

news

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

368 West End Avenue
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New York, New York
10024

Telephone (212) 787-1566

NEWSLETTER

for March, A.D. 2010

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

“On the mountains of truth you can never climb in vain: either you will reach a point higher up today, or you will be training your powers so that you will be able to climb higher tomorrow.” -*Friedrich Nietzsche*

CONSISTORY

The local Consistory will meet on Monday, March 15 at 6:45 p.m.

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.

HOLY WEEK

March 28 Palm Sunday – Palm Walk at 10:30 a.m., Service at 11:00 a.m.
April 1 Maundy Thursday - 7:30 p.m.
April 2 Good Friday – 12:00 Noon
April 3 Holy Saturday
April 4 Easter Sunday – 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE THEMES

March 07 *THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT*
THE LORD'S SUPPER
Message: “Spirituality 101 –
Part 1: Room for ‘No’”
Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

March 14 *THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT*
Message: “Spirituality 101 –
Part 2: It’s All About the Journey”
Joshua 5:9-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

March 21 *THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT*
Message: “Spirituality 101 –
Part 3: Jettison the Old Paradigms!”
Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8

March 28 *PALM SUNDAY*
Palm Walk at 10:30 a.m.
Message: “Spirituality 101 –
Part 4: Missing God”
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Luke 19:28-40.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

When we lose our way, there is one driving tactic that is very beneficial: a U-turn. It is the quickest way to get back on course. Unfortunately, U-turns are rarely permitted. Unless we want to risk a ticket, we usually wander aimlessly through back streets until we find our way again.

With God, however, U-turns are encouraged. (I mean this figuratively so don't quote me to get out of a ticket!) We are now entering the season of Lent, the prelude to Easter, and the theme is repentance. “To repent” means to experience a change of heart, a change of mind, a change of direction in our lives. It is a U-turn in the way we live and the priorities we hold.

For some the idea of repentance has a harsh tone. We recall the shrill voice of a televangelist shouting “repent”, sounding more like a threat than an opportunity. The emphasis of Lent is positive and powerful: with God's help, we can change the direction of our lives. Many of us have tried to do this through the brute force of our wills, but to no avail. The season of Lent is a time to look beyond ourselves, to look to God and the way of Christ. It opens us to God's Spirit and new possibilities beyond what we can wish or will into existence. Lent is about spiritual U-turns.

-The Reverend Michael S. Bos

WONDER HOUR

Do you ever wonder about the Wonder Hour (Adult Christian Education)? If you'd like to share your thoughts, please see Jane Russo in advance of our Adult Education strategy planning session on March 9.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Adult Christian Education class meets every Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45 in Room 25. On March 7 and 21, Dr. Roger Haight will continue his series on “Spirituality for All People.” What *is* spirituality, and how does one develop spiritually? Why is spirituality so important to so many people who have questions and reservations about religion? What forms does it take? How does it relate to the faith of Christians? Please come join us in Room 25.

On March 14, our Pastor, Michael Bos, will lead a discussion on his experience in Oman, providing insights into the work of the RCA there, the society in which he operated, and how the Al-Amarna Center developed.

LENTEN FILM SERIES

The Worship Committee is presenting a Lenten Film Series on the theme of redemption. The series continues with “On the Waterfront” and “Tender Mercies”. They will be screened on Friday evenings, March 5 and March 19, at 7:00, and each will be followed by a discussion. If you would like to attend any or all of these events, please sign up on the list at the back of the sanctuary.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Terry Schreiber directs *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov (a new adaptation by Carol Rocamora) at the T. Schreiber Studio, running now through April 4. Postcards with detailed information are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Rachel de la Torre will compete at Level 10 in The Manhattan Classic Gymnastics Competition on Friday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, 90 North Moore Street (entrance on Westside Highway). Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. (March 5 is also Rachel's 16th birthday.)

Jessica Phillips stars as Diana in *Next To Normal* at the Booth Theatre from Sunday, March 14 through Saturday, March 20 standing in for Alice Ripley.

There will be a Memorial service for **Frances McCown** on Saturday, March 6 at 3:00 p.m. here in our sanctuary. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Frances be made to Prairie View Alumni Association, P.O. Box 2875, Prairie View, Texas 77446, or to the West End Collegiate Church Memorial Fund.

REMEMBER

Daylight Savings Time begins on March 14. Be sure to “spring ahead” one hour.

LOOKING AHEAD...

The West End Peace Series continues on Thursday, April 8 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Meet and hear Acmad Macarimbang, a 26 year old Sunni Muslim from the Philippines and Lady Mandalika, a 27 year old Christian from Indonesia.

Mark your calendars for the **Warwick Retreat** on June 18, 19 and 20. Further information will be detailed in subsequent newsletters.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

Music for Lent & Easter

For Sundays in Lent, the West End Octet and Choir offer anthems, old and new, from the vast repertoire of sacred music of the season. We will sing settings of the *Kyrie* by two of France's most significant organist/composers, Louis Vierne and Maurice Duruflé (from his *Requiem*). David Hurd's exquisite setting of *Love Bade Me Welcome* on the poetry of George Herbert will be sung on Sunday, March 7, along with *Like as the Hart* by British composer Herbert Howells. Hurd is the organist/choirmaster of Holy Apostles in New York City, and is the music director at General Theological Seminary. On Sunday, March 14, we will welcome guest organist Christopher Creaghan, who will substitute for me. On Palm Sunday, we'll sing "The Palms". Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will feature music in a more somber vein.

Be sure to join us on Sunday, April 4 at 11:00 a.m. when we'll pull out all the stops! - Choir, brass and timpani will usher in the glory of Easter that morning.

See you in church,
Cynthia Powell

CISTERN FUND

The West End Collegiate Church Cistern Fund, founded in 2003 to support volunteer work by church members called to service in impoverished world environments, provided stationery, school uniforms, and school bags for 15 children in January who live at James House, a non-profit organization on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa. James House provides service to 20,000 residents of the settlement Imazamo Yethu (means “the people have gathered” in Xhosa).

The relationship between James House and West End began a number of years ago when James Vanreusel volunteered in their Safe Park After School Program. In 2009 James referred Rick Dickens to their work, and Rick spent a week helping there and explored how West End Collegiate Church might assist with their monumental needs.

January is summer in South Africa and the beginning of a new school year for which supplies are much needed. In May 2009, The Cistern Fund provided funds for three large tents and heaters to be set up so children could continue to attend the Safe Park Program during the rainy season, where they are given sandwiches and drink. Because of the favorable exchange rate, The Cistern Fund was able to provide these sizable services at minimal cost.

While there is a crisis in Haiti to which many of us continue to give, The Cistern Fund continues to address ongoing needs of other impoverished communities throughout the world where church members have been called. If you'd like to make a donation to this fund, you can make a check out to West End Collegiate Church and write Cistern Fund in the note.

THE BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Friday, March 12 at The Gorsuch House (306 West 77th Street) at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova. On Friday, April 9 we will discuss *The Towers of Trebizond* by Rose Macaulay. Please join us! For more information, Kay Uyterlinde can be reached at uyterlinde@hotmail.com or 212-787-1285.