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."

Advent 2005
Volume 23, Issue 5

From the Pastor’s Desk
The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer

Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of Christ. And one of the best Advent parables in all of Scripture is the story in Matthew 25:1-13 that the lectionary prescribed for our use this past November 6th, somewhat ahead of season. Oh well, I guess even the church is starting to prepare for Christmas earlier and earlier!

Six years ago, when preaching on the text from Matthew, I turned Jesus’s parable into a poem, one that is modeled shamelessly on the vocabulary, rhyme scheme, and meter of Edgar Allen Poe’s oft-recited work “The Raven” (1845). And like “The Raven,” it’s best read aloud.

The Bridegroom Cometh
©Byron E. Shafer

Once upon a midnight bleary, bridesmaids waited, weak and weary,
For the coming of the bridegroom promised in remembered lore.

While they nodded, really napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of someone loudly rapping, rapping at their chamber door.

“Tis the bridegroom,” some man shouted, rapping on their chamber door.

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in a bleak December, that the maids did blithely gather----
Ten were there, no less, no more.
And they’d kept their lamps long burning, tokens of their love and yearning
For the one who’d be sojourning---yes, to bring joy evermore.

“Hark, the bridegroom,” one maid uttered, “soon will be outside our door.
Trim your lamps! We’ll go adore!”

Each one took her lamp, to trim it. Five had oil without a limit,
But the others soon discovered they’d exhausted all their store.

“Share with us,” the foolish blurted. “No, we shan’t,” the wise asserted,
“Shame, that oil to be inserted in your lamps you have no more.
Foolish, get you to the merchants, there to quickly buy some more.
Hasten, lest he come before…"

Ran the foolish to the city, filled with sorrow and self-pity,
While the others, lamps still lighted, hurried out their chamber door.

Suddenly to these their master came, aglow like alabaster.
Him they followed fast and faster to the wedding hall before.
There they feasted, there they reveled; soon the hour of mirth was four.
Said the bridegroom, “Lock the door.”

After came the foolish bearing lamps a'light, fine clothes a-wearing.
Called they out to him inside, “Sir, your forgiveness we implore.”
Since the bridegroom’s drums where beating, came a servant for repeating,
“Tis late bridesmaids come entreating, “Let me in your festal door”;
“What, late bridesmaids come entreating entrance at my festal door?”
Quoth the bridegroom, “Never more!”

Lest you sit engaged in guessing what this parable’s expressing,
What for Advent is its meaning, here’s the point that’s at its core:
“Wisdom lies in preparation---loving God without vacation,
Loving neighbor as vocation, bringing justice to the fore
While we wait the birth of One whom angels, shepherds, we’ll adore.”
This its meaning! Who wants more?

AN ADVENT PRAYER

O God, may we prove to be wise bridesmaids, prepared at all times for Your coming in Christ, prepared with a generous reserve of the “oil” that is just and loving deeds.

In the name of the One who is to come, we pray this. Amen.
“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of Heaven for you, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10)

That passage from the book of Malachi was how Stewardship Sunday started each year when I was growing up. It made me, along with the rest of the congregation, very uncomfortable. To me, it sounded like I was trying to bribe God. I pay my tithes and in return nothing but good things will happen to me. As a New York savvy teen, I knew that wasn’t true.

So, I started asking around the church, “What is this Stewardship/tithing thing all about? We hear about it every year. What’s the deal?” The responses I got were as varied as the people who answered.

“It says in the Bible to give 10% of your net income to God.” “It’s 10% of your gross income,” another person interjected. Interesting. “It’s written in the Book of the Laws that God gave to Israel.” Ahhah. “Abraham paid a tithe to the Priest Melchizedek who was a precursor of Christ.” One elder said, “Tithing is like voting. You don’t really expect your candidate to win, but it gives you the right to complain for the next four years.” That was the last time I asked his advice on anything.

Now, I still wrestle with that passage from Malachi today. But I want to share with you a few things that I have found out about Stewardship, and by no means all that there is to know. Stewardship is about money, but that is only a part of it, and I’ll get back to that in a moment. But stewardship is also about our time, our talents, and our abilities. It is about the Grace that has been bestowed on each of our lives and what we do with that Grace.

It’s about giving back something of yourselves to the church, our community. This can be in many ways. Volunteering at the Thursday night meal program, or spending a night hosting 10 homeless men at the Christopher Roberts Homeless shelter here at Rutgers, just to name a few.

Now, I don’t know about you, but I have tried to be Superman once or twice in my life, trying to be everywhere, helping out with everything. Believe me, it’s not fun, and I failed miserably at it. When I pledge though, I can do just that.

When I place my pledge envelope into the offering plate, it doesn’t go down to some vault in the bowels of the church basement. That check goes out into the world through this church.

That’s me giving anti-retro virus drugs to a mother in Botswana so she does not transmit the HIV Virus to her unborn child. That’s you in Louisiana hammering nails into the frame of a house for a victim of Hurricane Katrina. That’s us handing coats to children in Pakistan and India who have lost their homes to the earthquake all at the same time. And we are lobbying senators and congresspersons for better access to healthcare to the poor.

“Lord when did we see you hungry and give you food, or thirsty and give you something to drink? And when did we see you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and come to visit you?” And the Lord will turn to us and say, “When you did it to one of the least of these, you did it unto me.” (Matthew 25: 37-38)

Let me close with a prayer by St Francis of Assissi.

O Lord, Make me an instrument of Thy Peace!
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, harmony;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light, and
Where there is sorrow, joy.
Oh Divine Master, grant that I may not
So much seek to be consoled as to con-
sole,
To be understood as to under-
stand,
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to
Eternal Life.

Amen.
What Should I Get ———— for Christmas?

By Cheryl Pyrch

Gift-giving at Christmas brings up feelings of ambivalence for many of us. We recognize that the commercialization of Christmas – and the manic consumerism it encourages – can distract us from the meaning of Christ’s birth and be destructive to our children and our planet. Yet few of us are willing to eschew gift-giving altogether, and presents given and received can be tokens of love and bring much joy. Following are some resources and suggestions you may find helpful.

Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway? Ideas for a Christ-Centered Holiday 2005. This booklet, geared especially towards families with children, has suggestions for creating more meaningful holiday rituals, including Advent meditations and other resources. It’s published by Alternatives for Simple Living, an organization that “encourages people of faith to examine and challenge our consumer society” and also works with the Presbyterian Hunger Program. I have 20 copies in the office, or you can go to www.simpleliving.org.

Fair Trade Handicrafts. A “Fair Trade” organization is one that pays a fair price to the producer and often provides marketing and development assistance for craftspeople around the world. A Greater Gift is a project of SERRV International, a nonprofit alternative trade and development organization begun originally by the Church of the Brethren and now involving a number of faith organizations; you can see their products online at www.agreatergift.org or call 1-800-423-0071 for a catalog.

Ten Thousand Villages, a project of the Mennonite Central Committee, markets crafts for third-world artisans; www.tenthousandvillages.org 717-859-8100. Both organizations have beautiful handicrafts – including Christmas items and some children’s toys – at moderate prices.

Buy your loved one a Bible. The Word of God is always a wonderful gift. Every adult Christian should have a good study Bible; the ones that Byron and I use are The Harper Collins Study Bible, Harper Collins, 1993, and The New Oxford Annotated New Revised Standard Version, 3rd edition, Oxford University Press, 2001 (be sure and get the third edition, far superior to the second). These Bibles have helpful notes and scholarly articles.

Buying a Bible for a child is more complicated. Children’s bibles are often retellings that include morals or other details that have nothing to do with scripture; but the Bible “straight” is also problematic, for children as the stories can be both obscure and full of violence, reflecting our fallible human understanding of God as well as God’s eternal Word. We can trust, though, that the Bible as a whole is nurturing and sustaining for our children as well as for us.

Following are my recommendations:

The Children’s Illustrated Bible, stories retold by Selina Hastings and illustrated by Eric Thomas and Amy Burch, Doling Kindersley, 2003 (they also have a 2005 edition). This Bible is especially good for elementary school (and older) children, as - in good Doling Kindersley fashion – it is full of informational asides and background articles that parents may also find helpful. It’s not cutting-edge scholarship, and the retellings include obvious interpretations, but Hastings and other writers strive for a neutral tone, and children may even enjoy comparing the retellings with the “original.”

The Family Story Bible by Ralph Milton and Margaret Kyle, Westminster John Knox Press, 1997. I’m not yet familiar with this version, but I understand it is the only children’s Bible that strives for inclusive language and gender balance in the selection of stories, and it was used in The Whole People of God curriculum that we taught at Rutgers for many years. It can be ordered online, and I am ordering a copy for the church!

Tomie dePaola’s Book of Bible Stories, Puffin Books, 1992. This popular and prolific writer and illustrator of children’s books has picked selections from the New International Version of the Bible, so it is not a “retelling” although he does some editing. The NIV is a solid translation although it makes no attempt at inclusive language. Great pictures and good for younger children.

Finally, please consider a donation for earthquake relief in Pakistan. Perhaps because of the Tsunami and Katrina, the world-wide response to this disaster has been woefully inadequate, and the death toll continues to climb. If you’d like to give through the Presbyterian Church, you can give online at www.pcusa.org or write a check to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, writing account #DR000038 (Pakistan) on the memo line, and send to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Individual Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

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Food for Thought - Juliet Pritner

I used the following quote from director, writer, and producer George Wolfe in a recent acceptance speech for an alumni award at my high school in Illinois. It is a beautiful and timely metaphor. It was culled from an interview conducted by the late Gregory Hines discussing the success of Wolfe’s production on Broadway of Jelly’s Last Jam.

“Every New Year’s Day I have a big party. And I always make New Orleans gumbo. You start out with grease and flour and you stir it forever until you’re totally bored and it turns a rich chocolate color.

Then you start pouring in all the ingredients—okra, chicken, sausage, squid, scallops, shrimps, anything!

It never becomes a broth, and it isn’t a puree. It’s this big vat of grease and flour and ingredients and seasonings with everything bouncing off each other, but the taste is...extraordinary! To hell with that mutant bland thing, the melting pot! Let things bounce off each other! But just acknowledge we’re in the same pot. The sausage is always going to be the sausage, the shrimp the shrimp. But we’re all informed by the taste and texture of the seasonings.

And we’re all defined by each other. Because some of my chicken fat is going to get into your scallop! So when I taste you, you’re not a pure scallop anymore, and I’m not a pure chicken. You know why? We are all in the gumbo pot! That is the brilliance of America, and unfortunately, the pain.”

Happy Thanksgiving!

HOW TO STAY SAFE IN THE WORLD TODAY

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

5. Of the remaining 33%, fully 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT:

Only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.

Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

And Bible study is safe too.

The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So, for SAFETY’S sake ——

attend church, and read your Bible.

IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

On Sunday, September 18th the Special Events Committee welcomed over sixty parishioners and guests to the Annual Homecoming Luncheon in the fifth-floor auditorium of the Church House.

Following a grace by Dr. Shafer and the Rev. Cheryl Pyrch, Mrs Joy Rose, Mrs. Ethel Knight, Mrs. Louisa Berry and Ms. Marianne Minasian helped in serving our guests a variety of dishes to a large and appreciative crowd.

Many dishes were contributed by members and guests of Rutgers Church. These included an Italian antipasto by Massimo Maglione, a pork shoulder Pernil by Agnes Terkeltaub, rice pilau by Margaret Shafer, Salisbury steaks by Louisa Berry, collard greens and rotisserie chicken by Wellington Jones, spare ribs by Freida Logan, rice and peas by Joy Rose, candied sweet potatoes by Ethel Knight, a carrot cake by Clif Fisher, fruit juices by Tina Forman, sodas and soft drinks by Peter Gonzales and Juliet Pritner, and seedless grapes by Roger Franklin and Laura Brevoort.

Everyone is reminded of the upcoming Christmas Party following the morning service on Sunday, December 11 at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Wellington Jones
Chairperson
Special Events Committee
My name is Charles Platt, and I am Chair of your Benevolence Committee.

Last week Jeremiah gave an excellent overview of what stewardship is. I want to tell you a bit more about what your contributions do outside this building.

24 cents of every dollar we put in the offering plate will go in turn to other ministries. Some are part of the larger Presbyterian Church USA and some are outside the church. We are committed to increasing that percentage every year until it is at least 31 cents of every dollar.

Twice a year your Benevolence Committee decides which groups to contribute to. For example we contribute to the Coalition for the Homeless. We have a shelter here at Rutgers but we can only care for 10 men at a time. The Coalition provides the homeless with food and clothing and helps secure emergency services from public and private agencies. They also fight legal battles on behalf of the homeless and work to educate the public on the sad truths of homelessness.

On the national scene, one of the groups we contribute to is Bread for the World. This organization just celebrated 30 years of seeking justice as a Christian voice for ending hunger. This nonpartisan movement includes 2500 churches. The organization’s members lobby our nation’s decision makers on legislation that addresses hunger, in our communities and around the world.

We also contribute to 3 seminaries, two of which are here in New York City. We feel proper education of the next generation of church leaders is most important.

We are committed to give a percentage each year to the global struggle against AIDS. One group we are giving to in this battle is a denomination program called Scholarships for AIDS Orphans. The fund helps keep children in school so that they have a better chance for a future.

This year we have also made some special contributions to groups helping those affected by the hurricanes in the Gulf region and the earthquake in Pakistan.

You can see that your funds are widely distributed. You may say since this money is not being used here, why don’t I just give that 24 cents of every dollar directly to the organizations I care about? Why go through Rutgers? When we give as Rutgers Church we give as the body of Christ. You are not only saying you care about this as an individual but we care about this as a Church. It is a way of proclaiming the gospel. And there’s wisdom in the body of the church. When we think together and pool information we can give more effectively, even though Rutgers’ list may be somewhat different from your own.

Of course most of us do (and should) give to organizations beyond Rutgers – such as your colleges or other organizations of personal interest to you. If there is a ministry that you feel we should consider for our Benevolence giving as a church, please suggest it to the committee. This would not necessarily have to be a Presbyterian organization.

Just as pledging is a spiritual discipline for every member, giving beyond our walls is a spiritual discipline for us as a church. It forces us to ask questions – how much should we reserve for ourselves, for our spiritual nurture and education, and for ministries to the needy we handle directly. What is really necessary and what is not. It helps us to be mindful of and to care for people who need help and hope, but whom we do not see every day. By supporting the larger denomination it helps us be more effective witnesses and helps the Presbyterian Church as a whole. It keeps us thinking as a world-wide church.

Let us pray:

Lord, it is through your goodness that we have gifts to share. Please guide us in making our individual decisions about giving, and guide us as a church in how best to use our resources. Amen
**Advent Vesper Services**

**Hanging the Greens**

**Making Ornaments**

Come help us prepare the church for Christmas! On Friday evening, December 16, beginning at 7:00 pm, we will be hanging greens, decorating the tree in the Daniel Russell Room, making ornaments, drinking hot cocoa and cider, and singing together. This is a special event for families and all those who are young at heart.

Sunday, December 18

at 4:00 pm

Rutgers Church Choir, Soloists, Orchestra & Rutgers Church’s’ New 70-rank Southfield Organ, George Davey Organist/Choral Director.

Featured Work: J. S. Bach’s Cantata No. 140, other works by Handel, Wilcocks, Manz, and Leaf

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**Christmas Social**

**December * happy birthdays * January**

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The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...You have multiplied the nation, and increased its joy. Isaiah 9:2-3a

As we await the coming of Christ’s light, the seasonal darkness of our world seems a consequence not only of the earth turned away from the sun but also of the soul turned away from the renewing light of God’s love. Jesus invites us to bask in the light of that love and to let it shine through us into others’ lives — please give generously on December 18, 24 and 25 to support the unmet needs of families who have served the PC(USA) and to help students at Presbyterian racial ethnic institutions develop their gifts and calling.
The National Theological Task Force Completes Its Report

By Vera Roberts

On the very windy, rainy evening of Thursday, October 13, a group of about forty people from across the Presbytery gathered in the Daniel Russell Room to hear Scott Anderson (of Milwaukee) detail his experience as the only openly gay member of our national church's 20-person Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church. That group had been in deliberation since 2001. Scott did not, however, appear. He was not able to fly from either Milwaukee or Chicago because of the terrible weather conditions at all New York-area airports. But the Reverend Mieke Vandersall, of Presbyterian Welcome, and our own Dr. Shafer led a lively discussion of the 39-page report, copies of which were distributed to those present.

The Task Force was chosen by the Moderator of the 2001 General Assembly to be representative of the many points of view about ordination and church governance extant in the national church (PCUSA). (The twenty members were chosen from more than 700 persons who either applied or were recommended.)

The Task Force's final report will be presented to the upcoming 217th General Assembly. It is an interesting and controversial document which I have now read in its entirety. Charged to address the contentions which have plagued the church over the last several years, and to find a means of restoring the "peace, unity and purity" of the church for the 21st Century, the Task Force begins its report with a lengthy "Theological Reflection" on the nature and history of Presbyterianism. The second section concerns itself with "The Plan and Progress of the Work of the Task Force." It moves to "the Issues before the Task Force" chiefly that of "leading the church in spiritual discernment of our Christian identity in and for the 21st Century." There are sub-sections on "Christology," "Biblical Authority and Interpretation," and "Sexuality and Ordination."

The next section details "Resources for Peace, Unity, and Purity." This includes a section on "Reformed Theology of Church Governance," and one on "Presbyterian Polity" (very interesting, with lots of footnotes).

Then follows a section on "Constructive Engagement," which recommends "communal discernment" as a process.

All the foregoing leads to Section V: "Recommendations." There are seven of them, each with a closely reasoned "Rationale." The first is that the General Assembly "strongly urge" each member to "avoid division," and that "all sessions, congregations, presbyteries, and synods" "renew and strengthen their covenanted partnership with one another and with the General Assembly."

It is the fifth (and longest) recommendation that gets to the heart of the problem that Rutgers Church and other More Light congregations worry about. The upshot of this lengthy and carefully worded recommendation is that the sessions and presbyteries have sole discretion in the matter of ordaining elders, deacons, and ministers of Word and Sacrament within their bounds and jurisdiction, so long as they follow the standards set forth in G6.0108 of the Book of Order. This section clearly states that candidates for ordination/installation need only subscribe to "the essentials of Reformed faith and polity" as expressed in The Book of Confessions and the Form of Government.

The second recommendation is that the G.A. "urge" governing bodies, congregations, and other groups of Presbyterians to follow the example of the Task Force and such other groups that, in face of difficult issues, engage in processes of intensive discernment, through worship, community-building, and collaborative work.

The third recommendation asks the G.A. to recommend for study the "Theological Reflection" that heads this report.

The fourth recommendation is that "all governing bodies" should "explore the use of alternative forms of discernment and decision-making as a complement to parliamentary procedure" and the Form of Government, and is entitled otherwise to freedom of conscience.

If adopted, this recommendation would give congregations and presbyteries sole discretion (within the bounds of G6.0108) to ordain and install and would be a victory (true, a small one, but a victory nonetheless).

Recommendation Six asks the General Assembly, relative to the various controversial matters now before the church, to add or cancel no additional "authoritative interpretations" and to commend to the presbyteries no additional constitutional changes until the one in this report has been operative for a while. And Recommendation Seven asks that this report serve as the answer to various specific overtures now before the General Assembly.

Although the report does not do all that we have been wishing for, it is a thoughtful, well-reasoned and well-written document, which, if adopted by the 217th General Assembly, should go far in calming controversy and giving churches and presbyteries like our own the ability to follow their More Light Presbyterianism.
Dr. Shafer’s Executive Assistant, Jennifer Hanson, her husband Michel Rozenfeld, and their son Asa Simon are doing beautifully! Asa was born at 7:00 am on Wednesday, October 26 and weighed in at 8 pounds.

Treasured Maps! at NYPL, 5th Avenue & 42nd Street, Room 316

An exhibition curated by Deacon Alice Hudson

Some 80 antique and new maps from around the world are on exhibition at NYPL through April 9, 2006.

One interesting set of maps shows the creation of the world, with clouds of darkness parting to show Eden. Another map is drawn on vellum and dates from the 17th century. Other maps appear on Arbuckle coffee cards, similar to today’s baseball cards. These were collectibles in the 19th century, and were also used in classrooms to teach geography. The show ends with a map of the World Trade Center area as it looked in the 1950s, before the small scale street grid was changed dramatically to build the enormous Trade Center.

Alice is also offering a series of slide lectures on the exhibition:

January 13, 12:30 p.m.
March 14, 6 p.m.
April 4, 6 p.m.

The exhibition and lectures celebrate the renovation and reopening of the Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division on Dec. 15, 2005.

RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christian Education Committee

Advent: The Rev. Cheryl Pyrch will lead Sunday morning classes on the Gospel of Mark from November 27th through January 29th. This will coincide with the lectionary during most of that time period. Mark is the main source for the gospel lectionary for the church year beginning November 27.

Advent: The topic for the Wednesday evening Advent Candle Light services and discussion: fear and courage.

The Ten Commandments: The Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer will lead a study on the Ten Commandments. Sunday, February 5th through March 5th, 9:30 am.

Youth Group: Cynthia Gale, Kim Hodges and Rev. Laura Jervis have expressed interest in starting a youth group with the church’s 6th & 7th graders. Proposed activities would be an outing once a month (depending on availability of all participants) to promote interaction between youth and church members.

Decoration Parties: Join us for the Hanging of the Greens Party on Friday, at 7:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Children’s Choir: Children will be divided into two groups (older and younger). The older children will work on more complex musical projects while the younger children will learn basic musicianship and basic repertoire.

Family Retreat: The family retreat has been rescheduled to March 31st & April 1st.

HUMOR FOR ADVENT

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson: "If Jesus were sitting here, he would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin quickly turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A woman invited some of her business associates to her home for dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and whispered, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn’t know what to say," the girl whispered back. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the woman replied. The daughter bowed her head and said in a loud voice, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"
### December 2005

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<td>Mark in depth through Jan.29/06</td>
<td>6:00 pm Scout Meeting Every Monday</td>
<td>7:00 pm Bible Study here with West End Synagogue</td>
<td>6:30 pm Advent Vespers 7:15 pm Advent Study</td>
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<td>Board of Deacons 12:30—4 pm Craft Fair</td>
<td>3:00 pm Worship Committee</td>
<td>6:00 pm Men’s Support Group (PLWA) every Tuesday</td>
<td>6:30 pm Advent Vespers 7:15 pm Advent Study</td>
<td>12:45 pm Board of Deacons 12:30—4 pm Craft Fair</td>
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<td>Christmas Social</td>
<td>7:00 pm Session Meeting</td>
<td>6:30 pm Advent Vespers 7:15 pm Advent Study</td>
<td>6:30 pm Advent Vespers 7:15 pm Advent Study</td>
<td>7:00 pm Hanging the Greens &amp; Ornament-making</td>
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<td>Christmas Social</td>
<td>1:30 pm Staff Christmas Party</td>
<td>6:30 pm Session Meeting</td>
<td>6:30 pm Advent Vespers 7:15 pm Advent Study</td>
<td>7:00 pm Hanging the Greens &amp; Ornament-making</td>
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<td>79th Christmas Candlelight Carol Service</td>
<td>6:00 pm Scouts Meeting Every Tuesday</td>
<td>No Meal Program</td>
<td>6:00 pm Caroling on steps 6:30 pm Christmas Eve service, reception</td>
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<td>Worship, but no Sunday School</td>
<td>Holiday Church &amp; offices closed</td>
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<td>Church &amp; offices closed</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve</td>
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#### Preaching Schedule

**November 27** First Sunday of Advent; The Rev. Cheryl Pyrch preaching

**December 4** Second Sunday of Advent; Dr. Shafer preaching

**December 11** Third Sunday of Advent; Holy Communion; Dr. Shafer preaching

**December 18** Fourth Sunday of Advent; Christmas Joy Offering; Dr. Shafer preaching

**December 25** Family Christmas Service
January 2006

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>9:45 am Mark in depth through Jan. 29/06</td>
<td>Holiday Church &amp; offices closed</td>
<td>6:00 pm Men's Support Group (PLWA); Scouts Every Tuesday</td>
<td>6:00 pm Meal Program &amp; 7:00 pm Movie Series Every Thursday</td>
<td>11:00 am Mothers' Bible Study Every Friday</td>
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<td>12:45 pm Board of Deacons; Peace &amp; Social Justice Network</td>
<td>3:00 pm Worship Cmte 6:00 pm Scouts Every Tuesday</td>
<td>6:30 pm Session Meeting</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church &amp; offices closed</td>
<td>Annual Report Deadline</td>
<td>10:00 am Romans Part I every Wed. through 2/15</td>
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<td>12:45 pm 209th Annual Meeting &amp; Luncheon</td>
<td>1:30 pm Presbytery meeting</td>
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<td>12:45 pm 209th Annual Meeting &amp; Luncheon</td>
<td>1:30 pm Presbytery meeting</td>
<td>6:00 pm Meal Program &amp; 7:00 pm Movie Series Every Thursday</td>
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<td>9:30 am Infant and Child Care</td>
<td>9:45 am Sunday School for Adults</td>
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<td>10:00 am Adult Choir</td>
<td>10:15 am Children's Choir</td>
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<td>11:00 am Worship Service</td>
<td>11:15 am Sunday School (ages 3-10)</td>
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<td>12:15 pm Coffee Hour</td>
<td>12:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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Winter Body & Spirit and Child's Play Sessions Begin

Preaching Schedule

**January 1**
Epiphany Observed; The Rev. Charles Amstein preaching

**January 8**
Baptism of the Lord Sunday; Dr. Shafer preaching

**January 15**
Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Dr. Shafer preaching

**January 22**
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; guest preacher

**January 29**
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Dr. Shafer preaching; Sermon Series on The Ten Commandments begins
ANNUAL MEETING

The 209th Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2005.

We will begin with a luncheon on the fifth floor at 12:30 pm. All are welcome to join us for fellowship, reflections on the year’s events, and elections of new officers.

All committee chairs: Please submit your annual reports to Jacquelyn Carpenter at jcarpenter@rutgerschurch.com no later than Tuesday, January 17. (Early submissions are welcome!)

Handmade
Artists’ Cooperative
Pottery, Jewelry, Crafts
Exhibition and
Holiday Sale 2005

Saturday, December 3
10 am - 5 pm
Sunday, December 4
12:30 - 4 pm

Start Spreading the News!!
The Body & Spirit program of Rutgers Church has a new look and we’re sharing our joy in the programs that we’ve now been doing for the community over the past 6 years!!! You may want to start nurturing yourself, and spreading the news to your friends!!

January 2006 Movie Nites at Rutgers

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

This heartwarming coming-of-age story features teen star Michelle Trachtenberg and champion figure skater Michelle Kwan. Though she (Trachtenberg) longs to become a champion figure skater, she must use her head and follow her heart to find her wildest dreams!

Jan. 12th • The Yearling (1946) Color, 128 mins.
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings’ timeless story of a young boy in the Florida backwoods and his love for a fawn is tonight’s Oscar-winning drama for the entire family. Gregory Peck, Jane Wyman, Chill Wills, and Claude Jarman, Jr. star.

Warm-hearted comedy stars Alan Arkin as a Puerto Rican widower struggling to make a better life for his two sons in the New York slums. With Rita Moreno.

“Four stars! Enchanting!” – New York Daily News

Movies at Rutgers celebrates its 300th film since its inception on July 3, 1997! Academy award winners Hillary Swank, Clint Eastwood, and Morgan Freeman star in this powerful drama of a girl whose undying fight is to make boxing her life. Her journey will inspire you to grab your dreams and come out swinging. Tonight’s film won the Best Picture Oscar for 2004!

300th Film

February 2006 Movie Nites at Rutgers

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


Feb. 9th • The Insider (1999) Color, 121 mins.

Feb. 16th • The Score (2001) Color, 113 mins.

Feb. 23rd • As Good As It Gets (1997) Color, 124 mins.

Handmade
Artists’ Cooperative
Pottery, Jewelry, Crafts
Exhibition and
Holiday Sale 2005

Saturday, December 3
10 am - 5 pm
Sunday, December 4
12:30 - 4 pm

Winter
Come in From the Cold

Join our FRIENDLY PLAYGROUPS for Parents and Toddlers - Babies, Too! Playgroups are led by a parent/facilitator and include Circle Time, Snacks, Conversation and FUN!

Director: Holly Nedelka 212-877-8227 ext 204
Holly@rutgerschurch.com
What Happened at Session? by Christine Gorman, Clerk of Session

Here are some highlights from the past few Session meetings. You can always get the complete Session minutes by sending an email to Jackie Carpenter jcarpener@rutgerschurch.com, who is filling in for Jennifer Hanson while Jennifer is on maternity leave.

Highlights of the regular meeting on Oct. 11, 2005:

1. Treasurer Warwick Busfield presented the Quarterly Report. As of Sept. 30, 2005, the total of the Permanent Fund, Restricted Endowment Fund and Capital Reserve Fund is $1,366,213. For the quarter our return was 1.18% versus our benchmark of 1.99%.

2. Vera Roberts reported on the Sept. 24 Presbytery meeting. Of special note, the Council on Administrative Services, under the leadership of the Rev. Laura Jervis, is trying to standardize the per capita and apportionment charges that congregations send to Presbytery as part of the “dues” of being in a connectional church. Because Rutgers is in the unique position of having more real estate income than investment income, our per capita and apportionment would likely fall under the proposed new rules. In the spirit of good Presbyterian citizenship, Session adopted the following motion:

“If the Presbytery of New York City adopts a new apportionment formula that results in a reduction of the Rutgers Church apportionment for 2006 to below the figure for 2005, the Session of the Rutgers Church pledges voluntarily to pay the presbytery an apportionment for 2006 equal to or greater than that assigned to it for 2005.”

3. Presbytery also passed a motion to raise $500,000 for Hurricane Katrina victims. As of Oct. 11, Rutgers had already raised $8,000, which will be counted toward that goal.

4. Darfur Letter. The Rev. Cheryl Pyrch read the letter that we’re sending to the President of the United States, urging action on Darfur.

5. Officers Retreat Review. There was general discussion about the retreat, its goals and accomplishments. Elder Bob Shelton thanked the Rev. Cheryl Pyrch for her preparations for the Officers Retreat.

Highlights of the Special meeting of Oct. 23, 2005 to receive new members:

1. After due examination, the following people were received into membership by Reaffirmation of Faith: Floyd Hopkins, Anne C. Leader, Marianne L. Minasian, Dina Phelps and Steve Phelps.

Highlights of the regular meeting of Nov. 7, 2005:

Church Operating Budget. As of October 31, 2005, revenues year-to-date were $1,294,405 and expenses were $1,271,202, giving a surplus of $23,203. A motion passed to receive the report of the operating budget.

On the recommendation of the expanded Benevolence Committee, a motion passed to approve the local, national and international donations for the fall allotment. Donations were made to just over 50 different organizations, ranging from Presbyterian Senior Services in New York City to the Children’s Defense Fund in Washington, D.C. to Presbyterian Church USA’s scholarship fund for AIDS orphans. The smallest donation this fall was for $200 to the Witherspoon Society. The largest was for $5,000 to the Colombia-Evangelical Presbyterian Church, which is trying to start a school in Colombia. The full list will be in the annual report given at the Annual Meeting in January. You can also call or...

What Do You Think?

1. You spend more money the later you leave to reach your destination.
2. It doesn’t take flowers long to reach their full potential.
3. How many times do you forget how fast your watch is?
4. Cosmetic surgery cannot erase the aging of your fingers, elbows, neck, or knees.
5. How do you rationalize enemies killing each other when both feel God to be on their side?
6. Negative people seem to talk about each other.
7. How many non-famous family histories are lost due to the decline of their lineage?
8. If you dominate the conversation or situation, you’ll never learn anything new.
9. It’s frustrating trying to convince a loved one that the quality of their life would improve drastically if they would simply change their eating habits.
10. Do you feel guilty when you’re not able to help someone?

‘Til next time, Jacquelyn M. Carpenter
In 1944, during the Second World War, as my native country, Finland, was at war with the Soviet Union, my sister, baby brother, I, and our mother, together with several thousand other Finnish children were evacuated to neutral Sweden. While our father remained in Finland, my sister and I stayed with family friends, in separate families, and my baby brother and my mother, with relatives. I was 4 (now you know how old I am); and I don't remember very much. One memory, however, stands out. My host family had been invited to a wedding, and I was to go with them. Before we went to the wedding there was a meal, and I was asked to say “Thank you, Dear Lord, for the food. Amen.” But I refused, and I was told that I could not go to the wedding until I said those words. It seemed that I sat there for hours, but it may have been only 10 minutes. Then I blurted out very fast, “Thank you, Dear Lord, for the food. Amen.” And we went to the wedding.

I suspect many of us here today do not say grace or thank God for our food. Or if we do say it, it is often without thought, rather automatic, like “Have a nice day.” We do take food for granted. Just look at the abundance and variety in some of the supermarkets around here.

However, the people who come to the Rutgers Thursday Nighters meal program do not take their food for granted. For the very few of you who do not know what the Thursday Nighters program is, it is a Deacon-sponsored meal program that serves approximately 50 guests every Thursday evening, except for the months of July and August, or when a major holiday falls on a Thursday. We serve a very well balanced three-course dinner. Our guests are young and old, some are homeless and poor, some are lonely, and all are hungry. In addition to the meal, on most Thursdays Dr. Roger Franklin presents and shows a movie, which may be a very recent release or a classic. So for our guests, the Thursday evening becomes dinner with entertainment.

This meal program is but one of many caring ministries that Rutgers Church administers. At a recent service you heard Charles Platt talk about the Benevolence Committee; Mark Young, the Chairman of the Stewardship Committee will talk about the other caring programs next Sunday.

When considering filling in the by-now-familiar blue pledge card, which I am sure lies at the very top of your “to do” pile at home, please remember the various caring ministries. The Thursday Nighters guest get a free dinner, but the food is paid for by Rutgers. In addition to your financial pledge, please also consider giving some time helping out on Thursday evenings. It takes a maximum of two hours to set up, serve, and clean up and you do not need to commit yourself to every Thursday. Once or twice a month would be very helpful. Anybody interested, please talk to me during the coffee hour.

Let us Pray:
Gracious Lord, help us remember not to take our food for granted and to give thanks with humility and sincerity for the food we receive. Amen.

(Continued on page 17)
Good morning.

Here we are at the end of our month-long presentation on the importance of stewardship for our church and community. Jeremiah, Charles and Ulla have all touched on various areas where there is a need for, and the satisfaction of, stewardship, be it your yearly tithe or your participating in our programs or on a committee.

You have learned from the past three Moments for Mission how and where your gifts make a difference to those ministered to by Rutgers --whether within our church family, within our community or around the world.

In a year where we have reached deep into our pockets for those affected by the tsunami or for friends and family affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, as well as other national and international disasters, I hope you will give thought to your 2006 financial support for the programs that Rutgers offers our own family and community.

I recently heard it said by Bill Donnell, who serves with Bill Bailey and me on the Stewardship Committee (and it really brought it home for me), that “it is a spiritual privilege to give to the church and those we minister to.”

Whether it is through peace and social justice programs, the shelter program, the meal program, bringing a friend to church on Sunday, or our musical ministry, it lets people know that we are a caring community that shares God’s love.

So, I ask you to think how important your annual tithe is to your personal and spiritual lives as you make your pledge today. Think of it in these terms: your contribution will have an impact on the 50-60 women and men each week who receive a nutritional meal; your tithe will have an impact on 10 homeless men each weekend night who will have a safe, warm place to lay their heads; and, your gift will have an impact on countless others helped every day through our church’s giving programs. Every day that should make you feel pretty darn good.

I ask that you prayerfully consider your tithe and service opportunities listed on the back of the pledge card and what it will mean to so many. And, God bless for your tithe.

Thank you.

What Happened at Session?

continue from page 12

stop by the Church Office for the list.

Susan Scherer reported that 106 people attended worship on Invite-a-Friend Sunday and 80 people attended the luncheon.

Chris Jones reported that a youth group is in the process of being formed. See him or Cheryl Pyrch if you want to know more or to help establish it.

A motion passed to name Ulla Farmer and Christine Gorman (as chair) as the Session members to the Nominating Committee for nominating new officers to the Session, Deacons and Trustees. The representative from Deacons is Mary Birchard and the four at-large members are Lili Bohan, Nora Lidell, Jeremiah Rosario and Joy Wyatt. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2006.
HILLCREST AIDS CENTRE-Recipient of Rutgers Benevolence Contribution by Elinor Bowles

“One thing that working in an HIV/AIDS ministry teaches you is to believe in the impossible, not to look too deeply into things and to almost have a childlike faith.”

July Hornby, Director, Hillcrest AIDS Centre

The Hillcrest AIDS Centre (HAC) in South Africa, was opened in 1991 by the Hillcrest Methodist Church in response to the AIDS pandemic sweeping that country. Hillcrest’s mission is to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS in South Africa by reaching out, in a multi-faceted way, to South Africans regardless of ethnicity or religion. Located in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, it currently operates programs in Durban and Pietermaritzburg, as well as in six semi-rural towns and informal settlements where few homes have electricity or running water or inside toilets. These programs not only have proved invaluable in the struggle against AIDS, but have become an important economic and social resource for the communities they serve.

HAC’s objectives are to raise awareness of the rampant spread of HIV/AIDS; to break down the pervasive stigma and denial that surround it; to educate people, especially youth, on its prevention; to provide holistic care to all those infected and affected by the illness in order to maintain them as active community members as long as possible; to initiate poverty-alleviation and income-generation programs; to enhance the self-esteem and self-sufficiency of individuals, particularly youth; to do as Jesus did and provide unconditional love to all.

The Centre’s holistic approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and care includes the following programs:

PREVENTION

Workshops in English and Zulu, targeted primarily at youth, focus on HIV/AIDS prevention. The Centre produces its own media (posters, pamphlets, t-shirts, transparencies), giving youth an opportunity to learn useful skills while they develop messages that are understood by their own age group.

Counselor Training in Zulu prepares residents for employment opportunities in HIV/AIDS programs, particularly those operated by the government of KwaZulu-Natal. Sporting Events encourage a healthy lifestyle, social interaction, and increased self-confidence among youth.

Gospel Choir and Songwriting Competition attracts entrants from the Greater Durban and Pietermaritzburg areas. Groups have begun to write songs about HIV and AIDS.

Information and Awareness programs educate the general public about the spread of HIV/AIDS.

HEALTH CARE

Home-Based Care is provided in a number of villages and informal communities in Northern Natal by volunteers trained and supervised by registered nurses (see below).

Feeding Scheme delivers food to families headed by a child, by a grandmother caring for orphaned children, or where parents are too ill to care for family responsibilities.

Counseling, both by telephone and walk-in, is provided free of charge to all who request it. Most counseling is done at local clinics.

Hospice provides 24-hour care for terminally ill AIDS patients, on HAC premises as well as in their homes.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION & INCOME GENERATION

Second-hand clothing is sold to unemployed individuals who re-sell it to generate income.

Crafts--beadwork, paper-making, fabric painting--are taught by professionals and visiting artists and items are sold.

Funeral Fund is maintained to purchase coffins, allowing families to grieve and bury their loved ones in dignity.

Horticulture Project helps clients start their own gardens or work in community gardens to generate food and income. School gardens are encouraged where pupils grow vegetables used to provide a daily meal from the school kitchen.

School Fee Fund assists with school fees, uniforms, books, and occasional school trips for the children of families in the care of Hillcrest. The project was initiated by school children in the U.K. who wanted to raise money specifically for children. Although legally children are not allowed to be excluded from school for not paying school fees, this often happens, and many children are denied an education. In 2004, 230 children had their school fees paid by Hillcrest and were able to attend school.

RUTGERS’ BENEVOLENCE CONTRIBUTION

Rutgers’s first-time contribution of $3,700 will be used primarily to support Hillcrest’s home-based care program by providing stipends to its cadre of approximately 51 volunteer Home Carers, who live in the communities served by the program. Under the supervision of registered nurses, Home Carers educate AIDS patients and their families in patient medical and personal care, provide baths, dispense and administer needed medication, and help with cooking, housecleaning, and laundry. More specialized palliative and nursing care is administered by five supervising nurses, who also provide monthly in-service training to Home Carers as well as spiritual and emotional support to clients, staff, and volunteers.

In its efforts to provide holistic care for persons infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, Hillcrest AIDS Centre has had to confront the resistance of Christian groups who object to teaching prevention by any means other than sexual abstinence—an issue that divides the religious community in South Africa as well as elsewhere and is a matter of discussion in U.S. aid. Hillcrest AIDS Centre operates on the following conviction: “The way of Jesus is clear: We are called to give the unconditional love of God to all in need, regardless of how they come to be so.”
A GRAND OPENING
by Elder Vera Roberts

Rutgers Church had reason to be very proud on Friday, October 14, as our own Laura Jervis and Dave Taylor presided at the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Presbyterian Senior Services/West-Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing Grandparent Family Apartments on Prospect Avenue in the Bronx.

It was the culmination of a dream six years in the making, the result being a colorful modern building with fifty apartments, a beautiful lobby, activity rooms, and a garden. A large crowd gathered in a huge tent under pouring rain to hear the story and to celebrate its culmination. Besides Laura and Dave, other Rutgers staff and members present were Byron Shafer, Bruce Bergquist, Cliff Flanders, and me. Rutgers Church acted as the conduit for receiving from our denomination the original planning grant for this project. We have also contributed significant amounts of money for its programming.

Guests of honor on October 14 were the grandparents themselves, and the roster of speakers included persons from Washington, D.C., Albany, New York City, the Presbytery, and the Bronx. All of these, under Laura and Dave’s urging, had had something to do with the final result.

Perhaps the most enthusiastic of all the speakers was the Bronx Borough President, who said, “We are all Presbyterians today” and further told the crowd that his office had received calls from many cities across the United States, inquiring about the project. (It is the first apartment building in this country ever constructed specifically for grandparents raising grandchildren.)

After the lengthy ceremony, which included music from a modern jazz band, the guests scooted through the rain into the ground floor of the building, where refreshments were served and whence guided tours of the building were conducted.

It was all very exciting and uplifting, and we from Rutgers basked in reflected glory.

Congratulations to Laura and Dave on this signal achievement! Tell them how proud we are of them, and go visit their wonderful new facility, six years in the making.
Instructions for Sunday:

Put your performance wear on before you get there, (you'll understand when you get there), no perfumes so no one will get sick from the smell, and to also eat, because there will be no food. Wear whatever each group usually wears for special occasions. For Rutgers’ women, long black skirts, white blouses, black stockings and shoes. Men would wear dark suits, white shirts, etc. I contemplated calling my sister-in-law and asking her to send back the black floor length skirt I gave her because it was too big for me to use just for the night. My blouse was cream-colored, not white. I really didn’t want to go shopping. Time and my shopping mood didn’t improve. Everyone was responsible for having their own black music binders. Some had options of using the binders from the hotel rooms they were staying in (and please return them after the performance) or go to Staples across the street from the Grand Hyatt and purchase their own. Call time 5:45 pm Sunday for an 8:30 pm performance. Go the backstage entrance on 116 W. 56th. I walk in after a $5 cab ride. It was about 125 singers standing around backstage in Orchestra Room 1. This was the holding area. No chairs. I was really surprised at the extreme formal wear but then a lot of the singers had traveled miles to get here to Carnegie Hall. I can walk here in 12 minutes from my apartment. We lined up at 6:25 pm for dress rehearsal on stage. The room doesn’t look that big from the stage. You can’t see faces. I happened to be the tallest soprano so I got to be the last one on the final 5th row. We rehearsed for exactly an hour. Then back to the standing room for 50 more minutes before we go back on stage. Now men, women, young and old are sitting on the floor with their tuxedos, and beautiful dresses and skirts. I knew if I sat down on that floor that I might not get up. Plus I didn’t want to walk on stage with dirt on my clothes. So from the time of my arrival to the performance I stood up in two inch high heels.

So my illusion of a buffet feast, drinks, and comfortable chairs were all missing. I watched the soloist sing about 2 minutes of the 30 minutes we were on stage. I thought all that training and she didn’t learn her words. How much was she getting paid? At least we got to sing a lot of words for 25 minutes.

I learned you carry your music in on the left side away for the audience entering the stage and open them after the conductor enters the stage and gestures to open them. When you leave the stage you put your music book on the right side away from the audience and absolutely no talking to the conductor unless it’s a brief choral question during rehearsals.

I learned a lot about working with this conductor, Bob Chilcott. He was so nurturing. He was funny and had ways of explaining what he wanted that made sense, plus when we didn’t get it he could demonstrate. There was a calm about doing my first Carnegie Hall performance when you didn’t have to audition. I entered with confidence because you were recommended to be a part of this occasion. During and after the rehearsals and final performance he constantly and genuinely thanked everyone for their hard work and for making his music sound great. That made me feel good.

I was wearing an eye liner that I must have been allergic to because my eyes wouldn’t stop running. The tears turned into a white crust as the hours passed by. I was hoping that my eyes wouldn’t swell and that I wouldn’t forget my glasses because I couldn’t fake this music.

My biggest fear was that the pin in my skirt would pop open and stick me in my side when I had to sing the really high notes. (No the buttons didn’t fall off.) With that on my mind, missing notes or tones couldn’t possibly be of concern to me. After a while I couldn’t feel the pain in my feet and my back from standing in those heels for so long.

We got to watch the second half of the program in the balcony. That choir had about 300 members. I wondered how long they had stood up. Or had they had seats backstage? Do you think the conductor, soloist and orchestra members stood up for all that time? Did they get snacks, fresh fruits, soda, etc?

There wasn’t a celebration party for us afterwards. No limousines waiting outside to whisk us away to a smoke filled room to wait for reviews. I don’t remember in all the old movies I have watched anytime when the news people said, “Here comes a chorister. Let’s get her/his opinion or thoughts on tonight’s performance.”

Clif Fisher and I dashed (high heels and all) for the #104 bus home.

So thanks to George Davey for this chance. I enjoyed the experience so much that I wanted to share it with anyone else waiting to sing on Carnegie Hall’s stage.

I was proud to be a part of this exciting time at Carnegie Hall. Other participants representing Rutgers where Vinette Edwards, Clif Fisher, Iris Felice Harris, Henson Patrick, Kerri Patrick and Sheryl Shell, (Rick Reece lost his voice on Friday, due to a sinus infection). The other choirs included New Orleans Youth Chorale, VOICES Chorale, Princeton, NJ and the Addison Singers, London, UK. The New England Symphonic Ensemble accompanied us. The Taipeh Chamber Singers from Taiwan did make it to New York but weren’t allowed to sing because of visa restrictions. We got to sing Handel’s Coronation Anthem No. 2: “The King Shall Rejoice” and Bob Chilcott’s original composition “Jubilate.”

Hope to have the pictures developed by the next issue.
INVITE-A-FRIEND PICTURES
By Susan Scherer
Chairperson, Membership/Communications Committee