

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."



RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Renewal

From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

I have mixed feelings about New Year's resolutions. Way back in the past I would think about the things in my life I wanted to change—and there were quite a few. I would write out a list of goals and "resolve" to achieve them within the first few months of the opening year. More often than not I forgot my resolutions soon after making them.

Eventually someone told me about mutual accountability—the practice of forming or joining a group of people willing to share perceived "shortcomings" and plans for personal growth. I had grown up in a home where talking about such things was not modeled or encouraged. When I became part of a group where people shared their experience, strength, and hope, I waited awhile before talking. I did a lot of listening. Eventually I discovered how good it felt to have a safe place for talking about my personal issues without fear of ridicule or judgment. My membership in a group where mutual ac-

countability is practiced is now a high priority in my life. I don't wait for New Year's Day to do some self-examination and make a plan for personal growth. The people in my group ask me regularly how I am doing, and they don't expect a canned answer. They want to know because they care about me and how I am doing, and they know I care about them. If I say I want to work on a perceived area of weakness, they will hold me accountable—in a firm but loving manner.

The year 2007 will offer each of us opportunities to grow in the direction of spiritual health. For me one of those opportunities is being part of Rutgers Presbyterian Church, where God's inclusive love is celebrated enthusiastically. Another opportunity is being part of a small group where mutual encouragement and accountability are practiced.

With gratitude for God's unfailing presence in the past and confidence in that continuing presence, I wish all of you a very happy New Year.

Send Us Your Pictures!



In order to help us all learn each others' names and faces better, we are putting together a photographic display of the Rutgers community that will be on view on the third floor of the Church House. If you would like to participate, please submit a recent picture of yourself or your family for us to keep. You may mail a photograph to Jennifer's attention; email a JPG file to jhanson@rutgerschurch.com; or drop one off on Sunday morning with a pastor, usher, or Susan Scherer. The project will debut at the annual meeting at the end of January, so please get your pictures in soon!



How Did Those Doors Get Opened? Coretta Scott King

Excerpts from a moment for mission by Elder Jacquelyn Carpenter, February 26, 2006

While I was watching Mrs. King's funeral, Dr. Dorothy I. Height of the National Council of Negro Women got my attention with her tribute. One of the things she said was, "Coretta Scott King was so able to communicate because her heart was deeply in it... Many times when people are going through open doors now, I wish that they could hear the stories of how those doors got opened and how those doors could be fully opened if they followed the message of Coretta Scott King."

Her foundation came from her parents on their farm in Heiberger, Alabama, which had been in the family since the Civil War. The Scotts were not at all rich: they were so hard hit during the Depression that the children picked cotton to help earn money. Her father, Obediah Scott, was a resourceful man who was the first black person in the district to own a truck and who eventually opened a country store. As a young child, Mrs. King

(Continued on page 5)

Welcome Back! to the Reverend Charles Amstein, who has been invited by the Rutgers Session (after consulting the Committee on Ministry) to serve as Parish Consultant, and who will continue to pray with us, assist at worship services, preach occasionally, meet with the Board of Deacons, and provide pastoral care.

Wasik's Home

Here is our dream come true: Wasik's new home! We were so pleased to receive this image (below right)—what a perfect holiday gift.

Rutgers recently received an additional \$1,500 donation for the Raise the Roof fund. We contacted our manager in Indonesia and asked him for an accounting of the money spent from our first transfer to date. We also asked him to recommend a second craftsman who experienced major home damage from the May earthquake in Indonesia; in this way we may be able to fund a second rebuilding project—very exciting!

Once again, thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible. With love, Cynthia and Glenn Gale

Altar Flowers

Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias to grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season.

We know that Christmas is not the only time we remember loved ones or wish to recognize special milestones, anniversaries, or accomplishments.

So, the Worship Committee invites you to consider sponsoring the altar flowers any time throughout the year. If you would like to do this, please contact Jennifer (x213 or jhan-son@rutgerschurch.com) with the date you have in mind and your dedication. The flowers are \$50 per arrangement, but you may also pay what you are able.



Puppies Behind Bars Honored at Blessing of the Animals by Bev Thompson

On December 17 from the pews of Central Presbyterian Church, over 300 people & their pets celebrated the 22nd Annual Blessing of the Animals. This interdenominational event brought together humankind's best friends and their brethren.

The evening began with excerpts from Saint-Saen's *Carnival of the Animals* and continued with "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb."

The highlight of the night was a recognition of the organization Puppies behind Bars with guest speaker, Susan Hallett. "Working with these dogs is the first time in my life that I think I know what compassion feels like: where nobody gets hurt," said Ms Hallett, who has been incarcerated for 22 years.

Puppies behind Bars is a program that trains prison inmates to raise puppies to become guide dogs for the blind and explosive detecting canines for law enforcement, while helping

the inmates learn what it means to contribute to society. The offering went to Puppies behind Bars; puppies who graduated from the program walked down the aisle to receive their medals and were blessed by Pastor Grandgeorge, retired Police Chaplain William Kalaidjian, and Rabbi Ross.

The service culminated with the howls, meows, and coos of all the animals as they were simultaneously being blessed: a cacophony of love echoing in the church's vaulted ceiling.

My pup, Mollie Mae, got a booster blessing from Rabbi Ross, her six-month blessing from Chaplain Kalaidjian, and a year's blessing from one of our own, the Reverend William Pendar. She is blessed all the year through—until next year.

Note: If anyone is interested in "hosting" a pup in the beginning stages of their life of serving humankind, please let me know, and I'll put you in touch with the appropriate contact.

January 2007 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

Body & Spirit / Child's Play Open House

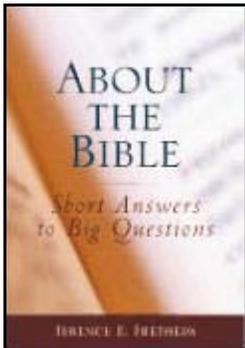
January 2, 3, 4

See back cover for details.

Where Does Our Bible Come From?

Sundays, January 14, 21, 28, at 9:45 a.m., Session Room

We call the Bible the Word of God, but we know it didn't fall from the sky in those handsome hardcover editions we find in bookstores. The "writing" of the Bible took place over centuries. Many people were involved, and the Bible's history raises interesting questions—and challenges—of interpretation and use in the church today. Come to a three-part lecture series to learn some basics, including a look at different translations. There will be supplementary readings and opportunity for questions and discussion. A short and readable book, *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions* by Terence E. Fretheim, will be available at the church beginning January 2 (\$9), and orient you to questions we'll explore further. **Led by Cheryl Pynch.**



March, Sing, Pray, and Listen in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Come to an interfaith event of worship and witness sponsored by West Siders for Peace & Justice, a gathering of clergy and lay leaders on the Upper West Side. We'll begin at Holy Name Roman Catholic Church (96th and Amsterdam) at 2:00 p.m. We'll have a short and peaceful march, and the Reverends Kenneth and Peggy Thomas, Presbyterians who worked for many years with the church in Iran, will speak. We'll also hear from a Habitat for Humanity family and the Peace Choir. Talk

to Cheryl (x205) or call Second Presbyterian Church at (212) 749-1700 for more information.

210th Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 28 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

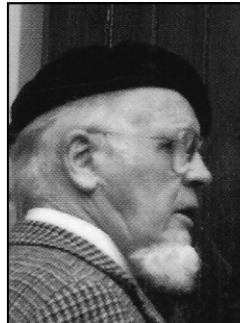
Please join us for the annual congregational meeting, beginning with a luncheon on the fifth floor. All are welcome to join us for fellowship, reflections on the year's events, and elections of new officers. We will also be voting on conferring pastor emeritus status on Dr. Shafer.

Committee Chairs: Please submit your annual reports to Jennifer at jhanson@rutgerschurch.com no later than Wednesday, January 17. (Early submissions are welcome!)

Practical Parenting Workshop

8 Thursdays beginning February 1, 9:45—11:45 a.m.

Betsy Ross's comprehensive, practical workshop for parents with children of any age has relocated to Rutgers while West Park Church is undergoing renovations. Come learn about practical techniques for setting limits, teaching cooperation and good listening skills, raising self-esteem, reducing sibling rivalry, and instilling values. For more information, call (212) 765-2377 or visit www.parentinghorizons.com. (Another 8-week session will begin in April.) Please note: this workshop is not free, and registration is required.



What I Learned from China

Sundays, February 4 and 11, 9:45 a.m. in the Session Room

A young Scottish minister goes to China, brimming over with Ideas—finds a welcome.....and many *other* Ideas. Come hear **the Reverend W. Scott Morton** speak about his life as a missionary in China just before World War II. Scott is long-time member of

A First for Rutgers and Troop 664 by Louisa Berry

Troop 664, in its new home at Rutgers Presbyterian Church, now has its first Eagle Scout. Anthony Seno Hasan was approved by the Boy Scouts of America national office on December 8, and he now joins the 5% of Boy Scouts who have achieved this highest honor. To become an Eagle, the Scout must earn at least 21 badges and complete a community service project. Anthony's project was to provide parents attending the Columbus Avenue Street Fair with a fingerprint record of their children.

Anthony's scouting career began as a boy in Cub Scouts with Pack 150 in Chinatown, where he lives with his mother. As he proceeded up the ranks, he set his sights on the highest goal—that of Eagle Scout. Reaching this goal has been a challenge, as have most things in Anthony's life, because he has Asperger's Disorder. But those of us who know Anthony didn't doubt that he would succeed, for Anthony has a sense of

determination that is evident in every area of his life. When his former Troop could no longer work with him, he decided to register as a Lone Scout to pursue his goal on his own. He came to a meeting of 664 to register with me because I am a disabilities awareness counselor. However, he enjoys working with other boys, and because 664 is a small unit, we agreed to have him join the Troop. Everyone in the Troop has benefited from working with Anthony, and we all celebrate his success. Look for an announcement—some time in the near future—of a big party to honor his achievement.

In addition to Scouts, Anthony participates in Special Olympics and has received medals in several sports, including swimming and hockey. His favorite New York team is the Mets. He sings in his church choir and is currently studying computers and business. Anthony sets a good example for all of us.

January 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day Church and office buildings closed	2 6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/ PLWA) Every Tuesday	3 OPEN HOUSE	4 6:00 p.m. Meal Program Every Thursday 7:00 p.m. <i>Maltese Falcon</i>	5 10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study—Fridays 6:00 p.m. SKATE outing to the Met	6
7 12:45 p.m. Board of Deacons; Peace & Social Justice Network	8 3:00 p.m. Worship Committee 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Every Monday	9 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	10 Body & Spirit and Child's Play sessions begin this week	11 7:00 p.m. Movie: <i>High Sierra</i>	12	13
14 9:45 a.m. Class: Where Does Our Bible Come From? thru Jan. 28	15 MLK, Jr. Holiday Buildings closed; 2:00 p.m. Interfaith Event	16 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Every Tuesday	17 Annual Report Deadline	18 7:00 p.m. Movie: <i>Casablanca</i>	19	20
21 2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Freida Logan	22 6:30 p.m. Christian Ed Committee	23 GA Study Group on Low Income Housing	24 February Renewal Deadline	25 7:00 p.m. Movie: <i>Key Largo</i>	26 Men's Overnight Shelter: Every Fri • Sat • Sun	27
28 12:30 p.m. Annual Meeting & Luncheon	29	30	31			

Birthdays!

- 1 Lucy Dunn-Ellis
- 8 Laura Jervis
- 9 Philip Patrick
- 13 Katie Berko
- 20 Christine Gorman
- 23 Harold Manners, Sue
Spears
- 25 Sheila Smith
- 27 Joy Wyatt
- 31 Christian Pritner-Gonzales

Sundays

9:45 am	Sunday School for Adults
10:00	Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:15	Children's Choir Rehearsal (on hold until further notice)
10:30	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

January 7	Epiphany Observed; Baptism of the Lord; Renewal of Baptism; Communion; The Reverend David D. Prince preaching
January 14	Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; The Reverend David D. Prince preaching
January 21	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; Guest preacher
January 28	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; The Reverend David D. Prince preaching

How Did Those Doors Get Opened?

(Continued from page 1)

walked five miles each day to attend the one-room Crossroads School. When she was older, she studied at Lincoln High School in Marion, nine miles away. Since this was too far to walk, her mother, Bernice (McMurray) Scott, hired a bus and drove all the black students in the area to and from school—a most unusual course of action for a black woman in the 1930s.

Mrs. King inherited a love of music from her mother, and at Lincoln High School she learned to play the trumpet and piano and sang as a soloist at school recitals. She was the valedictorian of her class when she graduated in 1945. She enrolled at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where her sister Edythe had been the first full-time black student to live on campus. She received a B.A. in music and education, then went on to study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a degree in voice and violin. While in Boston, she met Martin Luther King, Jr., who was studying for his doctorate in systematic theology at Boston University. They were married on June 18, 1953, and in September 1954 took up residence in Montgomery, Alabama. They had four children.

It's impossible to speak about Mrs. King without mentioning her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King said, "I think, on many points she educated me.... The first discussion we had when we met was the whole question of racial injustice and economic injustice and the question of peace. In her college days she had been actively engaged in movements dealing with these problems. I wish I could say... that I led her down this path; but I must say we went down it together." (from "Martin Luther King, Jr. A Personal Portrait," interview with Arnold Michaelis, 1967)

I received a book ten years ago on my birthday entitled *Sisters, Essays* by Carol Saline, in which Mrs. King and her sister Edythe were featured. Her sister wrote:

My dear sister Coretta, I am sitting here tonight thinking about us. How close we were as children, sharing everything, doing everything together.... When I went to Antioch before you, I learned about sibling rivalry in one of my courses, and I didn't believe there could be such a thing. We certainly never competed or were jealous—even if you did have more boyfriends.

Mrs. King wrote:

If you hadn't gone to Antioch College first and made a place for me and pulled me in, I'd have missed the experience that prepared me for my role today. The emphasis on multiculturalism and the democratic community there were the perfect training for my life's work. You've always known instinctively just how to make me comfortable and support me. I will never forget the day after Martin's funeral, when you packed up your son and came to stay with me. Having you, my sister, in my house for two years with me and as a surrogate mother to my children, especially when I had to be away so often, was a comfort no one else could have provided.... I'm so glad you've been with me whenever anything important has happened.

Coretta Scott King was one of the most influential contemporary women leaders in our world. Prepared by her family, education, and personality for a life committed to social justice and peace, she entered the world stage in 1955 as wife of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and as a leading participant in the American Civil Rights Movement. Mrs. King traveled throughout our nation and world, speaking out on behalf of racial and economic justice, women's and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, religious freedom, the needs of the poor and homeless, full employment, health care, educational opportunities, nuclear disarmament and ecological sanity. She lent her support to democracy movements worldwide and served as a consultant to many world leaders.

When her husband was assassinated in 1968, Coretta King took it for granted that she would continue his work. Just four days after his death, she led a march of fifty thousand people through the streets of Memphis, and later that year she took his place in the Poor People's March to Washington. For 27 years (1968-1995), Mrs. King devoted much of her energy and attention to developing programs and building the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. She spearheaded the massive campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday and in January 1986 oversaw the first legal holiday in honor of her husband.

She was the first woman to deliver the class day address at Harvard, and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. She met with great spiritual leaders, including Pope John Paul II, the Dalai Lama, Dorothy Day, and Bishop Desmond Tutu. She witnessed the historic handshake between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yassir Arafat at the signing of the Middle East Peace Accords. She stood with Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg when he became South Africa's first democratically-elected president.

On the Saturday before her funeral, thousands of mourners poured into the Georgia Capitol rotunda to pay tribute to Mrs. King, the first woman and the first black person to lie in honor in what was once a seat of segregation. Atlanta's Mayor Shirley Franklin thanked Mrs. King and others who worked "so that someone who was African American and female could lead this great city."

Quotes from Mrs. King: "Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated."

"I believe all Americans who believe in freedom, tolerance, and human rights have a responsibility to oppose bigotry and prejudice based on sexual orientation."

"Segregation was wrong when it was forced by white people, and I believe it is still wrong when it is requested by black people."

I am able to stand in this church today because of Coretta Scott King's strong family foundation, love, friends, supporters, dedication, and sacrifices, and the doors that she and her husband opened. Thank you, Mrs. King. Amen.

Learn more at:

www.thekingcenter.com and voices.cla.umn.edu



236 West 73rd Street
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Rutgers' Body & Spirit and Child's Play programs begin their winter-spring sessions next week. In case you haven't noticed, we have truly excellent teachers, unique and interesting classes for infants to seniors, affordable prices and even scholarships.

Spread the news to your friends, colleagues and neighbors: we invite you to a **Body & Spirit and Child's Play Open House** from January 2-4.

Child's Play groups will be open to curious newcomers on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (check our web site for times: go to the Body & Spirit page and then click the Child's Play link at the bottom).

Body & Spirit will be open on Wednesday and Thursday with drop-in kids classes from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and adult classes from 1 to 3 p.m. Kids with their parents may try out our art, music, movement, and soccer classes as well as our interdisciplinary offerings.

Adults may drop in to meet our instructors and try out a few computer keystrokes, tai chi moves, Feldenkrais sequences, and more...



Body & Spirit
Rutgers Presbyterian Church

236 W. 73rd Street
Just west of Broadway
New York, NY 10023



**OPEN
HOUSE**

January 3 & 4:
Join us to ask questions,
Look at our space,
Meet the instructors.

Find out what's right for *YOU!!!*

KIDS' CLASSES: WED. & THURS. 10 - 1
ADULT CLASSES: WED. & THURS. 1 - 3

Call 212-877-2761 for details or ✓ the website:
www.rutgerschurch.com

Newcomers: register at the Open House to receive a \$20 discount.