

Renewal-in-brief

From the Pastor's Desk

The Reverend David D. Prince, Interim Pastor

The active life of our vital congregation goes forward, as you can see throughout this newsletter. On the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) denominational calendar there is a Sunday marked for HIV/AIDS Awareness, October 8, and a Sunday for Domestic Violence Awareness, October 15. October 29 is *Reformation Sunday* and the beginning of Eastern Standard Time. (We gain an hour of time but lose some late afternoon sunlight.)

At its October meeting, the session will consider ways to do the self-reflection that is part of an interim time for congregations and their members. I will suggest some books for

reading by people who would like to do that, and some occasions for collective celebration of Rutgers Church's unique history and for envisioning its future by people interested in doing that. I look forward to working with church officers, members, and friends as we seek to discover what God is calling this congregation to be and do in the coming years.

I invite you to begin a spiritual discipline of regular personal prayer for God's guidance in our process of discernment. It feels good to be your interim pastor and your partner in faith for this next chapter in the life of the Rutgers Presbyterian Church.

Invite a Friend on Sunday, October 22

Have you noticed it yet? Along with the cooling of the temperatures comes a quickening of the pulse that is New York City's heartbeat. It's as if the City knows that something wonderful is just around the corner.



"Invite-a-Friend" Sunday is coming to Rutgers on October 22! So step up to the plate. Get out there and extend an invitation to a friend, or two, or three. We are sure to have a glorious service of worship that Sunday, with our new Interim Pastor, the Reverend David Prince, lots of beautiful music from

George Davey and the Rutgers Choir, and a warm welcome for anyone who wants to come.

It will all be capped off with a hot and hearty luncheon on the fifth floor following the regular coffee hour in the Daniel Russell Room. Hope to see there! - Susan Scherer

Rutgers Session Endorses the Declaration of Peace

As the war in Iraq continues, many of us at Rutgers are looking for concrete ways to advocate for peace.

At its September meeting, the Session voted to endorse a hopeful development in the peace movement called the Declaration of Peace. This is a nationwide movement that seeks to establish a plan for peace in Iraq by calling for:

- a prompt timetable for withdrawal of troops and closure of bases
- a peace process for security, reconstruction, and reconciliation

- and the shift of funding for war to meeting more human needs.

Specifically, the Session made a commitment to participate in marches and demonstrations in support of this peace plan and to urge our congressional representatives to adopt these positions.

As Rutgers Peace & Social Justice Network member Carl Lindskoog said in a recent moment for mission, "The peace movement perseveres, and I am grateful that this congregation is taking seriously God's call for us to be peacemakers in this world."

October 2006 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

The Church Inclusive: How far does acceptance go?

Saturday, October 14, 10 am—1 pm

Join Presbyterian Welcome at St. James Presbyterian Church for a panel discussion of human relationships—individual, communal, scriptural, sexual—and how they intersect with the Church.

In addition to open discussion, there will be testimonials from ministers, teachers of religion, and a well-known liturgical artist. The St. James Choir led by Larry Woodard (who appeared recently at Rutgers in the “Raise the Roof for Wasik” benefit concert) will provide special music.

St. James is located at **409 West 141st Street at St. Nicholas Ave.** (A,B,C,D to 145th Street or M3 to 141st Street).

Westiders for Peace and Justice

Wednesday, October 18, 6:30 pm in the Daniel Russell Rm

Westiders for Peace and Justice is an interfaith group of clergy and lay people interested in peace and justice issues, ranging from the Iraq war to housing to community building among faith communities. In October, Rutgers will be hosting the monthly meeting. If you would like to know more about the group, please speak to Cheryl Pynch. Dinner will be served.

Embracing God's World through Evangelism

Saturday, October 21, 9 am—4:30 pm

At this time of transition for the Rutgers congregation, as we begin to envision our ministry for the years to come, we hope you'll consider attending Presbytery Day at Riverside Church. Both Cheryl Pynch and Dave Prince will be going, and there will be a booth this year for Rutgers' Body & Spirit and Child's Play programs.

The principal morning session at 10:15 is a panel discussion focusing on “When Tradition Trumps Transition: How many of our congregations are becoming irrelevant to a hurting unchurched world?” Afternoon workshops include Hector Rodriguez on models for evangelism that reflect intriguing developments in Hispanic ministries and a workshop on evangelism in liturgy—how do we tell the good news in worship?

Riverside Church is located on **120th Street at Riverside Drive** (entrance on Claremont). You may speak with Cheryl Pynch to learn more or to RSVP.

The Crisis of Incarceration & the Journey of Re-Entry: The Faith Community Responds

Saturday, October 28, 9 am—4 pm

For many years, the Rutgers Benevolence Committee has supported the ministry of the Church of Gethsemane to New York prison inmates as well as ex-offenders and their families. We live in a nation that imprisons a higher percentage of its population than any other nation, with great disparities in sentencing according to race and ethnicity.

Cheryl Pynch and Anne Barstow, both members of the Presbytery's Council on Witness to Society and the World, in-

vite you to a conference to learn more about the prison crisis, hopeful possibilities for change, and what we can do as individuals and as a congregation.

The opening speaker is Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr. (of the Riverside Church). The event is free and takes place at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, **445 West 59th Street at 10th Avenue.** Contact Annie Rawlings for more information at (212) 870-2221 or socialwitness@presbynyc.org.

At Home in the World: A Rule of Life for the Rest of Us Sundays, October 15 & 22, at 9:45 am in the Session Room

Our adult class, led by Jeremiah Rosario and Mary Birchard, continues to discuss Margaret Guenther's book and what sorts of “rules” we find useful (or not) in our own spiritual practices.

The Gospel of Luke

Sundays, October 29—December 17, at 9:45 am

Having studied Matthew and Mark the past two years, this study of Luke will finish our “cycle” of the synoptic gospels and prepare us for the sermons of Year C in the lectionary, which begins on December 3. We'll be using study guides from the *Interpretation* series and hope you will join us. Please call Cheryl Pynch (x205) to order a copy of the study guide or to request child care.

2nd Presbyterian Church 250th Anniversary Service

Sunday, October 29 at 4:00 pm

Our neighbor on the West Side, Second Presbyterian Church, is celebrating its 250th anniversary of ministry in and to the City of New York. This festival worship of thanksgiving and celebration will feature special artifacts and art as a way of telling their story. Refreshments will follow. Second Church is located at **6 West 96th Street** (a red door under scaffolding).

All Saints' Gathering

Wednesday, November 1 at 6:30 pm in the Narthex

All Saints' Day is a day for remembering and celebrating the lives of our loved ones who have died, but whom we still hold in our hearts. This annual gathering has become a healing experience for many in our community. There will be time to pray and meditate together and to share remembrances.

Coming in November

Sunday, Nov. 5 at 3 pm
Memorial Service for
Nancy Williams


Saturday, Nov. 18
Benevolence Symposium

Sunday, Nov. 19 at 4 pm
Organ recital by
George Davey

Wednesday, Nov. 22
Interfaith Thanksgiving
Service (location TBA)

Thursday, Nov. 23
Thanksgiving Meal at Euclid
Hall

October 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8</p> <p>No Adult Class; 12:45 pm P&SJN Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Columbus Day Church and office buildings closed</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 pm Prayer Circle Every Wednesday</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 pm Meal Program Every Thursday 7:00 pm Movie: <i>8 Below</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:30 am Mothers' Bible Study Every Friday</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10 am—1 pm Panel Discussion: <i>The Church Inclusive</i> at St. James Presb. Church</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:45 am At Home in the World</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00 pm Scouts Every Monday 6:30 pm Body & Spirit Committee</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00 pm Scouts Every Tuesday 6:30 pm Inquirers Session</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 pm Westsidiers for Peace & Justice Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 pm Movie: <i>Firewall</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9 am—4:30 pm Presbytery Day: <i>Embracing God's World Through Evangelism</i> at Riverside Church</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:45 am At Home/World 12:45 pm Invite-a-Friend Luncheon</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 pm Christian Education Committee</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 pm Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA) Every Tuesday</p>	<p>25</p> <p>November Renewal Deadline</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 pm Movie: <i>Werewolf of London</i></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 am—4 pm Conference: <i>Restoring Justice/ Crisis of Incarceration</i> at John Jay Col-</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:45 am Gospel of Luke 12:30 pm Board of Trustees 4:00 pm 2nd Presb Church</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>	<p>Nov. 1</p> <p>6:30 pm All Saints Gathering</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 pm Movie: <i>The Mikado</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>

**Men's Overnight Shelter:
Every Fri • Sat • Sun**

Sundays	
9:45 am	Sunday School for Adults
10:00	Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:15	Children's Choir Rehearsal
10:30	Infant & Child Care
11:00	Worship Service
11:15	Sunday School (ages 3-12)
12:15 pm	Coffee Hour
12:45	Choir Rehearsal

Preaching Schedule	
October 8	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; The Reverend David D. Prince preaching
October 15	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time; The Reverend Cheryl Pynch preaching
October 22	New Members Received; Invite-a-Friend; The Reverend David D. Prince preaching
October 29	Reformation Sunday; Time Changes ; The Reverend David D. Prince preaching

Birthdays!

- 8 Frances Manners
 - 10 Natalie Graham-Kay,
Floyd Hopkins
 - 12 Catherine & Charlotte
Coudal-Jones
 - 13 Mildred Saunders
 - 16 Anne Leader
 - 17 Bill Himmelbauer
 - 18 R. Wellington Jones
 - 21 Vera Roberts
 - 22 Roger Franklin
 - 28 Jack & Maddie Phelps
 - 29 Renee Lord
 - 30 Lisa Simpson
-
- 2 Jeannie Santiago
 - 3 Margaret Williamson



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What Do You Think?

from Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

1. Have you ever noticed the glow in toddlers' eyes when we finally understand what they're talking about?
2. Life is like a flower that blooms in all directions.
3. The most confident person is insecure.
4. How much fun does a child have playing catch with her father while he's talking on a cell phone?
5. Does anyone travel through life without pain and suffering?
6. You can parallel your life to weeds. Are you strong, spontaneous, difficult, independent, in need of attention, uncontrollable?
7. When houseguests stay too long, everything will adjust to their schedule.
8. Call a friend and have her/him treat you to lunch or dinner.
9. Never let an opportunity pass without giving thanks.
10. Don't let fear keep you from making changes in your life or career.

A Homecoming Thank You

from R. Wellington Jones

On Sunday, September 17, the annual Homecoming community luncheon was held in the 5th floor fellowship hall. I would especially like to thank those members of the congregation who generously provided covered dishes prepared at home for use at the luncheon. I also want to thank the Special Events Committee members for their participation in our Homecoming event, especially with respect to my recent cardiac illness; with your help I am gradually improving.

We hope you will join us for our next event, the annual Christmas Social for children and adults. Our menu will be different this year—more kid-friendly, on the recommendation of my grandsons. Adults included.