

**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."



RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Renewal

## From the Pastor's Desk

The Reverend Cheryl Pynch, Designated Associate Pastor

**W**e are now in the second month after Dr. Shafer's farewell and learning that the retirement of a pastor is a unique experience. Like any pastor, Byron shared in our joys and sorrows, significant milestones and intimate concerns; pastoral relationships are often like deep friendships or ties with family. But unlike retirement in most jobs, where contacts and friendships may continue unhindered, pastors are strongly encouraged to limit contact with their former congregation. The *Book of Order* instructs them not to do funerals or weddings at their former church, except at the invitation of their successors. Conventional wisdom holds that pastors shouldn't—for the most part—keep up with congregational news, make hospital visits, call parishioners or even stop by to say "hi." This can be disconcerting and even painful to both parties, but this wisdom is built on long experience. When a retired pastor remains a presence in the life of a congregation, it's hard for it to move on and go about the business of being church. It's difficult to call new leadership or think about the future. So, the abrupt separation and dislocation many of us are feeling has a rhyme and reason to it, difficult as it may be. Fortunately, there's nothing in the *Book of Order* that says former pastors and congregations can't pray for each other—so we will keep Byron and Margaret in our prayers! We can be sure we are in theirs.

On the subject of clergy leave-taking, our Parish Associates, the Reverends Laura Jervis and Charles Amstein, have also resigned, as they only can serve at the request of an installed pastor. Unlike "regular" pastors, however, because of the less intense nature of their role, they are permitted to keep ties and even remain in the congregation. Our challenge, then, is of a different nature: to welcome Charles and Laura as parishioners, not staff. Of course, they will always be pastors, and their "membership" remains with Presbyterian, but now they can enjoy being one of the crowd. (Unless we specifically request otherwise, as we have by asking Charles to preach and support the Deacons during the month of

September. It does get complicated!). As we make this transition, we say a heartfelt "thank you" for their wonderful work among us.

It's a testament to the strength of the congregation and to Dr. Shafer's leadership that—whatever the hole in our hearts—the work of the church has not missed a beat. The Deacons, Helping Hands and Session have stepped up their already deep involvement in pastoral care by making hospital visits, calling, writing cards and baking casseroles for members and friends in need. Many people are discovering new skills in leading the pastoral prayer or preaching a children's sermon. And the Session, in a remarkably short period of time, has called an interim pastor, the Reverend David Prince. (Read more about Rev. Prince on page 2). He will begin ministry among us on September 25.

And a final piece of news on Rutgers clergy. The Reverend Kate Dunn gracefully made the transition from Parish Associate to person in the pews several years ago. Another change is now in store: she will be the Temporary Supply for Pastoral Care at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, beginning September 5. This is bittersweet news for us, as we will no longer see her on Sundays, but wonderful for Fifth Avenue. We will hold Kate in our prayers and continue to see her family—Jim, Lucy & Cullen—in church.

In the midst of all these changes, God's love remains faithful and God's call to love and service constant. As we look forward to a new season of doing Christ's work, please join us for worship and fellowship at the Homecoming luncheon on September 17.

Wishing you peace and blessings, Cheryl

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## New Faces at Rutgers

by Elder Christine Gorman, Clerk of Session

**W**hy is New Year's Day in January? Maybe it's a hold-over from our school days, but there's something about fall that always suggests the start of a new year. This fall the new guy in church will be our interim minister, **the Reverend David Prince**. A budding jazz musician\* who comes to us from the great state of New Jersey, Dave will begin on Monday, September 25.

Dave has a lot of good experience to help lead us through our transition period and search for a new permanent pastor. As you will soon discover, he's personable and warm and believes telling the stories of our lives is one of our best ways of sharing the faith. He has served as an interim executive presbyter (so he knows how to live with the Presbyterian rules and how to use them to get things done), the interim pastor of several churches, and as the permanent pastor in a couple more.

Dave also understands that the Mission Review and search for a new pastor have to be OUR Mission Review and



OUR search, not his. He's not going to tell us who to pick or the one right way to do it. But he'll be there supporting us along the way, helping us explore with each other where we want to go next as a congregation, leading us in worship, visiting people at home and in the hospital, sharing in pastoral duties with Cheryl, moderating Session, and all the other joys and responsibilities of a full-time minister.

The Session decided to call Dave after pouring over 22 dossiers this summer and interviewing three finalists. Of course, no one can replace Byron, but we believe Dave has a lot to offer, and we all have a lot to learn as we discern God's will for us in the next stage of our life together. And you don't have to take just our word for it. The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry also confirmed our decision, making it official. So welcome, Dave!

*\*Editor's note: It turns out that Rev. Prince is not a jazz pianist. Here is his correction: "My training is classical and I play light stuff for fun, but jazz is an art form I haven't begun to master."*

You are cordially invited to our fall Inquirers Class,  
Tuesday evenings, October 3 and 17, at 6:30 pm.

**C**arl Lindskoog, originally from Northwest Iowa, arrived in New York two years ago to pursue a Ph.D. in American history at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He is currently preparing a dissertation proposal that focuses on U.S. immigration and labor history. Although his first New York City address was on the Upper West Side, he now lives in Astoria, Queens and teaches American history courses at Queens College. Carl appreciates Rutgers' loving inclusiveness and its commitment to peace and social justice, and he feels blessed to have found such a wonderful church home!



**C**heryl Beck was born and raised in Cherry Hill, NJ, where she was a member of Trinity Presbyterian. She graduated from Bucknell University and received an MBA from Drexel University in Philadelphia. She spent 10 years in Philadelphia working in marketing and sales, then moved to New York City two years ago and started her own marketing and event planning business—ACE All Corporate Events ([www.ace-allcorporateevents.com](http://www.ace-allcorporateevents.com)). Her search for a church home brought her to Rutgers this spring. She just bought a one-bedroom co-op at 67th & Broadway and moves in September.

# Welcome Home

## Join us for our annual **Homecoming Luncheon**

on September 17, following the worship service at 12:45 pm.

Members and friends, bring your favorite dish to share!

Students and other visitors will be our guests.

### **At Home in the World, and at Rutgers**

by Elder Jeremiah Rosario

**R**ules: rules of life, rules of law, rules of conduct, rules of order. As Presbyterians, we are familiar with many rules, including those of worship and governance. Margaret Gunther explores these rules along with those of St. Benedict and twelve step groups in her book *At Home in the World: A Rule of Life for the Rest of Us*.

The Christian Education Committee invites you to join us as we begin our 2006-2007 adult education class with a lively discussion of this book, led by Deacon Mary Birchard and myself as we explore those rules that we have found beneficial on our spiritual journey as well as those that no longer serve any purpose for us and that we have discarded. Class begins **Sunday, September 17 at 9:45 am** in the Session Room, and lasts **through October 22**, skipping Columbus Day Weekend. We encourage you to RSVP to Cheryl (x205) and obtain a book beforehand so all can be fully engaged in the discussion. We will have copies for purchase (\$10) at church on September 3 and 10.

Our **Wednesday evening meditation and prayer circle** continues throughout the fall. Come recharge your spiritual batteries in the middle of the week as we meditate, pray and contemplate on God, our walk of faith, and the week's events. We look forward to seeing you as we share our experiences, draw strength from each other and find hope for the future. We gather each week at **6:30 pm in the Narthex**.

### **Raise the Roof for Wasik**

from Cynthia, Glenn, Ian and Isabelle Gale

**O**n May 27, 2006, an earthquake rocked the area around Yogyakarta, Indonesia, killing at least 5,000 people. Although Indonesia seems far away, this event hit close to home for our family because our jewelry collection, GeoArt by Cynthia Gale, is produced there. When we learned of the earthquake, we were very concerned for the craftspeople in a treasured workshop that specializes in a metalwork technique called *repousse*. Although no one was killed, 56 of the 60 workers suffered damage to their homes; 12 lost their homes entirely. We sent funds to deal with the most urgent needs but felt that more needed to be done.



Wasik is a dedicated *repousse* artist. His house lost the entire roof and one of its walls, and suffered extensive cracks and damage. Wasik is elderly and lives alone, so we feel compelled to help him rebuild his home and his life.

As we contemplated how to do this, several members of our talented Rutgers Chamber Singers—Faith, Duncan, David and Sherry—offered to donate their time and musical talent to create a cabaret-style **Broadway Spectacular Benefit Concert**. George Davey also offered his incredible skill. They will be joined by the Harlem Youth Chamber Ensemble, founded by Lorna Myers. The concert promises to be a delightful evening, and we hope to reach our goal of \$3,000, the approximate cost to “Raise the Roof for Wasik” and build him a new home!

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on **September 17 at 6:00 pm** for a fun-filled revue of many of your favorite golden oldies, interspersed with present-day hits. Light refreshments will be offered at 5:30. Tickets are available for a suggested minimum donation of \$25—during coffee hour, from the church office, or by reservation at [geoart2002@yahoo.com](mailto:geoart2002@yahoo.com).

## Invitations

from Elder Susan Scherer, Chair of the Membership/Communications Committee

With the fall season and Homecoming just around the corner, Membership would like to announce the scheduling of two important events. Please contact me if you would like to help plan or participate in either of these events:

An **INQUIRERS CLASS**, traditionally held biannually, will take place again on **Tuesday nights, October 3 and 17 at 6:30 pm** in the third floor Session Room, and is open for anyone interested in learning more about Rutgers Church. Curious searchers are invited to attend, ask questions, and share their own stories or just listen. A light snack will be served along with stimulating discussion. Any current member are also warmly invited to the gathering. Please call Jennifer Hanson at (212) 877-8227 x213 to RSVP.

Our **INVITE-A-FRIEND SERVICE AND LUNCHEON** will be on **Sunday, October 23**. Rutgers' friends and family gather their even more friends together for this annual event to share our worship experience and a delicious, fun luncheon on the 5th floor immediately following coffee hour. Everyone is encouraged to begin planting the seeds now for a joyous, bountiful attendance.

Happy  
Birthdays!

**september, october**

- 6 Bruce Graham
- 12 Max Bohan
- 14 Charles Amstein
- 18 Susan Scherer
- 24 Peter Gonzales
- 28 Ailinn Finn
- 29 Ryan Phelps
- 30 José Meléndez
  
- 1 Jacquelyn Carpenter
- 5 Liza Knapp-Fadani
- 6 David Halstead
- 7 Paula McNamara

Peacemaking Letter Coming Soon!

### 2006 Peacemaking Offering

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



**Sunday, October 1**

Swords into Plowshares:  
Living the Ways of Peace

## Why Attend an Inquirers Class?

by Deacon Anne Leader

**T**hat's what I asked myself when I heard the announcement one Sunday at Rutgers. I had been attending the church for a few months, but I did not feel ready to join. In fact, it took me a while to muster the courage to sign a visitor's card. Looking back now, I am not sure what I was afraid of, but I suppose I was unsure of making a commitment of any kind too soon. I did finally decide to join a class about a year into my regular visits to Rutgers. I went not because I wanted to join but because I wanted to see what it was all about.

It was great! I felt totally free to share my concerns and fears about joining and was able to ask all sorts of questions, all of which—no matter how silly or serious—were answered with kindness and respect. Though it took me another six months and a second class to make the decision to join, I am really glad that I attended both classes. I think that my original nervousness was because I thought joining the church meant I had all the answers or was 100% committed to a religious life. The class showed me that joining is just the first step, not the last, and I am so glad I took it!

### What Do You Think? (from Jacquelyn M. Carpenter)

1. There's nothing wrong with feeling good and bragging about oneself sometimes.
2. When toddlers venture out on their own, they always look back to make sure their parent(s) still have an eye on them.
3. Why are bad habits so hard to break and good ones so hard to keep?
4. Persistence isn't always a virtue.
5. Charity, sympathy, and compassion can turn into abuse if you can't say no.
6. Should you change your scheduled recreational plans to accommodate others?
7. Is there a clever way to get around government rules and regulations without being penalized?
8. When was the last time you called/visited a good friend or relative?
9. Have you ever forgotten to pray for someone?
10. How many times has a person given you the same advice you gave them?

# September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 Labor Day Church and offices closed	5 6:00 pm Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA) Every Tuesday	6 6:30 pm Prayer Circle Every Wednesday	7 6:00 pm Meal Program Every Thursday 7:00 pm Movie: <i>War of the Worlds</i>	8 11:00 am Mothers' Bible Study Every Friday 7:00 pm S.K.A.T.E. →	9
10 Choirs Resume; 12:45 pm Board of Deacons; Peace & Social Justice Network	11 3:00 pm Worship Committee 6:00 pm Scouts resume	12 6:00 pm Scouts	13	14 7 pm Movie: <i>Signs</i>	15 Shelter Resumes	16
<b>Body &amp; Spirit and Child's Play Summer Sessions Begin</b>						
17 Homecoming; 9:45 am Adult Class: <i>At Home in the World</i> 12:45 pm Luncheon 6:00 pm Raise the Roof!	18 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Every Monday 6:30 pm Christian Ed Committee	19 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Every Tuesday 6:30 pm Session	20	21 7:00 pm Movie: <i>Fire in the Sky</i>	22	23
<b>Men's Overnight Shelter: Every Fri • Sat • Sun</b>						
24 9:45 am Adult Class Thru Oct. 22	25 The Rev. David Prince Begins	26	27	28 7:00 pm Movie: <i>E.T.</i>	29 6:00 pm Scout Chili Dog Dinner	30
Oct. 1 12:45 pm Board of Deacons	2 3:00 pm Worship Mtg. 6:30 pm Benevolence Mtg.	3 6:30 pm Inquirers Class	4	5 7:00 pm Movie: <i>The Producers</i>	6	7

Sundays	
9:45 am	Sunday School for Adults
10:00	Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:15	Children's Choir Rehearsal Infant & Child Care
11:00	Worship Service
11:15	Sunday School (ages 3-12)
12:15 pm	Coffee Hour
12:45	Choir Rehearsal

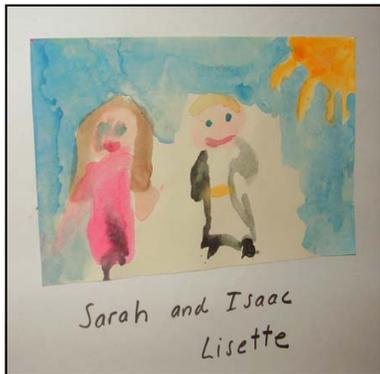
## Preaching Schedule

September 3	Labor Day Weekend; the Rev. Anne Conroy preaching
September 10	Holy Communion; the Rev. Cheryl Pyrch preaching
September 17	Homecoming; the Rev. Cheryl Pyrch preaching
September 24	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; the Rev. Charles Amstein preaching
October 1	World Communion Sunday; the Rev. David Prince preaching

# “Family Ties” Photo Album

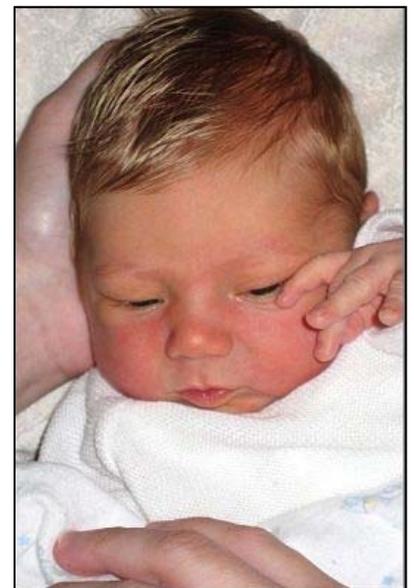
pictures by Mary Birchard and Patricia Pastós

Over 30 children participated in the 2006 Rutgers Vacation Bible School from August 21-25.



Thank you to our amazing VBS teachers and helpers!

Pictured at right: Mary Birchard, Cheryl Pynch, Nora Lidell, Holly Nedelka, Abie Nedelka, Tara Dillon; Clif Fisher (above at the piano); Richard Hill and Wanda Diaz (not pictured)



He wasn't at VBS, but we are delighted to welcome Benjamin Marshall Williamson, son of Sanne and John, grandson of Margaret and Marshall, born June 29, 2006.



## News for Kids (and Parents)

by The Reverend Cheryl Pyrch

**O**ur children's **Sunday School** year begins **September 10**. In addition to the nursery, we have three full classes this year: pre-K through first grade, 2nd through 4th grades, and 5th grade and up. Joyce Mwanalushi-Sirls continues to lead our youngest class, and a wonderful group of parent (and non-parent) teachers are leading the others. We have been thinking of ways to more creatively involve children in worship and service and look forward to a productive year.

Rehearsals for the **Rutgers Children's Choir** will also resume on September 10 under the capable direction of Jean Kim, who is taking over full leadership of the choir as the founding director, Joy Wyatt, steps down. The choir will re-

hearse at 10:15 am on the fifth floor. (Please note, there will NOT be a rehearsal on September 17.)

Our new youth group, **Rutgers S.K.A.T.E.** (Sanctuary for Kids of Acceptance, Trust and Education), will be getting off to an exciting start with a **sleepover in the gym/blue room on Friday, September 8**. They'll eat together, play games, sing and worship, and learn from Dermonte Alleyne how the gym *usually* looks on Friday night with the shelter. S.K.A.T.E. is for Rutgers children and friends 5th grade and older, and is led primarily by Kim Hodges and Cynthia Gale, with participation and support from other members. If you'd like to learn more about the youth group, contact Cheryl at x205.

Our children's **Sunday School** year and rehearsals for the Children's Choir both begin on September 10.

## Your Benevolence at Work

by Elder Charles Platt

**D**id you know that 24% of this year's church operating budget is devoted to benevolence giving? That's more than **\$420,000!**

Your Benevolence Committee is charged with making recommendations as to how best to distribute most of this money. We are divided into 3 subcommittees that will be meeting separately in September to decide on recommendations for the fall distribution. Half of our contributions go to Presbyterian causes. The entire committee will meet in early October to recommend a final list to the Session.

I would like to let the congregation know more about how we select the groups to contribute to. Occasionally we contribute to fairly new organizations if recommended by a trusted source. Most groups have been in operation for some time and have an established record of service. They must be willing to give us information about their operations and account for how contributions are used.

Most of the groups the Local Subcommittee recommends have been receiving contributions from Rutgers for some time. For example, we have our own shelter and meal programs, but we broaden our outreach by contributing to the Jan Hus Presbyterian Church Outreach Program for the Homeless and Hungry.

An example of the groups the National Subcommittee has selected is Presbyterian Children's Services. They provide services to emotionally troubled children and their families of all faiths.

The International Subcommittee has been assisting the Human Development Foundation for the Kolar Gold Fields. This is an area in India where the government closed the mines, leaving over 12,000 unskilled workers jobless. The foundation tries especially to help their children with education, medical assistance, and advice.

One resource we use is a book that the PC(USA) supplies called *Extra Commitment Opportunities*. It lists organizations in the US and in other countries that our denomination has investigated and feels it is appropriate to help. Some of the groups on our national and international lists are from that source.

The groups we are giving to are listed each year in the report given out at the annual meeting. You can also obtain a copy of the latest list from the church office. As I said, we will be meeting in September. If anyone in the congregation would like to recommend a group not on the list, you can give the information to me or to the subcommittee chairs (Massimo Maglione, Alan Robinson or Robert Shelton). You could also give it to Cheryl Pyrch or Bruce Bergquist. Any requests for consideration that are too late for the fall distribution will be considered for next spring.

We would be glad for any comments or suggestions about our work.

## What Happened at the General Assembly?

The 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) took place in Birmingham, Alabama in June. Dr. Shafer attended on Rutgers' behalf and reported in his farewell sermon on two decisions made there:

"First, this year's GA adopted...a balanced and constructive statement on Israel and Palestine as a replacement for what I regard as the one-sided statement made by the GA two years ago. [Specifically, a process of 'phased, selective *divestment* from corporations doing business in Israel that contribute to *violence*' was replaced by new language that urges 'financial *investments* of the PC(USA), as they pertain to Israel, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank, be invested in only *peaceful* pursuits.]"

"Second, this year's General Assembly issued an Authoritative Interpretation of one particular section of our constitution. This interpretation states clearly that candidates for ordination as elders, deacons, and ministers of Word and Sacrament may declare a conscientious scruple about any portion of the constitution that a session or presbytery deems to be *not* an 'essential' element of Presbyterian faith and practice. And it's widely acknowledged that this year's Authoritative Interpretation will allow some sessions and presbyteries—such as ours—to rule that living in a com-

mitted relationship does not exclude from ordination otherwise well-qualified gays and lesbians."

The assembly also adopted an overture about Haiti sent by the New York City Presbytery (it was authored by Tom Driver and co-sponsored by the Rutgers Session). This statement expresses "alarm and disapproval of interference made in recent years by agents of the United States Government in Haiti's constitutional and democratic processes" and asks the US government to "adopt a Haiti policy that is friendly toward the political empowerment of the vast majority of Haitian citizens."

And we have news of two awards: On Sunday, June 18, at the annual luncheon of the Witherspoon Society, Rutgers member Anne Barstow and Tom Driver were the joint recipients of its Andrew Murray Award, given "in grateful recognition of their courageous accompaniment of the people of Central America, Haiti, and Colombia." The previous day, at the annual Peace Breakfast of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, Anne was the co-recipient of the Peaceseeker Award with the Rev. Milton Mejia of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. It was given in recognition of their key work in launching the Colombia Accompaniment Program.



## Listen for Those Bells

by Jennifer Hanson

At Rutgers, we try to toll the church bells whenever an execution takes place in the United States, or at least the day after. (Despite our best efforts, the automated bells can have a mind of their own.) You may have seen this notice in the bulletin or on the Church House door: "*Rutgers Church, along with our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), is opposed to the death penalty in principle and prays for the day when the United States will again join the rest of the Western world in banning capital punishment.*" We list the name, date and location of each execution but rarely tell the story behind it.

I'm the person who keeps track of when and where executions are scheduled and whether they are actually carried out—one of the more fascinating and lesser known parts of my job. For me the death penalty has become more than a principle to oppose. I read lots of life stories, noticing commonalities and striking individualities, and have followed the trajectory of New York State and US Supreme Court decisions. After doing this for more than three years, I can also tell you which states carry out the most executions, where their death rows are located, and have even traced out a yearly rhythm—there are definite lulls around Christmas and Easter, for example.

Although this practice is intended as a protest of capital punishment, my part can feel rather morbid, and if truth be told I haven't been keeping a very close eye out this summer. Today I am reading about Elijah Page, who is scheduled to die by lethal injection tomorrow (August 29) in South Dakota, a state that is new to me in this context. It turns out that Mr. Page would be the first person executed there since 1947, primarily because he is not appealing his sentence, making him a "volunteer." At 24 years old, he would also be among the youngest of those executed in the US since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. He was involved in what sounds like a terribly brutal murder, but also barely survived a terribly brutal childhood. Although the US Supreme Court stopped an execution in June due to questions about whether lethal injection is a humane punishment, this particular one is likely to go ahead tomorrow—he's not asking the governor to stop it.

[Just before going to press, I learned that South Dakota's Governor Mike Rounds delayed Mr. Page's execution for another year, "saying the state law detailing how to administer lethal drugs is obsolete." His stated concern, however, was for the people who would be carrying out the execution; they might be open to legal prosecution because state and federal laws about how to do it do not match.]

## Child's Play in the News: "20 Years, and Not Counting"

by Alison Hogan, from the August 2006 issue of *Big Apple Parent*

Considering all the wonderful offerings for new parents in the Big Apple today, it's hard to imagine having a baby or toddler and being unable to network with other moms.

But 20 years ago, when **Holly Nedelka** was at home with a 3-year-old and 6-month-old, she couldn't find a playgroup where she could bring along *both* children. So she began her own, *Child's Play*, in the basement of the church she attended on East 64th Street. The parents paid just a few dollars to build up a toy collection, and everyone pitched in. There was one stipulation: this was to be a playgroup where parents/grandparents brought along the children—not caregivers; the idea being that it was as much for the grownups' socialization as it was for the kids'.

Soon, Nedelka's playgroups were in such demand, she began training other moms to lead the groups. Now, she runs around 23 playgroups a week. It costs a bit more (\$300 for a 14- to 18-week season—cost is per family; there is no extra charge for siblings), and attendees are no longer expected to pitch in and help. But her mission remains the same as it did 20 years ago: these are playgroups for parents/grandparents only and their children.

The playgroups meet at Rutgers Church, 236 West 73rd Street; the West-Park Church, at 86th and Amsterdam; and at her newest location, the Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, 315 East 74th Street. There are groups for babies (4- to 11-month-olds); a 3s and 4s group; but most are for toddlers (12-14 months through 3 1/2 years). At Rutgers Church, there are also Mandarin-language playgroup times, to cater to the burgeoning

ranks of West Side parents who have adopted children from China; plus Mandarin classes for children ages 4-7.

Nedelka's business also includes the facilitation of groups other than playgroups; she finds space and arranges scheduling for homeschoolers' workshops, La Leche groups, and for Julie Ross's Practical Parenting workshops.



Like most parents who began their businesses when Big Apple parenting was just becoming a trend 20 years ago, it would all seem like yesterday—were it not for the fact that she now has a 23-year-old son out of college and thinking about a teaching career, and a 20-year-old daughter who is a sophomore at Cooper Union. She says she can't begin to even add up the numbers of kids who have passed through *Child's Play*, and muses what fun it would be to do so. But she notes that *many* moms stay connected long after their children age out of the groups. Such satisfaction means much to a Big Apple mom like Nedelka who began her business for the very best of reasons. [*Contact Holly at x204 or [holly@rutgerschurch.com](mailto:holly@rutgerschurch.com) for information or registration in the Rutgers playgroups.*]

## An Invitation to Scouting

from Louisa Berry, Scoutmaster

It doesn't seem possible, but summer's over, and it's time to begin a new year in Scouting. Both Troop and Pack 664 are continuing to grow and are delighted to have space at Rutgers to meet. As in the past, first, second, and third grade Scouts will meet on Monday nights from 6:00 to 7:30 pm; fourth grade and up, including the Troop, meet on Tuesday nights, also from 6:00 to 7:30.

Many boys in the two units went to summer camp this year, and we will continue camping with two trips in October, one to Fire Island for the older Scouts and one to Alpine Scout Camp for everyone. Other activities include marching in the Veterans Day Parade, swimming, ice skating, hikes, and the ever popular Pinewood Derby. We have several community service activities planned, as well as award ceremonies and parties throughout the year.

Our first major activity is participation in the **Columbus Avenue Street Fair on September 17**, where we will be offering to provide parents with fingerprints of their children. This is the Eagle Scout project for our special needs Scout, Anthony Hasan, who has until December 1 to finish all of the requirements for this badge that only about 3% of Scouts achieve. Once he has completed his final review board, we will certainly have a big party to celebrate.

Please come by the street fair, especially if you have children whom we could fingerprint. And if you or your friends know of young men who would like to join Scouting, please feel free to come to one of our meetings to check us out. If you're an adult with a talent to share or some spare time to help out, we would welcome your participation.

Stay tuned for news about the Eagle.

## Rutgers Presbyterian Church

236 West 73rd Street  
New York, NY 10023

Phone: 212-877-8227  
Fax: 212-721-9154

We're on the web!  
[www.rutgerschurch.com](http://www.rutgerschurch.com)

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### Calling All Volunteers

Thursday Nighters resuming September 7 • Men's Shelter resuming September 15

Every Thursday night, from Labor Day through June, at 6:00 pm Rutgers opens its doors and the dining room on the 5th floor to an average of 44 people who need a meal. Preference is given to seniors, who usually make up about half the group. We are proud to be able to serve these people tasty, home-cooked food in a relaxed and caring atmosphere. We have a reputation as the best kitchen in the area.

The program is managed with great care and efficiency by Ulla Farmer. Thursday night volunteers start showing up at 5 pm to prepare the meal. At 6 pm we serve. By 7 pm our diners are happy and well fed, and those of us who have remained to clean up are finished and out the door—a maximum of two hours!



We would love to add to our volunteer pool to keep this program thriving and fun. If you would like to see what the program is like (with no obligation, of course) let us know which Thursday you would like to visit. We look forward to meeting you.

To find out more, please contact Ulla Farmer at (212) 744-5313 or Kim Hodges, moderator of the Board of Deacons, at (212) 580-4276.

Plus, we invite you to stay for the free movie series at 7:00 pm curated by Dr. Roger Franklin. September is Science Fiction month and features his presentation of *The War of the Worlds*, *Signs*, *Fire in the Sky*, and the much-loved classic *E.T.*



Rutgers, in collaboration with Christ and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, opens its doors to house a group of homeless men three nights a week. The men, professionally screened by Partnership for the Homeless, are given an evening meal, a bed for the night in the church gym, and breakfast the following morning.

The program needs YOUR help to continue to make a difference. Rutgers is responsible for providing overnight hosts on Fridays and Sundays.

We also welcome evening visitors.

Dermonte Alleyne has been our dedicated Shelter Coordinator for many years. He can tell you how rewarding this program is and gives great orientations to new volunteers! Reach him at (212) 877-8227 x203 or [dermonte@rutgerschurch.com](mailto:dermonte@rutgerschurch.com).