

news

WEST END COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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NEWSLETTER

for November, A.D. 2009

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*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

"Service as an expression of gratitude"

We often forget that our service to others is an expression of gratitude to God for the peace we receive through the blessing of newness of life every day. A supreme sacrifice and service was made on our behalf. Scripture tells us: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

Service can be of all types. It simply requires dedicated time, commitment to complete the task you select. Service can be in the talents God has given you. Or perhaps service can be in areas you'd like to learn more about. If you are a good reader, then maybe you can teach others to read; if you are gifted in use of computers then you can assist others; if you sew, join a community that makes clothes or quilts for people in need; if you enjoy gardening, join a group that helps people to learn how to grow food; if you are a great writer, send letters off to representatives or help people to learn how to do that; if you're a great conversationalist volunteer to speak with people who are lonely. There are so many ways to serve in this city, to truly use our hands and hearts in one-to-one service to others. This month we take time for special thanksgiving; as an expression of gratitude, if everyone who believed in the teachings of Christ would volunteer somewhere it could change the trends of hopelessness in our world. There are service opportunities here at West End Church. Check the church bulletin boards, call the outreach ministries office. Get involved and be a blessing to others. - *The Reverend Dr. Mariah Britton*

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE THEMES

Nov 1 The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints' Day
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Mark 12:28-34
Sermon: "Striving for a Love Supreme"
Daylight Savings Time Ends

Nov 8 The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrews 9:24-34
Sermon: "When Once Is Enough"

Nov 15 The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 25:6-9, Revelation 21:1-6a
Sermon: "Shameless Celebration"
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Nov 22 THE REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
Sermon: "The Punctuation of Faith"
The Reverend Michael S. Bos, preaching

Nov 29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sermon: "Breaking Out of the Ordinary"
The Reverend Michael S. Bos, preaching

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.

CONSISTORY

The local Consistory of West End Collegiate Church will meet at West End on Monday, November 16 at 6:45 p.m.

ARRIVAL OF OUR NEW PASTOR

On Sunday, November 15, The Reverend Michael S. Bos, our new Senior Pastor, will begin his ministry at West End. He will be joining The Reverend Mariah Britton participating in worship for the first time during our 11:00 a.m. service. This will be a very busy and exciting day with our Congregational Meeting following lunch. This will also be a bittersweet day, as this will mark Dr. Britton's last Sunday in the pulpit. Please join us at this time of transition as we celebrate Michael's arrival and thank Mariah for her extraordinary leadership.

WELCOMING THE BOS FAMILY

During the coming months, we will be seeking opportunities for members and congregants to gather together to receive Michael and his family. Please share your ideas for hospitality events, educational groups or service projects with Katherine Charapko, Chair of Consistory. She will coordinate with the appropriate committees and needs your help to create a smooth transition.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Christian Education continues Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. In November, we will learn about the first new standard of belief that the RCA's Synod has passed in 400 years, the Belhar Confession. The Confession comes out of a reconciliation process in South Africa, and speaks to our times. We will look at the main themes of the Confession and their Scriptural underpinnings. The Confession must also be approved by the Classes of the Reformed Church in America, who will be taking up the vote this winter. Come learn about this breaking news. Please join us in Room 25.

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to **Irina Zodrow** and **Blaise Huguenin** on the birth on October 18 of **Malika Johanna Zodrow Huguenin**, their first child! Malika weighed seven pounds, four ounces and was 19¼ inches long at birth. **Andrea Huguenin** is the happy grandmother.

Word has been received of the death on October 14 of **Philip Yu**. He and his wife **Alexandra** were formerly members of this congregation. A memorial service was held at Rutgers Presbyterian Church on October 21.

2010 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Our annual pledge campaign starts this month. Please watch your mailbox for a letter and pledge form from the Stewardship Committee, Margaret Tobin, Chair. Stewardship Sunday, when we receive pledges as part of the offering at morning worship, will be November 22.

OUR ARTISTS AT WORK

"**Matthew Takes Manahatta**", a play based on the book "Matthew's Secret Door" by **Christopher** and **Matthew Moore**, is being performed at The Vital Theatre Company, Broadway at 76th Street, now through November 29. Shows are Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Reservations and information can be found at www.vitaltheatre.org or by calling 212 579-0528.

T(erry) Schreiber Studio is presenting Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* through November 22. See the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary for more details.

Judith and Ken Gorsuch, Julia Turner, and Albert Watson will sing in Handel's "Messiah" on December 14 in Carnegie Hall with the Oratorio Society of New York. Anyone interested in tickets can speak to Julia or Albert or go to www.oratoriosocietyofny.org to buy them online.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Saint Nicholas Day Service on Sunday, December 6 at 11:00 a.m. at West End Collegiate Church will feature **Chris Moore**, Research Coordinator of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, telling the Dutch version of the Sinter Klaas and Schwarte Piet story and possibly Gajus Scheltema, Consul General of the Netherlands, reading a biblical Christmas lesson in Dutch.

We will have a **Community Carol Sing** on December 8.

The **Christmas Decorating Party** will be on Friday, December 11 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Supper will be available from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Come join in the fun !

The West End Octet and Volunteer Choir will present our annual **Christmas Concert** on Sunday afternoon, December 20 at 3:00 in the sanctuary.

January 3, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. will be our **Epiphany Service**, and the **Installation of Michael Bos** at 3:00 p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR

If you think about it, church is one of the few places we have these days where people can experience the joy of singing together. While the Choir loves to offer anthems at the offertory and throughout the service, it is in hymn singing that we can express ourselves together as a community of people lifting its voice in song. Singing about higher ideals, eternal truths, the wonder of creation, and the love which surrounds us --- to me, it doesn't get much better than that!

In the coming month, we celebrate All Saints' Day (November 1) with the choir singing a beautiful setting of Psalm 23 by John Rutter, accompanied by Dennis Anderson on the oboe. We'll also sing the hymn "For All the Saints" by Ralph Vaughan Williams. We hope you will sing it out with soul and spirit as we gather to remember those in our midst who have passed away this year.

Of course, Thanksgiving hymns will be sung on November 22 in preparation for the Thanksgiving holiday -- *We Gather Together; Come, Ye Thankful People, Come;* and *Now Thank We All Our God*. Come to church and sing your heart out! - Blessings, Cynthia

A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

The Communications Committee commissioned Francis J. Sypher Jr. to translate the *Liber A 1628-1700* historical records of the first Collegiate Church of New York. These records are just a small sampling of what the Collegiate Churches hold in their archives. Chris Moore wrote, "*Liber A* is very quietly among the most important documents in American history. Freedom of religion, separation of church and state (and even colonial instruction on how-to-build-a-church, beer included!) are within this informative, well-crafted, documentary window frame into our past. *Liber A* is eyewitness to some of the very first changes in America. This masterful translation by Francis J. Sypher, Jr. brings much history to light."

We have several copies of *Liber A* available at a cost of \$20.00 each. Please make your check payable to "The Collegiate Churches of New York" and forward it to Patricia Whitsett at the West End Collegiate Church.

EXHIBIT

You may be interested in an exhibit at the **Bard Graduate Center** (Main Gallery), 18 West 86th Street: "*Dutch New York Between East and West: The World of Margrieta van Varick*", now through January 3, 2010, curated by Marybeth de Philippis of the New-York Historical Society.

COLLEGIATE CHURCHES OF NEW YORK LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, November 14 at 1:30 p.m. at Marble Collegiate Church: "Digging New Netherland", a talk by archeologists Anne-Marie Cantwell and Diana Wall, authors of "Unearthing Gotham": how archeological discoveries shed new light on the complex interactions among Europeans, Africans and Native Americans in New Netherland. Co-sponsored by New Amsterdam History Center and the New York Society of Archeologists

Saturday, November 21 at 1:30 p.m. at Marble Collegiate Church: "Leisler's Rebellion and the Collegiate Church Charter", a talk by David Voorhees, editor of *De Halve Maen*, the Holland Society journal, and preeminent expert on Jacob Leisler, and Francis Sypher, Jr., translator of the Collegiate Church archives

Both lectures are free, but please *RSVP* to Ken Chase at 212-799-4203 or via email: kchase@westendchurch.org

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the West End Collegiate Church Book Club will be on Friday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. in The Gorsuch House, 306 West 77th Street. The book will be *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson. Please note: the book club will not meet in December.

ACUPUNCTURE AT WEST END

On September 27, Susan Xenarios and West End Collegiate Church hosted a "Meet and Greet" session with Greg Fessenden, New York State Licensed Acupuncturist, for us to learn about this ancient science and art of healing and health maintenance. This event was the kick-off for West End Collegiate Church's Community Health Initiative to bring affordable alternative and complementary treatment models to our community. In October, Greg began providing acupuncture treatment sessions on Thursdays from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. for West End Collegiate Church. The fee for a one hour session is \$50. Many insurance carriers will cover acupuncture for reimbursement. Please look for sign-up sheets at the back of the sanctuary or call the church office for more information or to schedule appointments.

INTERSECTIONS CORNER

Intersections International, located at 274 Fifth Avenue, is a ministry of the Collegiate Churches of New York.

On **Saturday, November 7**, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., join Intersections as they kick off another year of *Conversations as Melodies*, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of our global community.

A Ceremony of Reconciliation

The 1609 voyage of Henry Hudson of which we celebrated the 400th anniversary last month marked the beginning of Dutch presence in our area, leading eventually to our lives here today. However, it was not an unmixed blessing to all people. Native Americans in particular can look upon that event as the start of a political and cultural disaster that in some respects continues to this day. On **Friday, November 27**, the day after Thanksgiving, the Collegiate Churches of New York in collaboration with the Native American community will host a Reconciliation Initiative at Bowling Green, in front of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. Beginning at 11:00 a.m. Collegiate, Manhattan's oldest congregation and the oldest continuous Protestant Church in North America, will share a Healing Ceremony at which leaders and members of the Native American community, in recognition of our 400-year history together, will accept the document "Native American Reconciliation Initiative", authored by West End member Chris Moore along with Intersections Consistory members and Native Americans. You are cordially invited to attend this ceremony. Reservations are not needed.

The "Iraqi Voices Amplification Project" blog is an inspiring read. Representatives of Intersections, artists, film makers traveled to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria to meet and document the Iraqi refugee situation that affects 5 million lives.

For further information we encourage everyone to visit: www.IntersectionsInternational.org.

CHOIR SCHEDULE

The Choir will be rehearsing Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 and Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:45 in preparation for the annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 20 at 3:00 p.m.

THANKSGIVING

The Church Office and programs will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Be on the lookout for an announcement of a Thanksgiving Eve service in one of our neighborhood houses of worship. **Club and Youth Group** will not meet on Friday, November 27.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ends
Sunday, November 1, at 2:00 a.m.
Please remember to set your clocks back
one hour on Saturday night.

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positive and inclusive