

news

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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New York, New York
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Telephone (212) 787-1566

NEWSLETTER

for October, A.D. 2008

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

“We cannot cure the world of sorrows, but we can choose to live in joy.”
- Joseph Campbell

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Bombarded on all sides with the rhetoric of change, we are forced to endure its many manifestations. We complain to those who'll listen, tender differences with those we must converse, ignore the elephant in the room with those who would likely be hostile or studiously indifferent. Days of reckoning come and go and we live on, hurting, healing, helping as we can. In this crucible our mettle is refined, hopefully in greater wisdom, faithfulness, forgiveness, freedom and fearlessness. The steadfast love of God abides, so let us not swim in the waters of anxiety, but discern how we can remain disciples of that holy love. Others long to come here. Let us show them the welcome their presence asks for and seeks. Let us open the door on which many knock. Christ is still the cornerstone of this edifice we call home. I so much treasure your faith and grace during this time of change. *Ad gloriam dei, Pastor Robert*

CONSISTORY

The full Consistory of Collegiate Church will meet at Marble Collegiate Church on Monday, October 6.

The local Consistory will meet at West End on Tuesday, October 14 at 6:45 p.m.

CLUB FOR KIDS

Club for Kids will resume on Friday, October 3, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parlor/Chapel. If you are a kid in Second through Eighth Grades, please join your church family and their friends for fun, fellowship, pizza and play. Questions? Call Jim Sterner at 212-787-1566.

YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group continues to meet every Friday evening from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Gorsuch House. We will be touring New York City, planning the Hallowe'en Party, and raising more funds to journey back to the Gulf Coast next summer.

WONDER HOUR

Adult Christian Education Wonder Hour continues Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

In Exodus we read about the journey of the people of God from Egypt to Canaan, and the ways in which they were transformed in the process. God taught them who they were, and as they stood at Sinai, and wandered from one unknown desert location to another, established and reaffirmed an unshakeable covenant with them. How did that happen? Does it resonate with our experience as a congregation? What is our covenant with each other and with God? In what way(s) are we the people of God? Beginning October 5, we'll discuss these questions, and others, prompted by readings from the book of Exodus. Please join us in Room 25.

MUSIC

Among the changes in September was the retirement of our long-time, beloved organist Allen Sever, who received many accolades and standing ovations. Then the congregation, with Allen's help, gave a warm welcome to our new organist and choirmaster, Cynthia Powell, who began her ministry at West End on September 21. Cynthia will conduct an open rehearsal for all who enjoy singing on Wednesday, October 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. Come-as-you-are for an evening of music ... no strings attached. Experience the joy of singing together in harmony! Drop Cynthia Powell an email at CPowell508@aol.com for more information.

DO YOU LOVE ME? FEED MY SHEEP

For the past 25 years, this congregation has served a hot meal each week to the hungry who come to our door. More hungry people have been coming recently, and we have lost some of our valuable volunteers. To continue this expression of the love of God [John 21:15-17], we need your help on Tuesday, or on Saturday afternoon. If you can serve, whether once a week, once a month or once a year, please call or email Jim Sterner at the church office 787-1566 or jssterner@westendchurch.org for more information. The work is not difficult, but it is very important.

OUR ARTISTS AT WORK

T(erry) Schreiber Studio will present Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* from October 9 through November 23. See the back board in the sanctuary for more details.

Continued.....

BOO! YOU'RE INVITED

The Youth Group and the Hospitality Committee invite all potential princesses, Batmans, Jokers, ghosts, witches, and Harry Potters to the Hallowe'en Party of the year! On Saturday, October 25, join your church family for food, games, prizes, trick-or-treating, a haunted house and of course candy. The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. and will last until 9:00 in the Chapel/Parlor. This year we are adding a new event for our younger ones: Trick-or-Treating throughout the Church.

Don't you dare miss it!



Boo! Invite a friend!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food for Thought will meet Sunday, October 26 after worship. We are a small but lively group who meet over lunch in Room 25 for fellowship and discussion. All are invited. Questions? Speak to April Fisher.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

The congregation unites in sympathy to Walter and Kay Uysterlinde on the passing of Kay's sister Jean on September 27.

There will be a memorial service for Neil Margetson's father on October 11 at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

THE WEST END LECTURES

Intersections, in conjunction with West End Collegiate Church, is proud to present 'The West End Lectures'. This year's series focuses on the theme *The Heart of Conflict: Pathways to Peace* and features four nationally and internationally known presenters who will speak about various aspects of conflict transformation from their own personal histories. The dates are Friday, October 10, 2008; Thursday, January 8, 2009; Thursday, March 19, 2009; and Thursday, May 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Join us on Friday, October 10 for **Father Michael Allan Lapsley**. Michael Lapsley is a South African priest and social activist, born in New Zealand. In the early 1970s, he trained as an Anglican priest in Australia before coming to South Africa in 1973. Lapsley's visa was not renewed in 1976 due to his affiliations with the banned African National Congress. On April 28, 1990, Lapsley was the victim of a letter bomb which resulted in the loss of both hands and an eye. He started the Institute for Healing of Memories in 1998.

HOLIDAY

The church office and programs will be closed on Monday, October 13 in observance of Columbus Day.