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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-Advent 2010

Volume 28, Issue 2

From the Pastor

Advent is here, Christmas is just around the corner, and soon we will trim the Christmas tree. By the time you receive this newsletter we will be about to decorate the Christmas tree in the church. Do you decorate your Christmas tree? Probably yes, most people do. Decorating a Christmas tree is a nice custom, and it is also deeply rooted in our Christian tradition. In the course of history, however, it got somehow detached from its original roots. And thus even though there are splendidly decorated Christmas trees in nearly every home, very few people will be able to tell why they decorate them and what they symbolize. Actually the Reformation and the early Protestants were responsible for this custom. Some scattered evidence of the Christmas trees predates the Reformation, yet the strongest impulse for the widespread

Christmas trees came from the Rhine river in the 16th trimming Christmas trees was in biblical symbolism and the Presbyterian hymnal these biblical roots:

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*



and strong popularity of the Protestant regions around the century. And this practice of also originally deeply rooted imagery. By simply opening we can learn more about

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

Perhaps unrecognizably, this old hymn reflects the origins of the Christmas tree and it also comes from roughly the same time as well as from the same region of Germany. Behind the hymn's lyrics is a famous biblical prophecy from the book Isaiah (11:1):

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News from the Session

As most members of Rutgers Church know, but new members may not, the Session is the governing body of the congregation, and it is made up of members, ordained as Elders, from across the congregation. These Elders pledge to provide leadership, as we try to fulfill the mission of this church on this corner of Broadway in New York City. Following are some highlights from our last two Session meetings in September and October.

At each Session meeting an Elder leads an opening meditation. In September Nora Lidell led a talk on the hymn "Today we are called to be disciples," and in October Juliet Pritner shared wisdom from Anne Lamotte's book *Grace (Eventually), thoughts on Faith*.

We approved the transfer of Bruce Graham and Valerie Kay and their two children to Broadway Presbyterian Church, where their children have friends.

We discussed our church budget, which is in line with 2010 goals, and issues surrounding our

commercial building, rental income from which income partially supports our programs here at Rutgers Church. We have a new property manager, with plans for that manager to help us develop a 30 year schedule of capital repairs and improvements.

The Rev. Diana Austin was appointed Parish Associate, and she will focus on administrative and budgetary activities. Rev. Charles Amstein focuses on pastoral care and works with the Deacons, while Rev. Jervis is heavily involved with Christian Education. The Parish Associates complement and expand the work of Rev. Andrew Stehlik.

Session approved and then Rutgers Church held a Blessing of the Animals in Riverside Park, led by Rev. Stehlik, with some 70 members and neighbors and their pets participating. This was a big success and a wonderful introduction to the neighborhood of Rutgers Church and its mission.

Alice C. Hudson, Clerk of Session

SKATE Update

I'm sure you have been wondering what our youth group S.K.A.T.E has been up to this fall? Be sure to ask anyone of our 17 kids at Rutgers about the following events when you see them at coffee hour:

September Sleepover

This year's kick off event was our Annual Sleepover in which we had 21 kids from 6th to 11th grade pack up their sleeping bag and PJ's and spend the night at Rutgers. We packaged items for the Men's Shelter, played charades, had a wonderful pasta dinner by Jeannie Santiago, talked about community/fun events for the S.K.A.T.E. 2010-2011 year, played wiffle ball and the girls did some late night yoga with Joan Keener.

October Yoga

The older girls had so much fun doing yoga with Joan that we asked her back to have a yoga session with all the boys and girls and everyone loved it. We also had a great meal by Laura Jervis.

November shopping for India

Laura Jervis has a family friend in India who adopted 30 children (ages 5-17) and is raising and schooling this amazing family. We went on a shopping spree at Michael's to buy some fun arts and crafts they can enjoy for Christmas this year. We are also sending typical school supplies.



Our meetings always end with special music and prayer time and Jon Smith has been wonderful in leading our music time. It is fun to watch this amazing group of kids grow in their faith and grow up together. We look forward to many exciting winter events. Stay tuned for more.....

Kim & Cynthia

What Do You Think?

1. As of today, what is your legacy?
2. Some people don't care about your concern for their health and well being.
3. Do you discover something new in your neighborhood each time you leave your home?
4. What will it take for you to be satisfied?
5. How can you break the habit of talking loudly on your cell phone?
6. If you are on a practically empty bus/train why does the next person boarding seat right next to you?
7. Do you discuss the strong amount of fragrance a friend wears with everyone except that friend?
8. Are you a liar? Why?
9. How long has it been since you've received a compliment or words of encouragement?
10. Has the taste of your fruit become a mystery?

*'Til next time,
Jacquelyn M. Carpenter*



RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Renewal

Concerts in Motion Reaches Rutgers Community

Do you know of someone who is feeling ill and isolated, either is homebound or lives in a facility in the New York Metro area and who would really enjoy some great music? Give Concerts in Motion a call! Concerts in Motion, formerly program of Rutgers Presbyterian Church called Music on Wheels, as of April of last year, received its 501c3 status from the IRS making us an official non-profit organization that brings uplifting music concerts free of charge to the homebound, hospitalized and otherwise isolated or in need. We are very grateful to the Deacons for helping Concerts in Motion to get its first start.

Currently we serve twenty agencies city wide including Mount Sinai Visiting Doctors Program, Jarvie Commonweal Service, Dorot, The Esplanade Senior Residence, The Williams Residence, Kateri Residence, JASA West Side Senior Center, Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital, Robert V. Lott Residence, Mary Manning Walsh Home for the Aged, Rusk Institute, Barrier Free Living, Carnegie East Senior Residence, Presbyterian Senior Services Grandparents, St. Albans Federal VA and Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital.

On May 17, 2010, Concerts in Motion held its first Gala Benefit at Rutgers which we are happy to report raised over \$12,000. Thanks to all of you who made this event so successful! Thanks to Rutgers member Mark Young, who offered his

expertise in the area of fund raising events, we were able to present this Gala successfully and now we are happy to report that Mark is a member of our Board of Directors!

Here are some of the concerts Concerts in Motion has presented that involve our own Rutgers community.

On June 2, 2010, Concerts in Motion presented our own soprano Sherry Zannoth with pianist Bill Wilson in a solo concert at the Williams Residence. Rutgers member Scott Morton is a resident at the Williams Residence and attended this concert. You should have seen him smiling with his fellow residents after the concert! Concerts in Motion presented another concert featuring talented youth at the Williams Residence on Tuesday, July 28th.

Our own Calvin Thompson has performed for homebound residents of the Lower East Side and in Harlem. He will perform at a biannual Memorial at Veterans Administration St. Albans Primary and Extended Care Center on Sunday November 21st for family members and friends who have lost a loved one in the last six months. Needless to say, Calvin is a hit wherever he performs.

On Friday, July 9, Concerts in Motion performed for Ethyl Knight and six of her friends and family in her home. This concert featured soprano and Rutgers member Jennifer Finn and oboist Shirley Chang.



If you know someone who is either a Rutgers member or is a friend or family member who is either living in an area nursing home, has become hospitalized or homebound, or could just use a lift, please let us know. Contact Jennifer Finn at jenniferkfinn@gmail.com Concerts in Motion concerts are completely free of charge.

Jennifer Finn

Special Events Committee Report

The annual Homecoming luncheon was held on Sunday, September 16th following Morning Worship Service. Following grace by the Rev. Andrew Stehlik, we welcomed a sizable crowd of parishioners to this annual event, to enjoy a variety of specially prepared dishes, including a variety of chafing-dishes; Czech Gulasch from Pastor Andrew and Mrs. Stehlik, plus a good many other dishes prepared by members of the Parish. Ms. Louisa Anderson, Joy Rose, Ethel Knight, Beth Childs and Mildred Saunders worked tirelessly to prepare and serve a considerable variety of dishes for over eighty parishioners and their children and guests, and Messrs Massimo Maglione and Carl Lindskoog were as always very supportive volunteers.

I hope you watched the videotape of the event, which will be re-broadcast at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, November 19th, 2010 on *New Ventures*, MNN Cable Channels 85 and 57, Time/Warner Ch. 57, RCN Channel 34, and Verizon FIOS Channel 35, and on the internet. Thank all of you again for making this Homecoming Reception one of the best. *continued next page*

Child's Play Update



Our Mandarin program is enjoying a unique cultural exchange opportunity with a Harlem afterschool program for 4-6 year-olds. The children learn Chinese language and traditions in a weekly Mandarin class here and attend our monthly 4th Friday events. It's a joy to see youngsters from diverse background learning and having fun alongside one another. Our teachers met with Beverly Grigsby, the director of the Harlem afterschool program, and her staff at their location to learn more about the work they do in their community on West 127th Street. We look forward to welcoming them and any others who'd like to come to our annual Chinese New Year celebration on January 28, 2011, which is the Year of the Rabbit. The Rutgers Child's Play display and program guide was included in the NYC Presbytery's Congregational Resources Day on October 23 at Brick Church. Several workshops featured ideas on how churches can create and run programs that benefit their members and their communities. I spoke with many people about how Rutgers fulfills its mission through its programming, and people took information as well as the wonderful Rutgers blue pencils!



Holy Nedelka

Body & Spirit Update



November is a great month to remember the important things of life: One of the life lines of Rutgers Presbyterian Church is the *Body & Spirit Program* designed eleven years ago to meet the needs of the community and offer a variety of classes which are fun, inviting and good for the Body & Spirit. With this being a month of thanksgiving, I would like to give thanks to Rutgers for their forward thinking in developing a community of 1200 people who consider Rutgers Church their home every day of the week no matter what religion they practice. The life that walks through our front doors each and every day moving toward a community they call theirs, staffed by instructors who are not only passionate and innovative about their expertise, but dedicated to their students as well as to the program. Rutgers should be proud to be the innovators of the future. We've taken service to its true meaning by developing a program that truly meets the needs of not only the community in which we stand, but realize that we have people who travel from New Jersey, Staten Island, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and even the East Side just to be part of this remarkable family and

what it stands for. We are a blessed community who receives back tenfold what we offer to each and every one of those fabulous 1200 families.

Happy Thanksgiving
Diane Nicole

From the Pastor

*A branch shall grow from the stump of Jesse,
and a shoot from this root shall bear fruit.*

This biblical verse was also one of the formative impulses behind the tradition of decorated Christmas trees. Those first Christmas trees were not necessarily evergreens. Very often they were just simple bare branches trimmed with flowery decorations and more importantly they were decorated with fresh and dried fruits. Those fruits (small apples and dried plums, pears, figs, apricots and dates) symbolized the sweet fruit of Christ's love and salvation. These sweet decorations were originally intended for children and most of all for the poor. In Medieval Europe and up until most recently there was a nice Christmas tradition (particularly on St. Steven's Day - the 26th of December) to invite the poor to homes and feed them as family guests and the Christmas tree was originally integral part of this nice tradition.

So when you dress your tree this season, think about this original tradition and think about the ways you yourself can make your Christmas traditions bring sweet fruits of Christ to those who need them most.

Andrew Stehlik

November-December 2010

Sundays	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School	23 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon	24 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	25 All Day Church House and Office	26 All Day Church House and Office	27 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting Men's Shelter	
10:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA)	Every Wednesday Al-Ateen Meeting	Building Closed	Building Closed	Every Saturday	
10:45 Infant & Child Care	Cub Scouts		Happy Thanksgiving Day!	November Birthdays!		
11:00 Worship Service	8:00 p.m. Men's Al-Anon			21- Jon Smith		
11:15 Sunday School (ages 3-12)	Every Tuesday			23 - Klarence Ou Yang, Marshal Williamson		
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour				24 - Ruben Santiago		
12:30 Choir Rehearsal				30 - Audrey Hill		
6:00 Men's Shelter						
28 1st Sunday of Advent	29 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon Every Monday	30 10:00 a.m. Worship Committee	Dec. 1 6:30 p.m. Vesper Service 7:15 p.m. Advent Study Series. Dec. 1, 8, 15	2 6:00 p.m. Meal Program 7:00 p.m. Movie Series Every Thursday	3 11:00 a.m. Women's Spirituality Group 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter Every Friday	4
5 12:45 p.m. Board of Deacons Meeting	December Birthdays!					
	1- Stacy Kim ♦ 3- Michelle Nelson ♦ 4- Alexandra Yu ♦ 6- James Finn ♦ 9- Kenneth Starger ♦ 11- Jordan Stepaniuk					
	13- Lisa Pinto ♦ 16- Tara Dillon, Tara Dillon ♦ 17- Cass Knox & Matthew Sturman ♦ 18- Jennifer Nunez ♦ 20- Taras Ou Yang ♦ 21- Carl Lindscoog ♦ 23- Steve Phelps ♦ 27- Lenore Karo ♦ 30- Jivan Galper ♦ 31- Joy Rose					
12 12:45 p.m. All Church Christmas Social. Peace & Social Justice Network	13	14 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	15	16	17 6:30 p.m. Hanging of the Greens	18 1:00 p.m. Opera Auditions
19 4:00 p.m. 84th Candlelight Carol & Choral Service	Preaching Schedule November 21 __Reign of Christ Sunday; Andrew Stehlik preaching November 28 __1st Sunday in Advent; Diana Austin preaching December 5 __2nd Sunday in Advent; Andrew Stehlik preaching December 12 __3rd Sunday in Advent; Charles Amstein preaching December 19 __4th Sunday in Advent; Stehlik and Jervis preaching December 24 __Christmas Eve Service; Lessons and Carols December 26 __1st Sunday after Christmas; Andrew Stehlik preaching					
26						23 6:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling

November at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

Thanksgiving at Euclid Hall

Wednesday, November 24 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

For the 20th 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 the church office at (212) 877-8227, ext. 201 to volunteer your time or food offerings, which can be delivered in advance.



Advent Vesper Services and Advent Study. Wednesdays, December 1, 8, and 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Advent Study at 7:15 p.m. in the Daniel Russell room.

Slow down during this hectic month for a time of silence, music, light refreshments and reflections on scripture.

Rutgers' Annual All-Church Christmas Social

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

Rutgers' Annual All-Church Christmas Social will take place on Sunday, December 12 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. All are welcome.



Special Events Committee Report

The next event sponsored by the Special Events Committee will be the All-Church Christmas Social, which will be held following Morning Worship on Sunday, December 12th 2010 at 1:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the festivities.

This Committee will be holding vocal auditions for this year's Operatic Recital to benefit the Homeless Shelter on Saturday afternoon, December 18th in the Sanctuary, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.; we are looking for all operatic ranges, and an accompanist will be provided.



R., Wellington Jones has been considered one of the most outstanding American black musicians in the 2010-2011 edition of the **African-American National Biography**, published by Oxford University Press, at www.oxfordaasc.com.

*R. Wellington, Chairperson
Special Events Committee*



The 84th Annual Advent Candlelight 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, sung by Rutgers Church choir, soloists, instrumental musicians and orchestra, under the direction Rutgers' Organist/Choral Director, George Davey. Major work will be The *Magnificat* by C.P.E Bach. The Reverend Andrew Stehlik will give a meditation. Childcare will be available.

Our festive Christmas Eve Service of lessons and carols will be held on Friday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.



We will sing traditional Christmas hymns and carols with choir and ensemble, 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.

Hanging of the Greens

Friday, December 17, 5:00 p.m., Daniel Russell room

Come join us on Friday, December 17 at 5:00 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. 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.

