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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."

**November 2007**  
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## From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

**T**he conversation about the mission of Rutgers Presbyterian Church continues. On October 7 more than twenty people gathered around a table in Fellowship Hall to talk about my proposals for funding some needed capital repairs to our building. On October 9 the Session learned that the repair/replacement of windows will not begin until early in 2008, which meant 2007 benevolence allocations could remain unchanged. That development delays the question of how to pay for capital improvements. It doesn't eliminate it.

The content of the above-mentioned conversation needs to focus on funding the total mission of Rutgers Presbyterian Church. Our total mission is multi-faceted: getting the good news of God's inclusive love out to our neighborhood and the world beyond; nurturing the spiritual life of our church family and neighbors; providing a wide range of high quality worship experiences; holding ourselves and the institutions that shape our lives (including government) to a high standard of honesty and openness; working for the well-being of all people everywhere; and being a community illustrative of the values we espouse. (The "Great Ends of the Church" from our Presbyterian Book of Order)

Our total mission as a church requires a building as a base for what we do. Yes, the

church is the people. But the church in our time and place requires a facility, a facility that is not an end in itself but a means of attaining our goals. Rutgers Church's building is relatively old, and old buildings need constant attention. The windows project I cited in the October Renewal is not the only aspect of our building needing major work. Looking out the window of my office almost every day, I see a badly deteriorating sanctuary brick wall that will require expensive repair—and soon. Air-conditioning the sanctuary was mentioned as a priority in many of the small group conversations we held over the summer. Equipping ourselves for streaming our Sunday service on the internet and expanding our video capacity are essential if we want to communicate with a new generation of spiritual seekers. The 73rd Street façade can use some major improvement.

Addressing these needs, as well as others, has to be part of the budget-making process at Rutgers. We will not always agree on how to allocate the resources we are fortunate to have as a congregation. But the way we carry on the conversation will be an important part of our witness to what we believe about God's love. I look forward to being part of the conversation as your interim pastor. I am grateful for the opportunity.

Dave Prince

## Getting to Know You: Carol & George Williamson

by Elder Jeremiah

**T**wo of our newest members, Carol and George Williamson, celebrated their membership with us during the worship services on April 29 and July 1, as member and affiliate member.

Carol grew up in middle Tennessee and was raised in a Southern Baptist church. Her mother was the church organist and her father a deacon. George describes his father-in-law as being a lay theologian, and extremely well read. Carol's family, including two older



brothers and a older sister, was socially conscious and might even be considered liberal in some circles.

George grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. He was also raised Southern Baptist. His family was more typical of a Southern Baptist family. An only child,

George threw himself into church life, and was very active in youth activities. At 3 years old, he knew he wanted to be a Baptist Pastor.

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## What Do You Think?

1. How does a person know they're dead?
2. What is the quickest way to feel like you've lost weight?
3. When is criticism helpful or spiteful?
4. You can control negativity.
5. Be a cheerleader for someone else for a change.
6. What story does your smile tell?
7. How many times have you miss-read a sign in a store?
8. What does best friend mean?
9. When is a compliment an insult?
10. If you haven't experienced love you can't give nor receive it.

'Till next time,  
Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

## S.K.A.T.E Sleepover

from Reverend Cheryl Pynch

**T**he Rutgers Youth Group, S.K.A.T.E. – (Sanctuary for Kids of Acceptance, Trust and Education) began the year with an overnight in the church. We began the evening by putting together "welcome kits" for guests who would start coming to the homeless shelter that would begin in the gym the next day. We played some basketball, enjoyed ziti, salad and blondies and interviewed each other. The kids then explored the church through a scavenger hunt and we came together for singing, conversation and prayer around a table of candles in a darkened sanctuary. "Lights out" came next, but that didn't mean sleep: card games and whispered late-night conversations were perhaps the highlight of the evening. The morning came quickly and the grown-ups enjoyed coffee while the kids had donut treats (and fruit) before we said good-bye.

Thank you to the many adult leaders: Cynthia Gale, Ed Kennelly and Harold Manners (who stayed overnight along with Cheryl Pynch); Jean Kim, who led us in music; and Kim Hodges, Nicole Byrns and Jacqui Van Vliet who joined us for the evening (Nicole and her husband Lloyd also rose at the crack of dawn the next day to bring us breakfast!). Laura Jervis, Wanda Diaz, Jeannie Santiago and Chris Jones cooked and tended our wonderful dinner. Sheila Smith made the Fifth Floor and gym look fabulous. We look forward to the third Annual SKATE Sleepover in 2008!ω

RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Renewal

## Being a Deacon

A Moment for Mission given by Deacon Anne Leader on September 16, 2007

I stand before you today both as a member of the Congregational Nominating Committee and as a Deacon. Last year the Congregational Nominating Committee decided it would be a good idea for representatives from each Board of Officers, that is, a deacon, an elder, and a trustee, to explain to the congregation what it is that we do. In this way, we hope that more of you will be interested in and willing to serve on one of our three boards.

I joined Rutgers as a member two years ago in the fall of 2005. Soon thereafter, I received a phone call from a member of the Congregational Nominating Committee asking me to serve as a deacon. Serve as a deacon? I thought, Why me? What do I know about being a deacon? What, exactly, does a deacon do? Rather than excuse myself for reasons of such ignorance and, like all busy New Yorkers, lack of time, I decided that there must have been a reason I was being called to serve, and so I said yes. Since then, I have learned a lot about being a deacon, which I would like to share with you today.

According to the *Book of Order*, which is the “rule book” for all Presbyterians, “The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ.” G-6.0401 It goes on

to say that “the duty of deacons, first of all, [is] to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them . . . [including] assisting with the Lord’s Supper.” G-6.0402a

How does this play out at Rutgers? The deacons meet on the first Sunday of every month, where we review prayer concerns, send cards and letters to those who are sick, grieving the loss of a loved one, or marking a life change like taking a new job, moving, or joining the church. Deacons organize coffee hour, give out flowers for birthdays, host our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and set up and serve communion. We also play a big part in the Helping Hands ministry, ready to send a get-well-soon card, pick up a bag of groceries, make phone calls and home visits, and add names to our prayers. We also take communion to those in the hospital or otherwise unable to come to church on Communion Sundays. We also try to have at least one member on our other church committees – hence my role on the nominating committee. And, you will often see us serving as ushers.

But, being a deacon is much more

than a list of things to do. Every opportunity to serve also brings an opportunity to connect with someone else, to learn a new name, to learn more about one of my fellow members.

In my experience, I have found that being a deacon has enriched my Rutgers experience greatly as I have come to know my fellow deacons and enjoy working with them in these and other capacities. Though I wish that we only shared good news, there is something very special about saying a prayer for or sending a card to someone who is sick or grieving. In our modern world, we are always rushing, always busy, and thus often do not know how our neighbors are doing. Being a deacon has allowed me to stay connected and be an active part of this wonderful community.

Would all those who are currently serving, or who have served, as a deacon please stand up? If you would like to know more about being a deacon, speak to one of us at the coffee hour. If you are interested in becoming a deacon (or an elder or a trustee), let me or a member of the Congregational Nominating Committee or pastoral staff know. It is my hope that when you receive a call to serve one of our three wonderful boards that you will, despite your uncertainties, say yes. *ω*

## Getting to Know You: Carol & George Williamson

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Carol was also very active in church and her local youth group, but not quite as “enthusiastic” as George. Like many youth, she attended Vacation Bible School, was in the youth choir, the youth group, and memorized scripture verses (a lot). Participating in church was just something Carol did naturally.

Carol & George both attended Wake Forest University. College sweethearts, Carol met George in her freshman year, George being in his senior. They married in Carol’s sophomore year and she finished her studies in New Haven, Connecticut.

College proved to be a turbulent time for George. He participated in the second of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King’s sit-ins in Greensboro, North Carolina and was arrested. Upon his return to college, George found himself ostracized by some of his peers and shunned by members of his community. This experience radically changed his faith journey and forced him to reevaluate his beliefs. From that moment on, his faith journey meant traveling the road, and being involved with, the struggles of marginalized people everywhere. After college, George attended Yale and attained his Master’s of Divinity. He said at Yale he sought to understand the fundamental changes that had occurred in him and that were occurring in the United States and the world around him. “Carol is a few years younger than me. I came to find out, after going through this big change, that I had to catch up to where she was already.”

Carol, on the other hand, describes her faith journey as a slow, gradual process, slowly changing while remaining a constant force. There has been no dramatic “white light” moment in her journey. As Carol describes, “It matters less and less about how and what you believe about Jesus, God, the afterlife . . . all these things matter less to me than what you are doing to make the world a better place to live.”

After college Carol and George had 3 children, and are the grandparents of three wonderful grandchildren. Their daughter lives in New York, one son lives in Columbus, Ohio and one other in San Francisco. When their children started school, Carol attained her nursing degree and became a nurse.

After seminary, George became a minister at a church in Virginia for three years. Afterward, he received a PH.D in Christian Ethics from Vanderbilt and became Chaplain and a professor at Vassar. Following Vassar, George became a pastor of a church in Granville, Ohio in the American Baptist Church (ABC). The church became a *Welcoming Church* (Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptist), comparable to Rutgers’ *More Light* status, and was subsequently the first *Welcoming Church* excommunicated from the American Baptist Church. The church was, years later, reinstated, though an affiliation with a region in Rochester, New York.

Skiers, George and Carol cherish their time in the snowy mountains of Western Maryland. They are enjoying life in New York as they explore different neighborhoods, museums and Broadway shows.

Asked why they attended Rutgers, Carol replied: “Although there are a few Baptist churches here that we do like, they didn’t seem to be compatible with us. We knew about this church because our grandson attends an art class in the *Child’s Play* program. We attended and saw in the bulletin the call for the meals program on Thursday nights and got involved with that. We started to attend some. The Thursday nights got us more involved. We like the fact that Rutgers is a *More Light* church, the music, the Mission Statement, and it’s a nice size. It all seemed a good fit. Not to mention it was convenient, a short walk from our home.” As George iterated: “The fact that Rutgers is Presbyterian didn’t mean much to us. I could care less about

John Calvin. But I enjoy the caliber of preaching by everyone.”

Carol and George see themselves becoming more involved in Peace and Social Justice issues. “I want to know, through the church, about things like the Peace March and the movie forum on the *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*.”

When asked about their hopes and dreams for Rutgers, they hope Rutgers continues with its inclusivity in every way, and to reach out to the less fortunate and marginalized, like those in the shelter and in the Thursday night program. “I hope that they are able to bring in more young people in the church like my daughter, build community, and close the age gap,” said Carol. George affirmed the sentiment and emphasized that the “enormous resources being raised here at Rutgers continue to be invested in the life and mission of the church.” *ω*

## Birthdays!

2	Jeannie Santiago	15	Samantha Manners
3	Margaret Williamson	18	Mark Young
5	Andy Achsen,	21	Jon Smith
	Lynne Morris &	22	Pamela Byrd
	Harry Thompson	23	Klarence Ou Yang & Marshall Williamson
6	Graham Wyatt	24	Ruben Santiago
7	Sarah Rundqvist	30	Audrey Hill
9	Warwick Busfield		
13	Cliff Flanders & Richard Hill		

## Stewardship Pledge 2008

On Sunday, November 18, the Stewardship Committee will be asking members and friends of Rutgers to make a pledge of time and talents for 2008. To help you think and pray about your pledge, look for the following:

-The week of October 28, a letter from the Stewardship Committee with their thoughts on pledging in 2008 (and a pledge card!)

-Moments for Mission on the following Sundays:

-November 4: Mission from the doorstep of Rutgers.

-November 11: Mission, our buildings and property.

-November 18: Mission beyond our doors: benevolences.

-The week of November 11, a letter from the Reverend Dave Prince on stewardship.

On Stewardship Commitment Sunday, November 18, Cheryl Pyrch will preach and we will ask all members and friends to turn in their pledge cards (although pledges will be gratefully accepted before or after that date!). If you have any questions, or if you would like to talk about your stewardship commitment in any way, please don’t hesitate to talk to Bill Bailey or Bill Donnell of the Stewardship Committee, or pastors Dave Prince or Cheryl Pyrch.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your commitment to Rutgers in 2008! *ω*

## Sundays

9:45 a.m.	Sunday School for Adults
9:45	Confirmation Class
10:00	Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:45	Infant & Child Care
11:00	Worship Service
11:15	Sunday School (ages 3-12)
12:15 p.m.	Coffee Hour
12:45	Choir Rehearsal
6:30	Men’s Shelter

# November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <b>All Saints' Day</b> 6:00 p.m. Meal Program 6:30 p.m. All Saints' Day Gathering 7:00 p.m. Movie Series <i>Every Thursday</i>	2 10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Friday</i> S.K.A.T.E.	3 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Saturday</i>
4 12:45 p.m. Deacons Meeting Special Session Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Sunday</i>	5 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts <i>Every Monday</i>	6 <b>Election Day</b> 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/ PLWA) 6:30 p.m. Membership Committee 8:00 p.m. Men's Al-Anon <i>Every Tuesday</i>	7 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting <i>Every Wednesday</i> 6:30 p.m. Membership Committee	8 6:30 p.m. Personnel Com- mittee	9	10 1:00 p.m. Mission Review Steering Committee, Opera Auditions
11 12:45 p.m. P&S/JN meeting	12 3:30 p.m. Worship Com- mittee	13 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	14	15 6:30 p.m. Congregational Nominating Committee	16	17
18 12:45 p.m. Inquires' Class 4:00 p.m. Organ Recital	19 6:30 p.m. Christian Edu- cation	20	21 7:00 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	22 <b>Thanksgiving</b> Office Building	23 Church and Closed	24
25	26	27 6:30 p.m. Presbyterian Wel- come Award	28	<div data-bbox="808 1572 1460 1905" data-label="Complex-Block"> <h3>Preaching Schedule</h3> <p>November 4 ___ All Saints Day Observed; David Prince preaching</p> <p>November 11 ___ David Prince preaching</p> <p>November 18 ___ Stewardship Pledge; Cheryl Pyrch preaching</p> <p>November 25 ___ Thanksgiving; Charles Amstein preaching</p> </div>		

## November 2007 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

### All Saints' Day Gathering.

Sunday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Come for a time of quiet Worship and prayer in memory of loved ones who have died on Thursday evening, November 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the Narthex. We'll read scripture, share memories and set a "Memorial Table." If you would like, please bring a photograph or other memento of someone you would like to remember. Led by Reverend Cheryl Pyrch.

### Auditions for Opera Gala Benefit

Saturday, November 10 starting at 1 p.m.

Auditions for the upcoming opera benefiting the Christopher Roberts Homeless Shelter will be held on Saturday, November 10 beginning at 1 p.m. in the Daniel Russell room. This operatic gala event will include scenes from *MacBeth* and Bizet's *Carmen*. Please contact R. Wellington Jones, chair of the Special Events Committee at ius90drn@verizon.net to reserve an audition time slot. Photo resume appreciated.

### Organ Recital by George Davey

Sunday, November 18 at 4 p.m., Sanctuary

George is still finalizing selections for his upcoming recital on our Southfield Organ and plans to include a wide range of music and perform works by Bach, Boellman, Faulkes, Guilment, Ley, Messiaen and Weaver. Won't you come going us for an evening of inspiring music and musicianship.

### Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 21 at 7 p.m., St. Paul & St. Andrew

### Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Eve Service



Wednesday, November 21  
7:00 pm  
Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew  
86th Street & West End Avenue  
(Also home to Congregation B'nai Jeshurun  
and West-Park Presbyterian Church)  
All Welcome!  
Sponsored by the West Side Clergy  
Offering will be taken for the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. Reception will follow.

This year's West Side Thanksgiving Eve Service, sponsored by West Side Clergy, will be held at the Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew (also home of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun and West Park Presbyterian Church), at 263 West 86th Street, corner of 86th Street & West End Avenue. ALL ARE WELCOME! Reception will follow immediately after service. Offering will be taken for the *West Side Campaign Against Hunger*.

### Thanksgiving at Euclid Hall

Thursday, November 22 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

For the seventeenth year in a row, friends and members of Rutgers Church will provide Thanksgiving dinner for residents of Euclid Hall, an affordable, supportive housing residence for senior citizens and for individuals coming out of the New York City shelter system. Located at 2345 Broadway and 86th Street, it is operated by the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing.

Please contact Sue Spears at sjs@panix.com or Jeremiah at the church office at (212) 877-8227 or jeremiah@rutgerschurch.com to volunteer your time or food offerings, which can be delivered in advance.

### Presbyterian Welcome "Faithful Servant Award"

Tuesday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Please come to support the work of Presbyterian Welcome and honor the 2007 Faithful Servant Award recipients - Ms. Takako Suzuki Terino and The Honorable Christine Quinn. These Faithful Servants are being recognized for their dedication and work on behalf of LGBT communities in the Church and in the wider world. Takako Terino is a member of Brick Presbyterian Church who was baptized in Japan at age 15 and is continuing her Christian journey at Union Theological Seminary. She's been a long-serving and creative leader of Presbyterian Welcome. Councilwoman and Speaker Christine Quinn, our Faithful Public Servant, has been a strong leader and advocate in the GLBT community, and has also been a pioneer for equal rights, comprehensive health care, improved schools, tenants' rights and affordable housing in the City of New York. This annual fundraiser is always a festive and moving experience, and we are glad to host it this year at Rutgers (Rutgers talent is decorating the Hall!) Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. RSVP at info@presbyterianwelcome.org or call (917) 441-8638.

### Contribute to the "Advent Meditation Booklet"

Contribute to the Rutgers' own Advent Meditation Booklet. Choose an anecdote, your favorite poem, verse or hymn. Explain the significance and meaning of your entry choice in your life. Explain how your choice shows God's presence. Tell us why this is important to you!

All entries will be gathered into a meditation booklet to be sent to the congregation for use during this Advent season. Entries by families, individuals and youth are all welcome.

Please limit your entry to 250 words (maximum length). Entries longer than that will be edited for space. Reflections may be sent to the church office via e-mail at jeremiah@rutgerschurch.com, U.S. Post Office or dropped off in the Coffee hour in the basket marked 2007 Advent Meditation starting next Sunday. All entries must be received by Monday, November 19. Please contact Jacqui Van Vliet, seminary intern, at the church office with any questions.