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.”

From the Interim Pastor
The Reverend David D. Prince

Memorial Day weekend marked the unofficial beginning of summer in New York City. At Rutgers Presbyterian Church we continue to hold our Sunday worship service at 11 a.m. as usual. Our choir will strengthen the congregation’s singing of hymns and responses and proclaim the truth of our faith in anthems through June. In July and August our outstanding soloists will replace the choir’s leadership while George Davey will support congregation and soloists most Sundays, providing substitutes when on vacation. I express my gratitude for the way George Davey and our other wonderful musicians inspire us and support us in our praise of God.

The current global financial crisis is affecting some of our members through loss of employment and/or decrease in income. We hold them in our prayers as well as people around the world who face daily uncertainty and need. On Sunday, June 14, the session and I will present an update on the church’s 2009 budget in the fellowship Hall after the morning worship service. There will be opportunity for asking questions about our projections for income and expenditures for the rest of 2009.

My perception at this point in my interim ministry here is that the congregation is strong and growing, with new people attending worship just about every Sunday. Most of our new attenders are toward the younger end of the age spectrum, a hopeful sign regarding the future of this vital church. I appreciate all the people who make up our congregational family—from youngest to oldest. Our worshiping congregation includes two hundred-year-olds and a few more in their nineties. We are blessed to have such a wide range of age groups in our diverse and inclusive faith community.

The Pastoral Nominating Committee reported to the session at its May meeting that they are hard at work narrowing down the pool of candidates for the position of installed pastor at Rutgers Presbyterian Church. While it is not yet possible to fix a date for the end of my service as your interim pastor, it looks as though I will be here well into the fall. Please remember that I cannot and will not be the next installed pastor here (the session, presbytery, and I agreed on that when I came in 2006). I continue to enjoy my time with you and expect to do so until I leave. I know, and I trust all of you know, that life consists of changes for the rest of our lives. Amen.

I hope you have a refreshing spring season, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Sunday services and other gatherings.

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Over the past year the Benevolence Committee has been including articles in the Rutgers Newsletter with the intention of keeping the Rutgers Community informed about the organization and the kinds of projects to which you contributed that year. Since May 14, 2009 was the Annual Benefit for The Brotherhood/Sister Sol, I have chosen this organization for this month's report.

“The Brotherhood was founded in 1994 in Providence, Rhode Island by students at Brown University and in 1995 moved to New York City. The organization expanded in 1998 to include young women and was renamed The Brotherhood/Sister Sol. It is a Harlem-based organization with a mission to empower Black and Latino young women and men to develop into critical thinkers and community leaders. The Brotherhood/Sister Sol offers a safe space full of resources and love for 250 Black and Latino youth to speak their minds, acquire knowledge and skills, explore their identity and beliefs, and receive support to make their dreams reality.” The core program on which the organization was founded is The Brotherhood/Sister Rites of Passage. The goal is to empower youth through discovery and discussion of history, culture, social problems, and political forces surrounding them.

The Objectives for the program are for the participants to:
• Become independent and resourceful;
• Thrive for their highest personal potential;
• Develop leadership skills and a sense of community responsibility;

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE?

DO YOU NEED A PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT?

What happens to your family or loved ones if you suddenly need a professional assistant?

I can help you organize your documents and last wishes.
Call: Jacqueline Carpenter at (646) 645-7616 for details.
E-mail: jmcarpenter@yocal.com

Continued on back cover

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The biblical tradition specifically employs state torture as a chief symbol of evil. The Hebrew prophets were tortured by the state, not to extract information but to silence their cry of justice. A recent Pew Research poll found that of the groups asked, the one least likely to reject torture on behalf of national security, were Christians; and that the more they went to church, the more they favored it.

Music from Rutgers continued from page 1

On the banks of the Nile. Aida (Anna Marie Molfetta), torn between her love of Radames and memories of her native land she will never see again, expressed in song “O patria mia, mia, mia piu rivede!”

Ms. Mackey scored again this season, exhibiting her exquisite top dramatic soprano voice to her lower silvery pianissimos. Bravo!

Expecting to see Radames, Aida was startled to behold her father, Amonasro, King of Ethiopia, before whom he demanded that she disclose the Secret Routes by which the Egyptian army will pass. When Aida escape from Amonasro Amagato reacted vehemently, denouncing his daughter as “The Whore of Babylon!”

This duet of Aida and Amonasro is in the line of Verdi’s most famous “Father/Daughter” duets. Its dramatic effectiveness is enormous and nowhere is there a better example of his skill in advancing the drama in purely musical terms.

Salvatore Motisi (Radames), a well-known tenor, has sung major verismo roles in the Italian repertoire, including Otello, Marnio, Cavadoro, and Turandò. He has performed with the late Anna Moffo and Birgit Nilsson.

Having overheard the secret plan, Amonasro comes out and branding, revealing his identity. Radames is horrified that he has betrayed his country. Amagato and the High Priest have overheard everything. Act III ends as voices from the temple shout: “Traitor!”

Following a brief intermission, the Reverend David D. Prince introduced the Honorable Robert Jack- son, member of the New York City Council, 9th District, who was the Guest Narrator for the piece of résistance of the afternoon; Giuseppe Verdi’s La Traviata after Alexandre Dumas’ play La dame aux Camélias. Giuseppe Verdi’s La Traviata. Act 1

It is Paris, 1853, in the salon of the Countess Vittoria Valéry. As the lights come up, the entire cast begins Verdi’s spirited dancing song the Li- zarden, a Brindisi for Alfredo, Violetta and chorus: “Let’s quaff from the wine- cup o’er following.” Music is heard from an adjoining salon to which the guests proceed.

Violetta is about to follow them, but is seized by a coughing spell and sinks upon a sofa to recover. Alfredo has remained behind. When asked why he admits his love to her. Violetta slowly realizes that his depth of affection for her is real. For over a year he has loved her... Ut dejo von der Liebe allein (“One day, a rupture eternal”) he sings. The party breaks up, the guests leave.

Alone, her heart touched for the first time, she sings: “Anfie si il/ l’anima (“For him, my longing soil”). And suddenly, she changes her mind and sings: “As there was no hope of lasting love for a woman of her character and dashes into the brilliant Spade’s Prayer.”

R. Wellington Jones assembled a First Rate cast of singing actors under his spirited direction, soprano Roza Tulaganova (Violetta) gave a stand out performance in the title role, using her lovely, clear-focused voice with intelligence and superb musicality. Her sensitive phrasing and innate dramatic ability combined to make a plus. Ms. Tulaganova is a doctoral candidate at Stony Brook, New York.

Hector Palacio (Alfredo) also was in splendid vocal form Sunday’s matinee, scoring heavily with his lyric tenor voice and effortless top. He has starred in a wide range of lead tenor roles including Cavaradossi to Tosca and Pinkerton in Madame Butterfly.

His “leading man look” is certainly a plus! Conductor/pianist Nicholas Fox showed technical knowledge and outstanding musicianship over the months of preparation as music direc- tor. Mr. Fox began studying piano and composition at the age of 12 in Los Angeles and is a graduate of Mannes College of Music, class of 2006.

GEORGE WILLIAMSON

The biblical tradition specifically employs state torture as a chief symbol of evil. The Hebrew prophets were tortured by the state, not to extract information but to silence their cry of justice. Jesus was tortured—to death—to prevent his movement continued on back cover
June 2009

Adult Bible Class
Sunday, June 7, 14, and 21, 9:45 a.m., Session room
Join us for our last sessions before the summer break. We are continuing our study of Romans, Paul’s letter to those who gathered in the house churches of Rome. This is a fascinating text that witnesses to the broader theme of God’s righteousness towards us as well as to others such as the “big ideas” of sin, salvation, faith, justification and redemption. We invite you to come and participate in our lively discussion and study.

S.K.A.T.E. June event – End of the Year Picnic
Friday, June 5, 6:30 p.m., Rutgers roof
Come join the fun up on the roof! S.K.A.T.E is having an end-of-the-year picnic on the rooftop of Rutgers Presbyterian Church. Picnic fare, games, singing and having a great time are included. Bring a friend or two. We will end our evening in the candlelit sanctuary with prayers and song to send you off for a relaxing and renewing summer. RSVP Jacqui at the church office, (212) 877-8227 x 205 or e-mail your attendance and the number coming at karvue@rutgers.edu.

Sunday School 2009—2010: New! Workshop Rotational Model
One of the wonderful advantages of using a Workshop Rotation Model for Sunday School is that in order to function “it takes a village,” so to speak, to make it work well. Rather than have a handful (or less) of individuals who become the perennial Sunday School teachers in perpetuity, this Workshop Rotation Model paradigm explores ways to become aware, develop and utilize the gifts and passions of many people within a whole congregation. No longer does teacher recruitment become as focused on “slotting a warm body,” but rather calls on individuals within a community to use their specific gifts and passions to meet the needs in this given area. The potential for a greater cross section of diversity within the congregation becomes possible in ways not thought of before. The lessons will be taught through these gifts and passions. Think how the story of the last supper of Jesus and his disciples can come alive for children and youth if it is learned by baking bread or having a table fellowship meal as a person in the 1st century Greco-Roman world might do. Or think how the parables of the Sermon on the Mount might make sense to a 7th grader when the lyrics of the contemporary song by Ben Harper, “Like a River in a Wild Meadow” is played and sung together.

Vacation Bible School
Monday - Friday, August 17 - 21, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; Fellowship Hall
All children ages 4 - 11 are invited to Rutgers Presbyterian Church’s Vacation Bible School where we will be focusing on the New Testament with our theme of “By the Sea: Stories of Jesus in Galilee.” We will be learning some of the wonderful stories about Jesus that took place around the River Jordan and the Sea of Galilee. Our days will be filled with these great tales as well as crafts, songs and snacks. We may even go “fishing!” If you would like to help either by working directly with the children or helping to organize and prepare for each day, please talk to Jacqui at the church office, x 205. Please pass the word to friends and neighbors. The cost is $25.00 per child for the entire week.