

January's Song

by Ann Weems

There is a rumor on the streets
that Christmas is over.
Lights and ornaments are packed away,
trees dragged to the curb,
people back to business as usual.
We're no longer in the party mood;
humbugging is back in vogue.
This is January....
How can Christmas be over?!
The Child is just newborn,
the song of Peace and Goodwill
still rings in our ears.
The shepherds and sages still kneel
to this One who is born to us...
just born to us!
How can Christmas be over??
The story of the gospel is just beginning.
We who saw the Star
now live in its Light.
We who saw and heard
now believe.
Christmas is not over.
We're just beginning
to follow this One
who calls us now to
live in the Light of Love.
Christmas is not over.
It's just beginning
and this is January's song!!



As we enjoy the memories of Christmas now past – as we sweep up the needles and pack away all the decorations, may we hear and live Ann Weems' words. Christmas is not over! Even as life returns to "normal," Immanuel continues to be "God with us," Joy has come to the World, the Word made flesh is here– bringing light and life around us and in us. May it be known and seen in your life. May it be known as we gather as a church – as we worship together, study together, baptize children, ordain new officers, provide for the needy, and plan for the future.... Christmas is not over – this is January's song!



*Christmas Tree-Lighting
at RPC 2017*



Cantata Sunday: Approximately 400 people attended this year's Cantata Sunday as Jason Charneski led the RPC chancel choir, soloists, and 25 instrumentalists in a performance of John Rutter's "Magnificat." Following was a festive coffee hour coordinated by Joan Gansfuss and Sally Beatty.

Adult Education

DYNAMIC ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON CALENDAR FOR WINTER/SPRING 2018

With John Miller's creative leadership, the Adult Education Committee has developed an exciting series of programs for the winter/spring 2018 "semester."

9:00 to 9:45 AM study time. Something new is on the docket for this time period. Every week (except holiday weekends) we will use a lectionary-based guide to explore the scriptural texts that will be used in worship that morning. This will enable you to have a leg up on understanding the connection between the Scriptures and the sermon to be preached that morning.

Each week is a stand-alone session, so you can come at any time. The discussions will be led by staff and church members, and based on the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum. This new approach will give everyone who comes an opportunity to experience the connection between the Biblical word and the word proclaimed through the sermon which follows at 10:00 a.m. We hope many of you will come and share this experience.

SPECIAL EVENING EVENT: On January 28 and February 11, we will screen *13th* in the Westminster Room from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This is a powerful documentary based on the unintended consequences of the words of the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution, which outlawed slavery, "except as a punishment for crime." Slowly, but surely, this exception has led to the "prison/industrial complex" and the era of mass incarceration, especially of African Americans, in which we live today.

Due to the length of the film, we will air the first half on January 28, followed by discussion; and the second half, with a discussion, will air on February 11. Come to both, but if you can

only attend one part, come to it; each half will give you a clearer understanding of how America has become the world leader in prison population. This program is open to the community—so invite your friends and neighbors to join you!

LENTEN SERIES: *Aging Well.* Led by Dr. Miller, this five week study will use a monograph on aging from a theological perspective, plus the book *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. This program will be on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., in the Library from February 13 to March 20 (except for February 27). Whatever your age, mark your calendar for this important exploration of preparing ourselves for aging.

We will also present two evening sessions during Lent on "**My Song is Love Unknown: A Survey of Music for Holy Week,**" taught by Jason Charneski. **Dates:** Mondays, March 5 and 19, 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

BOOK STUDY: Dan Love will lead a book study on *The Gift of Failure* by Jessica Lahey, which focuses on the critical school years when parents must learn to allow their children to experience the disappointment and frustration that occur from life's inevitable problems so that they can grow up to be successful, resilient, and self-reliant adults. **Dates:** Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24; May 1, 7:30 p.m., in the Library.

As you can see, the Winter/Spring "semester" of Adult Education is filled with fascinating opportunities for learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth. We hope you will join us at as many of these exciting events as possible.

Rye
Presbyterian
Church

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

Opportunities
For Adult Education
And Spiritual Growth
Winter/Spring
2018

SUNDAY MORNINGS
9:00-9:45 A.M., WESTMINSTER ROOM,
JANUARY 7-JUNE 10

(THERE WILL BE NO CLASS ON THE FOLLOWING
HOLIDAY WEEKENDS:
JANUARY 14, 18, APRIL 1, MAY 27.)



FEASTING
on the WORD.

How does your faith formation and worship integrate with your knowledge and experience of the world? Adults see the world through the filter of life experience and life transitions. Adults enter Bible study and worship with this variety of views. *Feasting on the Word* engages adults in a deeper exploration of biblical texts.

This lectionary-based study will be facilitated by both staff and church members as we explore the scriptural texts that will be used in worship each Sunday. Faith is enhanced when the Scriptures read and proclaimed in worship are expanded on during our studies together. Each session is a stand-alone session, so participants can join the study at any point. Education and worship can be mutually supportive in helping God's word come alive in the Sunday morning experience.



January 28 &
February 11
7:00-9:00 p.m.,
Westminster Room

Ava DuVernay's powerful documentary *13th* introduces the words of the thirteenth amendment of the United States Constitution: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." *13th* argues that although slavery was abolished in 1865, this clause legally embedded and allowed a form of enslavement into American institutions. *13th* is a historical survey that directly links slavery to today's prison-industrial complex. The film traces the 150-year-old history of race, incarceration, and disempowerment of minority communities in America. By the end of the Jim Crow era and the Civil Rights movements, the U.S. saw an end to legal segregation. What followed was a more surreptitious form of racial control as open violence and discrimination were replaced by the racially-coded rhetoric of "law and order" and the "war on crime."

Due to length of film, we'll watch the first half followed by discussion on January 28. Two weeks later we'll watch the second half, followed by discussion. (Film not rated, but does include some graphic scenes and images of violence.)

Coming Home, Christmas Elves, Stephen Ministry, Empty Bowls



“COMING HOME” PROGRAM IS COMING BACK!

Thursdays, January 25—June 3
Dinner from 7:00-8:00 p.m.
All are welcome for dinner in the
Westminster Room

The **Coming Home** program is an extension of our long-standing Prison Ministry. In collaboration with The Beck Institute on

Religion and Poverty at Fordham University, Coming Home seeks to empower those who are returning to the community from incarceration. This 18-week program pairs RPC congregants with the formerly incarcerated to help them transition back to their communities. Coming Home provides life skills, goal-setting, and sharing personal stories in a safe and supportive community.

Our Coming Home ministry offers various volunteer opportunities:

- **Mentors**—congregants who are paired with participants, supporting, encouraging, and journeying with them through the program.
- **Guest Speakers**—presenters are needed to teach 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.

For more information, contact Charles Lewis, Program Coordinator, at charleslewis2357@gmail.com or at 929-441-0659; or Pastor John Miller at jmiller@rvepc.com, or at 914-967-0842.

Funding for the third year of this ministry is coming from generous gifts made to the Imagine Initiative.



*Thank you to our
2017 Christmas Elves for
The Greening of the Kirk...*



*Philip Cicchiello, Andy Goodenough,
Kristin Jautz, Lora Katsikas,
Pam and Roger Moyer, Katrin Naalapaa,
Dee O'Brien, Addy Park,
Ron Sizemore, Sarah Snell, Sally Tobin,
Birgit Townley, Terry Ann Weil,
Elizabeth Zahm, and, of course,
a very special thank-you to
Juan Velasquez and Alonso Osorio.*

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 our circumstances and learn about our new “normal.”

If you or someone you know has felt their new year suffered a rough start, contact the Rye Presbyterian Church clergy or Tav Rogers (914-400-3568; tav@rogers.fm) to learn more about how Stephen Ministry can help.

Empty Bowls is back! Sunday, January 28!



After a season of gifts and holiday meals, the **Empty Bowls Project** is an annual reminder that people right here in our area still go hungry. This year, for our 17th time, potters from the Clay Arts Center in Port Chester will be working with the middle school youth of our church to bring **Empty Bowls** to RPC.

Following worship on January 28, all are invited to the RPC Assembly Room. There you will find beautiful ceramic bowls created and donated by local artists. With the purchase of a bowl, guests receive a meal of soup made and donated by Cornerstone Caterers. Bread donated by the Kneaded Bread will be there to complement the soup. After the meal, the bowls are to be taken home as a reminder that amid all that we have, there is always someone with an empty bowl.

With all food, bowls, and help donated by local talent, the entire proceeds will be donated to the Town of Rye Interfaith Soup Kitchens in Port Chester. Since its inception in 2000, the Empty Bowls event has raised nearly \$75,000! Come, be a part of this great event!





Christian Education, Confirmation

Sunday School

December was a wonderful, blessed, activity-filled month in Sunday School! As we started the season of Advent, the classes listened to stories based on the scriptures of Isaiah about watching, waiting, and praying for the good news of the arrival of our Savior Jesus to be born on Christmas Day. As they waited for this day, the children prayed every Sunday around the Advent Wreath and through many Christmas activities they learned about being patient, joyous, and hopeful for the good news of Jesus' birth.



Our Family Fellowship event, Gingerbread House decorating, was a HUGE hit!!! We had almost 45 families (130 people) fill the Assembly Room with fun, laughter and Christmas Spirit



to create their Gingerbread House masterpieces. This event really reminds us of what the Season of Advent is all about: family, friends, love, hope, peace, and joy!!!



On December 3, the children gathered in the Chapel for Singing Our Faith with Lisa Rawson. The children sounded magical as they sang many Christmas songs together. Click on the following links to see the children sing and hear the beautiful music.

[Singing Our Faith—1](#)

[Singing Our Faith—2](#)

In January, the time for new beginnings, the children will hear stories called "Jesus is Baptized," "Did You Call Me?" "Jesus Calls Some Helpers," and "The Power of Love." These stories are based on the scriptures of Mark and Samuel. The stories touch on Jesus as a powerful teacher and healer and what it means to follow Jesus and to bring God's love into the world. Children will feel that they are loved by God each and every day!

Dates:

January 7: Sunday School
January 14: Sunday School
January 21: Sunday School
January 28: Sunday School and Singing Our Faith

Middle School Connection

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

Wednesdays, January 3 & 10

Getting ready for the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser by making bowls at the Clay Art Center
 5:30-6:45 p.m.

The CAC is at 40 Beech St. in Port Chester—a right turn off Midland just past Grace Church St. and the firehouse. It is the first building on the right.

**Regular Meeting—
 Wednesday, January 24,
 5:30-6:45 p.m. at RPC**

Sunday, January 28—Empty Bowls

Immediately following worship—soup, bread, and awesome bowls made by local potters (and the Connection group) - all proceeds benefit local soup kitchens. **Middleschoolers staff the event!**

High School Youth Group

Happy New Year!

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

Sunday, January 7,

6:00-7:30 p.m.: Dinner & Fellowship,
 RPC Youth Rooms

It was such a great time meeting some of the youth on Sunday, December 10! The Millers so graciously provided their house and a meal, creating a space for me and the youth to get to know each other some. The youth extended such a warm welcome to me and my wife as we shared stories and ideas about the church's youth ministry going forward.

Let's begin the New Year by keeping those conversations going! Join us on Sunday evening, January 7, for dinner and fellowship. Time will be spent planning the rest of the year's activities, so come with ideas. I look forward to seeing you all again!

Contact [Jean-Paul Marshall](#) with any questions.

Confirmation 2018

Sunday, January 7,

4:00 p.m. (A-L) and 5:00 p.m. (M-Z)
 Westminster Room

Sunday, January 21,

4:00 p.m. (M-Z) and 5:00 p.m. (A-L)
 Westminster Room

Sunday, January 28,

4:00 p.m. (A-L) and 5:00 p.m. (M-Z)
 Westminster Room

Confirmation

Connection and Thrift Shop, Cantata Sunday, Rye Women's Interfaith



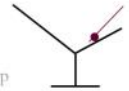
Middle School Connection Helps Thrift Shop to Deck the Halls with Christmas Cheer

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!*

Concert by

THE HIGHER KEYS

Brown University's oldest & premier co-ed a cappella group



Brown University's oldest & premier co-ed a cappella group.

**Thursday, January 18
7:30 p.m.
Assembly Room**

Donations received will support RPC's "Coming Home" ministry.

Click [here](#) for their website to learn more and to hear them sing!

The Rye Women's Interfaith Annual Conference & Reception



Sunday, January 21, 2018 (Snow Date: January 28)

3:00 PM—Registration / 3:30 PM—Program

Rye Presbyterian Church

882 Boston Post Road, Rye, NY 10580

"Women Under Threat - Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking"

Featuring: Kym McNair



Kym McNair is the Coordinator for Community Education and Engagement for My Sisters' Place, a domestic violence agency located in Westchester County, New York. In her role as Training Coordinator, she facilitates trainings throughout Westchester County for healthcare professionals, law enforcement, college students, and religious communities to help them recognize and respond to Domestic/Intimate Partner violence in their professional and personal lives. Kym represents My Sisters' Place in the North East Westchester Domestic Abuse Alliance (NEW-DAA).

Conference & Reception \$15.00 (not refundable)

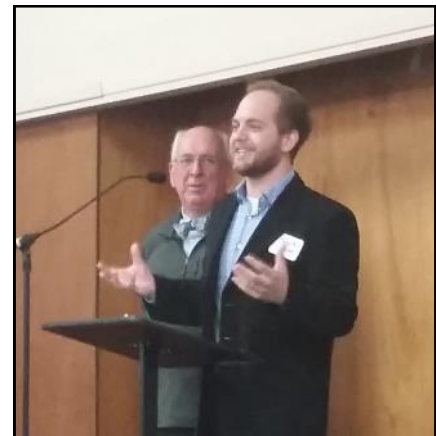
RSVP by Wednesday, January 17, 2018 to

Mrs. Marianne Egan (914) 921-1032, 9 Plymouth Road, Rye, NY 10580
(Please make your check payable to Rye Women's Interfaith Committee.

For more information, please call:

Caroll at (914) 967-8353 or Lynn at (914) 921-0177.

**Christ's Church • Church of the Resurrection •
Community Synagogue of Rye • Rye Presbyterian Church**



Congratulations to Jean-Paul Marshall! Having passed his examination before the Hudson River Presbytery, Jean-Paul will be ordained on January 14 at his home church in Mesquite, Texas.

STEWARDSHIP 2018

A heartfelt thank-you to all who have sent in your 2018 pledges – you have stepped up with faithfulness and generosity!

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

282 pledges for \$1,126,000 – up 6.6% from 2017!

Still the time to be included!

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

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

Weekends in January, Bible Study

Saturday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 7

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.

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

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

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

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

Saturday, January 13

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

Sunday, January 14

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
Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message.

Saturday, January 20

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

Sunday, January 21

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.

3:00 p.m. Rye Women's Interfaith Conf. / Assembly Room

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

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

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

Saturday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 28

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

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

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

9:30 a.m. Children's Choir rehearsal / Chapel

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
Ordination & Installation of Officers

Children's Choir sings

Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message.

11:00 a.m. Empty Bowls / Assembly Room

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

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

7:00 p.m. Adult Ed Movie: *13th*, part 1 / Westminster Room

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sundays, January 7 and 21, at 8:00 p.m. in the Library

This month, the men of Sunday evenings will be continuing their work through the psalms. If you'd like to join in and be a part of this ongoing fellowship and conversation, please to gather on Sunday evenings, January 7, and 21, 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 3, 17, and 31,
at 10:00 a.m. in the Library**

Our journey through the "greatest hits" of the Old Testament/ Hebrew Scriptures continues. We've just moved into Exodus to see what Moses is up to! All are welcome to join in this ongoing reading and discussion. Contact [Dan Love](#) if you'd like to be on email reminder list.

Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, January 6 and 20

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](#).



ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Sunday, January 28,
during 10:00 a.m. worship

NEW OFFICER ORIENTATION

Saturday, January 6, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Westminster Room

RPC OFFICER RETREAT

Saturday, January 6, 12:00 noon-3:30 p.m.
Westminster Room

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 4,
following 10:00 a.m. worship

January Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

**CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDINGS CLOSED
MONDAY, JANUARY 1, IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEAR'S DAY
AND MONDAY, JANUARY 15, MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 p.m., Library
Trustees: Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room
Session: Wednesday, January 24, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

WORSHIP AND STUDY

Worship on Saturday evening:

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., January 6, 13, 20, & 27

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 7, 21 & 28 (*no class on January 14—MLK Day weekend*)

Special Event: Viewing of Ava DuVernay's documentary, *13th*, Sundays, January 28 and February 11, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Sunday School: Regular Sunday School on January 7, 14, 21, & 28

Confirmation: Sundays, Westminster Room, January 7 (A-L at 4:00 p.m., M-Z at 5 p.m.);

January 21 (M-Z at 4:00 p.m., A-L at 5 p.m.); & January 28 (A-L at 4:00 p.m., M-Z at 5 p.m.)

Men's Sunday Bible Study: January 7 & 21, 8:00 p.m., Library

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion: January 3, 17, & 31, 10:00 a.m., Library

Women's Bible Study: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m., January 6 & 20, 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 3 & 10, 5:30 p.m., Clay Art Center, and January 24, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms;

Sunday, January 28, Empty Bowls, immediately following 10:00 a.m. worship

High School Youth Group: Sunday, January 7, 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 16, 10:00 a.m., Library

Coming Home: Thursday, January 25, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Empty Bowls: Sunday, January 28, following 10:00 a.m. worship, Assembly Room

Mission & Outreach: Wednesday, January 10, 7:30 p.m., Library

Music Concert: Higher Keys, Brown University a cappella group, Thursday, January 18, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room

RPC Officer Orientation: Saturday, January 6, 9:00 a.m., Westminster Room

RPC Officer Retreat: Saturday, January 6, 12:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Rye Women's Interfaith Conference: Sunday, January 21, 3:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Stephen Ministry:

Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, January 16, 5:30 p.m., Library

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 p.m., Library

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

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 18, 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 2. The event is funded



by sponsorships and all proceeds go towards tuition scholarships for the upcoming 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 hayride. Our studio teacher, Gail Walter, organized a fun art project for the children using canvases and acrylic paint.

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 Lavalle](#), Staff Assistant

[Denise LeVan](#), Pastoral Assistant

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

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