

# news

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

368 West End Avenue  
(at Seventy-seventh Street)  
New York, New York  
10024

Telephone (212) 787-1566

## **NEWSLETTER** for February, A.D. 2009

### **QUOTE FOR THE MONTH**

“Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.” - *George Washington*

### **CONSISTORY**

The full Consistory will not meet in February.

The local Consistory will meet on Tuesday, February 10 at 6:45 p.m. at West End Collegiate Church.

### **HOLIDAYS**

The Church Office and programs will be closed on Monday, February 16 in observance of Presidents' Day.

### **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**

On February 24 at 7:00 p.m. join us for delicious pancakes, fruit, nut toppings, real maple syrup, breakfast sausages and a variety of mustards. If you'd like to get some exercise flipping pancakes, see Katherine Charapko to volunteer.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY ON FEBRUARY 25**

Communion at 8:00 a.m. (ashes available)

Agape Meal at 6:00 p.m.

Service at 7:30 p.m.

### **SERVICE PROGRAMS**

Tuesdays - SUPPER CENTER for the hungry and homeless

4:00 p.m. – Bible Study

4:30 p.m. – Supper

Saturdays - SATURDAY CENTER for the mentally and

emotionally healing

12 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

### **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE THEMES**

February 01 THE LORD'S SUPPER

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Message: “Powerful Humility”

February 08 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Message: “Decisions that Delight God”

February 15 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:40-45

Message: “Heal me, Lord.”

February 22 Celebrating Youth in Worship Sunday 2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9

The sermon will be offered by graduating seniors: Olivia Fisher and J.J. Russo.

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

How do we understand what we read or hear? The answer is complex. Someone asks if you are a Christian. An evangelical Christian might interpret that to mean: Am I born again? Am I saved? Is the Bible actually the word of God, absolutely authoritative? A progressive Christian might interpret the question differently: Have I found an approach to God through the life and teachings of Jesus? Do I find more grace in the search for understanding than I do in dogmatic certainty—more value in questioning than in absolutes? (Adapted from “The 8 Points” from The Center for Progressive Christianity [www.tcpc.org](http://www.tcpc.org)) Simply labeling ourselves as if we were a product on a shelf in some spiritual supermarket doesn’t help us understand who we are. We have to “read the label” and interpret the “ingredients”, see if the nutrients are right for us (amount of fat, protein, carbohydrates, fiber, salt, etc.). A contemporary New Testament scholar, Marcus Borg, has written a very readable explanation of contemporary interpretations of what it means to consider yourself a Christian. I’ll be leading a discussion of his book *The Heart of Christianity* during four sessions of Adult Christian Education, Sunday mornings at 9:45 in room 25, beginning February 15<sup>th</sup>. Copies can be purchased for \$10. Please contact the church office. Perhaps you have heard of “the emerging church”. This book helps to understand what this means. In my understanding, all of the Collegiate Churches are part of the emerging church. This is a fruitful moment to look at a possible direction in the ongoing ministry of this church. *Let us go with God. –Pastor Robert*

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Food for Thought fellowship meets the last Sunday of the month following morning worship. We gather in Room 25 and discuss a selected topic over lunch for about an hour. For those who may not be able to attend The Wonder Hour before church, this is an opportunity for thoughtful discourse and spiritual growth. The door is always open to members and visitors. Join us on Sunday, February 22 as we consider the impact of the media on our spiritual journey. We will be reading selections from Malcolm Muggeridge's lecture series "Christ and the Media." Speak to April Fisher for details.

## **THE WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club will meet on Friday, February 13, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at The Gorsuch House, 306 West 77 Street on the parlor floor. The book to be discussed is *Fludd*, a novel by Hilary Mantel (179 pages), available in paperback. For more information, Kay Uyterlinde may be reached at [uyterlinde@hotmail.com](mailto:uyterlinde@hotmail.com) or 212-787-1285. Please join us!

## **LOOKING AHEAD...**

The West End Lecture Series continues on Thursday, March 19, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. with Anisa Mehdi and Michael Lane.

Mark your calendars for the **Warwick Retreat** on June 12, 13 and 14, 2009. Further information will be detailed in subsequent Newsletters.

## **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Adult Christian Education class meets every Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45 in Room 25.

We continue on February 1 and 8 with Bob and Nancy Callender as they lead us in: "Thinking About Faith & Physics: Where Have We Come From and Where Are We Going?" Beginning February 15, Pastor Robert will lead a discussion of Marcus Borg’s book *The Heart of Christianity* during four sessions of Adult Christian Education. Copies can be purchased for \$10.00 in the church office. Perhaps you have heard of “the emerging church”? This book helps to understand what this means. PLEASE JOIN US!

## **CLUB FOR KIDS/YOUTH GROUP**

On February 6, we will have an overnight at the Gorsuch House for kids from Third Grade through Twelfth Grade (with regular Club Hours first for all Kids) and on February 27, we will be going Ice Skating in Central Park. We leave the church promptly at 6:45 that evening. All kids-all ages. The other two Friday nights are "normal" nights.

## **2009 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN**

As of January 22, we have received 94 pledges totaling \$151,500. Our goals are 130 pledges and \$210,000, so we have a gap of \$58,500. This year more than ever, your church needs your support! Every pledge is important, no matter the amount. If you have not already done so, please take a moment and send in your pledge for 2009. If you have already sent a pledge, please note you can pledge more than once! Many people add to their initial pledges during the year, as the spirit moves them. If you need a form, you may pick one up at the church on Sunday, email [churchoffice@westendchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@westendchurch.org), or call the office 212-787-1566. Thank you for your stewardship!

## **OUR ARTISTS AT WORK**

Terry Schreiber will direct *The Real Thing* by Tom Stoppard at the T. Schreiber Studios, running from February 19 through March 29. Post cards with detailed information are available in the back of the sanctuary.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

It is Tuesday, January 20, the day of the Inauguration. There is a postcard-perfect blanket of snow on the ground; the air is crisp and clean. Several staff members are crowded in the music office watching the inaugural festivities on the computer's live stream; a box of Kleenex sits on the desk.

There is a palpable new beginning in the air...and it really does feel like the dawn of a new era. But Pastor Robert's words are resonating in my ears from last week's sermon: this is a call to now work together, harder than ever before. Obama is not the Messiah, though his is a messianic message. And new leadership, pastoral or presidential, if it is *great* leadership, facilitates creativity, change, and keeps the ship steering in the right direction. We have a charge ahead, and it exists for us on so many levels - universe, world, country, our own lives and here at church. Remember Jesus' words: "The person that believes in me will do the same things I have done. Yes! He will do even greater things than I have done." (John 14: 12-14). A tall order, but one to aspire to, now more than ever.

February has traditionally been celebrated in the U.S. as Black History month. To celebrate, the choir will be offering spirituals and gospel-style music from the vast treasure of songs and hymns that have come down to us over the years. Enjoy, and be inspired!

A huge thank you to Bill Hayes and Jackie Sanders Hayes for their inspired drumming and sax playing on January 18. We are so lucky to have you in our midst!

See you in church,  
*Cynthia Powell, Minister of Music*

## THE CLASSIS OF NEW YORK

The Reverend Classis of New York joyfully invites you to join its members in a celebration of **Neil Margetson's** Ordination into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday afternoon, February 8, 2009 at 3:00 in the West End Collegiate Church sanctuary.

{+}  
**positive and inclusive**