

news

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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

Telephone (212) 787-1566

NEWSLETTER

for January, A.D. 2009

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

"God is the source of all positive energy, and prayer is the best way to tap in to His power."

-*Immaculee Ilibagiza* *

THE WEST END LECTURE SERIES

The WEST END LECTURE SERIES continues on Thursday, January 8, 2009, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. *IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA is a Tutsi woman who survived the Rwandan Genocide of nearly three million people by the Hutus in 1994. Immaculee's life was transformed dramatically during the 91 days spent silently huddled together with seven other women in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor's house. With perhaps the most horrific event in history as a backdrop, her autobiography, *Left To Tell*, teaches us about human compassion, how to surrender to the power of love, and how to welcome understanding and find comfort in reconciliation. This free lecture series is held at West End Collegiate Church. For more information, visit www.intersectionsinternational.org or call Scott Thompson at 646-723-7823.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

"The end is where we start from; and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." –T.S. Eliot, Little Gidding, *The Four Quartets*. Sometimes it seems as though life is a series of beginnings and endings. The time between is called "the interim." Between liberation from oppression in Egypt to settling in the Promised Land there was the 40 year sojourn in the wilderness. Gone were the tyrants but also the fleshpots and water. The desert was rough but God went with the people, a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Num. 14:14). Moses thought the people were going to stone him when they got too hungry or thirsty. Privation brings out raw emotions. Want and need get lean. Panic and fear surge to master, if possible, character and conviction of a better day. Even Moses doesn't cross the Jordan. But a new generation of the people of Israel enters the promised land. And a new day begins. Faith has a way of bringing "The End" into the now. At least that is how I understand the meaning of treating others as I would want others to treat me, of being the change I want to see, of living simply so others can simply live. A cynical, restless world addicted to endless stimulations can't deal with the strain of such simplicity. West End Collegiate Church has been an oasis in this neighborhood for years. As the city evolves so will the nature of this oasis. We are well along this interim. See the land flowing with milk and honey? God does not abandon us.

Let us go with God. –Pastor Robert

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE THEMES

- January 4 *EPIPHANY* – "The Feast of the Star" is a commemoration of the visit of the magi to the Christ Child and of the light of Christ coming from and to all the peoples of the earth. Liturgists will be Kim Yancey and Chris Moore. Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18.
- January 11 First Sunday after Epiphany
Jim Sterner, Director of Youth and Outreach ministry, in the pulpit.
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.
- January 18 Second Sunday after Epiphany
I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51. Robert Palin, Interim Minister's message: "Those who see Jesus hear God"
- January 25 Third Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
Message: "Once Spoken: Twice Heard".

CONSISTORY

The full Consistory will meet on Monday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m. The local Consistory will meet on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:45 p.m. at West End Collegiate Church.

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.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Adult Christian Education class meets every Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45 in Room 25. January will feature two series. We will begin after Christmas with "Taking Stock: Where Do We Go From Here?" as we continue to consider our opportunities for joy, prayer, and work in our lives, our congregation, and our communities. Beginning January 25, Bob and Nancy Callender will lead us in "Thinking About Faith and Physics: Where Have We Come From and Where Are We Going?" Different fields of study direct our understanding in very different ways. But are there places of ultimate truth or connection? We will look at the fields of physics, cosmology, and evolution to see how some of the latest thinking can inform our own theological understanding.

INQUIRERS' CLASS

Are you interested in Church Membership? The next Inquirers' class will begin on January 25 at 9:45 a.m. (location to be determined). See Priscilla Shanks Chattah or Doug Mastin or call the church office for details.

CHURCH SCHOOL & HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be no Church School, Young Disciples, or Children and Worship on December 28 or January 6. The Church School and Worship Programs for the children will resume on January 11. The Church School for Children is from 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. and the Worship Programs commence immediately after the Children's Message during worship. We are always looking for volunteers to serve as special greeters for our three worship programs. If you feel called to be a special greeter, please sign up at the back of the sanctuary.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee will be gearing up for more action in 2009! We plan an introductory meeting in January, date to be announced. If you are interested in knowing more about what the Worship Committee does, please see Ken Chase or Julia Turner, or write your name and e-mail address on the list that will be posted at the back of the sanctuary.

THE CLASSIS OF NEW YORK

The Classis of New York joyfully invites you to join its members in a celebration of Ordination into the Ministry of Word of Sacrament of **Susan Sgarlat** on Sunday afternoon, January 18 at 3 p.m. at West End Collegiate Church. As her church family, we join together to celebrate this wonderful event with Susan and extend our warmest wishes to Susan and her family.

Mark your calendars for **Neil Margetson's** celebration of Ordination into the Ministry on Sunday afternoon, February 8, 2009 at 3:00.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

Thanks to the soloists and choir, and to Van Benedetti for a wonderful Christmas Concert! We drew a large crowd, and the feeling was very warm and appreciative. With all the singing that was done by the audience, and the comments that ensued, it makes me realize that people really love to sing, and having the congregation/audience singing with us is a beautiful thing! The choral forces for the concert were augmented by members of the Stonewall Chorale and Melodia Women's Choir. We'll need more risers next year!

A special thank you to Julia Turner for initiating the wildly successful Carol Sing on Thursday, December 18. What a crowd of newcomers! We sang every carol in the book, from 'Hark the Herald Angels' to 'Frosty the Snowman' – Wendy Realmuto led the singing and we were accompanied by Pastor Robert on the piano, Christian Realmuto on flute, and yours truly on organ. We even had a surprise jazz boogie 'Jingle Bells' by Derek Tobin!

More singing ensued at the Christmas Party at *The Gorsuch House* on Saturday the 20th when Walter Uytterlinde played the piano – so a special 'thank you' to him. All in all, it was a very merry Christmas, and I'm so happy to be here to celebrate it with my new church family!

Look out for some rocking spirituals on Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday (January 18th) with Bill Hayes on drums.

And in case you haven't heard, the choir is open to new members. Drop me an email at CPowell508@aol.com to set up an audition. Guaranteed painless.

*With love and blessings,
Cynthia Powell, Minister of Music*

WEDDING CELEBRATION

There will be a celebratory luncheon reception provided by Sharon Sherrard for Rachel Greenfield Appleby and Phil Appleby immediately following the service on Sunday, January 4, 2009 in honor of their wedding on October 4, 2008 in Syracuse, New York. Please come and meet the newly-married couple and enjoy the wedding photos. All are welcome!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Julie Hiraga and Craig Stolzberg on the birth on December 22, 2008 of Emiko Kei Stolzberg, their first child! Emiko weighed seven pounds, nine ounces at birth; mother and daughter are doing well.

2009 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

As of December 20, we have received 78 pledges totaling \$143,500. Our goals are 130 pledges and \$210,000. 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 need a form, you may pick one up at church on Sunday, or call the office 212-787-1566, or email churchoffice@westendchurch.org. Thank you for your stewardship!

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We are pleased to provide this update on our search process. First, the Search Committee members are Rick Dickens, Chris McCormick, Kim Yancey Moore, Craig Russell (chair), Jane Russo, Dan Varrichione, and Joe Zeigler. We formed the committee almost one year ago, and began our work last spring. Battalia-Winston, a New York City search firm that has helped in other Collegiate searches, has been working with the committee. We have been very impressed with the overall interest in the position, as well as the quality of those interested. Battalia-Winston screened 123 people before narrowing the field down to 9, whom we interviewed starting last summer. We provided these candidates with extensive background information, including a position specification, the West End Collegiate Church envisioning statement, our personal testament DVD, and Interim Pastor Palin's reports on his small group meetings in September-October. We are now in the process of follow-up meetings with several of the candidates, and we hope to narrow the list as we head through the first several months of 2009. We are listening to our church's local leadership and members as we head through the search process, to make sure that we are in touch with the direction in which our congregation is moving. We anticipate adding members from the Local Consistory early in 2009, and in the spring, based on Collegiate procedures, others from Full Consistory (one person from each of the other three Collegiate churches, and John Rorer as Chair of Consistory and Casey Kemper as Collegiate's chief executive). Collegiate Church Search rules state that any Search Committee starts with people from the seeking church, and then expands when the search narrows to final candidates. We hope that as we progress through 2009, we will have been led to the right person, God willing. The Search Committee believes that God has chosen that person, and so our primary responsibility in the search is to recognize her/him as the new Pastor for West End Collegiate Church. One important note about the search: In order to respect the privacy of all candidates, it is critical that our Committee operate with complete confidence during the search process. Still, please reach out to any of us with input or questions you may have.

HOLIDAYS

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, January 1, New Year's Day and on Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

NEW MEMBERS

The West End Collegiate Church Consistory and congregation welcome the following members who joined our church on December 14, 2008,

Jennifer Hanley
Tom Hanley
Christina Langone
Chris Langone
Josh Lockwood
Christa Scott-Reed

CONSISTORY NEWS

Congratulations to Katherine Charapko, who has been selected by the Consistory and congregation to be our new Deacon. After a full Consistory vote on January 12, it is anticipated that she will be installed on Sunday, January 18, and will begin her new role as Deacon at that time.

CONSISTORY

Our Elders are Clarice Graham, Chair of Elders; Madie Ivy Head, Chair of Consistory; Doug Mastin; Craig Russell; Patricia Whitsett. Our Deacons are Stephen Cambor; David Coulson; Julia Turner; Susan Xenarios, Chair of Deacons.

Our Committee Chairs are:

BENEVOLENCE	Karen Blank
BUILDING & GROUNDS	John Russo
COMMUNICATIONS	Patricia Whitsett
EDUCATION	Jane Russo
SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES	Kim Yancey Moore
FINANCE	Clarice Graham
HOSPITALITY	Katherine Charapko
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	Andrea Niedziela Daniel Niedziela
PLAYSCHOOL ADVISORY	Steve Cambor
SERVICE	Susan Xenarios
WORSHIP	Ken Chase.



Positive and Inclusive

