



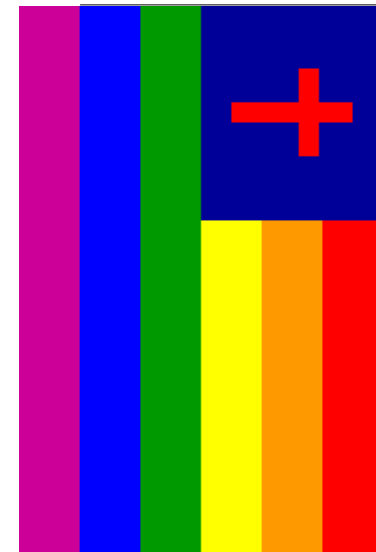
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MISSION STATEMENT "As followers of Jesus Christ, we rejoice in God's plan for a just, loving, and peaceful world, and we commit ourselves to making it a reality for all people everywhere."

June 2008
Volume 25, Issue 5



From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

The "dog days" have come early this summer with our brief but intense heat wave early in June. I hope you are staying cool wherever you are.

On June 19 I fly to San Jose, California, where the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will meet from June 21 to 28. Among the issues the assembly will deal with is yet another attempt to remove from our *Book of Order* the restrictive paragraph known as G-6.0601b. That paragraph limits eligibility for church office (minister, elder, or deacon) to people living "either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness." Four years ago the General Assembly again took the first step in eliminating the paragraph from the *Book of Order*, but a majority of the presbyteries failed to approve the elimination of the paragraph, which is necessary for a change in the *Book of Order*. As we know, change comes slowly, and many people have left the Presbyterian Church rather than wait until the restriction on ordination has been removed.

Many churches, Rutgers among them, and some presbyteries, New York City among them, have ignored the restriction, finding it contrary to the core message of the Christian Gospel which proclaims God's welcoming, inclusive love. I invite our members and friends to pray for the General Assembly as it meets and to keep praying for all who continue to experience the negative judgment conveyed in G-6.0601b.

We at Rutgers will continue to live out the inclusiveness clearly articulated in other parts of our *Book of Order*. G-3.0401 "The

Music From Rutgers

By Roger Franklin, Ph. D.

On Sunday, May 4th, a perfect spring afternoon, Music from Rutgers proudly presented *A Musical Anthology*, the annual benefit concert for the Christopher Roberts Homeless Shelter here at Rutgers Presbyterian Church, staged by Rutgers' own producer/director/pianist R. Wellington Jones.

This concert was dedicated to Ms. Jerona Babb, President of the Local chapter of the N.A.N.M., Inc.

Church is called to a new openness to its own membership, by affirming itself as a community of diversity, becoming in fact as well as in faith a community of women and men of all ages, races, and conditions, and by providing for its inclusiveness as a visible sign of the new humanity . . ." G-4.0403 "The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall give full expression to the rich diversity within its membership and shall provide means which will assure a greater inclusiveness leading to wholeness in its emerging life. Persons of all racial ethnic groups, different ages, both sexes, various disabilities, diverse geographical areas, different theological positions consistent with the Reformed tradition, as well as different marital conditions (married, single, widowed, or divorced) shall be guaranteed full participation and access to representation in the decision making of the church." G-5.0103 "The congregation shall welcome all persons who respond in trust and obedience to God's grace in Jesus Christ and desire to become part of the membership and ministry of his Church. No persons shall be denied membership because of race, ethnic origin, worldly condition, *or any other reason not related to profession of faith.*" (italics added)

I will be preaching at Rutgers on June 29, Gay Pride Sunday, and the day after the General Assembly adjourns. Whatever action the assembly takes, we will praise God and give thanks that God's love is greater and farther-reaching than any human institution, including the Church. I continue to be grateful for the privilege of serving as your interim pastor.

Dave Prince

What Do You Think?

1. Why apologize for obvious things that are out of your control?
2. Do you know when to stop working on a project and just let it go?
3. When you greet someone eye to eye and they just stare at you, what's your next move?
4. Everyone doesn't want to hear your continuous detailed commentary on your children?
5. Should there be a time limit on strangers staring at you?
6. Is it luck, if a computer system crashes just when you have to take a test you're not prepared for?
7. How many times do you have to apologize for a mistake?
8. When is being flexible not an asset?
9. How many times do you endure hearing the same incident repeated?
10. What's the need for computerized spelling/grammar check when they make a lot of mistakes?

'Til next time,
Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

Hour Children By Elder Charles Platt

This is one of the groups your Benevolence Committee contributes to. We prefer to aid groups that help people directly. **HOURLY CHILDREN** is a family service provider established in 1995 by a group of Sisters of Saint Joseph to support incarcerated mothers and their children. Both the mother and the child are part of the program and they aim to reunite them. The group runs 4 homes. When these women leave prison, they face a mountain of challenges beyond their prison record. They generally have few job skills, little education and few if, if any, financial resources. In addition, many of these women are still recovering from childhood physical and sexual abuse. HOURLY CHILDREN starts by providing housing and child care. During their time there the women complete their education, obtain marketable skills, and learn home and financial management skills. When the women are ready, the organization helps them with finding jobs and affordable housing.

There are more than 6,000 children in NY State whose mothers are in prison. Many are sent to live with relatives or foster families who often live hours from where their mothers are held. The children's insecurities are made worse by the fact that their mothers often have little or no access to phones. The absence of their mother leaves them vulnerable, particularly the older children, who face increased risk of involvement with crime, substance abuse, truancy, and other anti-social behaviors. Without proper care and attention, they too become victims of the prison system.

HOURLY CHILDREN provides the loving, compassionate care and guidance to help women and their children transition back into society and reunite as a family. ω

RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Renewal

Music From Rutgers

continued from page 1

Opening this second selection was Anna Marie Mackey, in formal attire. Using her powerful dramatic soprano voice, Ms. Mackey launched into her aria "Vieni! T'affretta!" from Verdi's *Macbeth* with telling effect. Eric Jorgenson as Macbeth, added his well-focused Verdi baritone to the plot. Chillingly, the couple projected their ambition as instruments of evil, in their vengeance duet.

We now turn to Antonín Dvořák's opera *Rusalka* sung ravishingly by Barbara Bliss in the original Czech. Alone, she confides to the moon the secret of her longing . . . one of the most touching love arias in opera. Ms. Bliss was stunning in a pale blue gown overlaid with sparkling rhinestones.

Edward Bruce Stevenson was in splendid vocal form, singing with power and dramatic intensity, the recitative and aria "O tu che in Seno Agli Angeli" from *La Forza del Destino*, Verdi's melodramatic tale of passion, revenge and fate.

"The Cherry Duet" from Pietro Mascagni's *L'Amico Fritz* featured soprano Barbara Bliss and tenor Edward Bruce Stevenson as the young couple, sung with delicacy and gorgeous vocalizing.

Barbara Bliss followed with the "Ballatella" from Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, sung in splendid vocal form, using her lovely soprano with intelligence and musicality.

Edward Bruce Stevenson closed the first part of the concert with "Amor ti Vieta" from Giordano's *Fedora* singing this short aria with warmth and great tonal beauty.

Following the intermission and a brief introduction of guest narrator Ms. Xiomora Nora, Principal, P.S. 132, District 6, were excerpts from Georges Bizet's *Carmen* in French.

Conceptually, Mr. Jones' edited version focused on the drama rather than the pomp and circumstance usually seen.

Julie DeVaere (Carmen), a graduate of the University of Michigan/ Ann



Arbor, was in splendid vocal form in the title role, using her rich mezzo-soprano with dramatic intensity. When we think of Carmen, we expect a fiery, passionate gypsy girl, with a dash of fatalism that flirts with death. From the rhythms of the Habanera to her final tragic confrontation outside of the bullring, Ms. DeVaere was all that and more! Reading her bio notes in the program, I was amazed that this was her very first entrée in the role of Carmen!

Ernest Sainvilus (Don José), a recipient of the National Merit Scholarship Award, impressed us with his imposing stage presence and appealing lyric tenor voice, particularly in his duet with the naive peasant girl Micaela and later in the famous "Flower Song."

Jeanine DeBicque (Micaela) presently a graduate student at Manhattan School of Music, scored impressively as the shy country girl Micaela, displaying her lovely lyric soprano sensitively with impeccable sense of style, in the duet with Don José. Later, she stopped the concert cold with "Micaela's Aria" eliciting an immediate, deserved "Brava!" from the discerning crowd. In June 2009, Ms. DeBicque will be appearing at Lincoln Center with Lorin Maazel and The New York Philharmonic.

And now, for a change of pace, Carmen joined her gypsy friends Mercedes (Ladie Whitaker) and Frasquita (Marguerite Sutherland) with the entire

company in a frenetic Danse Boheme, where the hypnotic rhythms of the flamenco accelerated to a break-neck speed, accented by the percussion tambourine of Bruce Bergquist, Rutgers' Executive Director of Property. And, for this sequence, R. Wellington Jones put on his "Dance Hat" (as if he didn't have enough to do) and choreographed the scene with simple but effective dance patterns. The audience loved it!

Excitement built for the entrance of the husky-voiced bull-fighter Escamillo (Richard Cassell) singing the famous "Toreador Song." With proper bravado, he appeared in a leather motorcycle jacket with "Elvis" painted on the back! For his final entrance to the bull ring, he sported a shirt covered with silver spangles, "a suit of lights?" I go the point. But felt it would have been more suited for a rock concert than Bizet's opera. Jean Suss as Zuniga the captain of the guards made a brief entrance in this edited version.

As the lights dimmed on the final scene of R. Wellington Jones' dramatic staging, a solemn procession of the entire cast walked down Rutgers' center aisle, where the distraught José, throwing himself over the body of Carmen he has just stabbed, cried: "O Carmen, my beloved Carmen!"

The chorus sung magnificently under the direction of Alburtt Rhodes.

After a moment of silence, the entire audience jumped to its feet breaking the sound barrier with cheering and heavy applause. Even the balcony was full.

From my seat in the last row on the aisle (right side) in the sanctuary – believe it or not – the sound was perfect! – and without microphones!

Nicolas Fox, music director and coach, played with understanding and sensitivity throughout the entire performance. He will be one of our major conductors in the future.

Airing of the concert will be seen in the fall on cable channels 57 and 85. More information to follow. ω

What do YOU like to do in the Gym?

We asked that question to a group of children, teens and adults who met after church on Sunday, April 27th, to talk about ways to share the gym (even more) safely and harmoniously. The children had many answers to that question. Some liked playing on the mats or hanging out and watching. Most liked ball games, including basketball, "football," and handball; both organized and disorganized. The adults had one preferred activity: drinking coffee, talking with other adults, and leaning against the railing watching their kids (while occasionally catching wayward balls).

Diane Nicole, of the *Body & Spirit* program, talked about the many programs we have during the week – from toddler movement to soccer – and Ailinn Finn showed us pictures from the "Jumpin' and Jivin'" program that she attends (see below). Dermonte Alleyne told us about the shelter program. Dermonte and Michael Gilfillan also took us on a tour of the newly plastered and painted storage closet on the gym floor.

Together we came up with new ideas and rules for keeping the after-church time safe and taking care of equipment. Here is our list! (We will post an abbreviated version in the gym).



Singing for the Sick

Hello. My name is Jennifer Finn and once a month I sing for cancer patients, most of them Medicaid recipients at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital. I sing for them at their bedside. Usually, I ask them what sort of song they would like to hear. "Amazing Grace" is a common request.

The point is to soothe and lift their spirits. Mostly, my hope is that the delicious, healing vitality I feel while I sing vibrates and reminds them of their own.

I was moved to seek out this opportunity by a book of Mother Theresa's teachings called *No Greater Love*. Her work with the poor and dying in India as a living teaching of Christ's message really resonates with me.

The secret here is that this service is as healing for me as it is for the patients. For many years I felt perplexed by this passion to sing, but had no interest in being in the business of music. Now this gift that had perplexed me for so long has found a home.

I am a stranger to these people, so I just get out of the way and let this voice out . . . my voice. My greatest wish is that they can feel the love in it.

"I assure you, as often as you did it for one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me," said Jesus. ω

1. **NO food or drink on the gym floor.**
2. **NO shoes on the mats.**
3. **Keep all mats and balls on the gym floor, and put equipment back in closet neatly. Don't leave everything for the last person to put away.**
4. **Keep off railings.**
5. **Big children need to be careful when playing with little children, and should include them in games. But sometimes little kids need to let big kids play by themselves.**
6. **When some kids want to play with mats and some with balls, we'll divide the gym into a "ball section" and a "mat section."**
7. **Remember common sense and courtesy.**
8. **Children should listen to all adults – not just their parents. Adults should watch out for all kids – not just their children.**
9. **We are a church!**

Drop in and Play at Child's Play!

Moms, dads, and grandparents with their babies and toddlers are always welcome to the Child's Play program here at Rutgers. Our summer playgroups began on Monday, June 2, and last until Friday, August 15. Families can purchase as many books of 6 passes as they need for \$150 each, and passes can be used any day and time Child's Play is open, Monday through Friday (please see our flyer for the schedule). Each group is available to kids of all ages, and siblings are welcome at no additional cost. Join us for singing, arts and crafts, story time, water play, and more for a fun Child's Play summer!

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat														
1 12:45 p.m. Deacons Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Sunday</i>	2 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 9:00 p.m. Worship Committee 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts <i>Every Monday</i>	3 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA) 8:00 p.m. Men's Al-Anon <i>Every Tuesday</i>	4 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting <i>Every Wednesday</i>	5 6:00 p.m. Meal Program 7:00 p.m. Movie Series <i>Every Thursday</i>	6 10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Friday</i> S.K.A.T.E.	7 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Saturday</i>														
8 9:00 a.m. PNC Meeting 12:45 p.m. P&SJM Meeting	9	10 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Preaching Schedule <i>June 1</i> ___ 9th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Cheryl Pynch preaching <i>June 8</i> ___ 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time; David D. Prince preaching <i>June 15</i> ___ Fathers' Day and Youth Sunday; Cheryl Pynch preaching <i>June 22</i> ___ 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Charles A. Amstein preaching <i>June 29</i> ___ 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time; David D. Prince preaching </div>																	
15 Fathers' Day & Youth Sunday 3:00 p.m. Violin Recital	16 6:30 p.m. Christian Education Meeting	17																		
22 2:00 p.m. <i>No More Torture</i>	23	24 6:00 p.m. PNC Meeting																		
29 Gay Pride Sunday	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Birthdays! </div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>1 Edward Alley</td> <td>19 Krista Olson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Colin & Zachary Nelson</td> <td>22 Anne Barstow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Adele Ou Yang</td> <td>26 Alan Robinson, Amelia & Sally Suchanek</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 Robin Berry</td> <td>27 Cullen Dunn-Ellis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 Allison & Kyle Okimoto</td> <td>29 Benjamin Williamson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 Marion Towne</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 Susan Poliacik</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					1 Edward Alley	19 Krista Olson	2 Colin & Zachary Nelson	22 Anne Barstow	4 Adele Ou Yang	26 Alan Robinson, Amelia & Sally Suchanek	5 Robin Berry	27 Cullen Dunn-Ellis	9 Allison & Kyle Okimoto	29 Benjamin Williamson	15 Marion Towne		16 Susan Poliacik	
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Sundays	
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

June 2008 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

"No More Torture: Defending Against Global Risk" Sunday, June 22, 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Come to a lecture featuring Brigadier General Stephen Xenakis. General Xenakis recently retired from a 28 year career in the Army, and is one of many high ranking military officers opposed to the use of torture. It promises to be a stimulating and enlightening discussion. The program is being co-sponsored by Second Presbyterian.

Gay Pride Parade Sunday, June 29, 1 p.m., assembling at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (Fifth Avenue & 55th Street)

We will be celebrating and marching in the annual **Heritage of Pride March** down Fifth Avenue in New York. This year we have a Float! Co-sponsored by Presbyterian Welcome and the United Methodist Church, this year's float has been christened "Flaming for Christ." Please plan to arrive by 1 p.m. at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Volunteers are also needed

at the Welcome table at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church and along the parade route at the Evelyn Davidson Water Table at First Presbyterian Church (Fifth Avenue & 12th Street). Please contact Cheryl at the church office or Meg Harper at the Presbyterian Welcome office (917) 441-8638 if you intend to participate.

People on the Move — Vacation Bible School 2008 August 18-22, 9 a.m. to noon

Children from ages 4-11 are invited to our Vacation Bible School this year where we will be putting on a dramatic production of the Exodus story. Everyone will have an age-appropriate part and a chance to work on props sets; our purpose will be to learn the story, build community and have fun. We have an experienced staff of teachers and interns of all ages. Please spread the word among family and friends. Suggested donation is \$25 for the week to cover materials. If you would like to help by either working directly with kids or helping to organize, please talk to Cheryl at the church office at x205.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEW ORLEANS PROJECT

Involvement in post-Katrina New Orleans through **Churches Supporting Churches** has attracted considerable interest at Rutgers. The Peace and Social Justice Network and the Session recommend our joining. But we need at least a dozen of our members to make the least level of commitment.

In New Orleans, eighty percent of the businesses and fifty percent of the schools in the mostly black Lower Ninth and Gentilly wards remained closed; two thirds of their people live as refugees out of state, nearly a third of them unemployed. Only twenty percent of the federal money earmarked for New Orleans recovery and for levee repair has been spent. Nearly all the money will assist homeowners, very little for renters—rental costs being fifty percent higher than before the storm. Tens of thousands still live in trailers, now judged to have unsafe levels of formaldehyde toxicity. Levee repairs are projected to be finished only by 2011, and will be only one tenth the level of storm protection as Amsterdam, Holland. For half the cost of the war in Iraq, a Gulf Coast Civic Works program could put 100,000 people to work earning \$15 per hour.

Churches Supporting Churches was formed in the Aftermath of Katrina by leaders of the old Civil Rights Movement. They recognized that possibly the most devastating losses to these wards was the loss of churches. Much more than the rest of the city, these were church people. Churches were the primary elements of civil society in these wards. Churches are the primary home contacts for the people living in the New Orleans diaspora, are the only institutions capable of keeping people together, ministering to their trauma, burying their dead, and particularly, organizing them for political impact on a recovery that is lopsided in favor of the affluent.

Churches Supporting Churches asks churches like ours from around the country to involve themselves with one of the

thirty six Lower Ninth and Gentilly black churches. Most lost their buildings. Two thirds of their members now live away—as do some of their pastors. Their pastors have lost their libraries, their livelihoods, their homes, and their children's schools.

Churches Supporting Churches brings the pastors home once a month to hold services. While there, they're gathered for training in trauma work, community organizing, and political impact on the recovery. It employs churches like ours to get involved, make a difference, be, from afar, a continuing and much-needed support.

Things you could do:

- help organize, recruit and seek support among our members;
- collect items requested by our partner church;
- collect books for the pastor, who's lost an entire library;
- be a support person for someone in the church;
- go to New Orleans, send our youth there, visit the church, work on a house build with other Presbyterians, or support someone else's visit;
- bring the pastor, possibly lay people from the church to New York; or
- help raise money for all of the above.

In order to join CSC, we need a task force to work with our Peace and Social Justice Network. We currently have four members. If you could join us, or assist our work, please speak to one of the pastors, or contact me at cargo1@yahoo.com.

George Williamson