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.”

RENEWAL

THIS FALL AT A GLANCE

- September 15th @ 11:00 a.m.
- September 15th @ 12:45 p.m.
- September 16th @ 6:00 p.m.
- September 20th @ 6:15 p.m.
- September 28th—29th
- September 27th @ 6:00 p.m.
- October 4th @ 6:00 p.m.
- October 6th @ 11:00 a.m.
- October 6th @ 3:00 p.m.
- October 14th
- October 19th @ 1:00 p.m.
- November 1st @ 6:00 p.m.
- November 3rd @ 11:00 a.m.
- November 4th @ 6:00 p.m.
- November 11th
- November 28th—29th

Homecoming Worship Service
Homecoming Potluck Luncheon
Parenting Workshop on Transition to Preschool
S.K.A.T.E. Jr.
Bible & Archaeology Weekend with Neil Silberman
Scouts Open House
Chinese Dance Event
Scouts Open House
World Communion Sunday Worship Service
Blessing of the Animals (Sanctuary)
Columbus Day—Church Office & Buildings Closed
Japanese Theater Arts Presentation
All Saints Observance (Columbarium/Narthex)
Stewardship Sunday
Parenting Workshop on Positive Discipline
Veterans Day—Church Office & Buildings Closed
Thanksgiving—Church Office & Buildings Closed

Fall Birthdays

September 3rd
September 5th
September 18th
September 20th
- Eric Woodall
- Marisol Kaminski
- Susan Scherer
- Hiroko Nagahata

October 1st
October 2nd
October 6th
October 7th
- Jacquelyn Carpenter
- Gabriel Manzon
- Martina Stehlikova
- Paula McNamara
- & Harris Schultz
- Zoe Strother
- Haley Fulop
- R. Wellington Jones
- Louisa Anderson-Berry
- & Lili Bohan

November 2nd
November 3rd
November 5th
November 7th
November 13th
November 18th
November 21st
November 23rd
November 24th
- Jeannie Santiago
- Margaret Williamson
- Andy Achsen
- & Lynne Morris
- Michael Gilfillan Sr.
- Cliff Flanders
- & Richard Hill
- Mark Young
- Jon Smith
- Clarence Ou Yang
- Ruben Santiago

Happy 80th Birthday
to Parish Associate, Charles Amstein
on September 14th!
Glacier Lesson by Rev. Dr. Andrew Stehlik

This summer our volcanological hobby brought me and Martina to Iceland. On our first day we visited the Þríhnúkar (Three-summits) volcano. We went all the way to the highest summit and descended right down through the lava chimney to the large cavernous magma chamber. It was a special experience to be 400 ft. deep inside of an extinct volcano. But it was something we planned and expected.

What I was not prepared for were the experiences on the opposite side of the temperature scale. Hiking on Langjökull, one of the largest European glaciers was truly breathtaking. It was the middle of summer, and as far as the eye could see there was nothing but ice and more ice, in some places 1,900 ft. thick.

The sound and feel of a summer glacier is indescribable; it flows and it sings, it breathes and rings. Melodies of brooks and moulins (meltwater cascading into deep cracks) are part of the experience of a summer glacier. Unfortunately it has been melting faster than it can be replenished through winters.

The next day we climbed Snöfellsjekull, a 4,744 ft. tall volcano also covered with a white cape of permanent snow and ice. (This is the volcano which Jules Verne picked as an entry point for the “Journey to the Center of the Earth” – and no, we did not find any entrances, only some lava tubes.) At first, our ascent of Snöfellsjekull was gentle on a dry volcanic tephra, but soon we transited to the glacier and the going got steeper and steeper.

All the way up we could see the summit; it seemed so deceivingly close, but it was not getting much closer, as if the mountain played tricks on us.

But then, when we finally reached the summit, suddenly the full panorama opened up on all sides. It felt like a religious experience for us breathless hikers.

First hand we could experience why so many important biblical events took place on the mountaintops. It is a combination of spiritual and physical breathlessness, it is a combination of spiritual and physical exhaustion and exhilaration, it is a combination of new and broader physical and spiritual horizons.
Such experience never comes without strain; you have to climb the hill, you have to invest the effort - at the same time with that overwhelming panorama all around, you also know precisely well that your personal effort was only a small part of this profound reward.

Yes, you have to commit, you have to invest your own energy, but you gain a manifold reward which is so difficult to describe in words; it has to be viewed and experienced, it has to be felt, like the gusts of wind, sparkling of ice crystals and views of land and ocean. It is a profound gift of eagle-like perspective.

And then comes the time to return, time to descend down to the mundane life down below in the valleys. The descent can be as strenuous as the climbing up and perhaps a little bit more dangerous; just watch for those ice crevices, some could be several stories deep! But a returning person has been inwardly transformed, illuminated, with new perspectives, with broader horizons.

I consider such mountain-hiking to be a fitting parable for our spiritual life, our spiritual life journey. The grace of our Lord is free, but it isn’t cheap! In our faith and in our life together as a church we have to invest our effort and physical as well as spiritual energy. Sometimes we might think that it is too hard and too steep, but in the end we receive manifold reward in refreshed minds, broadened views and deeper appreciation and love. So let us take a hike together through spiritually breathtaking landscapes, a hike for a stronger, committed and enlightened faith.

**Review of April 28th Operatic Recital** by Janice Shriver (former critic of Cable TV World)

Elder R. Wellington Jones steered Revel’s opera *L’Enfant et les Sortileges* with dramatic savoir-faire. The concert opened with the Rev. Charles Amstein’s always informative and precise narration of Wellington’s performance of the Bach-Siloti Organ Prelude in D Minor, which Wellington played with aplomb.

The operatic recital proper opened with scenes from Verdi’s *La Forza del Destino*, where Edward Bruce Stevenson sang the role of Don Alvaro with flair and panache, aided by Martin Fisher’s Don Carlos with muscular tone and good characterization, and by Jerry Weiss in the pivotal role of Fra Melitone. Ms. Anna Marie Mackey sang the role of Leonora with exquisite vocal control, and with power and sensitivity. Padre Guardiamo was sung by Josef Szkaifarowsky with authority and conviction.

Following a brief intermission, everything we thought about Maurice Ravel’s *L’Enfant et les Sortileges* was reversed in an instant when Wellington started his narration. Revel’s libretto is based upon the French writer Colette’s story ‘The Bewitched Child’ (*L’Enfant et les Sortileges*), and calls for a tremendous cast of unusual characters. First and foremost was the *Fireplace*, performed by coloratura soprano Maria Alu with above high-F in alt. Tenor David Vaughan, who sang and acted the part of the old mathematics professor with point and style; is the 21st century answer to Groucho Marx. Singing actress Mary Jane Dingledy was bewitching as the Dragonfly; the piece de resistance was the Rev. Dr. Andrew Stehlik as the squirrel being attacked by rabbits portrayed by George Charbonnier and Ruby Moe. All soloists were outstanding.

The chorus in both *Forza* and *Sortileges* was directed with sensitivity and technique by Music Director Dr. Lloyd Arriola, whose genius has pulled this program all together for many years; we hope he can continue to help them move forward with his expertise. The art placards were the work of Wellington’s son Gavin, and were sensitive and detailed.

This is truly a community outreach program supported by the Rutgers Presbyterian Church to benefit the Homeless Shelter Program. We would like to see this continue. Kudos to all volunteers and workers for making this such a successful musical experience. The chorus sang outstandingly and a standing ovation occurred at the end of the concert.
Educational Ministries by Ivy Beckwith

We ended our S.K.A.T.E. year in June with a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey. A great time was had by all. Who knew there exist so many different types of roller coasters?

In June we confirmed six middle schoolers:

- Charlotte Coudal-Jones
- Catherine Coudal-Jones
- Michael Gilfillan
- Maria Gilfillan
- Allison Knox
- Emmet Smith

On Confirmation Sunday, we presented the Vera Mowry Roberts Memorial College Grant to Deyan Jervis McCarthy and Tyheen Taylor.

We began the S.K.A.T.E. year on Friday night, September 6th, with our traditional sleep over at the church building. We ate pizza, played basketball, participated in some simple service projects, ate ice cream and played games. And I think some sleeping took place, too.

S.K.A.T.E. Jr. will start up on Friday, September 20th with a pizza party & treasure hunt at the church!

Youth & Family Ministries by Ivy Beckwith

During summer Sunday School our children learned about different types of prayer. We learned about expressing gratitude to God in prayer and talked about the things for which we are thankful.

We learned how deep breaths can calm us down and help us to be ready to talk to God and hear from God and we participated in the Ignatian prayer practice of the Examen.

Also, during the summer we held our Wednesday Nights at Rutgers events. Church and community families were invited to come to the Church House for an open gym time and craft and art activities in the Blue Room.

We look forward to the start of the school year with Sunday School Kick off Sunday on September 15th. Our special Sunday School program that day will feature a presentation about animals (with animals) from the Art Farm in the City. Regular age level classes will resume on September 21st.

On Sunday, October 6th, Rutgers’ Children and Family Ministries will be holding a seminar for parents entitled “Parenting and Social Media.”

Clinical social worker, Laura Van Riper, will be leading our discussion and answering our questions about helping children and teens navigate the technological waters of the ever expanding world of social media. Ms. Van Riper has a counseling practice with the Life Solution Center of Darien in Darien, Connecticut.

This seminar is free and open to the public. It will begin at 12:30 p.m. on the 5th Floor in our Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be served and childcare will be provided.
**Vacation Bible School** by Ivy Beckwith

We had record numbers of children for both weeks of VBS this year. The first week we engaged with several of Jesus’ parables and the second week we entered into Bible stories about wind and God’s breath learning that God gives us life. The first week our service project centered around donating money to buy a pig and a sheep in conjunction with Heifer, International. We raised $240.39 – just enough to buy both!

The second week we collected school supplies and money for the “Grandparent’s House” in the Bronx. Chalondra Reid (one of the administrators of the program) came and spoke to the kids so they would understand what a unique place this is. We gave them several bags of school supplies, plus $183 to buy more. Many parents told me how much their children were enjoying both weeks of Vacation Bible School.

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**Rutgers on Broadway...and beyond!** by Alice Hudson

Continuing news on Rutgers terrific performing talents...

*Duncan Hartman* will be singing with the Amore Opera’s “Das Labyrinth,” a sequel to Mozart’s “The Magic Flute,” on October 16th and 26th, with info. at www.amoreopera.org. *Ruben Santiago Hudson* is in Detroit starring in television’s new AMC police drama “Low Winter Sun,” powerful in many ways, not the least – adding to the economic recovery of my beloved summer childhood city. In olde Amsterdam, The Netherlands, *Jonathan Smith* is taking “Jersey Boys” to the canals. *Pedro Ruiz* of The Windows Project, is choreographing a new work for the Ballet Contemporaneo Eendedans de Camaguey, Cuba with a celebration at the Alvin Ailey Theater October 5th. The creative talent in our choir and congregation is such a gift to us all.
**Community Programs** by Jennifer Moore

Community Programs had a great summer, busy with long-time favorites as well as a great new class called Busy Bees Storybook Theater, where kids ages 3 ½ to 5 read and acted out classic and contemporary children’s stories. Busy Bees was filled to capacity, as were all three On My Own playgroups, the Ready, Set, Go summer program, and some of our art classes.

Our fall semester launches in September with adult and children’s classes and several special events. A highlight is our first ever Chinese Dance Event on Friday, September 27th, where parents and children will celebrate Chinese culture with a free dance lesson! We’ll host two more free parenting workshops this fall, one on managing the transition to preschool on September 16th, and the second about positive discipline on November 4th.

We’ll also get the entire Rutgers community involved in our efforts to reach out to people in need. Programs families, church members, and friends can donate non-perishable goods to our 2nd annual food drive in November. In December, a holiday party will enable families and friends to make art for a good cause; last year’s efforts yielded 180 art kits for children affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Please be sure to check the website and programs Facebook page for updates on other programs news and special events this fall!

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**Scouting Update** by Louisa Berry

On Tuesday, September 10th, Pack and Troop 664 will start a new year filled with fun activities for youth from 6 to 18. We’ll have Recruitment Rallies on September 27th and October 4th for new members. If you haven’t been involved in Scouting, come to learn what it's all about. If you know Scouting, come to hear about our plans for the year. And this year we will begin a new chapter with the start of a co-ed Venture Crew for youth from 14 to 21.

During the year, while having fun, Scouts learn about first aid, citizenship, personal management, knots, nutrition, and many other life skills. There are community service activities, camping, and hikes. Everyone receives recognition for their achievements, and at the end of the year moves up to the next level of Scouting.

If you're older than 21, and can't register as a Scout, there are still ways to help. We have a dedicated group of leaders, who are sometimes stretched to the limit by our active group of young men. Even if you can't commit to every week, but have a skill that you'd like to pass on, or work somewhere that would be a good field trip, please contact one of our leaders. You'll find that all efforts are worth it when you attend a Cub Scout Arrow of Light Ceremony or see a Boy Scout shine at his Eagle Court of Honor.

The Pack and Troop leadership look forward to another wonderful year at Rutgers, but no one is more thankful than the kids that participate. Come by the gym or fifth floor on a Tuesday night and listen to the sounds of kids having fun while learning.
**Music Update** by Mary Nelson

We are so excited about the return of the Rutgers’ Choir! The summer has been busy and restful – if that’s possible. We’ve enjoyed being on the 5th floor in the air conditioning and we are extremely grateful to the Williamson family for their gift of the grand piano for our worship! I would especially like to thank Theresa Santiago, Beverly Theile, Janara Kellerman, Laura Mixter, Amber Smoke, David Kelso, Harry Thompson and Calvin Thompson, Michael Wanko and Charles Amstein for their beautiful music this summer! We were thrilled to be able to celebrate our wonderful and amazing choir assistant, Rick Reese, and his 70th birthday after services in July as well!

I would also like to thank Faith Esham for her beautiful recital this July – a special presentation of Berlioz’s “Les Nuits d’Ete” which she performed with orchestra at the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival in Virginia. Faith also coached young apprentice singers at Wintergreen in addition to teaching at the Masterworks Festival at Grace College in Indiana and coaching the vocal winners of the Star-Ledger Scholarship at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Janara performed the role of Little Buttercup in Opera Saratoga’s production of “HMS Pinafore” and has begun working with her husband, Samuel, with the Manhattan Girls Chorus in their upcoming Carnegie Hall performance. Laura has recently returned from performing with the Opera Company at the Aspen Music Festival and Amber returned from St. Louis after her performance as Sieglinde in “Die Walkuere” with Union Avenue Opera. David has been teaching this summer and Beverly has been busy preparing her roles for the upcoming season. She did, however, return home to Iowa and rode in the Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa. The Bike ride is 406 miles from border to border and grew to at least 20,000 bikers on any given day during the week ride. Duncan recently sang King Rene in Tchaikovsky’s “Iolanta” with Opera Slavica here in New York City. Harry recently returned from Italy where he performed extensively in Assissi and Rome!

We sadly say goodbye to Danny Lincoln as he begins a national tour of “The Wizard of Oz” and look forward to his career updates and welcome him to visit when he’s back in the city!

We are planning recitals and concerts for the coming year and would encourage you to watch the bulletin and web-site for additional information. Janara Kellerman will present a Voice Recital on Sunday, November 17th and the Christmas Concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th.

We feel so blessed to have such a wonderful choir not only of professional singers but of amazing volunteers as well! We miss you during the summer and look forward to worshipping with you during the fall!

**Remembering Clif Fisher** by Alice Hudson

We are saddened to report that our friend and fellow member W. Clifton Fisher died on August 26th after a year of illness. He most recently had a stay at the Jewish Home and Hospital, here on the West Side, where we were able to visit him, enjoy his beading class [I have a neat necklace from him!...Alice], attend concerts and enjoy the bird-filled garden with him.

Clif was a long time member of the choir, often a soloist, taking singing lessons over the years from Joseph Sopher and Sherry Zannoth. He served on the Session, Deacons and Trustees boards over the years.

Longtime members know of Clif and his partner Rick Fried’s tremendous holiday dinners from years ago, with fabulous Christmas décor, and a menu of unbelievable size and flavor! He often played piano for Church events, and participated in skits for different social events.
The Bible and Archaeology
Verifying Sacred History or Uncovering Pious Myth?

Neil Asher Silberman

September 28
10:30 Public Lecture
2:30 Public Seminar

September 29
11:00 Worship