

## EPIPHANY

If you have looked ahead at your 2017 calendar very far, you may have noticed that Easter falls relatively late this year – April 16! With that, it means that Lent doesn't start until Ash Wednesday on March 1, and that the season of Epiphany goes on for nearly all of January and February! In this season, we celebrate Jesus coming as the Light of the World – a sign of hope amid the dark days of winter that the light of God now begins to grow and illumine all of creation. As a part of that theme, you'll see in worship this season as we work through the Sermon on the Mount that the light grows because Jesus calls us all to be a part of that growing light. It is in and through us, by the power of the Spirit, that the world is blessed and enlightened.

This month marks a time of transition once again in the life of this church. By the time you read this we will have said our good-byes to Rachael Huntley, thanking her for her ministry among us and particularly with our children and youth. God has worked in and through her gifts to be a blessing to us all. This month, we will also begin to look to the future as we elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee – a search committee to work on discerning the person God is now calling to join in ministry here in this place. Please join in praying for that committee and for the pastor out there somewhere to whom God will show up and call to join us.

In the meantime, John and I will be working to cover our youth ministries. I will be continuing to work with the middle school youth and will lead the June youth mission trip to New Orleans again this summer. John and Heather Miller are teaming up to lead our high school youth ministry, and an additional NOLA trip in August.



As well, God has already shown up in our midst by guiding us to two other people who will play a part on our staff team in the coming months. Nancy Lavelle, who has been working in the church office on a part-time basis, will be stepping up to serve as our Interim Director of Children's Ministries. Nancy was born and raised in Rye and is a graduate of Rye High School. She has a BA in Psychology and Elementary Education at the College of New Rochelle. In addition to being a

teacher's aide at Milton School, she has worked at Rye Country Day School as a Teaching Assistant. While working at RCDS, Nancy got her Masters in Teaching at Manhattanville College.

Nancy has been married for 20 years and has five children. She has volunteered in the College and Career Office at Rye High School, and taught Religion at Resurrection Church. Nancy has been re-entering the work force over the past few years by subbing at Rye Presbyterian Nursery School and at Little Learners in Rye.



Joining Nancy and coordinating all the activity on Sunday morning, we are pleased that Yvonne Zuk is returning to work on our education staff team as the Sunday School Supervisor. Yvonne grew up on the Sound Shore and has been a church member since 1992. She taught Sunday School at RPC for several years before becoming an administrative assistant to the RPC Christian Education Director from 2005-2012. During

that time she was also a teacher at Rye Playschool, a childcare-based program housed in the educational wing at RPC. She took on the full-time position of Director of the Playschool in 2012. Yvonne currently lives in Port Chester with her husband Peter and has three grown children Emery, Wyatt, and Clayton.

In Epiphany, and beyond, God is faithful. God shows up. How pleased we are that God has chosen to do so in Nancy and Yvonne. Please join me in welcoming them to our work together as lights in the world!

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## Imagine, Prison Ministry

### Please Join Us as we Celebrate IMAGINE's One Year Anniversary!

See all that has been accomplished in the past  
year and what lies ahead in our future.



Refreshments will be served and there will be  
activities for children.

**Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 12.**



#### A LETTER FROM INSIDE

By RPC Prison Volunteers

Members of RPC who have the privilege of meeting monthly with people incarcerated in Sing Sing and Fishkill often receive letters from those men expressing their gratitude for what the individuals, and the church, does. Below is an excerpt from one such letter, which explains the impact our prison ministry has on the lives of others. It was written the day after Christmas. At the risk of sounding self-serving, we felt it was important for the congregation to understand the impact of RPC's prison ministry.

*"My dear friends in the Rye Church. Thank you so much ...for continuing to remember me and counting me as one of your friends. You have no idea how much that means to me.*

*"When we met at Sing Sing, I was the 'reluctant student.' I had no desire to be there for a variety of reasons. The continued failure of the Parole Board to recognize my changes and grant me release, along with other factors had formed a callous around my heart and smothered my hope. You did not let that discourage or dissuade you from reaching out to me and embracing me. Through your embrace of friendship, you succeeded in reducing the callous surrounding my heart. Thank you!!"*

*"There are many people who claim to be Christian. Few, though, actually let their lives reflect that claim. Many can quote Scripture, but few apply them. You are living proof that works are a reflection of our faith (James 2:14-18, 26). Few are applying what we find at Matthew 25:34-46, but you are doing just that, despite the obvious opposition from the system and the community. You are what I call 'true believers' (doers of the word). Thank you. I am blessed to have you in my life...."*

*"... I see 'light' coming through the darkness. I am blessed with good friends, thanks to God (Jehovah) who has brought these 'friends' into my life. I have a rainbow of friends. Again, 'Thank You' for the card and the reference to being a rainbow to others, which is what you have been to me, I hope I can be to others. Know that I will always have your back. May God bless and keep you."*

This man has now served 39 years in prison and been denied parole 7 times. He was, when we met him, not only a "reluctant student," but also a deeply angry person. Yet through the magic of friendship, some hugs, acceptance, and ears that will listen, he has turned a corner into the caring individual who was always there. We've had the pleasure of working with hundreds of men like him and, perhaps, having had an impact on many of them. That's why our beloved church invests time and energy in prison ministry.

For information about the church's work with the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated, contact [Bob Steed](#) or [Nancy Steed](#).

## Coming Home, New Member Orientation, Stephen Ministry



### “Coming Home” Begins Second Year!

Thanks to the generous support of our Imagine Initiative, our Coming Home program begins its second year. This year the 18-week life skills program for returning citizens (formerly incarcerated) will run from February 2 to June 1, with graduation being held on June 4. A significant part of the program each Thursday evening

is the sharing of a community meal. Everyone in the congregation is invited to the meal. Please note that the evening schedule has changed. The program for the participants begins at 5:30 pm. Dinner will be from 7:00-8:00 pm. Our hope is that this will allow more church members to join us for dinner, which is held in the Westminster Room.

If you would like to provide and help serve one of the community meals, please contact Volunteer Meals Coordinator, [Linda Otness](#). If you would like more information or to attend the dinner, please email our Program Coordinator, [Janet Donat](#), or call at 914-645-8822; or Pastor [John Miller](#) or call 914-967-0842.

### Become Part of Our Church Family

#### New Member Orientation

Perhaps you’ve been coming to RPC a long time, or perhaps you are brand new to the area. Either way, if you’ve thought about officially joining in the life and ministry of RPC, March is the time! All those who are interested in becoming a member of the Rye Presbyterian Church are invited to take part in the New Member Orientation classes. The classes will be held on Sundays, March 12 and 19, in the church Library immediately following worship. Child-care will be available. In the classes, we will explore what it means to be a Presbyterian in general, and what it means to actively live out the faith together as a part of this particular church. In addition to the Sunday classes, there will be a dessert meeting with the leadership of the church on Sunday evening, March 26, at 7:00 p.m. This will be a time to meet the officers of the church and for the Session to approve the new class for church membership. Public welcome and recognition of the new members will take place during 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, April 2.

Please email church secretary [Rosemary Annunziato](#), or call 914-967-0842 x10, if you are interested.

stephen  
MINISTRY.



Stephen Ministries and Rye Presbyterian Church offer a simple and powerful way to care for people who are grieving.

*Journeying through Grief* is a set of four short booklets to send to people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one.

Author Kenneth C. Haugk writes in a warm, caring style, with short, easy-to-read chapters. He walks alongside the reader through the grief journey, sharing helpful insights about grief, biblical truths, and stories that provide comfort and reassurance. Each book focuses on what the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in grief—offering understanding, empathy, compassion, and hope.

If you would like to learn more about providing this type of support to someone in need, please contact RPC Clergy, [Dan Love](#) or [John Miller](#).



## Adult Education

SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:00-9:45 A.M., WESTMINSTER ROOM  
FEBRUARY 5, 12, 26, MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26

Rye  
Presbyterian  
Church

[Click here](#)  
for Winter/Spring  
Brochure

Opportunities  
For Adult Education  
And Spiritual Growth

Winter/Spring  
2017

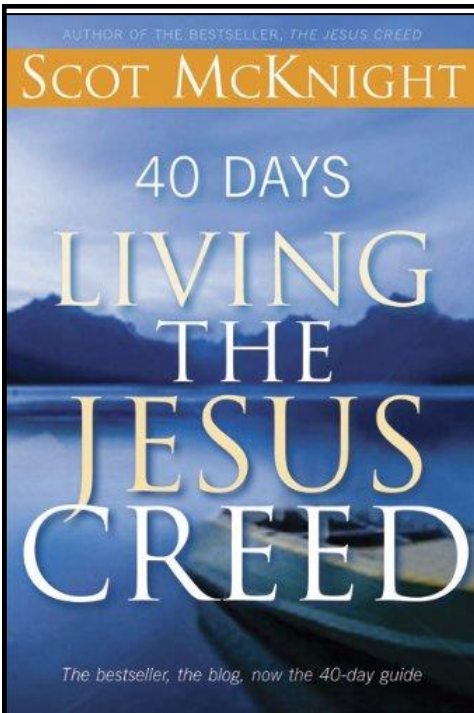
### GOD'S TOP TEN THE COMMANDMENTS: FOR A BLESSED LIFE

Familiar words, but do you know their *real* meaning?

Do not worship other gods • Do not  
make any idols • Do not misuse the  
name of God • Keep the Sabbath holy

Honor your father & mother • Do not  
murder • Do not commit adultery • Do  
not steal • Do not lie • Do not covet

Join us for a **fresh perspective**,  
a **deeper understanding**,  
and a **new appreciation**  
for the Commandments



### A SEVEN WEEK LENTEN STUDY

7:30 P.M., LIBRARY

FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28, APRIL 4, 11

What was spiritual formation like during the time of Jesus? As Scot McKnight points out, the early Christians didn't sing in the choir or go to weekly Bible studies, and yet they matured inwardly in relationship with God as well as outwardly in their relationships with each other. How did this happen?

In The Jesus Creed DVD, explore in seven lessons how the great Shema of the Old Testament was transformed by our Lord into the focal point for spiritual maturity. According to the Jesus Creed (found in Mark 12:29-31), loving God and loving others are the greatest commandments.

**Scot McKnight**, Ph.D. is Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary in Illinois. He is the award-winning author of *The Jesus Creed*, *The Real Mary*, *Embracing Grace*, and *Praying with the Church*.

Pastor Miller will facilitate this seven week book/DVD study. Please contact him at [jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com) or at the church office, 967-0842 so that he can reserve a book for you. The cost of the book is \$13.00.

## Christian Education, Communion Workshop, Stop Hunger Now

### Sunday School

We will continue studying Matthew's gospel during the month of February, focusing on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

On **February 12**, the children will join Lisa Rawson for Singing Our Faith.

On **February 19**, there will be no Sunday School; children will be welcome in the Westminster Room for Enrichment activities.

### Middle School Connection

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

**Regular meetings: February 1 and 15,**  
5:30 p.m. in the RPC Youth Rooms.

*Coming up in March:*

Overnight at St. John the Divine!

## YOUTH GROUP

### High School Youth Group

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

**Sunday, February 12,**  
6:00–7:30 p.m.: Dinner & Fellowship,  
The Miller Manse, 890 Boston Post Rd.

Time will be spent planning the rest of the year's activities, so come with ideas!

Contact [John Miller](#) with any questions.

### Confirmation 2017

**Sunday, February 12,**  
4:00 p.m. (M-Z) and 5:00 p.m. (A-L)  
Westminster Room  
*"Presbyterian? Why bother?"*

**Sunday, February 26,**  
4:00 p.m. (A-L) and 5:00 p.m. (M-Z)  
Westminster Room  
*"What's my part?"*  
*Vocation and Personality"*

Confirmation



**STOP HUNGER NOW.**

In two hours RPC church members of all ages worked together to package over 12,000 meals! A truly rewarding experience for everyone. Stop Hunger Now will keep us updated as to where and when those meals will be shipped, so the information will be passed on as soon as we are notified. Thank you to everyone who participated in a wonderful day of service here at RPC.



children  
AT THE  
LORD'S TABLE

### COMMUNION WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4,**  
**10:00–11:30 a.m.**

**The body of Christ?**  
**What is that all about?**  
**And what exactly is in that cup??**

If your child or children have been curious about the Lord's Supper, this is a great opportunity for children to learn more about it, to be officially welcomed at the communion celebration of the church, and for you to grow in your faith together.

On Saturday, February 4, from 10:00–11:30 a.m., children in the second through fifth grades are welcome to come with a parent to this special workshop. Together we will explore the meaning of the sacrament and how we celebrate it here at Rye Presbyterian.

**Space is limited, so please sign up by contacting**  
[Rev. Love.](#)



## Women's Association, Recycle Ink Cartridges

### Monthly Reflection



### *A Winter Blessing*

Blessed are you, winter, dark season of waiting, you affirm the dark seasons of our lives, forecasting the weather of waiting in hope.

Blessed are you, winter, you faithfully guard a life unseen, calling those who listen deeply to discover winter rest.

Blessed are you, winter, frozen and cold on the outside, within your silent, nurturing womb you warmly welcome all that longs for renewal.

Blessed are you, winter, your bleak, barren trees preach wordless sermons about emptiness and solitude.

Blessed are you, winter, you teach us valuable lessons about waiting in darkness with hope and trust.

Blessed are you, winter, season of blood red sunsets and star-filled, long, dark nights, faithfully you pour out your beauty.

Blessed are you, winter, when your tiny snowflakes flurry through the air, You awaken our sleeping souls.

Blessed are you, winter, with your wild and varied moods, So intent on being yourself, you refuse to be a people-pleaser.

Blessed are you, winter, when ice storms crush our hearts and homes, You call forth the good in us as we rush to help one another.

Blessed are you, winter, your inconsistent moods often challenge Spring's arrival, yet how gracefully you step aside when her time has come.

Joyce Rupp from *The Circle of Life*

Save the date . . .

## PUB NIGHT

**Saturday, March 11,**

**6:00-10:00 p.m., RPC Assembly Hall**



Bring your favorite date and enjoy an Irish beer and heavy appetizers at RPC.

\$20.00 per person

All proceeds to support local charities focused on women and children.

For further information, contact [Mona Hirson](#).



The Women's Discipleship Group wished their leader, Rachael Huntley, goodbye on January 23. The group starts up again on Tuesday, February 7, 1:00 p.m., at the home of Alicia Baldwin. Meetings will continue on following Tuesdays at different locations TBD. For further information, contact [Mona Hirson](#).



### RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES AND RAISE MONEY FOR RPC

RPC is collecting used computer inkjet cartridges for recycling. We are participating in a program through Empties 4 Cash which is both a recycling effort and a fundraiser for RPC.

Please bring in your used inkjet cartridges for recycling. There is a box for them on the coat rack outside the church reception area. Empties 4 Cash pays all the expenses (packaging and shipping costs) and pays the church up to \$4.00 per cartridge. The more we send in the more we make! All the money raised goes toward Christian Education programs at the church.

For more information or questions, please contact [Jan Kelsey](#).

## Music Notes



### ***From Jason Charneski***

#### **An Acoustic Success: The Renovated Crawford Chapel**

##### ***An Invitation to Share Your Gift of Music***

The new hardwood floor and the flexibility of seating provided by the portable chairs in the renovated Crawford Chapel have resulted in an acoustic that is excellent – and quite adjustable. Music and spoken word ring with clarity and a unique blend of intimacy and grandeur. Anyone with any musical interest or ability should make some music in it! Thus, a two-pronged invitation: 1) Please let me know if you'd like to offer your gift of music (instrumental or vocal) within one of the new Saturday at 5 services; 2) Please let me know of persons or small groups you know (current RPCers or yet-to-be RPCers) who might have interest in this area of ministry.

#### **Mark Your Calendars: March 17 and 19**

##### ***Two Days Filled with Music at RPC***

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend three wonderful offerings of music in community at RPC in March. The first, on Friday, March 17, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will be a celebration of the 25 years of the Peter B. Knock Awards for the Study of Sacred Music AND 35 years of the Jackson Memorial Organ. Organists Caroline Robinson and David von Behren, the 2016 Knock Award recipients, will share a 90-minute concert that evening. Donations received will support a new initiative here at RPC, made possible through Imagine and the Peter B. Knock Memorial Fund: the Peter B. Knock Internship in Sacred Music (more about that in next month's newsletter). A reception will follow the concert.

The second and third offerings will take place on Sunday, March 19. RPC's annual "Jazz Sunday" worship will be offered that morning at 10:00. Then, at 2:30 p.m., Chamber Music at RPC will offer the second concert on its 2016-2017 season, a program of works for piano, violin, viola, and cello by Schubert, Turina, and Brahms. Please contact Ronald Arron, artistic director of the chamber series, at 914-523-4646, to reserve your seat.

#### **Who Chooses the Hymns?**

The pastors and I work together to choose the hymns. Priority goes to the hymn's ability to bring honor to God by its ability to complement the theme of the sermon or thrust of the scripture readings. It's important to remember that a hymn is the text; not the tune. We sometimes choose hymns that fit better to a tune other than that printed in the hymnal (texts and tunes have a "meter" to them -- think poetry; e.g. iambic pentameter). Sometimes we choose hymns from sources other than the hymnal.

We are mindful of the need to sing known texts and tunes; yet, we also are mindful that the Church continues to acquire and embrace new things – it always has! Our hearts and minds grow through the words of yesterday's AND today's poets and prophets

and the tunes of yesterday's AND today's composers. We aim to introduce new hymns and tunes with sensitivity to their inherent need to be taught and absorbed. I am reminded of two truths: 1) That which is familiar to us now was new to us and to our forebears at some point; and, 2) There was just as much "junk" written in decades and centuries past as there is now.

Our new hymnal and that of the larger PCUSA, *Glory to God*, provides a rather complete sample of the rich musical traditions we here know AND of the traditions of the Church throughout the world. We look forward to continuing to discover its treasures, sharing them with you, and offering them unto God in our life together.

Jason

[jcharneski@ryepc.com](mailto:jcharneski@ryepc.com)

Rye  
Presbyterian  
Church

Concerts  
2017

### **A Celebration! The Knock Award & The Jackson Memorial Organ**



with organists Caroline Robinson and  
David von Behren,  
the 2016 Knock Award recipients.

**Friday, March 17, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.**

Donations received will support a new initiative:  
The Knock Internship in Sacred Music  
at Rye Presbyterian Church.

**Rye Presbyterian Church**  
**882 Boston Post Road Rye, New York 10580**  
**www.ryepc.com 914-967-0842**

## Weekends in February, Bible Study

### Saturday, February 4

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

### Sunday, February 5

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

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room

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. Annual Congregational Meeting / Sanctuary

### Saturday, February 11

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

### Sunday, February 12

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

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room

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

Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message.

11:00 a.m. Imagine One-Year Anniversary / Assembly 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. High School Youth / Miller Manse

8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library

### Saturday, February 18

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

### Sunday, February 19

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

No Sunday School

-Enrichment activities

-Children attend worship through children's message.

### Saturday, February 25

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

### Sunday, February 26

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

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room

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

Children's Choir sings

Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message.

4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (A-L) / Westminster Room

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (M-Z) / Westminster Room

8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library

## BIBLE STUDIES

### Men's Bible Study

Sundays, February 12 and 26, at 8:00 p.m. in the Library

All are welcome to join in as we start this study of the Book of Psalms. Contact [Dan Love](#) for more information or if you'd like to be on email reminder list.

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesdays, February 1 and 15, at 10:00 a.m. in the Library

Touring the greatest moments in Hebrew Scripture:

Sodom and Gomorrah; the "sacrifice of Isaac."

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

### Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m., February 4 in the Conference Room and February 11 in the 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](#).



### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 5,  
following 10:00 a.m. worship.

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation of the Presbyterian Church in the Town of Rye is called for Sunday, February 5, following 10:00 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary. A brief summary of year-end reports will be followed by the presentation of the 2017 budget, acting on the terms of call for the co-pastors and the election of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. Any new business must be docketed with the Clerk of Session by February 2.

- Julia Thomas, *Clerk of Session*

### Ash Wednesday Services

March 1, 2017

12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Crawford Chapel





## February Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

### CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDINGS CLOSED MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS' DAY

#### BOARD MEETINGS

**Deacons:** Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 p.m., Library  
**Trustees:** Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 p.m., Chapel  
**Session:** Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

#### WORSHIP AND STUDY

##### Worship on Saturday evening:

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., February 4, 11, 18, 25

##### Worship on Sunday:

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

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

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

##### Adult Education:

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

**God's Top Ten: The Commandments for a Blessed Life**

February 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26

**Sunday School:** Regular Sunday School on February 5, 12, & 26

February 19: Enrichment activities, Westminster Room

**Confirmation:** Sundays, Westminster Room, February 12, M-Z at 4:00 p.m., A-L at 5 p.m.;

February 26, A-L at 4:00 p.m., M-Z at 5:00 p.m.

**Men's Sunday Bible Study:** February 12 & 26, 8:00 p.m., Library

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** February 1 & 15, 10:00 a.m., Library

**Women's Bible Study:** Saturdays, 10:00 a.m., February 4 in the Conference Room and & February 11 in the Library

**Women's Discipleship:** Tuesdays, beginning February 7, 1:00-2:30 p.m., locations TBD

#### YOUTH

**Boy Scout Troop #2:** Every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room (Tuesday, November 21, meeting cancelled)

**Connection:** Wednesdays, February 1 & 15, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms

**High School Youth Group:** Sunday, February 12, 6:00 p.m., Miller Manse

#### MUSIC

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** Sundays, 9:15 & 11:30 a.m.

**Children's Choir Rehearsal:** Thursdays, 3:45 p.m., Choir Room

**Youth Choir Rehearsal:** Sundays TBD

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

**3 Ts:** Tuesday, February 21, 10:00 a.m., Westminster Room

**Children's Communion Workshop:** Saturday, February 4, 10:00 a.m., Westminster Room

**Coming Home:** Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

**Imagine One-Year Anniversary Celebration:** Sunday, February 12, coffee hour, Assembly Room

**Mission & Outreach:** Wednesday, February 1, 7:30 p.m., Library

##### Stephen Ministry:

Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, February 7, 5:30 p.m., Library

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

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

**Women's Association:** Monthly Meeting, Monday, February 6, 9:00 a.m., Library

**Worship & Music:** Wednesday, February 8, 7:30 p.m., Conference Room

#### OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS

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

**AA Group:** Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Youth Rooms

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

**Sandwichmakers:** Thursday, February 16, 10:00 a.m., Kitchen & Assembly Room

## Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

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

### Age Reflection—Two Year Old Program

#### TWO YEAR OLD EXPLORATIONS IN A MATERIAL RICH ENVIRONMENT

At RPNS, we believe that the *classroom environment is the third teacher*. This

means that the classroom space plays a role in the children's educational experience, and, as a result, our teachers work



intently to create beautiful classroom environments that are inspiring to young children.

These spaces are enticing and pull the children into a *world of learning that sparks curiosity*.

The teachers carefully place open-ended, authentic, interesting, and inviting materials in the various classroom centers. The materials selected are intended to stimulate thinking, encourage curiosity, and reflect the children's interests.



materials, and natural treasures that attract the young child. Two year olds learn through their senses. We want them to be visually stimulated, have opportunities to use their sense of touch, and create sounds and hear new noises. The sensory experiences the classroom teachers provide the students encourage group exploration. These shared moments within the class promote interactions with peers and increase the use of language and communication among students.

#### LITERACY MATERIALS THROUGHOUT

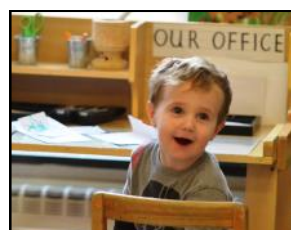
The curriculum in our twos welcomes exposure to literacy throughout the day. Literature is a huge part of the daily experience in a two year old classroom, and

Our two year old classroom spaces are filled with mirrored reflections, recycled

the children discover and revisit books constantly. It is such a gift to watch the little hands and curious minds of



our twos travel around the room with a book in their hand. The children stop wherever they please in the classroom to take "picture walks" through their books. Stories are often revisited during meeting time to increase comprehension and reinforce vocabulary.



Another way literacy is encouraged in our two year old program is through the mini writing centers in each

classroom. These writing areas provide opportunities to practice fine motor skills and promote a passion for *experimenting with writing materials*.



[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

[Rosemary Annunziato](#), Church Secretary

[Denise LeVan](#), Pastoral Assistant

[Nancy Lavelle](#), Interim Director of Children's Ministries

[Yvonne Zuk](#), Sunday School Supervisor

[Juan Velasquez](#), Head Sexton/Building Manager

### Rye Presbyterian Church

882 Boston Post Road

Rye, New York 10580

Tel: 914.967.0842

[www.ryepc.com](http://www.ryepc.com)