

news

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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NEWSLETTER for September, A.D. 2010

WECC BEGINS NEW WORSHIP SERVICE

On October 10th we will begin an early service at 9:15 a.m. The sermon will be the same as the 11:00 a.m. service, but the worship will be an arts-based approach that offers a casual, contemporary, and creative worship environment. Our goal is to reach out to the Upper West Side in new ways so that a greater number of people can experience the warmth of our community and the dynamic journey of faith that we share. If you have friends for whom you think this style of service may be appealing, please invite them to attend. Watch for more news in the weeks leading up to the service.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

As you read this month's newsletter, you will notice that there is change in the air. I am very excited about the direction we are heading and the steps we are taking to build for our future. But like some, I also feel some uneasiness about what these changes represent. Someone once said that we are not so much afraid of change as we are of being changed. There is a sense in which we must be open to being changed. Personal and communal growth is not possible without it. Yet there are also times that we should legitimately resist change. It is when it threatens our core values. These values represent who we are and what we strive to be. They do not change with new vision or strategies, but remain the foundation of all that we do and decide. As much time as I spend envisioning what changes we may need for the future, I also spend time thinking about our core values and those things that must never change. Here are the beginnings of my "do not change" list. Whatever we grow to be in the future, we will always be positive and inclusive, honest about our beliefs and doubts, and a place where relationships are fostered and cherished. Being a community of faith is not about drawing a crowd. It is about sharing life together as we follow the way of Christ. As we dream about what the future holds, may we never lose sight of our unchanging foundation.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Michael

(By the way, I was renamed "the Bosanator" on the Memphis mission trip with the youth. I kind of like it!)

STAFF NOTES

After a decade on staff, Anne Todd will be retiring as the Director of Ministry Services the end of September. She has served the church in a variety of roles and has made a significant contribution to the life of our community. We will be celebrating her contribution at the September 26 luncheon after the worship service. The good news is that she will be taking a part-time position as a pastoral care associate. We are excited that her connection and care for the congregation can continue in this way.

Over the next ten months, Jes Kast-Keat will be serving as a full-time pastoral intern. It allows her to learn more about pastoral ministry as well as make a contribution to our church. She is a wonderfully gifted individual who will be a positive presence in our congregation. We also welcome Darin Adams to our staff. He will oversee the development of the arts and worship for the new service that begins in October. He has the gifts, experience, and vision to help us expand our offerings to the community around us.

To help you get to know our new staff, below is a brief bio on each of them.



Darin Adams has worked in the performing arts for the past twenty years as an opera singer, actor, composer, playwright, stage director, and voice teacher. He has also served on pastoral staff as Arts and Worship Minister at several churches including (RCA) Christ Community Church in Carmichael, CA where he wrote, directed, and produced original theatrical works; directed and oversaw all choirs, orchestras, and musical ensembles; and planned worship services and arts related community events. Working continuously both in and out of the church as an artist has instilled in Darin a deep appreciation for diversity and creativity within worship. Darin and his wife Sheri, who is also a singer, live just a few blocks from West End with their son Samuel and daughter Sydney. Darin teaches voice to Broadway professionals and continues to write and direct both faith based and secular theater productions.



Jes Kast-Keat, writes:

"As I poured the purple grape juice into a cup and broke the wheat bread, rehearsing the Lord's Supper and preaching for my congregation of stuffed animals, little did I know that at the young age of five God was calling me to be a pastor. Fast forward some years later and I find myself on the cusp of completing my education from Western Theological Seminary and living into this child-hood calling. Through the journey of a broadly ecumenical

past and supportive mentors I am eager to work at West End Collegiate Church as the pastoral intern.

"I grew up in Northern Michigan and dreamed daily of migrating to the city. My undergraduate education is from a small Christian university where I obtained a degree in Youth Ministry, Bible, and Psychology. It is here where I met my husband, Jim Kast-Keat, who is currently working at Mars Hill Bible Church as a student ministry pastor in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While I deeply love being a pastor, I also enjoy French pressed coffee, interfaith reconciliation, fashion & pop-culture, an array of music, traveling, South African wine and cheese, running, the writings of the Christian mystics, and honestly connecting with the people around me.

"I look forward to meeting you and our life together as we wonder about God, life, and our place in this world. Thank you for welcoming me into the West End Collegiate Church family this year!"

HOLIDAY

The Church Office and programs **will be closed** on Monday, September 6 in observance of **Labor Day**.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We welcome you to join us for a new season of Adult Christian Education, held each Sunday morning at 9:45, beginning on Sunday, September 12th. This year's theme will be "Forgiveness", which we will explore from a variety of aspects. These include Bible study, reading and working together with the Louis B. Smedes book *The Art of Forgiving: When You Need to Forgive and Don't Know How*, poetry and literature, movies and applied spiritual practices, as well as from the perspective of outside speakers. On the 12th, The Reverend Michael Bos will introduce our new format and a four-week series on the scriptural basis for forgiveness. The series begins on the following Sunday, the 19th. We invite you to come one Sunday or every Sunday for an engaging and uplifting community experience. Please join us in Room 25.

INQUIRERS' CLASS

Interested in church membership? Our next Inquirers' Class will be on Sunday, September 26th at 9:45 a.m., hosted by Priscilla Shanks Chattah. Please call the church office or email Dan Niedziela at dan@dansunday.com if you plan to attend.

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH BOOK CLUB

The group will not meet in September. Our October meeting will be Friday, October 15th. We will discuss *Franny and Zooey* by J. D. Salinger. For further information call Kay Uytterlinde at 212 787-1285 or email her at uyterlinde@hotmail.com

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP AND THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

The children's worship hour will resume during the 11:00 a.m. service immediately after the Children's Message on Sunday, September 19th. The following programs are available:

Children and Worship is specially designed to meet the worship needs of our boys and girls ages 3 to 6, and meets in the Worship Center.

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 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 Sunday by the "Dream Team" of Arlene Davey and Debbie-Ann Lee Foon.

CLUB FOR KIDS/ YOUTH GROUP

Club for Kids will resume on Friday, October 1st, from 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.

Tim Mathis will begin the Youth Group on Friday, October 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the Gorsuch House (306 West 77th Street).

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

On Sunday, September 19th our church school will resume in the Parlor. Registration will begin at 10:00 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

Grateful thanks to Octet singers April Fisher, Mary Hack, Marsha Andrews, David White and Chris Lyons, who offered beautiful meditations on the themes of the day during July and August, and to Wendy Realmuto who, along with her son Christian, provided the music for July 4th. Christian did a smashing job in his piccolo debut on "The Stars and Stripes Forever"! I also want to thank Alexander Tonhazy for his wonderful keyboard playing and vocals last spring.

The West End Octet and Choir will return on Sunday, September 12th. We bid farewell to Rob Ferrier, bass, who is stepping down this season. Rob has served this congregation since 1992 and we are extremely grateful for his years of dedication and service. Leroy Davis will be our new bass. Rose Anderson is on leave through Christmas, recuperating from surgery on her vocal cords. We're happy to have Faye Timmer, who will serve as interim alto.

We welcome new singers--requirements are the ability to carry a tune, familiarity with music notation, and a willingness to work hard (we have fun, too!). It is not necessary to commit for the 'long haul' (*i.e.*, the entire season), and we encourage people to join us for the times leading up to Christmas and Easter. Rehearsals for volunteers are scheduled on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. The full choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:00. For further information, email Cynthia Powell at CPowell@westendchurch.org.

The West End Concert Series' second season begins:

- Sunday, November 21 - Melodia Women's Choir in works by Britten and Poulenc
- Sunday, December 19 - West End Collegiate Church's Annual Christmas Concert
- Thursday, January 13 - University of Johannesburg (South Africa) Touring Choir
- Sunday, February 13 - Adult Talent Show/ Valentine's Benefit & Luncheon to benefit the Annual Youth Mission Trip
- Sunday, May 10 - The West End Octet/Choir with the Stonewall Chorale in the Brahms Requiem.

A wonderful season of music and worship awaits us!

See you in church - Cynthia Powell, Minister of Music

CONSISTORY

Ordination and Installation of our new Deacons Jocelyn Camp and Don Thompson and Elders Julia Turner, Dave Coulson and Steve Cambor will be during worship on September 12th. The Local Consistory of West End Collegiate Church will meet in the Education Center on Monday, September 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday October 3rd after the 11:00 a.m. service.