

Rest, Rest, Rest

⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

⁶The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought low,
God saved me.

⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.”
Psalm 116: 5-7



I was fascinated when I moved back to the northeast in 2008 that the media in our area began reporting about the cicadas. I understand that they only appear in this area every so many years. Not so in Texas. Having spent 23 years there I remember feeling as if summer had arrived (not always something easy to determine with Texas climate – hot), when the cicadas began their summer serenade. While summer brought with it a variety of activities, it was also simply the time to listen to the cicadas. It is a sound closely associated with all that is summer—a chorus signifying the return of stillness, an invitation to *rest, rest, rest*. As Christians we have a God who invites us, or even commands us to rest. Our God commands us to hold still, to cease from labor, to actively enter into repose—not merely as a means to regain our strength, but as an act of worship.

The gods of other religions and the god of self demand ceaseless toil. To please these gods, we work incessantly at the business of self-denial, approval-seeking, pilgrimage—repeated rites that strive to prove one’s worth and earn the favor of the deity. Those who seek the approval of lesser gods commit themselves to a life of exhaustion.

The God who grants us soul-repose commands our worship in the form of rest. Summer is a good time to remember and to practice this form of Sabbath keeping. Summer is a time when the worship of work gives way to the worship of rest. Did you ever notice that the word *rest* is contained in the word *restore*? Will we fill these precious days with more ways to be distracted, exhausted, and pulled in a thousand directions? The evensong of the cicadas invites us to join in the worship of loving God and each other with renewed intent, with gratitude that our souls find rest in God.

Shakespeare observed that "summer's lease hath all too short a date." Before we know it, the season of work will return to claim its laborers. So I ask, will you heed the invocation of the cicadas to *rest, rest, rest*—knowing that our summer rest or sabbath is as vital as it is brief?

The following prayer is from our Book of Common Worship:

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being: You have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Rest,



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Coming Home, Prison Ministry



COMING HOME CELEBRATES GRADUATION

On Sunday afternoon, June 4, about 55 people gathered in the Assembly Room to celebrate with the nine graduates of our Coming Home program. The nine who completed this 18 week life skills program are:

Travis Brown, Kevin Carroll, Melody Frost, Calvin Harmon, Tee Jay Jackson, Michael McLean, Charles Moore, Jarming Ramirez, and Chiwana Wright.

A special word of thanks to this year's leadership team: Janet Donat, Program Coordinator; Charles Lewis, Peer Facilitator; Suzanne Katz, Social Work Intern; and Linda Otness, Meals Coordinator.

Thank you also to our dedicated mentors: Wayne Atwell, Sam Dimon, Lars Ernst, Larry Forsberg, Bob Gay, Victor Kiarsis, Todd LaBaugh, Gail Langeloh, Mary Anne Massey, Heather Miller, Adrienne Rogers, and Ron Sizemore.

A deep word of appreciation from all of our participants to the many people who, under Linda Otness' direction, helped to prepare, cook, and serve fantastic dinners week after week; and to the many people who helped "taxi" our participants from and to the train station – especially Bob Mickatavage, Heather Miller, and Davidson Gordon.

And a word of thanks to the many congregants who attended the dinners and helped to enrich the table fellowship each week. We averaged 35-40 people at dinner each Thursday evening. Over 75 church members were engaged in this ministry! Thank You!



PRISON MINISTRY: *What's on the Horizon?*

RPC is about to launch a new initiative, *Rye Writes*, which will take our leadership role in Hudson River Presbytery's prison ministry an exciting step forward. Simply put, we will create a facility through which any member of the congregation can exchange letters with selected inmates anywhere in the New York State prison system.

We're beginning this program because many men and women in prison, often for 20 or more years, receive no visitors or letters from the outside. For the inmate, this program obviously provides an opportunity to connect with an individual other than other inmates or the prison staff. For the congregant, it offers an opportunity, on his or her own time, to ease another person's loneliness, as well as to learn about a little known part of society.

In launching this initiative, we will ensure anonymity for congregants who are exchanging correspondence with inmates in prisons.

- Writers will use only first names—and not their own first names.
- They will use the church as the return address.
- Heather Miller, the Program Coordinator (aka PostMistress) will notify the writer when a letter has been received from an inmate correspondent.
- The writer can pick up the letter at a "Mailbox" in the Library and respond on his or her own time.

We will also attempt to ensure that participating inmate correspondents will be selected to ensure they are individuals who are

not disciplinary problems in prison and who are working at changing their lives and preparing themselves for re-entering society to live positive, productive lives.

- The main referral sources for these inmate correspondents will be prison chaplains, the heads of prison programs RPC has worked closely with in the past, and perhaps individuals known to us to be positive role-models in prison.
- Inmates will be informed clearly that this is for correspondence only—they are not to expect money, gifts, or packages of food.
- They will also be informed they should not expect more than one letter per month, though the frequency of correspondence will ultimately be up to the congregant and the inmate to work out.

Heather, along with Bob and Nancy Steed, who have been involved inside prisons for 25 plus years, are working out the many other details attendant on launching this program and will communicate them to the congregation in the next couple of months. They will also schedule an "interest meeting" where congregants can get more information and answers to their questions.

We are very enthusiastic about the opportunity *Rye Writes* will provide to the many people who have indicated they'd like to be involved in prison ministry, but find the time commitments and/or bureaucratic entanglements are big problems. Simply writing letters once a month eliminates all those problems.

We would welcome any comments or questions—and to hear from anyone who is interested in being a "Co-Respondent." Emails are: Heather hitchcockschool@verizon.net, Bob Steed at bsteed55@aol.com, or Nancy Steed at Steedheart@aol.com.

Summer Church Picnic, WA Grant Awards, Stephen Ministry

Summer Church Picnic



Sunday, June 11, was a perfect day for the RPC Annual Picnic.



Owen and Amber Nee, and Davidson Gordon



The ice cream truck was a popular place to be!

stephen MINISTRY

Among the safety instructions given at the beginning of commercial flights, this one could be applied to life circumstances outside of an airplane: *"If you are traveling with a child or someone who requires assistance, secure your mask first and then assist the other person."*

At Rye Presbyterian Church, Stephen Ministers are asked to "secure your mask first." Continuing Education programs sponsored by the Stephen Leader Team provide caregivers with continued training in faithful, compassionate, skilled, confidential care.

In June, Rye resident Mary Cullman, MSW, LMSW, drew from her 25 years of experience in bereavement-related work with individuals and groups at Phelps Hospice and the Bereavement Center of Westchester to facilitate a discussion about strategies for counseling those who have experienced loss. Worden's Four Tasks of Grieving was one of many tools Ms. Cullman shared to help Stephen Ministers, who support grieving individuals as they adjust to their "new normal."

If you are interested in assisting others through the natural challenges of grief toward hope and healing, or if you have experienced loss and want to learn more about the support available through Stephen Ministry, please contact Rye Presbyterian Clergy, [Dan Love](#) or [John Miller](#).

Women's Association Grant Awards Luncheon



\$63,000! Record-breaking amount given to local charities this year!

We had a wonderful luncheon in the Grape Arbor as we honored 20 Westchester organizations that serve women, children, and other under-served populations. Our grants are made possible through the success of our Thrift Shop. Thank you to all of the volunteers and donors for a record year! The luncheon was a great time to see first-hand all the good work that our Thrift Shop does for our community. We appreciate the continued support of donations, volunteers, and shopping!

Welcome to Community Synagogue of Rye

COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE COMES TO RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, June 18, was a special day in the life of the church and our community! As we gathered to worship, we also gathered to welcome our friends from Community Synagogue. For the next year or so, they will be worshipping in our chapel as they undertake a remodeling of their sanctuary.

As is Jewish tradition, they paraded together from the Synagogue to RPC, bringing their Torah scrolls to their new temporary home here. As a part of our 10:00 a.m. worship, we moved outside to welcome them, and join them as they moved into our chapel.

On these two pages are memories of that special day.



Welcome to Community Synagogue of Rye



Christian Education, Connection Year-end Picnic



This summer the children are hearing great stories with titles such as:

- **Compassion, God and Sparrows** (a story about how God loves even the littlest of creatures; a sparrow). Think about how much God loves you!
- **Even a Cup of Cold Water** (about showing God's love through being kind and welcoming).
- **Delight, Divided Promises, Honor, Struggle, Jealousy**, and so many more great titles that teach our children

amazing stories of love, compassion, honor, and guidance.

On June 18, the children heard how Abraham welcomed visitors to his home. They then made posters to hold up to the visitors to RPC—our friends from the Community Synagogue as they paraded into our church. We reflected on what it means to live in a community as God's people and to open our church and our hearts to everyone. What a special day that was!

Throughout the summer the children will continue hearing some of the foundational stories of our faith tradition—stories of Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Esau and Rachel, Joseph and his brothers, Moses and Miriam. By hearing these stories, they are learning about

doing Christ's work in the world and witnessing that God's love is everywhere. By reading many key stories of the Bible they will experience the Spirit of God within themselves and recognize that welcoming others is one way they can respond to God's love in their own lives. Children will be empowered to make choices that create more goodness and kindness in the world.

What a fun-filled summer we are having at RPC Sunday School!

- July 2: No Sunday School
- September 3: No Sunday School
- September 10: "Regular" Sunday School begins

Please email Nancy -

christianed@ryepc.com

Middle School Connection Year-end Picnic



Sundays in July & August, Bible Study, Joan Kellogg Award

July 2

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 9:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
No Sunday School—children remain in worship.

July 9, 16*, 23, and 30

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Summer Sunday School. Children attend worship through Children's Message.

* July 16, 8:00 p.m.—Men's Bible Study / Library

August 6, 13*, 20, and 27

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Summer Sunday School. Children attend worship through Children's Message.

* August 13, 8:00 p.m.—Men's Bible Study / Library

During July and August, please join us for coffee hour in the Grape Arbor after 10 o'clock worship.



Please keep all those journeying to New Orleans this summer in your prayers! A first group of 25 high schoolers were there in June. A second trip of 10 youths, along with Heather and John Miller, will be traveling during the week of August 6-12.

June NOLA Pre-trip Gathering



BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sunday July 16 and August 13,
at 8:00 p.m. in the Library

Over the summer, the men of Sunday night will continue their discussion and fellowship as we forge on through the Book of Psalms.

If you'd like to be on the email reminder list for this gathering, please contact [Rev. Love](#).

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion

This summer we will pause for the months of July and August, but we look forward to regathering for this ongoing reading and discussion of the highlights of the Hebrew Scriptures starting on September 6!

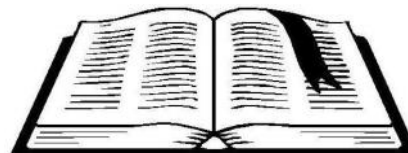
Please contact [Rev. Love](#) for more information.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study is taking a break for the summer. We will start back up in September when a warm welcome and hot coffee will await!

Meets twice a month on Saturday mornings (dates to be advised), 10:00 a.m. in the Library.

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



Joan Kellogg Award for Outstanding Service



Last year, the Women's Association created a service award to honor our dear friend and colleague Joan Kellogg. Joan was a quiet leader who contributed immensely to the success of our Thrift Shop. The Women's Association is proud to announce this year's recipients: Mona Hirson and Juan Velasquez.

Congratulations Mona and Juan!

July & August Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

**CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDINGS WILL BE CLOSED
ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, TUESDAY, JULY 4.**

SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGE

Summer Office Hours: Beginning Monday, July 3, through end of August, the church office will be open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

WORSHIP AND STUDY

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 9:40 a.m.

Summer Sunday School: (No class on July 2), July 9, 16, 23, 30; August 6, 13, 20, 27.

Men's Sunday Bible Study: July 16 and August 13, 8:00 p.m., Library

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion: Restarts September 6, 10:00 a.m., Library

Women's Bible Study: Taking a break for summer—starts back up in September.

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

OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

3 Ts: Tuesdays, July 18, and August 15, 10:00 a.m., Library

Mission & Outreach: Wednesdays, July 5, and August 2, 7:30 p.m., Library

Stephen Ministry:

Continuing Education and Supervision: Mondays, July 10, and August 7, 7:00 p.m., Library

Summer Beach Party: Wednesday, July 19, 7:00 p.m., American Yacht Club

Thrift Shop: Closed until September 14

OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

Friendly Visitors: Monday, July 24, 11:00 a.m., Library

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

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop is closed for the summer (reopening on September 14).

Donations will be accepted during the summer. - Drop off downstairs on the left hallway.



Please note:

books will not be accepted during the summer months.

Any questions, contact [Suzanne Davies](#).



SUMMER BEACH PARTY

Wednesday, July 19

7:00 p.m.



American Yacht Club

Bring the children for an evening of fun and fellowship!

For further information contact [Betty Vecchiolla](#).

Hosted by the Congregational Life Committee of the Board of Deacons.



Join us in extending a warm welcome to Peggy Berretta as our new Administrative Assistant in the church office.

Peggy currently lives in White Plains with her daughter Lilly, who is a senior at the Forman School in Litchfield, CT. Peggy holds an MBA and has over 20 years of business experience in the energy and banking industries. She has served as a Deacon, and on the Hospitality and Nominating Committees at her church in Scarsdale. Currently, she is on the Board of Haiti Marycare, an organization that serves to meet the basic medical, educational, and community needs of the people in Jacquesyl and Pilette, Haiti. In her spare time, Peggy enjoys the arts - especially dance.

You can reach Peggy at her new email address:

pberretta@ryepc.com

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School is excited to announce some new curriculum additions to our 2017-2018 five-year-old program!

Literacy Blocks: Literacy instruction occurs naturally as part of the project approach at RPNS. In addition to the literacy that will be incorporated into the class study, there will be a designated time in the school day for the fives to further practice literacy concepts. Children will work on a variety of skills pertaining to phonics, decoding, and print awareness. The class will participate in group read a louds and independent reading time. Guided level reading materials will be provided and the classroom teachers will continuously challenge age-appropriate instruction.

Makerspace: We will be adding a makerspace to our fives classroom! A makerspace is a place where students can gather to create, invent, explore, and discover using a variety of tools and materials. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) will be incorporated into the fives curriculum through the new makerspace. Children will engage in scientific observation, experiment using magnifying glasses and microscopes, create hypotheses and test theories, and explore physical and chemical changes. There will be opportunities for students to take apart simple machines and use their problem-solving skills to figure out how to fix materials that are broken. Children will build and construct using recycled materials and create structures that can float or fly. Math concepts such as patterning, sorting,

sequencing, counting, and beginning addition/subtraction will be incorporated into the curriculum. In addition, the five-year-old students will learn about measuring, graphing, and money concepts.

Spanish Instruction: Joining our specialist staff for next school year is early childhood Spanish instructor Paola Loza-Bushnell. Paola has taught Spanish in several preschools in the lower Hudson Valley. She will lead the fives class in a Spanish lesson once a week. Paola will introduce the children to Spanish vocabulary words using age-appropriate songs and games. Paola's energy and passion for beginning Spanish instruction will make learning a foreign language an exciting experience for our five-year-old students!



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

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

[Jason Charneski](#), Director of Music and Organist

[Lisa Rawson](#), Director of Choirs for Children and Youth

[Maida Robinson](#), Chief Administrative Officer

[Peggy Berretta](#), Administrative Assistant

[Denise LeVan](#), Pastoral Assistant

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

[Yvonne Zuk](#), Sunday School Supervisor

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

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We are a Stephen Ministry church.