

news

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

368 West End Avenue
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New York, New York
10024

Telephone (212) 787-1566

NEWSLETTER

for May, A.D. 2009

CONSISTORY

The local Consistory of West End Collegiate Church will meet at West End on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:45 p.m.

MEMORIAL DAY

The Church office, building and programs will be closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH

We will photograph the boys and girls and adults who participate in Church School, the Adult Class, and the Children's Worship Programs on Sunday, May 10 at 10:45 a.m. on the church steps.

ASCENSION DAY

Ascension Day is Thursday, May 21. After forty days of resurrection appearances, the risen Christ ascended into heaven, leaving in the world his disciples and the promise of the Holy Spirit.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

It's happening! We're getting ready for new ministry. Sunday, May 17, after the worship service the local Consistory and I invite you to a discussion of issues around this time of transition. As the Installed Search Committee continues its work of calling a senior minister here, so West End Collegiate Church is preparing to make the best possible beginning for this neighborhood church and for that person who is coming as the Installed Senior Minister. We may not know the starting date as yet, but we are much closer.

Your Elders and Deacons have grappled with challenges that any period of transition reveals. Something as active and vital as the Collegiate Churches is always evolving. As the crocus is a sign of Spring, so you can see signs of hope and joy, energy and excitement: a welcoming spirit to visitors, stimulating music, a new community health initiative in acupuncture, an expanding youth program, anticipation of Gulf Coast outreach in service—not to mention an air conditioned sanctuary, patiently constructed over the last many months.

Lay Sunday on the "birthday" of the church—May 31, PENTECOST—is a sign of this renewal. Not only is this church a sanctuary of rest from the intensity of this city, a safe haven for fellowship and laughter, it is also a workshop for service and compassion for the neighborhood. Feel your faith spread a smile, open a fist or heart, chuckle that in a frenzied market you are clothed with a spirit of truth, walk a path of peace, live a way of being alive like Jesus. God is blessing us. Let us bless God. Count it all joy.

- Pastor Robert

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

"Speech is a mirror of the soul: as a man speaks, so is he."
- Publilius Syrus: Maxim

SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Service Programs will meet on their regular schedule:

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

Adult Christian Education meets Sunday mornings at 9:45 in Room 25. During May, Adult Education will continue with *Visions of Faith, Visions of Church*. Our discussions will focus on our experience of faith in various ways: in worship, as led by our youth, and as we explore our mission. Come join us!

OUR ARTISTS AT WORK

The T(erry) Schreiber Studio is presenting *The Fifth of July* by Lanford Wilson. This is a limited engagement from May 14 to June 21. Details are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Debra Monk will participate in a benefit for The Acting Company, honoring Kander & Ebb on Monday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. at The Schoenfeld Theatre. And on June 8, Debra will appear as a "guest artist" on TNT's *The Closer* (See your local TV Guide for details).

Andrew Fuchs, of the West End Octet, will perform a FREE recital here at West End Collegiate Church on May 8 in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m.

Cynthia Powell will conduct *Visions of Eternity*, a concert by Melodia Women's Choir with orchestra on Saturday, May 16 (8:00 p.m.) at the Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola, 980 Park Avenue at 84th Street, NYC. For more information call 212-252-4134.

Jessica Phillips is the Dance Captain and understudy for Diana (played by Alice Ripley) in the Broadway production of *Next To Normal* at the Booth Theatre.

Tim Mathis will give a benefit Spring Concert at Don't Tell Mama, 343 West 46th Street (Restaurant Row) on Saturday, May 16 at 3:00 p.m. The entire cover charge (\$20) will be given to our Gulf Coast Relief Fund, the same fund our children are seeking to replenish with their Talent Show on May 29. Contributions to this fund will support our young people's trip to the Gulf Coast this summer. For further information and reservations for Tim's concert, call (212) 757-0788.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

After placing 2nd All Around at the Region VI Gymnastics Championship, **Rachel de la Torre** now advances, on May 7 through 10, to the Eastern National Gymnastics Championship in Tupelo, Mississippi.

The Center for Motivation and Change, a private practice that treats substance abuse and compulsive behaviors, offers an alternative to the traditional “intervention” for family members trying to cope with a loved one who is reluctant to get help. **Pamela Jones**, a participant in the practice, will be available at lunch following worship on Sunday, May 3 to talk to anyone who may want to learn how to get a reluctant loved one engaged in treatment. In addition, the program can help family members increase their own happiness and life satisfaction regardless of the behavior of the loved one. If interested, join Pam for lunch and learn more about it.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17 following the service. This will be an opportunity for Pastor Robert and Consistory to discuss issues around the transition. We'll hold another congregational meeting on Sunday, June 21.

INTERSECTIONS UPCOMING EVENT

On Thursday, May 14, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye will speak as part of The West End Lecture Series at West End Collegiate Church presented by Intersections.

www.intersectionsinternational.org.

CHURCH SCHOOL RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Our boys and girls, their teachers and their worship leaders invite you to celebrate another successful year of Church School and Worship Programs on Sunday, May 17 during worship. The children will sing and lead the Service of the Word with a short skit and film. Members of the Adult Class will serve as liturgists. Certificates will be presented to all who have participated this year and Bibles presented to those children graduating from the Primary Class or who have joined us this year. The Church School and the Children's Worship Programs will continue through June 7.

SECOND ANNUAL CHILDREN'S TALENT SHOW

The children and young people of our congregation are working to raise money for another Work Trip to the Gulf Coast this summer. They hope you will come to their Second Annual Talent Show on Friday, May 29 from 6:30 to 9:30. The stars of tomorrow will perform for you, dinner will be served, and a Silent Auction will continue throughout the evening. Last year's Talent Show was a blast, with our young people displaying diverse and very entertaining talents and skills. Please come to support them on May 29. Questions? Call Jim Sterner or Tim Mathis at the church office.

THE GULF COAST YOUTH WORK TRIP

Once again our Youth will be traveling to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast to help rebuild neighborhoods destroyed by the destruction left by Hurricane Katrina. Last summer, twenty of our young people and their chaperones experienced a life-changing mission trip, and most of them are planning to return. Would you like to join us? We will leave New York on Friday, August 14, and we will return to New York on Sunday, August 23. Please call Jim Sterner or Tim Mathis if you feel called to serve. It could change your life.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Vacation Bible School will be Monday, August 31 through Friday, September 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is open to all boys and girls going into Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, with High School Counselors. This year's featured stories will be the first five major narratives from Genesis 1-11. Come join us.

MAY 31 LAY SERVICE

West End Collegiate Church is planning a **Lay Service** for Sunday, May 31, and the Worship Committee is eager for volunteers. Participants are needed for each aspect of the service, from the Call to the Worship to the Readings to the Prayers and more. If you are interested in being part of the service, email or call the church office at churchoffice@westendchurch.org 212-787-1566 or speak to a member of the Worship Committee: Ken Chase, Julia Turner, Clarice Graham, Sharon Sherrard, or Christa Scott-Reed.

LOOKING AHEAD

The West End Collegiate Church Book Club will meet at The Gorsuch House (306 West 77th Street) on Friday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. We will be reading *Excellent Women* by Barbara Pym. Copies are available online at either Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com. For further information, please email or call Kay Uyerlinde at uyterlinde@hotmail.com or (212) 787-1285.

Food For Thought will not meet in May, but will resume in June (date to be announced in the June Newsletter).

The Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue between 103rd and 104th Streets, is offering a special exhibit, “Amsterdam/New Amsterdam: The Worlds of Henry Hudson”. The exhibit includes rare 16th- and 17th-century objects, images and documents. On Friday evening, June 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 the Collegiate Church Corporation will host a reception for church members at the museum. Dr. Charles Gehring (mentor of Russell Shorto, author of *The Island at the Center of the World*) will speak, and Kathy Benson, curator of the exhibit, will conduct a gallery tour. There is no charge for this event, but reservations are required. If you would like to attend, please call Ken Chase at 212 799-4203. If you leave a message, please be sure to mention the date of the reception, June 12, in addition to your name and phone number and the number of reservations.

COME ONE, COME ALL

THE 2009 WARWICK RETREAT

West End Collegiate Church's Annual Retreat will take place the weekend of June 12, 13, and 14 at Warwick Conference Center in Warwick, New York. This is a wonderful event when our Church Family takes some time away from the city for relaxation and reflection and has a whole lot of FUN. We have programs for adults and children, so come if you are single, come if you are a couple and/or come with the whole family! The facilities are modern (private bath, A/C, etc.) - but in a beautiful setting with lovely woods for hikes and nature walks. There is a pool for fun and playground equipment for the kids. There are plenty of peaceful corners for reading, prayer or quiet conversations. The fee this year will be \$225 per adult (18 and up) and \$25 per child (4 to 17 years old - under 4 years old is free). This includes two nights' lodging and five meals. There are scholarships for those who need them, and transportation is available. If you are a regular – come on back. If you have never come – please consider joining us!

MESSAGE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

I would like to thank the members of the Stonewall Chorale, West End Collegiate Church Octet and Choir, and Dennis Anderson, saxophonist, for their wonderful participation in the Crime Victims' Candlelight Vigil on Sunday, April 26. They helped make this service even more meaningful.

– *Cynthia Powell*