

Renewal

From the Pastor’s Desk

The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer

Is Jesus dead, or alive? That’s the central question of life.

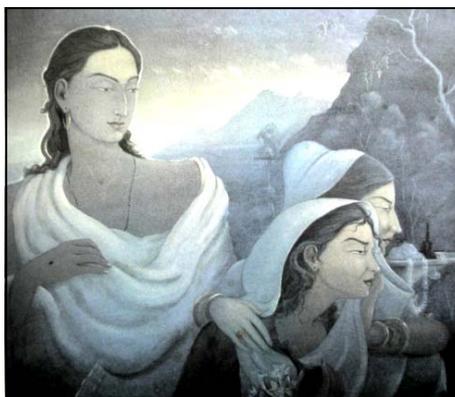
Some ten years ago, as I was beginning my pastorate here at Rutgers Church, an ecumenical “Resurrection Summit” of theologians, philosophers, and biblical scholars was assembled at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Seminary in Yonkers to discuss this very issue from various scholarly points of view.

I remain convinced, however, that the best answers to “Is Jesus dead, or alive? Was Jesus raised, or not?”—the best answers to that question are those given not in scholarly papers but rather in the everyday lives of ordinary Christians.

But before I go on to elaborate on this thought, let me play the role of scholar for just a little while longer.

The New Testament presents four different narratives of Jesus’s life—those found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Yet none of these accounts describes the event of the resurrection *per se*. That is, none of the gospels offers a description either of the actual moment when Jesus was transformed from death to life or of the actual process by which he was transformed. And the gospels could not offer such a description, for no person had,

in fact, actually witnessed the resurrection event itself. Ignatius of Antioch, a bishop of the 2nd century, stated this reality quite simply and well by saying, “Jesus rose in the silence of God.” So what



Frank Wesley’s *Easter Morning*

the four gospels offer us are really *post*-resurrection stories, stories of various disciples’ experiences of the already-risen Christ.

Intriguingly, each gospel tells us different post-resurrection stories and emphasizes different aspects of the mystery. So you can come to church for at least four Easters in a row without hearing quite the same story—or the same sermon! To choose just one of the narratives that you *won’t* hear on this particular Easter Sunday, the Gospel of Matthew recounts the experience of two of Jesus’s women disciples—Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph (28:1–10).

According to Matthew, these two women are the first to discover that the crucified Jesus is no longer in

the tomb. They are also the first to experience God’s reassurance, through an angel, that they have nothing to fear. Jesus is no longer in the tomb because Jesus has been raised to new life. The two Mary’s are also the first to receive a commission to tell this good news to others—namely, to the inner circle known as The Eleven (that is, The Twelve minus Judas, for Judas had hanged himself). The women are commissioned to tell The Eleven to leave Jerusalem and reassemble up north, in Galilee, where Jesus had conducted most of his ministry.

So the two Mary’s, filled with awe and also great joy, leave the tomb and head back to the city. Suddenly, as they are walking, they meet Jesus on the path. And they become the very first to personally encounter the Risen Jesus, the very first to personally experience the Living Christ.

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From the Pastor's Desk

Now, the Risen Christ's conversation with the women adds nothing new to what they had already learned from the angel. So the most important thing Jesus is communicating to these women is not his words, but rather his reassuring presence. Matthew is thereby proclaiming to his readers the good news that the Risen Jesus is indeed still present with his followers, strengthening them for their everyday lives, strengthening them for their God-given tasks.

If we look back to the very first chapter of Matthew, we see that the author attributes to Jesus the name "Emmanuel," which means "God-with-us." And now here in the very last chapter of Matthew, we find the author testifying to the Risen Jesus's ongoing fulfillment of that name. Even after the crucifixion, Jesus is still "Emmanuel." For the Risen Christ is still very much God-with-us.

So Christianity originated among a few frightened, dispirited Palestinian Jewish women, around the year 30. And today it is the most diverse and populous religion on the face of our globe.

Christianity has not grown to such a size and scale because scholars have argued the case that Christ is alive. No, Christianity has grown to such a size and scale because ordinary people like us—beginning with Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph—have experienced in our everyday lives the truth that Christ is alive, because ordinary people like us have felt in our everyday lives the reality of Christ's vibrant presence—God-with-us.

Let me share with you some of these latter-day stories of Easter in the everyday. Let me tell you first about a woman who was afflicted with fear and

depression. One day, she says, while looking into the face of a homebound acquaintance unable to feed himself, she saw the face of Jesus. She loved to prepare and serve food, so she began to cook for him and for several other homebound people as well. And then she had her next encounter with the Risen Jesus. She went on from perceiving Jesus in the face of another-in-need to experiencing Christ upholding her amidst the crisis of her own particular needs. With Christ, her fear and depression melted away, and she found New Life.

Let me tell you next about a man who felt trapped between his love for his job and his dislike for his boss. One day his preacher suggested that parishioners would gain a new perspective on their work if they were to work for God rather than for their boss. And through the words of this pastor, the man heard the voice of the Living Christ. He changed the focus of his working life and, with Christ, experienced a rebirth of joy.

Let me tell you, too, about a woman, a citizen of the United States, who because of her civil rights activities in Latin America was jailed by a despotic government there. She was terrified that the guards would rape and torture her, but she heard the voice of Christ calling on her to liberate her captors. Through strength drawn from the Living Christ, she overcame her terror, won the confidence of her guards, and taught them how to read. Yes, from that tomb of a prison, Emmanuel called forth New Life.

Let me tell you of a friend on Long Island who was dying of a degenerative disease. Shortly before his death he professed that he was healed. He professed this not because his physical condition had changed

—it hadn't—but because the Risen Christ had healed his anger and his fear and had helped him replace his short-term perspective on death with God's perspective. In his dying, he experienced Eternal Life.

Let me tell you of numerous sub-caste untouchables in India—men and women called *Dalits*, who are struggling to feel human. Numerous Christians among them know that they themselves have come to a sense of dignity and self-worth because they have encountered God's Son as a living brother who, like them, is a humble servant, without comeliness or favor, despised and rejected. And they proclaim to other *Dalits* that the brother who has transformed their lives is the Risen Jesus.

Let me tell you of countless Christians—women and men the world around—who have come to the Lord's Table feeling lost, tired, hopeless, alienated, defeated, burdened with sorrow, overcome by grief, racked with guilt. Yet when we (for I count myself among them) have eaten the bread and drunk the juice, we have experienced resurrection—we have experienced for ourselves that Christ is alive, that Christ is with us, that Christ shares our burdens and lifts our loads.

On that first Easter morning, some 1,976 years ago, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph experienced the Living Christ, and they proclaimed that great good news first to the Eleven and then to many others. May all of us have our own experiences of resurrection in the everyday. May all of us come to our own certainty that God is with us, strengthening our lives. For here's the truth of the matter. Christ *is* alive!

Christianity has grown to such a size and scale ... because ordinary people like us have felt in our everyday lives the reality of Christ's vibrant presence—God-with-us.

Raise Your Voice!

from the Peace & Social Justice Network

Many things happen in threes—and on the weekend of April 29th there are three opportunities to make yourself heard.

MARCH FOR PEACE, JUSTICE & DEMOCRACY
APRIL 29, 2006 NEW YORK CITY

Saturday, April 29, New York City: End the War in Iraq, Bring all our Troops Home Now. This national mobilization against the war is being sponsored by many groups, from the National Organization of Women to Veterans for Peace, under the umbrella of United for Peace and Justice at www.ufpj.org. Place and time of assembly are being negotiated with the police department (march begins at noon). Stay alert for information about a Rutgers contingent.

Sunday, April 30, Washington, DC: Stop the Genocide in Darfur.

We will be joining our neighbors and partners in social justice, West End Synagogue, as we ride on the bus together for a rally in Washington, DC. The rally will feature a broad spectrum of prominent political figures, religious leaders, human

rights activists, entertainers, journalists and thousands of others who support a stronger multi-national force to protect the civilians of Darfur. **Nora Lidell** of Rutgers is our group leader; please contact her at 212-865-8917 if you'd like to go. Bus tickets are \$35; *deadline is April 15.*

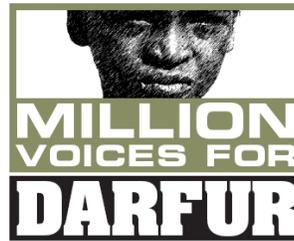
Sunday, April 30, New York City: CROP Hunger Walk.

This annual ecumenical and interfaith event raises awareness and money for hunger programs. Twenty congregations and organizations will take a 2-mile walk down 5th Avenue, beginning at 2:00 pm. You can participate by **sponsoring a walker** (giving money), or walking yourself! Children and families are especially encour-

aged to join this festive and consciousness-raising event. Look for Natalie Wyatt's Moment for Mission on the CROP walk on page 12 of this issue.

Poster-Making Party for all three events on Saturday, April 22, from 10 am-12 pm on the fourth floor.

If you can't walk, march or take the bus down to Washington, come make beautiful posters and support your Rutgers friends who will be on the move (of course, we hope marchers and walkers will also come). We'll provide the poster board, markers, and other materials for this intergenerational event. Coffee, juice, and snacks provided. A chance to be creative, enjoy fellowship and work for peace & justice at the same time.



We invite you to sign a Million Voices for Darfur postcard at: <http://action.ajws.org/campaign/millionvoices>

"There is a continent—Africa—being consumed by flames. I truly believe that when the history books are written, our age will be remembered for three things: the war on terror, the digital revolution, and what we did—or did not do—to put the fire out in Africa. History, like God, is watching what we do."

Submitted by Elinor Bowles; statement by Bono, at the 2006 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C.

**s a v e
t h e d a t e !**

for a **Gala Farewell Banquet** for the Reverend Dr. Byron Shafer at Rutgers on **June 23 at 6:30 pm.**

Watch for invitations and details to follow mid-April.

(Due to space limitations, this will be a church-members-only event.)

A Musical Anthology

from Elder R. Wellington Jones

**Sunday, May 7, 2006
at 2:30 pm in the Sanctuary.**
The Special Events Committee announces its annual benefit concert for the support of the Christopher Roberts Homeless Shelter at Rutgers Church.

This year's recital will include a presentation of Erik Satie's 1914 *Sports and Diversions* in an English translation by the American composer Virgil Thomson; Ms. Ladie Whitaker and Dr. Shafer will act as raconteurs in this witty series of *avant-guerre* sketches, and R. Wellington Jones will supply the piano accompaniment. This will be Dr. Shafer's farewell performance on the Rutgers stage, owing to his impending retirement.

The program will also include staged and costumed scenes from Verdi's *A Masked*



Ball, with Edward Bruce Stevenson as Riccardo and Helen Fousteris as Amelia; the program will close with scenes from Richard Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*, with bass-baritone Jay Gould in the title role, Anna Marie Mackey as Senta, and William Himmelbauer as Daland;

Alan Gordon Smulen and Denise Williams will act as chorus-masters, and Nicholas Fox will conduct from the piano. Lynne Morris and the Rev. Charles Amstein will supply the narrations.

Tickets are \$20 each and are fully tax-deductible. Proceeds benefit the Christopher Roberts Homeless Shelter at Rutgers Church; everyone is urged to attend to support this long-standing outreach program. Following the performance, the Board of Deacons will host a free reception and buffet luncheon to which everyone is invited. For tickets please contact the Rutgers Church office at (212) 877-8227 or our fundraising coordinator Ms. Ethel Knight at (212) 582-2016.



Even Hawks Get Some Bible "Studies"

3/18/06 Photo by Bruce Yolton

Central Park: Now in addition to the insulated electrical wire, Junior and Charlotte have acquired what seems to be a strip of paper from a self-seal envelope or Next-Day Delivery packet. The Spanish inspirational writing is gone, perhaps recycled by some other improvement-minded raptor. Examination of an enlargement of the photograph with the page revealed that the passage was from The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians, Chapter I verses 8-11.

Source:

http://mariewin.server304.com/marieblog/2006_03_19_mariewinn_archive.html

What Do You Think?

1. Tear up as many dollars as you spend on a lottery ticket, throw it in the trash, and see if that helps you stop buying lottery tickets.
2. Whether you're young or old, when is it fair to leave your clutter for someone else to clean up upon your departure from earth?
3. Next time your family goes out to dinner, leave all your cell phones at home.
4. Allow yourself to have a day off without guilt.
5. Use your energy on things you can change.
6. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to ask for help.
7. If you look for something to complain about, you'll find it.
8. If you forget what you did on a given day, just look at your shopping receipts!
9. Are you happier when your regular mail person returns from vacation?
10. A con artist misses out on friendships, trust, fellowship, and most of all true love.

'Til next time, Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

Christianity in China: Then and Now

An After-Church Forum, June 4, 2006 at 1 pm in the Daniel Russell Room

How do you see Missions? as interfering? out-of-date? over-evangelical? useful? or impossible?

Well, I was in China for some years in the 1930s, which would be THEN in the title. Some eternal things are the same, and much has altered as of NOW.

We have a stereotype from Pearl Buck, which is true but limited, of the poor Chinese peasant and the good, but rather

simple missionary message. In north China in the 1930s, we had both, and I traveled and lived in the countryside. But we also had a mission hospital and medical college with postgraduate doctors. Two of them went to Edinburgh and to Vienna for further study in lung diseases and ophthalmology.

Then after World War II came Communist rule, and everything religious seemed to shut down. Not so! Social ac-

tion was barred, but Christian worship was allowed. The Bible has always been allowed to circulate. Now a congregation in Shenyang in the northeast, which sprang from our early mission work, has 800 seats but is packed for two services or more every Sunday, and has a roll of 3,000 members.

Let's TALK about what is happening. Questions welcome!

W. Scott Morton

Three Innocents and a Spirit

A Historical Drama of the Collision of Cultures

Saturday, April 22 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sponsored by Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, Rutgers and West-Park Presbyterian Church. Presented by the *NA SONJE FOUNDATION* as part of a nationwide tour.



Three Innocents and a Spirit is a 'stylized and intimate' historical drama of the collision of cultures of the peoples from the Americas, Europe, and Africa from before the time of Christopher Columbus through the present, and the cultural crises that have developed as a result. The play exposes the destruction and acculturation of Native Americans and the enslavement of Africans, which resulted in a transfer of wealth and natural resources to Europe. The Denver Metropolitan calls it "an ambitious historical tableau, a condensed piece of stagecraft that encompasses over 500 years of history. The *Na Sonje* troupe transports viewers through the ages as it awakens them to the past and the present that binds us all."

Set in Haiti and using its unique struggles as a microcosm of the exploitation of indigenous cultures by European colonizers, *Three Innocents and a Spirit* is performed by two Haitian men, representing the Native American and African cultures, and an American woman, representing the European culture. Dressed in period cos-

tumes, the three actors weave together mime, dance, puppetry, interactive participation, and music to demonstrate the progression and effect of historical events. During the drama the characters experience a transformational awakening through which they realize their physical and spiritual losses, as well as their mutual need for one another.

The presentation lasts approximately 50 minutes. The cast will then engage in a post-production discussion, creating an open forum for ideas and solutions that can help heal our fractured societies. A **suggested donation of \$20** will help fund the *Na Sonje* Foundation's efforts to create *The Memory Village*, a permanent interactive, historical village (located in Haiti on the site of a former village established by Africans who escaped from the sugar plantations during the colonial era) reenacting the truths of the transatlantic slave trade. Additional donations for this project are greatly appreciated.

HOLY WEEK AT RUTGERS CHURCH

Palm Sunday, April 9

10:45 am Procession with Palms on Broadway

Maundy Thursday, April 13

7:00 pm Tenebrae Service: The Last Supper and Washing of Feet

Good Friday, April 14

12:00 pm Meditations on the Seven Last Sayings of Jesus with West Side Clergy and Choir

Easter Vigil, April 15

7:00 pm Service of Light and Baptismal Renewal — *Bring a bell!*

Celebration of Easter, Sunday, April 16

9:00 am Brief Service of Holy Communion on the Church Steps

9:30 am Easter Family Breakfast

11:00 am Service of Worship with Holy Communion, Choir, Brass & Timpani



Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles

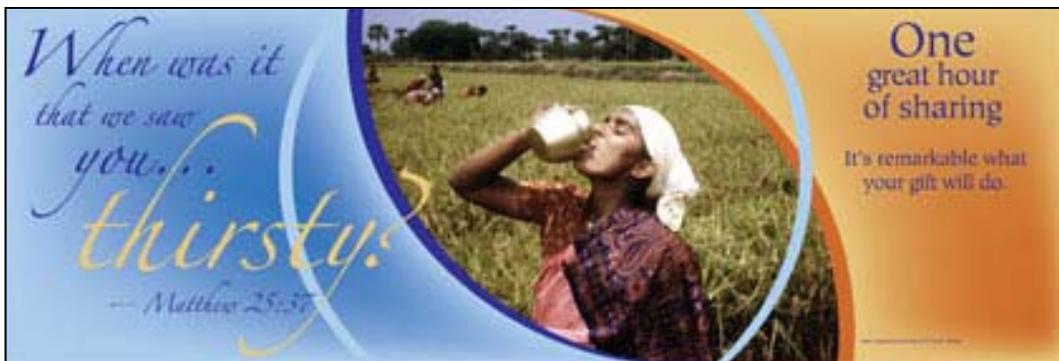
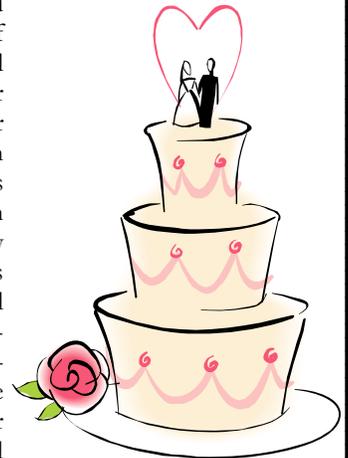
Sundays, April 23 – June 18
at 9:45 am in the Session Room

The early church had it all: shipwrecks, magic, trials, and jailbreaks ... along with the expected healings, sermons, and church fights. The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the growth of the Christian movement – aided and abetted by the Holy Spirit – from the ascension of Jesus to the preaching of Paul in Rome. Its most familiar stories are read in worship from Easter through Pentecost, so come before church to learn more and enjoy provocative discussion. This eight week class is part of our “Bible in Depth” series, using the *Interpretation* Bible study guides. All are welcome! Please call/e-mail Cheryl to order a study guide or child care.

Joyce Mwanalushi & Christopher Landu

request the honor of your presence at their wedding
on Sunday, April 23, at 1:30 pm
in the Rutgers Sanctuary.

Joyce is well known and loved to the children of Rutgers as a Sunday School teacher and caregiver in our nursery. Joyce and her fiancé Chris are both from Zambia, and their family is not able to be with them (except in spirit!), so they invite all in the Rutgers community to be joyful witnesses in a simple ceremony of faith and commitment. There will be a cake and coffee reception after the service in the Daniel Russell Room.



Those of us accustomed to casually turning on a faucet may not always realize how elemental thirst can be. We will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during Holy Week and on **Easter Sunday, April 16.**

Holy Week & Easter 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
9 9:45 am Adult Class: <i>From War to Peace</i> 10:45 am Procession with Palms 12:45 pm P&SJM Meeting	10 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Every Monday	11 6:00 pm Boy Scouts; Men's Support Group (PLWA) Every Tuesday	12	13 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service (No movie)	14 11:00 am No Bible Study 12:00 pm Good Friday: The Last Seven Sayings of Jesus	15 7:00 pm Easter Vigil	
16 EASTER 9:00 am Brief Service on the Church Steps 9:30 am Easter Breakfast	17 Holiday Church and office buildings closed.	18 6:30 pm Special Session Mtg	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Easter Break Body & Spirit and Child's Play Apr. 13-19 </div>		20 6:00 pm Meal Program & 7:00 pm Movie Series Every Thursday	21 11:00 am Mothers' Bible Study Every Friday All Day NYC Presbytery Clergy Retreat	22 10:00 am P&SJM Poster Making Party 1:00 pm Opera Rehearsal 7:00 pm Three Innocents & a Spirit
23 9:45 am Adult Class: Acts of the Apostles thru June 18 1:30 pm Mwanalushi/ Landu Wedding	24 6:30 pm Sunday School Planning Meeting for 2006/2007 (All teachers & parents invited)	25 6:30 pm Adult Forum on Distributive Justice & Lifestyle Changes (Part 1)	26 7:00 pm A Season of Discernment at Brick Church (see p. 9)	27	28	29 NYC March for Peace, Justice & Democracy; 1:00 pm Opera Rehearsal	
30 CROP Walk; Million Voices for Darfur; 12:45 pm Board of Trustees	May 1 3:00 pm Worship Committee Mtg.	2 6:30 pm Adult Forum on Distributive Justice & Lifestyle Changes (Part 2)	3	4	5 7:00 pm Theatre Class Performance	6 1:00 pm Opera Dress Rehearsal	

Men's Overnight Shelter:
Every Fri • Sat • Sun

Sundays

9:45 am	Sunday School for Adults
10:00	Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:15	Children's Choir Rehearsal Infant & Child Care
11:00	Worship Service
11:15	Sunday School (ages 3-12)
12:15 pm	Coffee Hour
12:45	Choir Rehearsal

Preaching Schedule

<i>April 9</i>	Palm Sunday; Reception of New Members; Dr. Shafer preaching
<i>April 16</i>	Easter Sunday; Holy Communion; Dr. Shafer preaching
<i>April 23</i>	Earth Sunday; Second Sunday of Easter; the Rev. Charles Amstein preaching; Children's Choir
<i>April 30</i>	Third Sunday of Easter; Dr. Shafer preaching

Easter to Pentecost 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 7 9:45 am Adult Class: <i>Acts of the Apostles</i> 12:45 pm Board of Deacons 2:30 pm Opera Benefit & Reception	8 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Every Monday	9 6:00 pm Boy Scouts; Men's Support Group (PLWA) Every Tuesday 6:30 pm Session Meeting	10	11 12:30 pm Pastoral Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Meal Program & 7:00 pm Movie Series Every Thursday	12 11:00 am Mothers' Bible Study Every Friday	13
14 9:45 am Adult Class: Acts of the Apostles thru June 18 12:45 pm P&SJN Meeting	15	16 1:00 pm Presbytery Meeting at Good Shepherd-Faith Presbyterian Church	17	18 12:00 pm Noon Concert	19 7:00 pm Theatre Class Performance	20
21	22 6:30 pm Christian Education Comm.	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day Holiday Church and office buildings closed.	30	31	June 1 12:00 pm Noon Concert	Men's Overnight Shelter: Every Fri • Sat • Sun	
4 PENTECOST 12:45 pm Board of Deacons 1:00 pm Adult Forum: Christianity/China	5 3:00 pm Worship Committee	6 6:30 pm Session Meeting	7	8 12:30 pm Pastoral Staff Meeting	9	10
Summer Body & Spirit and Child's Play Sessions begin						

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

Preaching Schedule

<i>May 7</i>	Fourth Sunday of Easter; Baptism of Ailinn Finn; Dr. Shafer preaching
<i>May 14</i>	Mother's Day; Holy Communion; Dr. Shafer preaching
<i>May 21</i>	Sixth Sunday of Easter; the Rev. Charles Amstein preaching
<i>May 28</i>	Seventh Sunday of Easter; Memorial Day Weekend; Dr. Shafer preaching
<i>June 4</i>	Pentecost; Holy Communion; Dr. Shafer preaching



Summer Kids at Rutgers Church

Body & Spirit: Registration is now open for our summer kids and adults programs, taking place during the months of June and July. Again this year we are offering a two-day drop-off special for toddlers: **The Magic Trunk** and **The Magical Mystery Tour**. Check out our brochures or visit the Body & Spirit page on the Rutgers web site. Discounts are available for early registrations!

Child's Play, June 5—August 18, 2006: Come to our summer play groups for toddlers, babies and parents/grandparents only. Playgroups will meet on Mon / Tues / Wed / Thurs from 9:30 to 11:15 am. The play groups are facilitated by the group leader and begin with songs in circle time, art projects, and imaginative play in the nursery room. We continue with coupe cars, slides and trampoline, balls and parachute play, and the water table in our large open space. Everyone brings their own snacks, and story time ends the fun together. You can purchase a book of passes for \$150 and use them any day we are open. Each is a family pass that includes siblings up to age 4 years. (Rutgers member families are FREE!) Our moms and babies (not walking) play group meets on Tuesdays at 12 noon for an hour, \$12 per time. Call Holly Nedelka, Director (212) 877-8227 x204 for more info.

Please inquire about our new Mandarin Language play groups!

Thursday Movie Series

Every Thursday at 7:00 pm following the meal program.
Hosted by Dr. Roger Franklin.



April 20: Lilies of the Field (1963)

Driving through the Arizona desert, an itinerant handy-man (Sidney Poitier) comes upon five impoverished nuns.

April 27: Keeping the Faith (2000)

Best friends Ben Stiller and Edward Norton are about to be reunited with their childhood buddy, Jenna Elfman. The resulting love triangle is very complicated, because Stiller is a rabbi and Norton is a priest!

THE ART OF WALT DISNEY

May 4: Bambi

May 11: Snow White and the Seven Dwarves

May 18: Pinocchio

May 25: The Lion King

June 1: Moonlight Sonata (1937)

A planeload of passengers, including a legendary pianist, lands near a remote castle in Sweden, where the maestro not only performs works of Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt, but also plays matchmaker for a young couple.

June 8: The Jungle Book (1942)

This (and still the best) film version of the Kipling classic stars Sabu as Mowgli, the man-cub raised by wolves who returns to civilization as a young man.

a season of discernment

The 213th Meeting of the General Assembly in 2001 agreed to form a Theological Task Force "to lead the Presbyterian Church (USA) in spiritual discernment of our Christian identity in and for the 21st century...." This coming June, the Task Force will present its final report to the 217th General Assembly. The report suggests ways that the church can address the controversial issues that have been causing conflict. Come to a presentation and discussion with members of the task force at **Brick Presbyterian Church (62 E 92nd St.) on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm.** Co-sponsored by Auburn Seminary.

april * happy birthdays * may/june

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Hayden Coudal-Jones | may 1 Dina Phelps |
| 2 Laurel Brevoort, Nicole Byrns, Lily & Trey Santiago | 10 Juliet Pritner |
| | 15 Clif Fisher |
| 4 Mary Beth Coudal | 17 Beverly Thompson |
| 5 Massimo Maglione | 19 Bill Bailey |
| 6 Muriel Knight, Jennifer Hanson | 21 Nora Lidell |
| 9 Sean Nelson | 26 Eleanor Patrick |
| | 27 Emmet Smith |
| 10 Joan Keener | 30 Elinor Bowles, David Hill, Ruth Munson |
| 14 Bob Shelton | |
| 16 Khitan Das Galper, Gladys Morris | 31 Tom Driver, Cynthia Gale |
| | June 1 Ed Alley |
| 17 Jennifer Finn | 2 Colin & Zachary Nelson |
| 18 Cherise Ou Yang | 4 Adele Ou Yang |
| 23 Sophia Graham-Kay | 5 Robin Berry |
| 24 Austin Simpson | 16 Susan Poliacik |
| 27 Charles Platt | 19 Krista Olson |
| | 22 Anne Barstow |
| | 26 Alan Robinson |
| | 27 Cullen Dunn-Ellis |

What Happened at Session?

by Elder Christine Gorman, Clerk of Session

Here are some highlights from the regularly scheduled Session meeting of **January 10, 2006**. You can always get the full Session minutes by sending an email to Jennifer (jhanson@rutgerschurch.com).

1. Member Jeremiah Rosario informed the Session that he would like to begin the inquiry process to explore whether he'd like to pursue ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

2. The Rev. Dr. Tom Driver told the Session of the arrest in Haiti last July of Father Gerard Jean-Juste, a non-violent activist for peace and the poor. Dr. Paul Farmer has since diagnosed Father Gerard with leukemia, and there is an international effort to try to gain Father Gerard's release so that he may seek treatment in the U.S. A motion passed to send a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urging our government to take action to secure Father Jean-Juste's release.

3. A motion passed to appoint a committee to explore options to improve or replace the audiovisual system in the sanctuary.

4. The Session heard that Alison McNamara, daughter of member Paula McNamara, has been stationed in Baghdad

as a medic. Her e-mail is alison.j.mcnamara@us.army.mil.

Here are some highlights from the joint meeting of the Session and Board of Deacons on **February 5, 2006**.

1. Kim Hodges reviewed some of the programs with which Deacons are involved, in particular Helping Hands and the Katrina relocation committee. Frances Manners talked about the possibility of having prayer partners and other ideas on outreach.

2. The Rev. Jervis spoke about the next several months as a time to enjoy Byron's ministry and to prepare ourselves spiritually for the next leg of our journey together as a church community.

3. Dr. Shafer reported on the overtures to the General Assembly that came before Presbytery. The overture to delete G-6 and all authoritative interpretations passed. An overture from the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church calling for more study on Middle East passed. A separate overture calling for suspending the process of divestment from certain corporations doing business with Israel did not pass.

4. The Session passed a motion to re-elect Massimo Maglione and David Taylor to the Steering Committee of Presbyterian Welcome.

5. Dr. Shafer expressed his thanks to the elders retiring from Session: Chris Jones, Harold Manners, and Massimo Maglione.

Here are some highlights from the regularly scheduled Session meeting of **March 7, 2006**.

1. The Session voted to elect Christine Gorman as Clerk of Session, Warwick Busfield as Treasurer and Lynne Morris as commissioner to Presbytery. Since Cheryl is now a minister member of Presbytery, we have the right to name another Presbytery representative.

2. As of February 28, 2006, total revenue was \$267,698 compared to \$236,617 in expenses, giving a surplus of \$31,082.

3. Cynthia Gale came to Session to talk about the new youth program (5th grade and up) that she and Kim Hodges are starting up at Rutgers with the Rev. Pynch's help. Currently there are eight young people in the group. The kids have come up with the name S.K.A.T.E, which stands for Sanctuary for Kids of Acceptance, Trust and Education.

4. A motion passed to approve the following members as the Class of 2009 for the Benevolence Committee: Anne Barstow, Elinor Bowles, Massimo Maglione and Vera Roberts.

5. Session has been doing lots of discussion and planning for the interim period and expects to be able to share the details soon.

WELCOME to the CLASS of 2009

These individuals were elected at the 209th Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29. The Session interviewed the elders and deacons on February 5 and passed motions to concur with their elections. The service of ordination and installation was held on Sunday, March 5.

Elders

Richard Reece
Vera Roberts (re-election)
Jeremiah Rosario
Joy Wyatt

Deacons

Joan Keener
Anne Leader
John Lembo
Frances Manners (re-election)
Lloyd Spencer

Trustees

Nancy Muirhead
Sean Nelson

Welcome to Our New Member, Anne Leader

Anne Leader is an art historian with a Ph.D. from NYU's Institute of Fine Arts. While in graduate school (1993-2000) she lived on East 75th Street and tried out several Presbyterian churches without finding one that really fit. She now lives on West 75th Street and feels extremely fortunate to have found her idea of the perfect church just two blocks away. She really likes Rutgers' mix of tradition and progressive thinking and also enjoys the thought-provoking and challenging sermons, study sessions, and social outreach offered by the Rutgers community.

Anne has been teaching art history since 2000, first at the University of New Hampshire, followed by two years at Kean University in Union, NJ. She is now Assistant Professor of Art History at The City College of New York, CUNY's Harlem campus on Amsterdam and 138th Street. She teaches a mix of introductory and upper-level courses to both undergraduates and graduates, including courses on Renaissance and Baroque art as well as a course on art historical research methods. Her favorite class to teach,

despite the heavy grading, is the introduction to art history. It is here that she sees the widest range of CCNY students, and she loves the challenge of turning her unwilling participants into educated viewers.

When not in the classroom, Anne focuses her research on the Florentine Badia, a Benedictine monastery located in central Florence (right across the street from the Bargello, the state sculpture museum that owns Donatello's "David" and Michelangelo's "Bacchus," among other things). She is currently working on a book, entitled *Reforming the Florentine Badia: Art and Observation in a Renaissance Monastery*, which tells the story of the decline and redemption of the institution in the early fifteenth century. She will return to Florence this summer for two months to complete the project.

She is currently negotiating with several publishers and hopes to have a firm contract soon!

A native of Texas (yes, they do grow Democrats down there), Anne also feels a close tie to the northeast after spending her childhood summers with her beloved grandparents in Princeton, NJ. Even though she is the great-granddaughter of a Presbyterian minister, Anne did not have a deep or regular spiritual life growing up (likely because her grandmother did not much enjoy being the daughter of a Presbyterian minister!). So, it is certainly a treat, a kind of homecoming, to have joined Rutgers. She is especially honored to have recently been elected deacon and looks forward to serving her new home in this way.



Who Does What?

2006-2007 Moderators and Committee Chairs

Session: Christine Gorman (clerk)
 Board of Deacons: Kim Hodges (moderator), Alice Hudson (vice moderator)
 Board of Trustees: David Taylor (moderator)
 Treasurer: Warwick Busfield

Benevolence Committee:	Charles Platt	Membership/Communications:	Susan Scherer
International Subcommittee:	Robert Shelton	Peace & Social Justice Network:	Suzanne Spears
National Subcommittee:	Alan Robinson	Personnel Committee:	Vera Roberts
Local Subcommittee:	Massimo Maglione	Special Events Committee:	R. Wellington Jones
Body & Spirit Committee:	Kim Hodges	Stewardship Committee:	Mark Young
Building Use Committee:	Robert Shelton	Worship Committee:	Lynne Morris
Christian Education:	Jeremiah Rosario		

Where does your energy lie? Do you have ideas to share about enlivening our worship life?
 About making our voice heard in our neighborhood or our nation's capital? About how to share our resources?
 Our committees welcome new members!

Rutgers Presbyterian Church

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We're on the web!
www.rutgerschurch.com

Why We Walk

A Moment for Mission written by Natalie Wyatt

Crop Walk happens once a year. Churches and other groups around New York walk for two miles together down Fifth Avenue. You might think this is a long way, but some thirteen year olds in Africa must walk two times that distance to get clean water – every day.

Every year more than 6 million children under the age of five die as a result of hunger. One of every six people in the world lacks access to safe drinking water. These are two examples of why we do the Crop Walk.

Poor people around the world must walk...

To find food

To seek clean water

To escape violence

To seek shelter

To find employment

To go to school.

We walk to help parents feed their children. We walk to help people around the world find the drinking water they need.

They eat rice, we eat Skittles.

They walk for food, we go to the drive-through.

They may not have shoes, we wear Nike Prestos.

They wonder when they will eat again, we snack constantly.

They drink dirty water, we drink Poland Spring.

They worry about having clothes, we worry about the brand name.

They toil in the sun, we turn on the air conditioner.

They wish they could go to school, we hope and pray for a snow day.

They worry about having a roof over their heads, we worry about what people think of our homes.

They walk for just about everything.

We are walking to make a difference for them. **On April 30, support the Crop Walk. Walk with us.**

