



Saints & Stewards

November at Rye Presbyterian, as at many churches, is a month in which we celebrate two seemingly disparate ideas. On the one hand, it is “stewardship season” – a time when most churches, including ours, seek financial commitments from its members for the coming year. At the same time, on the first Sunday of the month we celebrate “All Saints Sunday” – a day to remember loved ones from the church extended family who have passed from this life to the next. On the first weekend of the month we will solemnly read the names of those loved ones in worship. The next weekend we will commit our financial pledges to God, bringing them forward during worship. Is there a link between these two actions?

The connection, perhaps, is this. I look at the picture of the congregation outside the church in 1998, and in addition to seeing so many little children who are now college graduates, I see many faces of the “saints of Rye” who have gone from being present among us, to being present with God – people whose names have been read on a Sunday in November since then.

It was they, with a host before them, who invested so generously in the life of the church before we came to be here. It was they who gave of their time, their resources and their many talents to make this church all that it is. It was they who, as stewards of this place, entrusted it into the hands of the current congregation – the current “saints of Rye.” It is now our turn. We remember their faithfulness and, grateful for their generosity, we take our place in that long line of saints as we seek to be the faithful stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

So let us remember and celebrate those who have come before us. Let us then faithfully commit ourselves to the work of God as stewards of Rye Presbyterian Church.



Stewardship, Charitable Deductions, Donating Stock

Stewardship 2018

What Rye Presbyterian Church means to me . . .



Having grown up in this church, I have had RPC as my anchor through life's ups and downs.

The excellent music has always been a key element in my personal worship experience and I feel God's presence in its beauty.

Our outreach programs, both within our congregation and in our local and worldwide communities, make me proud to be a member of this active church.

Gail Langeloh



The people, the sense of community, and the peaceful feeling I get every time I enter any part of the church make RPC important to me.

I have experienced God through involvement in the ministries and community of the church through delivering meals to people in need, flower delivery to members who cannot make it to church for some reason, teaching children in Sunday school, Dinner at Noon, serving as an elder, and always as a member or helper of the Congregational Life committee that brings our

faith community together in so many special events.

I grew up in this church, so it was my home base. What keeps me here is our co-pastors, my fellow deacons, and the experiences my children had here which makes them still call it "their" church even though they do not get here often. RPC has been there for them to turn to when they experienced the death of a friend and their grandfather.

Nancy Kennedy

What will Rye Presbyterian mean to you in 2018?



Commitment Sunday—November 12!

If you are unable to attend on Commitment Sunday, you can mail in your pledge card or pledge online [here](#).

YOUR CHARITABLE DEDUCTION

Church financial records will close at the end of the business day on **Friday, December 29, 2017, at noon**. Gifts may be dropped off in the reception area mailbox. All checks must be received by **December 31** to qualify for a charitable deduction in the **2017 tax year**.

PLEDGE BALANCE

If you would like to check your pledge balance online through Access ACS, please go to ryepc.com:

<http://ryepc.com/resources/database-login-for-members/>

DONATING STOCK TO RPC

Gifts of stock to RPC are cleared through:

The Beringer Weinstock Group
Janney Montgomery Scott
800 Post Rd., Darien, CT 06820

Attn: Geoff Beringer
Tel: 203-662-6360

Credit to Rye Presbyterian Church AC #8926-9870.

To insure that your donation is accurately recorded, please also forward a copy of your letter of instruction to Maida Robinson, mrobinson@ryepc.com.

Adult Education

The fall “semester” of Adult Education is in full swing, already featuring an important series on forgiveness, a thoughtful presentation by the new Superintendent of Rye’s schools, and the beginning of a series on key elements of “What We Believe,” which covers many of the subjects at the core of our confirmation class. We are also in the middle of a book study led by Dan Love on Desmond Tutu’s “The Book of Forgiveness” and we viewed a film called “Dramatic Escape,” which follows a group of prisoners in Rehabilitation Through the Arts (a program RPC’s Mission program supports) as they prepare and present a production of “A Few Good Men,” from auditions through curtain calls.

Time goes quickly and the Winter/Spring 2018 “semester” is right around the corner. The Adult Education Committee met on October 17 to begin planning equally exciting offerings for the weeks between early January and Memorial Day. The Committee is considering testing some new approaches to the 9:00-9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Adult Education time. For example, perhaps we will use the Biblical texts from that Sunday’s service as a springboard for a discussion of the meaning of those texts in our daily lives.

We will schedule an evening Lenten series led by Dr. Miller and perhaps a post-Easter book study led by Rev. Love. Of course, our three Bible Study groups will continue, as will 3 T’s, and a new member orientation program.

We are also considering several “Special Events” — evening programs of broad interest to both the congregation and community. One possibility is “Thirteenth,” a documentary produced by Netflix on the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibited slavery, except for convicts in prison, and which many believe underpins our current era of mass incarceration. We may also occasionally schedule an evening program on Saturday or Sunday focused on current events.

Watch for more information about these new ideas and come and join in the excitement of Adult Education Programming at RPC both in the Fall of 2017 and the Winter/Spring of 2018.

Sunday Morning Offerings 9:00 a.m., Westminster Room

CREDO: What We Believe: Sundays, November 5, 12, 19

Many adults in the church today did not have the benefit of going through a confirmation class as our youth do today. This course invites adults in our church to explore some of the topics that our youth explore during confirmation. Each Sunday is a stand-alone session. *Topics* - Nov. 5: Christology / Nov. 12: Theodicy-When Bad Things Happen / Nov. 19: Your Credo

Nov. 5 and 12, special guest teacher, Dr. Rob Trawick



Dr. Trawick is an associate professor of philosophy and religious studies at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, NY. A ruling elder at Germonds Presbyterian Church (New City, NY), Rob has formerly served the Presbytery of Hudson River as its moderator. He currently serves the denomination as the communications chair for the Israel / Palestine Mission Network and as a member of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.

Fall Book Study

THE BOOK OF FORGIVING

Mondays, November 6, 13, 7:30 p.m., Library



This study continues this month as together we explore Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu’s *The Book of Forgiving*. The book offers reflection on our shared humanity and the need for forgiveness, and shows the very practical steps to experience and practice forgiveness. All are welcome to join us for the remainder of the study. Further information may be found on the RPC website “What’s Happening” page. Contact [Dan Love](#) if you have any questions.

Special Event

Relationship abuse is far more prevalent than most people know. Would you be able to recognize the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship? Or know how to help someone who might be affected?

Please join the Rye Youth Council and Rye Presbyterian Church for a screening and discussion of One Love’s powerful film,

ESCALATION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 7:30PM
RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ASSEMBLY ROOM

This award-winning and eye-opening film follows a college relationship that ends tragically. It is appropriate for adults and high school students. After the screening, students and adults will split up for guided discussions.



The One Love Foundation was created in memory of Yeardeley Love, a student who was killed by her boyfriend. Its mission is to make people aware of unhealthy and abusive relationship behavior, and to empower individuals and community to take action.

To learn more, please visit joinonelove.org.

For more information, please contact:
Rye Youth Council at office@ryeyouthcouncil.org

Rye
Presbyterian
Church

onelove

Rye
youth
council
character matters

Christian Education, Confirmation

Sunday School

October was a fun, busy, and enriching month for us. We kicked off the month with a meal packaging event with the **Rise Against Hunger** organization. We had almost 100 volunteers from our RPC community come together to package 10,152 meals in just over two hours! We are truly blessed to have such a giving, generous, loving community here at RPC. This is just one example of the works of God's hands through each and every one of our volunteers! Thank you for making this event a huge success and thank you for your generosity to the Imagine Initiative for making this extra meal packaging event possible.



Our Sunday School children heard many stories about Moses leading the people through the desert, into the wilderness and over the mountains. Wherever they were, they had God guiding them through every step of the way. The children learned that even if you can't see God, God is there with you all the time. In November, the children will be hearing many stories based on the book of *Matthew*. Through many stories from Jesus, children will continue to learn to live in God's ways of being loving, giving, and thoughtful. Children will enjoy the stories they hear and will experience and share these loving feelings through role-play and hands-on activities. We look forward to a really enlightening, happy, love-filled month!

Thank you to all of our Sunday School Teacher Volunteers and to all of the High School Student Helpers! "Let my teaching fall like rain and my words de-

scend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants." *Deuteronomy 32:2*.

The Sunday School children have had a few meetings with Lisa Rawson for Singing Our Faith. The children enjoy the connection of song to their classroom lessons. The peace, energy, and positive feeling they get out of Lisa's music is such a beautiful thing! Singing Our Faith is loved by all; the children, teachers, and the teacher assistants love engaging in Lisa's music. Here they are in action!



- November 5: Sunday School Class
- November 12: Sunday School Class-Singing Our Faith
- November 19: Sunday School Class
- November 26: Enrichment Class: PreK -5th go to the Westminster Room; Middle School stays in worship.

Middle School Connection

Connection, our middle school youth group, is open to all 6th-8th graders.

We will meet three times this month. We will have a "regular" meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1.

On Friday, November 17, we will go rock climbing at The Rock Club in New Rochelle. We'll meet at 4:30 p.m. in the church parking lot and should be done by 7:00 p.m. Are any parents willing and able to drive and chaperone? Let [Dan Love](#) know.

On Saturday, November 25, having enjoyed our own Thanksgiving feasts, we will be helping out setting up and serving "Dinner at Noon" at the Carver Center. We'll meet in the church parking lot at 10:15 a.m.

High School Youth Group

On Sunday, October 1, the high school youth met and packaged 30 clean-up buckets which have already been sent, via Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Service, to areas in the US affected by the recent hurricanes.



On Saturday, October 28, a group of the youth went on the Midnight Run with Hitchcock Presbyterian Church in Scarsdale. Midnight Run is a ministry to the homeless on the streets of NYC.

In November, our next fellowship meeting will be on November 12 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Then, on November 14 at 7:30 p.m., all high school youth and their parents are encouraged to participate in the One Love event at our church and the viewing and discussion of the film, *Escalation*, which addresses the issues of relationship abuse.

Confirmation 2017

Class meets Sundays in the Westminster Room:

November 12:

M-Z at 4 p.m. / A-L at 5 p.m.

November 19:

A-L at 4 p.m. / M-Z at 5 p.m.

Confirmation

Musical Notes



From Jason Charneski

Cantata Sunday: December 10. Join the Choir!! Please let me know if you'd like to sing in the Chancel Choir for Cantata Sunday this year. We will offer John Rutter's setting of the *Magnificat* (Mary's song of praise, found in Luke 1:46-55), accompanied by a 24-piece orchestra. Rehearsals for this much-loved RPC custom, to be offered within the 10:00 a.m. service on December 10, will begin on Thursday evening, November 2.

Chamber Music at RPC to Begin its Season on November 12

Chamber Music at RPC will open its 2017-2018 season on Sunday, November 12, at 2:30 p.m., with a program for six instruments (2 violins, 2 violas, and 2

cellos) with music by Richard Strauss (the sextet from *Capriccio*), Mark O'Connor (*Appalachia Waltz*, *St. Louis Blues*, and *Chief Sitting in the Rain*), and Tchaikovsky (*Souvenir de Florence*). Please contact Ronald Arron, artistic director of the chamber series, at 914-523-4646 or ronarron@optonline.net, to reserve your seat (\$20 for RPC members, \$40 for non-RPC members).

Challenge Your Ears and Your Brain!

To how many tunes can you sing the words of "Amazing Grace" (include hymntunes, but think beyond them: there's one from 1960s television that will make you smile...or groan)? Try the same with "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (again, include hymntunes; but, there's at least one from a Broadway musical).

The point is that the meter of the words (the number of syllables) in each phrase determines tunes to which the words can be sung. For instance, during

Eastertide we sing "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" to the tune many of us know for "All Creatures of Our God and King" (and we add the Alleluias; but, even without singing the Alleluias, the words work with the tune). Flip to the back of the hymnal (page 1003) to find the Metrical Index of Tunes: look at the listings for LM (that's Long Meter), which is equivalent to four phrases of eight syllables each (that's the "8.8.8.8." next to LM). Note the large number of tunes that could accommodate "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow!" Singing well-known words to a different tune or singing a well-known tune to different words can reignite our understanding of and feeling for both. Thus, an invitation: Please pay attention to the words and the tune to be offered by the Children's Choir as its anthem in the 10:00 a.m. service on November 12.

Chamber Music at Rye Presbyterian Church

Ronald Arron, artistic director

Sunday, November 12, at 2:30 p.m.

Music by Strauss, O'Connor,
and Tchaikovsky

Abraham Appleman &
Ming-Feng Hsin, violins



Michael Roth &
Mark Holloway, violas



Joel Noyes &
David Heiss, cellos

For more information or to reserve seats, please contact Ronald Arron at ronarron@optonline.net or 914-523-4646 (\$20 for RPC members; \$40 general public).



LIVE NATIVITY PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, November 19,
in the Westminster Room
following 10:00 a.m. Worship

This Christmas, the high school youth will create a live nativity scene during the 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve services.

If you have questions or are interested in participating, please contact [Lisa Rawson](mailto:Lisa.Rawson@rpcny.org).



RPC Upcoming Events



**Sunday,
December 3,
at 7:00 p.m.**

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!



THE GREENING OF THE KIRK



Yes, it feels early . . . but it's almost that
time when RPC elves gather together to
decorate the Sanctuary for the holidays.

Come by on **Wednesday, December 6,**
from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

As usual, there will be food and drink,
music, and lots of merriment.

Please contact [Kristin Jautz](#) if we can
count on you this year!

~ 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 3,
Assembly Room: 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

RSVP Nancy Lavelle (christianed@ryepc.com)
with how many houses you'll need.

Christmas Pageant 2017

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



The Pageant is open to all
children age 4 through 6th grade.
If you or your children are inter-
ested in participating through
acting or working behind the
scenes, sign-up sheets are availa-
ble on the wall across from the
RPC reception desk. All 7th and
8th graders interested in helping
out with narration, lighting, or
ushering, please contact:

Lisa Rawson, *Director*,
at lrawson@ryepc.com

RYE INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

**Sunday afternoon,
November 19, 4:00 p.m.**

Rye Presbyterian Church
882 Boston Post Road, Rye



Rev. Steve R. Magnuson, preaching
Associate Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian, Rye
Reception hosted by the Rye Women's Interfaith
Committee will follow the service.

Non-perishable food and monetary donations
will be given to Caritas of Port Chester.

Auditions:

Sunday, Nov. 12,
11:15 a.m.,
Westminster Room

Rehearsal Schedule:

Thursday, Nov 30, 3:45-5:15
Thursday, Dec. 7, 3:45-6:15

Performance

Sunday, Dec. 17, 4:00 p.m.



Weekends in November, Bible Study

Saturday, November 4

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

Sunday, November 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 & Communion in the Sanctuary

Youth Choir sings

Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message.

7:00 p.m. New Member Dessert / Library

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

Saturday, November 11

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

Sunday, November 12—Commitment Sunday

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

New Members reception

Children's Choir sings

Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message

11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting / Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. Christmas Pageant Auditions / Westminster Room

4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class M-Z / Westminster Room

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class A-L / Westminster Room

Saturday, November 18

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

Sunday, November 19

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. Live Nativity Planning Meeting / Westminster Room

3:00 p.m. Interfaith Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Women's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service / Sanctuary

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

Saturday, November 25

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

Sunday, November 26

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

Men's Bible Study

Sunday, November 12,

at 8:00 p.m. in the Library

If you'd like to be on an email reminder list, let [Dan Love](#) know.

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion

Wednesdays, November 1, 15, and 29.

at 10:00 a.m. in the Library

All are welcome to jump in any time for our tour of the "greatest hits" of the Hebrew Scriptures! We meet on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.

If you'd like to be on the email reminder list, let [Dan Love](#) know.

Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, November 4 and 11,

at 10:00 a.m. in the Library

Please join 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](#).





A NOVEMBER FOOD COLLECTION FOR RPC NEIGHBORS IN NEED

During November, we again will be collecting support for RPC mission partner and grant recipient, Caritas of Port Chester, Inc. In-kind donations for Caritas' food pantry may be placed in the collection basket near the reception office. Parents, this offers a great way for your children to participate in our community's giving! There will be a special blessing of the collected food during the children's message in the 10 o'clock service on Sunday, November 19. Food pantry needs include family-sized containers of vegetable oil, mayo, pasta sauce (in plastic or cans, please), boxes of pasta (any kind), bags of rice, bags of black beans, large boxes of cereal, and cans of tuna, soup, vegetables, and fruit. You can also support Caritas by putting a check in the offering plate made payable to RPC and marked "Food Drive" in the memo line. Caritas is able to buy staples from a food bank for a small percentage of retail prices.

Congregational Meeting

Election of Officers

Sunday, November 12,
following 10:00 a.m. worship

November Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDINGS CLOSED
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, and FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24,
IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 p.m., Library
Trustees: Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room
Session: Wednesday, November 29, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

WORSHIP AND STUDY

Worship on Saturday evening:

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., November 4, 11, 18, & 25, in the Chapel

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:

CREDO: What We Believe: Sundays, November 5, 12, 19

Book Study: "The Book of Forgiving" by Desmond and Mpho Tutu, Mondays, November 6 & 13, Library

Special Event: Screening & Discussion of ESCALATION, One Love's powerful film on relationship drug abuse,
 Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room

Sunday School: Regular Sunday School on November 5, 12, 19; Enrichment Activities on November 26

Confirmation: Sundays in the Westminster Room: November 12, M-Z at 4:00 p.m., A-L at 5 p.m.;
 November 19, A-L at 4:00 p.m., M-Z at 5:00 p.m.

Men's Sunday Bible Study: November 12, 8:00 p.m., Library

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion: November 1, 15, & 29, 10:00 a.m., Library

Women's Bible Study: Saturdays, November 4 & 11, 10:00 a.m., Library

Women's Discipleship: Video Study "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World," Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m., Library.

YOUTH

Boy Scout Troop #2: Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room

Connection: Wednesday, November 1, 5:30 p.m., Youth Room;

Friday, November 17, Rock Climbing, Rock Club,, New Rochelle; meet 4:30 p.m., church parking lot;

Saturday, November 25, Carver Center; meet 10:15 a.m., church parking lot

High School Youth Group: Sunday, November 12 6:00 p.m., location TBD.;

Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 p.m., One Love "Escalation" film screening and discussion, Assembly Room

MUSIC

Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.; Thursdays, November 2, 16, & 30, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, November 12, sing in church; 9:30 a.m. rehearsal, Chapel

Youth Choir Rehearsal: Sunday, November 5, Sing in Church; 9:15 a.m. rehearsal Chapel

OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

3 Ts: Tuesday, November 14, 10:00 a.m., Westminster Room

Chamber Music at RPC Concert: Sunday, November 12, 2:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Live Nativity Planning Meeting: Sunday, November 19, following 10:00 a.m. worship, Westminster Room

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

Stephen Ministry:

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

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

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

Women's Association: Monthly Meeting, Monday, November 13, 9:00 a.m., Library

Worship & Music: Wednesday, November 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., Westminster Room

Mr. Westchester/Al-Anon Group: Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room through November 13;
 Library balance of the month

Helping Hands: Thursday, November 16, 10:00 a.m., Kitchen & Assembly Room

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

Registration:

Come join us at Rye Presbyterian Nursery School for the 2018-2019 school year! In-house registration will be held on *November 6th through November 8th* from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. All current students, new siblings of returning families, and church members should register at this time to guarantee their placement. **All church members are part of our In-House registration.** If you are a new family, please call 914-967-2073 or email Co-Director Kristin Kumar kkumar@rpnskids.org to set up a tour. Rye Presbyterian Nursery School offers morning and afternoon programs for two, three, and four year olds and a morning five year old class. Our morning and afternoon sessions have the same goals and activities at each of their respective age levels. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Grocery Bag Project:

Last month, our fives class engaged in a project with grocery bags. Each of the children began construction with a repurposed paper grocery paper and precut



colored paper of varying shapes, colors and sizes. The class worked thoughtfully as they arranged the paper on one side of the paper bag. Some children worked with a representational idea in mind, while others were more interested in de-

signing with the materials available to them. A teacher sat close by observing and listening to the children as they worked. It became clear to the teachers that the children were interested in doing much more with this art exploration. Our Studio Teacher, Mrs. Walter, visited the classroom and began a conversation that sparked ideas and motivated the children to go further with their work. Mrs. Walter held up different children's work to initiate discussion. The children noticed that although the materials used were the same, each piece of art was unique. After this observation, Mrs. Walter held up one of

the bags. The long rectangular strips of paper that had been glued to the bottom of the bag hung in the air. Mrs. Walter asked the class what this piece made them think about and if they had ideas about what the artist was creating.

This project helped the children use their imaginations and see everyday items in brand-new and exciting ways! Each piece is unique and tells a different story. The bags are displayed in the fives classroom. They add a wonderful element of texture, color, and creativity to the classroom. The teachers began asking the children if their bags inspire a story that they might like to share. The children knew exactly what their bags were all about, and "Bag Stories" began to unfold. These stories are in the hallway outside the classroom for the families to enjoy.



[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

Rye Presbyterian Church

882 Boston Post Road

Rye, New York 10580

Tel: 914.967.0842

www.ryepc.com

We are a Stephen Ministry church.