

# Renewal

## From the Pastor’s Desk ...

The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer



Dear Members and Friends of Rutgers Church,

Homecoming Sunday, September 15th, is right around the corner. And the program year ahead will afford us many ways to grown in the image of God and to serve with justice and love in the name of Christ. Homecoming is when we renew our commitment to serve as Christ’s hands in the world.

Just prior to Homecoming, our city and nation will observe the anniversary of 9/11, and on that day Rutgers Church will be offering a variety of ministries both to you, our members and friends, and to the wider community.

On Wednesday, 9/11/02, a member of the pastoral staff will be available – no appointment needed – between 10:30 am and 8:00 pm to speak to anyone who feels the need to talk, or share a burden, or just sit with some other person.

Also the sanctuary will

be open for personal prayer and meditation between 8:00 am and 6:30 pm. Furthermore, half-hour-long circles of prayer and remembrance, each led by members of the pastoral staff, will be held in the chancel of the sanctuary at four different times: from 8:45 to 9:15 am, the timeframe when the twin towers were struck by the airplanes; from 9:55 to 10:30 am, the timeframe when both towers collapsed; from 12:15 to 12:45 pm, for those seeking spiritual support and guidance on lunchbreak; and from 6:30 to 7:00 pm for those seeking solace in the evening.

Prayer and remembrance are such important spiritual exercises.

So, on 9/11/02, in our informal circles, we will gather in the presence of God, who is our shelter amidst the storms of life, to remember – to remember:

the goodness of God;  
the reality of evil;  
the lives of loved ones

and friends;  
our own stories of 9/11/01;  
our own wrestling with doubt and despair;  
our own searching for comfort and hope;  
our own desire for healing and normalcy.

And on 9/11/02, in our informal circles, we will turn to God, who is our refuge and strength in times of trouble, to pray – to pray:

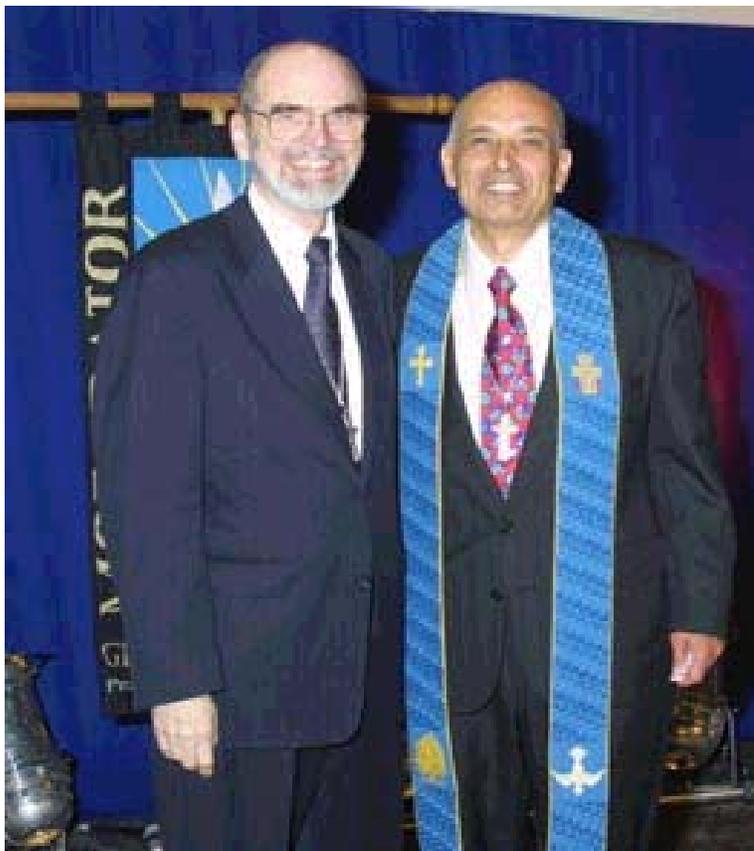
in supplication for the families and friends of those who were killed;

in thanks for the miraculous escape from harm

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## Rutgers to Host Denominational Moderator



The Reverend Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel (right), the newly elected Moderator of the 214th General Assembly with the Reverend Dr. Jack Rogers (left), outgoing Moderator of the 213th General Assembly.

The Reverend Fahed Abu-Akel will be the guest of honor here at Rutgers Church on Sunday afternoon, September 8, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm at a reception sponsored by the Presbytery of New York City.

Abu-Akel was elected moderator of the PC (USA) at the June 2002 General Assembly held in Columbus, OH.

Abu-Akel, a Palestinian-American pastor from Atlanta who has lived in the United States since 1966, was elected on the second ballot with 57 percent of the vote.

He told the Assembly: "I grew up in Kuffer-Yassif, Galilee, Israel, in a Palestinian Arab village 25 miles northwest of Nazareth. My Christian Palestinian Arab parents were the dominant influence in my life. They not

only memorized the scripture but also nurtured in their eight children a love for scripture and Jesus Christ. Two Presbyterian missionaries from Scotland who lived in the second floor of our home were the second most important influence in my life of faith.

"Through their life, witness and ministry, I made the life-changing decision to accept Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. As a result of that decision, I felt a call to the ministry but discovered that in the birth place of Jesus Christ there was no place for me to pursue a theological education, so in 1966 I came to the USA.

"After completing college, I went to Columbia Theological Seminary in 1970 to pursue my theological education. Through

the combined witness of Presbyterian missionaries, Columbia Theological Seminary and First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, I became an ordained minister in the PC(USA) in 1978.

"I accepted a call to establish the Atlanta Ministry with International Students (AMIS), an ecumenical ministry of friendship and hospitality which now ministers to the 5,500 international students from 140 nations studying in the 22 metropolitan Atlanta area colleges and universities.

"I also served as mission staff of First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta from 1980 until 2001, helping them develop a focus on international missions in Haiti, Kenya and Brazil. As I reflect on the experiences of my childhood, youth and adulthood, the Church has been the center of my life.

"My call to the office of Moderator is a process which came through the voices of my Presbytery. On January 16, 2002, Dr. Ed Albright, Executive Presbyter of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery, asked me to consider standing as candidate for Moderator of the 214th General Assembly. I requested a time to pray about this awesome responsibility.

"After praying about it, talking with my wife, elders and pastors in the presbytery, AMIS pastors and past moderators, the call to this office began to grow in my heart.

"The call was confirmed in two ways: firstly, after prayer and counsel from friends I felt peace in my heart and mind and secondly, on February 23, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta voted unanimously to confirm my nomination. The final confirmation of this call will come as you, the commissioners of the 214th General Assembly, seek

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### From the Pastor's Desk... continued from page 1 >>

of so very many persons;

in petition for the well-being of those who have lost their health, or their jobs, or their homes, or their faith, or their hope, or their capacity to love;

in gratitude for the selfless, heroic actions of firefighters, police, doctors, nurses, and other rescue workers;

in penance for any hatred that has been born within us;

in dependence for our own healing;

in hope for the gift of Christ's wisdom as we search for just and non-violent ways to engage and limit the powers of evil;

in love for the deliverance of our enemies, too, from those powers.

You are invited to join us for one or more of our 9/11/02 observances, and then for worship and the potluck luncheon four days later on Homecoming Sunday.



## PC (USA) Moderator Offers Prayer For September 11

**The Rev. Fahed Abu-Akel, moderator of the 214th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), has called on Presbyterians to mark the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks with prayer and reaching out to others. In a letter to the denomination, he asks Presbyterians to open their churches to those seeking "a haven and a place to pray," and to consider joining with their neighbors, including Jews and Muslims, in interfaith services.**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Almost one year later, it is still hard to take in the events of September 11, 2001 — a day that is painfully remembered by all of us. The attacks on the World Trade towers and the Pentagon, and the crash in Pennsylvania, sent a tremendous shock around the world. Many believe that our country and the world will never be the same.

Plans are being made in many towns and cities to remember September 11th in various ways. I want to encourage all of us in the Presbyterian Church (USA) to be among those who will be marking the occasion. It is important that we come together in prayer and community, especially when our sighs are too deep for words.

Open the doors of your church building for those in the community who are seeking a haven and a place to pray. Perhaps you would like to seek out your neighbors who are Muslim or Jewish and invite them to join you in an interfaith service. On our denomination's Web site, [www.pcusa.org/september11](http://www.pcusa.org/september11), an outline for an interfaith service and other helpful resources can be found. Please consider doing some or all of the following on September 11th, as you are able: Observe a day of prayer and fasting. In your prayers, remember the victims of the attacks and their relatives; our nation and its leaders, especially President Bush and members of Congress; and the peoples of the world. Pray that swords will indeed become plowshares and that justice will roll down like an ever-flowing stream.

In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul wrote, "Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (Rom. 8:26-27). Know that I continue to pray for you, for our church, for our nation, and for the world.

Peace/Salaam,

The Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel  
Moderator, 214th General Assembly (2002)

## Remembering an Eventful Summer

by R. Wellington Jones, Special Events Committee Chair

The opera chosen for this year's May 5th recital to benefit the Christopher Roberts Homeless Shelter was Giacomo Puccini's last opera, *Turandot*.

The part of the Chinese Emperor Altoum was convincingly sung by the Rev. Dr. Byron E. Shafer, making his operatic debut in fine voice. The role of Princess Turandot was sung by Anna-Marie Mackey, and that of Calaf, the Unknown Prince, was sung by John Chevalier, in both cases with unflinching and sustained lyricism.

The opera's opening scene was a *commedia dell'arte* of richly comic improvisation which underscored the opera's essential conflict; baritone Ko Kaiden and tenors John Nelson and Alburtt Rhodes as the Imperial attendants Ping, Pang and Pong displayed true professionalism in this complex trio ensemble requiring astute stagecraft, not to mention considerable use of Chinese fans.

Bass William Himmelbauer and soprano Rebecca Todd Bixler, as the deposed Tartar king and the slave girl Liu in the opera's climactic scene, showed a fine flair for acting, and sang their roles with commitment and pathos. Louise Mike as the Mandarin and Stephen Whitley as the Herald both sang with authority and conviction. The chorus greeted the Emperor with reverence, and commented on the action with vigor.

Other contributors to the success of this production include Dr. Vera Roberts, narrator; the Rev. Charles Amstein, raconteur; Lynne Morris, assistant to the director and costume mistress; Bruce Bergquist, percussionist; rehearsal pianist Denise Williams; Italian language coach Dr. Massimo

Maglione; and R. Wellington Jones as producer/director.

The primary agent of the success of this production, which was particularly well-received by an enthusiastic audience and netted an unprecedented \$4,900 for the support of the Shelter Program, was conductor/pianist Marshall Williamson, who worked tirelessly with the soloists over twelve weeks and trained the chorus, all in addition to sustaining the cast and soloists throughout an intricate and demanding score.

The recital opened with a performance of JS Bach's keyboard Partita in B-Flat major by R. Wellington Jones; this was followed by Alberto Ginastera's *Danza mosa donosa* written in 1939. There followed a vocal recital of songs by Vittorio Furgeri composed for the occasion to texts by Jean Suss and Evelyn Kiley, sung by: Jacquelyn Carpenter, soprano; William Himmelbauer, bass; Janyce Jones, Soprano; Alan Gordon Smulen, baritone; Harry Thompson, bass-baritone; and Ladie Whitaker, soprano.

The concert received a standing ovation.

The four Thursday afternoon recitals produced by R. Wellington Jones all played to capacity audiences of Junior High School and Elementary schoolchildren from the five boroughs. The first recital on May 16th, featured Veronica Burke, soprano accompanied by Kathryn Woodward on piano in a recital of the parlour songs of Sir Arthur Sullivan.

The second, on May 23rd, featured substantial excerpts from Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, with Paula Poulafearh in the soprano role of Leonora, Barbara MacAlister, mezzo-soprano, as Azucena, Salvatore Motisi, tenor, as Manrico, Wesley Garrison,

baritone, as Count di Luna, Steven Fredericks, bass-baritone, as Ferrando, and Bruce Bergquist, tenor, as Ruiz. Bob Wilson accompanied at the piano.

The third recital on May 30th featured Janyce Jones and Ladie Whitaker in a varied recital of operatic arias, spirituals, and songs set to poems of Langston Hughes, to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of his birth.

The fourth recital on June 6th featured Director Stephen Whitley and the P.S. 161 District 7 Chorus, and Colleen Kennedy, in a varied program of music.

The annual Rutgers Church picnic took place on Saturday, July 13th at the Presbyterian Center at Westminster Lake in Putnam County, New York.

The pre-picnic preparations were handled by Mildred Saunders and R. Wellington Jones. The leisurely luncheon menu included: fried chicken, seasoned pork spareribs, beef knockwurst, franks, hamburgers, all fired on the grill; baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, vegetable crudites, and various leaf salads. Soft drinks and bottled water were provided by C.C. Riley. Firing the grills and food preparation were tended to dutifully by: Louisa Berry; Doris Bryant, Suzanne Spears and Stephen Whitley (with considerable help from Dr. Shafer).

After lunch, a Bingo competition was held by Ms. Lois Bellamy, which gave considerable pleasure and satisfaction to the picnickers. Boating, swimming and nature walking filled out the afternoon, which can be recapitulated on September 3rd and 10th, on TimeWarner Cable Channel 57 as well as RCN Local Manhattan Cable TV Channel 109.

## Christmas Caption Competition



Photo: Kendall Messick

**What is going on in this picture?**

**What is Santa saying? Is his “friend” saying anything back? You decide, and send your thoughts to [adam@rutgerschurch.com](mailto:adam@rutgerschurch.com). We will print a selection of the best ones we receive in the next issue of Renewal!**

**Need some help? Here are some suggestions:**

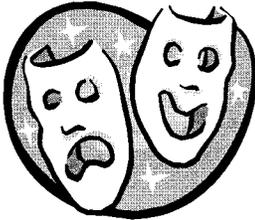
**Santa: “I don’t care what a good bear you have been this year - you can’t put a tattoo on fur!”**

**Bear: “With a voice like that, Santa, Wellington Jones will be recruiting you for his next opera!”**

**Send your (superior) efforts by November 18!**

# Fall 2002 movies at Rutgers

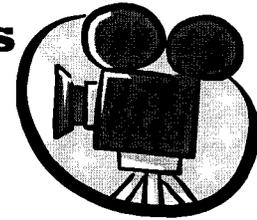
236 West 73<sup>rd</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor (212) 877-8227



**Thursday Evenings  
at 7:00pm**

sponsored by the Board of Deacons

**Free Admission**



**Hosted by DR. ROGER FRANKLIN**

**September 5 • Shrek** (2001) Color, 93 mins

**Shrek**, an endearing ogre, sets out on a daring quest to rescue a princess (**Cameron Diaz**) with the help of his lovable, loudmouth donkey (**Eddie Murphy**) and win back the deed to his beloved swamp. **John Lithgow** also stars as the evil Lord. "Not just a brilliant animated feature, but a superb film on any level." USA TODAY

**September 12 • The Paleface** (1948), Color, 91 mins.

**Bob Hope** is a daffy dentist; **Jane Russell** is a gorgeous gun slinging Calamity Jane, and together they tame the Wild West with laughter. Features the Oscar-winning song "Buttons and Bows."

**September 19 • Tootsie** (1983), Color, 119 mins

**Dustin Hoffman** stars as an out-of-work actor who disguises himself as a woman to get a job on a popular TV soap opera. **Bill Murray**, **Jessica Lange**, **Dabney Coleman** and **Charles Durning** are featured. "An absolute delight, **Tootsie** is hilarious, touching, and marvelously acted – five stars!"

**September 26 • The Firefly** (1937), B&W, 130 mins

**Jeanette McDonald** stars as a Spanish spy fighting Napoleon in this **Rudolf Friml** film. Co-star **Allan Jones** gets to sing the movie's best song, "Donkey Serenade." **Warren William**, **Douglas Dumbrille**, **Billy Gilbert**, **George Zucco** and **Henry Daniell** are featured.

**CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 8 THROUGH NOVEMBER 24, 2002**

- September 8**
- 10:00 a.m. **Infant Care** – 4th Floor  
 10:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal** – Sanctuary  
 11:00 a.m. **Worship** – Dr. Shafer preaching; the Sacrament of Holy Communion; the Choir singing  
 11:15 a.m. **Sunday School for ages 3-9** – after first part of Worship, 4th Floor  
 12:15 p.m. **Coffee Hour**  
 12:30 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**  
 12:45 p.m. **Session Meeting** – Session Room  
 12:45 p.m. **Board of Deacons Meeting** – Blue Room
- September 15 Homecoming Sunday**
- 9:45 a.m. **Church School, aged 10-14** – Blue Room  
 9:45 a.m. **Adult and Youth Class** – Session Room  
 10:00 a.m. **Infant and Child Care (9:30 by pre-arrangement)** – 2nd Floor  
 10:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal** – Sanctuary  
 11:00 a.m. **Worship** – Dr. Shafer preaching; the Sacrament of Baptism: Dylan, son of Amy and Scott Burke  
 11:15 a.m. **Church School for ages 3-9** – after first part of Worship, 4th Floor  
 12:15 p.m. **Coffee Hour**  
 12:30 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**  
 12:45 p.m. **Homecoming Pot-Luck Luncheon and Special Report by the Long-Range Planning Committee** – 5th Floor
- The ordinary Sunday schedule continues from September 22 through November 24:**
- 9:45 a.m. **Various meetings as announced in the weekly order of service**  
 9:45 a.m. **Church School, aged 10-14** – Blue Room  
 9:45 a.m. **Adult and Youth Class** – Session Room  
 10:00 a.m. **Infant and Child Care (9:30 by pre-arrangement)** – 2nd Floor  
 10:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal** – Sanctuary  
 11:00 a.m. **Worship** – Dr. Shafer preaching  
 (except 9/29, Elder Cheryl Pynch; 10/13, the Reverend Charles A. Amstein; 10/27, Elder Cheryl Pynch; and 11/17, the Reverend Charles A. Amstein)  
**World Communion Sunday** will be celebrated **10/6**  
**The Peacemaking Offering** will be received **10/6**  
**Invite-A-Friend Sunday** is **10/20**  
**Reformation Sunday** will be observed **10/27**  
**New Members** will be received **11/3**  
**Holy Communion** will be celebrated **11/10**  
**Stewardship Sunday** will be observed **11/24**
- 12:15 p.m. **Coffee Hour**  
 12:30 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**  
 12:45 p.m. **Luncheons and Board & Committee Meetings**  
**“New and Old-time Members” Luncheon, 9/29**  
**Board of Deacons, 10/6, 11/3**  
**The Session, 10/6, 11/10**  
**Peace & Social Justice Network, 9/22, 10/20, 11/17**

## Special Events at Rutgers

**Wednesday, September 11, 2002 – Circle of Prayer and Remembrance** – a period to gather with others in the chancel of our sanctuary for directed prayer, remembrance, and reflection, offered at **four times** during the day: **8:45-9:15 am** (the timeframe during which both the North and South towers of the World Trade Center were struck by aircraft); **9:55-10:30 am** (the timeframe during which both the North and South towers collapsed and fell); **12:15-12:45 pm** (for the convenience of those on lunchbreak); and **6:30-7:00 pm** (for those unable to attend earlier observances). The sanctuary will also be open for **personal prayer** throughout the day, **from 8:00 am to 6:30 pm**. Members of the pastoral staff will be available in the Daniel Russell Room (the first-floor lounge) for **coffee, conversation, and spiritual guidance** throughout the day, **from 10:30 am to 8:00 pm**.

**Sunday, September 15, Homecoming Sunday** – help us launch the start of a new program year with a full array of church school classes, choir activities, and worship services. **At 12:45 pm**, during the traditional **luncheon, served by the Special Events Committee**, information will be shared about the proposals developed by the Long-Range Planning Committee and your reactions will be solicited to their suggestions.

**Sunday, September 29, 12:45 pm** – a luncheon where out relatively new members (those who have joined in the new millennium, since January 1, 2000) are the special guests and older members are invited, too. A chance to get better acquainted and make new friends.

**Sunday, October 20, 11:00 am** – **Invite-A-Friend Sunday**. Share the good news about Rutgers Church with some friends. Bring them with you for worship and a special coffee hour that will follow afterwards.

**Considering Church Membership? An Inquirer's Class for people who wish to discuss spiritual issues or learn more about the Rutgers Church**, will be held from **6:30 to 8:00 pm on Wednesday evenings, October 23 and 30**. New members will be received at the service of worship on **Sunday, November 3**. If you are looking for a spiritual home in New York City, come and learn more about Rutgers Church. You've always known that worshipping God is good for your spirit – now doctors confirm that worshipping God is also good for your body. So join us!

On **Thanksgiving Day, November 28**, volunteers from Rutgers Church provide the food for **Thanksgiving Dinner for residents of Euclid Hall**, a nearby residence for senior citizens operated by the West Side Federation for Senior Housing, of which one of our Parish Associates, the Reverend Laura Jervis, is the Executive Director. **Call the church office (877-8227) with your offer of food** – cooked turkeys,

## Other Regularly Scheduled Events

potatoes, and other fixings – **so that others may share in the bounty God has provided**.

**Dr. Shafer** may be heard on **WABC's Religion on the Line** radio program (770 AM), **Sunday mornings from 6:00 am to 9:00 am on September 8, 15, and 29; October 6 and 27; November 3 and 24; and December 1, 22, 25 (Special Christmas Day program), and 29**.

**An HIV+/AIDS Spiritual Support Group for men** meets **every Tuesday evening from 6:00-7:30 pm**. The group is led by **Douglas Rowan**, a professional counselor and facilitator. Please mention this support group to anyone in need that you know.

**Rutgers Church** provides a **Senior Citizens Meal Program every Thursday evening** at 6:00 pm from September through June. A movie is shown after the meal at 7:00 pm most Thursdays except those between Thanksgiving and New Year. Volunteers are always needed to help.

**Rutgers Church** maintains a **shelter for homeless men** in our gymnasium **every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening**, from September 20 through May 25. Volunteers from Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church staff the shelter on Fridays; volunteers from Christ and St. Stephen Episcopal Church, on Saturdays; and volunteers from our own church on Sundays. **Help is needed in order to maintain this program**.

## Marshall Williamson's farewell as Minister of Music

"And I guess I will have to thank R. Wellington Jones who has caused me so much pain and suffering with his annual operas."

*(The following is a copy of Marshall Williamson's prepared address for his retirement party on June 28, 2002)*

"Where do I begin to say thanks for thirty-five amazing years?"

"First, to my church family. Laura spoke so eloquently about this in her sermon last Sunday. I don't think we really appreciate our church family until we need them. The outpouring of love and support I felt at the time of my 'tango with the taxi' was overwhelming and will sustain me for the rest of my days.

"Last summer in Santa Barbara, I went up upon a mountain and this voice (sounding like a combination of Cyril Jenkins and Roger Franklin) said: 'Marshall – you have been at Rutgers Church long enough: it is time to step aside and to bring in some young, vigorous leadership for the music program.'

"So, the wheels were set in motion. In my 35 years here I have never known a committee to function with such speed and determination, as if to say: 'Let's get his replacement before Marshall changes his mind.'

I pray the Lord will bless George Davey and he will keep a sense of humor. I am leaving a little present for George on the organ console – a cup which

says: 'I am surrounded by idiots.'

"I thank the Session of Rutgers for this fabulous retirement party and for the title of Minister of Music, Emeritus. How I cherish that honor.

"I thank the administrative staff: Bruce, Adam, Tina and Patricia and the support staff. What would I have done without the help of Dermonte, Frank and Taras? They all kept me going.

"How blessed we are with our clergy staff. Laura – we have been through the wars together – Cheryl, Janet and Charles (thanks for his singing).

"I am especially happy Cyril and Edith Jenkins are here, along with Margaret's brother, Keith, Chris, Ian and Trevor. Cyril was the pastor for my first 18 years and they were wonderful years of music. Cyril and Edith even had the grace to let me marry their daughter.

"There have been many pastors and Interims since then – I hope to write a book: 'Pastors I Have Known.'

"And I guess I will have to thank R. Wellington Jones who has caused me so much pain and suffering with his annual operas. But the Lord has stayed with us. He has given us one triumph after another.

"And then come the singers. What a rich heritage of beautiful singers this church has. Let us remember those who have gone be-

fore: Edmond Karlsrud, our bass soloist for 38 years, Bill Tatum, Patricia Benedict, and just in the last few months, Sally Murray, Makiko Narumi, and Claudia Hall.

"I know some of the 'choir of stars' are here – Nadia Witkowska, Yuki Harumi, Carolyn Karlsrud who has played so many services over the years. I am pleased that Nancy Williams, our soprano soloist for 25 years is here with Edward Alley, who conducted so many spectacular events.

"And thanks to our fabulous choir soloists: Faith Esham, Bronwyn Thomas, Duncan Hartman and one I call the Boss (he is here 38 years) – Joseph Sopher, now a composer in residence.

"Byron Shafer has been a wonderful colleague to work with and he has been a wonderful pastor to me. His visits and prayers sustained me at the time of my accident.

"Son Jobn, since he was a little boy, would bounce onto the organ bench and watch me play the postlude. As he got older, he would turn the pages and pull the trumpet stops during the Widor Toccata on Easter Sunday. Now he sits

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## Scouts Return To Rutgers

Rutgers Church will soon be filled with animals as the boy scouts return!

Tigers, Wolves, and Bears (1st, 2nd and 3rd Graders) will meet on Monday nights, while Webelos (4th and 5th Graders)

and Boy Scouts (6th Graders and up) will meet on Tuesdays.

All meetings will be between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm on those nights.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in partici-

pating as a scout or leader, please contact either Louisa or Robin Berry. Catch us after church, or at home on (212) 249-1546, or even on e-mail at [pan-da720@earthlink.net](mailto:pan-da720@earthlink.net).

## Meet The Moderator... continued from page 2 >>



the mind and will of God for the church.

"I hope to lead this church which we all love to a renewed emphasis on service and mission as Ambassadors for Christ in the USA and around the world. With God's help, I will:

- challenge each congregation to support and be involved in at least two mission projects, one local and one global.
- challenge each pastor, elder and member to dedicate a daily time in prayer seeking spiritual renewal in our lives as individuals, in the lives of our congregations and in our denomination.
- challenge each member to learn to love one another, forgive one another, accept one another in the Body of Christ. Our unity is the best witness to the world about the love of God in Jesus Christ who is our peace.
- challenge our church to have a prophetic voice about the power of peace in Jesus Christ. As Ambassadors for Christ in a broken world, God calls us to be a light to the nations. For more than 180 years God has used PC(USA) mission work to focus on evangelism, education and health around the world. When we are faithful to the Great Commission, God

will bless us and multiply us ten fold through our mission work around the world.

Abu-Akel, who defeated two pastors from California, said his election to head the 2.5-million member denomination "could only happen in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in America, which loved me and educated me. Thank God for America."

He said he will plead with the U.S. government and President George W. Bush to "work through peaceful means" to resolve international conflicts.

"We are the most powerful nation under the sun...and we must win politically, economically and socially — not militarily."

Calling himself "a man committed to non-violence," Abu-Akel said he would have Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat "speak to Palestinian people to stop suicide bombings and commit the Palestinian people to non-violence."

Abu-Akel also addressed conditions within the PC(USA), which has conflicts of its own. He told journalists following his election he wants to be known as a moderator who stands for hospitality and mission.

As founder and executive director of a program that ministers to more than 5,500 international students in the Atlanta area, Abu-Akel is well acquainted with such ministry. "The ministry of hospitality is a gift from God," he said. "The early Christians were

first known as 'the hospitable people.'"

Extending hospitality to immigrant groups is the key to church growth for the PC (USA), Abu-Akel said. "As we move toward the future, the racial-ethnic population will grow by leaps and bounds. Racial-ethnic ministry should be our number-one priority."

The new moderator also endorsed the Mission Initiative, a proposed \$40 million fundraising campaign to support international mission and new racial-ethnic church development in this country.

"We should be asking Anglo congregations to start nesting racial-ethnic fellowships," he said.

He added: "There are 500,000 international students in this country and there's a Presbyterian church near every one of their campuses — our gift of hospitality to them is an excellent road to peacemaking, and they can teach us. They're a window for us to the rest of the world."

Abu-Akel said his message to a badly-divided PC (USA) is clear: "The Presbyterian Church is our church, Jesus is our Savior, and we have to stay together."

Engagement in mission together is the key to renewed mutual respect and comity in the church, he said, "and we'll see then how God will lead us together in unity."

## Alex Pantopoulos's Memorial Celebration

There will be a memorial celebration of the life of Alexander Pantopoulos on Friday, September 13, at 6:30 pm in the Rutgers Church Sanctuary.

Everyone is invited; all are welcome to participate. Please come to share your stories and experiences with Alex.

For more information,

Speak with Susan, or e-mail her at [SchrMagic@aol.com](mailto:SchrMagic@aol.com)

Susan Scherer would like to thank her Rutgers Church family for giving so much of their time and hearts during the recent illness and passing of her fiance and friend, Alex.

The many prayers, kindnesses, thoughtful gestures, ten-

der words of comfort, warm hugs, help with Tipper and Talent, and generous outpouring of love and support are deeply appreciated.

She feels she and Alex have been truly blessed to have such a caring family in Rutgers.

## Marshall's farewell... continued from page 9 >>

here with his beautiful wife, Sanne.

"And, finally, the one who cooked me a big breakfast, made sure I had my music and glasses, who pushed my wheelchair to church when she had to, my dear wife Margaret, without whose love and support I would not be standing here tonight.

"Thank you all – God bless our Church, our country; God bless us each and everyone."

*Addendum I:* Have you ever seen the 5th Floor look so beautiful as it did on June 28?

Heartfelt thanks to Mark and James for running things so smoothly, to all the church members who served the delicious dinner, to the choir for Londonderry Air, to Cyril and Edward for Nora (what fabulous roast-makers), and to Juliet, Alice and Lynne in their brilliance.

Byron was a splendid master of ceremonies and did a remarkable job of summing up the years of my ministry. The retirement party was a total triumph!

*Addendum II: Aboard the Carnival Triumph.*

Living in the lap of luxury. Our stateroom complete with balcony and jacuzzi, gourmet meals, and tours in St. Johns and Halifax, and dancing until midnight (not a lot of fancy footwork, but a lot of rhythm!).

How can we thank you? Margaret and I had a fabulous trip. Another total triumph!

(Marshall remains a member of Rutgers Church and promises to attend on Sundays in the future!)

## Children's Choir Returns This Fall

One of the joys of the past year has been the formation of a Children's Choir at Rutgers, led by Joy Wyatt and assisted by Jackie Carpenter. These were some of the "reviews" given by the congregation the last time they sang:

"They sound like a REAL choir!"

"How did you get them to bow together like that?"

"They are so musical!"

"It gets better and better each time they sing."

They do get better each time they sing – and their worship leadership is truly a blessing to the congregation. Singing in the choir also gives the children a chance to learn the music of the church, and to feel like full participants in the service.

Fall rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:30 on the fifth floor. The choir will

next sing in worship on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – mark your calendars! The children will also have a musical "retreat" on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at the church, where they will explore musical exercises and learn new repertoire.

All children in the church (four and up) are welcome to sing, and friends are welcome, too! Please contact Joy Wyatt or Cheryl Pynch (212) 877-8227, x205 if you have any questions.

## PC (USA) Backs Taco Bell Boycott reproduced from PC (USA) Newswire

Presbyterian Church (USA) officials have chosen Labor Day to launch a General Assembly-authorized boycott of Taco Bell restaurants.

The aim of the action is to pressure Taco Bell's parent company, fast-food giant Yum! Foods, to raise the wages of tomato harvesters in Imokalee (rhymes with broccoli) in Florida.

Commissioners to this year's GA voted 297-176 in favor of an overture from Tampa Bay Presbytery in support of the Coalition of Imokalee Workers (CIW), a farm workers' organization in southwestern Florida comprised mainly of Haitian and Mexican migrant workers.

Six L's Packing Company, one of the nation's largest tomato growers and a major supplier of Taco Bell, pays a CIW worker about \$25 for picking and hauling a ton of tomatoes. According to the U.S. government, the piece-rate of 40 cents per 30-pound bucket hasn't changed since 1978.

Six L's annual profit has averaged \$120 million since 1986. Taco Bell reported \$5.2 billion in sales in 1999.

The boycott will be "Web-based," according to the Rev. Gary Cook, coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, who explains, "Taco Bell's target market is 18- to 24-year-old males, so the place to reach them is on the Web."

Cook said existing denominational networks, such as the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and women's and racial-ethnic advocacy groups, will help rally support for the boycott.

The Rev. Noelle Damico, a United Church of Christ (UCC)

minister who is married to a Presbyterian minister, will coordinate the PC(USA) campaign. She is a former coordinator of the UCC's year-old Taco Bell boycott.

A variety of boycott-related resources for congregations, including litanies, minutes for mission, skits, hymns and lectionary-based material, is available on the campaign's official Web site: [www.pcusa.org/boycott](http://www.pcusa.org/boycott).

Also in the works is a Thanksgiving-holiday "immersion experience" for Presbyterians who would like to experience first-hand the living and working conditions of the Imokalee workers.

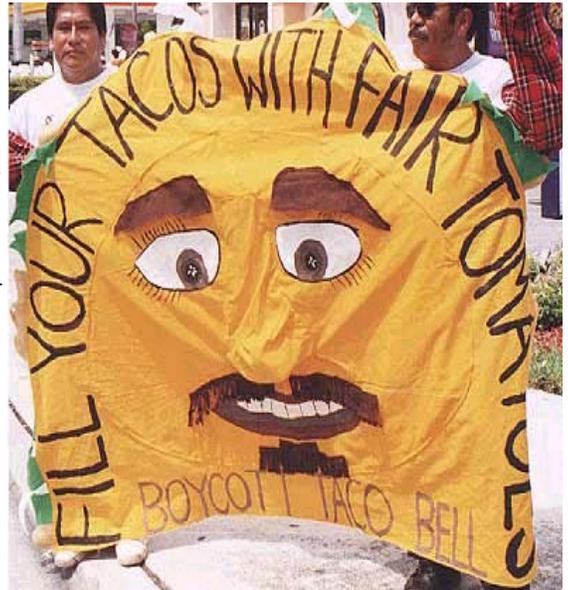
The Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, the denomination's stated clerk, is scheduled to meet with CIW leaders in Imokalee on Nov. 13 — shortly before the opening of the National Council of Churches General Assembly in nearby Tampa.

According to Cook, the PC (USA) boycott has drawn the attention of Yum! Foods, whose corporate headquarters is in Louisville.

After receiving notification of the boycott from Kirkpatrick, Yum! officials sent letters to John Deterick, executive director of the General Assembly Council (GAC) and the Rev. Fahed Abu-Akel, the GA moderator, calling the boycott decision "a mistake."

Yum! argues that the labor dispute is between CIW and Six L's. Not so, says Cook.

"There's some good debate out there now about corporate 'supply line' behavior," Cook told the Presbyterian News Service in an Aug. 22 interview, pointing out that Six L's is "heavily dependent" on its



contract to supply tomatoes to Taco Bell.

Citing controversies over U.S. clothiers' use of offshore sweatshop labor to produce low-cost garments and the growing movement demanding "fair trade" in commodities such as coffee, Cook said corporate giants like Taco Bell are under increasing pressure to see that their contractors are offering adequate wages and decent working conditions.

"It's ironic that animal-rights activists have forced more humane treatment of animals by these giant companies, but they feel no such compulsion when it comes to the treatment of their workers," Cook said.

The temptation in boycott situations like this, Cook said, "is for the church to bargain on behalf of the workers." On the other hand, he said, "Our approach to Taco Bell is to tell them, 'Look, if you want to talk, it should be with the workers, not with us.'"

He said the message to Taco Bell consumers is equally clear: "If you'd be willing to spend a half-cent more for your chalupa, and Taco Bell passed that half-cent on to its tomato pickers, their pay would double."



## What Do You Think?

by J.M.C.

1. Why does it seem like the most intelligent people have the least common sense?
2. If you continue to make all of your children's decisions in life, they'll never leave home.
3. Why not reach for an attainable goal first?
4. Some lessons in life are expensive.
5. If you can't control your child at home, why do you look so embarrassed, frustrated and overwhelmed in public?
6. If you had your choice, which would you pick money and education or happiness, contentment and someone to share it with?
7. What are you waiting on to quit your job?
8. Why do couples go out to restaurants, read books and newspapers and never talk to each other?
9. There's always someone who knows more than you no matter how smart you think you are.
10. When you're on an airplane, the flight attendants make the announcement before landing to put all devices away until we reach the gate for safety reasons. Why is it that the minute you touch the ground people start talking on their cell phones?

## Gear Up for Body & Spirit This Fall at Rutgers!

Arts and exercise are the key components in the fall session of adult classes in the Body & Spirit program.

Whether you fancy yourself as a budding Brad Pitt or Julia Roberts, or an author keen to bring out the book it is said is inside everyone, there are classes for you at Rutgers this fall.

In Acting and Scene Study, Miriam Fond enables beginners and those with some experience "treading the boards" to express untapped acting talent.

For those thrilled by *The Producers* or other Broadway musicals, Miriam's Musical Theatre class will give you the confidence you need to stand up in front of a group and belt out a song – whether as part of a career or just for fun!

Or if you want to put your life in words, the Memoir Writing Class (led by Mary Beth

Coudal) will show you how to plot your story from childhood through the present day. Even the quieter years will become riveting reads! Writers of any standard are welcome.

If you would rather exercise the body, a wide selection of yoga, conditioning, and posture classes will give you new energy and vigor.

In addition, a special Knitting Workshop is offered – to help you get those half-finished projects sewn-up! Or perhaps you want to make some hand-made sweaters made in time for the holidays? This is the class for you!

If you don't know a mouse from a hard-drive, the Basic Computer and Internet courses are ideal.

Classes are filling fast, so for more details on prices or how to register, either pick-up a brochure in the church lobby area or contact Diane Nicole at (212) 877

## ... and Don't Forget the Kids!

As our toddler programs enter their third full year, there is no slowdown in the fun and development our classes offer.

Along with classes for one and two year olds, we have After-School classes for kids up to nine years old.

The ever-popular Handprints and Jumpin' and Jivin' classes return, offering toddlers the chance to get messy and develop motor skills.

Then, for the budding WNBA star or next Derek Jeter, there's Sports Buzz – an introduction to throwing, catching, running, skipping and jumping for fun, along with some fundamental t-ball, soccer and basketball skills!

And for the musical child, Playing the Sounds offers a program of melodic enjoyment for pre-schoolers. The class offers an introduction to rhythmical sense, pitch retention, singing, eurythmics, reading musical score, and familiarity with a keyboard.

After-School programs include tap-dancing, sports, art and creative movement – along with a new workshop in Musical Theatre.

As with the Adult Classes, financial assistance can be arranged if needed. For details, either pick up a brochure or call Diane Nicole at (212) 877 8227 x212.

## STOP THE PRESS!

Fresh from her sell-out concert at Rutgers last year, children's entertainer **Laurie Berkner** returns for an encore performance on Saturday, September 21, at 11:00 am!

Tickets go on sale on September 4 for the concert, which is expected to sell-out quickly.

Contact Diane (212) 877-8227 for more details.

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