The first Sunday in Advent will be November 30th. Purple is the liturgical color for this season of penitence and preparation leading up to Christmas. It has always been a special and favorite time of year for me. And I encourage you to mark the mystery and beauty of this Advent with times of scripture reading and prayer with your family, or in your own devotions. Light an additional candle for each of the four Sundays, and a fifth candle on Christmas Eve. You can make an Advent wreath of greens and candles, or simply use candles. We have included suggested Advent readings from the Book of Common Worship at right.

Advent, of course, marks the beginning of a new church year. And although it is always a challenge, the discipline involved in truly waiting to begin our Christmas celebration until Christmas Eve can be a rewarding discipline. Christmas does have, as the familiar song reminds us, twelve days, leading up to Epiphany.

Part of the mystery of each new Advent, for those who have observed earlier Adveints, is the sense we can have of being aware of more than one Advent as we mark these days before Christmas.

Some years ago, a friend gave me a well-used paperback that had been in her husband’s library. It is by Thomas Merton and is called Seasons of Celebration. In one chapter in the book, Merton writes about what he calls “the Sacrament of Advent in the Spirituality of St. Bernard.” Merton and St. Bernard speak of three Adveints.

The first Advent is the one in which Christ entered into the world, having received a human nature in the womb of Mary. The third is the Advent which will bring Christ into the world at

(Continued on page 17)
Rutgers Now Shelters Homeless Seven Nights a Week

“Above all, hold unfailingly your love for one another, ...practice hospitality ungrudgingly.” (1 Peter 4:8-9)

One way we practice hospitality here at Rutgers is through our homeless shelter. There has been a shelter at Rutgers since 1990, when the Board of Deacons decided to begin welcoming ten men each weekend in conjunction with the Partnership for the Homeless. Since then, volunteers from Rutgers and from Christ and St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church have provided food, sustenance and a safe place to sleep.

This spring, the homeless shelter assumed a larger presence here at Rutgers when Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (FAPC) approached the Board of Deacons with a proposal to relocate their seven-nights-a-week shelter (and volunteers) to Rutgers while FAPC undergoes renovations. The collaboration began in May and will continue well into 2004. Our previous guests, who came through John Huess House, have been relocated to a shelter at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church for the duration of the collaboration. The current shelter guests come through Peter’s Place and are an older, more stable population.

Rutgers continues to provide volunteers one night a week. In order to inspire your participation, we will hear three takes on the why’s and what’s of homeless ministry.

Margaret Shafer, FAPC

Church is about love and recognizing that every person is a child of God. We want to help homeless people feel the dignity of being human. And church is about hope: building community so that you can have a friend. Sometimes the most powerful thing we can do for a homeless person is to be present to them in friendship. The shelter provides a cohesive residential community that is the central core of our faith community.

All of our experiences with homeless ministry have done as much for our church as for our guests. Interacting with the homeless helps people to free themselves from class prejudices and fears that most people don’t want to have. There is a meeting of needs, and we see this especially with younger volunteers, who may be single and have little or no family in the area. They often develop incredibly tender relationships with the men in the shelter.

Dermonte Alleyne, Rutgers Shelter Coordinator

Since joining forces with FAPC in May, our normal routine has changed. Instead of being responsible for Sunday nights, Rutgers now provides volunteers on Friday nights. A staff person from FAPC comes to set up cots in the gym, and the men receive a meal at Peter’s Place before they come to Rutgers (we used to provide dinner here). So, the overnight host is able to come later, at around 7:00 pm. The guests usually arrive between 7:30 and 8:30 pm. The men may watch television, play board games, or go straight to bed. The host sleeps in the Blue Room and has a certain measure of privacy. Wake-up is early (5:30 am!) with coffee and a cold breakfast. By 6:30 am, the men are on their way.

Each of them has been carefully screened and has a unique story. Several regular guests are war veterans; one used to be a high school physics teacher and is an expert calligraphy; another works five days a week but still can’t afford housing. Many spend their days dealing with multiple medical issues and appointments.

We have a small core of committed volunteers but really do need your help! Please consider sharing in this important ministry.

Deacon Charles Platt

I began volunteering with the shelter soon after I joined Rutgers. I had just been installed as a Deacon and was eager to help out. Mostly, I was curious to see what it was like to be a shelter volunteer. Although I felt uncomfortable the first time or two, I have found volunteering to be very satisfying.

There has been a lot of variation in the guests, and you have to feel out the situation each time. Some men don’t want to talk to anyone, although many are interested in discussing the news. The men frequently express their appreciation for being able to stay here.

I remember one guest who visited regularly over several months. He had applied for permanent housing, and each time I saw him, he would tell me how far he had moved up on the waiting list. After a while, I didn’t see him any more. I hope he had indeed moved into his own home.

Does helping people make you feel good? If it does, this is one way to help people. I definitely recommend trying it at least once.
Do's and Don’t’s for Shelter Volunteers

Do...
1. Start with a familiar face.
2. Be conversational.
3. Say “hi, I’m……”
4. Ask, where are from? How long have you been homeless? Are you OK?
5. Be patient and persistent.
6. Use common sense.
7. Maintain healthy boundaries.
The goal is to counteract dehumanization; the underlying message is “God loves you and we will not hurt you.”

Don’t...
1. Give shelter guests money.
2. Take them home.
3. Give them your phone number or address.
4. Touch or hug.

Ways to Get Involved

1. Say “Good morning” and introduce yourself to the next homeless person you meet in your neighborhood. Make it a practice to greet homeless people. (This simple act can help counteract the dehumanization that so many of them feel.)
2. Come visit us one evening at the shelter. We always appreciate visitors, and this can be a nice way to explore volunteering without making a full commitment right away.
3. Talk to a current volunteer to find out more about what it’s like to be a shelter host. Ask lots of questions!
4. Come to a volunteer training session hosted by FAPC staff on a weekday evening at Rutgers (coming soon).
5. Give it a try—sign up to be an overnight host, or sign up with a friend. Call the Shelter Coordinator, Dermonte Alleyne, at x203.
6. Learn more about homelessness and affordable housing by contacting organizations like the Coalition for the Homeless and Housing First!

www.coalitionforthehomeless.org
www.housingfirst.net
On Sunday, October 5th, Rutgers welcomed the Reverend Robert G. Calder from Scottsville Presbyterian Church in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Elinor Bowles, who visited Scottsville several years ago during a trip to South Africa, invited Rob to join us for an afternoon forum to share his congregation’s experiences with multicultural ministry.

Scottsville Presbyterian Church is a model of effective transformation from a racially segregated to a truly diverse and dynamic congregation. When Rob came to Scottsville in 1982, it was a white, conservative, evangelical community of about 350 members. In the 22 years that he has served the congregation, it has changed to an active membership of about 200 and about 300 adherents, many of whom are university students. The congregation comprises a mixture of old and young, academics and civil servants, a few entrepreneurs and two households from a local orphanage. It is presently about 50 percent black and 50 percent white. Of the black component, half is local black South African while the other half is made up of people from every part of Africa. Although English is the main liturgical language, Zulu, Sesotho, Swahili, and occasionally other African languages are used for corporate singing and prayers.

Rob shared the biblical grounding for his deep commitment to multicultural ministry and insights from his congregation’s continuing encounter with the powerful practice of living with and celebrating differences.

He walked us from Genesis through Revelation, focusing on God’s blessing of all peoples and reminding us of the incredible ethnic diversity represented in the Pentecost and in the early Christian church.

He characterized the Christian church as a place of hospitality rather than hostility, and he posed a challenge, quoting from Henry Nouwen, calling on us “to create the free and fearless space where brotherhood and sisterhood can be formed and fully experienced.”

Rob described South Africa’s history as an extreme example of what the rest of the world practices: “the fellowship of the like-minded.” We all spend time with people who like doing the same things we do, who have similar opinions and political convictions, who make us feel comfortable and safe. This is not a bad thing, Calder said. In fact, it is indispensable, but if this is all we practice, then South Africa demonstrates the tragic consequences. In Rob’s words, “We also have to embrace the people who get under our skin and whose story collides with our story.”

Scottsville Presbyterian Church is a work in progress. Their first step in reaching out to a more diverse community was simply to change the language on their church sign (there are 11 official languages in South Africa; the sign had been only in English). The community outreach they undertook included an individualized effort to build up “intentional friendships” with people in their neighborhood. Scottsville was careful to develop a clear message about valuing multiculturalism and then to find ways to communicate this message on all levels – from compelling worship to community activism. And yet challenges remain, including current concerns with a lack of diversity within the small group ministry that forms the base of many of the congregation’s activities.

Rob’s presentation leaves us with intriguing questions:

- What does the sign outside our church say? In whose language?
- To what extent do we participate in the “fellowship of the like-minded”? Who gets under our skin? Why?
- How do we practice hospitality at Rutgers? What can we do to “create the free and fearless space where brotherhood and sisterhood can be formed and fully experienced”?
4 New Members Join Rutgers in September
A Report from the Membership Committee

On Sunday, September 28, we welcomed four special people into membership at Rutgers. Marcia and Rashid Fawwaz, Cynthia Gale, and Freida Logan joined us by reaffirmation of faith. This brings our total number of new members in 2003 to nine. Here we begin a series of profiles on our new members from the past year. Look for several more in our next issue (including Freida!).

Cynthia Gale is a jewelry designer who has been an Upper West Side resident going on twenty years. She lives blissfully on West 74th Street with her husband, Glenn, their two children, Isabelle (9) and Ian (7), their turtle, Spike, and hamster, Joshua. Cynthia has been working in fashion and jewelry for many years and loves what she does. She works together with Glenn to create fine craft jewelry out of sterling and gold, mostly for museums and national institutions. The collection, GeoArt by Cynthia Gale, is made primarily by hand in Indonesia.

Although Cynthia was raised in the Episcopal faith, she found a comfortable home at Rutgers where she felt her children would get the religious exposure they needed to allow them to choose their own spiritual path later in life. She loves kids and enjoyed teaching Sunday School in September and October with her faithful companion, Chris Jones. Cynthia will also be starting to support the Thursday night meal program this month, hopefully with her daughter Izzy.

In addition to Rutgers and her business, Cynthia volunteers at PS87 where her children attend 2nd and 4th grades. She enjoys a multitude of sports and completed her first Triathlon this year, The Danskin, in support of breast cancer research.

Finally, Cynthia recently joined the Women’s Business Council for Peace, a group of women in business who aid groups of women in crisis around the world. BCP works to provide a way for them to market their crafts. The group’s most recent project involved Peace Baskets which were featured in the November 2003 issue of Marie Claire and are currently sold through the catalogue, Eziba. The baskets are made by a group of widows of the Rwandan genocide and have helped them to create a business which supports them and many of the orphans they have adopted.

Marcia Fawwaz was born in Bronxville, NY, of French Huguenot parentage. Marcia worked in California as a political science researcher with an energy-related company. She and Rashid moved to Pelham, NY, where she was involved in several community projects, including presidency of the League of Women Voters and presidency of the Historical Society, both local chapters. She was also a docent for the Pelham Art Center and served for many years on the Pelham Board of Education. Marcia has become part of the Peace and Social Justice Network at Rutgers; would love to dig into our church archives; and is interested in art, literature, and bridge.

Both Marcia and Rashid belonged to the Huguenot Memorial Church in Pelham prior to moving to the City. Since then, they attended services at different churches before choosing Rutgers because they liked the pastor and the Rutgers community.

Marcia and Rashid have two sons and three grandchildren.

Rashid Fawwaz was born in Sao Paolo, Brazil, of Lebanese parentage. His paternal grandfather was a minister in a Protestant church in the South of Lebanon. Rashid moved from Brazil to Lebanon at the age of 11 and later obtained an MD from the American University in Beirut. After his residency, he moved to California, where he completed a PhD in medical physics and worked as a research scientist for the US Department of Energy at the Berkeley Lawrence Laboratory. Rashid is now a Professor of Clinical Radiology at Columbia University. In addition to diagnostic work, he is also involved in the treatment of various types of cancer, teaching and research, the latter focusing on the control of rejection of transplanted organs. Other interests include tennis and bridge.

Cynthia and Izzy Gale (top left, photographer Glenn Gale); Marcia Fawwaz and Beverly Thompson (above, photographer Susan Scherer) at the Homecoming Luncheon
Laurie Berkner Shines at Rutgers
Diane Nicole, Director of the Body & Spirit Program

Once again, Laurie Berkner did an outstanding job during her concert at Rutgers on September 27th. The sanctuary was a giant wave of toddlers dancing to “Drive My Car” and “Rhubarb Pie” while adults stood in Woodstock fashion, swaying to the melodies as well. It was truly remarkable to see the sanctuary filled with over 300 people ranging in age from newborns to grandparents, all with smiles on their faces, celebrating life in general.

Laurie Berkner has been part of the concert series within the Body & Spirit Program since its inception four years ago. Her music brings life to many of our classes, and she holds a special place in so many children’s hearts. They hear her familiar songs, and they start grinning.

What more can we ask for?? The other concert next year!

Celebrations of Homecoming, Birth and Life

A sizable group of some 100 parishioners and guests attended the annual Homecoming Luncheon on Sunday, September 14th, and were treated to a substantial array of dishes, salads and desserts. Contributions to the luncheon included spare ribs, pork shoulder, carrot cake, salmon mousse, beef stew, a variety of vegetables, salad and crudité, and a plentiful serving of pan-roasted chicken. A highlight of the menu was a special cake in the shape of a rose baked by new member, Mrs. Freida Logan.

Special thanks for the preparation and serving go to Mrs. Doris Bryant, Mrs. Louisa Berry, and numerous friends and guests of the church. (Submitted by Trustee Wellington Jones, Chairperson of the Special Events Committee.)

On Friday, October 10th, Natalie Georgia Graham was born to Valerie Kay and Bruce Graham. Natalie (born at 6 lbs, 11 oz) joins big sister Sophia. We thank Natalie for waiting until her mother did the Moment for Mission on October 5th!

On Tuesday, October 21st, Dr. Vera Mowry Roberts celebrated her 90th birthday. At coffee hour on the 19th, we shared cake and honored Vera’s amazing and continuing contributions to Rutgers (where she’s been a member since 1961) and the wider Church.
Adult Education Offerings: Worship Then and Now
Cheryl Pyrch, Associate for Educational Ministries

Getting More Out of Worship, November 2nd through December 14th (7 weeks), 9:45 am in the Session Room. Led by Cheryl Pyrch with special guests.

Learn about worship from the inside out. How do worship leaders put together the service? Why do we do what we do? We'll look at the theology and history of worship, and learn about new ideas and controversies in the larger church. We'll also have a chance to share struggles with worship and to ask those nagging questions that may seem impolite, such as: "Why are Presbyterian sermons so long?" (or if you were raised Baptist, "Why are Presbyterian sermons so short?"). We'll pay attention to our heads and our hearts and support each other in getting more - and bringing more - to worship.

Advent Bible Study, Wednesdays at 12:15 pm in the Daniel Russell Room. A study of the lectionary texts for Advent with the pastoral staff. A good way to prepare for Sunday worship and to keep centered during Advent.

At the Lamb's High Feast: The Significance and Development of the Church's Earliest Liturgies. A study series convened by Professor John A. McGuckin, Wednesday evenings during Advent, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 7:15 pm following Vespers.

Professor McGuckin was my professor of early Church History Union Seminary. In addition to being a wonderful scholar, he is accessible, loves to answer questions, and is also very funny. Professor McGuckin is an Orthodox priest, and we are delighted that on the third Wednesday (December 17th), he will lead our Vespers service, sharing with us prayers and music from the Orthodox (Eastern) liturgy. Following is a course description.

"A three-week encounter with the liturgical theology and practice of the earliest Christian communities. The practice of worship led by the first generation of Christian prophets and Episkopoi (bishops) reflected deep currents of belief that emerged in the earliest scriptural writings of Paul, John's Gospel and the literature of Asia Minor such as the Book of Revelation and the Book on Passover by Melito of Sardis. In the ancient Christian sources we see not only the theological reworking of Old Testament prototypes about worship, but also how the Christian communities theologized deeply about the Gospel of Jesus through prayer, eucharist and baptism.

"Our first session will treat the biblical paradigms of Christian worship and the social context of the first two centuries.

"The second week we'll consider the maturation of the liturgical year as it expanded out from the Paschal (Easter) liturgy in the late 3rd and 4th centuries. At this time variations began to appear in Latin and Greek practice around the churches of Rome and Constantinople. Several of the variants occurred around the ideas of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, and that 'seasonal' consideration will provide part of the focus of our attention.

"In the final week, we'll look at the West Syrian liturgy as it developed in the 6th century into the Byzantine ritual. In Constantinople, the Greek imperial liturgy brought together earlier currents and formed the basis of a high ceremonial liturgy for both the western and eastern Churches of the Middle Ages. The session will conclude with a brief look at the character of contemporary Orthodox Christian theology of worship, and how the study of prayer can still illustrate the old adage: Lex Orandi Lex Credendi - the way we worship exposes the soul of what we believe."

John McGuckin is an Orthodox Priest, Professor of Byzantine Christian Culture at the Columbia University, and Professor of Early Church History at Union Theological Seminary. He is the author of 16 books on early Christian theology and of numerous scholarly articles, many of which have been reissued in French, German, and Romanian translations. He has served as visiting professor in universities in Europe and America, as well as in Kiev and Romania, and he was most recently a Research Fellow of the Royal Norwegian Academy in Oslo.
Thanksgiving at Euclid Hall

On Thursday, November 27th, volunteers from Rutgers Church will provide a holiday dinner for the residents of Euclid Hall, an affordable, supportive housing residence for senior citizens operated by the West Side Federation for Senior Housing. Euclid Hall is at 2345 Broadway and 86th Street; there is still time to volunteer to help serve and celebrate, or to share your bounty (stuffing, fruit, desserts, and other fixings). Please call the church office with your offer of food or time.

Christmas Social

Remember our Annual All-Church Christmas Social on Sunday, December 14th, in the fellowship hall following the worship service. The Special Events Committee will serve a light luncheon, and there will be live entertainment for kids and adults. Bring your family and friends, and a grab-bag gift (under $5 value) to make the day even more festive!

Hanging the Greens

The Worship Committee invites everyone to the "Hanging of the Greens" on Friday evening, December 19th, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to help string lights, decorate the tree in the Daniel Russell Room and otherwise make the church ready for Christmas. Mulled cider, hot cocoa, cookies (as well as healthy snacks!) will be provided, and it will also be a time to share in fellowship and fun. RSVP to Cheryl at x205, but if you forget to call, just show up!

Magnificat

At the 77th Annual Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday afternoon, December 21, at 4:00 pm, the Rutgers Church Choir, soloists and orchestra will perform J. S. Bach's Magnificat, conducted by George Davey.

This work was first composed to be performed at Vespers on Christmas Day, 1723, in Leipzig, Germany. In the work, Back used the Latin translation of the mysterious and beautiful words of Mary, as recorded in Luke 1:46-55. You will remember that Mary went to visit Elizabeth, whose child leaped in her womb as she heard Mary's greeting. And Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, then exclaimed to Mary, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." (Luke 1:39-45)

It is Mary's reply that we call "The Magnificat." As her first words are "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:47), Bach both followed the text closely, and also composed glorious sections of his Magnificat to comment on Mary's words. The opening chorus is one of the most magnificent of all Baroque choruses. The work includes arias, duets, a trio, and choruses of unusual beauty and power. It is scored for trumpets, flutes, oboes, strings and continuo.

The service will include other works sung by our choir, as well as hymns. Come, and bring your friends to this beautiful concert!

Handmade

Artists' Cooperative - Pottery, Jewelry, Crafts

Exhibition and Holiday Sale 2003

Saturday December 6  10:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday December 7   12:30pm - 4:00pm
## Advent 2003

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### Sunday Worship Schedule

Worship Service at 11:00 am — Coffee Hour at 12:15 pm

Sunday School for Adults at 9:45 am — Infant and Child Care from 9:30 am — Sunday School (ages 3-10) at 11:15 am

Adult Choir Rehearsals at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm—Children’s Choir Rehearsal at 10:15 am

- November 23—Reign of Christ Sunday; Stewardship Sunday; The Rev. Dr. Byron E. Shafer preaching
- November 30—First Sunday in Advent; The Rev. Dr. Byron E. Shafer preaching
- December 7—Second Sunday in Advent; The Rev. Dr. Byron E. Shafer preaching; The Children’s Choir singing
- December 14—Third Sunday in Advent; Sacrament of Holy Communion; The Rev. Dr. Byron E. Shafer preaching
- December 21—Fourth Sunday in Advent; The Rev. Dr. Byron E. Shafer preaching
### January 2004

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<td>Dec. 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hymnsing</td>
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<td>New Year’s Day; Building closed</td>
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### 4
- Epiphany Observed; 12:45 pm
- Board of Deacons

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<tr>
<td>Epiphany Observed; 12:45 pm</td>
<td>2:30 pm Worship Committee</td>
<td>6:00 pm Men’s Support Group (PLWA/HIV)</td>
<td>Every Tuesday</td>
<td>6:00 pm Senior Meal Program</td>
<td>11:00 am Mothers’ Bible Study</td>
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### 11
- Baptism of the Lord; 12:45 pm
- Peace and Social Justice Network

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<tr>
<td>Baptism of the Lord; 12:45 pm</td>
<td>5:00 pm Youth Basketball &amp; Pizza</td>
<td>6:30 pm Session Meeting</td>
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<td>Reservation Deadline for Family Retreat</td>
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### 18
- 4:00 pm Presbyterian Welcome, Farewell Worship Service for Cliff Frasier (tentative)

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<tr>
<td>4:00 pm Presbyterian Welcome, Farewell Worship Service for Cliff Frasier (tentative)</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday; Building closed</td>
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### 25
- 12:45 pm Annual Congregational Meeting

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<td>5:00 pm Youth Basketball &amp; Pizza</td>
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### Men’s Overnight Shelter Program:
6:30 pm, seven days a week

### Sunday Worship Schedule

- **Worship Service at 11:00 am — Coffee Hour at 12:15 pm**
- **Sunday School for Adults at 9:45 am — Infant and Child Care from 9:30 am — Sunday School (ages 3-10) at 11:15 am**
- **Adult Choir Rehearsals at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm — Children’s Choir Rehearsal at 10:15 am**
  - December 28 — Hymnsing with the Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer
  - January 4 — Epiphany Observed; The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer preaching
  - January 11 — Baptism of the Lord; Sacrament of Holy Communion; The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer preaching
  - January 18 — 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - January 25 — 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer preaching
Some Regularly Scheduled Events

An HIV+/PLWA spiritual support group for men meets every Tuesday evening from 6:00—7:30 pm. The group is led by Douglas Rowan, a professional counselor and facilitator. Please mention this support group to anyone in need that you know.

Rutgers Church provides a senior citizens meal program every Thursday evening at 6:00 pm from September through June. A movie is shown after the meal most Thursdays except those between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day. Contact the church office if you are interested in helping to prepare or serve!

Rutgers Church provides a shelter for homeless men in our gymnasium seven nights a week throughout the year, in cooperation Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church and Christ & St. Stephen Episcopal Church. Volunteers from our own church staff the shelter on Fridays. The program needs YOUR help to make a difference.

A Mothers’ Bible Study meets every Friday morning at 11:00 am in the Daniel Russell Room. Everyone is welcome! The group is organized by Holly Nedelka, and leadership is shared. Child care is provided on the fourth floor.

Rutgers Family Retreat
March 5-6, 2004

Between school, jobs, committee meetings, PTA, soccer practice, caring for relatives, teaching Sunday School, doctors’ appointments, grocery shopping, homework and housework, Rutgers families - like families everywhere - barely have time to say hello to each other, let alone connect on a deeper level.

So this spring, from Friday evening, March 5th, through Saturday afternoon, March 6th, families are invited to a retreat at the Presbyterian Center in Stony Point, New York, led by clergy couple the Reverends Thea Crites and Lewis Johnson (see biographies below). There will be time - under the guidance of the retreat leaders - for parents to talk about the joys and stresses of parenting, including issues of raising children in faith. There will be time for families to hang out together and take walks around the Stony Point campus.

Children will be led in their own "retreat" program by Cheryl Pyrch and volunteers, allowing them to explore their relationship with God and with one another. Childcare will be provided for the youngest ones during programs. We will eat and worship together.

The cost is $54 per adult and $27 per child; a few partial scholarships are available. All Rutgers families, members and friends, will be receiving more information in the mail (including reservation forms and details about transportation). Although we hope to accommodate all families who wish to attend, space is limited, so we urge you to make a reservation early, and no later than January 16th, 2004. Please call Cheryl Pyrch (212) 877-8227 x205 for more information.

Thea Crites is a United Methodist clergywoman and certified pastoral psychotherapist in private practice on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. She has presented a series of workshops on the Spirituality of Parenthood in a variety of church settings. Thea graduated from the Union Theological Seminary and the Blanton-Peale Institute.

A graduate of Yale Divinity School and the Blanton-Peale Institute, Lew Johnson is an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of New York. He maintains a private psychotherapy practice in Manhattan and provides conflict resolution and organizational self-study for churches and synagogues. He also assists at St. Michael’s Church.

Lew and Thea have been married for ten years. Peter, their seven-year-old son, enjoys drawing, reading, and building Bionicles.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
1 Lucy Dunn-Ellis
3 Emily Chang
8 Laura Jervis
9 So Young Lee
13 Katie Berko
17 Rodine “Bobby” Wallace
20 Christine Gorman
23 Harold Manners, Suzanne Spears
27 Joy Wyatt
28 Amy Taylor Bianco
31 Christian Pritner-Gonzales
31 Amy Quinn

Mark Your Calendars!
The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 25th.
What Happened at Session?
Elder Christine Gorman, Clerk of Session

Here are highlights from the regularly scheduled Session meeting of September 9, 2003. The Session voted to:

A. authorize a choir council to work with George Davey on matters having to do with the life and organization of the choir.


C. accept, with regret, the resignation of Nora Lidell as Session member. Her student teaching and graduate school classes are taking more time than she expected.

D. defeat a motion that would have excluded the Child’s Play and Body & Spirit programs from the budget when figuring out the amount of money that should be allocated to Benevolence.

A little explanation may be in order for item D. Over the next several years, the church has committed itself to setting aside a set portion of the budget to benevolence and mission work. This shows that we are just as committed to spending money on the rest of the world as we are on our own church life and local outreach programs. The current total is 18 percent, and we hope to work our way up to 31 percent. But of course, you have to ask 31 percent of what? Should we stick with the total church budget, currently at $1.3 million? Should the Body & Spirit and Child’s Play programs, which are run on as close to a cost-basis as possible, be excluded from the calculation? (Whether they are included or excluded has no effect on the tuition for these programs.)

The Session voted to take the whole budget into account when figuring out the share that will go to Benevolence. If you have any questions about what all this means, feel free to contact me or Dr. Shafer.

Here are highlights of the regularly scheduled Session meeting of October 14th, 2003. The Session voted to:

A. elect Ulla Farmer and Massimo Maglione to the Church Nominating Committee. Massimo will serve as chair. The other members of the committee are Kim Hodges for Deacons and four at-large members: Joan Keener, Ruth Munson, Lisa Pinto and Rick Reece.

B. approve a special celebration in worship and at a luncheon after the service. The occasion is the 70th anniversary of the Reverend Dr. Scott Morton’s ordination as a Presbyterian minister.

C. purchase 200 copies of a new hymnal supplement that the Presbyterian Church (USA) is publishing this year. This will cut down on the number of inserts we have to make into the bulletin as well as adding new hymns to our worship service.

The next regular meetings of the Session will be Nov. 11th and Dec. 9th, 2003, at 6:30 pm.

You can always get the full Session minutes by sending an email to Jennifer Hanson (jhanson@rutgerschurch.com).

Meal Program Celebrates 10 Years of Service

If there’s one thing you can say about Jesus and his disciples, they sure did like to eat! And one of the most basic commands Jesus gave his followers, including us, is to "feed the hungry."

Now as many of you know, Rutgers Church serves a hot meal most Thursday nights to a group of about 45 older people. Part of what makes the meal program special is that it feeds both a physical hunger and a hunger for human contact. Besides good food, the evening is also a time of companionship and conversation.

A lot of people have helped to make the Thursday Night program a success over the past ten years. But everyone knows that the heart of the Thursday Nighters is its coordinator Ulla Farmer. And so when Session voted unanimously to show the church’s appreciation for the 10th anniversary of the Rutgers Meal Program, everyone wanted to make sure that Ulla’s contributions in particular were recognized.

There was a presentation during worship on Sunday, Sept. 28th, in which Ulla received a certificate of appreciation. (The plaque is on its way.) But what touched me most were the words of thanks that Ulla herself gave. She made it clear that the Thursday Night Program is an offering of love and that she considers it a gift for her to be able to contribute.

The last ten years have gone by in a flash. But Thursday Nighters is still going strong. Thank you, Ulla, and all your volunteers!
Rutgers Presbyterian Church  
236 West 73rd Street (west of Broadway)  
New York, NY 10023

Sunday,  
November 23,  
4:00 pm

$20 recommended contribution for general admission

OR

Call 212-877-8227 for information on reserved seating

~Presents~

DIVAS IN CONCERT

SHERRY ZANNOOTH – SOPRANO  
FAITH ESHAM – SOPRANO  
Accompanied by  
GEORGE DAVEY – PIANO

Featuring the music of Strauss, Bellini, Mozart, Donizetti and more!

Faith Esham, Rutgers soprano soloist, has been heralded by the international press for her outstanding performances in the leading in opera houses of the US and Europe. Her extensive credits include the Metropolitan Opera, the San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, New York City Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Washington Opera. Internationally, she has appeared at La Scala, The Vienna Staatsoper and Glyndebourne. Faith is widely known as one of the foremost interpreters of the great roles of French operatic literature. She won an Emmy for her portrayal of Micaela opposite Placido Domingo in the film “Carmen” and has recorded the songs of Charles Griffes for Musical Heritage.

Sherry Zannoth, Rutgers soprano soloist, debuted at the Metropolitan Opera in Kurt Weill’s “The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny.” From “fiendish Lady MacBeth” to a “graceful, charming acting of Sherry as Alice Ford” in “The Merry Wives of Windsor,” critics take notice of Ms. Zannoth’s power as a singer and actress. Sherry commands a large oratorio-orchestral repertoire, including the major works of all the “B’s” (Bach, Beethoven, Berlioz and Brahms), and Sherry is a frequent choice of conductors and composers to premiere challenging works of all genres. She has also made an impact in Europe, the Middle East, India, Thailand and the Philippines and worked with renowned conductors James Levine, John Mauceri, Robert Page and Julies Rudel.

George Davey began his formal music studies in Jamaica, West Indies, at the age of five, becoming a church musician at the age of twelve. He gathered a wealth of experience playing in congregations and as an accompanist. Mr. Davey participated in performance tours to Australia, New Zealand, Grand Cayman Islands, Barbados, and Canada. U.S. performances include the Washington National Cathedral, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Riverside Church and Carnegie Hall in New York City. Mr. Davey holds a Master of Sacred Music degree from Boston University. He currently serves as accompanist for the New Jersey Symphony Chorus and on the music faculty at Essex County College in Newark, NJ.
The Advent of Our New Organ
George Davey, Organist and Choral Director

Advent
1. The liturgical period preceding Christmas, beginning in Western churches on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and in Eastern churches in mid-November, and observed by many Christians as a season of prayer, fasting, and penitence.

2. The coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important: the advent of the computer.*

Christians around the world will soon be observing the season of Advent, when the coming of the Christ child, who promises everything good, awaits us. I dare to say that in addition to the religious Advent, we at Rutgers are experiencing an Advent of anticipation and longing for the special musical instrument that will serve us magnificently for generations to come.

This month, the organ chambers are being cleaned and replastered; other than plastic sheeting, you may not see or hear any evidence of change yet. New components should start arriving in February, but waiting can be a hard practice. Some of you may be wondering why the organ renovation will take so long!

Unlike many other products being made today, the pipework of the organ is still manufactured meticulously by hand (not machines); good craftsmanship takes time.

Our organ is being remade with a focus on quality, longevity, and attention to the specific environment of our sanctuary. In contrast to digital organs, which require much less workmanship but quickly become obsolete, pipe organs have lives that span centuries.

Southfield Organ Builders has five people working on our organ in their shop. Each pipe they restore needs to be cleaned, repaired, and regulated on a small organ called a voicing machine. They are fashioning new pipes to supplement our existing ones as well as new chestwork (remember those windchests?). Melding newly made and restored pieces into one instrument is quite an art.

The organ renovation is proceeding in stages rather than all at once, in order to enable us to enjoy the use of our organ throughout much of this process (see more about this on the facing page).

As we wait patiently, here are some highlights of the new organ-to-be to whet your appetite:

• Our new windchests will be simpler in construction, made of less fragile materials, and easier to access and maintain, so that we will be able to better prolong the life of the new organ. And they will make our pipes sound better!

• We will retain most of our existing treasures and the warm, Romantic sounds that were the strength of our organ. For example, it contained and will retain exquisite reeds (trumpet, trombone, and clarinet sounds) that guest organists have salivated over.

• We are fortunate to have a harp-like Celesta unit that will be rebuilt. These percussion units are in great demand as they are only made now in electronic form.

• We will be adding a Zymbelstern, which is a series of small bells that will allow us to play many early organ pieces, such as works by Pachelbel, much more beautifully.

• Our organ console will be made movable, and it will be rebuilt to allow the organist to choose and play groups of pipes in new and creative ways. It will even include a sequencer that can record a piece of music and then play it back at the touch of a key.

In the quiet darkness of this Advent season, we await the time when the new organ will break into this darkness.

You may remember that in the last issue of the Renewal, we introduced you to the components of a pipe organ. Here, we continue our primer on how an organ works.

You will have noticed that our renovation project is proceeding in stages. A portion of our organ’s pipework was removed in July, but we are still able to use the organ for our worship services and special concerts because the organ consists of five divisions, each of which might be considered an “organ” on its own. Each of these divisions can be played somewhat independently and produces a distinct kind of music.

The Great Organ is a strong division that excels in leading congregational singing. It is the boldest sounding division.

The Choir Organ is gentler, more nuanced, and used to accompany the choir or occasionally to play softer, distinct melodies. It has the ability to crescendo and decrescendo; in other words, the organist can adjust its volume by opening or closing louvred doors (called swell shades) in the organ chambers.

The Swell Organ is similar to the Choir Organ but a little stronger. One of its distinguishing characteristics is a chorus of reeds, which produces sounds like trumpets and trombones.

The Pedal Organ includes all of the bass sounds in the organ and the largest pipes; it is so named because these sounds are played with the organist’s feet. It is a distinct collection of pipes but can also borrow from bass pipes found in other divisions.

Finally, the Antiphonal Organ (formerly called the Echo Organ) will be located at the back of the sanctuary. This division was damaged by water and has not worked in some time; once it is restored, it will provide a “surround sound” effect as well as the capacity to produce antiphonal dialogue with the main organ due to its distance from the other divisions.

Presently, the Great, Choir and part of the Pedal divisions are being rebuilt, while the Swell, Echo (to become Antiphonal) and a small portion of the Pedal divisions remain in our sanctuary.

By this coming spring, our missing divisions will return in their expanded and renewed form, while the Swell Organ and remaining Pedal pipework will be removed. The final division to be renovated will be the Antiphonal Organ. In spring 2005, we should have the complete organ!

Organ Capital Campaign Update
As of October 31, 2003, we have raised $178,400 toward our $400,000 goal for the capital campaign for the restoration of the Rutgers organ. 57 pledges have been made.

Thank you to everyone who has so generously contributed!
"The Road" Series

Rutgers 2004 Film Festival
236 West 73rd Street, 5th Floor (212) 877-8227

Thursday Evenings at 7:00pm

sponsored by the Board of Deacons
Free Admission

Hosted by DR. ROGER FRANKLIN

Jan. 8th • The Road to Singapore (1940) B&W, 84 mins.
The first pairing of Hope & Crosby sees the duo as Americans bumming their way around the world, settling in Asia to vie for the hand of Dorothy Lamour. With Anthony Quinn and Charles Coburn.

Jan. 15th • The Road to Zanzibar (1941) B&W, 92 mins.
Carnival con men Hope & Crosby find themselves outwitted on a safari scheme by Lamour and left to stew in some cannibals’ pots! Una Merkel and Eric Blore co-star.

Jan. 22nd • The Road to Morocco (1942) B&W, 83 mins.
Shipwreck survivors Hope & Crosby take a camel ride into a comedic Arabian Nights adventure, as they fight a desert warrior (Anthony Quinn) for Princess Lamour. Features the Crosby standard “Moonlight Becomes You.”

Jan. 29th • The Road to Utopia (1945) B&W, 90 mins.
Hope & Crosby are song-and-dance men leading the gold rush searching for a lost Alaskan mine. Lamour co-stars with Douglas Dumbrille and Robert Benchley.

Feb. 5th • The Road to Rio (1947) B&W, 100 mins.
Musicians Hope & Crosby stow away on a boat to Brazil to try to free Lamour from her wicked aunt Gale Sondergaard. With The Andrew Sisters and Jerry Colonna.

Feb. 12th • The Road to Bali (1953) Color, 90 mins.
The only “Road” movie in color has Hope & Crosby as vaudeville performers in competition for Lamour, pursuing her to the South Seas. Look out for cameos from Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn.
Stewardship & Christian Education
A Moment for Mission presented by Chris Jones on Sunday, November 2, 2003

Good morning.

I am here to kick off the stewardship drive. Over the next four weeks ending on November 23rd, you will be asked to give thought to pledging your time, talent and treasure to the mission of this church.

This morning I’d like to focus on Christian Education here at Rutgers, which is one of the ministries your pledges support. It costs money to educate both children and adults:

1. Staff for the nursery
2. Child care for meetings and study groups
3. Curriculum for Sunday School
4. Tools and supplies
5. Honorariums for guest speakers

Your financial pledges say YES to Christian Education here at Rutgers, but you can also say YES by making a pledge of time and talent.

Late last spring, Cheryl asked me if I would consider teaching Sunday School in the fall, and my inside voice started screaming NO NO NO. I wouldn’t know how to teach or what to teach. I can’t get my own kids to behave, let alone other people’s kids. I’d miss the sermons down here; I love the sermons and look forward to them all week. And the choir. I don’t want to miss all that. Plus, I’m more of a Christian in utero, not really devout yet. Me teach Sunday School? I don’t know… smacks of fraud. I’m going to get punished for this. This is my inside voice.

But probably because Rutgers has been so good to my family, and by Rutgers I mean you all sitting out there and up there, and because Cheryl said there was a need, I replied with my outside voice: Sure. I’ve just finished my eight-week tour of duty co-teaching with Cynthia Gale, and here’s what I can tell you about my experience. I had a good time. I don’t think I’m a particularly good teacher—I thank God for Cynthia, who is. One of the pleasures for me of being a Sunday School teacher was getting reacquainted with the Bible stories I first heard fifty years ago: the Garden of Eden, Joseph and his brothers. These are wonderfully complex, disturbing and thought-provoking tales that bear revisiting. Another pleasure was getting to know the kids in the congregation. They’re very bright, focused, funny—a real credit to their parents.

And lastly, it’s been a pleasure to be around Cheryl’s energy and commitment to Christian Education in this community. She’s full of great ideas for Sunday School. So if she asks you if you would consider teaching Sunday School, and your inside voice screams NO NO NO, take a breath, think of all the ways this community serves you, give thanks to God, and say YES.

But if you are one of those who says, “If nominated I will not run, if elected I will not serve,” and you are sure that you cannot teach, there are other ways you can help. I don’t know what they are, but Cheryl does. Ask her.

From the Pastor’s Desk, continued

the end of time to judge the living and the dead. And the second Advent is the Advent by which Christ is present in our souls now. This depends, of course, on our present recognition of the passage of Christ through our world, and through our own lives.

And this brings me back to the suggestion of some simple spiritual disciplines during Advent. For by engaging in them, your sense of the presence of Christ in your own life will be strengthened.

One of my favorite Advent anthems is “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” by Paul Manz. The text was adapted from Revelation 22. I suggest adapting it and using it in your Advent devotions.

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might be saved.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon!
E’en so Lord Jesus quickly come, and night shall be no more.
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!
The web site has been changing in other ways, too. If it’s been a while since your last visit to our site, take a look at what’s new at http://www.rutgerschurch.com.

The Membership and Communications Committee recently decided to add two buttons to our home page, one for Music and one for Peace and Social Justice.

The new Music page contains information about music selections for the upcoming month and in future will be expanded to encompass Rutgers music history, updates on the organ renovation, notices about special concerts, and more.

In future months we will be updating photographs on the site, incorporating more pictures of members and participants in our programs, and continuing to develop the Music page.

If you’d like to share your suggestions for making our web site a better communication tool and more reflective of our identity and mission in this place, please contact Susan Scherer, Chairperson of the Membership and Communications Committee (Schrmagic@aol.com), or Jennifer Hanson (jhanson@rutgerschurch.com). To join our email distribution list, simply send Jennifer a message.

Did you know we’re on the web! www.rutgerschurch.com

Visit Rutgers Online

This fall, Dr. Shafer began sharing a weekly message by e-mail with members and friends of Rutgers. Cheryl Pyrch has continued this new tradition during his sabbatical, providing worship notes for upcoming Sundays and notices about special events. We hope that this preview of texts, music selections, and sermon themes will help families to integrate worship experiences more fully into their lives, and that more frequent communications will help us to build our community here at Rutgers.

We also publish the weekly message on our web site; look for it on the Worship and Events page every Thursday morning!