner International va à la France!

Right in our own little town, La Panetière has a
 \$25 fixed-price lunch
L'amour... la gourmandise ... FORMIDABLE! Let's try it!

Wednesday, February 24th, 12:30 PM
 RSVP if you can come to Cindy Kuster, CKuster@aol.com or 925-2312

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

June 28 – July 3, 2010

In Harlan, Kentucky

Space is limited! We need to get a total number soon. Please con-
 tact Emily Sullivan: esullivan@ryepc.com if you are interested.
Informational Meeting in the library after worship on March 7th.

February Schedule of Meetings, Events and Programs

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Wednesday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., Library
Session: Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room
Trustees: Wednesday February 10, 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 February 7 and 21,
 Enrichment Sunday on February 14.
Confirmation: February 7, 4:00 p.m. (AK) and 5:00 p.m. (LZ)
 February 14, 4:00 p.m. (AK) and 5:00 p.m. (LZ), Westminster Room
Men's Bible Study: February 28, 8:00 p.m. in Library
Women's Bible Study: February 6 and 27, 9:15 a.m. in Library
Wednesday Morning Bible Study: February 10 and 24, 9:15 a.m., Library

YOUTH

Boy Scouts Troop #2: Tuesdays in February 2, 9, and 23, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room.
Cub Scouts: Pack Meeting: Wednesday February 24, 6:30 p.m., Assembly Room
Girl Scout Leaders: Wednesday, February 3, 12:00 p.m., Library
Connection: Wednesdays, February 3 and 24, 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 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, February 10, 7:30 p.m., Conference Room.
Mission and Outreach Committee: Wednesday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room
Sandwichmakers: Thursday, February 18, 11:00 a.m. Kitchen and Assembly Room.
Lives in Transition: Thursdays, February 4 and 18, Assembly Room, Westminster Room, Undercroft Rooms
Stephen Ministry:
 Leaders: Tuesday, February 9 and 23, 9:00 a.m., Library.
 Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesdays, February 2 and 16,
 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room.
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: No overnight in February.
Dinner at Noon: Saturday, February 13, 11:00 a.m. at Carver Center
Mr. Westchester/Al Anon Group: Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Library.

The Church office will be closed on Monday, February 15 in observance of Presidents' Day.

PHONE: 914-967-0842 FAX: 914-967-0267
Email: RPC@ryepc.com Web Site: www.ryepc.com

HAITI RELIEF

Rye Presbyterian Church has initiated the following assistance efforts:

RPC will initially direct its relief funding through **Church World Service**, a cost-effective NGO that has personnel and health services already in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. RPC's Mission & Outreach Committee is evaluating other relief agencies, and will make additional recommendations as Haiti's needs and distribution problems clarify.

HAITI RELIEF APPEAL Money donations are badly needed right away. To launch this appeal, M&O has delivered a \$5,200 check to Church World Service using contingency monies carried over from last year's auction fundraiser. Parishioners are asked to write **donation checks to RPC, noting Haiti Relief**.

HYGIENE KITS Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. RPC families are asked to prepare and donate "hygiene kits" **by February 1, for timely distribution in Haiti**. Involving your children in this activity is a good lesson learned. Bring the kits to the RPC office for boxing and shipment to a Church World Service distribution center in Maryland. **Please include ONLY:**

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six Band-Aids®

Please **do not add toothpaste** to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste that has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kits just prior to shipment. **Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipr closure. CWS asks that your kits include only items on their list, and not other items you might think useful.**

CLOTHES All types of clothing will be increasingly needed as relief efforts progress. Your clothing donations may include underwear, skirts and tops, shorts and pants, T-shirts and summer shirts, and socks for **all ages and gender, but must be clean, folded and assembled and marked by age group** (ie. infant, youth, teen, adult). Bring clothing to the RPC office, and you will be directed to a receiving room.

Thank you for helping in this humanitarian mission.

RPC Mission & Outreach Committee

January 17, 2010

Rye Presbyterian Church

882 Boston Post Road, Rye, New York 10580

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RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • GRACE NOTES • FEBRUARY 2010 (6)

RPNS

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

Greetings to the Rye Presbyterian Church community from Kathy Price, Administrator/Studio Teacher/Curriculum Coordinator

This month's news describes the evolution of our Music Program at the preschool and concludes with an **INVITATION to Church members**. Children have daily opportunities in their classrooms for singing, playing instruments such as rhythm sticks, bells, tiny maracas and shakers they have made from clay or gourds, and listening to music – classical, ethnic, and childhood favorites. Twice monthly classes come together for a larger group time for music, dance and instrumental experiences. Photos below capture children at RPNS dancing with scarves, with a partner and do-ceedo-ing, tapping a beat with rhythm sticks, and two “guest musicians” introducing children to violin and didgeridoo music.

I invite church members to share their talent and or musical instruments for a morning or afternoon. This is not an appeal for a polished, concert level performance, but a request for you to share your love or knowledge of an instrument or music / dance experience with our music classes. We welcome you to come and play or discuss an instrument in the simplest format appropriate for 2, 3, 4 or 5 year olds, and their teachers. Please call Kathy Price at (914-967-2073), to discuss your ideas and consider sharing your passion and love for music / instruments / dance with our children—they are a most appreciative audience!!

