

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."

SKATE, Post-Skating Gathering



RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Renewal

From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

As daylight lengthens (the word "Lent" comes from "lengthen"), we look ahead to the climactic event of our faith: Jesus' death and resurrection. I use the singular (event) because over centuries Christians have come to see the nature of God in the dying and rising of Jesus, not just in a sacrificial death or in a victorious resurrection, but in both. Certainly the Good Friday/Easter event is mysterious, but we can penetrate it enough to discern its center: the unconditional love of God. God's love will go to any length, even the grave, to express its character, and nothing can defeat it in life or in death.

For me the Church is called to live out the Good News of God's love even more

than we are asked to understand it. Our faith is not irrational. Rather it transcends reason. It can permeate our whole being if we open ourselves to its power and truth. The process of opening ourselves doesn't happen automatically. It's something we can work at. At Rutgers there are continuing opportunities for exploring the mystery and meaning of faith: our Sunday worship services, seasonal activities such as Lenten vesper services, and various classes held throughout the year.

I am grateful for the privilege of sharing those opportunities with many of you as your interim pastor. I look forward to reflecting on, and experiencing, God's love in the coming days and weeks as we journey toward a cross and empty tomb.

Dave Prince

Next Steps

A moment for mission presented on January 28, 2007

Good morning. My name is Juliet Pritner, and this is Joy Wyatt and Christine Gorman. The moment for mission this morning is about change, which is often a scary subject but is just as often one that's filled with hope if you know what you're looking for.

Christine: No doubt about it—these are scary times. Our country is still at war. We live under the threat of renewed terrorist attacks. The divide between rich and poor is growing. Our jobs are not as stable as they used to be. I could go on, but you get the point.

Joy: In times like this, when we are surrounded by unexpected and even unwanted events, it's human nature to want to hunker down at home, to redouble our efforts at work, to hide out, to lie low, to wait until this all passes. But when change is going on all around us, there are opportunities for us to help manage these changes ourselves—to reach out to each other, even while we are in need, to come together as a community, to help each other navigate the difficult times and enjoy the wonderful gift of life and opportunity that God has given us.

Juliet: And so we hope you will attend today's annual meeting after church, where we'll be taking the next steps to call a new minister to lead our community in its third

century as an organized congregation. At its last meeting, the Session asked Joy, Christine and me to help form a Mission Review Committee to guide the process by which we take stock of our church life and identify the direction in which we want to be headed next.

Joy: It is the Session's hope that the Mission Review process will be completed by the end of 2007. Then the congregation will elect a Pastoral Nominating Committee to actively search for a new pastor. These two processes present our congregation with opportunities to lead and manage significant changes that will affect who we are and what we do for years to come.

Christine: We've been referring to this whole process as the Presbyterian two-step—first a Mission Review and then a Pastoral Nominating Committee. And anyone who knows anything about two-step dancing knows that there are quick movements and slow ones, and sometimes it seems like you're going around in a circle—but we are moving forward. And so, my friends, I hope when the opportunity comes to be part of this Presbyterian two-step, that you will say yes and join in.

Juliet: We're all busy. We're all stressed. But if we work together, God willing, the load will be lighter and the future for our wonderful, deeply nourishing church family ever brighter.

March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10:00 & 12:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 a.m. Child Care 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:15 a.m. Sunday School (ages 3-12) 12:15 pm. Coffee Hour 6:00 p.m. Men's Overnight Shelter 4 9:45 a.m. Witness for Peace in Venezuela 12:45 p.m. Board of Deacons; Board of Trustees; Peace & Social Justice Network 11 9:45 a.m. Herstory 1:45 p.m. Worship Comm. 11,18,25 12:45 p.m. Mission Review Discussion	12:15 p.m. Alanon 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	12:15 p.m. Alanon 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts; Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA) 8:00 p.m. Men's Alanon 13 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting 20 6:30 p.m. Celebrating Friends with Pres. Welcome at 2nd Church 27 6:30 p.m. Benevolence Committee Mtg	5:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Lenten Vespers 7:00 p.m. Sharing Our Faith Stories	6:00 p.m. Meal Program 7:00 p.m. Movie: Take Me Out to the Ballgame Series 1 6:00 p.m. SKATE at Thursday Nighters	10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Men's Overnight Shelter 16 Evening Christian Peace Witness for Iraq (in D.C.)	1:00 p.m. Opera Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Overnight Shelter

Preaching Schedule

March 4 ___ Gifts of Women; Women's History Month; 2nd Sunday in Lent; The Rev. Cheryl Pynch preaching

March 11 ___ 3rd Sunday in Lent; Holy Communion; The Rev. David Prince preaching

March 18 ___ 4th Sunday in Lent; The Rev. David Prince preaching

March 25 ___ 5th Sunday in Lent; The Rev. David Prince preaching

Birthdays!

3 Phylliss Hill
6 Doris Bryant
12 Mary Birchard
14 Kim Hodges, Ian Smith
16 Ethel Knight
17 Alice Hudson, DeYan Jervis McCarthy
18 Umberto Fadani
21 Mary Burton
23 Marlo Knapp-Fadani
24 Valerie Kay
25 Carole Banninger, Ulla Farmer
27 Chris Jones
28 Jeremiah Rosario

Holy Week at Rutgers Church:

Palm Sunday, April 1

Maundy Thursday, April 5
7 p.m. Tenebrae Service & Foot-washing

Good Friday, April 6
12-2:30 pm Meditations on the Last Seven Sayings of Jesus, with Choir and West Side Clergy

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 7
7 pm New Fire, First Service of Easter

Easter Sunday, April 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Are you a person who can always turn a positive conversation into a negative one?
2. When does quality of life start to decline?
3. My friend told me arrogance has no color.
4. Take time to listen to a senior citizen's fascinating and inspiring journey in life.
5. Why do people feel the need and get pleasure from telling hurtful/harmful family secrets after a person's death?
6. It's humorous to see a horse-drawn carriage with the driver talking on a cell phone or reading a newspaper while s/he has passengers..
7. Why do we yell at automated telephone screening devices?
8. If a person loves you the best they know how, and it's not enough, whose fault is it when you break up?
9. To whom can you tell the truth without being judged?
10. You don't need to apologize or feel guilty for stopping a person from emotionally draining you.

*Til next time, Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

March 2007 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

Lenten Vesper Services

Wednesdays, February 28, March 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

On the five Wednesday evenings that fall within Lent, Rutgers will hold 30-minute vesper services in the chancel area of the sanctuary. These candlelit services of prayer and reflection include a pastoral meditation (see schedule below) and quiet organ music from George Davey.

Feb. 28: David Prince	Mar. 21: Mieke Vandersall
Mar. 7: Cheryl Pynch	Mar. 28: David Prince
Mar. 14: Charles Amstein	

Sharing Our Faith Stories

Wednesdays, February 28, March 7, 14, 21 & 28
7-8 p.m. (following vespers) in the Daniel Russell Room

Recently, we at Rutgers have begun noticing something about ourselves: we are not a people that talks easily about God—or Jesus Christ. We talk readily about community, social justice, programs and worship, and ask questions of the Bible, but seldom do we share personal faith stories.

This Lent, the Christian Education Committee invites you to listen to stories of faith (and doubt) of Rutgers members and friends. The format is simple: two people (with advance preparation) will tell about an aspect of their faith journey. After each presentation, we'll have a time of silent meditation and prayer, and at the end we'll open up the conversation for more general sharing—including the sharing of cookies and hot drinks.

Christine Gorman and Bill Bailey have volunteered to share on March 7, the second evening of our series. Please let Cheryl Pynch know if you would like to share on another evening. We'll suggest questions to focus your story and resources to help (10 minutes is the suggested limit).

Witness for Peace in Venezuela

An Adult Forum on Sunday, March 4 at 9:45 a.m.

In January, Tom Driver and Anne Barstow took part in a Witness for Peace delegation to Venezuela, where momentous things are happening. The purpose was to learn at first hand what Venezuela's controversial President Hugo Chavez is doing and to evaluate the role of the press and the U.S. government in relation to Venezuela. The group had many interviews with groups both religious and secular, and it stayed two nights in the home of a family of modest means. Join us in the Session Room as Tom and Anne give a report on the delegation experience, using a few of the many pictures Tom took while there, and leaving time for questions and discussion.

Herstory: American Women Who Have "Molded and Shaped" Their Lives

Sunday, March 11 at 9:45 a.m. in the Session Room

Women have always contributed their energies, ideas, and talents to the building of this country, yet many of their stories have not been told. Herstory is an interactive exploration and discussion of some of these "forgotten" women led by Patricia

Lewis, a member of the Rutgers family who taught with the NYC Board of Education for many years. Since her retirement in 1995, she's pursued her interest in women's and African American history, and presented workshops at the United Federation of Teacher's retiree centers and at various churches.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C.

Fri.-Mon., March 9-12 (Attendance all 4 days not necessary).

There is still time to sign up for Ecumenical Advocacy Days, to hear fabulous preaching, to meet other people involved in peace & justice work, and to attend informative and interesting workshops. This year's theme is "*...and How Are the Children?*" Each participant chooses a particular "track"—Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Eco-Justice, and Global Security, among others—in which to explore this topic. Folks who can stay through Monday work together to lobby their representatives, with training and support. Sue Spears has registered and would like to have other folks from Rutgers join her! The Peace and Social Justice Network will offer financial support. To learn more, go to <http://www.advocacydays.org/>. Please call Cheryl Pynch at x205 if you are interested.

Christian Peace Witness for Iraq

Friday & Saturday, March 16-17

Anne Barstow, Tom Driver, Carl Lindskoog, and Cheryl Pynch are making plans for this trip to Washington, along with other peacemakers from the NYC Presbytery. If you are interested but worried about money or logistics, please call Cheryl! We want to make sure everyone who wants to can go. 23 Christian groups, including the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, are gathering on Friday evening at 7 p.m. for worship at the National Cathedral, a 9 p.m. candlelight procession to the White House, and a 10 p.m. (for those who are able) late night vigil. Some people may choose to participate in non-violent civil disobedience, with training. This will be a non-violent, Christian witness upholding the following affirmations:

End the occupation of Iraq. • Support the troops & bring them home. • Commit to rebuilding Iraq. • Say "No" to torture. • Say "Yes" to peace.

Celebrating Friends with Presbyterian Welcome on Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. at Second Presb. Church

Come to a Tuesday evening worship service during Lent with wonderful preaching and foot-washing (optional) to celebrate God's work among us and the gifts of friends and fellowship. The preacher, the Reverend Barbara Lundblad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, teaches homiletics at Union Theological Seminary and is one of the most renowned preachers in the country! Coffee hour will follow. Entrance at Alexander Robertson School, red door, 3 West 95th Street at Central Park West.

Presbyterian Welcome is a group of nearly 20 local churches working for the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in the church. Rutgers is a member and houses the Presbyterian Welcome office; the Reverends Charles Amstein and Cheryl Pynch are on the board.



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Meetings in March

As part of the mission review (self-study) Rutgers is undertaking this year, there will be three after-church opportunities for conversation and reflection. They will take place on **Sundays, March 11, 18, and 25 from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. in the Daniel Russell Room.** We will be focusing on Chapters III and V of our Presbyterian Church Constitution's Form of Government. Chapter III is on the mission of the church, and Chapter V is on the meaning of church membership. Copies of both chapters (about three pages each) will be available in the narthex on March 4 and thereafter, as well as in the church office.

Feel welcome to attend one, two, or all three of the discussion opportunities. They are open to non-members as well as to members. We want the conversation to be as inclusive as possible.

DDP

Family Retreat May 18-19

Rutgers families are preparing for a day and evening of deep conversation, good food, worship, and exploring the outdoors at the Presbyterian Center in Holmes, NY. The Reverend Sue Wonderland will lead adults in discussions of faith and parenting, while Cheryl Pynch and Holly Nedelka lead young people in their own "retreat." There will also be time for all ages to play, eat, and talk together. If you would like more information, or if you would like to help with the children's program, contact Cheryl at x205.



Please welcome our **new officers** elected at the 210th annual meeting of the congregation:

Trustees: Christine Gorman (class of 2009),
Beverly Thompson, Mark Young (both class of 2010)

Elders, class of 2010:
Cliff Flanders, Harold Manners, Charles Platt, Bob Shelton

Deacons, class of 2010:
Ed Kennelly, Carl Lindskoog, Ruth Munson, Alan Robinson