

MISSION STATEMENT “As followers of Jesus Christ, we rejoice in God’s plan for a just, loving, and peaceful world, and we commit ourselves to making it a reality for all people everywhere.”



Where Are We in the Search for a New Pastor?

by Christine Gorman and Joy Wyatt

Time to Break Some Bread

The Mission Review Committee is happy to report that nearly 50 Rutgers members and friends have signed up for a meal and some conversation about where we are going as a church family. Here’s a schedule of dates and times for the first round of meals:

Thursday, June 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 23 at noon

Wednesday, July 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 26 at noon

Sunday, August 26, after church

Please pick a first and second choice for a date and RSVP by phone to Patricia at the church office (212-877-8227) or by email to rutgersonline@gmail.com. We need to get an accurate head count since we want to keep the meals to about 5 or 6 participants. There will also be more opportunities to get together in the fall.

Did you misplace your invitation? That’s okay. Just pick a date and RSVP.

More information about locations (homes or the church) will be provided once we know how many people wish to participate.

What Are We Supposed to Talk About?

Your host will guide you through two different questions:

1. Why do you come to Rutgers Church?
2. As you see it, what are the most important two or three things that Rutgers needs to think about and do during the next ten years?

Naturally, the conversation will grow from there. This is a chance for all dreams and opinions to be heard in a respectful manner.

Why Are We Doing This?

As Dave Prince, our interim pastor, likes to remind us, our search for a new installed pastor is an opportunity to rediscover and learn who we are as a worshipping community and where we’d like to be as a church in the

21st century. We have had several opportunities in the past few months to gather in large groups to talk about the future. Now we’re going deeper into the issues and making sure everyone gets heard in these small-group discussions.

By the end of 2007, the members of the Mission Review Committee (Jacquelyn Carpenter, Christine Gorman, Anne Leader, Nora Lidell, Bob Shelton, Mark Young, Joy Wyatt, as advised by David Prince) expect to take the input from all these meals and events—as well as an all-church survey—to create what’s called a Mission Review Statement. This is a kind of “getting to know you” document that will tell prospective pastors about our congregation, our hopes, dreams and values, as well as the challenges of our lives.

Then What?

Some time early in 2008, if everything goes on schedule, we’ll have a congregational meeting to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. (Yes, another committee—as mandated in the *Book of Order*.)

The PNC will use the Mission Review to help guide it during the interviewing process. After reviewing many dossiers and listening to several ministers preach, the PNC will then present the congregation with one candidate for the position of installed pastor. The congregation will vote on that person during a specially called congregational meeting. The Presbytery of New York City must agree with the decision before the new candidate can serve as our pastor.

Just a reminder: under Presbyterian rules, neither the interim pastor (Dave Prince) nor the Designated Associate Pastor (Cheryl Pynch) can serve as the new permanent pastor.

We Presbyterians are nothing if not process-minded. But we’re all in this together. We have a chance through these meals and in this process to strengthen our bonds and learn what God is calling us to do in the 21st century.

From the Interim Pastor

Setting priorities is something we all have to do as part of life. In spite of what the world of advertising tries to tell us, we can't "have it all." We have limited resources of time, money, and energy. It becomes important that we allocate our resources in keeping with our values so that our lives have *integrity*.

What is true for us personally is also true for an institution like a church. Churches need to make conscious decisions about how to allocate resources: time, money, and energy. The larger the membership of a church, the greater the resources of man/woman hours and energy. But the availability of money doesn't always depend on the size of the membership. Rutgers Church is a good illustration of that.

We are a relatively small congregation, but we are blessed with significant financial resources. During the month of June, the session (governing body) together with the trustees of the corporation will begin to review the way Rutgers Presbyterian Church allocates its money in establishing budgets. Our denomination's *Book of Order*, which is a helpful resource for Presbyterian congregations, reminds us that the Christian

Church has at least six primary functions, historically described as the proclamation of God's good news, the nurture of God's people, providing for meaningful worship, honoring truth, promoting social justice, and demonstrating God-oriented life in community. (I have updated the language while preserving the meaning of what are called "The Great Ends of the Church.")

Most congregations do better in fulfilling some of the six functions than in others. But a healthy church works to keep all six in some kind of balance. During this interim period, Rutgers Church has an opportunity to evaluate how we allocate our resources (personal and material) in carrying out the six functions listed above. I invite you to pray for our elders and trustees as they discuss the way our budgets reflect priorities. I also invite you to share your thoughts and ideas with me or with any session members or trustees whom you happen to know.

I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve as your interim pastor, most likely through the summer of 2008.

Dave Prince

A Trip to India by Peggy Scott

This spring, I had the pleasure of joining Margaret and Byron Shafer and a group from Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church on a trip to southern India. I first learned of Margaret's love of India (she had grown up there) when I spent a day with the Shafers while I was performing in a play at the Adirondack Theatre Festival. I told them of my fascination with India, and that if they were ever to return, I would love to visit them there. Not long after, Byron decided to retire from Rutgers and accepted a guest teaching position in Bangalore. Last Christmas, I was surprised to get an email from Margaret inviting me to join a mission trip being organized by Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Just a few months later, I found myself sitting with a group of strangers at the Air India terminal for the sixteen hour flight to Bangalore where we began our three-week adventure. I confess to having some fear that the poverty and living conditions in India would be overwhelming, but I found that although there is a huge gap between rich and poor in India and poverty can be daunting, the people of India are remarkable. Warm, wonderfully open and welcoming—it is an extraordinary nation.

And we certainly met a lot of people! Because of the Shafers' connection to the United Theological Seminary in Bangalore, we had some incredible experiences. We went to a community of "pavement dwellers"—very poor people who have constructed huts on the sidewalks in Bangalore. Their children are encouraged to attend school and are being tutored by students from the seminary. Another trip took us to the Christian Medical College in Vellore, a remarkable institution founded by Ida Scudder, the first woman to graduate from Cornell's medical college. A few days later we visited a home

run by the YMCA that provides shelter, food and education for homeless children who have either run away from a dysfunctional home, or who have been sent away by parents who don't want them or who cannot afford to care for them.

We also took a trip out to the Kolar Gold Fields, where Joshua Das, another seminarian, was working with the population who no longer have jobs as a result of the closing of the gold mines in that region. Joshua has received benevolence grants from Rutgers [\$4,000 in 2005, \$7,000 in 2006, and \$3,000 so far this year] with which he has set up a number of job creation programs. One of the programs is a tailoring institute for the women of the area who are eager to work, but whose only possibilities for employment are a four-hour daily commute into Bangalore. And what a welcome these women gave us! Dressed in gorgeous saris, amidst the dusty unpaved roads, they welcomed us with elaborately drawn chalk decorations at their doorways, flower strewn pathways, candles, special dances, tea and coffee. Little boys and men peered in the windows to see what was going on. It was a big event in the little village!

Other trips included a visit to an elephant sanctuary and tours of Hindu, Jain and Sikh temples. We saw a mosque from the outside (non-Muslims are not allowed inside). We heard people speak of their faiths in a country where people blend so many different faiths in a fairly amicable way.

I came home with a profound understanding of how a little money can make an enormous difference for programs such as those run by Joshua Das and his Human Development Foundation (HDF). With a little training and support, lives can be changed. Toward the end of our journey, we had a meeting

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Rutgers' participation in the **CROP Walk** on April 29th was the largest ever, with 23 people walking (of all ages) and \$1,320 raised! Thank you to Joy Rose for coordinating, and for all who supported walkers. Lily & Trey Santiago gathered the most pledges among the SKATE group (\$376 between them!) as they asked for donations in lieu of birthday presents this year. It was a beautiful day and a wonderful walk in the fight against hunger.



but Juliet Pritner's telephone captured children in the "Lemon Squeeze." Everyone under 12 made it through, and it was actually **NARROWER** than it looks!



It was chilly and grey, but it never rained. Children and parents from Rutgers had a glorious time hiking, boating, drawing, worshipping, talking and playing ball at the **Family Retreat** in Holmes, NY, May 18th and 19th. The Reverend Susan Wonderland led us in the theme of "Where Does God live? Exploring the Presence of God in our Midst." Sadly, no one thought to bring a camera—we wanted to live in the moment—

(Continued from page 2)

with Margaret to talk about how we might continue our involvement after we came home. Knowing that Rutgers has made donations to the HDF, I am looking for ways to bolster the ongoing efforts of the graduates of the tailoring institute. In collaboration with Joshua, I am looking for ways to use and expand the skills of this group of women to create business opportunities. Any suggestions are welcome—and if you have any thoughts, please email me at peggyis@juno.com.

I know these few paragraphs give but the briefest glimpse of our trip. If you ever have the opportunity to make a mission trip, I urge you to go. It is truly a marvelous experience!



June 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6:00 p.m. Men's Overnight Shelter	12:15 p.m. Alanon	12:15 p.m. Alanon	5:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting	6:00 p.m. Meal Program	10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study	5:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting
3-28 9:45 a.m. Gospel of John	6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts; Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA)		7:00 p.m. Movie: Betty Grable Film Series	6:00 p.m. Men's Overnight Shelter	6:00 p.m. Men's Overnight Shelter
3 12:15 p.m. Congregational Meeting, Special Session Meeting	4 3:30 p.m. Worship Committee	8:00 p.m. Men's Alanon		7:30 p.m. Women's Prayer Circle (til 6/21)	1 Evening S.K.A.T.E. Barbecue at Kim Hodges' home	
12:45 p.m. Board of Deacons	18 6:30 p.m. Christian Ed Committee	12 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting		May 31 7:30 p.m. Joint Bible Study with West End Synagogue		
10 12:45 p.m. Peace & Social Justice Network	25 Renewal Deadline (send submissions to pastas@rutgerschurch.com)	19 6:30 p.m. Worship with Presbyterian Welcome at 2nd Presb. Church				
24 Afternoon Pride Parade						

Summer Break begins next month (July-Aug) for
MEN'S SHELTER, MEAL PROGRAM, MOVIE, PRAYER CIRCLE, CHOIRS

<i>Sundays</i>	
9:45 am	Sunday School for Adults
10 & 12:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:45	Infant & Child Care
11:00	Worship Service
11:15	Sunday School (ages 3-12)
12:15 pm	Coffee Hour

Birthdays!

1	Ed Alley
2	Colin & Zachary Nelson
4	Adele Ou Yang
5	Robin Berry
15	Marion Towne
16	Susan Poliacik
19	Krista Olson
22	Anne Barstow
26	Alan Robinson
27	Cullen Dunn-Ellis
29	Benjamin Williamson

Preaching Schedule

June 3 ___ Trinity Sunday; David Prince preaching

June 10 ___ Ordinary Time; Holy Communion; David Prince preaching

June 17 ___ Youth Sunday; Father's Day; Recognition of Teachers & Graduates; Cheryl Pynch preaching

June 24 ___ More Light Sunday; David Prince preaching

July 1 ___ 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time; David Prince preaching

Quick Reference
2007-2008 Moderators and Chairpersons

Moderator of Session	Rev. David Prince
Clerk of Session	Jeremiah Rosario
Moderator of Deacons	Kim Hodges
Vice Mod. of Deacons	Alice Hudson
Secretary of Deacons	Alan Robinson
Moderator of Trustees	Mark Young
Secretary of Trustees	Nicole Byrns

Committees

Benevolence	Charles Platt
Body & Spirit	Kim Hodges
Building Use	Robert Shelton
Christian Education	Jeremiah Rosario
Membership	Susan Scherer
Mission Review	Christine Gorman
Peace & Social Justice	Suzanne Spears
Personnel	Rick Reece
Special Events	R. Wellington Jones
Stewardship	Mark Young
Worship	Lynne Morris (co-chair Alice Hudson)

June 2007 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

The Book of Job

Thursday, May 31, 7:30 p.m. at West End Synagogue
69th and Amsterdam Avenue

The book of Job has been important to Jews, Christians and many who do not consider it sacred scripture but are fascinated by the questions it raises: why do [good] people suffer? Is there a moral order to the universe? What kind of God do we worship? Join Cheryl Pynch and Ayreh Gold of West End Synagogue, who will lead both congregations in a discussion of Job. After an overview of the story, we'll look at some of the Jewish, Christian, and humanist interpretations before delving into a few of the passages ourselves. This is a chance to build relationships with our neighbors at West End while we study this story that we share. It's recommended that you read through the book before coming, but it's not required.

Creating Space for Intention, Prayer, Witness, Gratitude Thursdays through June 21, 7:30 p.m. on the fourth floor

We are beginning a new sharing/prayer support group for women to practice deep listening, help each other hold intentions, deepen prayers and heal through the power of non-judgmental witnessing of one another's spiritual and emotional journeys. All women are welcome; please contact Joan Keener joankeener33@hotmail.com or Frances Manners manners3@verizon.net to learn more.

Continuing Study of the Gospel of John

Sundays through June 24, 9:45 a.m. in the Session Room

Among Christians, John tends to be the most-loved or least-loved of the four gospels. Different in style, story-line, and theological concerns than the other three, the Gospel of John is especially challenging for liberal Christians. Its emphasis on the importance of right belief, its problematic description of "the Jews," and its long speeches discourage many. But the Gospel of John is a precious resource for all of us, and together we are discovering the wonderful stories and theological insights that the Church has valued over the centuries.

There will be a **congregational meeting** on Sunday, June 3, 2007, at the conclusion of the morning worship service for the purpose of extending for two years the call to the Reverend Cheryl Pynch to serve as Designated Associate Pastor of Rutgers Presbyterian Church.

A quorum for the meeting will be **35 church members.**

Worship with Presbyterian Welcome

Tuesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m. at 2nd Presbyterian Church
Enter at Alexander Robertson School, Red Door, 3 W 95th St

Presbyterian Welcome is gearing up for our second worship service of the year: Celebrating Fellowship and Pentecost! We welcome to the pulpit the Reverend Dámaris Ortega from the Empire State Pride Agenda's **Pride in the Pulpit**. Dámaris is an excellent speaker; she is passionate, fierce, a truth-teller. You won't go away without feeling a nip of the fire of the Holy Spirit. We will also anoint each other as we prepare for Pride Month.

GLBT Heritage of Pride March

Sunday afternoon, June 24

Witness your Welcome! Join Rutgers P&SJM and Presbyterian Welcome at the 2007 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Pride March. We will meet at our designated stepping-off point (to be announced) following the worship service with banners, signs, and water provided. We will celebrate the sacrament of communion with our Methodist sisters and brothers as we gather. A van will follow us on the journey downtown, to rest weary legs. Look for more information as the date nears. See you there!

In the Garden

Rutgers Vacation Bible School, August 20-24, 2007

9 a.m.—noon, ages 4-11

This year in vacation bible school, we'll look at the story of the Garden of Eden—and give Eve and the snake a chance to tell their side of the story! We'll also hear some of the gardening (planting) parables that Jesus told, and, as always, we'll have storytelling, art, music and drama, as well as games in the gym. Nora Lidell, Cheryl Pynch, and Holly Nedelka will be leading our classes this year, helped by wonderful teens and adults. Please spread the word to friends and neighbors! If you are able to help, either with the children or behind-the-scenes, please talk to Cheryl. There is a \$25 suggested donation for the week, with scholarships available.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Are women ever satisfied?
2. Mirrors don't lie. What do you see when you look in a mirror?
3. How many career counselors hate their profession?
4. When you stumble in life, can you pick yourself up as quickly as when you stumble on the sidewalk?
5. There's a difference between being aggressive and being rude.
6. The older you get, the faster the years go by.
7. You pay more for convenience and simplicity.
8. Hairstyles don't change, just the people who decide to wear them.
9. Why do we buy food that makes us fat?
10. Can anyone admit that they aren't jealous or envious of someone?

'Til next time, Jacquelyn M. Carpenter



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