

# news

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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

Telephone (212) 787-1566

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

### **QUOTE FOR THE MONTH**

"I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." - *Etienne De Grellet*

### **CONSISTORY**

The local Consistory will meet on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:45 p.m.

### **WEEKDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

There will be a brief Communion service every Wednesday morning at 8:00 during Lent.

### **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**

- March 01     ***THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT***  
***THE LORD'S SUPPER***  
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.  
Message: "All Wet and Alive".
- March 08     ***THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT***  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38.  
Message: "The Constant in Change".
- March 15     ***THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT***  
Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.  
Message: "Covenant Embodied"
- March 22     ***THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT***  
Joshua 24:19-28; Psalm 23;  
Ephesians 2:11-22; John 10:1-11  
Chancel Drama "*Aria Da Capo*"  
by *Edna St. Vincent Millay* with  
*Adam Couperthwaite, Michael Hajek,*  
*Tim Kelly, Jessica Myhr, and Jim Sterner*
- March 29     ***THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT***  
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33  
Message: "Covenant Recognized".

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

Edna St. Vincent Millay wrote her 20-minute one-act play *Aria da Capo* just after World War I, a total war which shattered 19<sup>th</sup> century illusions of progressives and liberals about the perfectibility of humanity. This tiny play is outwardly simplistic yet deeply profound as "theater of the absurd" tends to be. The five characters are archetypes rather than real: Columbine and Pierrot are clowns representing perhaps ordinary women and men speaking to each other without communicating intimacy; Cothurnus is Fate (the Masque of Tragedy) who seems to control the action; Thyrsis and Corydon are shepherds who represent how tragic misunderstandings arise from innocent games people and nations play. The play raises consciousness about relationships between the sexes, among nations and between fate and faith. The play has been performed often in churches because of the themes that are allusions to scriptures; some of which are included in the readings for March 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a preview of some of these themes presented in Adult Christian Education Class on March 15<sup>th</sup> between 9:45 and 10:45 a.m. The key to understanding this remarkably compact morality play lies in the 6<sup>th</sup> character who is present throughout the play but is never "onstage". The cast is excellent: at the time of this writing the intention is to present a dramatic reading followed by brief commentaries. It is hoped that conversation will continue during lunch. At this reflective season of Lent the call for faith is never stronger than now. Please join us Wednesday mornings for The Lord's Supper at 8:00 in the sanctuary during Lent. Check for other Lenten groups during this season, as well. Whatever turmoil our circumstances find us coping with, God's love is faithful and trustworthy. -*Pastor Robert*

### **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

In March, the variety of offerings at Adult Christian Education is expanding. Led by Pastor Robert, we will continue studying Emergent Christianity, based on Marcus Borg's book, *The Heart of Christianity*. Following that series, and in preparation for the presentation during worship on March 22 of *Aria da Capo*, written by Edna St. Vincent Millay, we will have an opportunity to discuss the play in class. Beginning March 22, we will focus on the life, teachings, and identity of Jesus as presented in the Gospel of Mark. For this four-week series, we welcome John Snodgrass, as we explore the use of Bibliodramatic readings of the Gospel. Join us in Room 25 at 9:45 a.m.

### **INQUIRERS' CLASS**

Interested in church membership? Our next Inquirers' Class will be held on Sunday, March 15 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 23. The follow-up meeting with the Elders and new members will be on Sunday, March 29 at 9:45 a.m.

### **OUR ARTISTS AT WORK**

**Terry Schreiber** directs *The Real Thing* by Tom Stoppard at the T. Schreiber Studios now through March 29. Postcards with detailed information are available in the back of the sanctuary.

**Cynthia Powell** and The Stonewall Chorale perform *Ascension Variations* with Meredith Monk at the Guggenheim Museum, Thursday, March 5 at 8:00 p.m. (212-423-3587). On Saturday, March 28 at 8:00 p.m. **Cynthia** conducts The Stonewall Chorale in Duruflé's *Requiem* and works by Elgar, Mawby and Grainger at the Church of the Ascension, 5th Ave. at West 10th Street.

### **THE WEST END LECTURE SERIES**

**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. They have led workshops on *Disagreeing on Everything*, *Seeing Both Sides* and *Re-Thinking the Middle East* for Christian, Jewish, and Muslim audiences around the United States and will focus on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

### **CALLING ALL STITCHERS**

West End Collegiate Church will begin a "Knitting, Crocheting, and Embroidering Group" called **The West End Stitchers**. Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> will be our first "organizational meeting" from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at The Gorsuch House (306 West 77<sup>th</sup> Street). Bring your ideas and projects to this first meeting and we will continue to meet once a month. Beginners through experts are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Questions? Call Katherine Charapko at 212 595-1453.

### **LOOKING AHEAD...**

**The West End Lectures** will complete this season's series with Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye on May 14, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

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

**PARTICIPATE IN OUR CHURCH SERVICE**

Would you like to be a reader in a future Sunday worship service? We invite you to be part of the service by volunteering to read scripture. Interested? Call Karen at the church office at 212-787-1566 or email her at [churchoffice@westendchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@westendchurch.org).

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Food for Thought fellowship will discuss the “Compassion of Christ”, supported by the writings of Walter Brueggemann from his book, *Prophetic Imagination*. Join us on Sunday, March 29, following worship in Room 25. Bring your lunch and your curiosity as we uncover some of the blessed promises given to us as believers.

**WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE**

*"Something's coming, Something good!"*

We are happy to announce that West End Collegiate Church will soon offer acupuncture, an alternative therapy which has been proven to be effective for many acute and chronic illnesses, stress reduction, relaxation, and wellness maintenance at an affordable rate for church members, adherents and our Westside neighbors. In March, we will host an information and orientation session with Greg Fessenden, our acupuncturist. Look for announcements in the near future.

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Elizabeth Winthrop's daughter Eliza and her husband Dan joyfully welcome the arrival of **Eve Elizabeth Erikson** and **Sonia Grace Erikson**, born a minute apart at 10:00 a.m. on January 24 in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to Elizabeth and Jason, who are thrilled to be grandparents for the first time!

Congratulations to Nicole and Michael Simes on the birth February 1<sup>st</sup> of their daughter **Ella Claire Simes**! Grant Simes is Ella's big brother.

**NEW MEMBERS**

The West End Collegiate Church Consistory and congregation welcome the following members who joined our church on February 15, 2009:

Sheryl Wirch Mejia  
Terry Trifari

**THE WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club will meet on Friday, March 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 *The Good Husband*, by Gail Godwin. Please join us, if you can! For more information, Kay Uytterlinde may be reached at [uyterlinde@hotmail.com](mailto:uyterlinde@hotmail.com) or 212-787-1285.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC**

We're still coming down from some of the exhilarating music from the last several Sundays when we experimented with different styles of music from the African-American spiritual and gospel heritage. We've appreciated the enthusiastic reception from our members.

Music for Lent becomes more introspective and contemplative. For this season of preparation the choir offers selections from some of the best-known sacred choral composers, among them Fauré, Farrant, Tallis, Stainer, and Purcell.

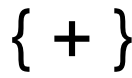
On April 9<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday's 7:00 p.m. service will include hymns and anthems offered by the Octet and Choir, while Good Friday's anthems at the 12:00 noon service on April 10<sup>th</sup> will include *Improperium* by McNeil Robinson and *God so loved the world* by John Stainer. That service will last an hour.

Easter, with its promise of new beginnings and new life, arrives on April 12th. Amidst the fragrance of lilies and what we hope will be a burgeoning spring outside, the choirs will sing glorious music with brass at the 11:00 a.m. service. All members of the congregation are invited to sing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* with us!

See you in church,  
Cynthia Powell

**REMEMBER...**

**Daylight Savings Time** begins on March 8.  
Be sure to “spring ahead” one hour.



Positive and Inclusive