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**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."

**October 2007**  
Volume 24, Issue 9

## From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

Over the summer the Board of Trustees and the Session took a good look at our building and discovered that all of our many windows (not stained glass, the clear glass ones in our offices and classrooms) are in serious need of repair--some needing ordinary maintenance but many needing urgent major work related to structural deterioration. On recommendation from the trustees, the session voted to proceed with correcting the problem, which is estimated to cost \$525,000. (We have received one bid in the neighborhood of that estimate, and two other companies will be submitting bids soon.) The work will be done this fall, with full payment due on completion.

When Bruce Bergquist, our executive director of properties, offered a scenario for funding the project, he suggested going into our endowment for the required immediate payment, with a three-year payback based on future projected budget surpluses. Warwick Busfield, our church treasurer, strongly advised that we not do that but look at other possibilities. Warwick, Bob Shelton (session member and an architect with long involvement in Rutgers building matters), and I have talked, and we feel it would be prudent to reduce the second-half 2007 benevolence allocations significantly.

At the October 9 session meeting, I will recommend, as one possibility, that the session ask the benevolence committee at its October 16 meeting to approve 20% of the \$140,422 previously earmarked for allocation this fall. (Equal allocations are usually made in the spring and fall of each year.) That would mean \$10,485 for international projects instead of \$52,422; \$7,600 for national projects instead of \$38,000; and \$10,000 for local projects instead of \$50,000. The benevolence committee disbursed \$140,422 in the spring, (\$52,422 to international causes, including \$14,422 to AIDS projects, \$38,000 for national causes, and \$50,000 for local causes). That is in addition to our on-going benevolence support of Presbyterian Welcome, Presbyterian Senior Services, WSFSSH (West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc.), denominational assessment, and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) general mission.

If the session approves the proposed

reduction in discretionary benevolence spending, it would provide \$112,337 in 2007 toward the cost of bringing our windows up to standard. I will further recommend that we consider a figure of either 20% or 15% as the percentage of budget we allocate for benevolences in 2008 instead of the projected 28%, releasing additional money for the windows and other capital needs.

While I strongly support benevolent causes as part of our mission, I believe we need to face the reality that "mission" is what we do right here in NYC at our facility as well as what other organizations do to help people in need. A case can be made that we need to be more responsible for the way we maintain our building as an instrument of mission. Keeping our building in good condition is not doing something "for ourselves," it is making sure our physical property is attractive and welcoming to people in need of the *good news* we are called to share. Not much has been budgeted for capital improvements recently, while the benevolence percentage has been going up steadily.

I'm sure the session's discussion of my recommendations will be lively. Out of that discussion may come modifications of what I am proposing or other totally different scenarios for balancing the cost of needed capital improvements with generous support of benevolences. I suspect there is strong support for taking care of our building as a base for local mission and as the source of the money that funds most of what we do.

Setting our benevolence allocation at 15 or 20 percent of budget in 2008 while we take care of capital improvements may strengthen Rutgers Church as a vital congregation in mission to the Upper West Side of New York City and beyond. When the General Assembly considers making loans to congregations, its benchmark for what a church ought to be designating for outside benevolence is 10 percent--the Biblical tithe. Rutgers' benevolence giving is far above that.

We can have a conversation about these matters after our worship service this coming Sunday, October 7, on the fifth floor of our building. I look forward to it.

Dave Prince



RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Renewal

## What Do You Think?

1. When you're engrossed in a TV program or reading, why do non-interested people start a conversation? Should you acknowledge them?
2. Life is a constant adjustment?
3. Music can put rhythm and joy in your life?
4. To ask for help is a character asset.
5. Why let someone dictate who and what you should be?
6. Are you keeping yourself from being happy?
7. Is it easier to except death when a person has a terminal illness or when it's sudden?
8. Should you comment on weight loss or weight gain if you don't know the reason for the event?
9. How can you make a career change when you support so many people?
10. What can you do to help someone every day that's not financial or time consuming?

'Till next time,  
Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

## A Homecoming Thank You

from R. Wellington Jones

The annual Homecoming luncheon was held on Sunday, September 16 following morning worship service.

Following a grace by the Reverend Prince, we enjoyed Korean noodles and sushi from Silvine & Cham, sweet potato casserole from Ethel Knight, fruit salad from Anne Leader, cornbread muffins from Lili Bohan, collard greens, and Louisiana shrimp from Wellington Jones, bread and butter from Richard Reece and Dr. Vera Roberts, chocolate brownies and cheese noodle casserole from the Reverend Pynch, unpeeled grapes from Roger Franklin, mixed nuts from Bruce Bergquist, and cookies from the Reverend Prince, and a delicious tiramisu from Megan Krasney.

The videotape of the event will be re-broadcast during November on *New Ventures*, MNN Cable Channels 85 and 57, and on the internet, for which the Congregation will receive a notice in the bulletin.

The next event sponsored by the Special Events Committee will be the children's Christmas party, which will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2007 at 12:45 p.m. *w*

## LISTEN UP! PAY ATTENTION! PLEASE.

by Jacquelyn Carpenter

Information/update on the **Mission Review Steering Committee (MRSC)** (Jacquelyn Carpenter, Christine Gorman, Anne Leader (Chair), Nora Lidell, Reverend David Prince, Robert Sheldon, Joy Wyatt, Mark Young) on September 20, 2007.

Survey from the MRSC Meals on June 21, July 11, 17, 26, August 5, 23, 26 and September 18, 2007. (44 participants)

\*Variations of Three Questions/answers (in brief):

1. Why do you come to Rutgers?
  - small, family-friendly, and inclusive environment
  - music
  - sermons
  - outreach programs, etc.
2. What are the three things Rutgers should be thinking about for the next ten years?
  - AIR CONDITIONER (in the sanctuary)
  - more community involvement
  - upgrade the sound system
  - advertisement, etc.

3. Is there anything else you would like the MRSC to consider?
  - the next pastor to have the combination of Shafer-Jervis-Prince-Pyrch-Amstein
  - growth in membership to help expand our mission
  - keep the warmth of the church
  - continue our inclusive journey

\*A more detailed listing of the comments will be displayed in the church lobby and Daniel Russell Room September 30 and October 7, 2007.

There is still time to submit or express your thoughts and comments on these three questions for those that weren't able to attend the meals through October 7, 2007. If you're interested in being on the Pastors' Nominating committee please let the above mentioned MRSC members know.

You do not have to be a member of this church to become an usher, greeter or choir member (degrees in music are not required). Contact Jeremiah Rosario via e-mail [jeremiah@rutgerschurch.com](mailto:jeremiah@rutgerschurch.com) or by phone at (212) 877-8227 if you're shy or uncomfortable asking someone in person. We always try to include everyone.

**p.s.** Please feel free to say Amen, tap your foot, clap your hands, and rock from side to side, if the music or sermon moves you to do so. (An ambulance and a straight-jacket will not be waiting for you when you leave the church.)**ω**

## Getting to Know You: Eric Woodall

by Dr. Vera Roberts and Jeremiah

This past spring we welcomed Eric Woodall as a new member of Rutgers Presbyterian Church.

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he honed his acting talents, Eric settled down in New York after living for some time in Los Angeles and being on the road with national tours. He has lived in New York since 1991, where he is currently employed as a casting director.

About four years ago Eric started searching for a church home where he would feel comfortable. During his search he came across one of our signs for Hymnsing Sunday. He longed to hear the songs he sang as a youth in the Methodist church in his hometown of Benson, North Carolina. The songs brought back



many memories. From his first service, that Hymnsing Sunday at Rutgers, Eric said he felt welcomed and accepted. He has been a regular attendee since that day.

Sunday worship service is an essential part of his week. "I look forward to coming on Sunday and leaving with a di-

rection for daily life." Eric has found the sermons inspiring, thought provoking, challenging at times, and practical. "I love hearing scripture and how it applies in 2007."

Giving back to the community is important to Eric. When asked where he sees himself in the continuing life of Rutgers, Eric replied: "More service. My purpose is to serve and be of service."

One way Eric has been of service most recently was as the lay reader on Labor Day Sunday. He found it quite fitting that he was able to share a Hymnsing Sunday with his family as they visited him this past Labor Day weekend. They were able to experience first hand the essence of what attracted Eric to Rutgers. **ω**

## "THURSDAY NIGHTERS" Meal Program

### ODE TO POVERTY

A poem by the Finnish author, Paavo Haavikko

*The Bible should be translated into the language of the poor*

*Poverty should be preached to the poor*

*Poverty is like a shadow - you can't get rid of it*

*Poverty is its own embracing social identity*

*The Poor can't be counted - they are without number*

*Each person's poverty is as huge as the universe*

*The Poor turn in vain to darkness - it is deaf*

*The Poor are neither young nor old - they are only poor*

*Human dignity and respect is the dream of the poor since just being human is of no consequence*

*The poor may neither run nor walk - they are poor*

*Poverty is a temple and a prayer*

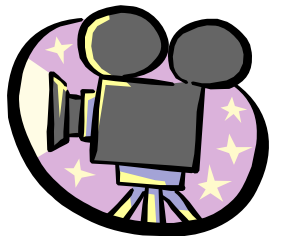
*Poverty is a constant prayer which neither demands nor is grateful*

*The Poor can't pay for anything - nothing is free*



The guests who come to Rutgers Thursday Nighters meal program are hungry, lonely and above all poor. For those few readers who are not familiar with this program, we serve a hot, well balanced, nutritious

meal to about 50 people every Thursday evening (except during July and August). After the meal, Dr. Roger Franklin introduces and shows a movie. Thus we try to create an evening of good food, with time for companionship, conversation and entertainment. Volunteers are always needed to help prepare, serve and clean up. It takes a maximum of 2 hours and if you are able to come only occasionally, that is fine too. Please contact Ulla Farmer at (212) 724- 3866, e-mail [freulla1@verizon.com](mailto:freulla1@verizon.com) or Kim Hodges, Board of Deacons, (212) 580-4276 if you are interested in helping.**ω**



## "In the Garden" Rutgers Vacation Bible School August 20-24, 2007

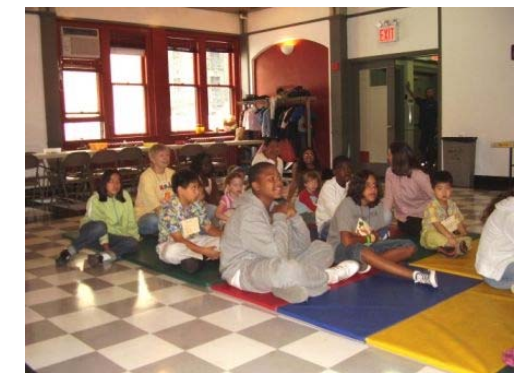
This summer over 20 children from the church and neighborhood joined us to hear the story of Eve and Adam, God and the serpent in the Garden of Eden. Our reading of scripture was interrupted each morning by characters from the distant past flying out of a mysterious time warp. Adam (who bore a marked resemblance to David Prince) came in the first day, joined later by Eve (who reminded us of Holly Nedelka). At VBS, as in the Garden of Eden, animals could talk, so the sneaky



snake came in and told *her* side of the story (sounding somewhat like Nora Lidell). Several animals flew in to give us an important message: Just because you named us doesn't mean you own us! Start taking care of the earth so we can live here too!

Vacation Bible School ran smoother than ever because of the work of four Junior Interns: DeYan Jervis McCarthy, Jacob MacKay, Khalil Hamer, and Nicholas Diaz. They bought and organized the snack, came out of the time warp (as the Animals)

and tutored the children in the game of "Sheep-Sheep-Camel" among other responsibilities. Clif Fisher graced us with piano accompaniment, and veteran teachers Angelika Rodriguez and Jeffrey Glendon led classes with Wanda Diaz, Holly and Nora. Thank you to all and save the date for next year's VBS: August 18-22. For more information on VBS and to view more pictures, please check out our website at [www.rutgerschurch.com/vacationbibleschool.html](http://www.rutgerschurch.com/vacationbibleschool.html).**ω**



# October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts <i>Every Monday</i>	2 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA) 6:30 p.m. Membership Committee 8:00 p.m. Men's Al-Anon <i>Every Tuesday</i>	3 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting <i>Every Wednesday</i> 6:30 p.m. Local Benevolence Committee	4 6:00 p.m. Meal Program 7:00 p.m. Movie Series <i>Every Thursday</i>	5 6:30 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Friday</i> S.K.A.T.E.	6 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Saturday</i>
7 12:45 p.m. Deacons Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Sunday</i>	8 Columbus Day Church/Office Building Closed	9 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	10 4:00 p.m. Presbytery of New York City (CDC)	<i>Sundays</i>		13 1:00 p.m. Mission Review Steering Committee
14 12:45 p.m. P&S/JN meeting	15 3:00 p.m. Worship Committee	16 6:30 p.m. Benevolence Committee 7:00 p.m. "How to Talk with your child about sex."	17 6:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee	9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Adults 9:45 Confirmation Class 10:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Infant & Child Care 11:00 Worship Service 11:15 Sunday School (ages 3-12) 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour 12:45 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Men's Shelter	20	
21 12:45 p.m. Invite-a-Friend Luncheon	Birthdays!		24	25	26 6:00 p.m. Scout Pot-luck dinner	27 Presbytery Day (Riverside Church)
28	1 Jacquelyn Carpenter 3 Melissa Vecsey 5 Liza Knapp-Fadani 6 David Halstead 7 Paula McNamara & Harris Shultz 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 23 Lili Bohan 28 Jack & Maddie Phelps 29 Laura Kline 29 Renee Lord 30 Lisa Simpson	<b>Preaching Schedule</b>  <i>October 7</i> ___ World Communion; David Prince preaching <i>October 14</i> ___ David Prince preaching <i>October 21</i> ___ Invite-a-Friend; David Prince preaching <i>October 28</i> ___ Reformation; Cheryl Pyrch preaching			

## October 2007 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

### World Communion/Peacemaking Offering

Sunday, October 7 at 11 a.m.

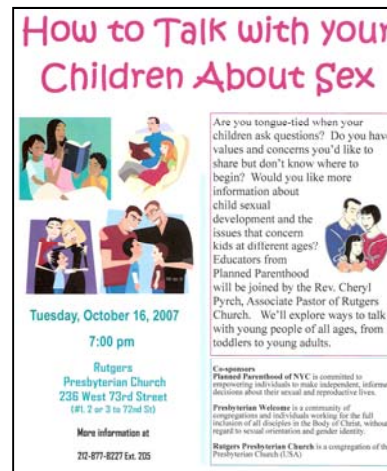
On **World Communion Sunday, October 7**, we remember and celebrate our connection to Christians around the world, and we collect the special Peacemaking Offering. Seventy-five percent of the offering goes to peacemaking projects of the PC(USA) throughout the nation and around the world. Twenty-five percent is earmarked for a local project of the congregation's choosing, and this year the Session has recommended the organization **Justice for Our Neighbors** as the recipient. Justice for Our Neighbors (<http://gbgm-umc.org/UMcor/refugees/justiceforourneighbors.cfm>) is a network of nation-wide, volunteer based clinics that offer free legal services and hospitality to immigrants in our congregations and communities.

JFON is a project of the United Methodist Church in collaboration with ecumenical partners, including **La Promessa Presbyterian Mission** in Flushing, Queens. Rutgers Benevolence Committee has long supported the La Promessa project, and the Session wishes to lift up this important ministry on World Communion Sunday. When wars around the globe displace millions of people, hospitality and justice for immigrants is an important aspect of peacemaking. The Moment for Mission that day will be given by T.J. Mills, Esq., staff attorney for the La Promessa Clinic. Please mark the date and give generously!

### How to Talk with Your Children About Sex

Tuesday, October 16 at 7 p.m., 5th Floor Fellowship Hall

Are you tongue-tied when your children ask questions? Do you have values and concerns you'd like to share but don't know where to begin? Would you like more information about child sexual development and the issues that concern kids at different ages? Do you have questions about Christian teachings regarding sexuality, and wonder how to bring God into the discussion?



Come to a forum sponsored by Planned Parenthood of New York City, Presbyterian Welcome and Rutgers Church on October 16, 7:00 p.m. in the 5th floor Fellowship Hall. Educators from Planned Parenthood will be joined by the Reverend Cheryl Pyrch. We'll explore ways to talk with young people of all ages, from toddlers to young adults.

Child care is available if reserved in advance. Please call (212) 877-8227, x205 for more information or to RSVP.

### Invite-a-Friend Sunday

Sunday, October 21 at 11 a.m.

Although every Sunday is invite-a-friend Sunday, every October we mark a special day to offer lunch and hospitality to invited friends as well as visitors and members. This is a good day to invite the friend, neighbor or relative who has expressed curiosity about church but has needed an excuse to come! Please contact Susan Scherer of the membership committee at [schrmagic@aol.com](mailto:schrmagic@aol.com) to see how you can help.

### Celebrating Family Worship

Tuesday, October 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Second Presbyterian Church, 3 West 95th Street & CPW

You are invited to celebrate worship service and Holy Communion at Second Presbyterian Church, lead by Derrick McQueen, Master of Divinity student at Union Theological Seminary and talented musicians, sponsored by Presbyterian Welcome. Old-fashioned coffee hour and fellowship to follow service. All are welcome! For more information, please go to [www.presbyterianwelcome.org](http://www.presbyterianwelcome.org)

### Honoring Scott Morton

Friday, October 26

The Reverend Dr. W. Scott Morton will be honored with the first annual *K.Y. Chynn Book Award* by the City University of New York's Asian American/Asian Research Institute for his book "China, Its History and Culture".

We are glad to hear that the City University of New York is affirming what we here at Rutgers have know for so many years. We have benefited greatly from Reverend Dr. Scott Morton's sermons, seminars and discussions and gained insight from his extensive mission trips to China. Congratulations!

### "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib"

Wednesday, October 24, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

This Emmy-award-winning film as been called by the Los Angeles Times: "a controlled, candid, and remarkably thorough look at all sides of what happened in that infamous Iraqi prison and why." We will watch this powerful and disturbing film together, have a facilitated discussion and learn about some constructive steps we may take in response.

Co-sponsored with First Presbyterian Church of New York, representatives from the National Religious Campaign Against Torture will also be present to share information. This film is for mature audiences only! For more information contact Cheryl Pyrch at (212) 877-8227, x205!

### Advent Meditation Booklet

An invitation to the Rutgers community to contribute to the upcoming *2007 Advent Meditation Booklet*. Choose a favorite scripture and write a short story or anecdote that illustrates your experience of the coming of God's presence in your life (e.g., the kindness of others when you were feeling low, a Christmas remembrance as a child, etc.). All pieces will be gathered into a booklet for the Advent season which will be distributed among the community. Contact Jacqui Van Vliet, Rutgers Seminary Intern, at the church office for further information.