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### What Do You Think?

1. How many times have you attended a religious service?
2. Some peoples' barks are as bad as their bites.
3. Don't volunteer for something that will make you angry.
4. Shouldn't you be able to tell an employer that you aren't qualified to carry out a particular project without being fired?
5. Getting laid-off/fired sometimes can be a good thing when it forces you to follow your dream.
6. Does anyone get through life without personal issues?
7. If you walk with confidence you will speak with confidence even if everything you say is incorrect.
8. Why/how do you allow yourself to get lost on your journey to success?
9. Be careful not to over price yourself in your job search.
10. If someone said they can do something better than you can and you're two-thirds finished with the assignment, do you challenge or step aside?

'Til next time,  
Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

### For Your Consideration

By: The Congregational Nominating Committee

The Congregational Nominating Committee will present the following slate of members for election, as officers, at the 212th Annual Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2009:

**Elders:** David Halstead (class of 2010)  
Alice Hudson, Richard Reece, Jeremiah Rosario,  
and Joy Wyatt (all in the class of 2012);

**Deacons:** Haley Fulop, Kim Hodges, Isabelle Gale,  
Massimo Maglione, and Lloyd Spencer  
(all in the class of 2012); and

**Trustees:** James Finn, Don Ridings  
(both in the class of 2012).

*A Special Thanks* to outgoing officers:

**Elders:** Cliff Flanders and Vera Roberts;

**Deacons:** Joan Keener, Anne Leader,  
John Lembo, and Frances Manners; and

**Trustee:** Nancy Muirhead;

for their years of service on the church boards and their love, dedication, and support of the Rutgers community through their leadership, time, talents and energy. *ω*

**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."

**Winter 2009**  
Volume 26, Issue 1



### From the Interim Pastor

The Reverend David D. Prince

**O**n Sunday, January 25, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting. This is an opportunity for the congregation to elect officers—elders, deacons, and trustees, and at-large members of the Congregational Nominating Committee. It is also a time when the written reports from individuals and organizations within the church are circulated. Included in these reports are financial statements and a review of activities. The reports are not subject to action by the congregation, but questions are welcome. All reports are submitted to the Session, which is the governing body of a Presbyterian Church. The Session consists of the elders in active service who have been elected by the

congregation, and the moderator, who is either the installed pastor or the moderator approved by the presbytery.

The meeting on January 25 will be held in Fellowship Hall on the fifth floor of our building. A luncheon will be served free of charge, hosted by the Board of Deacons. Church members are encouraged to attend if possible. Non-members are welcome at this meeting, even though they can't vote. I look forward to seeing you Sunday, January 25, 2009, for our 11 a.m. worship service and for the Congregational Meeting that follows.

Dave Prince

### Helping Hands from Rutgers to Malawi

By Christine Gorman

**W**hat does success look like? That's a question I asked myself a lot while I was in Malawi for three months in 2008. Going straight from one of the richest countries in the world to one of the poorest, it was easy to focus on the things that were missing—paved roads, reliable electricity, soap in one of the hospitals I visited in the capital. It took a lot more effort and a gentle nudge in the right direction from Dr. Martha Sommers, a Presbyterian (PC U.S.A.) medical missionary who lives in Malawi and visited Rutgers in 2007, for me to see what was already there.

Nowadays when I think about success in Malawi, I think of 9-year old Miriam (pictured above). A few days before I arrived at Embangweni Mission Hospital, which is located in a rural part of northern Malawi, Miriam was brought to

the hospital in terrible pain with severe burns across her abdomen. Since Malawi is in the southern hemisphere, it was winter there, and Miriam had gotten too close to an open cooking fire in an effort to keep herself warm. Her

dress caught fire and she was badly burned. If you have ever seen second and third degree burns, you know how horrible they look. The wounds had to be debrided, which means the dead tissue is re-



Photo by Eileen Hohmuth-Lemonick

moved. And then every day after that the nurses changed the bandages and cleaned the wounds. They didn't have the latest-and-greatest burn treatments but the silver-based medication they did have kept infection at bay. The tent-frame that kept the sheets away from her exposed abdomen was covered with a homemade quilt.

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RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Renewal

## Helping Hands from Rutgers to Malawi

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There was some pain medication available but not a lot. Sometimes Miriam whimpered plaintively. It was tough to watch and to listen to.

But then, gradually, the crying stopped. Miriam started to smile. And by the time I left Embangweni she was laughing and joking with both her mother and the nurses and ward maids. Her burns were healing.

Miriam ended up spending six weeks in the hospital. Six weeks in which the nursing staff made sure her open wounds never became infected.

Six weeks in which the clinical officers gave her the very best care available in a poor rural community at the end of a dirt road many miles from the country's main paved highway.

So nowadays, when I think about what success looks like in Malawi, I see Miriam and hear her laughing. Her severe abdominal burns healed and she was able to rejoin her family and go back to school. And I think about many other successes that the staff at Embangweni Mission Hospital have

accomplished—in fighting malaria, measles and malnutrition and in making sure childbirth is not a death sentence for the mothers.

And I am thankful that Rutgers was able to play a part in Miriam's successful treatment. In 2007, Rutgers, through the Benevolence Committee, sent \$5,000 to PC (U.S.A.) to help support the highly dedicated but not well-paid nurses at Embangweni Mission Hospital. In 2008, we were able to increase that amount to \$6,000. I can assure you the money is well spent. *ω*

## What's Happening at Child's Play

Holly Nedelka, founder and director of the longstanding Child's Play program here at Rutgers, is pleased to announce that Linda Kuo has been named coordinator of the Child's Play Mandarin program.

Linda has been a vital part of the Mandarin program for two years, teaching and developing curriculum. In addition to a wealth of classes and playgroups for babies, toddlers, and school-age children up to the age of 7, the Child's Play Mandarin program offers classes for parents and caretakers who aren't native Mandarin speakers on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Linda's energy and warmth make her beloved by the adults and the children who attend the program, and it will continue to be an important source of joyful learning and outreach to the community under her guidance. Linda will continue in her role as lead teacher for several Mandarin playgroups and classes in addition to her duties as program coordinator.

Linda holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Economics from Boston College and will begin working toward a dual master's degree at New York University in teaching English as a second language and foreign language instruction this month. She began her teaching career in high school, as an instructor in Mommy-and-Me dance classes and creative movement for older toddlers at a studio she helped run in Hawaii. Linda is also a professional dancer and choreographer for Chinese pop stars, and brings those talents to bear in the Mandarin program. Please join



Holly in congratulating Linda in her expanded role.

Holly and Linda would also like to invite Rutgers families to a Chinese New Year celebration on Friday, January 30 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The celebration will feature a showing of Nickelodeon's popular character Kai-Lan, and also include Chinese lantern crafts, dance demonstrations, writing/painting, and much more. This celebration will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Child's Play room and is free of charge. Families must RSVP as space is limited and available on a first come, first served basis. Please e-mail Linda at [lkuo@rutgerschurch.com](mailto:lkuo@rutgerschurch.com).

Additionally, the Child's Play English-language playgroups continue to flourish. In fact, to meet rising demand, Child's Play has added a new playgroup on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. for 2 ½ to 3 ½ year olds. Holly has also added a new group on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. for young toddlers aged 14 to 24 months. The Child's Play English-language playgroup program is unique in that it is specifically designed for parents to attend with their children (no sitters or nannies attend).

The winter/spring term for Child's Play programs begins on Monday, January 26. Please feel free to call (212) 877-8227, x204 for more information or [holly@rutgerschurch.com](mailto:holly@rutgerschurch.com) for more information. *ω*

## FYI

by Elder Jeremiah, Clerk of Session

2009 began with a blast of artic temperatures and the Inauguration of a new President. As we hold hope in our hearts for the rest of 2009 let's take a moment to review what the Session has been up to. Here is a summary in brief.

1. The Session endorsed two Overtures to the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The first, an overture to Delete G-6.0106b from the *Book of Order* and Provide a New Authoritative Interpretation. The second, an overture to Restore the Heidelberg Catechism to Its Historic Form, removing, among other things, the phrase "homosexual perversion" which is not found in the original text.

2. After due examination (written and oral), the Session voted to receive into membership Anne "Kristin" Collins, Haley Fulop, Elliott Idoff, Susan Jeffers, Stacy Kim, Jennifer Nunes, Kyle Okimoto, John "Newt" Pate and Robert Russo by reaffirmation of faith; William V. Falk by letter of transfer; and Isabelle Christine Gale and DeYan Rebecca Jervis McCarthy by profession of faith. We also received Julia Lucie Spencer (daughter of Nicole Byrns & Lloyd Spencer) as new members into the Body of Christ through baptism. A warm welcome one and all.

3. After long and lengthy discussions on balancing the needs of the church in maintaining the facilities for mission and expanding the church's outward mission through benevolence support, a motion passed to proceed with the repair of masonry due to water damage and installation of double pane glass on damaged windows (providing an approximate 8% reduction in energy costs annually over the live of the windows), which is now nearing completion.

4. After a year of hard work by the Mission Review Steering Committee, the Session approved the Mission Review Report, as presented by the committee, with grateful thanks. The Mission Review Report was subsequently approved by the Presbytery of New York City's Committee on Ministry. A link to the report was placed on Rutgers'

website.

5. A special offering was organized and collected by the Sunday School children and Deacon Sheila Smith to purchase a bicycle through World Bicycle Relief ([www.worldbicyclerelief.org](http://www.worldbicyclerelief.org)) which provides bicycles to children and adults in impoverished areas around the world where the primary mode of transportation is on bicycles.

6. The Reverend Dr. Tom Driver, on behalf of the Peace & Social Justice Network presented a proposal for Rutgers to endorse a statement by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) and to become a participating member in the NRCAT and its struggle against torture. The motion passed. A motion also passed to allow the flying of a "No to Torture" banner to fly in conjunction with Torture Awareness month. The Session later endorsed a Declaration of Principles for a Presidential Executive Order on Prisoner Treatment, Torture and Cruelty as prepared by the NRCAT to be presented to President Barack H. Obama. Statement and further information can be found on the NRCAT's website at [www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org).

7. The Session called a Congregational Meeting, in which the Congregational Nominating Committee presented a slate of 9 nominees to the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). The nominees were approved by the congregation and the committee has been hard at work, first preparing the Church Information Form (CIF), which was approved by both the Session and the Presbytery of New York's Committee on Ministry, and then reviewing more than 100 Pastoral Information Forms (PIFs).

8. The Session approved the use of the Sanctuary to host a rally organized by the West Side Peace Action and co-sponsored various social justice events with other organizations.

9. Session enthusiastically approved a motion to extend the contract with the Reverend David D. Prince, as Interim Pastor, for an additional year,

ending September 24, 2009, subject to termination with 90 days notice (in light of the work of the PNC).

10. To help foster civic responsibility, the Session voted to renew a contract with the Board of Elections where Rutgers Church once again acted as a voting site during the presidential election year.

11. The Session moved to replace the chairs in the narthex, which were badly stained and on the verge of collapse, with Kathryn style chairs, which more closely resembled the existing chairs with a Falling Leaves pattern of upholstery.

12. A Congregational Meeting was called by the Session, where the congregation joined with the Reverend Cheryl Pyrch in requesting that the Committee on Ministry dissolve the relationship between Cheryl and Rutgers, in order for Cheryl to accept a solo pastorate position at Summit Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia. Cheryl was honored with a luncheon reception where she was thanked for her many years of faithful service to Rutgers church and community.

13. The Session approved a recommendation by the Personnel Committee to employ Jacqui Van Vliet as Interim Director of Educational Ministries.

14. After an extensive interview, review and questioning based of the completed Application for Enrollment as an Inquire (Form 1), a motion unanimously passed to approve member Douglas Grace as an Inquire in the Presbytery of New York City and under the care of Session, the first, in a long series of steps toward ordination. Douglas was later approved by the Presbytery as an Inquirer at its regularly stated meeting.

Well, maybe it wasn't so brief, but as you can gather, the Session has been hard at work. We are humbled and honored to be able to be of service to such a diverse and dynamic congregation and to be able to call it our spiritual home. *ω*



# February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 12:45 p.m. Session & Board of Deacons Joint Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Sunday</i>	2 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon <i>Every Monday</i> 3:30 p.m. Worship Committee	3 12:15 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. Men's Support Group (HIV+/PLWA) Cub Scouts 8:00 p.m. Men's Al-Anon <i>Every Tuesday</i>	4 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting <i>Every Wednesday</i>	5 6:00 p.m. Meal Program 7:00 p.m. Movie Series <i>Every Thursday</i>	6 10:30 a.m. Mothers' Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter <i>Every Friday</i> 6:30 p.m. S.K.A.T.E.	7 1:00 p.m. Opera Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting Men's Shelter <i>Every Saturday</i>

8 12:45 p.m. Peace & Social Justice Network 5:00 p.m. PNC	9	10	<b>February Birthdays!</b>		14 Jeffrey Glendon	18 Stephen Greer
			7 James Ellis & Jarred Stur-nam	14 Jeffrey Glendon	18 Stephen Greer	23 Carol Williamson
			8 Edward Kennelly	23 Carol Williamson	26 Cheryl Beck	
			9 Katherine Wyatt	26 Cheryl Beck		

15	16 Presidents' Day Church & Office Building Closed	17				
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22 11:00 a.m. Scout Sunday	23 6:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee	24 6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Musical	25 12:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	<b>Sundays</b>	28
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9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
10:00	Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:45	Infant & Child Care
11:00	Worship Service
11:15	Sunday School (ages 3-12)
12:15 p.m.	Coffee Hour
12:30	Choir Rehearsal
6:00	Men's Shelter

### Preaching Schedule

*February 1* \_\_\_ 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time; David D. Prince preaching

*February 8* \_\_\_ 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time; David D. Prince preaching

*February 15* \_\_\_ Presidents' Day Weekend; Jacqui Van Vliet preaching

*February 22* \_\_\_ Transfiguration of the Lord; David D. Prince preaching

## January 2009 at Rutgers Church, and Beyond

**212th Annual Congregational Business Meeting**  
Sunday, January 25 at 12:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Rutgers' 212th Annual Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 25, (it is *not* Super Bowl Sunday) immediately following the worship. We will elect a new class of officers and conduct church business. This is an important time in the life of Rutgers and all members are encouraged to participate. Your voice is important and your vote does matters.

**Adult Education Class: Finishing Paul**  
Sundays, February 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 9:45 a.m., Session room

Join us as we conclude our fall/early winter examination of Paul during the four Sunday mornings of February. We'll examine his writings – the books that scholars believe are truly penned from his hand and those that remain in question. This is a chance to take a "last look" at the apostle Paul, a catalyst for change and for controversy within the Church, whose words and teachings challenge our faith. Class meets on Sundays in February at 9:45 a.m. in the Session Room.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
Tuesday, February 24, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

A festive evening of maple syrup covered pancakes, tasty sausages, sugar loading and wonderful musical – and other - performances by our talented Rutgers Community. If you'd like to participate in our (very low key) talent show, or if you'd like to help flip pancakes, please call the church office by phone at (212) 877-8227 or e-mail at [jeremiah@rutgerschurch.com](mailto:jeremiah@rutgerschurch.com).



**Ash Wednesday, Pancake Supper**  
Tuesday, February 25, 12:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Begin the Lenten season of reflection and introspection with services on Ash Wednesday, February 25 at 12:15 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. A distribution of ashes will be made during both services.



**Blood Drive**  
Sunday, March 8, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., West End Synagogue

On Sunday, March 8 Rutgers will join with West End Synagogue, Lincoln Square Synagogue, Congregation Habonim and the New York Blood Center in a drive to gather this life-saving resource for our neighbors. Please contact Jacqui Van Vliet for more information at (212) 877-8227, x205.

**Presbyterian Welcome Worship Service**  
Monday, March 9, 6:30 p.m., The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York, 12 West 12th Street

On Monday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m., Presbyterian Welcome will hold a worship service at the First Presbyterian Church in the Greenwich Village. Ms. Lisa Larges, Minister Coordinator for That All May Freely Serve, will be preaching. It will be a time of prayer, worship and spiritual renewal as presbyteries across the nation vote on ratification of an overture to amendment G-6.0106b in the *Book of Order*. All are welcome to attend.



## Word of Mouth

If you have something personal to advertise such as a lead for employment or looking for employment, need a roommate to split rent or sublease, have a performance coming up or trying to sell/give away a pair of blue suede shoes, etc., submit your information to [jeremiah@rutgerschurch.com](mailto:jeremiah@rutgerschurch.com) or call (212) 877-8227.

*\*Please don't send resumes or pictures of your car or furniture, etc.*