

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Isaiah 43:19a

We stand on the threshold of a new year. For many, the New Year is viewed as a new beginning, a fresh start, as an opportunity, in some cases, to start over. It might be to overcome a habit, or do a better job at something they see as important. It may be parenting, being a better spouse, losing weight (which, by the way, is the number one resolution according to most polls taken). It may be developing different priorities, using our time better, or a whole host of other things that people would like to change.

We often hear a lot about New Year's resolutions, resolutions which are usually broken in a matter of weeks, if not days. Many people are pessimistic about the whole process of making resolutions, and rightly so, because so many good intentions are followed by a history of past failures.

The New Year is also a time to reflect upon what the past year has brought and what the new year could bring. It is a time to stop and reflect, to take stock of our priorities, values, pursuits, and goals. We ask questions like, "Who am I? What am I doing with my life? What should I be doing as a follower of Jesus with my life and the resources that God has given me?" According to scriptures, all of life is about stewardship – the stewardship of our time, talents, and treasures.

Hidden away in the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is section G-1.0304, entitled, "The Ministry of Members." It offers up for us a list of ways that members of the church might or should be involved in living a life of discipleship. It begins with these words: "Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. (Then, here's the list.)

Such involvement includes:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,

- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- caring for God's creation,
- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
- *reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful."*

This last point sounds like a New Year's activity to me. This list is a tall order, but it stands as an invitation to each of us so that we might understand our participation in the life and ministry of Rye Presbyterian Church as both "a joy and a privilege." May it be so for each of us, and for all of us. Happy New Year!

Faithfully yours,



Cantata Sunday: Approximately 350 people attended this year's Cantata Sunday as Jason Charneski led the RPC chancel choir, soloists, and an orchestra in a performance of J. S. Bach's "Cantata 140." Following was a festive coffee hour coordinated by the Deacons.

Stewardship 2019, Stephen Ministry, Greening of the Kirk Elves



STEWARDSHIP 2019

A heartfelt thank-you to all who have sent in your 2019 pledges. As we face greater needs in 2019, you have responded with faithfulness and generosity!

As of December 20, here's where we stand:

271 pledges for \$1,123,000 – up 7% from 2018!

Now is the time to be included!

To make a pledge, contact the church office, pledge cards in the pews can be put in the offering plate, or you may pledge online:

<http://ryepc.com/giving-commitment-home/>.



BEST-LAID PLANS

Milestones, like the new calendar year, inspire resolutions, to-do lists, bucket lists, and wishes for a “happy new year.” But every so often, our year doesn’t work out the way we hoped or planned. When something unforeseen happens and we realize that we are not in control, we can feel lost, overwhelmed, angry, and even afraid.

Stephen Ministers are trained to listen and support when our best-laid plans go sideways. They are aware that the best route to healing is to offer an objective compassionate ear as we sort out a new “normal.” Rye Presbyterian’s new class of Stephen Ministers is being commissioned on January 20.

If you or someone you know has felt the ripple effect of challenging circumstances as they move into a new year, contact the Rye Presbyterian Church clergy or Tav Rogers (914-400-3568; tav@rogers.fm) to learn more about how Stephen Ministry can help.

*Thank you to our
2018 Christmas Elves
for
The Greening of the Kirk*

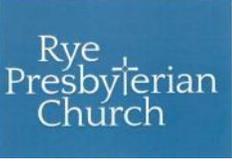


Daya Carunia, Philip Cicchiello, Dolores Eyler, Ashley Ginnings, Krysta Holland, Kristin Jautz, Lora Katsikas, Nancy Kennedy, Pam Moyer, Roger Moyer, Dee O’Brien, Allison Sellon, Ron Sizemore, Elizabeth Zahm, and, of course, a very special thank-you to our sextons, Juan Velasquez and Alonso Osorio.

The High School Youth Group brings caroling and Christmas cheer visits to Nesta d’Addario and Milly Cordtz



Adult Education, Coming Home, Positive Parenting



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

Opportunities
For Adult Education
And Spiritual Growth

Winter/Spring
2019

SUNDAY MORNINGS
9:00-9:45 A.M.,
WESTMINSTER ROOM



FEASTING
on the **WORD**

January 6—June 9

Feasting on the Word engages adults in a deeper exploration of biblical texts. Join us for this lectionary-based study as we explore the scriptural texts that are used in worship. Each session is a stand-alone session, so participants can join the study at any point.

(There will be no class on the following holiday weekends: 1/20, 2/17, 4/21, 4/28, 5/26)

SPECIAL EVENTS



An Evening
in the
Archives

Tuesday, January 29, 7:30 p.m.,
Westminster Room

An evening with Dan Love looking at archived pictures of the life of our church. We'll tour through the history of the building in various stages of its development, and look through pictures of the people of RPC's history. All are welcome, but if you have a longer tenure at the church, your help would be particularly valued as we try to put names to some of the many faces of those who made up this congregation before us.



“COMING HOME” PROGRAM IS COMING BACK!

Thursdays, January 31 — May 30,
with Graduation on 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. To volunteer to serve as a mentor, please contact Pastor Miller at jmiller@ryepc.com.
- **Guest Speakers**—presenters are needed to teach networking, job-searching, and other skills.
- **Cooks and Hosts**—each evening begins with a meal prepared and served by RPC congregants who share table fellowship before the program begins. To volunteer to help with a meal, please contact our Meals Coordinator, Linda Otness, at: otness.linda@gmail.com.

For more information, contact Mr. Kevin Bunch, Program Coordinator, at savedmedic2001@yahoo.com or at (914) 473-2221; or Pastor John Miller at jmiller@ryepc.com or at 914-967-0842.

Women's Association Presents



Positive Parenting

Sunday, January 13
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Assembly Room

RSVP: susangim@gmail.com

Come meet Ann Magalhaes as she leads a discussion on Positive Parenting. The first hour will focus on a central module of her practice: *Descriptive Praise*. We hope it will be useful for all types of caretakers (moms, dads, and grandparents) and for children of all ages.

We will follow the information session with a mixer—a great opportunity to meet and mingle with other parents in the RPC community as well.



Ann Magalhaes: Ann has been leading parenting courses and workshops since 2008. She trained and worked with the Parent Practice in London until 2013 when she moved to Rye. She has since taught the Positive Parenting Course and workshops in NYC, and in Westchester and Fairfield Counties. She holds a BA in Japanese Language & Literature and Spanish Studies from the University of Toronto and an MBA from Canada's Richard Ivey School of Business. She is currently serving on the Heard in Rye committee and is an Executive Board member with Five Steps to Five, where she also volunteers her time teaching parenting in Port Chester.





Christian Education, Confirmation

Sunday School

This month we are celebrating the season after the Epiphany. It is a season that invites us to open ourselves to new insights, new understandings, and new ways. Each week we will encounter Jesus proclaiming release, recovery, and liberation; and we will be encouraged to strive, live, and grow into the people God intends. Below are the themes and texts for each week. We invite families to join us by engaging these stories together at home!

Jan 6: Matthew 2:1-12

(Following the Star)

Jan 13: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

(Remembering God's Promises)

Jan 20: John 2:1-11 (Witnessing God's New Way in the World)

Enrichment Sunday

Jan 27: Luke 4:14-21

(Shaped by God's Word)

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 this newsletter, please contact Jean-Paul Marshall (jmarshall@ryepc.com).

Middle School Connection

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

We meet twice this month—

Wednesdays, January 9 and 23

from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Youth Rooms downstairs.

High School Youth Group

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

Sunday, January 6,

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Youth Rooms

We will start off the new year with some pizza and games! We will also talk about our Midnight Run event on March 2, when a group of 10 high school youth and 4 adults will join Larchmont Avenue Presbyterian Church for a run that night.

For those hoping to join us for Midnight Run, we will discuss sign-ups for this first-come, first-served event.

Sunday, January 27,

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Youth Rooms

We will gather to talk more about gathering donations and preparing for our Midnight Run event in March. If you are registered for Midnight Run, please try your best to attend this gathering. All are welcome to join us in these preparations!

We are on Instagram!

Username: ryepresyouth
(click [here](#)).

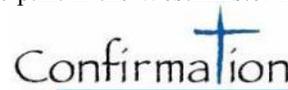
Updates through GroupMe!

Please email your name and phone number - jmarshall@ryepc.com.

Confirmation 2019

Sundays, January 6, 13, and 27

5:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room



Middle School Connection Helps Thrift Shop to Deck the Halls with Christmas Cheer

The Connection group met with Thrift Shop volunteers this holiday season to learn about philanthropy in our church and to assist with setting up for the next day's Thrift Shop sale. It was an evening of fun and fellowship for both groups which resulted in a festive and unique presentation of holiday items. *Thank you to all who helped!*



2019 Summer High School Mission Trips to New Orleans



Continuing our work in places of need, this year there will be two trips to New Orleans: June 30-July 6 and August 4-10. We will continue our partnership with Rebuilding Together New Orleans and will stay at Trinity Episcopal Church's Molly House for lodging. Sign-ups 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.

Please contact Jean-Paul Marshall

(jmarshall@ryepc.com) with any questions.

Weekends in January, Bible Study

Saturday, January 5

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

Sunday, January 6

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
Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message.

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class / Westminster Room

6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group / Youth Rooms

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

Saturday, January 12

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

Sunday, January 13

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 Sunday

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

4:00 p.m. Positive Parenting / Assembly Room

5:00 p.m. Confirmation / Westminster Room

Saturday, January 19

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

Sunday, January 20

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
Commissioning of Stephen Ministers
Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message.

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

Saturday, January 26

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

Sunday, January 27

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
Ordination & Installation of Officers
Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message.

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class / Westminster Room

6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group / Youth Rooms

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

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sundays, January 6 and 27, at 8:00 p.m. in the Library

This month, the men of Sunday evenings will be continuing their work through the letters of Peter. If you'd like to join in and be a part of this ongoing fellowship and conversation, plan to gather on Sunday evenings, January 6, and 27, at 8:00 p.m. in the church Library. Contact [Dan Love](#) if you'd like to be on email reminder list.

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion

Wednesdays, January 9 and 23,
at 10:00 a.m. in the Library

Our journey through the Hebrew Scripture with video series "The Bible Project" continues this month. We've just finished the five books of the Pentateuch—on to the holy land! All are welcome to join in this ongoing reading and discussion. We meet every other Wednesday, starting January 9. Contact [Dan Love](#) if you'd like to be on email reminder list.

Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, January 12 and 26

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
(desantiscw@aol.com).



ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Sunday, January 27,
during 10:00 a.m. worship

NEW OFFICER ORIENTATION

Saturday, January 5, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Westminster Room

RPC OFFICER RETREAT

Saturday, January 5, 12:00 noon-3:30 p.m.
Westminster Room

Contemplative Saturday at 5 Service January 26 in the Chapel

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 3,
following 10:00 a.m. worship

January Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

**CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDINGS CLOSED
TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEAR'S DAY
AND MONDAY, JANUARY 21, MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Wednesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m., Library
Trustees: Wednesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room
Session: Wednesday, January 23, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

WORSHIP AND STUDY

Worship on Saturday evening:

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., January 5, 12, 19, & 26 (Contemplative Worship)

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:

Feasting on the Word: January 6, 13 & 27 (*no class on January 20—MLK Day weekend*)

An Evening in the Archives: Tuesday, January 29, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

Sunday School: Regular Sunday School on January 6, 13, & 27. Enrichment Sunday on January 20.

Confirmation: Sundays, Westminster Room, 5:00 p.m., January 6, 13, & 27

Men's Sunday Bible Study: January 6 & 27, 8:00 p.m., Library

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion: January 9 & 23, 10:00 a.m., Library

Women's Bible Study: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m., January 12 & 26, Library

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

YOUTH

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

Connection: Wednesdays, January 9 & 23, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms;

High School Youth Group: Sunday, January 6, 6:00 p.m., Youth Rooms; Sunday, January 27, 6:00 p.m., Youth Rooms

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: Thursdays/Sundays TBD

OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

3 Ts: Tuesday, January 15, 10:00 a.m., Library

Coming Home Reunion Dinner: Thursday, January 17, 6:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Coming Home Dinners: Beginning Thursday, January 31, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Mission & Outreach: Wednesday, January 9, 7:30 p.m., Library

Positive Parenting: Sunday, January 13, 4:00 p.m., Assembly Room

RPC New Officer Orientation: Saturday, January 5, 9:00 a.m., Westminster Room

RPC Officer Retreat: Saturday, January 5, 12:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Stephen Ministry:

Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, January 8, 5:30 p.m., Library

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesday, January 8, 7:00 p.m., Library

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

Women's Association Monthly Meeting: Monday, January 8, 9:00 a.m., Library

Worship & Music: Wednesday, January 9, 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., Library

Helping Hands: Thursday, January 17, 10:00 a.m., Kitchen & Assembly Room

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School held its annual Holiday Caroling Party on Saturday, December 1. The event is funded by sponsorships and all proceeds go towards tuition scholarships for the up-



coming school year. Parents and staff volunteered to organize and run the event. The festivities for the party included a sing-along with children's musicians from Songs for Seeds, an outdoor petting zoo, and a horse-drawn hay ride.



For the art project, the children created "self-portrait ornaments" on natural wood circles.



Families enjoyed buying delicious homemade treats from the bake sale and getting their photo taken with Santa.



Beautiful themed baskets for children were given away in our annual raffle. During the week before the party, the students in each classroom made an ornament to adorn the Christmas tree in the church Assembly Room.



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

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

[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

[Nancy Lavelle](#), Staff Assistant

[Denise LeVan](#), Pastoral Assistant

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

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