WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What is your idea of a fresh smell?
2. Are you one of those people who rush off the subway first, then move like molasses up the steps?
3. Do you need to forgive someone?
4. Have or did your childhood dreams come true?
5. Is it easy turning the page on emotions?
6. Have you been thanked for your helpful advice and can’t remember what situation required your input nor what you said?
7. Relaxing can be a very challenging activity.
8. You’ll increase your knowledge if you stay open to someone else’s suggestions/opinions?
9. The money you save at one store is spent in another store.
10. Getting rid of clutter can get you back on track to your goals.

T’Il next time,
Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

From the Pastor

This summer, New York State finally changed the law allowing people of the same gender to marry. The Marriage Equality Act was passed by the State Legislature, signed by the governor on the same day, and thus became effective on July 24, 2011.

Unfortunately our denomination – the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is less progressive than the secular authority of our state. Our denomination unequivocally allows ministers only to bless same gender unions in special ceremonies. However, our denomination is slow to embrace change and our church law is completely unclear about ministers conducting marriages in states where “gay marriage” is now allowed and legal.

One of the strongest biblical arguments (at least in my opinion) for gay marriage might surprise you. It comes from the Ten Commandments, a biblical passage which has been otherwise widely abused and misrepresented by conservative evangelicals. The seventh commandment in the traditional translation states: “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” In the Hebrew original there are just two words, a negative particle and a verb. I do not want to go into any detailed linguistic analysis, but anyone can understand that when two original words are translated by no fewer than five words, there is a substantial interpretation going on. We might be in for some more surprises if we decided to understand and interpret this commandment for our times. The Biblical concept of adultery was quite specific and technical:

A man could commit adultery only with someone else’s wife, thus undermining the other man’s marriage. A woman could commit adultery only if married, and it underlined only her own marriage (or more precisely, the marriage of her husband to her). Thus adultery was a hostile act that undermined the committed relationship of another male member of the society. It is clear that this legal and moral concept was fully rooted in the culture of a patriarchal society. Thousands of years later, we do not live in patriarchal society, any longer. This commandment must be re-interpreted. Quite often its meaning is simply expanded into any area of sexual morality. That is a clear example of what is called “easy-justice,” a lazy interpretation that completely misses the main point.

The original intention of the biblical concept of adultery was: undermining someone else’s committed intimate relationship. This concept must remain at the center of any attempted modern interpretations. Our current social structures and definitions of relationships are different, but their protection should remain central to this commandment.

We also need to recognize that, in our modern times, there are different ways to undermine other people’s relationships. Selfrighteous religious conservatives campaign against same gender marriages. They vociferously reject providing security and protection to same gender couples. De facto they publicly break the seventh commandment and they achieve, regardless of their own marital fidelity. (Just to try visualizing it: It would almost be an amusing idea, if we were not so sad.)

On July 24th, New York State finally extended its protection to the same gender committed relationships. We rejoiced in this change in our congregation, and we extend our recognition and protection of committed and loving relationships to all our couples. We want to live, as faithfully as we can, according to the tenets of our reformed faith and in harmony with biblical testimony. We hope that our denomination will soon find clarity in this matter, just as it did in the matter of ordination of LGBT deacons, elders and ministers.

Once again, Rutgers Church is offering its cultural and theological leadership.

Pastor Andrew
New Faces at Rutgers

We are happy to introduce to you Mary Nelson as our newly appointed Interim Organist and Music Director and James Balmer as our Interim Choir Director.

Mary is a full-time director of music at the Fairfield Country Day School in Fairfield, Connecticut. She is also the Co-Choral Director, Organist and Handbell Director for the Choate Rosemary Hall School as well. Mary holds a B.S. Degree in Music from the University of Wisconsin and a M.M. of Music Degree from the Hartt School of Music. She has done additional graduate studies at the Westminster Choir College and the Julliard School of Music. Mary has held church positions in Minnesota, Illinois, Connecticut and at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City.

James is also a full-time director of music at the Fairfield Country Day School and the Co-Director of Choirs at the Choate School. Jim holds a B.A. degree in music from the College Misericordia, a M.M. in Music from the Hartt School of Music and he is a D.M.A. candidate in Choral Conducting from the University of Illinois. He has also done additional study at both the Julliard School and Westminster Choir College. Jim has also served churches in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Connecticut and at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City.

We welcome Mary and James!

Patricia

Update on the Landmarking Process and Rutgers Presbyterian Church

By Dave Mammen, Church Administrator

Thanks to all those who participated in the forum on this topic which was held after worship service on June 19.

On June 28, we attended a public hearing held by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, to explain why we object to the inclusion of the Sanctuary and Church House in the proposed extension of the West End – Collegiate Historic District. Thanks to Mark Young (Session) and Dean Thomas (Trustees) for testifying. I also presented testimony, along with our attorney Paul Proulx. There were more supporters than opponents speaking at the hearing, but a fair number of opponents. Our concerns and issues are now part of the public record which the Landmarks Preservation Commission will weigh when they are making their decision later in the year.

Our attorney and I also met with the land use staff of the Borough President’s Office to brief them on our concerns. Their understanding could be helpful when the matter comes to the city council, after a vote by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Before the public hearing we sent a letter to our city council member Gale Brewer outlining our issues and concerns. She testified at the hearing in support of the historic district, but accepted our invitation to visit Rutgers Church on July 21. Her visit was a great opportunity for Pastor Andrew, Alice Hudson, Christine Gorman, Rev. Diana and me to describe our many community programs, show her our facilities, and discuss our concerns. Gale was able to see firsthand that the Rutgers church property is comprised of a single, internally integrated building and to appreciate how the boundary line of the proposed extension cuts right through our classrooms, fellowship hall, kitchen, boiler room, and the administrative offices.

We explained that the proposal to designate part of our building and not another part unnecessarily complicates future redevelopment options. We also noted that the congregation’s ability to fulfill its mission and to respond to social issues now and in the future requires that we carefully manage our real estate endowment; any limitation on development of our property will limit the value of the endowment and put at risk the congregation’s ability to fulfill its mission.

Gale urged us to reach out to those community groups that are supporting the proposed extension of the historic district, and offered her help in arranging meetings. We will take her advice and continue our efforts to promote understanding of our concerns. We will keep you informed of further developments, and at the right time may ask you to write letters to the Commission and elected officials.

Thank you.

Vacation Bible School 2011
Photos by Mary Birchard, Andrew Stehlik, Ivy Beckwith and Patricia Pastás

Thank you to our amazing VBS children, teachers, assistants, and teen interns. A special thanks to Holly Nedelka, Nora Lidell, Kris Nedelka, Deidre Rock, Jennifer Moore, Mary Birchard, Sue Spears, Jeremiah Rosario, Mark Young and to our Youth Lily Santiago, Trey Santiago, Ian Gale, Izzy Gale, Natasha Nei, Gabrielle Jarvis, and Michael Griffin.
**September - October 2011**

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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>5:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Support Group for Unemployed persons</td>
<td>Presbyterian Senior Services Meeting</td>
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<td>Adult Forum</td>
<td>Al-Anon Every Monday</td>
<td>5:30 a.m.</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Meal Program and Movie Night Every Thursday</td>
<td>Boy Scouts Recruitment Rally</td>
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**Journey Frolic**

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<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>10:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>Understanding the new Form of Government (RSV 17)</td>
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<td>Adult Forum</td>
<td>Men’s Support Group</td>
<td>Men’s Al-Anon Every Tuesday</td>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>The Giving Network Meeting</td>
<td>AA Meeting</td>
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**Welcome Home**

Join us for our annual Homecoming Luncheon on Saturday, October 13, following the worship service at 12:45 pm.

Members and friends, please join us and share your favorite dish to share!

**Session Update** by Alice Hudson, Clerk of Session

The Session meets monthly, except in August, and is the ruling board for Rutgers Church. The Session makes decisions in concert with the Pastor about administrative and programmatic issues at Rutgers Church.

As clerk of Session, I take the minutes of the meetings, and on a yearly basis those are approved by the Presbytery of New York City, the governing body that links all the Presbyterian churches in the five boroughs. We make decisions on community issues related to Rutgers church, such as land marking, or our own community programs and classes, or the church budget or welcoming new members and designing worship. Here are some recent decisions made by Session which may be of interest:

- Four confirmations became members of Rutgers Church this Pentecost, after taking classes and participating in worship over several months. They are Lucy Dunn-Ellis, Sam Reggio, Cass Knox and Hayden Coudal-Jones. We welcome them to membership in Rutgers, and we are honored by their decisions to formally join Rutgers.
- Ann Story joined by Baptism and she is from the West Side neighborhood. We welcome her, and are pleased to be a community of faith for her.
- Alan Robinson has transferred to First Presbyterian Church of Grand Junction, Iowa, and Anne Leader has transferred to First Church in Atlanta, Georgia. We are thrilled to send them off with blessings and prayers for their continued life in the faith.
- We were pleased to receive a letter of support from Ed Alley, now of Florida, in support of our actions relating to land marking this church, and commercial buildings attached, which would have an impact on long term costs and any future architectural changes the church might pursue. Church members met with our City Council representative, Gale Brewer, to express our concerns.
- We have hired an acoustical engineer to help us improve our sound system in the Sanctuary. Watch for progress updates.

**Welcome to the Church**

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**Community Programs Fall Seminar** continues through December 15.

**Preaching Schedule**

- September 18 — Homecoming Sunday; Andrew Stelhik, preaching
- September 25 — 15th Sunday after Pentecost; Andrew Stelhik, preaching
- October 2 — World Communion Sunday; Andrew Stelhik, preaching
- October 9 — Columbus Day Weekend; Diane Austin, preaching

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**About the Peacemaking Offering**

Every time our congregation celebrates the Lord’s Supper there is the opportunity to remember other Christians around the world who are also receiving these gifts of God. But we make a special point of remembering our unity with Christians worldwide on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October. It is a day to be mindful of the love of Christ, who draws us all together despite our many differences.

As Presbyterians, we recognize that Christ taught us to be peacemakers and that being peacemakers is part of being Christ’s followers. So when World Communion Sunday we receive the bread and cup of heaven, we bring our gifts of self, service, and money to be put to work for Christ’s peace in the world.

The Peacemaking Offering encourages all parts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to work for peace. Each congregation is invited to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community. For that reason, our church will retain 25 percent of the Offering we receive, and we will decide how best to put this money to work. Another 25 percent will go to our presbytery or synod, and the remaining 50 percent will go to the General Assembly Mission Council for peacemaking involvement throughout the world.

Join us on October 2 as our church celebrates World Communion Sunday and we commit to being instruments of the peace we find in Christ.

Please come ready to give generously to the Peacemaking Offering.

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**October 2011**

**The theme for the 2011 Offering is “A Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace” (James 3:18). The art is Santa Cena, a serigraph by José Ignacio Fletes Cruz.**

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Review of May 1st Operatic Recital by Janice Schreiber, CABLE TV WORD

was happy to be invited again to Wellington's Annual Recital to benefit the Homeless Shelter at St. John's Church on Sunday afternoon, May 1st, 2011. He said that this would be a unique experience in opera, and it was one of the most remarkable excursions into this genre. With opening remarks by the Rev. Andrew Stehlik and a continuing narrative by the Rev. Charles Amstein, this was something that will always stay in my memory.

First, Wellington played the “Sea Pieces” Op. 55 by the American composer Edward MacDowell with aplomb and imagination, narrated by the Rev. Amstein. Afterward, Bryn L. V. minez performed the aria “Island Magic” from Leonard Bernstein’s 1952 opera “Trouble in Tahiti.”

The highlight of the first half of the afternoon’s program was Ms. Anna-Marie Mackey's stellar performance and powerful interpretation of Samuel Barber’s 1962 concert aria, “Andromache’s Farewell.” Based on an episode from Euripides’ The Trojan Women, the performance was Anna-Marie’s powerful interpretation and vocal magnificence, which in turn brought the entire sold-out audience to its feet in bravos. Lloyd Paguia Arriola, the musical director and conductor for the day’s performance, accompanied her at the piano. Dr. Arriola is a Juilliard graduate, and his nuance with singers is impressive.

After the intermission, there was the entirely new concept of Pietro Mascagni’s 1890 operetta, with Organist Francisco Perez-Abreu as Alfio being electrifying in his leather jacket, with his charisma and his vocal prowess; Edward Bruce Stevenson as Turiddu was the highlight of the afternoon, with his vocal experience, technique and interpretation. Ms. Staci Blair, as Lola, is a soubrette with sex appeal, attitude, and a voice last seen running down the center aisle in the opera’s closing scene where she is fatally stabbed by Alfio. This brought a hush over the audience at the end of the opera, which received a standing ovation with applause and bravos from the capacity audience and rushing of the stage. This in my experience has been one of the most thrilling productions I have seen and people around me were saying it was smoking hot in all aspects of communication.

I am looking forward to next year’s opera production, which as always is a means of support for the Christopher Roberta Homeless Shelter Program at Rutgers Church. Wellington is bringing opera to a new generation of operagoers with communication, understanding and inclusiveness. I was struck by the number of chorus members on campus who are old enough on chairs who participated fully in this memorable production.

Remembering Roger Franklin by Edward Bruce Stevenson

The first thing that comes to mind when I remember Roger is his voice, a voice you could hear from across a crowded room and know exactly to whom it belonged. A sonic signature of the quiet and the calm. With that voice, Roger was one of the original Officer Krupkes in Leonard Bernstein’s West Side Story. I may have even seen him back in 1958, during my sophomore year in college.

Two particular memories come to mind. The first is of the Thursday evening senior dinners at which Roger led the movie presentation. Many of the people at Roger’s service referred to how special those Thursday evenings were for them. Casablanca was one of our mutual favorites. On one of my last visits to Roger at the Jewish Home, Nathaniel Matthews and I were reminiscing about the Thursdays when we would all sit in the front row of the main operahouse in the center aisle in the opera’s closing scene where he is fatally stabbed by Alfio. This brought a hush over the audience at the end of the opera, which received a standing ovation with applause and bravos from the capacity audience and rushing of the stage. This in my experience has been one of the most thrilling productions I have seen and people around me were saying it was smoking hot in all aspects of communication.

The emotional climax of the opera was the famous chorus of the villagers in the plaza in front of the church on Easter Sunday morning. (Ineggiamo, Signore) with Organist George Davey playing Mascagni’s original organ accompaniment, where we had him thread his own association, who is excommunicated, joins the chorus in celebration of the risen Savior. The forty choristers, in period costumes and assisted by members of the Unique Choral Society, brought the high point of the opera to a thrilling close. Ms. Ladie Whitaker supplied an interpretively interesting and vocally secure solo in the Tannhauser scene. During a brief interlude, Ms. Sigrid Aarons danced interpretively to Mascagni’s celebrated Intermezzo, accompanied by Dr. Arriola.

Then I read the article in The New York Times about Roger being the South Street Sea Port Santa Claus for twenty-one years, and I asked myself, “When did this man stand in the middle of the street and sing?”

In the intervening years, in addition to singing and directing in some of the major regional opera houses and acting in legitimate plays in theaters across the country, Roger was an actor in, and a stage manager for, a number of the National Tours of Broadway shows. Somehow, during this time he also managed to “squeeze in” a Ph.D., in which he completed the entire Wagner cycle for young people—hence, Dr. Roger Franklin.

It is with my second special memory of Roger that I felt compelled to write an obituary and a memorial concert with the Rutgers Homeless Shelter Opera Benefit concerts in May, under the direction of Dr. Wellington Jones.

Nine years ago, my coach, accompanist, and friend, Marshall Williamson introduced me to Roger. (continue on back page)

Rutgers Presbyterian Church Community Programs

When this newsletter is in circulation, the fall semester of the Community Programs will be underway, after a successful eight-week summer session. The printed brochures display the various class offerings for children and adults, and they’re now viewable on our website and on Facebook. Registration for the fall begins over the summer. Children and adolescents have moved from the renovated classroom space on the second floor into a more delightful studio. The programs office, which as always is a means of support for the Christopher Roberta Homeless Shelter Program at Rutgers Church, is now working full time, which will greatly enhance and facilitate a smooth and efficient operation of the programs office.

The Trojan Women

Marie Mackey's stellar performance and sex appeal, attitude, and a voice last seen running down the center aisle in the opera's closing scene where she is fatally stabbed by Alfio. This brought a hush over the audience at the end of the opera, which received a standing ovation with applause and bravos from the capacity audience and rushing of the stage. This in my experience has been one of the most thrilling productions I have seen and people around me were saying it was smoking hot in all aspects of communication.

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Autumn Adult Forum

A t the request of several of our members, we will look at the musical and liturgical aspects of our congregational life, educating ourselves, thinking and seeking revitalization of worship for the 21st century. As our discussion starts, we will use a DVD based resource “Singing the Unsong.”

A world-renowned Scottish composer and theologian, John Bell, from the Iona Community (centered around an old In-Scottish Abbey in Inner Hebrides) will guide our reflection on the theology of Church songs and teach us how we to sing and pray together with integrity.

Lately in the school year we would like to combine the adult forum with the peace and social justice network to discuss hot issues of immigration, unemployment, and re-framing and re-defining the current broken and unjust economic system.

During the school year we also plan to introduce family groups film discussions - please watch for announcements. The first session of Singing the Unsong - Adult Forum will meet on Sunday, September 18th at 6:00 to 7:30 on the Fifth Floor.

Pastor Andrew

Scouts Update

Spring has sprung, summer’s done, and school has just begun. Cub and Boy Scouts have both been having fun and learning new skills at summer camp, and now it’s time to haul out the activity awards, tents, and camping gear to get ready for another year of Scouting. On Friday, September 23rd, interested families should come to our Recruitment Rally (6:00 to 7:30 on the Fifth Floor) to learn more about plans for our upcoming year.

Cub Scouts (ages 6 to 10) will get first aid training, work with the Amateur Astronomers Association, play sports, go fishing, and work on a number of advancement activities. In addition to working on advancement and merit badges, Boy Scouts begin the year with a ten mile hike along the Hudson River, and will have camping trips, hikes, and special events on every month’s calendar.

Our first S.K.A.T.E* event of the 2011-2012 school year will be our annual overnight at the church. This event will take place on the evening of September 9 and finish up with breakfast on September 10. We’ll have lots of activities to take us through the night and maybe some sleep might even happen. Sunday School will kick off on September 17 with a special performance from children’s musician Jon Samson. Mark that on your calendars now.

Ivy Director for Educational Ministries

Holly Nedelka is now serving as the Development Advisor to the Programs. This year will be Holly’s twenty-fifth year of working with our children’s programs here at Rutgers! Holly first started work here in the fall of 1981, creating and directing the Child’s Play program, meant for stay at home parents with young children. Over the years she has also had active participation in Vacation Bible School. She is particularly wonderful with small children. We will recognize Holly’s great achievement soon during worship and a celebration in our coffee hour.

Rev. Diana C. Austin, Parish Associate

Interim Programs Administrator

Fall Children and Youth Programs Set to begin

Sadie Anderson

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