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Scout Update

Another summer gone – another Scouting year begins. Both Troop and Pack 664 are delighted to have space at Rutgers to meet. As in the past, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade Cub Scouts will meet on Monday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; 4th and 5th grade Webelos, and the Boy Scout Troop, meet Tuesday nights, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

This will be a busy year for 664. Both the Troop and the Pack are strong in numbers, but we are continuing to recruit and look forward to working with some new Scouts who asked to join over the summer. Our Chili Dog Recruitment Rally is Friday, September 21 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Interested young men from 6 to 16 and their families are welcome to join us to find out about some of the things that we do.

The Troop will begin the year with a trip to Fire Island in September, and the Cub Scouts will go to Alpine Scout Camp



in October. In October we will also march in the Veterans Day Parade. As both a community service activity and a fundraiser in the fall, we plan to work with the Parks Department in keeping the park area around the subway entrance on 72-73 Street clean and healthy. Hopefully this will become an ongoing activity.

We have plans for a ski trip, a fishing week-

end on Staten Island, several other community service activities, and our ever popular Pinewood Derby. There will be award ceremonies and parties throughout the year, and we will try to reschedule the Eagle ceremony for Anthony Hasan.

Our leadership is also continuing to grow. We now have 3 young men – all Eagle Scouts – who are working with the Troop and Webelos. They provide wonderful role models for our Scouts, and have a wealth of skills to teach.

Please check out our new website at <http://nyctroop664.org> to see pictures of our Scouts in action. You can also

access our calendar to see what is planned for the coming year. And if you or someone you know is interested in joining, please come on the 21st to sign up. (If you can't make that night, you're welcome to come on any meeting night.)

Louisa A. Berry
Cubmaster & Scoutmaster

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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."

September 2007

Volume 24, Issue 8



From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

Another summer has come and gone—almost. The calendar tells us summer doesn't end for a few more weeks, but our date books and blackberries tell us we're into autumn. Our worship attendance at Rutgers was good in July and August, with visitors joining "regulars" on most Sundays. Vacation Bible School pulled in many children from the neighborhood as well as from our membership. Our choir soloists and section leaders contributed to the beauty of our Sunday services, and George Davey inspired the congregation to a high level of hymn-singing with his gifted playing of our pipe organ.

Our congregational self-study continues as we complete our series of small group conversations about the future of RPC. Within a few weeks the steering committee will circulate a survey for individuals to complete as part of this interim process. As I come to the end of my first year as your interim pastor, I am preparing a report for the session and church mem-

bers, outlining my impressions of the congregation and my thoughts about its future. Personally it has been a stimulating year as I have come to know the church family of Rutgers Presbyterian Church. I continue to enjoy my work as your interim pastor.

Our choir will resume its vital role in our worship services on September 9, and we celebrate Rutgers' traditional Homecoming Sunday on September 16, with a luncheon on the fifth floor for all who care to stay after the worship service.

A warm welcome to Jeremiah Rosario, our interim administrative assistant in the office; to Jacqui Van Vliet, our student intern from Union Seminary; and a warm welcome back to all of you as we begin another year in the life of this unique and lively Presbyterian Church, where we celebrate God's unconditional, inclusive, affirming love and extend that love into our neighborhood and world.

Dave Prince

Getting to Know You: Seminary Intern Jacqui Van Vliet

by Elder Jeremiah

This fall we welcome Jacqui Van Vliet to Rutgers as our seminary intern from Union Theological Seminary. Jacqui is beginning her third year of studies at Union this fall. She had been attending seminary part time while working full time but has recently started as a full time student. She also has a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from NYU.



role in the church, feelings of being called to ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA) pulled and pushed on her heart for many years.

Becoming a pastor was not a childhood dream for Jacqui. Growing up in a conservative Baptist church, she had no role model for a woman in ordained ministry. So Jacqui was quite surprised when she heard a "call" to the ministry. She had to overcome her religious upbringing and beliefs that women should not be in ministerial positions. As she took a larger

Surprisingly to Jacqui, her home church, West Side Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood, NJ, saw a call in the life of Jacqui before she did. At West Side Presbyterian Church, Jacqui was Director of Lay Ministries and Children's Ministries for over ten years as well as participating in other aspects of church life. She is also under care of the session of West Side Presbyterian Church whose church membership is approximately 1,500.

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RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Renewal

Review of May 6, 2007 Operatic Recital

by Roger Franklin, Ph.D., critic-at-large of Opera, Theatre and Drama

On Sunday afternoon, May 7, Music from Rutgers proudly presented *A Musical Anthology*, a benefit concert for the Christopher Roberts Memorial Homeless Shelter at Rutgers Church, to an enthusiastic capacity audience. These annual musicales were staged by Rutgers' own producer/director/pianist R. Wellington Jones.

This afternoon's performance was dedicated to Ms. Lynne Morris, who has served as Production Associate for a number of years. The concert got under way with the first New York performance in 20 years of Alberto Ginastera's *Danzas Argentinas*. These two short pieces were executed by Mr. Jones with depth, understanding and musicianship, and were narrated by our Interim Pastor, the Reverend David D. Prince.

The benefit concert continued with four artists performing arias and ensembles from the French and Italian repertoire. Baritone

Adrian Gans opened this section brilliantly with the Prologue from Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, eliciting immediate applause from the enthusiastic audience. Soprano

Janelle Laurenti (a semi-finalist in the Met Opera national auditions in New York) and tenor Edward Bruce Stevenson's bright tenor voice

(he has recorded for RCA Victor and Italian radio and television) were paired in the Act I love duet from Verdi's *Otello*. The next two offerings came from Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, the well-known duet "*Au fond du temple saint*" with Edward Bruce Stevenson and Adrian Gans which elicited bravos from the audience, and "*Comme autrefois*" with Ms. Barbara Bliss. Ms. Janelle Laurenti then sang the aria "*Io son l'umile ancella*" from Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur*. Barbara Bliss returned for a solo turn in *Mimi's* third-act aria, "*Donde lieta*" from Puccini's *La Bohème*; and finally, our four stellar soloists returned as Mimi, Rodolfo, Marcello and Musetta for the final Act III Ensemble from the same opera, with they performed with dramatic sensitivity and excitement.

The *pièce de résistance* of the afternoon consisted of excerpts from the Second Act of Johann Strauss, Jr.'s *Die Fledermaus* (The Bat), sung in English. Composed in six weeks and first presented in Vienna in 1874, this sparkling operetta, involving a whirl of deceit and mistaken identities at

a Viennese masked ball, has retained its popularity and still remains one of the most frequently performed works of all time.

Under R. Wellington Jones' spirited direction and staging, the appealing cast, sumptuously gowned in period costume with the men in formal evening dress, bubbled across Rutgers' playing space, assimilating the style or *schmalz* of the Viennese operetta with its galops, polkas, and waltzes. The choristers and soloists showed camaraderie and understanding of their roles, both vocally and dramatically.

Outstanding in the trouser role of *Prince Orlofsky* was Ladie Whitaker, dressed in military regalia. Until she sang, I could have sworn she was a male! Vocally and dramatically she was first-rate. The late Kitty Carlisle Hart was an exponent of that role at the Met.



As *Rosalinda*, Anna Marie Mackey scored highly with her florid aria and *czardas*, using her dramatic soprano with telling effect, and later with her husband *Eisenstein* (Alburtt Rhodes, in fine voice), they enacted their *Clock Duet* ("Love's a matter of time").

Francesca Angiouli, *Rosalinda's* maid *Adele*, a delightful soubrette, probably has the best known number of the score ("Look me over once"), which she performed with her habitual charm and grace. Her col-

oratura laughing refrains delightfully made fun of her employer *Eisenstein*.

The surprise guest at *Orlofsky's* party turned out to be Albert Williams, soloist in the Rutgers Church Choir, singing Mephistopheles' cynical *Sérénade* from Act IV of Gounod's *Faust*. Rutgers regulars Reverend Charles Amstein (as *Doktor Falke*) and William Himmelbauer (as *Frank the Jailer*) gave stature to the abridged Second Act. This Viennese bonbon ended joyously with the entire cast praising the virtues of wine, love and eternal friendship.

Conductor-pianist Nicholas Fox showed technical knowledge and outstanding musicianship over the months of preparation as musical director. I feel strongly that he will be one of our shining conducting stars in the future.

This production was videotaped for BBC European Networks, Time Warner Cable Channel 57, RCN Channel 85, and the Internet, and will be aired in four Wednesday half-hour segments on September 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 1:00 p.m.ω

FYI

by Elder Jeremiah, Clerk of Session

With summer ending, school beginning and holidays just around the corner (Oy Vey!!), what has the session been up to these past months? Here is a summary in brief. If you would like to receive the full session minutes, please let me know by e-mail (jeremiah@rutgerschurch.com).

1. Session enthusiastically approved a motion to extend the contract with the Reverend David D. Prince as Interim Pastor for another year, ending September 24, 2008.

2. Session approved a special congregational meeting where we, the congregation, unanimously renewed the contract with the Reverend Cheryl Pynch as Designated Associate Pastor for an additional 3 years, ending June 1, 2010. We are delighted that the Committee on Ministry has affirmed and consented to our choices in ministers.

3. A motion passed to accept Jacqui Van Vliet, a seminarian at Union Theological Seminary, to complete her field education studies here at Rutgers. We are pleased to offer this opportunity to Jacqui and honored to be part of shaping her ministerial development as she prepares to enter ministry service.

4. After due examination (written and oral), the Session voted to receive

into membership Doug Grace, Stephen Greer, J. Harris Shultz, Carol Williamson and Eric Woodall by reaffirmation of faith; and Don Riding and Kenneth Starger by letter of transfer. The Session also voted to accept as affiliate members Harry Thompson, Marion Towne and George Williamson. We also received Eleanor and James Patrick (children of Krista Olson & Philip Patrick) and Benjamin Marshall Williamson (son of John and Sanne Williamson) as new members into the Body of Christ through baptism. Welcome one and all.

5. There was lengthy discussion about what constituted a quorum for meetings and, with prayerful consideration, the Session voted that a quorum will constitute a minimum of 5 members for regular Session meetings, 2 members and moderator for receiving new members, and a minimum of 30% of current members of the congregation for congregational/annual business meetings. Our current membership, including our new members, stands at 119 individuals. Every person's voice is important and needs to be heard. It is important that **All Rutgers Members** attend the annual business meeting and congregational meetings to cast our vote, especially during this transitional period.

6. To help foster civic responsibility, the Session voted to renew a contract with the Board of Elections where Rutgers Church will once again act as a voting site during this year's elections.

7. The Session approved the recommendations of the Benevolence Committee and distributed \$157,422 to 59 organizations (for both Presbyterian and non-Presbyterian causes) which includes the 1% of church operating budget dedicated to fighting the AIDS pandemic. The Session also distributed \$1,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to benefit the victims of floods in Jakarta, Indonesia earlier this year as encouraged by Executive Presbyter, the Reverend Arabella Meadows-Rogers.

8. The Session approved the recommendation for a mission statement for the Benevolence Committee as follows: "*As imperfect witnesses to God's wildly inclusive love, we gratefully pledge ourselves and our congregation's resources to help make the world a better place for children, women and men who are poor, sick or marginalized and to extend the reality of peace with justice.*"

9. Let there be light. The Session has voted to replace the light bulbs in the church house to cost efficient fluorescent light bulbs wherever possible.ω

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When asked why she chose Rutgers, a grin came across Jacqui's face. She looked at other churches comparable to the size of West Side but likes the intimacy of Rutgers. She first visited Rutgers in January during Baptism of the Lord Sunday and was amazed at how many of us renewed our baptismal vows and how full the service was.

Another aspect that struck Jacqui was that whenever she visited Rutgers, we greeted her no matter where she was sitting, even when she was seated on a side aisle near the back of the sanctuary. She finds our church friendly, outgoing, sincere, warm, loving and gentle in its approach.

She loves to hear David Prince and Cheryl Pynch preach and is inspired by their sermons. Jacqui was struck by the full attention Dave gives to individuals whether it was in the renewing of baptism vows line or extending greetings after worship service. She loves the male/female ratio in the pulpit, and that we are an inclusive church with an emphasis on diversity.

Jacqui was captivated by the choir's singing and feels they are such a blessing to the worship service. She loves the lay leadership in the worship service. She is delighted that the children participate in the sacraments of Holy Communion and the renewal of Baptismal vows.

What does Jacqui hope to gain at Rutgers? She is looking to minister to a wide range of congregants at Rutgers under the supervision of Dave and Cheryl. She is looking to gain more experience, strengthen her skills with youth and children and acquire new skills.

When asked how we can help, Jacqui replied: "*Continue to be as welcoming as you are. Keep me in your prayers and feel free to discuss your opinions with me.*"

We look forward to getting to know Jacqui better and working with her as she ministers to our congregation.ω

September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Choir resumes 12:45 p.m. Deacons Meeting; P&SJ Network 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Sunday</i>	3 Labor Day Church/office buildings closed	4 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/ PLWA) 8:00 p.m. Men's Al-Anon <i>Every Tuesday</i>	5 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting <i>Every Wednesday</i>	6 6:00 p.m. Meal Program 7:00 p.m. Movie Series <i>Every Thursday</i>	7 7:00 p.m. S.K.A.T.E. Sleepover	1/8 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter Resumes <i>Every Saturday</i>
9 Choir resumes 12:45 p.m. Deacons Meeting; P&SJ Network 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Sunday</i>	10 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon <i>Every Monday</i> 3:30 p.m. Worship Committee	11 9/11 Memorial <i>Sanctuary Open All Day</i> 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	12	13	14 6:30 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Friday</i> 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Dinner	15 Presbytery Youth Day <i>First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn</i>
16 9:45 a.m. "Saving Jesus" <i>through Dec. 16</i> Adult Education 12:45 p.m. Homecoming Luncheon	17 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts <i>Every Monday</i>	18 Primary Election <i>All Day</i> 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts <i>Every Tuesday</i> 6:30 p.m. Mission Review- Meal/Discussion	19	20	21 6:00 p.m. Scout Rally	22
23 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class <i>Every Sunday</i>	24	25	26 6:30 p.m. Body & Spirit Committee	27	28	29

Child's Play, Body & Spirit groups begin →

Sundays	
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School for Adults
9:45	Confirmation Class
10:00	Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:30	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

Preaching Schedule	
September 2	Labor Day Weekend; Hymnsing
September 9	Holy Communion; David Prince preaching
September 16	Homecoming; David Prince preaching
September 23	Cheryl Pynch preaching
September 30	Charles Amstein preaching

Birthdays!	
3	Eric Woodall
4	Bryce Stepaniuk
5	Marisol Kaminski
6	Bruce Graham
12	Max Bohan
14	Charles Amstein
18	Susan Scherer
24	Peter Gonzales
28	Ailinn Finn, Robert & Scott Muirhead-Shepetin
29	Ryan Phelps
30	Jose Melendez

September 2007 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

S.K.A.T.E. Sleepover

Friday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 8

The Rutgers youth group for kids 5th grade and up will have their second annual sleepover the first Friday in September. We'll be sleeping in the gym and blue room, getting to know each other, going on a scavenger hunt, having dinner and singing together! For more information call Cheryl at x205.

Peace & Social Justice Network Meeting

Sunday, September 9 at 12:45 p.m. on the second floor

We look forward to welcoming new members, talking about our mission, and planning for the year. Pizza and soda will be served.

Reverend Elizabeth Alexander Installation

Sunday, September 9 at 4 p.m. at Church of Gethsemane

All are invited to the installation of the Reverend Elizabeth Alexander at the Presbyterian Church of Gethsemane, 1012 8th Avenue, in Brooklyn (F train to 7th Avenue). Gethsemane was founded in 1986 with the mission of serving and including in membership prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. Gethsemane is financially supported by Rutgers through the Benevolence Committee, and Cheryl Pynch will be giving the charge to Reverend Alexander. For more information, call Cheryl at x205.

Confirmation Class Dinner

Friday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the manse

(Cheryl Pynch's apartment)

This year we have several seventh and eighth graders who are ready to participate in a confirmation class and to consider joining the church this spring. At this dinner, we'll talk about what it means to be confirmed and what we'll be doing during the confirmation class. We'll also have time to enjoy dinner together and share experiences from the summer and the first weeks of school. All children in 7th and 8th grade (or older) and their parents are encouraged to come. Call Cheryl for more information at x205.

How to Talk with Your Children About Sex

Tuesday, October 16 at 7 p.m.

Are you tongue-tied when your children ask questions? Do you have values and concerns you'd like to share but don't know where to begin? Would you like more information about child sexual development and the issues that concern kids at different ages? Do you have questions about Christian teachings regarding sexuality, and wonder how to bring God into the discussion?

Come to a forum sponsored by Planned Parenthood of New York City, Presbyterian Welcome and Rutgers Church on October 16, 7:00 p.m. in the 5th floor Fellowship Hall. Educators from Planned Parenthood will be joined by the Reverend Cheryl Pynch. We'll explore ways to talk with young people of all ages, from toddlers to young adults, and suggest resources for parents and children. All are welcome, so please invite friends and neighbors!

Child care is available if reserved in advance. Please call (212) 877-8227, x205 for more information or to RSVP.

Saving Jesus

Sundays, Sept. 16 to Dec. 16, at 9:45 a.m., Session Room



Do you have questions about the images and understandings of Jesus that you were taught as a child? Do you wonder who Jesus is for us today? Do the gospels often puzzle or disturb you? If, so join us for a DVD-based study that features presentations by progressive scholars such as Marcus Borg and Amy-Jill Levine. They'll discuss themes such as "What

can we know about Jesus?", "Who killed Jesus?" and "Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God." Each session will include a 20-minute video segment and guided discussion, led by Jacqui Van Vliet, our intern from Union Theological Seminary. The introductory session on September 16 will be a chance to learn more about the program before making a commitment. You can read more at www.LivingtheQuestions.com.

Oh! Be Joyful!

Thursday, September 6 at 3:15 p.m.

Saturday, September 8 at 2 p.m.

You are invited to a free screening of *Oh! Be Joyful!*, a TV comedy pilot written and directed by Rutgers' audio & visual technician, Peter Rinaldi on Thursday, September 6 at 3:15 p.m. and Saturday, September 8 at 2 p.m. Reserve your ticket at www.newyorktelevisionfestival.com (theater fee of \$2.50 applies per ticket).

Group Seminar Series

Monday nights (Trinity Wall Street)

Recommended by Deacon Laurel Brevoort

Education for Ministry (EFM) is an extraordinarily successful nationwide program of small group seminars that offer a comprehensive, seminary-based survey of scriptural, historical and theological studies. The program features guided creative exercises that promote individual engagement with the issues of everyday life, culture, politics and personal growth. The Monday night EFM group which meets at Trinity Church on Wall Street, is currently seeking new members for the academic year beginning in September. People from all denominations are welcome. It's a wonderful program and though it will not lead to ordained ministry, it will help you find your personal ministry. For more information please contact George Finger at (917) 886-5986 or chaplinfinger@aol.com or contact Laurel Brevoort at (718) 252-8995. We've just learned that a second class is starting at St. Matthew and St. Timothy's, please contact Reverend George Diaz for information at (917) 562-3982.