From the Interim Pastor
The Reverend David D. Prince

Another summer has come and gone—almost. The calendar tells us summer doesn’t end for a few more weeks, but our date books and blackberries tell us we’re into autumn. Our worship attendance at Rutgers was good in July and August, with visitors joining “regulars” on most Sundays. Vacation Bible School pulled in many children from the neighborhood as well as from our membership. Our choir soloists and section leaders contributed to the beauty of our Sunday services, and George Davey inspired the congregation to a high level of hymn-singing with his gifted playing of our pipe organ.

Our congregational self-study continues as we complete our series of small group conversations about the future of RPC. Within a few weeks the steering committee will circulate a survey for individuals to complete as part of this interim process. As I come to the end of my first year as your interim pastor, I am preparing a report for the session and church members, outlining my impressions of the congregation and my thoughts about its future. Personally it has been a stimulating year as I have come to know the church family of Rutgers Presbyterian Church. I continue to enjoy my work as your interim pastor.

Our choir will resume its vital role in the worship services on September 9, and we will celebrate Rutgers’ traditional Homecoming Sunday on September 16, with a luncheon on the fifth floor for all who care to stay after the worship service.

A warm welcome to Jeremiah Rosario, our interim administrative assistant in the office; to Jacqui Van Vliet, our student intern from Union Seminary; and a warm welcome back to all of you as we begin another year in the life of this unique and lively Presbyterian Church, where we celebrate God’s unconditional, inclusive, affirming love and extend that love into our neighborhood and world.

Dave Prince
Review of May 6, 2007 Operatic Recital
by Roger Franklin, Ph.D., critic-at-large of Opera, Theatre and Drama

On Sunday afternoon, May 7, Music from Rutgers proudly presented A Viennese Anthology, a benefit concert for the Christopher Roberts Memorial Homeless Shelter at Rutgers Church, to an enthusiastic capacity audience. These annual musicals were staged by Rutgers’ own producer/director/pianist Kieran Wellington.

This afternoon’s performance was dedicated to Ms. Lynnie Morris, who has served as Production Associate for a number of years. The concert got underway with the first New York performance in 2007 of Alberto Ginastera’s Danzas Argentinas. These two short pieces were executed by Mr. Jones with depth, understanding and musicianship, and were narrated by our Interim Pastor, the Reverend David D. Prince.

The benefit concert continued with four artists performing arias and ensembles from the French and Italian repertoire. Baritone Adrian Gans opened this section brilliantly with the Prologue from Le Comte d’Oberkaufl’s I Pagliacci, eliciting immediate applause from the enthusiastic audience. Janelle Laurenti (a semifinalist in the Met Opera National Auditions in New York) and tenor Edward Bruce Stevenson’s bright tenor voice enchanted (he has recorded for RCA Victor and Italian radio and television) were paired in the Act I love duet from Verdi’s Rigoletto with telling effect, and later with her husband Elinstein (Albert Rhodes, in fine voice), they enacted their Chook Duet ("Love’s a matter of time"). Francesca Angioli, Rosa’s maid -Adela, a delightful soulbette, probably has the best known number of the score ("Look over once"), which she performed with her habitual charm and grace. Her exuberant laughter refrains delightfully made fun of her employer Elinstein.

The surprise guest at Offenbach’s party turned out to be Albert Williams, soloist in the Rutgers Church Choir, singing Mephistophiles’ cynical Stricks from Act IV of Gounod’s Faust. Rutgers regulars Reverend Charles Aufricht (as Doctor Faust) and in Mimi’s third-act aria, "Don’t let me" from Puccini’s La Bohème, and finally, our four stellar soloists returned as Mimi, Rodolfo, Marcello and Musetta for the final Act III Ensemble from the same opera, with they performed with dramatic sensitivity and excitement.

The pièce de résistance of the afternoon consisted of excerpts from the Act V of Johann Strauss, Jr.’s Die Fledermaus (The Bat), sung in English. Composed in six weeks and first presented in Vienna in 1874, this sparkling operetta, involving a whiff of deceit and mistaken identities at a Viennese masked ball, has retained its popularity and still remains one of the most frequently performed operettas of all time.

Under K. Wellington Jones’ spirited direction and staging, the appealing cast, surprisingly gowned in period costume with the men in formal evening dress, bubbled across Rutgers’ playing space, assimilating the style or ambiance of the Viennese operetta with its gaiety, polkas, and waltzes. The choristers and soloists showed camaraderie and understanding of their roles, both vocally and dramatically.

Outstanding in the trouser role of Prince Orlofsky was Ladie Whitaker, dressed in military regalia. Until she sang, I could have sworn she was a male! Vocally and dramatically she was first-rate. The last Kitty Carlisle Hart was an exponent of that role at the Met.

As Rosalinda, Anna Marie Mackley scored highly with her florid aria and canto, being her dramatic soprano with telling effect, and later with her husband Elinstein (Albert Rhodes, in fine voice), they enacted their Chook Duet ("Love’s a matter of time").

The session approved the recommendation for a mission statement inclusive love, we gratefully pledge ourselves and our congregation’s resources to help make the world a better place for children, women and men who are poor, sick or marginalized and to extend the reality of peace with justice.

9. Let there be light. The Session has voted to replace the light bulbs in the church house to cost efficient florescent light bulbs wherever possible.

What does Jacqui hope to gain at Rutgers? She is looking to minister to a wide range of congregants at Rutgers under the supervision of Dave and Cheryl. She is looking to gain more experience, strengthen her skills with children and children and acquire new skills.

When asked how she chose Rutgers, Jacqui replied: “Continue to be as welcoming as possible. Keep me in your prayers and feel free to discuss your opinions with me.”

We look forward to getting to know Jacqui better and working with her as she minsters to our congrega-...
September 2007

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**September 2007 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond**

S.K.A.T.E. Sleepover
Friday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 8
The Rutgers youth group for kids 5th grade and up will have their second annual sleepover the first Friday in September. We’ll be sleeping in the gym and blue room, getting to know each other, going on a scavenger hunt, having dinner and singing together! For more information call Cheryl at x205.

Peace & Social Justice Network Meeting
Sunday, September 9 at 12:45 p.m. on the second floor
We look forward to welcoming new members, talking about our mission, and planning for the year. Pizza and soda will be served.

Reverend Elizabeth Alexander Installation
Sunday, September 9 at 9 p.m. at Church of Gethsemane
All are invited to the installation of the Reverend Elizabeth Alexander at the Presbyterian Church of Gethsemane, 1012 8th Avenue, in Brooklyn (F train to 7th Avenue). Gethsemane was founded in 1896 with the mission of serving and including in membership prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. Gethsemane is financially supported by Rutgers through the Benevolence Committee, and Cheryl Pyrch will be giving the charge to Reverend Alexander. For more information, call Cheryl at x205.

Confirmation Class Dinner
Friday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the manse (Cheryl Pyrch’s apartment)
This year we have several seventh and eighth graders who are ready to participate in a confirmation class and to consider joining the church this spring. At this dinner, we’ll talk about what it means to be confirmed and what we’ll be doing during the confirmation class. We’ll also have time to enjoy dinner together and share experiences from the summer and the first weeks of school. All children in 7th and 8th grade (or older) and their parents are encouraged to come. Call Cheryl for more information at x205.

How to Talk with Your Children About Sex
Tuesday, October 16 at 7 p.m.
Are you tongue-tied when your children ask questions? Do you have values and concerns you’d like to share but don’t know where to begin? Would you like more information about child sexual development and the issues that concern kids at different ages? Do you have questions about Christian teachings regarding sexuality, and wonder how to bring God into the discussion? Come to a forum sponsored by Planned Parenthood of New York City, Presbyterian Welcome and Rutgers Church on October 16, 7:00 p.m. in the 5th floor Fellowship Hall. Educators from Planned Parenthood will be joined by the Reverend Cheryl Pyrch. We’ll explore ways to talk with young people of all ages, from toddlers to young adults, and suggest resources for parents and children. All are welcome, so please invite friends and neighbors!

Child care is available if reserved in advance. Please call (212) 877-8227, x205 for more information or to RSVP.

Singing Jesus
Sunday, Sept. 16 to Dec. 16, at 9:45 a.m., Session Room
Do you have questions about the images and understandings of Jesus that you were taught as a child? Do you wonder who Jesus is for us today? Do the gospels often puzzle or disturb you? If, so join us for a DVD-based study that features presentations by progressive scholars such as Marcus Borg and Amy-Jill Levine. They’ll discuss themes such as “What can we know about Jesus?”, “Who killed Jesus?” and “Jesus’ Program: The Kingdom of God.” Each session will include a 20-minute video segment and guided discussion, led by Jacqui Van Vliet, our intern from Union-Theological Seminary. The introductory session on September 16 will be a chance to learn more about the program before making a commitment. You can read more at www.Livingthequestions.com.

Oh! Be Joyful!
Thursday, September 6 at 3:15 p.m.
Sunday, September 8 at 2 p.m.
You are invited to a free screening of Oh! Be Joyful!, a TV comedy pilot written and directed by Rutgers’ audio & visual technician, Peter Rinaldi on Thursday, September 6 at 3:15 p.m. and Saturday, September 8 at 2 p.m. Reserve your ticket at www.newyorktelevisionfestival.com (theater fee of $2.50 applies per ticket).

Group Seminar Series
Monday nights (Trinity Wall Street)
Recommended by Deacon Laurel Brevoort
Education for Ministry (EFM) is an extraordinarily successful nationwide program of small group seminars that offer a comprehensive, seminar-based survey of scriptural, historical and theological studies. The program features guided creative exercises that promote individual engagement with the issues of everyday life, culture, politics and personal growth. The Monday night EFM group which meets at Trinity Church on Wall Street, is currently seeking new members for the academic year beginning in September. People from all denominations are welcome. It’s a wonderful program and though it will not lead to ordained ministry, it will help you find your personal ministry. For more information please contact George Finger at (917) 866-3986 or chaplainfinger@ins.com or contact Laurel Brevoort at (718) 252-9895. We’ve just learned that a second class is starting at St. Matthew and St. Timothy’s, so please contact Reverend George Daze for information at (917) 562-3982.

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**Preaching Schedule**

- **September 2** _Labor Day Weekend; Hymnming_
- **September 9** _Holy Communion; David Prince preaching_
- **September 16** _Homecoming; David Prince preaching_
- **September 23** _Cheryl Pyrch preaching_
- **September 30** _Charles Amstein preaching_

**Birthdays!**

- 3 _Eric Woodall_
- 4 _Bryce Stepaniuk_
- 9 _Marisol Kaminski_
- 12 _Max Bohan_
- 14 _Charles Amstein_
- 18 _Susan Scherer_
- 24 _Peter Gonzales_
- 28 _Allison Finn, Robert & Scott Muirhead-Sheppatin_
- 30 _Jose Melendez_