

# news

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

368 West End Avenue  
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New York, New York  
10024

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## **NEWSLETTER**

**for September, A.D. 2008**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

“The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards.”

*-Anatole France*

### **A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Members and Friends of West End Collegiate Church: In the seven Sundays some of us have worshiped together, I have become ever more aware of what a treasure you are. And now new faces return from holiday adding glory and challenge to stewardship, ministry and worship. I've been inspired by Abraham Joshua Heschel's Man's Quest for God. It's about prayer and words: "The main ends of prayer are to move God, to let [God] participate in our lives, and to interest ourselves in [God]. What is the meaning of praise if not to make [God's] concern our own? Worship is an act of inner agreement with God" (p.18). This "poetry" is for me a spiritual supernova of the deathstar we call post-modernity. I am excited about this interim moment that is all about preparing for commitment to a new time of ministry that approaches us from a holy future. Together we can make the most of it.

*-Pastor Robert*

### **CONSISTORY**

The local Consistory of West End Collegiate Church will meet in the Education Center at West End on Tuesday, September 16 at 6:45 p.m.

### **WELCOME BACK LUNCH**

On September 7, 2008 we will have our traditional "Welcome Back Luncheon". As a bonus, we will share a cake to celebrate Allen Sever's many years of wonderful music. Please join us.

### **CHOIR SCHEDULE**

We welcome the West End Collegiate Church Octet and the volunteer choir back to the choir loft on September 7. We will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. to prepare for that service.

### **INQUIRER'S CLASS**

Interested in learning more about West End Collegiate Church, our programs and polity? Inquirers classes for those considering membership will be offered in September with reception of new members in October. Please see Naomi Niles for more information.

### **WONDER HOUR**

Adult Wonder Hour meets from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

As September begins a new season of Christian education, our first in transition, we have an opportunity to discuss the kind of church we are.

How has the eternal church been shaped by the times in which its congregations live? What factors—in history, and today—determine the nature and character of a church? Is it the doctrine, the leadership, the liturgy and sacraments, or something else? Why do people become members of one kind of church and not another? What puts churches into communion with each other, or breaks communion? Do individual churches choose their mission, or does the mission choose the church? What role does the Spirit play?

Beginning September 7, Dr. Roger Haight, of Union Theological Seminary, will lead us in four sessions on "What It Means To Be A Church". He will explore both historical development of churches, and contemporary issues, in a series that will help us put our own transition into context. Dr. Haight will combine lecture and discussion, so for these classes we will meet in Rooms A & B in the education center. Please join us!

### **WEEKDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Vesper Prayer Services will reconvene in October.  
Wednesday Communion will reconvene in October.

### **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.

Many of our hungry neighbors come to West End Collegiate Church every Tuesday afternoon for a hot meal and a friendly smile. If you would like to be a part of this very rewarding ministry, talk to Jim Sterner after worship or call him at the church office. You can volunteer once a month or as often as four times a month. The hours are 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. Come and be a part of what many of our guests call the "best hot meal in New York City."

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### CLUB FOR KIDS

Club for Kids will resume on Friday, October 5, at 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the church parlor. Watch this space for further information about this fantastic Friday fun fellowship for friends and families.

### YOUTH GROUP

Tim Mathis will begin the Youth Group on Friday, September 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Gorsuch House (306 West 77<sup>th</sup> Street).

### CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

On Sunday, September 14 our church school will resume the Parlor. Registration will begin at 9:45 a.m. After our brief sharing time we will go with our teachers to our classrooms. Before the 11:00 a.m. worship, all participants are encouraged to find their parents in the sanctuary and sit with them until they are called forward for the Children's Message, so that our entire church family can be together until the boys and girls depart for their worship programs.

### CHILDREN AND WORSHIP AND THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

The children's worship hour will resume immediately after the Children's Message on Sunday, September 14. *Children and Worship* is specially designed to meet the worship needs of all our boys and girls ages 3 to 6 and meets in the Worship Center. Led by Jim Sterner and Priscilla Shanks Chattah, *Children and Worship* offers a unique approach that has become a profound experience for our entire church family.

The *God Squad* was created to meet the needs of our second, third, and fourth graders. We meet in Room C in the Education Center. This program is led by Jane Russo and J.J. Russo and worships with singing, scripture, arts & crafts, and games.

We created *Young Disciples* to meet the worship needs of all our boys and girls in fifth through eighth grades. We meet in the Education Center. Led by James Vanreusel, Stacia Teele, and Tim Mathis the *Young Disciples* are creative, focused and passionate about their church, the need for social justice in the world, and their love for God and each other.

Children three years and younger are welcome to expert childcare provided each and every Sunday by the "*Dream Team*" of Arlene Davey and Debbie-Anne Lee Foon.

### OUR FAMILY NEWS:

The Pig Iron Company of Philadelphia's CHEKHOV LIZARDBRAIN by **Robert Quillen Camp** runs October 2 to 19, Thursday to Sunday at 8:00 p.m. at the Ohio Theater, 66 Wooster Street (between Spring & Broome Streets -- accessible from the C and/or E trains to Spring Street.) Tickets range from \$20.00 - \$35.00 and are available at 212-868-4444 or on [SmartTix.com](http://SmartTix.com).

We unite in sympathy to **Mary Ellen Houck** and the family of **Reece Trimmer** who died on Tuesday, August 19 in North Carolina.

### READING GROUP

The WECC book club will be reconvening in October. We have not yet established the date or the location, but we have chosen to read *Fludd* by Hilary Mantel. The book can be purchased new for \$14 from Amazon.com. Cheaper used copies are also available. If you have questions, you can reach Kay Uyterlinde at [Uyterlinde@hotmail.com](mailto:Uyterlinde@hotmail.com) or call 787-1285.

### SAVE THE DATE(S)

#### 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 presentations, accompanied by an artistic offering, will be held at West End Collegiate Church on Manhattan's Upper West Side. 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 sent to him by an operative of the Civil Cooperation Bureau which resulted in the loss of both hands and an eye. He started the Institute for Healing of Memories in 1998.

*From MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH:*

**Third Anniversary for Hurricanes Katrina/Rita Fundraiser.** Saturday, September 6 for Howl Fest in Tompkins Square Park and our Taste of New Orleans fundraiser at 7:00 p.m. to commemorate the third anniversaries of Hurricanes Katrina/Rita and support our Gulf Coast partners. Come join us for authentic Creole cuisine, jazz music and the New York premiere of Middle's second documentary, *Hope in New Orleans*, which catalogs from the eyes of teens from New York and New Orleans how they evolve as human beings when brought together. Tickets are \$55 in advance, \$60 at the door. We need to sell 150 tickets in advance to reach our goal of \$5,000. Proceeds will go to our Interfaith Gulf Coast Mental Health project.

### CONSTRUCTION IN OUR CHURCH

Air conditioning for the sanctuary is moving a little more slowly than we had hoped, but all the proper paperwork is in place and construction work has begun. The process will take approximately two months. There will be some disruption in the sanctuary, but each week the sanctuary will be cleaned and prepared for our Sunday worship service. There will be some visible signs of the work in progress so we can follow the progress and look forward to a more comfortable sanctuary for all seasons. In order to expedite the work, our Tuesday vesper and Wednesday morning communion services, which will begin in October, will be held at our townhouse.

### WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH YOGA

Our YOGA class will resume on Wednesday, September 10 in our newly acquired building at 306 West 77. Questions? Please direct them to Daniëlle Grosheide.

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## **OUR NEW ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER**

We are pleased to welcome **Cynthia Powell** as our new Organist and Choirmaster. Cynthia comes to West End from Christ Episcopal Church, Ridgewood, NJ. She is also the Organist and Choirmaster of Temple Sinai in Tenafly, NJ. A graduate of Westminster Choir College, her extensive background in sacred music has been enhanced by work over the years with the composer Meredith Monk, with whom she toured the U.S. and Europe, and performed at the Spoleto, USA Festival, the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis, the World Financial Center, and the Lincoln Center Festival.

Cynthia is the Artistic Director of the Stonewall Chorale, the nation's first gay and lesbian chorus, and Melodia Women's Choir, both in NYC. She has conducted many major works for chorus and orchestra, including the Requiems of Fauré, Brahms, Durufle, Rutter, and Mozart, the Poulenc *Gloria* and Handel's *Messiah*. She served on the guest faculty at Sarah Lawrence College, has led the St. George's Choral Society in NYC, and was a guest conductor at the International Choral Festival in Havana, Cuba.

Her passion for music is coupled with a desire to generate awareness for timely causes, and she has produced concerts to benefit Bailey House, a homeless residence for people with AIDS, for the wildlife injured in the Exxon-Valdez disaster, for victims of the flood in Nicaragua, for Doctors Without Borders during the Kosovo crisis, and for the Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan. She resides in Englewood, NJ with her partner Allison Sniffin, a multi-instrumentalist and composer.

Cynthia is delighted to be part of the ministry at West End Collegiate Church, and looks forward to her first Sunday with us on Sept. 21.