

## new beginnings

I have always been a slow reader. I struggled in school because of this. I am still a slower reader. As I reflect back on the four years that Dan and I have now served as your co-pastors, I feel as if God has invited us to be speed reading! So much has happened in such a short period of time. Co-pastors and congregation coming together to begin a new model for ministry. The \$4 million Imagine Initiative and all of the fruits of that generously funded campaign, including the Coming Home program. The coming and going of staff members, both with retirements and then welcoming new staff members. It feels as if we've packed 10 years of events in the life of the congregation into the past four years. Speed reading.

And now we are set to begin another new chapter! On Sunday, November 12, we gathered for one worship service that was filled with new beginnings. We once again came forward to present our stewardship commitments for 2018. For some, it was a new beginning as they embraced the stewardship notion of pledging for the first time. It was a new beginning for the 25 new members we received that Sunday along with their many children. And it was a new beginning for us as welcomed Jean-Paul Marshall to the pulpit to preach his candidating sermon, and then voted overwhelmingly at the congregational meeting that followed to call Jean-Paul as our Associate Pastor for Christian Education. At the same meeting, we also elected 24 people to the offices of elder, deacon, and trustee, a new beginning for those who are willing to share their gifts of leadership with us.

We look forward to these new chapters with new members and new officers. And we are especially excited to begin this new chapter of ministry as we welcome Jean-Paul to our staff. Jean-Paul comes to us from the Dallas area. Yes, another Texan. Jean-

Paul graduated from Austin College (Sherman, TX) in 2013 with a B.A. in Religious Studies and Music. He graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Austin, TX) in May 2017. He brings extensive experience working with youth in many capacities: Youth Director/Coordinator (Bonham, TX and Austin, TX); year-long Chaplain Intern at Mo-Ranch (Presbyterian Camp in Hunt, TX); Seminary Intern at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church (Austin, TX); and as Chaplain Intern at a Children's Hospital (Dallas, TX). Jean-Paul met Susie Fox at Austin College. They were married this past July. Susie has a B.A. with a major in Psychology and a minor in Leadership and a M.A. in Teaching. She is a Behavioral Therapist working with students with autism.



We look forward to welcoming Susie and

Jean-Paul as he begins his ministry with us on December 11.

One final note, as we are talking about all things new. Christmas Eve this year falls on a Sunday, thus we will have a new/different schedule for our services that day and evening. Details about each of the services can be found below.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing..." (Isaiah 43:19)

### The Christmas Season



#### Pizza & Gingerbread House Party

Sunday, December 3 / 6:00 p.m.

#### Christmas Tree-Lighting

Sunday, December 3 / 7:00 p.m.

#### Cantata Sunday

Rutter's Magnificat

Sunday, December 10 / 10:00 a.m. Worship

#### Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17 / 4:00 p.m.



### Christmas Eve



#### Service of Lessons & Carols

with the Chancel Choir / 10:00 a.m.

#### Family Service

with Live Nativity / 3:00 p.m.

#### Family Candlelight Service

with Live Nativity / 5:00 p.m.

#### Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

with the Chancel Choir and string quartet /  
10:00 p.m.

## Christmas Season 2017, Year-End Offering



### ~ RPC Family Fellowship ~ Pizza & Gingerbread House Party!

Bring your family for a Pizza Dinner at 6:00 p.m. and stay for the Tree Lighting at 7:00 p.m. Once the tree has been lighted and dessert enjoyed, your house will be dry and ready to take home.

Sunday, December 3,  
In the Assembly Room: 6:00–7:00 p.m.

RSVP to [Nancy Lavelle](#)



**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 3,  
7:00 P.M.**

All are invited to this special event that ushers in the Christmas season!

Carols around the trees on the front lawn to welcome in the Christmas season with dessert following at the Miller manse, 890 Boston Post Road.

### Cantata Sunday December 10

John Rutter's setting of the  
*Magnificat*

RPC Chancel Choir, soloists, orchestra

*Please note:*  
there will not be a service at 8:30 a.m. on this day.



### Annual Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17,  
at 4:00 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary

### Thrift Shop Annual Christmas Sale



**Sunday, December 3,  
During 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour**

The Thrift Shop brings up the *best* of the Christmas donations. Some are new! Many, many lovely items, including trees and tree stands, and great gift options such as a supplemental teacher gift, for example. All the platters, baskets, and holiday plates you need for Christmastime entertaining. Brighten up your house without spending a fortune.

**Note:** we are looking for donations—if you're purging as you get out your Christmas decorations, please think of us. Contact [Suzanne Davies](#) for further information.

As always, at the Thrift Shop you can *have fun and do good!*

## YEAR-END GIVING

### YOUR CHARITABLE DEDUCTION

Church financial records will close on **Friday, December 29, 2017, at noon.** All checks must be received by **December 31** to qualify for a charitable deduction in the **2017 tax year.**

As you make your year-end gifts to the church, please note the purpose in the memo line or on the envelope—Imagine, Annual Giving, Christmas Joy Offering, Christmas Flowers & Music. Separate checks for Imagine gifts are appreciated.

### PLEDGE BALANCE

If you would like to check your pledge balance online through Access ACS, please [click here](#).

### DONATING STOCK TO RPC

Gifts of stock to RPC are cleared through Janney Montgomery Scott LLC DTC #0374. For further credit to Rye Presbyterian Church Acct. #8926-9870. It is helpful as well to note that the church's legal name is the **Presbyterian Church in the Town of Rye**, and our tax ID is 13-1740299. (Online at: <http://ryepc.com/index/procedure-for-donating-stock/>.) If you have questions or a problem, contact Geoff Beringer at:

Janney Montgomery Scott  
The Beringer Weinstock Group  
800 Post Rd., Darien, CT 06820  
Tel: 203-662-6360

To insure that your donation is accurately recorded at RPC, please also forward a copy of your letter of instruction to:

Maida Robinson  
[mrobinson@ryepc.com](mailto:mrobinson@ryepc.com)

## Stewardship Update, Rye Writes, Christmas Joy Offering

### Stewardship 2018 What does RPC mean to me?



Clearly it means a great deal! A heartfelt thank-you to all who have sent in your 2018 pledges already—you have stepped up with faithfulness and generosity!

As of November 21, here's where we stand:

- Annual Stewardship for 2018: 202 pledges for \$896,200—up 9.6% from 2017!

**Now is the time to be included!**

To make pledges for Stewardship 2018, please contact the church office at 967-0842, or pledge online [here](#).



### Rye Writes

We have launched Rye Writes! This program creates a letter writing relationship enabling congregants and others to exchange letters with those in prison, many of whom never get a visit or correspondence from the outside. This will be an easy way to become part of RPC's prison ministry on your own schedule, at your own pace, and without any of the bureaucratic entanglements that come with the prison system. If you are interested or want more information about the Rye Writes program, please contact Heather Miller, Program Coordinator (click [here](#)), or at (914) 413-6201.

## Keeping the Promise of the Advent Season—The Christmas Joy Offering



The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly “indescribable gift,” as well as the gifts of church leaders—past, present, and future. In the second letter to the Corinthians, Paul talks of a generous gift that has been promised. As he sends folks ahead to make arrangements for this gift, he takes the opportunity to illuminate the impact of generosity. Paul grounds readers first in God's generosity, reminding us that God not only provides seed for sowing and bread for food, but God goes further, partnering in human generosity both as source and as amplification. The gifts we give are from God, and they are multiplied and increased by God as we

give. The result of the generous gift made by the Corinthians therefore has a compounding effect, enriching the Corinthians “in every way.” It results in impact to those whose need is met, and the ministry made possible by the gift—to the giver of the gift as well. It then overflows in thanksgiving to God and benefits the whole church as it inspires and testifies to the gracious work of God through Christ. It is that grace, then, that Paul describes as “indescribable.”

Through the work of the Christmas Joy Offering, we seek the living of this truth: that God's generosity is the source, the support, and the outcome of our own. We give because God has freely given. We give to support the needs of our church leaders—past, present, and future—and God amplifies and extends those gifts through the ministry of those leaders. Their gifts of ministry extend and amplify as well, “overflowing” in thanksgiving to God, and the entire environment of generosity bears witness to God's grace, a truly indescribable gift.

A church worker in a time of need receives the generosity of the church in the same way they have been generous in their service to it—then turns around and makes a gift himself to help other church leaders in need. A student at Presbyterian Pan American School receives the generosity of the church and responds by dedicating his life to serving the church. The work of the Offering is compounding generosity, with unending expansion and ceaseless increase. In gratitude to God for the gift of Jesus, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) invites congregations to join this celebration of God's presence with us by supporting those in need of help and hope.

To learn more about the promises of the Christmas Joy Offering, please [click here](#) to view the Christmas Joy Video.

“Christmas Joy” envelopes will be in the pews beginning Sunday, December 10. Please note **Christmas Joy** on the memo line of your check.

To donate online, [click here](#).



## Christian Education, Confirmation

### Sunday School

**The Pumpkin Carving Event** was a huge success! We had a full house on a rainy Sunday before Halloween. Many families enjoyed music, pizza, and a fun time with family and friends carving their pumpkins. Thanks for coming out and making this event a great one.



During November, the children heard stories from the gospel of Matthew. They heard four key stories and parables about what it means to live in God's way and to be the church together. Some of the stories were called: **Learning Together, Ready to Shine, Generous Love, and This is Love.** All of these stories were teaching the children about love, making good choices, generosity, and sharing all of the good that they learn from Jesus' example.

On November 12, the children enjoyed singing beautiful songs about letting their **light shine** with Lisa Rawson! Click on the video links to hear the voices of the children in PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade (#1) and the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders (#2).



Video #1

Video #2

**Merry Month of December!!!!** We will be celebrating Advent and the coming birth of Jesus. Our classes will focus on the four pillars of Advent: hope, peace/comfort, joy, and love.

This month's Family Fellowship Event is the **Gingerbread House Decorating**

on Sunday, December 3, in the Assembly Room at 6:00 p.m. Suggested donation is \$20.00. Bring your family for a pizza dinner, decorate a house, and stay for the Tree Lighting at 7:00 p.m. Once the tree has been lit and the dessert enjoyed, your house will be dry and ready to take home. Sign up online at the RPC website: [www.ryepc.com](http://www.ryepc.com), *What's Happening* page ([click here](#)) or there is a sign-up sheet on the clipboard station outside the Assembly Room. Come join the fun!!

#### DATES:

**Dec. 3:** Regular Sunday School, Singing Our Faith, Communion Sunday-Children in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will go back to worship to receive Communion.

*Family Fellowship:* **Gingerbread House Decorating**, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room, Tree Lighting at 7:00 p.m.

**Dec. 10:** Cantata Sunday. Following the Prayer of the Day, children PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be dismissed to the Westminster Room for Enrichment Activities. Children 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade will remain in worship.

**Dec. 17:** Regular Sunday School.

**Dec. 24:** No Sunday School **Christmas Eve. MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Dec. 31:** Enrichment Sunday: PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade meet in the Westminster Room, Middle School remains in worship.

### Middle School Connection

Connection, RPC's Middle School Youth Group, is open to all 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders.

We will meet on Wednesday, December 6, at 5:30 p.m. for a pizza dinner, a little Christmas prep, and some Christmas spirit.

On December 20, we will meet at the Clay Art Center in Port Chester (40 Beech Street) to begin our preparation for the January Empty Bowls fundraiser!

### High School Youth Group

All 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome at RPC's High School Youth Group!

Our high school youth met on November 12 and talked about what thanksgiving means to them. Then, on November 14, we had about 100 people come to view the film, *Escalation*, which is about relational abuse. There were about 60

adults and 40 high school youth. After the film, the youth and adults went into separate groups to have discussions about the film. A special thanks to our own Alec Jautz, Izy Logan, as well as Anna O'Keefe (daughter of one of our RPNS teachers), who served as the peer facilitators for the youth discussion groups.

Our next high school youth meeting will be a very special one. Join us on Sunday evening, December 10, at the Miller Manse (890 Boston Post Rd) from 6:00-7:30 pm. We will share dinner together as we welcome Jean-Paul and Susie Marshall as Jean-Paul begins his ministry as our Associate Pastor for Christian Education. Please come and get to know them, and extend a warm welcome to them.

### Confirmation 2017

A cosmic accident? A series of lucky mutations? Or are we a part of some more intentional plan? If God made the world and declared it good, what happened? What have people tried to set things right – and what has God done to accomplish the same goal? And, most importantly, what does this have to do with us, here in 2017?

Such are the questions on the plate of the confirmation class as they reflect on who they are, and their sense of what God is up to in their lives. This month, they will be writing a brief paper on their thoughts and questions about all that we have covered so far.

In an effort to keep up their solid work, there will be regular class meetings on Sunday afternoons. On December 3 in the Westminster Room and on December 10 the class will meet 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 will be due that day!

**Sunday, December 3** – Section M-Z meets at 4:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room; Section A-L at 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 10** – Christmas Project – The whole class meets at 5:00 p.m. .

Confirmation

## Stephen Ministry, Adult Education, Nola, Christmas Flowers & Music

### Giving Presents or Presence?

Whether it is Black Friday or the countdown of an Advent calendar, the holidays preoccupy many of us with the urgent quest for the perfect gift or the best deal. And then somewhere, amid the hustle and bustle, there are moments when someone you know slows down to listen.

Think of a time when you really felt cared for. Chances are someone focused on what you had to say, was attentive to your needs, and listened to how you felt instead of telling you how you should feel or what you should do to fix the situation. In Stephen Ministry, a great deal of time is spent in teaching and practicing listening skills because of their importance in giving care to others.

Sharing about her relationship with an RPC Stephen Minister, one Care Receiver said, "If more people knew how valuable Stephen Ministry really is, you would have a long wait-list. Thank you!"

Listening is a valuable gift we can give to one another, and one we can all use in order to make RPC a more caring place. For more information on the Stephen Ministry program contact the clergy or Carol Love at 914-536-9893 or [cloveny@optonline.net](mailto:cloveny@optonline.net).

**stephen**  
MINISTRY

### 2018 Summer High School Mission Trips to New Orleans

Continuing our work in places of need, this year there will again be two trips to New Orleans - June 24 – June 30, and August 5-11. For those interested in learning more, there will be an information session on Sunday, December 17, immediately following worship in the Westminster Room. Sign-ups for both trips will begin online on January 8 and will require a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Space is limited so please mark your calendars. Please contact Dan Love ([dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com)) or John Miller ([jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com)) with any questions.



### BE AN ANGEL!

What would Christmas be without the beautiful flowers and glorious music in our historic church? Please help defray the cost of our Christmas flowers and music. Use the designated envelope in the pew rack. Please indicate "Christmas Flowers & Music" on the memo line of your check.

You may also donate online—[click here](#).

For your gift to be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve program, your donation *must* be received no later than **Monday, December 11**.



Adult Education Presents

### Home For The Holidays

Sundays, Dec. 3, 10, 17  
9:00 – 9:45 am, Westminster Room

**December 3**

### *Celebrating Christmas with Mindfulness*

Come join our own Kim O'Connor as she shares with us simple ways to (re)connect to the beauty of the season through mindfulness.

**December 10 & 17**

### *Home for the Holidays*

THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE and we have a gift for you a guide to boosting bliss, creating connections and handling holiday stress. We are delighted to share easy ways to spark joy and gratitude with family and friends during this happy holiday season.

**Facilitators:**

**Ruth Greer**, PhD, LCSW, CASAC, LMFT is a mother of three daughters and a grandmother of two teen aged boys. She is a faculty member and supervisor at the Westchester Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy where she teaches and trains graduate therapists. In her psychotherapy practice of over 30 years in Rye, she sees adults with interpersonal, substance abuse and anxiety problems as well as working with parents and couples who are struggling with family issues.

**Beth Gallos**, MA, CAS is a mother of three boys, an experienced School Psychologist, a registered yoga instructor and mindfulness instructor. In her practice, Beth sees first-hand the positive impact a mindful and holistic approach to health and wellness can have. Beth is committed to bringing this work to individuals, families and the community to strengthen all three and help them reach their full potential.



Rye  
Presbyterian  
Church

Magnificent Music  
in Concerts and in Worship  
2017-2018

# Cantata Sunday

Rutter: Magnificat  
J. S. Bach: Orchestral Suite No. 3



**Sunday, December 10, at 10:00 a.m.**

The tradition of Cantata Sunday at Rye Presbyterian Church continues as the church's Chancel Choir and soloists, accompanied by orchestra, present within worship John Rutter's exuberant and elegant setting of the *Magnificat*. In addition, the orchestra will offer the Overture, Gavottes, and Gigue from J. S. Bach's *Orchestral Suite No. 3*. A festive reception will follow the service.

**Free admission; offerings received will assist  
RPC in its outreach to the community.**

Rye Presbyterian Church|882 Boston Post Rd.|Rye, NY 10580|[www.ryepc.com](http://www.ryepc.com)|914-967-0842

## Weekends in December, Bible Study, Live Nativity

### Saturday, December 2

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion in the Chapel

### Sunday, December 3: 1st Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Choir rehearsal / Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship & Communion in the Sanctuary  
Children's Choir sings  
Sunday School  
-Children attend worship through children's message.
- 11:00 a.m. Thrift Shop Sale during Coffee Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Choir rehearsal / Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal / Choir Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class M-Z / Westminster Room
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class A-L / Westminster Room
- 6:00 p.m. Family Fellowship: Gingerbread House Party / Assembly room
- 7:00 p.m. Tree Lighting followed by dessert at Miller manse

### Saturday, December 9

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion in the Chapel

### Sunday, December 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent

**Cantata Sunday—No 8:30 a.m. Service**

- 8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room
- 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir rehearsal / Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary  
PreK-3rd grade Enrichment Activities / Westminster Room; 4th-8th graders remain in worship
- 11:00 a.m. Live Nativity rehearsal / Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class "Christmas Project" / Assembly Room
- 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group / Miller Manse
- 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library

### Saturday, December 16

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion in the Chapel

### Sunday, December 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room
- 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal / Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary  
Youth Choir sings  
Sunday School  
-Children attend worship through children's message.
- 11:00 a.m. NOLA Youth Mission Trip Informational Meeting / Westminster Room
- 11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal / Choir Room
- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant / Sanctuary



### Saturday, December 23

No Service this day

### Sunday, December 24: 4th Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols
- 3:00 p.m. Family Service with Live Nativity
- 5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service with Live Nativity
- 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

### Saturday, December 30

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion in the Chapel

### Sunday, December 31

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary  
Enrichment Sunday: PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Westminster Room, Middle School remains in worship.

## BIBLE STUDIES

### Men's Bible Study

Sunday, December 10,  
at 8:00 p.m. in the Library

Contact [Dan Love](#) if you'd like to be on email reminder list..

### Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion

Our tour through the highlights of the Hebrew Scriptures continues on **December 13**—soon we'll exit from Genesis to Exodus. All are welcome to join in—10:00 a.m. in the Library.  
Contact [Dan Love](#) if you'd like to be on email reminder list.

### Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.,  
December 2, Conference Room, and  
December 9, Library

Please join the Women's Bible Study twice monthly on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Library. A warm welcome and hot coffee await!

For further information, contact [Cynthia De Santis](#).



**LIVE NATIVITY**  
**Family Christmas Eve Services**  
**at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.**

For further information, contact [Lisa Rawson](#).



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## December Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

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### CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDINGS CLOSED

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS**

#### BOARD MEETINGS

**Deacons:** Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m., Love manse  
**Trustees:** Tuesday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., Beatty residence  
**Session:** Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., Location TBD

#### WORSHIP AND STUDY

##### **Worship on Saturday evening:**

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., December 2, 9, 15, 30

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

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel (*Note: There will not be a service on December 10*)  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary;  
 December 10 at 10:00 a.m.: **Cantata Sunday**, Rutter: Magnificat & J.S. Bach: Orchestral Suite No. 3  
**Prayer Gatherings:** Sundays in the Library at 8:40 a.m.

##### **Adult Education:**

**Sundays, 9:00-9:45 a.m., Westminster Room:**

“Home for the Holidays”: December 3, 10, & 17

**Sunday School:** Regular Sunday School on December 3 & 17;

December 10—Cantata Sunday: PreK-3rd grade Enrichment activities in Westminster Room;  
 4th-8th graders remain in worship

December 24—Christmas Eve: no Sunday School

December 31—Enrichment Sunday

**Confirmation:** Sundays: December 3, Westminster Room, M-Z at 4:00 p.m., A-L at 5 p.m.;

December 10, **Christmas Project**, entire class, 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room

**Men’s Sunday Bible Study:** December 10, 8:00 p.m., Library

**Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion:** December 13, 10:00 a.m., Library

**Women’s Bible Study:** Saturdays, 10:00 a.m., December 2, Conference Room, and December 9, Library

**Women’s Discipleship:** Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Library.

#### YOUTH

**Boy Scout Troop #2:** Every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

**Connection:** Wednesdays, December 6, 5:30 p.m., Youth Room, and December 20, Clay Art Center

**High School Youth Group:** Sunday, December 10, 6:00 p.m., Miller manse

#### MUSIC

##### **Chancel Choir Rehearsal:**

Sundays, December 3 & 17, 11:30 a.m. / Choir Room

Thursday, December 7, 7:00 p.m., Choir and Orchestra rehearsal / Sanctuary

Thursday, December 21, 7:30 p.m. / Choir Room

**Children’s Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday December 3, 9:30 a.m., Chapel

**Youth Choir Rehearsal:** Sundays, December 3, 11:00 a.m., December 10 & 17, 9:15 a.m., Chapel

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

**3 Ts:** Tuesday, December 19, 10:00 a.m., Westminster Room

**Family Fellowship:** Pizza & Gingerbread House Party, Sunday, December 3, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room

**Christmas Tree Lighting:** Sunday, December 3, 7:00 p.m. Dessert follows at the Miller manse.

**Mission & Outreach:** Wednesday, December 6, 7:30 p.m., Library

**NOLA Youth Mission Trip:** Informational Meeting, Sunday, December 17, 11:00 a.m., Westminster Room

##### **Stephen Ministry:**

Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, December 5, 5:30 p.m., Library

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m., Library

**Thrift Shop:** Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Annual Christmas Sale: Sunday, December 3, following 10:00 a.m. worship

**Women’s Association:** Monthly meeting, Monday, December 4, 2017

#### OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

**Helping Hands:** Thursday, December 21, 10:00 a.m., Kitchen & Assembly Room



## Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

### Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

#### Solving a Mystery:



One of our classes took a spontaneous neighborhood walk on a crisp fall morning a few weeks ago. They stopped to take notice of the spectacular autumn

colors all around them. The class gathered leaves of many shapes and sizes to bring back to the classroom for exploration. The children ran in the wide open space of the church lawn. And the most exciting and unexpected part of the excursion was that the class found two large black feathers laying on the grass. Back in the classroom, the children talked about their little adventure. They reminisced about the walk and shared what they enjoyed most about it. The teachers framed the discussion chronologically, practicing sequencing. They heard comments about finding leaves, enjoying the snack and walking on the crosswalk. But most often, the children spoke about finding the feathers. What sort of animal did these

feathers come from? After nearly every student had hypothesized about what sort of animal the feathers might have come from, the class talked about how to solve this mystery. Who could help them? The children suggested a scientist, a bird person, a veterinarian, a zoo keeper, a farmer, and museum guy, to name a few. To address the curiosity among the group, the teachers decided to plan a visit to the Greenwich Audubon Society, where the children could speak to a bird expert. The class also invited a veterinarian to come for a visit.

The class also discussed the physical attributes of the feathers. The teachers asked the children to talk about how the feathers feel. The feathers were passed around group and the children also measured them. They generated a list of observations and recorded them on a large chart tablet. The children observed the feathers more closely and sketched them. The process of sketching the feathers allowed the students to look at the feathers through a new and different lens. As they drew, they began to notice something very interesting. One of the feathers had orange on it. In the next discussion, the class focused on this new development. Why was there

orange on this feather? Does the other feather have orange on it as well? Given the new information about the orange on one feather, but not the other, the teachers asked the children if they thought the feathers were from the same bird. The children voted. The class counted the votes and discovered an overwhelming consensus that the feathers came from the same bird.

As part of an emergent curriculum, the teachers are unsure where this study will go but the children are certainly engaged in solving this mystery. The class will speak to the experts at the Audubon and the veterinarian and gather more information. Something tells us the mystery itself may be what is driving this study in this class. Maybe mysteries themselves are on the horizon as a topic of study for this class.



The feather came from			
	yes	no	maybe
blue bird			
blue jay			
bat			
turkey			
duck			
hawks			
bald eagle			
chicken			
crow			
croaking bird			
wood pecker			
owl			
wolf			
chickadee			



The Rev. Daniel Love, Co-Pastor

The Rev. Dr. John Miller, Co-Pastor

Jason Charneski, Director of Music and Organist

Lisa Rawson, Director of Choirs for Children and Youth

Maida Robinson, Chief Administrative Officer

Peggy Berretta, Administrative Assistant

Denise LeVan, Pastoral Assistant

Nancy Lavelle, Interim Director of Children's Ministries

Yvonne Zuk, Sunday School Supervisor

Juan Velasquez, Head Sexton/Building Manager

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