



236 West 73rd Street

New York, NY 10023

Phone: (212) 877-8227

Fax: (212) 0721-9154

Web: www.rutgerschurch.com

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."

Summer 2008

Volume 25, Issue 6



From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

Comings and goings, arrivals and departures, are part of life. Congregations welcome ministers, and they say Good-bye (a contraction of "God be with you") when ministers move on. In a few weeks we will say good-bye to Cheryl Pynch, who has served Rutgers Church with distinction for several years. You and I will know the sadness of seeing a friend and colleague move away, and we will know the happiness of seeing that same person take on a new challenge, one she has been preparing for. Cheryl will be a wonderful pastor, having been an associate pastor for an appropriate period of time. She will exercise her gifts as she preaches regularly,

moderates a session, and assumes full responsibility for a congregation's program and life. On Sunday, September 7, we will celebrate Cheryl's ministry at Rutgers, and we will wish her "God speed" in this new phase of her life. The process of Cheryl's accepting a new call will unfold "decently and in order"—the Presbyterian way. The details of that process were announced on Sunday, August 10, at our 11 a.m. worship service. I know you join me in thanking God for Cheryl's ministry at Rutgers.

Dave Prince

From the Designated Associate Pastor

The Reverend Cheryl Pynch

Dear Friends, I have been overwhelmed by the warm and generous response to my announcement that I will be leaving Rutgers on September 7th to accept a call to the Summit Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA. I am truly going to miss Rutgers and each one of you! I thought I would try and address a few of the questions that may be on your mind:

Why are you leaving?

I believe that at this point in my ministry I can best serve the Church and use my gifts in a position where I preach weekly and provide spiritual leadership in all aspects of a congregation's life – which is a long way of saying I feel called to be a solo pastor. Summit thought I would be a good match for their congregation, and so they extended a call.



Please know that I have loved working at Rutgers – I came expecting to stay a few years and am amazed that I completed eight in June. I remain excited, challenged and rewarded by my work here. I also feel that – together – we have done much to build up the church, especially in family and children's ministries. The congregation is strong and vibrant and I'm confident it will continue to thrive under new leadership.

continued on page 3

What Do You Think?

1. Why do you lie to yourself?
2. Which is most costly, trying to maintain a secret or telling the truth?
3. Do you get tired of exaggerating?
4. Does anyone have a perfect life?
5. My brother told me "you accomplish your goals in spite of, and you don't fail to accomplish your goals because of . . ."
6. Strangers don't know you're having a bad hair day.
7. How many ink pens have you walked off with?
8. Wonder how many times an owner of a business is late for work?
9. Asking children what they want to be when they grow up starts them thinking about a career.
10. Beware, cameras are watching your every move.

'Til next time,
Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

PNC (Pastoral Nominating Committee) Update

By Elder Nora Lidell, chair

Great news! The CIF (Church Information Form) is now officially approved by all parties; the COS and COM, and is online at the CLC. What this means in plain English is that we are now at the point where we will be receiving PIFs from prospective candidates. PIFs (Pastoral Information Forms) are known in the secular world as resumes. Yea! CIFS and PIFS, COS and COM – sometimes it is hard to tell what's going on!

The floodgates are open folks. If anyone has a prospective candidate for this job, please ask him/her to send us a PIF. They can send it electronically to pnc@rutgerschurch.com or mail it to the PNC at the Rutgers address. We are now working at putting our CIF on the Rutgers website <http://www.rutgerschurch.com> so you and others can have access to it.

We are very excited and just a wee bit intimidated about the awesome job ahead of us. Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours. ω

RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Renewal

I Was Born Gay

A Moment for Mission given by Trustee Beverly Thompson on Gay Pride Sunday, June 29, 2008

– I was born Gay.

I knew I was in trouble – the mischievous kind – when my Mom called out my middle name: “Beverly Gay – Right This Minute!”

As the years passed by the word Gay went from “she is such a happy baby” to the lowering and narrowing of my middle name by some to mean something – derisive, deviant, and derogatory. Why hadn’t my Mother spelled my middle name with an E?

After age 18 I went with just the middle initial G. and then dropped my middle name altogether – after getting a few giggles and uh-huhs amongst my sorority sisters.

Thank goodness we have taken a “prideful step forward” since the days of my youth and the 70’s in three very distinctive and empowering ways: language, symbols, and faith-based organizations.

First – by elevating derogatory language like *Queer* and *Flaming* and so many others and putting them under The Rainbow of Gay Pride.

Secondly – by re-defining symbols like the Greek Delta, the pink triangle worn upside down by gay victims during the Holocaust – to denote deviant instability – and now worn point up as a symbol of Pride.

The third way – by creating community through the GLBT Center in NYC now celebrating their 25th Anniversary & faith-based organizations like “our” Presbyterian Welcome – a group of 18 churches of which Rutgers is a founding member – and now 19 – 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church joining us “just in the nick of time” for the Heritage of Pride Parade. Since 1996, Presbyterian Welcome has been working for change through education, advocacy, and relationship building in the GLBT spiritual community.

We come from all walks of life. We are gay and straight, lesbian and bisexual, transgender – and yes, queer.

We are old and young and middle-aged, and from eclectic cultural backgrounds. We are from the 5 boroughs of New York City – and far beyond.

What unites us is our “Presbyterian identity” – commitment to the church – and our conviction that God’s grace is for *everyone*. We are called



From left to right:

Elder Suzanne Spears, Trustee Beverly Gay Thompson and Deacon Joan Keener

to the work of the church to be affirmed and serve without regard to God-given sexual identity and expression.

And where would More Light Presbyterians be today – without the Greek gift of language? God love them for their Greek letter, which illuminates our symbol for Light – The Lambda – The Lamp. Some years ago the symbol of the Lambda worn on pinkies and around necks was a way of identifying one another without “outing oneself” – in a hostile world.

The Lambda – The Light – “More Light” first shone through with a statement of sanctuary, advocacy, and witness by the West Park Presbyterian Church on the Upper West Side which inspired and inspires today other Presbyterian Churches to minister and affiliate as More Light Churches.

In 1978, The General Assembly brought forth the first flicker for the More Light Presbyterian GLBT spiritual

community to “illuminate” their civil rights so others could “see” them as brothers and sisters in Christ.

In 2008, 30 years later, ordination overtures called for an end to discrimination at the 218th General Assembly, which met in San Jose, California. It IS About Time! Yet, we continue to work to make the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) one that welcomes and affirms *all* of God’s people.

Gay Pride Is Hope. Gay Pride Is Love. Gay Pride Is A Joyful Noise. Today, especially today, gives us an opportunity to empower a community’s language, empower their symbols, and to exercise our vow to “strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the ‘dignity’ of ‘every’ human being.”

Right about now, you are probably saying, Bev, “what about that Float?” Yes, THIS YEAR WE HAVE A FLOAT! Co-sponsored with a group of United Methodists, Presbyterian Welcome will be floating “happily” down the Avenue, 5th Avenue in style, from atop and alongside our float entitled, “Flaming for Christ!” Our theme: Live, Love, Be!

After services we will gather at 12:45 p.m. to go over together to the 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church on 55th street, our main headquarters for the parade. We will be served communion by the church of St. Paul and St. Andrew before stepping off for Gay Pride.

For those of you who do not want to march – but serve – there is the Evelyn Davidson Water Table at First Presbyterian Church on 5th Avenue and 10th street. There will be some mighty thirsty marchers by that point in the parade.

And – Don’t Worry – Be Happy!! Let Us Celebrate – “Happy” Pride!! And your middle name doesn’t even have to be – Gay!ω

Your Benevolence Gifts at Work By Elder Elenor Bowles

Rutgers’ International Benevolence Committee has been providing support to the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT) in South Africa since the spring of 2005, and during that time has contributed a total of \$12,000. HACT was established in 1991 by the Hillcrest Methodist Church in response to the growing threat of AIDS in South Africa, which has one of the largest concentrations of HIV/AIDS in the world. HACT was the first instance of the involvement of the church community in the AIDS crisis in South Africa. Its mission is “to provide unconditional love to all infected and affected by HIV/AIDS within our community in a holistic way.”

Located in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, in the heartland of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, HACT has grown into a multi-service facility that provides prevention, education, and treatment to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, which infects over 40% of the population of KwaZulu-Natal. Its services include youth education, counseling, home-based care for patients, feeding programs, and income generation. Its most recent program has been the construction of an in-patient respite center for persons who are too sick to be cared for in their homes or have no one there who can assist them. Rutgers’ most recent contribution of \$2,000 will be used to help complete the building of this center. The following letter was received by Rutgers from Hillcrest in response to our most recent contribution.

Dear All at Rutgers Presbyterian Church:

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the generous donation of \$2,000, which you have allocated to us for this year. As soon as the money arrives into our account I will let you know.

The Centre is moving along well but the pandemic shows no signs of abating. A big project that we are



working on at present is the building of a respite unit (hospice) on our property. In 2006, we started a respite unit for people who were ill, but had no caregiver at home, from a rented ward at the local hospital. This arose when we found that many patients were being left on their own all day in their own urine and faeces or were being cared for by a child. In July of last year, the hospital notified us that they need their ward back. We do not have sufficient funds to finish the building but have made the step forward in faith and have almost reached roof height. This year, we are going to put your donation into our building fund, as this is our most urgent need.

Whilst writing this letter, I have received a phone call from the hospital, saying that they now need us to move into our building URGENTLY!!! Your timing could not have been better, so thank you so very much.

Warm regards in His name,
Julie Hornby

Our Newest Members




Congratulations to Nicole Byrns and Lloyd Spencer on the birth of their baby girl, Julia Lucie Spencer, born on Tuesday, June 24 at 8lbs, 6oz and 20.5." We welcome Julia to the Rutgers family and envelop her and her proud parents in our love and prayers.

We also welcome to the Rutgers family Benjamin Shultz Greer, born on Monday, June 30 at 12:20 p.m., weighing in at 9lbs, 6oz and 19.5" to Stephen Greer and Harris Shultz. We surround Benjamin and his dads in our love and prayers.

August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10:15 a.m. Session Meeting 12:45 p.m. Board of Trustees	4 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon Every Monday	5 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA) 8:00 p.m. Men's Al-Anon Every Tuesday	6 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting Every Wednesday	7	1/8 10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study	2/9 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting Every Saturday
10 10:15 a.m. Session Meeting 12:45 p.m. Board of Trustees	11	12	13	14	15 10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study	16
17 12:15 a.m. Special Congregational Meeting	18 9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School	19 9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School	20 9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School	21 9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School	22 9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School	23
24 5:00 p.m. Pastoral Nominating Committee	25	26	27	28	29	30

Preaching Schedule

- August 3 ___ 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time; David D. Prince preaching
- August 10 ___ 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time; David D. Prince preaching
- August 17 ___ 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Charles A. Amstein preaching
- August 24 ___ 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time; David D. Prince preaching
- August 31 ___ 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time; David D. Prince preaching

Sundays

10:45	Infant & Child Care
11:00	Worship Service
11:15	Sunday School (ages 3-12)
12:15 p.m.	Coffee Hour

July Birthdays!

6	William Donnell	19	Emilio Padilla
7	Kate Dunn	23	Erik Ridings
8	Richard Reece	26	Shae Simpson
9	John Williamson	27	John Lembo
15	Cheryl Pynch & Natalie Wyatt	28	Maureen Knapp & W. Scott Morton
16	Nancy Muirhead	28	Nathan Matthews & Lloyd Spencer

August Birthdays!

1	James Patrick	14	Marianne Minasian
4	Ian Gale	16	Philip Yu
9	Dave Taylor	17	Allison & Gillian Kegg
10	David Prince	19	Peggy Scott
12	Robert Doyle	22	Isabelle Gale
13	Alexander Simpson		

August 2008 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

People on the Move—Vacation Bible School 2008 August 18-22, 9 a.m. to noon

Children from ages 4-11 are invited to our Vacation Bible School this year where we will be putting on a dramatic production of the Exodus story. Everyone will have an age-appropriate part and a chance to work on props and sets; our purpose will be to learn the story, build community and have fun. We have an experienced staff of teachers and interns of all ages. Please spread the word among family and friends. Suggested donation is \$25 for the week to cover materials. If you would like to help by either working directly with kids or helping to organize, please talk to Cheryl at the church office at x205.

From the Designated Associate Pastor

continued from page 1

What is the Summit church like?

Summit is, in many ways, a lot like Rutgers. It's roughly the same size, and has a similar commitment to social justice and community service. It's in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia, a residential yet bustling neighborhood in the northwest part of the city that voted heavily for Obama. It's known for its stone houses, food co-op, and racial diversity. The congregation reflects that diversity, with about one third of the membership African American, over half white, and Asian and Latino members, too. There are people of all ages and a small Sunday School they are hoping to expand. The large stone sanctuary and parish hall are busy during the week, with a Jewish Renewal group, a dance school, and a day-care center all sharing space. I've experienced a warm welcome and look forward to the surprises and challenges I will find.

Will we ever see or hear from you again?

I expect so. As you know, pastors are encouraged to make a clean break in terms of providing any kind of pastoral

Celebrate the Ministry of Cheryl Pynch Sunday, September 7, 11 a.m., Sanctuary

As our beloved Cheryl Pynch embarks on a new chapter in her ministry; come celebrate her years of faithful service to this faith community at the worship service on Sunday, September 7. Then join us immediately following in the Fellowship Hall for a reception in honor of Cheryl. This will be a time of fellowship, sharing of amusing anecdotes of her time with us, and to wish Cheryl "Bon Voyage" as she leaves Rutgers to pastor Summit Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia.

Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 14, 12:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall

We will welcome back all our members and friends from their summer vacations and activities with a potluck luncheon on Sunday, September 14, hosted by the Special Events Committee. Please bring your favorite foodstuff or covered dish and share a meal with family, long time friends and begin new friendships. To help us coordinate dishes, please call R. Wellington Jones at (212) 865-4764 or the church office at (212) 877-8227. See you there!

A Night for Revival!

Monday, September 8, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

The 218th General Assembly was exciting and full of promise for those who seek to bring full inclusion to our Church. Join Presbyterian Welcome in celebrating the actions of the GA and preparing ourselves for the work we are called to in the year to come. This service and the conversation afterwards will launch us into a time of revival, commitment and action. The Reverends Laura Cunningham (Naurausaun Presbyterian Church) and Chris Shelton (Hudson River Presbytery) will be leading us in worship. Come praise and strategize for what could be the seminal year in this movement! Snacks will be provided.

care or liturgical service when they leave a church, and to be very careful not to meddle, influence, or otherwise stay involved in a congregation's life. I believe that is sage advice for both parties, and know that the distance between us will serve as a natural barrier to my further involvement with Rutgers. That said, I would welcome a visit to Summit or a card sharing your news. I look forward to reading *Renewal* and following developments as you call a new pastor (or two!). And of course I will always keep you in my heart and in my prayers, as I hope you will keep me in yours.

What kind of cake are we having at your good-bye party?

A Fairway chocolate sheet-cake with vanilla butter-cream filling and vanilla butter-cream icing, confetti and flowers on top. Of course, that doesn't need to be the *only* cake!

With blessings and much love,

Cheryl