

# The Tidings

August 2010

Dear Friends,

One of the powerful writers of the past century who reflects upon Christian Spirituality was Henri Nouwen.

A few years before he died, Henri Nouwen wrote a book called *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Henri was captivated by the painting of his fellow Dutchman Rembrandt depicting a scene from Jesus' famous parable (see Luke 15:11-32). By the time he wrote the book he had given up his career of teaching spirituality at Yale and Harvard and settled into the Daybreak community for physically and mentally challenged adults in Toronto. Henri saw himself as the prodigal in need of the father's love and acceptance – not because he had led a conspicuously dissolute life, but because his outwardly successful life as a writer and teacher was full of so much inner turmoil.



Rembrandt, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, c. 1669

Many of us know that the appearance of success does not necessarily reflect inner peace or contentment. Actually, it often seems the greater the desire to look successful, the more likely it is to be driven by all sorts of insecurities and the need to prove our own worth. Maybe it's not surprising then that one of the greatest spiritual writers of our time struggled with insecurity too. He spoke to so many hearts because he knew the place where they lived.

At Daybreak, where no one had read Henri Nouwen's books or was impressed by his stature, he discovered a new vocation. "I know now that I have to speak from eternity into time, from the lasting joy into the passing realities of our short existence in this world, from the house of love into the houses of fear, from God's abode into the dwellings of human beings." Rembrandt's image of the father's welcoming hands lying on the shoulders of his son kneeling before him struck Henri as the key to his whole life:

*It is the place where I so much want to be, but am so fearful of being. It is the place where I will receive all I desire, all that I ever hoped for, all that I will ever need, but it is also the place where I have to let go of all I most want to hold on to.*

It's a strange to be afraid of receiving the very thing we want most. Part of our fear comes precisely from the fact that we want something so badly: forgiveness, acceptance, friendship, love.

What if it isn't really there, or what if it's taken away? In order to receive a new gift we may have to let go of whatever we've been clinging to. Often the things we've clung to are the closest things to security we have. Even those of us who spend time in church may be more like viewers in Rembrandt's painting than like the son receiving all the grace his father has to give. If so, we're missing the thing we need most. We need to come closer and listen, as Henri Nouwen says, to the heartbeat of God.

Have a joyful August.

Peace,

*Pete*

## **Come and Worship**



Join us for worship in this month during our 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship experiences.

August 1: Isaiah 58:1-12 – “Living out the Promises of God”

August 8: Rev. Barbara Macfie will be preaching.

August 15: Rev. Barbara Macfie will be preaching.

August 22: “Luke 13:10-17 – “Bent and Broken”

August 29: Colossians 3:12-17 – Sources of Hope

We look forward to seeing you!

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JULY 27, 2010 MEETING

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. Attending were Rev. Wilkinson, Deacon Zinn and 10 Elders.  
Devotion time

### Approved the Omnibus Motion

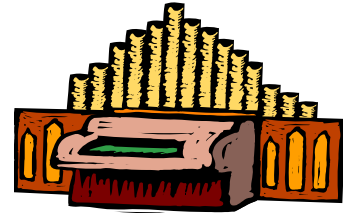
- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting June 8, 2010
- The minutes of the Special Session Meeting June 13, 2010
- The minutes of the Special Session Meeting July 4, 2010
- Participation in the Labor Day Street Fair on September 6, 2010
- To permit the Mission Committee to hold a "Baby Shower" event in the Parish House on Sunday afternoon, October 17, 2010. The event is to benefit the "Baby Basics" program of the Children's Aid & Family Services organization, which distributes necessities and extras to needy families in Bergen County with babies up to 2 years. The event would be open to congregation members and others outside the congregation, will include food and non-alcoholic beverages, and it may be advertised in the local papers as a public event
- Weddings: Robert Kane & Marcella Van Hook – June 19, 2010 – Rev. Peter Carey officiated.  
Matthew Marino & Soraya Sierra – June 27, 2010
- Rev. Wilkinson discussed his plans for the fall:
  - Kick Off year with "Come and Share the Spirit" on September 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Invite all to church and encourage people to bring a guest
  - Sunday School begins
  - Blended Sunday School (two rotations with third week extending after worship with activity that engages children and parents with Rev. Wilkinson and any interested adults)
- Reverend Wilkinson will be out of town on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Macfie will preside.
- Membership – June 30, 2010 = 235
- The June 2009 through May 2010 Session Minutes are being reviewed by Presbytery.
- **Approved the purchase of a Cookware Lift-Off Combination Griddle/Broiler for the Parish House stove, for a cost not to exceed \$750. Funds to come from Endowment Fund**
- June income -\$15,469.29 expense - \$24,867.43 YTD deficit \$23,894.57
- Received from Boiling Springs Bank CAP program \$1099.37 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2010. 38 of our members have designated the church as a recipient for this program.
- Work on fire suppression system almost done
- Work has begun replacing the boiler in the church.
- We now have a private garbage collection company at a cost of \$60.00 per month. Borough of Rutherford will continue to pick up our recycling.
- Mission collected 359 items for the Military Moms program
- Discussed care and concerns of our members and friends.
- Meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:45 p.m.

Next regular Session meeting September 14, 2010

*Barbara Muller*  
Administrator

## *Alive and well...*

Often we wonder, "What is the future of church music?" Two events this summer have reassured me that music in the wider church is indeed alive and well.



The biennial National Convention of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) was held in Washington DC, July 4-8. It was thrilling to be among a capacity crowd of 2100 people committed to the organ and the music of the church. In only two days, I attended eight concerts and worship services, two workshops, and surveyed the exhibits of numerous music publishers and organ builders. Concerts at the National Cathedral, the United States Naval Academy Chapel, a Bach Vespers service, various recitals, workshops and worship opportunities in DC area churches large and small were all manifestations of creative spirit, energetic leadership, young talent, tradition-honoring and future-embracing, and giving glory to God through music.

Quite a different event was a joint retreat of several Taiwanese churches in the metropolitan area. Having lived and taught and played the organ in Taiwan for many years, it was inspiring for me to hear one of the main speakers, I-to Loh, a close friend and former colleague. Dr. Loh is widely known as church musician, composer, arranger, ethnomusicologist, educator and pastor. Recently, he has served as editor of a new Taiwanese Presbyterian hymnal. While the hymns of many missionary-founded churches in Asia have typically included translated hymns from the western world, a renewed indigenous spirit and a far-reaching global awareness have expanded the resources for music in worship. The new Taiwanese hymnal represents a church wanting to be in relation to a global community of Christians and at the same time, honoring and exploring the roots of music and faith in a particular context.

In different ways, these two events demonstrated dedication to the task of making music to express an abiding faith in God and love for neighbor and self. Closer to home, music at FPCOR is also alive and well. We continue to engage the congregation in singing hymns, old and new, and to enjoy the gifts of those who provide special music in our worship. We are privileged to have fine facilities and instruments. We are open to the challenges of new music while treasuring past traditions. And so, there is hope that we will continue to grow in faith, to make music and to sing praise to the glory of God.

*Little or great, our lives are for your purpose  
Tuned to be more than we can ever guess.  
Great voice of God in all your good creation,  
Make us your instruments of blessedness.*  
(Shirley Erena Murray, vs. 5, Great Voice of God;  
commissioned hymn for AGO 2010 Convention)

## MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS.....

The Mission Committee's busy Summer continues.....

Since July 4<sup>th</sup>, we've been using our "mitten trees" to collect care package items for our military men & women in Afghanistan and Iraq. Your donations to date will soon be transported to the North Jersey Military Moms for packaging & transport. This collection will continue through the summer, ending Labor Day Weekend, so there is a limited time to show our brave military men and women how much they mean to us by adding to their care packages! We hope your generosity will continue through the coming month!!

**REMEMBER: Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**, the Committee will be conducting its annual **Back-To-School Supplies Drive** to benefit the families who use the Rutherford Food Pantry. Please stop by between 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. at our usual spot on East Passaic Ave. All you need to do is honk, and we'll come running – you don't even have to get out of the car! We hope to see all of you on Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup>! Food, toiletry & cleaning items will also be gladly accepted.

**A Reminder: There are Food Pantry collection baskets at all of the church entrances.** You can bring donations of food, cleaning or toiletry items to church with you on Sundays and leave them in any of the baskets. The Committee delivers once a week to the Pantry.

**Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**, the Committee will be serving dinner at the **Family Promise (formerly IRF) Shelter in Hackensack**. This will be a summer BBQ menu which can be purchased with committee funds, so we won't need cooks and bakers. **We WILL need lots of help to prepare, serve and clean up.** There is a great big sign-up sheet at the rear of the Chapel. Please check out the sign-up sheet to see if there's something you can do.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**. That's the Townwide Garage Sale, and the **2<sup>nd</sup> annual Garage-Sale Fundraiser for the Mission Committee!!** We will again rent spots on the church lawn, and tables if you need them. The sign-up sheets for space and tables will be available this month. You can't beat our location, and last year the lawn was crowded with shoppers all day. It was a busy day, but fun and profitable as well! Save the date, and think about taking a table at the sale – Remember, one man's junk is another man's treasure!!

*Pat Yenkosky  
Committee Chair*

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup>**

**The Mission Committee is throwing a Baby Shower!**

There will be food, punch, decorations, party games – fun and fellowship for all! Gifts of diapers, wipes, formula and other items will go to “Baby Basics”, part of the Children’s Aid and Family Services organization, which provides baby items like diapers, wipes, formula and other items to local families in need.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS LIST**



**Pasta**  
**Rice**  
**Egg Noodles**  
**Canned Fish (tuna, clams, salmon)**  
**Tomato & Pasta Sauce, all varieties**  
**Oatmeal, Grits**  
**Cold cereal (not Cheerios)**  
**Juices, all varieties**  
**Canned Fruit (peaches, pears, cocktail)**  
**Canned Spinach**  
**GOODS:**  
**Canned Mushrooms**  
**Canned Beets**  
**Canned beans (chick peas, pinto, white, black)**  
**Instant or Canned Potatoes**

**\*CLEANING PRODUCTS**  
**\*LAUNDRY DETERGENT**

**Canned Corn**  
**Cookies**  
**Crackers**  
**Cookie, Brownie & Cake Mixes**  
**Frosting**  
**Mustard, Ketchup**  
**Oil & Vinegar**  
**Salad Dressings**

**\*TOILETRY ITEMS & PAPER**

**Bar soap, toothpaste & brushes,**  
**shaving cream, razors, shampoo**  
**Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues,**  
**Feminine hygiene items**

**\* *always needed badly!***

**AT THIS TIME THE PANTRY DOES NOT NEED:**  
**SOUP, CANNED PEAS, CRANBERRY SAUCE.**



### Those In Need of Our Prayers

Eugene Abbate	Charlotte Hofmann
Mary Blackledge	Christopher Holck
Doris Bond	Damian Holck
Ernest Bond	Ellen James
Paul Brooks	Heather Orlando
J. Raymond Carey	Bill & Eileen Palangi
Betty Coleman	Ann Pettengill
Carol Cosley	Carl Pettengill
Ernest Current	Sheppard Family
Audrey D'Anthony	Lolita Stafford
Dorothy Dawley	Howard & Verla Tagliabue
Bill & Edna Gerity	Ted Van Winkle
Steve & Gail Galik	Andrew & Cheryl Vee
Tom Gray	Tom Waring
Vera Gray	



### Please Pray For Those In The Armed Forces

**MICHAEL J. ADUBATO**  
U.S. Marine Corps

**STAFF SERGEANT IAN BRUNDAGE**  
U.S. National Guard

**CHRISTOPHER MELLBUR**  
(Doris Bond's Great-Grandson)  
U.S. Marine Corps

**LANCE CORPORAL JONATHAN R. ROOD**  
U.S. Marine Corps

**DAVID WRIGHT**  
(Jardine Rennie's Grandson-in-law)  
U.S. Army

**MAJOR CYNTHIA YAP**  
U.S. Air Force



8/01	Babs McGill	8/17	Gail Galik
8/02	Christian Micco	8/17	Claire Kampmeier
8/02	Dylan Cabri	8/18	Rachel Martin
8/04	John Jalinski	8/21	Julian Gentile
8/04	Joan Quinzer	8/21	Walter Meyer
8/06	Linford Yarnall	8/22	Heather Orlando
8/10	Eileen Palangi	8/25	John Ely
8/12	Hanna Miller	8/26	Kaitlin Kaminski
8/13	Stuart Sheppard	8/27	Cheryl Vee
8/13	Dana Anne Dziezawiec	8/30	Ann Mery
8/14	Jill Sheppard-Davenport	8/31	Janet Arnott
8/15	Grace Micco	8/31	Andrew Vee

## Deacons Doings...



**THE BOARD OF DEACONS** will host a **Pot Luck Dinner** on Saturday, August 14th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish House.

So that the Board can plan accordingly, please RSVP to the church office or to [Linda.Zinn@FPCRutherford.org](mailto:Linda.Zinn@FPCRutherford.org) by Friday, July 30th. When you confirm, please don't forget to mention what dish you will be bringing and how many will be attending. Beer and wine will be permitted. If you are unable to bring a dish, please RSVP and come anyway! There will be plenty of food to share. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend and share in this wonderful summer night of fellowship. We hope to see you there!

**THE BOARD OF DEACONS** is excited to announce a third opportunity this Fall to receive CPR Certification. Those interested can pre-register by contacting [Linda.Zinn@FPCRutherford.org](mailto:Linda.Zinn@FPCRutherford.org) or the Church office.



A date will be finalized once the Board has received twelve pre-registrations. Please note that due to the high demand for the course, payment is required in advance to guarantee a seat. The cost of the course is currently \$35. Checks can be made payable to the Board of Deacons. Special thanks to Walter Cockcroft for his efforts to coordinate and provide this life-saving training to our members and friends.

### **ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN FOR THE *Bible in 90 Days*<sup>TM</sup> FALL READING CHALLENGE!**

Join us this Fall for our third *Bible in 90 Days*<sup>TM</sup> Challenge!

Participants will read the entire Bible from cover to cover in just 12 pages a day. The Fall Challenge starts on Sunday, September 12th, and finishes before Christmas. Enrollment is open through Friday, September 3rd, on our website, [www.fpcrutherford.org](http://www.fpcrutherford.org), or by contacting the Church Office.



## Expiration Date

By Steve Adubato



I'm sitting in my kitchen watching two sticks of unsalted butter soften. I took them out of the fridge about forty minutes ago and they are still as hard as when I first removed them. I remember buying them several months ago. The recipe called for them. I was pleasantly surprised because they can be purchased in a two-pack. I only needed two sticks. When would I ever use another stick of unsalted butter? I ponder this and speculate that this is required in a lot of recipes. As I write this, I'm wondering if they are past the expiration date! Now, why would that make them soften slower? Anyway, I go and check the box they came in which, by the way, is already in the recyclables, and sure enough, they are well within the limit. They expire September 10, 2010 (Two days before my youngest brother's birthday).

Okay, now why does one need two sticks of softened, unsalted butter? Several months ago, I cleaned out my kitchen cabinets. I needed to make some room for glassware that Judy was giving to me as she prepared to move to her new home. I had the typical bachelor mismatched sets of everything; six different size water glasses (two from Rutgers), jelly jar glasses (yes I have those too!), on the rock glasses (one of those), two shot glasses, a champagne flute, and three mismatched wine glasses, and other assorted beverage containers. I can never seem to keep a set of wine glasses. Any glassware with a stem is just a bit too delicate for me to take out of a cabinet and use. My daughter says that I break a lot of tableware also (my collection of dishes is appalling). Judy saw my need for stemware, and as she was putting together items to donate to the Church for our Town Wide Garage Sale in September, she figured that I could use a few and donated some to me. (Yes the Church got some also!)

It was while cleaning out my overstuffed cabinetry that I discovered a package of "Stonewall Kitchen Shortbread Mix" along with some Starbucks' coffee flavoring syrups and a cookie decorating kit. I wondered where and when I ever purchased the shortbread mix; maybe it was an errant gift from some ne'er-do-well individual. (I hope they're not reading this now!) Or, quite possibly something that was contained in those gift baskets one receives around the holidays. Anyway, I thought I would make them someday and kept the package. (I got rid of the coffee syrups and cookie decorating kit.) The only thing required to make these cookies are two sticks of unsalted butter and I bought those shortly afterwards.

Well, tonight I'm having company...actually Judy is coming over for some tea and I'm feeling really lazy and don't want to go out into the heat to purchase anything to go with the tea. So, what do I do? I remember I have that shortbread cookie mix and two sticks of unsalted butter.

I take the butter out of the fridge because it needs to be softened and proceed to sit down to do more reading for my “Bible In 90 Days” class. I’m dismayed looking at my Bible because two nights prior I got a bit over enthused in wanting to highlight a verse in Psalm 90. As I went to reach for my yellow highlighter, I knocked over the glass of red wine I was enjoying and permanently marked all the pages up to and including Psalm 90 in a dull purple haze. I also destroyed my laptop keyboard that was on the kitchen table at the time. In case you’re wondering, the stemmed wine glass did not break. Thank God for small favors! Anyway, I found a company from which to purchase a new laptop keyboard and that should arrive by tomorrow. (The Internet is such a wonderful tool!) The Bible, however, is going to remain stained.

So, I wait for the butter to soften. After about one hour and ten minutes the butter went from a solid mass to a gooey mess. I guess it reached a critical temperature and the transition from the solid state to a softened muddle was instantaneous. (I know some people that are like that.) Well, at least it was soft. So, I open the carton of shortbread mix, put it in a mixing bowl along with the butter and commenced to mix it with a fork for about twenty minutes. It produced a very “flaky” dry and crumbly dough. With difficulty, I was able to divide the dough in half and placed each half in between two sheets of wax paper so that I could roll it out into a 1/8-inch thick circle. It actually rolled out pretty easily once it was thinned enough. The next step was to put it in the fridge for a half hour so that it can be cut into two-inch cookies, so into the fridge the rolled dough went and I turned the oven on to 325 degrees. I was glad that I didn’t go out into that 91-degree heat. Why waste the energy when one can heat up their apartment quite nicely by baking cookies.

As I was waiting, I decided to check and see if there was an expiration date on the box of “Stonewall Kitchen Shortbread Mix.” Well, lo and behold; it expired on August 12, 2004. Wow! That was a long time ago. It didn’t smell bad. There were no worm holes or breaks in the bag. I wonder how they are going to taste. Judy is going to kill me if she finds this out. (She dumps a carton of milk the day of the expiration date.) Why did I hold onto this mix for so long? It is no wonder I couldn’t remember where or how I acquired it. Oh well, too far into the procedure to stop now!

After a half hour, I remove the dough and cut two-inch circular shortbread cookies and place them on a cookie sheet and into the oven for 15 minutes. In case you’re keeping track of the time, I have already spent close to two hours devoted to this task since removing the butter from the refrigerator. Yes, I would have to agree, it would have been easier to go to the Stop & Shop and buy a package of Pecan Sandies, but I would have missed out on this terrific baking experience. In any case, the cookies smelled good as they were baking, they looked good on the serving plate with a bit of confectioner’s sugar sprinkle on top, and most of all, they tasted good. (I wonder if I’m going to be sick tomorrow!) If it seemed like a lot of work, it was, but it was worth it. Judy was quite impressed that I made cookies for her and she actually enjoyed them.

At times, it seems like a lot of work involved in the recipe to become a good Christian. It's not an easy recipe to follow. There is a list of ingredients needed. One should be familiar with the Word of God. Knowledge of the Bible and our Lord Jesus' teaching is another basic ingredient. Loving God is essential. Prayer and praise to our Lord is necessary. Fellowship with other Christians is definitely required. Loving others as we love ourselves is a major component of the mix. We might call these the dry mix constituents. Other people that we meet and associate with on a daily basis can be considered the butter needed to round out the mixture. The butter starts out hard and not very malleable. If we keep the dry ingredients in our heart and dispense these in a caring and loving manner to all we meet day by day, that butter, or rather, their attitude, will eventually soften and our behavior will lend credibility and acceptance by them of our Faith. This is how others are led into Christianity. All of these ingredients are made into a pliable and workable mixture by following Christ's teaching. To make it into a palatable treat enjoyed by all, we must follow Christ's words in that "whenever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them." Church can be considered the oven that bakes all these ingredients into something worth sharing with all. It is essential to our growth as Christians. There is no substitute.

The Supermarket of Life may take us down aisles that don't have all the ingredients needed to "bake" our Christian Faith. Jesus leaves it up to us to get the formula right, to pick out the right ingredients. There are quite a few recipes for becoming a good Christian and each may have different ingredients. We need to find the recipe that works for us. He also leaves it up to us to join others in worshiping the Lord. We need to worship with others to be in God's presence and be fully "baked" in our Christian faith.

As humans, we all are fully aware that we have an expiration date. Some people, and some Christians that have strayed from their beliefs, think that expiration dates are a finality of life. They attempt to "do it all" before they expire. Some believe that there is nothing after that concluding breath. We, as believers in Jesus, know that we are all racing forward to our own expiration date. This is one fact that is inevitable. As Christians, we know that expiration dates don't really matter. It is actually the beginning of a culinary delight that will last forever. We will be joined with our Lord for eternity. Just as my cookies made with expired ingredients were very tasty and appealing, so too will eternal salvation be very enjoyable and worth the time and effort we gave during our life to get the recipe right. We believe this because of our Faith. Like an old song that I use to sing as a child states, "Have faith, hope and charity, that's the way to live successfully; how do I know, the Bible tells me so!" Let us follow our Lord's recipe and create everlasting salvation for ourselves.

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**LABOR DAY STREET FAIR  
SEPTEMBER 6TH**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RUTHERFORD  
MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford is to provide a sanctuary where people of faith can come to worship and foster their belief in Jesus Christ. As a church family we are an example of Christian living. Together we educate and nurture our adults and children in the teachings of our Lord and the Word of God. We extend God's grace by serving others and those in need. We welcome and invite everyone to participate in the life of our congregation. We seek to provide a loving, nurturing environment to develop a personal relationship with God.