

Greening of the Church – x2!



Every year, early in December a group of dedicated church members gathers together to transform our entire church as they decorate it for the Advent and Christmas season. Several Christmas trees grace the building, and wreaths mark every entrance and doorway. It is a visual and olfactory transformation!

The idea of “greening” the church and our homes with trees and wreaths is an ancient tradition with solidly non-Christian roots. Long before it became a Christian symbol, people

would use greenery and small evergreen trees in and around their homes as signs of hope during the darkest days of winter – signs that eventually the green of spring would come again!

It isn’t surprising then that Christians would incorporate such symbols into their own Christmas celebrations as they welcomed the “Light of the World” amid winter’s darkness. Symbolizing the eternal and unchanging love of God made visible in the birth of the Messiah, the greenery points us all ahead not simply to another spring, but to the fullness of God’s kingdom becoming a reality in our midst and throughout the world.

A very heartfelt thank you to Kristin Jautz and the crew of “greeners” whose work points us ahead with hope!

This year, however, there is an exciting second level of meaning to the “greening” of Rye Presbyterian. Through the faithful and diligent work of the church trustees, we will be doubly “green” this month. In November, 183 solar panels were installed on the roof of the education wing, and as soon as ConEd does their work, they will come on line. In doing so, they will vastly decrease our dependence on non-renewable sources of electricity, as well as reduce our carbon footprint.

We will be green inside and out, and doing one more thing to make the world a better place!



Friends, have a blessed Advent season and a joyous Christmas. Enjoy the greenery, and being a bit greener as a church, and may your lives be filled with the hope that is at the heart of this season.

The Christmas Season



Pizza & Gingerbread House Party

Sunday, December 2 / 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Tree-Lighting

Sunday, December 2 / 7:00 p.m.

Cantata Sunday

J. S. Bach’s *Cantata 140*

Sunday, December 9 / 10:00 a.m. Worship

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 16 / 4:00 p.m.



Christmas Eve



Family Service

with Live Nativity / 3:00 p.m.

Family Candlelight Service

with Live Nativity / 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service

of Lessons & Carols

with the Chancel Choir and string quartet /

10:00 p.m.

Christmas Season 2018, Year-End Giving

~ RPC Family Fellowship ~

Pizza & Gingerbread House Party!



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

Sunday, December 2,
Assembly Room: 6:00–7:00 p.m.

RSVP Jean-Paul Marshall
(jmarshall@ryepc.com)



SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 2,
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
Please bring a favorite Christmas dessert to share.



Cantata Sunday

December 9,
10:00 a.m. Worship

J. S. Bach's Cantata 140

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
(Awake, the Voices Call to Us)

RPC Chancel Choir, soloists, and
accompanied by a 16-piece orchestra

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

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant



Sunday,
December 16,
at 4:00 p.m.
in the
Sanctuary

Thrift Shop Annual Christmas Sale



Sunday, December 2,
During 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

The Thrift Shop brings up the *best* of the Christmas donations. Some are brand 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

As 2018 and the Imagine Initiative come to an end, please keep in mind that the church financial records will close on **Friday, December 28, 2018, at noon**. All checks must be received by **December 31** to qualify for a charitable deduction in the **2018 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

Stewardship Update, Christmas Joy Offering



THERE IS A PLACE IN OUR CHURCH ONLY YOU CAN FILL

Stewardship 2019 Update

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

- Annual Stewardship for 2019: 132 pledges for \$706,000—up 12.3% from 2018!

Its not too late to be included!

To make pledges for Stewardship 2019, please contact the church office at 967-0842, or pledge online [here](#).

Those who have made annual Stewardship pledges by December 3 will be gratefully acknowledged by name in the December 9 worship bulletin.

The church leadership, along with your Stewardship Committee, is deeply thankful for the generous response of the congregation to our 2019 stewardship campaign. We hope you have enjoyed your puzzles as you have considered your part in the RPC “puzzle.” From the steady influx of pledges for 2019, clearly you heard our call to step up to meet the opportunities for ministry in the year to come.

A heartfelt thank-you to all who have sent in your pledges already—you have answered the call with faithfulness and generosity!

The Christmas Joy Offering



In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the *perfect gift* — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth of love that our words cannot.

As important as gifts to loved ones are, we have an opportunity to give gifts that help many people we do not know through the Christmas Joy Offering. These gifts in particular draw us back to the manger and God’s perfect gift to us — Jesus Christ.

celebrate leadership; past, present, and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We also support the offering to help our future leaders in the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Supporting these students helps the whole church develop leaders who reflect the

Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God.

During this Christmas and Advent Season, we cele-

wideness of God’s intended diversity.

For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

To learn more about the Christmas Joy Offering, please visit:

- Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions: www.pensions.org, click on Plans & Programs
- Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/resc/ From this page you can also link to the institutions supported.

“Christmas Joy” envelopes will be in the pews beginning Sunday, December 2. Please note **Christmas Joy** on the memo line of your check.

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

Christian Education, Christian Education Newsletter, Confirmation

Sunday School

This month we are celebrating the season of Advent, the season of waiting, longing, promise, and preparation. Advent reminds us that even as we remember all that God has done for us, we still long for a time when the brokenness of our world will be transformed into the fullness of God's reign. This all leads up to the celebration of Christmas, where the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come—Jesus Christ our Savior. Below are the themes and texts for each week. We invite families to join us on this Advent journey and engage these stories together at home!

- Dec. 2:** Jeremiah 33:14-16 (Sprouting Leaves) Singing our Faith
Dec. 9: Luke 1:68-79 (The Sound of a Promise Kept) Cantata Sunday
Dec. 16: Luke 3:7-18 (Collide with a Promise Kept)
Dec. 23: John 18:33-37 (Welcoming the Goodness of God)
Dec. 30: Psalm 148 (Universal Glory) Enrichment Sunday

The Christian Education Newsletter

It has been found that parents are the primary influence on their children's journey of faith. That means our children first begin to understand the love of God and the Christian faith through the love and care of their parents and through the faith practices observed at home.

We seek to help parents with faith development at home by providing a variety of ways for families to engage

scripture, ask questions, and grow closer to God together. It is our hope that this weekly newsletter helps families experience God at work in their everyday lives. The newsletter will be sent out each Monday. If interested in receiving, please contact Jean-Paul Marshall (jmarshall@ryepc.com.)

Middle School Connection

Connection, RPC's Middle School Youth Group, is open to all 6th–8th 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.

High School Youth Group

All 9th–12th graders are welcome at RPC's High School Youth Group!

Our high school youth shared dinner and conversation with the young men from the Youth Shelter of Westchester on Sunday, November 4. The evening was filled with meaningful conversation as we sought to step out of our own social bubbles and find common interests.

Our group met on Sunday, November 18, for a NOLA reunion! We gathered around food and shared memories while also assembling clean-up buckets for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The clean-up buckets are sent out to communities impacted by disasters, such as the communities who have faced destructive hurricanes in the past couple years.

Sunday, Dec. 9: Come join us for dinner and desserts at the Millers' Manse! All are invited to bring a dish to share with everyone.

Sunday, Dec. 16: We are bringing back our annual caroling tradition! Meet in the Youth Rooms at 6:15 p.m. for a quick pizza dinner before we head out to sing and spread Christmas cheer in our community!

We are on Instagram!
 Username: ryepresyouth
 (click [here](#)).

Updates through GroupMe!
 Please email your name and phone number - jmarshall@ryepc.com.

Confirmation 2019

A cosmic accident? A series of lucky mutations? Why are we here? And if God made the world and declared it good, what on earth happened?

These 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 a regular class meeting on Sunday afternoon, December 2, in the Westminster Room. On December 9, 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 2 – Class meets at 5:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room;

Sunday, December 9 – Christmas Project – The class meets at 5:00 p.m.

Confirmation



Jean-Paul awaits the Gingerbread House Party!

Stephen Ministry, Coming Home, Nola, Christmas Flowers & Music



As Christmas and New Year's approach, many people are hurting due to the loss of a loved one, a cancer diagnosis, divorce, job loss, or some other significant life challenge. These experiences can make an ordinarily joyous season difficult, lonely, and perhaps even painful. The book, *CANCER Now What? Taking Action, Finding Hope, and Navigating the Journey Ahead*, describes how the holidays can be a struggle for someone who is suffering. During the holidays, any difficult feelings we deal with can be amplified. When you know someone is struggling, here are some simple ways you can make a big difference:

- **Offer to help in specific ways.** Try to anticipate needs and ways you can help. For example, you might ask, "Can I help you prepare Thanksgiving dinner?" or "Can I help put out the Christmas lights?" Remember, however, to follow the person's lead and not just impose your help.
- **Help people pace themselves.** The holidays are busy, and

those who are hurting may need help or permission to slow down or do less than they ordinarily would. Let people know it's okay to conserve energy, take breaks, and pick which activities and traditions to take part in.

- **Ask people how they're really doing.** During the busyness of the holidays, it can be easy to just interact with people on a surface level. Finding a good time to ask hurting people how they're *really* doing—and then listening—is a powerful way to care.
- **Validate feelings.** When people do open up and share, listen, and then show that you believe them and accept their feelings. Letting people know it's okay to feel whatever they're feeling can provide a lot of comfort.

By relating in these ways, you can help hurting people find comfort and hope in a difficult time. Should you or someone you know be in need of additional help, please contact RPC clergy to learn more about the caring connections our church offers.



"Coming Home" Program is Coming Back!

Thursdays, January 31-June 2
Dinner from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

All are welcome for dinner
in the Westminster Room

The Coming Home program is an extension of our long-standing Prison Ministry. In collaboration with The Beck Institute on Religion and Poverty at Fordham University, Coming Home seeks to empower those who are returning to the community from incarceration. This 18-week program pairs RPC congregants with the formerly incarcerated to help them transition back to their communities. Coming Home provides life skills, goal-setting, and sharing personal stories in a safe and supportive community.

Our Coming Home ministry offers various volunteer opportunities:

- ◆ Mentors—congregants who are paired with participants, supporting, encouraging, and journeying with them through the program.
- ◆ Guest Speakers—presenters are needed to teach workshops.
- ◆ Cooks and Hosts—each evening includes a meal prepared and served by RPC congregants who share table fellowship after the participant's program.

For more information, contact Pastor John Miller at jmiller@rvepc.com, or at 914-967-0842.

2019 Summer High School Mission Trips to New Orleans



Continuing our work in places of need, next year there will be a trip to New Orleans: June 30—July 6. For those interested in learning more, there will be an

information session on Sunday, December 16, immediately following worship in the Westminster Room. We will also discuss interest in a second trip in August. Sign-up for the trip will begin online on January 7 at 8:00 p.m. and will require a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Space is limited, so please mark your calendars. Contact Jean-Paul Marshall (jmarshall@rvepc.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 10**.

Contemplative Saturday at 5 Service December 8 in the Chapel

*Come, enter God's presence.
Find your center.*



From Jason Charneski

Cantata Sunday on December 9: An All-Bach Feast!

The Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra look forward to this year's Cantata Sunday. Be sure to come to the 10:00 a.m. service on December 9 in order to experience glorious music by J. S. Bach. The main work will be his Cantata 140, *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (Awake! The Voices Call to Us), which explores Philipp Nicolai's great chorale (published in the hymnal at no. 349 – "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us) and interpretive words, set in recitative and arias, of Matthew 25:1-13 (the parable of the 10 maidens). It works as a piece for Advent as the maidens represent the church/the people awaiting the coming (initial and Second) of their bridegroom, who is Jesus/Messiah/Lord.

In addition to the cantata, the orchestra will play for the prelude, offering music, and postlude movements from Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 1. A festive reception will follow the service. Invite your friends to join you!

Cantata Sunday this year is made possible through the generosity of Ann and Samuel Croll, Susan and Dod Fraser, and Pamela Kindler.

An Invitation:

Join the Chancel Choir for Christmas Eve!

Attention All, especially those of good voice and those college students who will be home for Christmas: Please let me know (jcharneski@ryepc.com) if you'd like to sing in the Chancel Choir for the 10:00 p.m. service (Lessons and Carols) on Christmas Eve!

So that you might plan accordingly, the warm-up that evening will begin at 9:00 p.m. Rehearsals for Christmas Eve music will commence on December 2 as a part of the choir's regular weekly rehearsal (following the 10:00 a.m. service). The subsequent rehearsals on December 16 and 23 will focus on this music.

Rye
Presbyterian
Church

Magnificent Music
2018-2019

Cantata Sunday

Music for Choir, Solo Voices, and Orchestra by J. S. Bach

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
(Awake! The Voices Call to Us)

and movements from the *Orchestral Suite No. 1*



Sunday, December 9, at 10:00 a.m.
A festive reception will follow the service.

Cantata Sunday is made possible through the generosity of donors.

Rye Presbyterian Church New Members—Fall 2018



Mireille Ferrier-Thinat

Mireille and her family are a French Christian family. She was raised Protestant in the faith of the Reformed Church of France. Her husband, Julien, is Roman Catholic. They moved from Manhattan to Westchester three years ago and have been attending Rye Presbyterian for over two years. Julien works in a bank and Mireille works part-time as a Web Content Administrator. They have two children, Jeremie (13) and Solene (9), who are in Rye Neck Schools.



Kaitlyn and Drew Hall

Kaitlyn and Drew currently live in Stamford, CT, with their son Henry and their three dogs. Kaitlyn grew up in Rye, NY, and attended Rye Presbyterian Church where she was confirmed. Drew grew up at Saint Catherine's Church in Greenwich, CT, where he was both baptized and confirmed. Kaitlyn currently works as the Executive Assistant to the President of Melissa & Doug and Drew is the Facilities Coordinator for the WWE. They are both avid sailors and members of Riverside Yacht Club in Riverside, CT.

Camilla and Christoph Hofmann



Camilla was born in San Francisco to European immigrant parents. Growing up, she lived in various Western European countries attending American schools K-12. She came back to attend Middlebury College before working for Bernstein Investment Research and Mgmt. Co. (now Alliance Capital) in New York City for 13 years.

Christoph was born and raised in Germany. He studied at the Technical University of Berlin and graduated with an MBA before moving to the U.S. in his mid-20s. He fell in love with the U.S. and became a naturalized citizen in 2008. He works for the Ashmore Group, an emerging markets asset manager, as Global Head of Distribution.

They have four children who attend Rye City schools: Sophia (9th grade), Niklas (7th grade), and twins Natalie and Christian (3rd grade at Midland).

In their free time they enjoy family travels, skiing, sailing, and running after the kids for their numerous sports activities.



Kelsey and Tim Johnson

Kelsey and Tim have lived in Rye for six years. They have four children, three of which attend Midland Elementary School. Tim works at Blackstone in New York City and has brought volunteering to team-building in the office, most recently leading a Habitat for Humanity volunteer day. Kelsey is home with the children and volunteers at the school (Safe Routes to School Committee) and in the community weekly at the Food Pantry at the Carver Center. They are excited to join such a vibrant congregation and look forward to continuing to give back while strengthening their spiritual journey.

Rye Presbyterian Church New Members—Fall 2018



Mary Little

Mary is the daughter of a Presbyterian minister and enjoyed attending services with her father, the Rev. Will James, at Rye Presbyterian. She recently retired as a Director of Social Work for a nursing facility. She has been married to her husband, Charlie, for 32 years and they have three grown daughters.

In her partial retirement, she enjoys golfing, reading, continuing education classes in social work, and being a fulltime mom to her Golden Retriever!



Kerri Olson & Sonia Eckstein

The Olson family has lived in Rye since August 2016, having moved from London where they lived for nine years. Kerri's husband, Ariel, who was raised in Mexico City and Miami, is a Vice President with LinkedIn and an avid cyclist in his spare time. Kerri was born in Minnesota and grew up overseas due to her father's diplomatic career. She has worked in marketing in the automotive and market research industries, and loves hiking and rowing. Their daughter, Sonia, is in 12th grade, and their son, Nico, is in 10th, both at Rye High School. Sonia plays varsity volleyball and softball, while Nico is on the RHS squash team. Both write for the school newspaper and are involved with many other clubs. Sonia and Nico went to New Orleans with the RPC Youth Mission Trip this past summer and found it to be a very rewarding experience.

SHOW UP & MAKE!

Many thanks to all who helped "Show Up & Make!" The first of our arts-based worship experiences invited all hands to make their mark after reflecting on the meaning of "circles" in our faith. The amazing banners are now hanging in the Assembly Room.

Look for another "Show Up & Make!" in 2019.



Weekends in December, Bible Study, Live Nativity

Saturday, December 1

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

Sunday, December 2: 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
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation / 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 8

5:00 p.m. Evening Contemplative Worship in the Chapel

Sunday, December 9: 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 / Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
Enrichment Sunday: PreK-1st grade in Westminster Room; 2nd-8th grade remains in worship.
- 11:00 a.m. Live Nativity rehearsal / Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class / Assembly Room
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group / Miller Manse
- 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library
- 5:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion in the Chapel

Saturday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, December 16: 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room
- 9:30 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
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group / Youth Rooms
- 5:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion in the Chapel

Saturday, December 22

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, December 23: 4th Sunday of Advent

- 8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
Sunday School
-Children attend worship through children's message
- 11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal / Choir Room in the Chapel

Monday, December 24: Christmas Day

- 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 Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 29

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

Sunday, December 30

- 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-5th grade in the Westminster Room, Middle School remains in worship.

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sunday, December 9,
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

Wednesday, December 12,
at 10:00 a.m. in the Library

Our tour through the highlights of the Hebrew Scriptures continues on **December 12**. 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 1, Conference Room, and
December 8, 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](#).

December Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDINGS CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m., Love manse
Trustees: Tuesday, December 11, 7:00 p.m., Beatty residence
Session: Wednesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m., Off-site

WORSHIP AND STUDY

Worship on Saturday evening:

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., December 1, 8*, 15, 22, 29 (**Contemplative Service on Dec. 8*)

Worship on Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel (*Note: There will not be a service on December 9*)

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary;

December 9 at 10:00 a.m.: **Cantata Sunday**, J. S. Bach, Cantata 140 *Wachet af, ruft uns die Stimme*
 (Awake, the Voices Call to Us)

Prayer Gatherings: Sundays in the Library at 8:40 a.m.

Adult Education:

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

“Feasting on the Word”: December 2, 9, & 16

Sunday School: Regular Sunday School on December 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

December 9 (Cantata Sunday): Enrichment Sunday: PreK-2nd grade in Westminster Room;
 3rd-8th grade remains in worship

December 30—Enrichment Sunday: PreK-5th grade in the Westminster Room, Middle School remains in worship.

Confirmation: Sundays: December 2 & 9, 5:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Men’s Sunday Bible Study: December 9, 8:00 p.m., Library

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion: Wednesday, December 12, 10:00 a.m., Library

Women’s Bible Study: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m., December 1 & 8, 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: Wednesday, December 5, 5:30 p.m., Youth Room

High School Youth Group: Sundays, December 9, 6:00 p.m., Miller manse; and December 16, 6:15 p.m., Youth Rooms

MUSIC

Chancel Choir Rehearsal:

Sundays, December 2, 16, & 23 / Choir Room

Thursday, December 6, 7:00 p.m., Choir and Orchestra rehearsal / Sanctuary

Children’s Choir Rehearsal: Sunday December 2, 9:30 a.m., Chapel, Thursday, December 13, 3:45 p.m., Choir Room

Youth Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, December 2, 11:00 a.m., December 9 & 16, 9:15 a.m., Chapel

OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

3 Ts: Tuesday, December 18, 10:00 a.m., Westminster Room

Coming Home Reunion: Sunday, December 9, 12:30 p.m., Westminster Room

Family Fellowship: Pizza & Gingerbread House Party, Sunday, December 2, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Friendly Visitors: Monday, December 3, 11:00 a.m., Library

Christmas Tree Lighting: Sunday, December 2, 7:00 p.m. Dessert follows at the Miller manse.

Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 16, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Mission & Outreach: Wednesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., Library

NOLA Youth Mission Trip: Informational Meeting, Sunday, December 16, 11:00 a.m., Westminster Room

Stephen Ministry:

Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, December 4, 5:30 p.m., Library

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesday, December 4, 7:00 p.m., Library

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

Annual Christmas Sale: Sunday, December 2, during Coffee Hour following 10:00 a.m. worship

Women’s Association: Monthly meeting, Monday, December 3

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

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

Visit to the Firehouse:



One of our classes went on an exciting visit to the Rye Firehouse. They walked from RPNS to the firehouse where they were greeted by the five firefighters working that day. They entered through the garage and passed three fire trucks as they made their way to the dispatch office. The children saw computers, security cameras, and walkie-talkies.

Then the class entered the kitchen and living room area, and they learned that firefighter shifts start at 7:00 a.m. and end the next day at 7:00 a.m. This means the firefighters have three meals while they are at work. The class learned that many firefighters enjoy cooking and different firehouses have cook-offs to compete for best chef.



The firefighters saved the best part for the very end of the tour - the fire trucks! The children walked in the garage to learn all about the fire trucks when something unexpected happened - an alarm sounded! It signaled the firefighters that there was a possible emergency.



The students noticed a large screen with an image of a map pointing out the street and home from which the signal was coming. They watched as the firefighters quickly took off their shoes, stepped into a suit and boots, and pulled up the suspenders. It

took no time for these emergency responders to be on their way. One firefighter remained at the firehouse. He let the class take turns sitting in the remaining firetruck.

Before they knew it, the firefighters returned informing the class that the call had been a false alarm. There was no emergency. The children had the chance to ask the firefighters interview questions they had prepared. They learned that the helmets are heavier than our own bike helmets at home. They also learned there are two extra ladders within the truck. One ladder is for traction on the roof of a home, the other is for when a home is too far off the road for the engine's ladder to reach. The children loved looking at the special heat detection camera and seeing how it worked.



Upon returning to school, the children discussed the trip, and they wrote about their favorite part of the experience. They used the classroom word wall to help them write sight words such as "it," "and," "the," and "at."



[The Rev. Daniel Love](#), Co-Pastor

[The Rev. Dr. John Miller](#), Co-Pastor

[The Rev. Jean-Paul Marshall](#), Associate Pastor for Christian Education

[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

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