

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. 2010

CONSISTORY

The local Consistory will meet on Monday, January 25 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.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE THEMES

- January 3 *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 Christa Scott-Reed and Kevin George.
- January 10 The First Sunday after Epiphany
The Lord’s Supper
Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon: “Porous Spirituality, Part I: Holy Pagans and the Path to God”
- January 17 The Second Sunday after Epiphany
Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17
Sermon: “Porous Spirituality, Part II: Barriers and Belonging!”
- January 24 The Third Sunday after Epiphany
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10;
I Corinthians 12:12-31a
Sermon: “Why Isn’t Everyone Normal Like Me?”
- January 31 The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Jeremiah 1:4-10; I Corinthians 13
Sermon: “Finding Fulfillment”

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this, I’m looking at an invitation for a New Year’s Eve party. This is a big decision! A great party requires the right combination of merriment, reminiscence, and anticipation. Unlike other parties, where fun is the only criterion, our expectations go up for New Year’s Eve. Besides fun and some raucous behavior, it is a time to tell tales about the past year, including the highlights and lowlights. The great thing about New Year’s Eve is that the low points seem easier to take because they are viewed in light of a new year, a chance to begin again. January 1 is not just another day. It has come to represent the opportunity to start over.

For all of us who intend to make changes in our patterns and priorities of life, we need to ask an important question. What’s going to be new about the New Year? My favorite definition of insanity is “doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results”. Unless anything changes, the groove of our lives leads us to the same place. This may explain why ancient spiritual practices are growing in popularity. Some spiritual practices, like daily prayer, gently guide the choices we make. Other spiritual disciplines, like fasting, are a shock to our systems that force us to reconsider how we live. Maybe we need to incorporate new practices and experiences to enliven us to new possibilities. It may also be that these practices point to something beyond themselves. Scripture says that God makes all things new. This simple statement offers hope for new beginnings by coupling it with the recognition that we must look beyond ourselves in the journey of change. Whether we need a nudge or a jolt, may the Spirit of God move us all as we move into a new year. – *The Reverend Michael S. Bos*

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

“For everything that lives is holy. Life delights in life.”
–*William Blake*

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Adult Christian Education class meets Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45 in Room 25 (no class on January 3). For four weeks beginning January 10 Jocelyn Camp will lead the Adult Christian Education class in a study of the literature of faith. The subject is “Songs of Innocence and Experience: Poems by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Blake and Charles Causley.” We will look at the poets’ use of simple verse forms to convey profound ideas. Readings will be available at the back of the sanctuary a week before each class, and participants are encouraged to read the texts before attending class. Please join us!

DONATION GIFT PROGRAM

Are you looking for a gift that is unique and meaningful for the person "who has everything"? We are pleased to welcome you to participate in our new Donation Gift Program, which allows you to honor a friend or family member with a donation to our church that will be used for internal and external efforts that minister to the vulnerable, homeless, hungry, poor and ill. Write a check to West End Collegiate Church and write "Donation Gift" on the check, then deliver the check to Wendy Cambor after worship or to Karen at the church office. You’ll receive a receipt and an elegant gift card to mail to the person being honored. May your Donor Gift bring you comfort and joy, as ultimately it brings hope to those in need. Email wendy.cambor@gmail.com or churchoffice@westendchurch.org for more information.

ACUPUNCTURE AT WEST END

On January 10, 17 and 24, Greg Fessenden, a New York State Licensed Acupuncturist, will provide acupuncture starting at 1:00 p.m. in our Worship Center. The fee for a one hour session is \$50. Many insurance carriers cover acupuncture. Please look for sign-up sheets at the back of the sanctuary or call the church office for more information or to schedule appointments.

CHILDREN’S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Children’s Church School, Young Disciples, God Squad, and Children & Worship will not meet on December 27 or January 3, but will resume on January 10. Church School for Children is from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The Worship Programs commence immediately after the Children’s Message during worship. We are seeking volunteers to serve as special greeters for our three worship programs. If you can be a special greeter for one or more Sundays, please sign up at the back of the sanctuary.

CLUB FOR KIDS/YOUTH GROUP

Club meets Friday evenings from 6:00 to 8:30 in the Church Parlor. Youth Group meets from 6:00 to 10:00 in The Gorsuch House (306 West 77th Street). Club is for kids from first through eighth grade who like pizza and play, fellowship and fun. Club and Youth Group will not meet on Friday, January 1, because of the New Year holiday. In January we look forward to another fun Ice Skating Party in Central Park. If you would like to chaperone any of our Club events, please call Jim Sterner at the church office.

HOLIDAYS

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, January 1, New Year’s Day and on Monday, January 18, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

INSTALLATION OF MICHAEL S. BOS

On Sunday, January 3 at 3:00 p.m. The Reverend Classis of New York invites you to attend the Installation of Michael S. Bos as the Fifth Minister-in-Charge of West End Collegiate Church and Fifty-Fourth Minister of the Collegiate Church of New York in the line of succession that began with Jonas Michaëlius in 1628. Don't miss this historic occasion at West End Collegiate Church.

2010 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

"As we say each Sunday during the offering, 'All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given Thee.' (Chronicles 29:14) We are all blessed in different ways, and our circumstances vary greatly, but we share a gratitude for West End Collegiate Church. Please join me and pledge your support in the coming year." – *Margaret Tobin*. If you have not already done so, please take a moment and send in your pledge for 2010. If you need a form, you may pick one up at church on Sunday, or email churchoffice@westendchurch.org, or call the office 212-787-1566. Thank you for your stewardship!

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW PASTOR

In January the Hospitality Committee will be arranging several small gatherings so that members of the congregation can meet and get to know Michael Bos. If you would like to host such a gathering, whether in your own home or at The Gorsuch House, please call or e-mail Katherine Charapko. When these gatherings have been arranged, sign-up sheets will appear at the back of the sanctuary.

LOOKING AHEAD...

On Sunday, February 14 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. the Music Ministry will present The West End Choir (with Special Guests) in a Valentine's Day Concert: Songs of Love and Passion (Opera and Broadway hits).

TIMES OF JOY

The Baptism of Our Lord is observed on January 10, and this January we will also celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism on three consecutive Sundays: January 17 for Owen Thomas George, son of Christa Scott-Reed and Kevin George; on the 24th for Kate Wolf, daughter of Rob and Jenni Wolf; and on the 31st for Ava and William Bringle, twin children of Emily and Don Bringle. This household of faith is growing!

CONSISTORY

Our Elders are Clarice Graham, Chair of Elders; Katherine Charapko, Chair of Consistory; Craig Russell; Patricia Whitsett; Susan Xenarios. Our Deacons are Stephen Cambor; David Coulson; Barbara Hipkins; Margaret Tobin; Julia Turner, Chair of Deacons.

Our Committee Chairs are:

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