

The Broadcaster

Rose City Park Presbyterian Church

November 2012



Friends;

The following article crossed my desk and, as the election season winds towards its end and we prepare to celebrate our national day of Thanksgiving, it seemed compelling enough to share with you. The author, Terry C. Muck, is Interim Executive Director of the Louisville Institute, a Lilly Endowment-funded program based at Louisville Seminary. Its fundamental mission is to enrich the religious life of American Christians and to encourage the revitalization of their institutions.

Blessings,

Rev. David C. Dornack

ARE WE ALL ONE IN JESUS CHRIST?

As we move inexorably toward another polarizing presidential election, it is worth taking a moment to reflect on the effects of such polarization. We are a divided country, filled with cultures at war with other cultures and within themselves. Not just Republicans and Democrats, but rich-poor, urban-rural, black-white, progressives-conservatives, and many more. What is the endgame of such chronic conflict?

There was a time when we could make the case that conflict, especially conflict of ideas, was a good and necessary thing. We do not agree on everything. Talking about our disagreements produces better effects than letting them fester into hate. So conflict, managed conflict, helps create societies that function well.

I believe there is still truth in such an argument, but am also becoming increasingly convinced that something is going on today that makes it moot. The public and private conflicts we see happening today do not eventuate in agreements, or even agreements to disagree, but in commitments to more conflict. Conflict has ceased being a means to an end, and has become an end in itself. We fight one another not to achieve peace or freedom or unity or other laudable ends. We fight one another in the expectation that we will keep on fighting.

What kind of a culture does this chronic conflict create? Aside from the obvious answer that it will lead to more of the same, what does chronic conflict lead toward for people who see what is going on and want to stop it? Are we doomed to participate, or is there a way out?

We have always had conflicts of one sort or another, of course, and we have always had “ways out.” I grew up in the sixties and my generation opted out by living on the streets of San Francisco, or forming utopian communities, or starting house churches—all in the name of dropping out of institutions we saw as part of the problem.

In other eras, people dropped out of unjust economic systems by becoming “free-riders” or by creating “black markets” for proscribed goods or cheaper prices. In order to avoid restrictive political parties, the idea of a “third party” is often tried (and usually found wanting). Usually these efforts fail in themselves, but create the conditions that bring about reform in the unjust political, economic, or social structures they seek to replace.

What is worrying about our current divisions, however, is a pervasive sense of hopelessness that such reforms have any chance of working—that our divisions can be overcome, or at least coped with, and that our larger society can be made productive again. One of the downsides of globalization and computers is that “dropping out” of society and working in the margins is almost impossible. With “big brother” watching there is almost no place to run, no place to hide. Hopeless. (Continued on page 2.)

ROSE CITY FAMILY NEWS

Thank You

Thank you so much for your educational gift for my graduate studies. I am pursuing a Master's degree in Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Nevada, Reno, in addition to being a teaching assistant in the department. Your gift has helped make this path possible for me, and it feels wonderful to be supported by my church family!

—Laura Sechrist

My family and I want to thank the entire church for the love extended during Dave's illness and death. Sharing his sermon was very important to him, so thank you for embracing the thoughts of an "ordinary" guy. I want to thank the chancel remodeling committee for giving us the opportunity to see the window in place while Dave was with us.

There are so many individuals to thank. Dave enjoyed his breakfasts with the guys and the cards and emails that helped him know that people cared. I continue to be comforted by the memories shared in the many cards and emails.

Rose City Park is a wonderful family. Thank you all.

—Cynthia Greene

Directory Changes

Alexander Wendeheart,
33 Richmond Rd #302
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Kris Reinhardt,
1477 Bedford Ave #4
Brooklyn NY 11216

With Sympathy

Dale Olson passed away on September 22nd in Portland, OR. No services were held.

David "Dave" Greene passed away on October 5th in Portland, OR. Services were held in sanctuary on October 20th with Rev. David Dornack officiating.

New Babies

Sarah-Lynn Marie Betz was born September 4th in Portland, OR. Parents are Nicole & Chad Betz; grandparents are Ray & Kris Amling; great-grandparents are John Amling and Howard & Veona Postlewaite; aunt and uncles are Tori & Greg Field and Matthew Amling.

FLOWERS IN WORSHIP

Do you want to honor an occasion or a loved one with flowers from your garden or favorite vendor? If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday worship, please phone the church office to schedule a Sunday. The narthex flower calendar was little used and we are seeing how things go without one!

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

Due to staff changes in December, the Annual Report deadline is early this year—please get your committee or group's report to the church office by **November 11th**. This early deadline means you won't have to think about your report at all between Thanksgiving and Christmas! Thank you so much for your understanding.

Continued from page 1:

Hopelessness usually breeds fantasies, and we have our share of those. Jimmy Buffet sings of pirates and Willie Nelson sings of cowboys, idealizing cultures that have dropped out and are free. Survivalists take to the woods and try to live off the grid: The system cannot be fixed; let's wait until it fails, and then rise from the ashes. Instead of putting our money under the mattress, we stash it in offshore back [sic] accounts. These are indeed fantasies and either do not get enacted or fail entirely.

What to do? I am convinced that the church has an important role to play in helping us through this particular dark night. The church realizes that this is not ultimately a problem of politics or economics or social concern, even though it usually takes those forms. At root it is a spiritual problem, exacerbated by our theological tendency to ignore the ultimately transcendent nature of our faith, or as the apostle Paul put it, "this world is not our home." We tend to domesticate the remnant of transcendence that we still cling to, reducing our problems to material ones (politics, economics) or psychological ones (rooted in alienation or anomie).

"We are all one in Christ Jesus" may sound hopelessly pietistic, perhaps even escapist, but until we embrace the idea (or are embraced by it), all our other efforts will fail miserably. With it, however, we have the anchor that makes our efforts at political reform and social change, realistic and worth doing. It is the only story we have to tell. We are the only ones telling it.

—Terry C. Muck

NOVEMBER

Thurs. 1st

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sat. 3rd

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Coat Giveaway Part II

Sun. 4th

Daylight Savings Time Ends

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir
10 a.m. Communion Worship
11 a.m. Church School
11:30 a.m. Adult Ed. Comm.
2 p.m. BCC concert

Tues. 6th

5 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wed. 7th

10 a.m. Martha Service
5:30 p.m. Endowment Comm.
7 p.m. Worship & Arts Comm.

Thurs. 8th

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sun. 11th

Veteran's Day;
Annual Reports are due
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Children/Adult Education
12 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Mon. 12th

9:45 a.m. Veteran's Day Parade on Sandy Blvd.
7:30 p.m. Christian Ed. Comm.

Tues. 13th

10 a.m. Rose City Writers
7 p.m. Sarah Circle

Wed. 14th

9:30 a.m. Bldg. & Grnds Comm.
1:30 p.m. Searchers ChristCare
7 p.m. Reading in the Evening

Thurs. 15th

1 p.m. Lectio Divina
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sat. 17th

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Antique & Artisan Holiday Faire

Sun. 18th

Stewardship Sunday

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir
10 a.m. Thanksgiving Worship
11 a.m. Children/Adult Education
11:20 a.m.-1 p.m. Antique & Artisan Holiday Faire
12 p.m. Holiday Orchestra

Mon. 19th

7 p.m. Prayer Shawls

Wed. 21st

7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Our Lady of Lavang

Thurs. 22nd

Thanksgiving Day;
Building Closed



Fri. 23rd

Church Building Closed

Sun. 25th

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir
10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Church School
12 p.m. Holiday Orchestra

Tues. 27th

10 a.m. Rose City Writers

Thurs. 29th

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

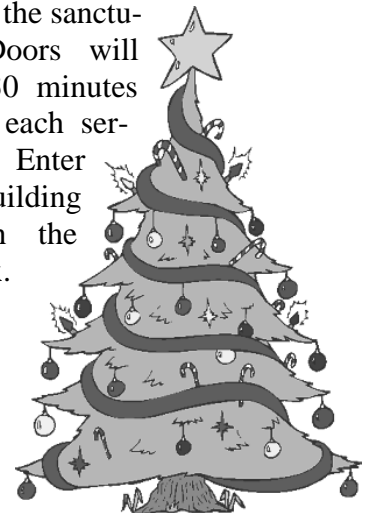
THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Gather for Thanksgiving Eve Worship on Wednesday, November 21st at 7:30 p.m., hosted by Our Lady of Lavang Catholic Parish: 5404 Northeast Alameda Street. There is a large parking lot through metal gates with a big sign that says "Lavang". The chapel where we are worshipping is the first building on the right on the walkway between buildings; the main door is at the west end of the building by a garden. Father Dat Pham will preach the sermon. This ecumenical worship service includes representatives from several area congregations. Bring cookies to share with others after worship!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Early Eve Worship at 5 p.m. is a traditional Christmas Eve candlelight worship service for young and old, perfect for those who retire early.

Candlelight Communion Worship at 9 p.m. is a beautiful way to usher in the birth of Christ. The Chancel Choir will sing. Fellowship time follows this service with wassail and Christmas cookies in the parlor. Both services will be held in the sanctuary. Doors will open 30 minutes before each service. Enter the building through the narthex.



OFFICE CLOSURES

Note that on November 12th, the Veteran's Parade will make it difficult to access the church in the morning.

The church office will be closed on November 22nd and November 23rd for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

STAFF VACATIONS

Office Manager Romalia Stickney-Shibley will be out of the office November 19th-23rd.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

On Sunday, November 4th, remember to set your clocks back an hour!

LOOKING AHEAD

December 2—Advent Festival

December 16—Christmas Program with Holiday Orchestra

December 24—Christmas Eve worship at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.

YOUTH NEWS

CALLING ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Mark your calendars now! Christmas Program Rehearsals begin **November 18th** after worship during the education hour. We'll do casting, costuming and begin to work on parts and music on **the 18th and 25th** and take a break for the Advent Festival on December 2nd. We'll be back to work on **December 9th** with a full rehearsal and then present our program during worship on **December 16th**.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Teachers are remarkable people who give of their talents and time, but who most of all give of their love to the youngest in our church family.

Thank you to all who have generously volunteered to teach this fall and advent season, making RCPPC a place where children are cherished, welcomed and engaged in learning about God and how to live in community with one another. This is the way we grow a church. Church school happens after worship—the children gather with Donovan at the front of the church for the Benediction and then head to class and a snack. Our fabulous teachers are exploring the stories of Genesis with our children and will be getting ready for the Christmas Program. Parents can enjoy an Adult Discipleship class or an extended conversation over coffee hour.

CPYA 2012: *DON'T TEMPT ME*

High school youth from across the state gather at Aldersgate Retreat Center in Turner, Oregon **November 16th-18th**. The weekend is full of worship, group games, small group discussions and time to hang out with friends. The coffee shop, basketball court and miniature golf course are just some of the places youth will be able to spend their free time. Interested? Speak with Tori Field as soon as possible.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Middle School and High School youth meet every Sunday after worship until noon. We will meet in the tower room **November 4th and 11th** for our normal class time. The rest of the month we will meet in the celebration center to prepare for the Christmas program.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Our Adult and Christian Education Committees provide devotional materials for the Advent Season. This year, families with elementary aged children and younger will receive *My Very Own Christmas Prayer Book*. The committee will see that each family personally gets one of these devotionals. For adults and families with older children, *Awaiting the Wonder: Daily Reflections for Advent* will be available on the table in the upper narthex beginning November 25th. Only one booklet per family, please.

HOLIDAY ORCHESTRA

Hard to believe, but the holidays are fast approaching! Plans will be underway shortly for the annual RCPPC Holiday Orchestra provided there is enough interest in continuing this tradition. If you play a musical instrument and are interested in participating in the Holiday Orchestra, please contact Christopher by calling the church office or by emailing him at christopher.edwards@pdx.edu. Be sure to provide your name, the instrument you play, your level of experience (beginners are welcome!), and contact information.

VOX FEMINA AT RCPPC

On Sunday, **November 4th**, Portland State University's Vox Femina will provide the music for our morning worship service. Co-conducted by Christopher Edwards and Dr. Ethan Sperry, this outstanding 60-member auditioned women's choir will sing a selection of sacred music from its upcoming concert program on **November 9th and 11th**. Join us to hear Vox Femina's musical contribution to our worship at RCPPC!

ADULT EDUCATION

Our Adult Education program year is off to a great start. We've already enjoyed a wide variety of speakers and subjects, from changes in seminary education to understanding Medicare. On **November 11th and 18th**, we are excited to offer a two-part series on the history and symbolism of the art in our church building. On **December 9th** we look forward to meeting representatives of the group L'Arche. This is an organization that promotes authentic relationship between people with and without developmental disabilities through shared living. Their topic, "Welcoming the Stranger" will be especially meaningful during our Advent season.

SMALL GROUPS

SARAH CIRCLE

Join with other women to study the Presbyterian Women's Horizon Bible Study for 2012-13, *Dispatches to God's Household: the General Epistles*. These books were written not to a single Christian community but were designed to be read aloud publicly in many places or to individuals who would share the message with others. How do these small books affect our understanding of ourselves as part of God's household of faith?

Our meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month, September through June.

- **November 13th**: A Spiritual House and Household Matters
- **December 11th**: The Help

The companion book is \$8.80. Please see Donovan as soon as possible if you still need one. It is not too late to join us.

SEARCHERS CHRISTCARE

Searcher's ChristCare has begun again! We had a grand time at Yaw's. We have also begun our study of Presbyterians and Mormonism. We invite you to join us the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month beginning at 1:30 pm in the church library. Contact David Dornack if you need any more information. We will not be meeting on November 28th.

BOOK GROUPS

Read with your breakfast, of course, but best of all, come to share in thought-provoking discussion in the afternoon or in the evening.

Lectio Divina meets on the third Wednesday from 1-2:30 in the chapel. Upcoming dates—note substitute days:

- **November 15th**: *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* by Gayle Lemmon; Choose new books
- **December 19th**: Bring your favorite Christmas story

Reading in the Evening meets on the third Wednesdays from 7-8:30 in the church library. Upcoming dates and books:

- **November 14th**: *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht
- **December 19th**: *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We knit or crochet and pray together every 3rd Monday evening. We make prayer shawls, hats and mufflers. The work of our hands provides warmth and comfort and the sure knowledge that someone cares. And our companionship has become a rich and wonderful thing.

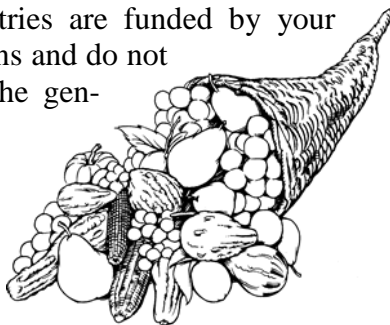
Next meetings: **November 19th** and **December 17th** at 7 p.m. in the church library.

NEXT SESSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Session will take place December 4th, 2012. **This will replace the meeting on November 20th.**

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

As in recent years, the special Thanksgiving Offering (the envelope is in your pledge envelope box) has been designated for the Deacons' Fund by action of the Session. We appreciate your support, realizing that our various ministries are funded by your Deacons' Fund donations and do not receive support from the general church budget.



DEACONS' CORNER

One of the ministries of the Deacons that extends beyond our immediate church family is quarterly donations to worthwhile non-profit organizations. One such organization is Fish Emergency Services, Inc., founded in 1967 and located on SE Hawthorne Blvd. It is a direct service agency that provides temporary assistance to individuals and families to meet basic needs—providing emergency food boxes, clothing, personal care items and referrals for those most in need. Fish helps 1700 people each month, and 87% of each donated dollar goes directly to program services.

Your Deacons' fund donations allow us to give tangible witness to Christ's teaching that "even as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me."

—Dave Bell, for the Deacons

NEW BOOKS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

In the mood to grab a new book and cuddle up in a warm chair this fall? Consider checking out one of these books in our church library, or one of the many others we have available!

- *The Wives of Henry Oades* by Johanna Mora
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- *East of the Sun* by Julia Gregson
- *Why Don't We Listen Better?* By James C. Petersen
- *Tea, Pie, Love and Reality* by Sally Petersen
- *Kingdomland* by Bart Tuma
- *Social-Science Commentary on Synoptic Gospels* by Bruce Malina and Richard Rohrbaugh
- *Listening for God* by Paula Carlson and Peter Hawkins
- *The Visible God—Poems* by Mark Talney
- *Forgiveness—Breaking the Chain* by Michael Henderson
- *Agape Love* by Sir John Templeton
- *Pure Unlimited Love* by Sir John Templeton
- *29 Gifts* by Cami Walker
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- *Songs from Heaven & Earth* by Jill and Stuart Briscoe

OUR YOUNGEST NEED YOU

The nursery is lovely and there are babies enjoying it! We need volunteers for nursery care every Sunday from 9:15 until noon. Our new choir director, Christopher Edwards, brings his daughter, Emmaline, to worship. You have heard her joyous praise. We have been wishing for these lovely miracles of new life, let's step up to help nurture and love them. **We still need gentle arms for our youngest in December and into the new year.** Call Donovan or Gretchen Lucas if you are able to volunteer.



ANTIQUÉ AND ARTISAN HOLIDAY FAIRE

The first-ever Antique and Artisan Faire will be open to the public on Saturday November 17th, from 9 a.m.-4p.m. and on the 18th following worship from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Please consider consigning that odd collectible/antique piece that you just don't have a place for any longer. There is a beautiful bulletin board outside the church office with some ideas of what could be consigned! We might be able to arrange to pickup your items if necessary. All consigning artisans need a sales number so please call Peggie Irvine-Page if you are planning on becoming involved in this fun event. Volunteers are needed to help on the day of the sale. Contact Peggie, Beverly Smith, Diane Hanken, Cynthia Church, or Cindy Robertson for details. 30% of proceeds benefit the RCPPC operating budget.

QUILT RAFFLE

Buy a raffle ticket and enter to win a lovely folk art appliqued quilt made by the Antique and Artisan Faire Committee. Pick up tickets during coffee fellowship or at the Faire on November 17th and 18th and help the Committee meet its goal of selling 200 tickets. It has been brought to our attention that the quilt would look fabulous in the children's library here at RCPPC. So if the quilt just wouldn't fit into your home decor, consider buying a ticket and donating it to the church if you are the very lucky winner. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

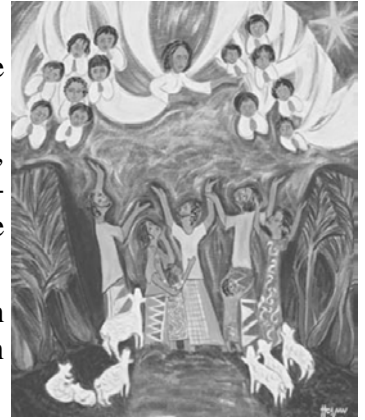


CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical assistance to Presbyterian church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling.

Beginning December 2nd, envelopes for the offering can be found in the pews or in the December/January issue of *The Broadcaster*. We will receive the offering on Sunday, December 23rd during worship.



STEWARDSHIP FOR 2013



“We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints . . . Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.”

—2 Corinthians, chapter 8:1-7

The affluent Corinthians glanced at each other knowingly. They had heard this pitch so many times before for so many good causes: Athens University, the Veterans of the Peloponnesian Wars (VPW), the Mars Hill Preservation Society. As Paul’s latest letter is read, they roll their eyes. *Here we go again. Well, if the poor Macedonians are doing their part, I guess we had better do ours.*

But in Second Corinthians, Paul throws them a curve ball. He says that the Christian motivation for giving is not one of doing one’s duty. It’s not an act of humanitarianism. It’s not keeping up with one’s fellow members.

Paul challenges us to do something extraordinary – to become a participant in Christ’s ongoing saving work through joyful and overflowing generosity. It’s a call to give joyfully and generously to experience a new way of living and share in God’s abundant grace. It’s certainly a message that we need to hear after four years of financial uncertainty.

Despite the economy, Rose City Park Presbyterian Church has a ministry and mission that is growing – honoring our wonderful people with a living wage and benefits; maintaining our extraordinary commitment to outreach and social justice; opening our home to new people and our community; and continuing our tradition of benevolence. It’s time for us to step up and accept Paul’s challenge to give with abundant joy and overflowing generosity.

So, like Paul, for the first time in many years, we are asking you to give more – not simply to meet our budget needs, but to maintain and grow our mission and ministry. And, if you haven’t pledged in the past, it’s time to join us with your gift commitment for 2013. It’s a bold statement that throughout giving, we become incredibly rich in joy and God’s abundant grace.

Over the next several weeks, we encourage each of you to pray for God’s guidance and carefully consider what it means to give joyfully to God – overflowing with generosity and thanks for all of the blessings poured into our lives. We look forward to your 2013 Stewardship pledge as an act of *Abundant Joy and Overflowing Generosity* on Stewardship Sunday on November 18th.

With joy in God’s abundance,

Your Stewardship Committee: Peter Bilotta, Roger Price, John Thoma and Rev. David Dornack

**Rose City Park
Presbyterian Church**
1907 NE 45th Avenue
Portland OR 97213

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Portland, Oregon

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**ROSE CITY PARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

phone 503-282-0965
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office@rosecityparkpres.org
www.rosecityparkpres.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

WORSHIP at 10:00 AM

CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

9:30 am nursery Birth—3 years
11 am 4 years—5th grade
11:10 am MS & HS Youth
11:20 am Adult

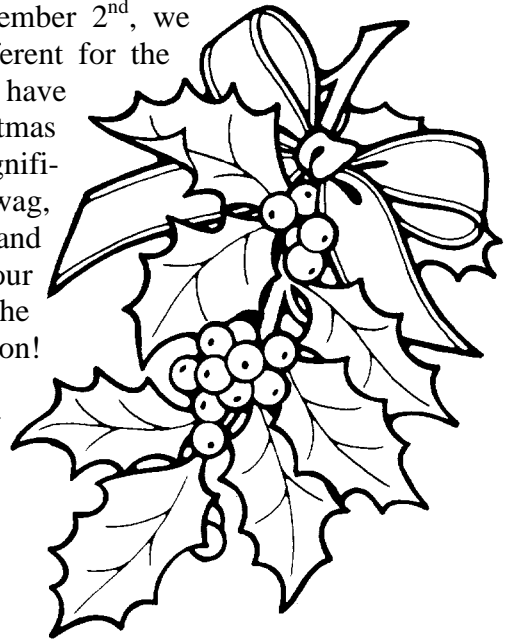
CHURCH STAFF

- David C. Dornack, Pastor
david@rosecityparkpres.org
- Donovan Burkert-Kerr, Prog. Coord.
donavan@rosecityparkpres.org
- Tori Field, Youth Activities Coord.
tori@rosecityparkpres.org
- Christopher Edwards, Choir Director
- Christopher Keady, Organist & Bell
Choir Director
- Romalia Stickney-Shibley, Office Manager
- Michelle Veazie, Receptionist
- Roberto Del Rio, Custodian
- Ryan Sotomayor, Sexton

RCPPC's ANNUAL ADVENT FESTIVAL

After worship on Sunday, December 2nd, we are going to do something different for the first Sunday of Advent! We will have a potluck, sing a ton of Christmas carols, be serenaded by our magnificent Chancel Choir, make a swag, have a project for the children and maybe more. Plan on attending our new event and keep checking the bulletin insert for more information!

This event is co-sponsored by the Christian Education, Worship & the Arts, and Outreach Committees.



NEXT BROADCASTER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11.

Brief articles may be submitted in person, via e-mail to Michelle at office@rosecityparkpres.org, or by mail and must be in the church office by the end of the day Sunday, November 11.