Is Jesus dead, or alive? That’s the central question of life.

Some ten years ago, as I was beginning my pastorate here at Rutgers Church, an ecumenical “Resurrection Summit” of theologians, philosophers, and biblical scholars was assembled at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Seminary in Yonkers to discuss this very issue from various scholarly points of view.

I remain convinced, however, that the best answers to “Is Jesus dead, or alive? Was Jesus raised, or not?”—the best answers to that question are those given not in scholarly papers but rather in the everyday lives of ordinary Christians.

But before I go on to elaborate on this thought, let me play the role of scholar for just a little while longer.

The New Testament presents four different narratives of Jesus’s life—those found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Yet none of these accounts describes the event of the resurrection per se. That is, none of the gospels offers a description either of the actual moment when Jesus was transformed from death to life or of the actual process by which he was transformed. And the gospels could not offer such a description, for no person had, in fact, actually witnessed the resurrection event itself. Ignatius of Antioch, a bishop of the 2nd century, stated this reality quite simply and well by saying, “Jesus rose in the silence of God.” So what the four gospels offer us are really post-resurrection stories, stories of various disciples’ experiences of the already-risen Christ.

Intriguingly, each gospel tells us different post-resurrection stories and emphasizes different aspects of the mystery. So you can come to church for at least four Easters in a row without hearing quite the same story—or the same sermon! To choose just one of the narratives that you won’t hear on this particular Easter Sunday, the Gospel of Matthew recounts the experience of two of Jesus’s women disciples—Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph (28:1–10).

According to Matthew, these two women are the first to discover that the crucified Jesus is no longer in the tomb. They are also the first to experience God’s reassurance, through an angel, that they have nothing to fear. Jesus is no longer in the tomb because Jesus has been raised to new life. The two Mary’s are also the first to receive a commission to tell this good news to others—namely, to the inner circle known as The Eleven (that is, The Twelve minus Judas, for Judas had hanged himself). The women are commissioned to tell The Eleven to leave Jerusalem and reassemble up north, in Galilee, where Jesus had conducted most of his ministry.

So the two Mary’s, filled with awe and also great joy, leave the tomb and head back to the city. Suddenly, as they are walking, they meet Jesus on the path. And they become the very first to personally encounter the Risen Jesus, the very first to personally experience the Living Christ.

(Continued on page 2)
From the Pastor’s Desk

Now, the Risen Christ’s conversation with the women adds nothing new to what they had already learned from the angel. So the most important thing Jesus is communicating to these women is not his words, but rather his reassuring presence. Matthew is thereby proclaiming to his readers the good news that the Risen Jesus is indeed still present with his followers, strengthening them for their everyday lives, strengthening them for their God-given tasks.

If we look back to the very first chapter of Matthew, we see that the author attributes to Jesus the name “Emmanuel,” which means “God-with-us.” And now here in the very last chapter of Matthew, we find the author testifying to the Risen Jesus’ ongoing fulfillment of that name. Even after the crucifixion, Jesus is still “Emmanuel.” For the Risen Christ is still very much God-with-us.

So Christianity originated among a few frightened, dispirited Palestinian Jewish women, around the year 30. And today it is the most diverse and populous religion on the face of our globe.

Christianity has not grown to such a size and scale because scholars have argued the case that Christ is alive. No, Christianity has grown to such a size and scale because ordinary people like us—beginning with Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph—have experienced in our everyday lives the truth that Christ is alive, because ordinary people like us have felt in our everyday lives the reality of Christ’s vibrant presence—God-with-us.

Let me share with you some of these latter-day stories of Easter in the everyday. Let me tell you first about a woman who was afflicted with fear and depression. One day, she says, while looking into the face of a homebound acquaintance unable to feed himself, she saw the face of Jesus. She loved to prepare and serve food, so she began to cook for him and for several other homebound people as well. And then she had her next encounter with the Risen Jesus. She went on from perceiving Jesus in the face of another-in-need to experiencing Christ upholding her amidst the crisis of her own particular needs. With Christ, her fear and depression melted away, and she found New Life.

Let me tell you next about a man who felt trapped between his love for his job and his dislike for his boss. One day his preacher suggested that parishioners would gain a new perspective on their work if they were to work for God rather than for their boss. And through the words of this pastor, the man heard the voice of the Living Christ. He changed the focus of his working life and, with Christ, experienced a rebirth of joy.

Let me tell you, too, about a woman, a citizen of the United States, who because of her civil rights activities in Latin America was jailed by a despotic government there. She was terrified that the guards would rape and torture her, but she heard the voice of Christ calling on her to liberate her captors. Through strength drawn from the Living Christ, she overcame her terror, won the confidence of her guards, and taught them how to read. Yes, from that tomb of a prison, Emmanuel called forth New Life.

Let me tell you of a friend on Long Island who was dying of a degenerative disease. Shortly before his death he professed that he was healed. He professed this not because his physical condition had changed—it hadn’t—but because the Risen Christ had healed his anger and his fear and had helped him replace his short-term perspective on death with God’s perspective. In his dying, he experienced Eternal Life.

Let me tell you of numerous sub-caste untouchables in India—men and women called Dalits, who are struggling to feel human. Numerous Christians among them know that they themselves have come to a sense of dignity and self-worth because they have encountered God’s Son as a living brother who, like them, is a humble servant, without comeliness or favor, despised and rejected. And they proclaim to other Dalits that the brother who has transformed their lives is the Risen Jesus.

Let me tell you of countless Christians—women and men the world around—who have come to the Lord’s Table feeling lost, tired, hopeless, alienated, defeated, burdened with sorrow, overcome by grief, racked with guilt. Yet when we (for I count myself among them) have eaten the bread and drunk the juice, we have experienced resurrection—we have experienced for ourselves that Christ is alive, that Christ is with us, that Christ shares our burdens and lifts our loads.

On that first Easter morning, some 1,976 years ago, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph experienced the Living Christ, and they proclaimed that great good news first to the Eleven and then to many others. May all of us have our own experiences of resurrection in the everyday. May all of us come to our own certainty that God is with us, strengthening our lives. For here’s the truth of the matter. Christ is alive!
Raise Your Voice!
from the Peace & Social Justice Network

Many things happen in threes—and on the weekend of April 29th there are three opportunities to make yourself heard.

**Saturday, April 29, New York City: End the War in Iraq, Bring all our Troops Home Now.** This national mobilization against the war is being sponsored by many groups, from the National Organization of Women to Veterans for Peace, under the umbrella of United for Peace and Justice at [www.ufpj.org](http://www.ufpj.org). Place and time of assembly are being negotiated with the police department (march begins at noon). Stay alert for information about a Rutgers contingent.

**Sunday, April 30, New York City: CROP Hunger Walk.**

This annual ecumenical and interfaith event raises awareness and money for hunger programs. Twenty congregations and organizations will take a 2-mile walk down 5th Avenue, beginning at 2:00 pm. You can participate by sponsoring a walker (giving money), or walking yourself! Children and families are especially encouraged to join this festive and consciousness-raising event. Look for Natalie Wyatt’s Moment for Mission on the CROP walk on page 12 of this issue.

**Poster-Making Party for all three events on Saturday, April 22, from 10 am-12 pm on the fourth floor.**

We invite you to sign a Million Voices for Darfur postcard at: [http://action.ajws.org/campaign/millionvoices](http://action.ajws.org/campaign/millionvoices)

"There is a continent—Africa—being consumed by flames. I truly believe that when the history books are written, our age will be remembered for three things: the war on terror, the digital revolution, and what we did—or did not do—to put the fire out in Africa. History, like God, is watching what we do."

Submitted by Elinor Bowles; statement by Bono, at the 2006 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C.

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We invite you to **save the date!**

for a **Gala Farewell Banquet** for the Reverend Dr. Byron Shafer at Rutgers on **June 23 at 6:30 pm.**

Watch for invitations and details to follow mid-April.

Due to space limitations, this will be a church-members-only event.)
A Musical Anthology
from Elder R. Wellington Jones

Sunday, May 7, 2006
at 2:30 pm in the Sanctuary.
The Special Events Committee
announces its annual benefit
concert for the support of
the Christopher Roberts
Homeless Shelter at Rutgers
Church.

This year’s recital
will include a presentation
of Erik Satie’s 1914 Sports
and Diversions in an English
translation by the American
composer Virgil Thomson;
Ms. Ladie Whitaker and Dr.
Shafer will act as raconteurs in
this witty series of avant-guerre
sketches, and R. Wellington
Jones will supply the piano ac-
companion. This will be Dr.
Shafer’s farewell performance
on the Rutgers stage, owing to
his impending retirement.

The program will also
include staged and costumed
scenes from Verdi’s A Masked
Ball, with Edward Bruce Steven-
son as Riccardo and Helen
Fousteris as Amelia; the pro-
gram will close with scenes from
Richard Wagner’s The Flying
Dutchman, with bass-baritone Jay
Gould in the title role, Anna
Marie Mackey as Senta, and Wil-
liam Himmelbauer as Daland;

Alan Gordon Smulen and De-
nise Williams will act as chorus-
masters, and Nicholas Fox will
conduct from the piano.
Lynne Morris and the Rev.
Charles Amstein will supply the
narrations.

Tickets are $20 each
and are fully tax-deductible.
Proceeds benefit the Christo-
pher Roberts Homeless Shel-
ter at Rutgers Church; every-
one is urged to attend to sup-
port this long-standing out-
reach program. Following
the performance, the Board of
Deacons will host a free recep-
tion and buffet luncheon to
which everyone is invited. For
tickets please contact the Rut-
gers Church office at (212) 877-
8227 or our fundraising coordi-
nator Ms. Ethel Knight at (212)
582-2016.

What Do You Think?
1. Tear up as many dollars as you spend on a
lottery ticket, throw it in the trash, and see if
that helps you stop buying lottery tickets.

2. Whether you’re young or old, when is it fair to
leave your clutter for someone else to clean up
upon your departure from earth?

3. Next time your family goes out to dinner, leave
all your cell phones at home.

4. Allow yourself to have a day off without guilt.

5. Use your energy on things you can change.

6. Don’t be afraid or embarrassed to ask for
help.

7. If you look for something to complain about,
you’ll find it.

8. If you forget what you did on a given day, just
look at your shopping receipts!

9. Are you happier when your regular mail
person returns from vacation?

10. A con artist misses out on friendships, trust,
fellowship, and most of all true love.

’Til next time, Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

Even Hawks Get Some Bible “Studies”
3/18/06 Photo by Bruce Yolton

Central Park: Now in addition to the insulated electrical wire,
Junior and Charlotte have acquired what seems to be a strip
of paper from a self-seal envelope or Next-Day Delivery
packet. The Spanish inspirational writing is gone, perhaps
recycled by some other improvement-minded raptor. Exami-
nation of an enlargement of the photograph with the page
revealed that the passage was from The Epistle of Paul the
Apostle to the Ephesians, Chapter I verses 8-11.

Source:
http://mariewin.server304.com/marieblog/
2006_03_19_mariewinn_archive.html
Christianity in China: Then and Now
An After-Church Forum, June 4, 2006 at 1 pm in the Daniel Russell Room

How do you see Missions? as interfering? out-of-date? over-evangelical? useful? or impossible?

Well, I was in China for some years in the 1930s, which would be THEN in the title. Some eternal things are the same, and much has altered as of NOW.

We have a stereotype from Pearl Buck, which is true but limited, of the poor Chinese peasant and the good, but rather simple missionary message. In north China in the 1930s, we had both, and I traveled and lived in the countryside. But we also had a mission hospital and medical college with postgraduate doctors. Two of them went to Edinburgh and to Vienna for further study in lung diseases and ophthalmology.

Then after World War II came Communist rule, and everything religious seemed to shut down. Not so! Social action was barred, but Christian worship was allowed. The Bible has always been allowed to circulate. Now a congregation in Shenyang in the northeast, which sprang from our early mission work, has 800 seats but is packed for two services or more every Sunday, and has a roll of 3,000 members.

Let's TALK about what is happening. Questions welcome!

W. Scott Morton

Three Innocents and a Spirit
A Historical Drama of the Collision of Cultures

Saturday, April 22 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sponsored by Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, Rutgers and West-Park Presbyterian Church. Presented by the N a SONJE FOUNDATION as part of a nationwide tour.

Three Innocents and a Spirit is a ‘stylized and intimate’ historical drama of the collision of cultures of the peoples from the Americas, Europe, and Africa from before the time of Christopher Columbus through the present, and the cultural crises that have developed as a result. The play exposes the destruction and acculturation of Native Americans and the enslavement of Africans, which resulted in a transfer of wealth and natural resources to Europe. The Denver Metropolitan calls it “an ambitious historical tableau, a condensed piece of stagecraft that encompasses over 500 years of history. The N a Sonje troupe transports viewers through the ages as it awakens them to the past and the present that binds us all.”

Set in Haiti and using its unique struggles as a microcosm of the exploitation of indigenous cultures by European colonizers, Three Innocents and a Spirit is performed by two Haitian men, representing the Native American and African cultures, and an American woman, representing the European culture. Dressed in period costumes, the three actors weave together mime, dance, puppetry, interactive participation, and music to demonstrate the progression and effect of historical events. During the drama the characters experience a transformational awakening through which they realize their physical and spiritual losses, as well as their mutual need for one another.

The presentation lasts approximately 50 minutes. The cast will then engage in a post-production discussion, creating an open forum for ideas and solutions that can help heal our fractured societies. A suggested donation of $20 will help fund the N a Sonje Foundation’s efforts to create The Memory Village, a permanent interactive, historical village (located in Haiti on the site of a former village established by Africans who escaped from the sugar plantations during the colonial era) reenacting the truths of the transatlantic slave trade. Additional donations for this project are greatly appreciated.
RENEWAL

Those of us accustomed to casually turning on a faucet may not always realize how elemental thirst can be. We will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday, April 16.

Holy Week at Rutgers Church

Palm Sunday, April 9
10:45 am Procession with Palms on Broadway

Maundy Thursday, April 13
7:00 pm Tenebrae Service: The Last Supper and Washing of Feet

Good Friday, April 14
12:00 pm Meditations on the Seven Last Sayings of Jesus with West Side Clergy and Choir

Easter Vigil, April 15
7:00 pm Service of Light and Baptismal Renewal — Bring a bell!

Celebration of Easter, Sunday, April 16
9:00 am Brief Service of Holy Communion on the Church Steps
9:30 am Easter Family Breakfast
11:00 am Service of Worship with Holy Communion, Choir, Brass & Timpani

Bible Study:
Acts of the Apostles
Sundays, April 23 – June 18
at 9:45 am in the Session Room

The early church had it all: shipwrecks, magic, trials, and jailbreaks ... along with the expected healings, sermons, and church fights. The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the growth of the Christian movement — aided and abetted by the Holy Spirit — from the ascension of Jesus to the preaching of Paul in Rome. Its most familiar stories are read in worship from Easter through Pentecost, so come before church to learn more and enjoy provocative discussion. This eight week class is part of our “Bible in Depth” series, using the Interpretation Bible study guides. All are welcome! Please call/e-mail Cheryl to order a study guide or child care.

Joyce Mwanalushi & Christopher Landu request the honor of your presence at their wedding on Sunday, April 23, at 1:30 pm in the Rutgers Sanctuary.

Joyce is well known and loved to the children of Rutgers as a Sunday School teacher and caregiver in our nursery. Joyce and her fiancé Chris are both from Zambia, and their family is not able to be with them (except in spirit!), so they invite all in the Rutgers community to be joyful witnesses in a simple ceremony of faith and commitment. There will be a cake and coffee reception after the service in the Daniel Russell Room.
## Holy Week & Easter 2006

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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 am Adult Class: <em>From War to Peace</em></td>
<td>6:00 pm Cub Scouts Every Monday</td>
<td>6:00 pm Boy Scouts; Men’s Support Group (PLWA) Every Tuesday</td>
<td>7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service (No movie)</td>
<td>11:00 am No Bible Study</td>
<td>12:00 pm Good Friday: The Last Seven Sayings of Jesus</td>
<td>7:00 pm Easter Vigil</td>
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<td>10:45 am Procession with Palms</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45 pm P&amp;SJN Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>EASTER 9:00 am</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
<td>6:30 pm Special Session Mtg</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 All Day NYC Presbyterian Clergy Retreat</td>
<td>10:00 am P&amp;SJN Poster Making Party 1:00 pm Opera Rehearsal 7:00 pm Three Innocents &amp; a Spirit</td>
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<td>6:00 pm Brief Service on the Church Steps</td>
<td>Church and office buildings closed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 am Adult Class: <em>Acts of the Apostles</em> thru June 18</td>
<td>6:30 pm Sunday School Planning Meeting for 2006/2007 (All teachers &amp; parents invited)</td>
<td>6:30 pm Adult Forum on Distributive Justice &amp; Lifestyle Changes (Part 1)</td>
<td>7:00 pm A Season of Discernment at Brick Church (see p. 9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 pm Mwanalushi/Landu Wedding</td>
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<tr>
<td>CROP Walk; Million Voices for Darfur; 12:45 pm Board of Trustees</td>
<td>3:00 pm Worship Committee Mtg</td>
<td>6:30 pm Adult Forum on Distributive Justice &amp; Lifestyle Changes (Part 2)</td>
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## Preaching Schedule

| April 9 | Palm Sunday; Reception of New Members; Dr. Shafer preaching |
| April 16 | Easter Sunday; Holy Communion; Dr. Shafer preaching |
| April 23 | Earth Sunday; Second Sunday of Easter; the Rev. Charles Amstein preaching; Children’s Choir |
| April 30 | Third Sunday of Easter; Dr. Shafer preaching |
# Easter to Pentecost 2006

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<td><strong>May 7</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>Adult Class: <em>Acts of the Apostles</em></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Cub Scouts Every Monday</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Boy Scouts; Men’s Support Group (PLWA) Every Tuesday</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45 pm</td>
<td>Board of Deacons 2:30 pm Opera Benefit &amp; Reception</td>
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<td><strong>May 8</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>Adult Class: <em>Acts of the Apostles</em> thru June 18</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Presbytery Meeting at Good Shepherd-Faith Presbyterian Church</td>
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<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Noon Concert</td>
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<td>12:45 pm</td>
<td>P&amp;SJN Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>May 11</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Christian Education Comm.</td>
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<td><strong>May 14</strong></td>
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<td>June 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Memorial Day Holiday Church and office buildings closed.</td>
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<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Noon Concert</td>
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<td><strong>May 21</strong></td>
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<td>PENTECOST 12:45 pm Board of Deacons 1:00 pm Adult Forum: Christianity/China</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Worship Committee</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Session Meeting</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
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<td><strong>June 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Men’s Overnight Shelter:</strong> Every Fri • Sat • Sun</td>
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## Sundays

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>Sunday School for Adults</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Adult Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Children’s Choir Rehearsal Infant &amp; Child Care</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
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<td>11:15</td>
<td>Sunday School (ages 3-12)</td>
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<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Coffee Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
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## Preaching Schedule

- **May 7**: Fourth Sunday of Easter; Baptism of Ailinn Finn; Dr. Shafer preaching
- **May 14**: Mother’s Day; Holy Communion; Dr. Shafer preaching
- **May 21**: Sixth Sunday of Easter; the Rev. Charles Amstein preaching
- **May 28**: Seventh Sunday of Easter; Memorial Day Weekend; Dr. Shafer preaching
- **June 4**: Pentecost; Holy Communion; Dr. Shafer preaching
SummerKids at Rutgers Church

**Body & Spirit:** Registration is now open for our summer kids and adults programs, taking place during the months of June and July. Again this year we are offering a two-day drop-off special for toddlers: The Magic Trunk and The Magical Mystery Tour. Check out our brochures or visit the Body & Spirit page on the Rutgers web site. Discounts are available for early registrations!

**Child's Play, June 5—August 18, 2006:** Come to our summer play groups for toddlers, babies and parents/grandparents only. Playgroups will meet on Mon / Tues / Wed / Thurs from 9:30 to 11:15 am. The play groups are facilitated by the group leader and begin with songs in circle time, art projects, and imaginative play in the nursery room. We continue with coupe cars, slides and trampoline, balls and parachute play, and the water table in our large open space. Everyone brings their own snacks, and story time ends the fun together. You can purchase a book of passes for $150 and use them any day we are open. Each is a family pass that includes siblings up to age 4 years. (Rutgers member families are FREE!) Our moms and babies (not walking) play group meets on Tuesdays at 12 noon for an hour, $12 per time. Call Holly Nedelka, Director (212) 877-8227 x204 for more info.

Please inquire about our new Mandarin Language play groups!

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**Thursday Movie Series**

Every Thursday at 7:00 pm following the meal program.
Hosted by Dr. Roger Franklin.

**April 20:** *Lilies of the Field* (1963)
Driving through the Arizona desert, an itinerant handyman (Sidney Poitier) comes upon five impoverished nuns.

**April 27:** *Keeping the Faith* (2000)
Best friends Ben Stiller and Edward Norton are about to be reunited with their childhood buddy, Jenna Elfman. The resulting love triangle is very complicated, because Stiller is a rabbi and Norton is a priest!

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**THE ART OF WALT DISNEY**

**May 4:** *Bambi*

**May 11:** *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*

**May 18:** *Pinocchio*

**May 25:** *The Lion King*

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**June 1:** *Moonlight Sonata* (1937)
A planeload of passengers, including a legendary pianist, lands near a remote castle in Sweden, where the maestro not only performs works of Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt, but also plays matchmaker for a young couple.

**June 8:** *The Jungle Book* (1942)
This (and still the best) film version of the Kipling classic stars Sabu as Mowgli, the man-cub raised by wolves who returns to civilization as a young man.

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**a season of discernment**

The 213th Meeting of the General Assembly in 2001 agreed to form a Theological Task Force “to lead the Presbyterian Church (USA) in spiritual discernment of our Christian identity in and for the 21st century…” This coming June, the Task Force will present its final report to the 217th General Assembly. The report suggests ways that the church can address the controversial issues that have been causing conflict. Come to a presentation and discussion with members of the task force at Brick Presbyterian Church (62 E 92nd St.) on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm. Co-sponsored by Auburn Seminary.

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**April * Happy Birthdays * May / June**

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hayden Coudal-Jones</td>
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<td>Alan Robinson</td>
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<td>Cullen Dunn-Ellis</td>
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What Happened at Session?
by Elder Christine Gorman, Clerk of Session

Here are some highlights from the regularly scheduled Session meeting of January 10, 2006. You can always get the full Session minutes by sending an email to Jennifer (jhanson@rutgerschurch.com).

1. Member Jeremiah Rosario informed the Session that he would like to begin the inquiry process to explore whether he’d like to pursue ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

2. The Rev. Dr. Tom Driver told the Session of the arrest in Haiti last July of Father Gerard Jean-Juste, a non-violent activist for peace and the poor. Dr. Paul Farmer has since diagnosed Father Gerard with leukemia, and there is an international effort to try to gain Father Gerard’s release so that he may seek treatment in the U.S. A motion passed to send a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urging our government to take action to secure Father Jean-Juste’s release.

3. A motion passed to appoint a committee to explore options to improve or replace the audiovisual system in the sanctuary.

4. The Session heard that Alison McNamara, daughter of member Paula McNamara, has been stationed in Baghdad as a medic. Her e-mail is alison.j.mcnamara@us.army.mil.

Here are some highlights from the joint meeting of the Session and Board of Deacons on February 5, 2006.

1. Kim Hodges reviewed some of the programs with which Deacons are involved, in particular Helping Hands and the Katrina relocation committee. Frances Manners talked about the possibility of having prayer partners and other ideas on outreach.

2. The Rev. Jervis spoke about the next several months as a time to enjoy Byron’s ministry and to prepare ourselves spiritually for the next leg of our journey together as a church community.

3. Dr. Shafer reported on the overtures to the General Assembly that came before Presbytery. The overture to delete G-6 and all authoritative interpretations passed. An overture from the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church calling for more study on Middle East passed. A separate overture calling for suspending the process of divestment from certain corporations doing business with Israel did not pass.

4. The Session passed a motion to re-elect Massimo Maglione and David Taylor to the Steering Committee of Presbyterian Welcome.

5. Dr. Shafer expressed his thanks to the elders retiring from Session: Chris Jones, Harold Manners, and Massimo Maglione.

Here are some highlights from the regularly scheduled Session meeting of March 7, 2006.

1. The Session voted to elect Christine Gorman as Clerk of Session, Warwick Busfield as Treasurer and Lynne Morris as commissioner to Presbytery. Since Cheryl is now a minister member of Presbytery, we have the right to name another Presbytery representative.

2. As of February 28, 2006, total revenue was $267,698 compared to $236,617 in expenses, giving a surplus of $31,082.

3. Cynthia Gale came to Session to talk about the new youth program (5th grade and up) that she and Kim Hodges are starting up at Rutgers with the Rev. Pyrch’s help. Currently there are eight young people in the group. The kids have come up with the name S.K.A.T.E, which stands for Sanctuary for Kids of Acceptance, Trust and Education.

4. A motion passed to approve the following members as the Class of 2009 for the Benevolence Committee: Anne Barstow, Elinor Bowles, Massimo Maglione and Vera Roberts.

5. Session has been doing lots of discussion and planning for the interim period and expects to be able to share the details soon.

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**WELCOME to the CLASS of 2009**

These individuals were elected at the 209th Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29. The Session interviewed the elders and deacons on February 5 and passed motions to concur with their elections. The service of ordination and installation was held on Sunday, March 5.

**Elders**
Richard Reece
Vera Roberts (re-election)
Jeremiah Rosario
Joy Wyatt

**Deacons**
Joan Keener
Anne Leader
John Lembo
Frances Manners (re-election)

**Trustees**
Nancy Muirhead
Sean Nelson
Welcome to Our New Member, Anne Leader

Anne Leader is an art historian with a Ph.D. from NYU’s Institute of Fine Arts. While in graduate school (1993-2000) she lived on East 75th Street and tried out several Presbyterian churches without finding one that really fit. She now lives on West 75th Street and feels extremely fortunate to have found her idea of the perfect church just two blocks away. She really likes Rutgers’ mix of tradition and progressive thinking and also enjoys the thought-provoking and challenging sermons, study sessions, and social outreach offered by the Rutgers community.

Anne has been teaching art history since 2000, first at the University of New Hampshire, followed by two years at Kean University in Union, NJ. She is now Assistant Professor of Art History at The City College of New York, CUNY’s Harlem campus on Amsterdam and 138th Street. She teaches a mix of introductory and upper-level courses to both undergraduates and graduates, including courses on Renaissance and Baroque art as well as a course on art historical research methods. Her favorite class to teach, despite the heavy grading, is the introduction to art history. It is here that she sees the widest range of CCNY students, and she loves the challenge of turning her unwilling participants into educated viewers.

When not in the classroom, Anne focuses her research on the Florentine Badia, a Benedictine monastery located in central Florence (right across the street from the Bargello, the state sculpture museum that owns Donatello’s “David” and Michelangelo’s “Bacchus,” among other things). She is currently working on a book, entitled Reforming the Florentine Badia: Art and Observance in a Renaissance Monastery, which tells the story of the decline and redemption of the institution in the early fifteenth century. She will return to Florence this summer for two months to complete the project.

Who Does What?

2006-2007 Moderators and Committee Chairs

- Session: Christine Gorman (clerk)
- Board of Deacons: Kim Hodges (moderator), Alice Hudson (vice moderator)
- Treasurer: Warwick Busfield
- Board of Trustees: David Taylor (moderator)
- Membership/Communications: Susan Scherer
- Peace & Social Justice Network: Suzanne Spears
- Personnel Committee: Vera Roberts
- Special Events Committee: R. Wellington Jones
- Stewardship Committee: Mark Young
- Worship Committee: Lynne Morris
- Benevolence Committee: Charles Platt
- International Subcommittee: Robert Shelton
- National Subcommittee: Alan Robinson
- Local Subcommittee: Massimo Magliione
- Body & Spirit Committee: Kim Hodges
- Building Use Committee: Robert Shelton
- Christian Education: Jeremiah Rosario

Where does your energy lie? Do you have ideas to share about enlivening our worship life? About making our voice heard in our neighborhood or our nation’s capital? About how to share our resources?

Our committees welcome new members!
Why We Walk
A Moment for Mission written by Natalie Wyatt

Crop Walk happens once a year. Churches and other groups around New York walk for two miles together down Fifth Avenue. You might think this is a long way, but some thirteen year olds in Africa must walk two times that distance to get clean water – every day.

Every year more than 6 million children under the age of five die as a result of hunger. One of every six people in the world lacks access to safe drinking water. These are two examples of why we do the Crop Walk.

Poor people around the world must walk...
To find food
To seek clean water
To escape violence
To seek shelter
To find employment
To go to school.

We walk to help parents feed their children. We walk to help people around the world find the drinking water they need.

They eat rice, we eat Skittles.
They walk for food, we go to the drive-through.
They may not have shoes, we wear Nike Prestos.
They wonder when they will eat again, we snack constantly.
They drink dirty water, we drink Poland Spring.
They worry about having clothes, we worry about the brand name.
They toil in the sun, we turn on the air conditioner.
They wish they could go to school, we hope and pray for a snow day.

They worry about having a roof over their heads, we worry about what people think of our homes.
They walk for just about everything.

We are walking to make a difference for them. On April 30, support the Crop Walk. Walk with us.