

# news

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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

Telephone (212) 787-1566

## **NEWSLETTER**

**for September, A.D. 2009**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

"No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be."

- Isaac Asimov

### **CONSISTORY**

The Local Consistory of West End Collegiate Church will meet in the Education Center on Monday, September 21 at 6:45 p.m. Ordination and installation of our new Deacons and Elders will be during worship on September 27.

### **WELCOME BACK LUNCH**

On September 13, 2009 we will have our traditional "Welcome Back Luncheon". Please join us.

### **HOLIDAY**

The Church Office and programs **will be closed** on Monday, September 7 in observance of **Labor Day**.

### **OFFICE RETREAT**

The Church office and programs will be closed on Wednesday, September 9 to accommodate an "Office Retreat" led by The Reverend Dr. Britton.

### **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE THEMES**

- Sept. 6 The FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST  
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
Psalm 27; Hebrews 12:1-13 Sermon: "Making Use of the Trouble in Your Life"
- Sept.13 The FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST  
Homecoming Sunday  
Matthew 12:46-50 Sermon: "A Family Affair"
- Sept.20 The SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST  
Genesis: 1:1-10; Luke 3:21-22 Sermon:  
"Remembrance and Renewal Through the Waters"
- Sept.27 The SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

### **THE TOPIC OF "MISSION"**

**Rick Dickens** will be giving a presentation on his volunteer experience in the Cape Town settlement Imazamo Yethu (which means in the Xhosa language: "the people have gathered"), following lunch on Sunday, October 4, 2009. This will include a discussion on the possibilities for international outreach between West End Collegiate Church and the non-profit James House which serves this community of 20,000.

### **SERVICE PROGRAMS**

Tuesdays - SUPPER CENTER for the hungry and homeless  
4:00 p.m. – Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. – Supper

*Tuesday Supper Center will resume on September 8.*

Saturdays - SATURDAY CENTER for the mentally and emotionally healing  
12 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

*Saturday Center resumes on September 12.*

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."

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

#### **A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN**

When did you first wonder about a place called heaven? I rarely hear talk about the place except for a funeral. There are times I hear people talk about heaven in sharp contrast to hell—a place where the speaker usually is sending the listener. Often heaven refers to the sky or the universe, a place where God resides, a place of perfect peace where God is with celestial creatures. Various cultures have described it as a city of God where the "streets are paved with gold." Seraphim and Cherubim reside there, also angels and all manner of immortal winged creatures. It is where the righteous are invited to be with God. When Jesus speaks of heaven it is usually the "kingdom of heaven" or the "kingdom of God" suggesting order, protection, harmony and serenity." Jesus also said the kingdom of God is within you. Is there a spark of the divine God within us all? Jesus also teaches his disciple to pray: "thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Are we souls linked to eternity? In this season's slow turn toward autumn, let us seek a glimpse of heaven as Fanny Crosby sang "a foretaste of glory divine" in all we may do as kin, friends, leaders, and lovers.

– Dr. Mariah Britton

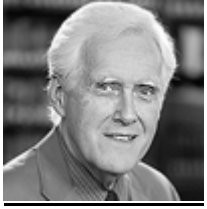
### **LECTURES**

We believe you may be interested in the following lectures at the **Bard Graduate Center**, 18 W 86th Street:

- 1) September 24 at 6:00 p.m. on Everardus Bogardus (1607-1647) - the second Collegiate minister, A Dutch Mystic in the New World
- 2) October 1 on women in Dutch 17th Century culture.

Tickets can be obtained through Ken Chase at a reduced price of \$12.00 each. Ken can be reached at 212-799-4203 or via email: [kchase@westendchurch.org](mailto:kchase@westendchurch.org).

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



### **CHRISTOPHER MORSE** Dietrich Bonhoeffer Professor of Theology and Ethics

On September 20, at 9:45 a.m. the Adult Christian Education class will resume with our guest speaker, Christopher Morse.

For what reason might Jesus, as the son of God, been sent to live as a man? Was it so that we might know that he experienced fully all the struggles of human life? Was it so that when we call on him for help in our times of trouble, we know that he has suffered everything we suffer, including doubt about his mission? Was it so that he could teach us directly, person-to-person, and provide a body of lessons that we are still learning today? Did he heal people strictly as an act of compassion, or was it also to demonstrate that he was divine, the son of God? Was all of this so that when he was executed by a method reserved for criminals of the worst sort, and then rose from the dead, that we would see and believe that he had triumphed over death, and that his promise to us that we could, too, was also true? Was his resurrection a means of making us know for sure that God had redeemed us? Or are we too limited in our understanding of Jesus? Maybe there is more to him than we have considered. Professor Christopher Morse will open our Adult Christian Education season with a presentation for discussion on "Who Do We Say Jesus Christ Is?"

In June, Julia Turner ascended Mt. Sinai, by camel and on foot. As she climbed, she thought of Moses, who climbed the mountain because he had heard God call him to come up. So he walked up, to meet God and receive the Law. What would he have been thinking as he climbed those 7,500 feet again and again, surrounded by desert mountains? What is it like to lead when you cannot tell people where you are leading them? On September 27, illustrated by photographs from her climb up Mt. Sinai, Julia will lead a discussion of the passages in Exodus describing God's encounter with his people at Sinai. Please join us in Room 25.

## CHILDREN AND WORSHIP AND THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

The children's worship hour will resume immediately after the Children's Message on Sunday, September 20. *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 William Russo, and includes worship with singing, scripture, arts & crafts, and games.

*Young Disciples* is for 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.

## CLUB FOR KIDS

Club for Kids will resume on Friday, October 2, 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, October 2 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 20 our church school will resume in 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.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR

There's Music in the Air at West End!

We give many thanks to our soloists during July and August who offered solos and led the singing during the summer Worship Service. What a good feeling those services had! Hymns ancient and modern were sung, and we even took requests. The Reverend Dr. Mariah Britton's inspiring sermons, the scripture readings and music seemed to flow together seamlessly.

The West End Octet and Choir will return on Homecoming Sunday, September 13, with our regular rehearsal starting at 9:00 a.m.

We always welcome new singers – requirements are the ability to carry a tune and have some familiarity with musical notations. Rehearsals for volunteers are held on Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and the full choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. (Those attending Adult Christian Ed. may leave at 9:45). The first rehearsal is on Wednesday, September 16. For further information call or email Cynthia Powell at 201-541-9848 or [cpowell@westendchurch.org](mailto:cpowell@westendchurch.org).

There's a new **concert series** at West End, beginning with Kent Tritle's Organ Recital on Sunday, September 20 at 4:00 p.m. THIS IS A MUST HEAR/SEE, and it's FREE...see enclosed (attached) flyer.

Other Sunday dates to note:

**December 20** at 3:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Concert  
**February 14** at 3:00 p.m. Valentine's Day Concert: *Songs of Love and Passion* (Opera and Broadway hits) with our soloists & choir

**May 2** at 3:00 p.m. The West End Octet and Choir with Marble Collegiate's "Festival of Voices" in a joint choral spectacular!

See you in church,

Cynthia Powell, Music Director and Organist

**On Sunday, September 20** we expect a visit from a professional PHOTOGRAPHER, who will as unobtrusively as possible take still photos of us and our activities throughout the day. These photos will eventually be used to illustrate our webpage in such a way as to convey to the website visitor a sense of who we are as a congregation. This notice and others to come will constitute authorization to use photos of adults. If photos of children are to be used, the specific consent of parents will be obtained. The people in the photos will not be identified. Question? Please ask Pat Whitsett.

# ORGAN SPECTACULAR!



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## KENT TRITLE

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Dir. of Music, St. Ignatius Loyola  
Organist, New York Philharmonic

works by  
Bach  
Lübeck  
Guilmant

 **Sun, Sept 20 - 4 pm**  
**Free Admission** 

[www.westendchurch.org](http://www.westendchurch.org) 212-787-1566

{+} positive and inclusive

## Top NYC Organist to Kick off West End Concert Series

Kent Tritle, one of America's leading organists and choral conductors, will give a free concert launching a new music series on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 4:00 p.m. at West End Collegiate Church, 368 West End Ave.(at 77th St.)

Called "the brightest star in New York's choral music world" by *The New York Times*, Mr. Tritle is founder and Music Director of **Sacred Music in a Sacred Space**, the acclaimed concert series at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, Music Director of the **Oratorio Society of New York**, and Music Director of **Musica Sacra**, one of NY's top professional choruses. He is also Director of Choral Activities at the **Manhattan School of Music** and a member of the graduate faculty of **The Juilliard School**.

"We are thrilled to have Kent Tritle here to inaugurate the series", says Cynthia Powell, the church's Music Director and curator of the series. "Our Austin organ is a wonderful instrument and Kent is such a magnificent player ... I know it will be a thrilling start to our new music season."

A recitalist of international renown, Mr. Tritle is organist of the **New York Philharmonic**. He has played at the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Church of St. Sulpice in Paris, King's College, Cambridge, and Westminster Abbey. He has made more than a dozen recordings on the Telarc, AMDG, Epiphany, Gothic, VAI and MSR Classics labels.

For this concert, Mr. Tritle will play J.S.Bach's Prelude and Fugue BWV 548 in e minor (The Wedge), Sonata V in C Minor, Alexandre Guilmant, and Praeambulum in C Minor by Vincent Lübeck.

West End Collegiate Church is one of New York City's most beautiful churches. Its Dutch Renaissance style is patterned after an historic building in Haarlem, The Netherlands. The church stands majestically on the corner of 77th St. and West End Ave. on the upper West Side.

Other free concerts in the series include a Christmas concert on Dec. 20th at 3 pm with members of the N.Y. Philharmonic, with special guests the New York Saxophone Quartet, a Valentine Concert, and a Spring Choral Gala with the Festival of Voices of Marble Collegiate Church and the Choir of West End Collegiate.

West End Collegiate Church is a welcoming, positive and inclusive church with an active outreach ministry.

For further info, email Cynthia Powell [CPowell@westendchurch.org](mailto:CPowell@westendchurch.org) or call the church at 212-787-1566.