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What Do You Think?

1. Why can't the President evacuate our troops from Iraq as quickly as the invasion took?
2. Why continue to do what keeps you from excelling in your career?
3. Should you volunteer your advice/opinion if it's not asked for?
4. How much energy does it take to constantly avoid acknowledging the contribution a person made/makes in your life?
5. Don't let your emotions dictate stupidity.
6. How much more money can we borrow from China?
7. If you have a foundation you'll survive.
8. We react the same way to extreme cold and hot weather conditions.
9. Why do we have to get jealous?
10. Which is more important, war fare or health care?

'Till next time,
Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

Anti-Torture Vigil By Carol Williamson

Rutgers Church was well represented with ten out of just over a hundred participants at the anti-torture vigil on a very rainy January 11, held in Foley Square. In fact we were the largest single group present. The interfaith prayer and vigil was sponsored by the New York Religious Campaign Against Torture. The date, January 11, was the sixth anniversary of the opening of the detention facility Guantanamo Bay.

Though we were all physically drenched by the end, our spirits were not dampened but were actually uplifted by the eloquent remarks from Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and Buddhist speakers and also by the common feeling of resolute commitment. The message from the religious leaders was that torture is immoral in every sense and that it violates all human dignity, international law, and indeed the will of God. Those present were urging the closing of Guantanamo Bay, as well as an end to all torture. *o*

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."

February 2008

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From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

With Easter occurring early this year, March 23rd, Lent begins in the first full week of February. In my sermons and in the prayers I write for congregational use, I sometimes mention the "disciplines" necessary for spiritual growth. Lent offers an opportunity to practice some disciplines for a set period of time. On the five Wednesday evenings after Ash Wednesday, February 13 through March 12, we will hold half-hour Vesper Services at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary followed by classes in the Daniel Russell Room, about an hour in length, on the theme of "judgment" as expressed in Christian art. Setting aside the time to participate in these vesper services and classes will enhance spiritual development.

Other possibilities for disciplines include making Sunday morning worship attendance a

high priority during Lent—the six Sundays before Easter, or experimenting with or expanding the practice of daily personal prayer during the six-and-a-half weeks of Lent. I commend these possibilities to you not as added duties to be performed out of guilt or obligation, but as opportunities to express gratitude for God's unconditional love, which is the basis of our life together in Rutgers Presbyterian Church.

I look forward to sharing Lent with you again this year as we journey toward the celebration of Good Friday and Easter, the foundational events of our faith. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve as the interim pastor of Rutgers Presbyterian Church.

Dave Prince

Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC)

by Elder Richard Reece

What is the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC)? This is the group of people elected by a congregation to shepherd the selection process for a new pastor.

The **BOOK OF ORDER**, the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has the following to say "The session shall call a congregational meeting to elect a pastor nominating committee, which shall be representative of the whole congregation. This committee's duty shall be to nominate a minister to the congregation for election as pastor or associate pastor. Public notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting to elect the pastor nominating committee shall be given in accord with G-7.0303b." *G-14.0531*

What is the Committee on Ministry? The Committee on Ministry as defined in the *Book of Order* states " Each presbytery shall elect a committee on ministry to serve as pastor and counselor to the ministers and Certified Christian Educators of the presbytery, to facilitate the relations between congregations, ministers, and Certified Christian Educators and the presbytery, and to settle difficulties on

behalf of the presbytery when possible and expedient." *G-11.0501a*

There are many more paragraphs detailing the responsibilities of the Committee on Ministry but the above will serve to describe the nature of the committee. A copy of the *Book Of Order* will be available to all PNC members. The importance of this committee is that it oversees and approves decisions made by the Pastoral Nominating Committee.

Who makes up the PNC? The PNC will be made up of a diverse representation of the entire membership of Rutgers Presbyterian Church. This committee will be dedicated to considering the qualifications, the hopes, desires, wishes, attributes deemed necessary by the whole Congregation . . . simply put . . . all the things we want in our new pastor/head of staff , indeed . . . all the things listed in our just-completed Mission Review Report and even more. These will be the people sitting across the table from the persons being considered for this very important position in the life of this Community of Faith.

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RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Renewal

Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC)

By Elder Richard Reece
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To PNC Members:

Once the PNC has been elected by the congregation your journey begins.

It is important to note that throughout the process the committee will have guidance from the Presbytery of New York City's **Committee on Ministry** as well as our current Interim Pastor David Prince. Marge Santos is your representative from the Committee on Ministry and will be at your first meeting. She will give you a packet of information at that time. Also, Joy Wyatt, an elder and current member of the Rutgers Session, has volunteered to provide the committee with an orientation workshop regarding selection processes, at the beginning of the process.

WHAT ABOUT TIME COMMITMENT? How long will it take to find a candidate for Pastor/Head of Staff for Rutgers Presbyterian Church? As there are many factors involved, it is difficult to answer this question. It could easily take a year, but it could take less. However you look at it, there is a definite time commitment. A lot will depend on the committee members and how quickly they can expedite the matters set before them. You as a committee will decide on your time table. Child care, conference call meetings, and e-mails will help to ensure that everyone on the committee is able to participate in as many meetings as possible. However, there is a time commitment involved, and flexibility will be important for the committee as a whole, and for individuals.

OTHER ITEMS FOR YOUR "TO DO" LIST! There are a variety of activities that comprise a pastoral selection process. They include advertising, resume solicitation and review, interviews, visits to hear candidates preach, second-round interviews, reference checks, and approval by the Presbytery. The committee will participate in all of these activities, though some activities may involve a subset of committee members (for instance, reference checking will probably be conducted by one or two people at most).

The following is a list of some of the specifics with a brief idea of what is involved. How and when you approach the various tasks will, of course, be up to you as a committee. These are just to give you an idea of some of the tasks at hand.

CHURCH INFORMATION FORM. One of the first tasks and one that will prove helpful throughout the pastoral selections process is the Church Information Form (CIF). Once completed, it will be available to all interested candidates. It consists of a church profile, narrative information about the church neighborhood, church programs, financial information and more. It will also include the very important **position description** which will be helpful with your advertising information.

ADVERTISING. Place advertisements in various publications as well as on-line, stating that the position of Pastor/ Head of Staff is available and that you are accepting resumes.

The advertisement will indicate a time period for accepting resumes as well as detailed qualifications required for the position.

RESUMES, VIDEO AND AUDIO TAPES. The committee will read and evaluate the resumes as they arrive. You will also be receiving video and audio tapes from some candidates for your listening and review. After appropriate review of resumes and tapes, a select number of possible candidates will be chosen for a face to face interview process.

INTERVIEWS. The committee will determine the questions for the interviews. Sample questions from past PNC's and others can be supplied to the committee if so desired. You will also be advised as to those questions that are illegal and should not be asked in an interview.

Don't forget, the candidates will also have questions for you.

HEAR CANDIDATES PREACH. The interview process will determine a few select candidates. At

this point you may desire further conversation with your selected candidates or you may want to continue the process by arranging to hear your candidates preach and then arrange for a second interview.

INTERVIEW AGAIN. Once you have heard your candidates preach, you will probably discover that you have more questions and that more conversation is necessary.

REFERENCE CHECK. Once a candidate has been selected, the committee will decide on a list of questions that will be used for telephone reference interviews for the references listed on the PIF (Personal Information Form) supplied by the candidate.

APPROVAL BY PRESBYTERY. After the reference process is completed and the PNC is satisfied that the candidate is the person for the position and you are ready to report to the Congregation, you will notify the COM, which will authorize the Session to call a congregational meeting. If the action of the congregation is favorable (nearly unanimous) the Candidate will be presented to the presbytery for final approval.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PNC TO THE CONGREGATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY. The PNC is operating as the representative of the entire congregation – most members of the church will not have an opportunity to interview pastoral candidates, a responsibility of the PNC. Given this responsibility, the PNC must keep the congregation informed about progress against the published timeline for the selection process. That said, any selection process involves dealing with sensitive, personal information. This committee will be responsible for gathering this information, using it appropriately, and guarding against inappropriate use. This means that committee members should not discuss PNC matters outside committee meetings and official committee communications to the congregation. More about confidentiality will be addressed at initial committee meetings. *ω*

Your Benevolence Gifts

By Elder Massimo Maglione



The Local Benevolence Sub-Committee has given to many worthy organizations. It is hard to signal out one for comment, but the Jan Hus Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Program (HOAP) deserves special mention. It is under the leadership of Luciano Kovacs, the Social Justice Director of Jan Hus. Unfortunately, he will be leaving soon, but I'm sure this agency will be headed by another able person.

It is a marvelous program that provides direct services, such as providing food, clothes, jobs and housing, to homeless and indigent working individuals barely hanging on economically. It is also charged with the mission to affect political change on behalf of the homeless and the wage-earning poor. HOAP believes that it should work for bringing about political

measures reducing the poverty level in the city; just providing direct services are not enough for this organization. This program has emphasized as well that the homeless speak for themselves. To accomplish that goal, they have a newsletter called HOAP News that features many articles written by homeless advocates. It states that this newsletter should "give us [homeless] an opportunity to use our talents to help the church build bridges between members of the church's homeless community, its far-reaching congregation, and its neighbors on the Upper East Side."

Another attempt to give voice to the homeless is the Circle of Arts, a gallery of visual art work and musical performances, mostly by artists bereft of employment and housing. It is housed in the Jan Hus Church on 74th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues. It is truly a groundbreaking project developed by many artists. It usually occurs in May.

Thus, this is one of many programs to whom the Local Benevolence Sub-Committee proffers monetary assistance. Such hardworking groups partly compensate for the paucity of aid from the public sector. Until the day when our local government will devote the requisite resources to ending poverty, Rutgers will have to be generous to such efforts on behalf of those in want. *ω*

What's Happening at Child's Play

For the past 20 years, Holly Nedelka has been the director of one of the most beloved family programs on the Upper West Side—Child's Play. She founded Child's Play when she was a stay-at-home mom with two small children, and was looking for a social activity that would be fun for her and her kids. Even though her son Kris and daughter Abby are now grown, Holly's mission to provide support and community for parents continues here at Rutgers, as it has since 1991.

So what is Child's Play all about? It offers fun, age-appropriate playgroups for children as young as 4 months and as old as 3 years, with a wide variety of activities like singing, arts and crafts (for toddlers), active play, story time, and more, facilitated by a group leader who is also a parent.

The groups are friendly and relaxed for both children and adults,

with enough routine to keep kids entertained yet plenty of opportunity for parents to chat in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Siblings are welcome to attend groups at no additional cost. Grandparents can also bring kids to the playgroups, if parents can't make it (no nannies or babysitters are allowed).

Holly has broadened the reach of Child's Play by bringing into the fold Mandarin language playgroups for babies and toddlers, and classes for school-aged children up to seven years of age, all led by native Mandarin speakers. The brainchild of mom Shuh Lan Tong, the Mandarin program has grown quickly and developed a reputation as a great place for kids to play and learn Chinese language and culture in a fun, friendly environment.

The Mandarin program also provides support to parents and caretakers who aren't native Mandarin speakers through its class for adults on Monday afternoons. You can contact Shuh Lan

Tong at (917) 385-6886 for information about our Mandarin program. The fall session of Child's Play and Mandarin ended January 25, 2008, and the new winter/spring term for both started the following week.

Child's Play isn't the only terrific family program here at Rutgers, however. Julie Ross, author of *Practical Parenting in the 21st Century* and several other books, runs a comprehensive 8-week series of Practical Parenting workshops at Rutgers on Thursdays.

In Practical Parenting, Julie teaches parents specific skills for handling whatever challenges their child poses in a positive, proactive way. The focus is on specific steps parents can take to address misbehavior or even stop it from happening. Practical Parenting will show families how to have healthier, happier relationships that will help kids become the caring, responsible people we all want them to be. The next workshop series began on January 11, 2008. Please call 212-765-2377 for more information, or check Julie's website (www.parentinghorizons.com) to learn more. *ω*

February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter Every Friday	2 1:00 p.m. Opera Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter
3 12:45 p.m. Joint Session & Deacons Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter Every Sunday	4 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon Every Monday	5 Primary Elections 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Musical 6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA) 8:00 p.m. Men's Al-Anon Every Tuesday	6 12:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting Every Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	7 6:00 p.m. Meal Program 7:00 p.m. Movie Series Every Thursday	Sundays	
10 12:45 p.m. New Officer Training	11 3:30 p.m. Worship Committee 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Every Monday	12 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Every Tuesday	13 6:30 p.m. Vesper Service 7:15 p.m. The Last Judgment in Scripture & Art Every Wednesday	14	8 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 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 6:00 Men's Shelter	9
17 12:45 p.m. P&S/JN Meeting 2:00 p.m. Healing a Difficult Relation: Christians and Jews	18 Presidents' Day Church & Office Building Closed	19	20	21	Birthdays!	
24 12:45 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting 4:00 p.m. Organ Recital	25 6:30 p.m. Christian Education	26	Preaching Schedule			
February 3 ___ Transfiguration Sunday; Charles Amstein preaching February 10 ___ 1st Sunday in Lent; Cheryl Pyrch preaching February 17 ___ President's Day; David Prince preaching February 24 ___ 3rd Sunday in Lent; David Prince preaching						

February 2008 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond


Christianity for China—Conflict or Benefit?

Sundays, February 3 and 10 at 9:45 a.m., Session room

Christian Missions to China have existed since the Middle Ages, but many think the Chinese should be left alone to practice their own religions and forms of thought. What do you think? Discussion will be led by the Reverend Dr. Scott Morton, Professor Emeritus of Chinese and Japanese History and Culture, Seaton Hall University, and former missionary in China.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 5, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall



A festive evening of maple syrup covered pancakes, tasty sausages, sugar loading and wonderful musical – and other – performances by our talented Rutgers Family. If you'd like to participate in our (very low key) talent show, or if you'd like to help flip pancakes, please call Charles Amstein at (212) 759-1978. Jean Kim is available to accompany folks on the piano.

Open the Welcome Circle

Friday, February 8, 6:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Welcome invites you to "Open the Welcome Circle" by attending the screening of the movie *Trans-America* at First Presbyterian Church in Manhattan (Fifth Avenue at 12th Street), Friday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. *Trans-America* is a delightful movie in the American Road Trip genre, and it will be followed by a discussion led by Sara Herwig, candidate for ministry in Boston Presbytery. Ms. Herwig will help us better understand the meaning of transgender, and how we can be more welcoming to the T part of LGBT. Please RSVP to Cheryl Pyrch at x205.

Vesper Services and The Last Judgment

Wednesdays, February 13—March 12, 6:30 & 7:15 p.m.

Lenten Vesper services begin on Wednesday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m. and continue through March 12. After vespers, our adult study in Lent will look at scriptures and images of *The Last Judgment* from Matthew and Revelation as well as by artist as Michelangelo, Giotto and Durer. Meteorite, biological catastrophes, disease, famine, pestilence, the moon turning to blood—all can be elements of last summer's movies or associated with *The Last Judgment*. For good reasons, progressive Christians often avoid talking or thinking about a final judgment. Lead by Rutgers own Cheryl Pyrch, Designated Associate Pastor, and Deacon Anne Leader, Assistant Professor of Art History at City College, these study times will be thought provoking and expand our understanding of the Christian faith, however uncomfortable that may prove to be.

Healing a Difficult Relationship: Christian and Jews in 2008

Sunday, February 17, 2:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Since its beginning, the Christian movement has been challenged by the presence of a continuing Jewish community—worshippers of the same God who have not been con-

vinced by Christian claims regarding Jesus of Nazareth. Too often the Christian response to this disagreement has been to denigrate Judaism, resulting in ignorance and violence. Since the tragedy of the Holocaust, churches across the spectrum have seen the need to repent from anti-Jewish teaching, and have embarked on a journey of learning, self reflection and theological renewal. We are called to join in that process.

Professor Mary Boys of Union Theological Seminary will give us an overview of the history of Christian/Jewish relations, and will help us better understand the connections between the two faiths. She'll touch on the dialogue and hopeful developments of the last several decades. Even though it's a holiday weekend, we hope you will make every effort to come to this wonderful lecture by a warm and engaging speaker! We have also invited friends from West End Synagogue. Tea, coffee and yummy treats will be served and there will be time for questions and conversation.

A Look at the Passion Texts

Sundays, February 24—March 16, 9:45 a.m., Session Room

Prepare for Holy Week with a close look at scriptures recounting the last days of Jesus with his disciples, his suffering and his death. At the center of our faith, these moving narratives help us to see Jesus more clearly, but are also—in many ways—disconcerting and problematic. Join seminary intern Jacquie Van Vliet in exploring these texts. We strongly encourage (but do not require) you to attend the lecture by Dr. Mary Boys on February 17 in preparation for this study!

African Burial Ground National Monument

Sunday, February 24, 1:15 p.m., Lower Manhattan

Rutgers is organizing a field trip to the New York African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan the afternoon of Sunday, February 24. We'll see the memorial and the hundreds of Africans, both enslaved and free, who were buried there in the 18th Century, and a docent will tell us of its history. We'll leave at 1:15 p.m. from the Daniel Russell room; there will be some walking involved but the Memorial is not large. The docent is prepared to speak to an adult/youth group, so we would not suggest it for young children. Please join us as we observe Black History month and learn about this important part of New York history. Please r.s.v.p. Cheryl at the church office at x 205.

A Mystic In the Making: Music of Olivier Messiaen

Sunday, February 24, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

In honor of one of the greatest organist composers of all time, Gail Archer takes us on a musical journey exploring the organ works of Olivier Messiaen, while showcasing Rutgers own Southfield Organ.

Blood Drive

Sunday, March 2, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., West End Synagogue

On Sunday, March 2 Rutgers will join with West End Synagogue, Lincoln Square Synagogue, Congregation Habonim and the New York Blood Center in a drive to gather this life-saving resource for our neighbors. Please contact Cheryl for more information.