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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."

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From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

Moving through the season of Lent (so named because the days are *lengthening*) we look ahead to the Good Friday-Easter event. I say *event* rather than *events* because Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection cannot easily be separated and treated individually. The fourth Gospel speaks of Jesus' being *lifted up* and being *glorified*. He was lifted up on a cross, and he was lifted up from death to life—the manifestation of God's love, which goes to any length to accomplish its purpose and which cannot be defeated by evil or mortality.

Although there will be words spoken in our worship services of Holy Week, we acknowledge that human speech is inadequate for expressing the mystery of God's self-disclosure in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We hear the Biblical narratives of what happened outside Jerusalem almost two thousand years ago; we resonate with music that amplifies the narratives; and we open our hearts to truth that reaches the innermost

chambers of our hearts.

In preparation for observing Holy Week, I invite you to read and re-read chapters 18 through 20 in the Gospel according to John. (Borrow a Bible from the church pews if you don't have access to one in your home.) Read with the understanding that the Gospels give us the early church's memory of the ending of Jesus' life and ministry, which was more a beginning than an ending. Read with openness to realities available to intuition as well as intellect.

I look forward to sharing the special worship services of Holy Week with you: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve Saturday, and Easter Sunday morning. In our worship we will be celebrating the unconditional love of God, which is the foundation of our life as a church and our hope for life and beyond. Alleluia.

Dave Prince

What Do You Think?

1. Which would be more difficult: having to live out your worse nightmare or living the life you have?
2. How do you "converse" with someone?
3. We complain about the dark, gloomy days of fall and winter but the first sunny day we put sunglasses on.
4. Hold your head up and rotate your shoulders back a little more than usual/normal and see if your attitude, energy level and self-confidence improve while walking?
5. It's not easy turning the page on emotions.
6. Do you accomplish your daily routine exactly the same each time?
7. Does grieving time have categories?
8. Are you stubborn or a slow learner?
9. How many back-track and find their lost items?
10. No hugs, no kisses, but always there.

'Till next time,
Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

Please welcome our **new officers** elected at the 211th Annual Meeting of the Congregation:

Trustees: Don Ridings (class of 2009),
Nicole Byrns, Kenneth Starger (both in the class of 2011);

Elders: Andy Achsen, Lynne Morris,
Juliet Pritner, J. Harris Shultz (all in the class of 2011);

Deacons: Gladys Morris (class of 2010),
Bill Bailey, Mary Birchard, Stephen Greer,
Sheila Smith, Eric Woodall
(all in the class of 2011).

A Special Thanks to outgoing officers:

Elders: Ulla Farmer and Susan Scherer;

Deacons: Pamela Byrd, Kim Hodges,
Alice Hudson;

Trustees: Christine Gorman, Valerie Kay;

for their years of service on the church boards and their love, dedication, and support of the Rutgers community through their leadership, time, talents and energy. *ω*

RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Renewal

Holy Week

at

Rutgers Presbyterian Church

offers multiple opportunities for meaningful worship.

Maundy Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m. is a service of the Last Supper, with foot-washing and readings that trace Jesus' journey to the cross.

Good Friday, March 21, at 12 noon - 2:30 p.m. is a series of meditations on the Seven Last Sayings of Jesus by West Side clergy, interspersed with music from the Rutgers Church Choir.

The Vigil of Easter, Saturday, March 22, at 7 p.m. is a service of spiritual preparation for celebrating Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Renewal of baptismal vows is part of the service.

Easter Sunday, March 23, there will be an early communion service on the church steps (9 a.m.) followed by breakfast on the fifth floor. The festival service of worship at 11 a.m. includes brass, the sacrament of Holy Communion, and an atmosphere of grateful praise.

Anticipated service time is approximately 1 hr., 15 min.

Presbyterian Welcome Begins New Web Blog

Under the leadership of seminary intern Carolina Treviño, Presbyterian Welcome has been redesigning and refining its website. One exciting new feature is a devotional “blog” called *Psalms Modern* – a spot on the website where reflections are posted and readers are invited to respond. On February 18, Trustee Beverly Thompson, member of Rutgers and our official liaison to Presbyterian Welcome, posted this devotional. We have printed it here for those who do not have computers, and to entice web users to visit the site at www.presbyterianwelcome.org.

Traveled So Far - Psalms 27 & 121

Psalm 27:1

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 121:1

“I will lift up my eyes to the hills - from whence comes my help.”

1972 – Winter

I did it! I graduated, well almost – I was in my second week of student teaching speech and drama and not sure I would make it to week ten. As I traveled back from my morning shift at the high school to Monmouth Medical Center for my 3-11 shift – my speedometer crawled along at 40mph.

I had been so excited about my first job as an adjunct recreational therapist in the Department of Psychiatry. Unheard of at 22, with only an undergraduate minor in psychology, my passion had always been to work as a part of a triage team – following in the footsteps of my family who had all found

their work place in the “mind fields”.

My job duties had not been a surprise; checking charts for admitting diagnosis, drug dosage, and which patients would be recovering from electro shock treatment. I would then make my rounds getting patients up and on their feet for – yes – Recreation – whatever form that would take. All this certainly much easier than dodging spitballs from unruly sophomores who cared less about Lady Macbeth, obsessive-compulsive behavior, or why Willie Loman wanted to be a salesman in the first place.

I stopped the car on the shoulder of the parkway, and pounded the steering wheel for yesterday, a total blur - and today, the tears had come. I was scared, not of delinquent students, or manic patients – but of two new patients: a gay man and a lesbian who had come in for depression and were immediately scheduled for ECT, thorazine, and a rigorous treatment plan for “deviant” behavior.

God help me! A sexual prisoner myself, afraid and hiding until history could somehow transform our tragic flaw – and now – a keeper of those just like me – electrocuting an impulse – that no wattage could ever erase – no amount of recreating ever fix.

I knew we were all feared losing jobs, families, and friends because of our lifestyles – and did. Some permanently – had lost the will – to live, and found their way in – and sometimes never out of psych wards.

I almost quit life that day – and both jobs. It was the opened hospital chapel door that pulled me in after my 3-11 shift that day, and every day for another year – to pray – and a letter

arriving from my mother telling me if I could make it through student teaching & a new job – I could do anything. She always closed with: “Don’t forget that God holds the key. And – don’t forget to pray. God loves you, no matter what.” Love, Mom.

2007 - Christmas

We did it! The word “deviant” erased from the Psychiatric Association’s description of us long ago in 1975. The rest – all these years later – is history, or is it?

Just yesterday I once again found my eyes tearing, my fists raised above my desk at work. A colleague and new friend proclaimed that we had to bring down gays and lesbians from the pulpit – that they must not be allowed to serve in any official capacity in the church – and what did I think?

I said, “you may want to rethink your invitation to me to join you for the holidays”.

“What?” she exclaimed.

I proudly said, “I am a deacon, a trustee, and a lesbian, and you may want to rethink your invitation.”

On Christmas Day sitting around a festive table with 11 evangelicals each reading Presbyterian reflections from our Advent booklet – was the highlight of my holidays! I had walked where Jesus would have wanted me to walk.

And, yes, Mom, I do pray – most every day. “Guess Who’s Coming To Christmas Dinner?” – I say.

As you and I travel back in time – we realize we have traveled so far. We can’t stop now!

--Beverly Thompson, *Presbian*

Membership Exploration

Sunday, April 13 at 12:45 p.m.

Have you been considering becoming a member of Rutgers Presbyterian Church? Or do you have questions about what it means to be in a relation to a church community? Join us for a membership exploration on Sunday, April 13, at 12:45 p.m. David Prince will share his understanding of membership and relationship in a Presbyterian Church, and will answer questions about the extensive mission program at Rutgers. *ω*

One Couple’s Spiritual Journey into Protest

By Anne Barstow

When Phil Gates, a Presbyterian elder from Arizona, retired as a school principal, he and his wife Lorie looked forward to becoming fulltime volunteers for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Participating in social protest, however, was not on their minds; it was “not their thing.” When Phil heard about the Colombia Accompaniment Program, he signed up, because he wanted to stand with fellow Presbyterians who were being harassed by their own government.

The human suffering that he witnessed in the displaced persons communities in Colombia unsettled him so, however, that on his return home he could not rest. He knew that our government backs the Colombian government. This crisis led him to question how Christians can respond to such injustice. Phil did not rest until he had talked with aides to his Congresspersons, and had spoken in many churches in his area. Even then, he knew he must do more. He asked, “Is it right to do civil disobedience, to break one law in order to honor a higher law?” Phil and Lorie prayed about this throughout a long summer.

What they decided, and where this has taken Phil, will be



the subject of his sermon from our pulpit on Sunday, March 30. He will be available for conversation after the service.

Lorie’s part in their journey has been to develop a dramatic monolog about an individual, Sr. Dorothy Kozel, who served the poor in El Salvador until she and three other religious women were kidnapped, raped, and murdered by Salvadoran soldiers, under orders from officers trained at the U.S. School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, G.A. Lorie’s presentation

puts a human face on the larger issues of injustice that Phil preaches about. She will perform the monolog at 9:45 a.m. before our worship service, and welcomes discussion.

In 2007 Phil and Lorie Gates were given the annual Human Rights Award by the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon. While they are in New York, Phil will speak at the Presbytery of New York City meeting and they will both speak at several churches in Hudson River Presbytery. We are fortunate to have them with us on Sunday, March 30.

Their visit is sponsored by Rutgers’ Peace & Social Justice Network and the Worship Committee. *ω*

Visit to the New York African Burial Ground National Monument

On February 24, after a worship service with glorious music and a festive coffee hour in honor of Black History Month, ten of us went downtown to Broadway and Duane Street for a tour of the Monument with a New York city Park Ranger. The monument itself was beautiful – with black and green marble and moving inscriptions – but equally important were the stories and history of African Burial Ground as told to us by our guide. We encourage everyone to visit the monument, if possible during a weekday from 9-5 when the visitor’s center is open. Below is a Moment for Mission given by **Khalil Hamer** on February 3rd about the African Burial Ground:

THE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND NATIONAL MONUMENT

The African Burial Ground is a seven-acre historical memorial site in Lower Manhattan. The site was named a National Monument in February 2006. The African Burial Ground is estimated to hold about 20,000 skeletal remains of 17th and 18th century Africans and African Americans. It is widely acknowledged as one of the most important discoveries of this century.

The discovery of the African Burial Ground is important because it helps us understand how New York played a critical role in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. And, it helps us recognize how free and enslaved Africans contributed to building The City of New York.

The African Burial Ground was uncovered in 1991 during the pre-construction phase of a federal office building. During this phase, 419 African remains were excavated. When the public became aware of the remains they

protested to stop construction. Finally, construction was stopped and the remains were sent for forensic research to Howard University’s, Cobb Laboratory in Washington, D.C., one of the Nation’s leading research institutions for the study of ancestral remains.

In October 2003, the 419 African remains were returned to the African Burial Ground and the site was honored during a reburial ceremony. Each of the ceremonial remains was placed in a mahogany wood coffin, lined with african kente cloth, all handmade in Ghana, (West) Africa.

Meanwhile, construction for the federal office building resumed and in addition, an exterior memorial was constructed right next to the federal office building at 290 Broadway. The memorial is an Ancestral Libation Chamber designed as a living tribute to past, present and future generations. The federal office building is home to the African Burial Ground visitor’s center and it houses six pieces of public art honoring the 20,000 Africans who are buried at the site and remembering their contributions to The City of New York. *ω*

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 12:45 p.m. Deacons Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter Every Sunday	3 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Every Monday	4 9:00 p.m. Worship Commit- tee 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/ PLWA) 8:00 p.m. Men's Al-Anon Every Tuesday	5 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting Every Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Vesper Service 7:15 p.m. The Last Judg- ment in Scrip- ture & Art	6 6:00 p.m. Meal Program 7:00 p.m. Movie Series Every Thursday	7 10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter Every Friday S.K.A.T.E.	1/8 1:00 p.m. Opera Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter Every Saturday
9	10 6:30 p.m. Local Benevo- lence	11 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	12	13	14	15
16 12:45 p.m. P&SJN Meeting	17	18 6:30 p.m. International Be- nevolence	19	20 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Ser- vice	21 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service	22 7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Service

23 Easter Sunday	24 Easter Monday Church & Office Building Closed	Preaching Schedule		Sundays	
		March 2 ___ 4th Sunday in Lent; David Prince preaching		9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
		March 9 ___ 5th Sunday in Lent; Cynthia Campbell preaching		9:45	Confirmation Class
		March 16 ___ Palm Sunday; David Prince preaching		10:00	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		March 23 ___ Easter Sunday; David Prince preaching		10:45	Infant & Child Care
		March 30 ___ 2nd Sunday of Easter; Phil Gates preaching		11:00	Worship Service
30 Congregational Meet- ing	31			11:15	Sunday School (ages 3-12)
				12:15 p.m.	Coffee Hour
				12:45	Choir Rehearsal
				6:00	Men's Shelter

Birthdays!	
23 Phylliss Hill	19 Jack Vecsey
6 Doris Bryant	20 Mala Galper & Debra Gryte
12 Mary Birchard & Gillian Kim	23 Mario Knapp-Fadani
14 Kim Hodges & Ian Smith	24 Valerie Kay
16 Ethel Knight	25 Carole Banninger & Ulla Farmer
17 Alice Hudson & DeYan Jervis-McCarthy	27 Chris Jones
18 Umberto Fadani & George William-son	28 Jeremiah Rosario

March 2008 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

Blood Drive

Sunday, March 2, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.,
West End Synagogue

On Sunday, March 3, Rutgers will be joining with West End Synagogue, Lincoln Square Synagogue, Congregation Habonim and the New York Blood Center in a drive to gather this life-saving resource for our neighbors. The donation center will be at West End Synagogue, 65th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, beginning at 10:00 a.m. You must be 17 or older, in good health and at least 110 lbs. Medical conditions and risk factors that can prevent one from giving can be obtained at www.nybloodcenter.org/index.jsp?sid0=2 or by calling (800) 688-0900. If you would like to participate, please contact Cheryl Pyrch at the church office.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C.

Friday - Monday, March 7 - 10, Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

For the 6th year in a row, nearly 1,000 religious individuals will gather in Washington, D.C., from Friday night thru Sunday for study, worship, conversation and networking around issues of peace and justice. On Monday, groups will be organized to visit Representatives. Rutgers has been represented nearly every year at the conference. The workshop leaders and plenary speakers are first-rate, and you can choose a particular area of interest (Middle East, Eco-Justice, Domestic, Africa, Latin America, Peace and Global Security, etc.). The Peace & Social Justice Network encourages us all to push past our comfort zone on issues of peace and justice. More information can be found at www.advocacydays.org or by contacting Cheryl at (212) 877-8227, x 205 or cheryl@rutgerschurch.com.

Presbyterian Welcome Worship and Response

Monday, March 31, 6:30 p.m., Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

On February 11, the Permanent Judicial Committee of the General Assembly handed down a ruling that contradicts God's radically inclusive, affirming, unconditional love and quantifies

whom God can call into service. Please join Presbyterian Welcome and other concerned Christians on Monday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (5th Avenue and 55th Street). A copy of the ruling may be downloaded at www.pcusa.org/gapjc/decisions/pjc21810.pdf. Please contact Cheryl for more information.

Christian Education Potluck Supper

Friday, April 11, 6:30 p.m., Daniel Russell Room

The Christian Education Committee invites all parents, teachers, potential teachers and anyone interested in Christian nurture to a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. in the Daniel Russell room. We will share hope and plans for the upcoming 2008-2009 school year regarding our children and youth. Child care will be provided. Please contact Cheryl to RSVP.

Mission Review Report

Rutgers Presbyterian Church

The Mission Review Report has been approved by the Presbytery of New York City's Committee on Ministry (COM). You may download a copy from our website at www.rutgerschurch.com. Limited copies are available upon request for those individuals who do not have computer access.

Congregational Meeting called

Sunday, March 30, Sanctuary

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, March 30, immediately following the worship service for the sole purpose of electing a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC), which will be charged with the duty of searching for our next installed pastor. All members are encouraged to attend the service and meeting.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sharing changes lives—including our own. Remember your earliest lesson about sharing? As people in community with one another, we have come to realize that all of our gifts come from God, and that sharing enriches us all.

One Great Hour of Sharing offers an opportunity for each of us to share our resources with our global community. More than just a mere handout, through the Presbyterian programs and their trusted partners around the world, we can indeed feel confident that the resources we share will change the lives of recipients and provide the tools and training they require to build a sustainable source of income.



We will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday, March 16.