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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."

Thanksgiving 2009

Volume 26, Issue 5



From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

As my time with you comes to a close, I express my gratitude for the privilege of being your Interim Pastor. Rutgers is a unique church, small in membership, large in spirit, and blessed with significant financial resources. During my three years with you I have focused on the centrality of the *good news* of God's radically inclusive love, which is the foundation of everything we are and do as a Christian congregation.

I have also pointed out the six "Great Ends [or purposes] of the Church," spelled out in the first chapter of our denomination's Book of Order. They are the proclamation of the good news referred to above, the nurture and shelter of the people of God, the continuation of worship, the preservation of the truth, the promotion of social righteousness, and the demonstration of the Kingdom of God to the world. (Language up-dated by me) A healthy congregation seeks to carry out all six aspects of the mission God gives the Church. I hope Rutgers will continue to keep all six of these "ends" in mind during the coming months and years.

As my ministry with you ends and Andrew Stehlik's begins, it is appropriate that I keep some distance from Rutgers Presbyterian Church after November 15 and for the foreseeable future. That doesn't mean I can't have any contact at all with church members. It does mean that if I should run into church members in some setting, it would not be appropriate to talk about the life of Rutgers Church. The purpose of such practice is to provide the incoming pastor with freedom from any intentional or unintentional influence on the part of past ministers and to ensure that appropriate boundaries are observed. I ask your cooperation in releasing me from being your interim pastor as I will release you from being the congregation I am serving.

Again, thank you for the high privilege of serving as the Interim Pastor of Rutgers Presbyterian Church. My time with you has been a highlight of my fifty-one years of ordained ministry. God bless you all.

Dave Prince

What Do You Think?

1. What is your blessing for today?
2. Aren't the banks responsible for identity theft when they constantly sell your personal information?
3. How serious are you about making your dreams come true?
4. My father said, "Living is better than doing nothing."
5. How many times have you made yourself available for someone who cancels 80% of the time?
6. Have you regretted quitting a decent job with less pay for more money that turned into a horrible job? Do you ask for your old job? Will they take you back?
7. Are you broke or low on funds?
8. When is God good?
9. Do you ever get to the finish line when you take baby steps?
10. How much is enough?

'Til next time,
Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

Music on Wheels

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Since June we have been performing once a month for patients of the Visiting Doctors' Service who live in the vicinity of Rutgers Church on the Upper West Side. Right now this is pilot program to make sure all goes smoothly and to be sure that we can raise the funds necessary.

Music on Wheels provides artists with a \$100 per diem for their time, talents and service and thanks to matching funding from an organization called Sing for Hope whose director, Camille Zamora introduced me to Dr. Muller, we are able to perform this as a pilot program through May of 2010.

A typical visit includes two artists. One instrumentalist and one singer if possible and we offer a varied program of roughly twenty minutes of music. In an hour and a half we reach two recipients including any number of friends, family, and care givers.

It is very difficult to describe in words what performing music in this way does for all who receive it. Every time we perform it is as though there is a light that is ignited within them. As though we have reminded them of something they had forgotten, something that seemed so far off before we arrived. The transformation even with the most reticent of recipients is outstanding.

In time, Dr. Muller suggests in order to secure funding that we conduct studies to show if recipients need less pain medicine or if they experience less anxiety the day and days after a Music on Wheels performance.

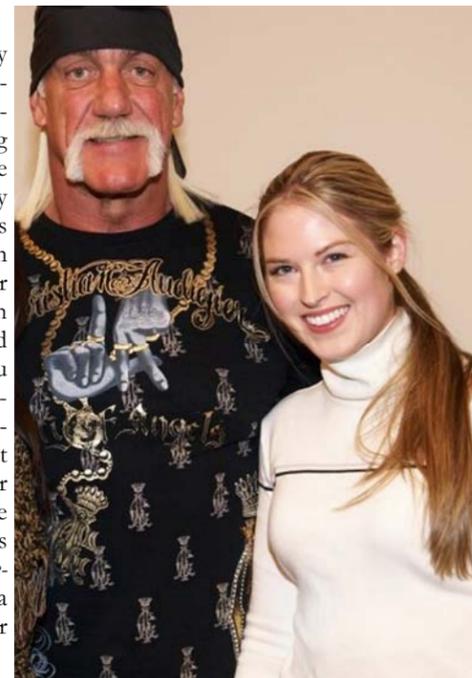
In the meantime we continue to prepare for our annual benefit and continue our pilot once a month. *ω*

RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Renewal

Getting to Know You: Haley Fulop

Some of you may have received e-mails from Deacon Haley Fulop asking for your assistance in the Helping Hands ministry of the Board of Deacons of Rutgers Presbyterian Church. Or seen her serving communion with her class of Deacons and Elders. Or perhaps you may have seen her smiling face in what has become her customary seat in the back row, center isle on the lectern side and wondered; Who is she? In this issue of *Renewal* Haley gives us a glimpse into her past, her



faith journey which led her to Rutgers and her current participation in this faith community.

Haley Fulop was born and grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina, which then had a population estimated at 70,000. Though small in comparison to New York, Wilmington boasts location credit on a number of films including *A Walk to Remember*, *Blue Velvet*, *Cape Fear*, *The Crow* . . . and television shows as *Matlock*, *Dawson's Creek* and *One Tree Hill*. It was no small wonder that creative inspiration struck Haley and would lead her to New York's Fashion Institute of Technology.

Getting to Know You: Haley Fulop

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Growing up, Haley attended a Methodist church with her parents every Sunday and was active in the church's youth group. Despite her level of participation in the church, she grew increasingly conflicted between her experience in the church and what she observed in her life the rest of the week in school and surrounding area. Haley left for New York in 2000 to attend FIT, with no intent to connect with any local religious institution.

Shortly after graduating from FIT, weeks literally, Haley married her long time beau, whom she met in Wilmington at a local restaurant (he was her waiter). Haley strongly discourages anyone who has the thought of graduating and getting married at the same time. It was a stressful time planning a wedding while studying for finals.

Haley and her husband moved to West 73rd Street and for years passed Rutgers every day going to and from work. Every Thursday, she would notice a line of people outside the doors of the church for the Thursday Night Meal program, a help ministry of the Board of Deacons, operated and coordinated by Elder Ulla Farmer.

A family struggle in 2008 left Haley longing for a community of faith where she would feel supported. She researched a number of churches to attend, on a trial basis, but never man-

aged to reach any of them. Seeing the lines on Thursdays in front of Rutgers week after week reinforced her sense that any church she attended must, among other things, minister to the community it is in. Seeing the meal program also gave Haley the courage to try Rutgers out in the fall of 2008 and see if it was a good fit.

The sermons touched her and held up a mirror for her to look at herself in new ways. Though a little surprised at the very friendly welcome during the Sharing of the Peace, she felt a sense of inclusion and warmth that contributed in her decision to continue attending. In the fall, Haley became a member and in customary Rutgers fashion, was contacted by the Congregational Nominating Committee two weeks later and asked to serve on the Board of Deacons. "I received a call from Massimo Maglione asking me to serve as a Deacon. I didn't know what a deacon was. After he explained what a Deacon does, it seemed like a go fit personally to what we were already doing. For years my husband and I would make Christmas boxes. We would put a hat, gloves, McDonald's coupons, non-perishable food and some cookies in the boxes and hand them out to homeless people."

When asked why she stays at Rutgers, Haley responded; "Every Sunday I feel the same way I felt the first day I

walked through those doors." As an amateur pianist, she appreciates the high caliber of musicianship in the Choir and by George Davey, our Organist and Choral Director. Haley has also been able to use her talents as a Director of Art in a local Advertising agency to create lovely invitations for Ruth Munson's 100th Birthday Celebration and the Reverend David Prince's farewell luncheon.

Her work with the Board of Deacons and attendance at the worship services has helped Haley express and nurture the best portions of herself. "I feel like a better person." Her connections with Rutgers has also extended to the rest of her family. When her grandmother was experiencing some health issues, she received a card from the entire Board of Deacons. She sent an e-mail to express her thanks for the card and immediately called Haley to say she had sent an e-mail. Her grandmother, 83 and a Presbyterian, is tickled pink that her granddaughter is a Deacon in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Though Haley's husband was raised Catholic, he considers himself more spiritual than religious. Her experience at Rutgers has helped her respect everyone's individual spiritual path. "I see my own faith walk as a gradual, steady progression, an uphill climb at times, but always part of a continuous journey." ω

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY RUTH MUNSON



On Sunday, May 31, the Rutgers community celebrated the 100th Birthday of Ruth Munson with a festive luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on the 5th floor of the Church House.

Born Ruth Rose Haemer, on May 30, 1909 in Jamaica, Queens, Ruth has seen and done it all. Joining Rutgers Presbyterian Church in the early 50's, Ruth has served on every committee and on every board, some a few times over. Currently serving on the Board of Deacons, Ruth has also been a trustee and



served on the Session as an Elder.

Ruth has also served countless hours spanning decades as a volunteer at St. Luke—Roosevelt Hospital in midtown and has touched the lives of numerous patients and their families.

She is quick to share a story or come up with a poignant quip.

We wish Ruth many more years of health and continue to cherish her presence with us. ω

Child's Play Update

By Holly Nedelka, Director

We had a wonderful summer at Child's Play. New families and familiar faces enjoyed circle time, art, free play, and the water table in our Mommy & Me playgroups. The Rutgers Child's Play Mandarin program continues to thrive with the addition of wonderful teachers Jing Jing Ra and her daughter Loy. Program coordinator, Linda Kuo, designed a wonderful curriculum and children learned about the Great Wall, Zodiac animals, Chinese food, and lots more.

We began the fall term on September 8. In order to reach out to the community, we had a Back-to-School Open House Week, Monday, September 14 through Friday, September 18, inviting new families to try our Mommy & Me playgroups and/or the Mandarin program free of charge.

Rutgers member Juliet Pritner conducted a special free demonstration of her Sign with Baby workshop for parents with their babies 14 months and younger, on Tuesday, September 15 at



3:30 pm in the 4th floor playroom. Juliet led a Sign for Baby workshop at Child's Play earlier this year.

We've started a new class called *On My Own*, which offers preschoolers age 3-4 a gradual, gentle transition to separation from their parents. We hope this group will help children become more independent, but at their own pace.

Lastly, to meet the needs of our growing family of Mandarin students, we've added a class for children age 7-9. The class will incorporate more sophisticated dramatic play, fun group projects, and more for our oldest Mandarin learners.

It's very gratifying to see how many friendships people have made by coming to Child's Play and how many Child's Play families have joined with Rutgers Church. We hope to always be a place that provides the opportunity for people to gather for support and connection, a place that's open to all families. ω

Music on Wheels

By Jennifer Finn

It is with great amounts of gratitude that I update all of you on the progress of Music on Wheels. This year has been a witness to God's love in action. For those of you who do not know, last fall the Session approved Music on Wheels as a program of Rutgers Presbyterian Church under the Board of Deacons.

Music on Wheels is a roster of nationally and internationally renowned instrumentalists and singers who perform uplifting musical performances for the home bound, hospitalized at bedside and otherwise isolated in New York City free of charge.

The feelings of relief, joy and gladness are evident on the faces of all who receive a Music on Wheels performance.

When I proposed this program, I was singing once a month at St. Luke's



Roosevelt Hospital as I do now on the oncology and cardiac floors at patients' bedsides and had the honor of singing for the late Floyd Hopkins where he spent the last days of his life. Although I felt called to perform for the home bound, I had no idea how to reach them.

Thanks to the Session's approval, we held our first ever benefit in the

sanctuary on a snowy Sunday afternoon on March 1, 2009 and raised \$1,600. This concert included fellow members of Rutgers, artists who would perform the actual outreach and children who are studying singing or an instrument.

Last spring, I was introduced to Dr. David Muller who is the director of the Visiting Doctors' Service of New York City and Dean of Medicine at Mt. Sinai Medical School. He is very excited about the potential of this outreach and with the right funding, he would like to see Music on Wheels be available to as many patients as possible. To put this in perspective, The Visiting Doctors' Service sees over a thousand patients who are home bound in Manhattan alone.

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December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																				
		1 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA) Cub Scouts 8:00 p.m. Men's Al-Anon <i>Every Tuesday</i>	2 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting Al-Ateen Meeting <i>Every Wednesday</i> 6:30 p.m. Vesper Service 7:15 p.m. Advent Study Series	3 6:00 p.m. Meal Program 7:00 p.m. Movie Series <i>Every Thursday</i>	4 10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Friday</i> 6:30 p.m. S.K.A.T.E.	5 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting Men's Shelter <i>Every Saturday</i>																				
6 12:45 p.m. Board of Deacons Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Sunday</i>	7 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon <i>Every Monday</i> 3:30 p.m. Worship Committee	8 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	9 6:30 p.m. Vesper Service 7:15 p.m. Advent Study Series	10	11 6:30 p.m. Hanging of the Greens	12																				
13 9:30 p.m. Board of Trustees 12:45 p.m. All Church Christmas Social	14	15 6:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee	16 6:30 p.m. Vesper Service 7:15 p.m. Advent Study Series	17	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Sundays</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9:30 a.m.</td> <td>Confirmation Class</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9:45 a.m.</td> <td>Adult Sunday School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:00</td> <td>Adult Choir Rehearsal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:45</td> <td>Infant & Child Care</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:00</td> <td>Worship Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:15</td> <td>Sunday School (ages 3-12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:15 p.m.</td> <td>Coffee Hour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:30</td> <td>Choir Rehearsal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6:00</td> <td>Men's Shelter</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Sundays		9:30 a.m.	Confirmation Class	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	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	12:30	Choir Rehearsal	6:00	Men's Shelter
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20 4:00 p.m. 83rd Candlelight Carol & Choral Service	21	22	23	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service																						

December Birthdays!

1 Stacy Kim	16 Tara Dillon
3 Michelle Nelson	17 Cass Knox & Matthew Sturman
4 Alexandra Yu	18 Jennifer Nunes
6 James Finn	20 Taras Ou Yang
9 Kenneth Starger	21 Carl Lindskoog
11 Jordan Stepaniuk	23 Steve Phelps
13 Lisa Pinto	27 Lenore Karo
16 Tara Dillon	

Preaching Schedule

December 6__2nd Sunday in Advent; Andrew Stehlik preaching
 December 13__3rd Sunday in Advent; Andrew Stehlik preaching
 December 20__4th Sunday in Advent; Jacqui Van Vliet preaching
 December 27__1st Sunday after Christmas; Andrew Stehlik preaching

November 2009 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

Thanksgiving at Euclid Hall

Thursday, November 26 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

For the nineteenth 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.

Advent Vesper Services and Advent Study

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16

6:30 p.m., Sanctuary (Vespers)

7:15 p.m., Daniel Russell room (Advent Study)



Slow down during this hectic month for a time of silence, music and reflections on scripture. Our Advent Vespers and study series will begin on Wednesday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m. Stay for light refreshments after Vespers, as we continue our time of Advent learning and reflection with a study of four seasonal hymns: O Come, O Come Emmanuel; Silent Night; O Little Town of Bethlehem and Hark, the Herald Angels Sing. We will concentrate on the history of these familiar carols and the ways that their words and music speak to our journeys and experiences in this season of preparation and waiting.

Rutgers' Annual All-Church Christmas Social

Sunday, December 13, 12:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Rutgers' Annual All-Church Christmas Social will take place on Sunday, December 13 at 12:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. Come and worship with us this Third Sunday in Advent as we light the third Advent candle at 11:00 a.m. and join us for our social afterward. A light lunch will be served and there will be entertainment for children, as well as a grab bag for the children. A gift of under \$5 for the grab bag is suggested, but not necessary to attend. All are welcome.

Music from Rutgers

the following was omitted in the Pentecost Issue of Renewal a review of the Music Anthology, on May 3, 2009:

The choir was brilliantly directed by Alburtt Rhodes. A special thanks to the following soloists; Cynthia E. Burke, Robert Kellum, Clifford Henry, Maruerite Sutherland, Jerry Weiss and Lady Whitaker.

Hanging of the Greens

Friday, December 11, 6:00 p.m., Daniel Russell room

Come join us on Friday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Daniel Russell room for our annual Hanging of the Greens. It will be a time to create ornaments and decorate our tree in the Daniel Russell room. We will have some sweet and savory holiday treats. At 7:30 p.m. we will gather to sing some of our favorite carols in the sanctuary. R.S.V.P.'s would be appreciated but not necessary to attend. All are welcome from the very young to the young at heart.



83rd Annual Carol & Choral Service

Sunday, December 20, 4:00 p.m.

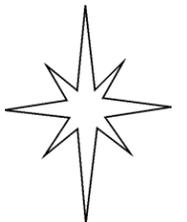


The 83rd Annual Carol & Choral service will be held on Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 p.m. This will be a beautiful service of music and hymns of the season, including excerpts from known masterpieces, sung by Rutgers Church choir, soloists, and instrumental musicians under the direction Rutgers' Organist/Choral Director, George Davey. The Reverend Dr. Ondrej (Andrew) Stehlik will give a meditation. Childcare will be available.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Our festive Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. We will sing traditional Christmas hymns, glorious anthems, listen to a Children's Sermon and receive a Christmas Eve message by the Reverend Dr. Ondrej (Andrew) Stehlik, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ, the Light of the World. Join us beforehand, at 6:30 p.m., on the church steps for Christmas caroling. Nursery care for ages 2 and under is available beginning at 6:30 p.m.; older children may join us on the 4th floor after the Children's Sermon for a time of crafts and story. Please join us in the Daniel Russell room for a Christmas Eve reception, hosted by the Board of Deacons, following the service.



The Italian diction and the sound of the chorus in both of the opera excerpts showed a high level of professionalism on all levels. The chorus members were Sarah Purcell Aarons, Jerona Babb, Cynthia E. Burke, Mary Jane Dingley, Robert Kellum, Ethel Knight, Lynne Morris, Alburtt Rhodes, Joy Rose, Dr. Elvina Schullere, Marguerite Sutherland, Jerry Weiss, Ladie Whitaker, Denise Williams. ω