

First Notes

The First
Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York

Volume XIV Issue 2

February 2006

Liberal and Conservative Christian Perspectives on the War

Since the beginning of the Twentieth Century, the pastors of First Church have had a history of challenging the theological right of the church. None of us was more eloquent than Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, a Baptist who served as preaching minister from 1919-1924, and who preached the sentinel sermon, "Shall the Fundamentalists Win?," a call for moderation within the Presbyterian church of the day, but a thoroughly liberal position in opposition to the five fundamentals of fundamentalism: the inerrancy of scripture, the literal belief in the virgin birth; the doctrine of substitutionary atonement; the literal bodily resurrection; and the literal nature of Christ's miracles.

Dr. Fosdick's opponent was the Rev. J. Gresham Machen, a fundamentalist at Princeton Theological Seminary who called Fosdick's preaching "...just dreadful! Just the pitiful stuff about an undogmatic Christianity." The two became the most easily recognized voices of the fundamentalist-modernist debate of that time.

In the past fifty years, with the growth of mass communication and the ubiquitous presence of television in every American household, an army of conservative, though not necessarily fundamentalist, pastor-celebrities has arisen, offering to millions of Americans a weekly diet of conservative theological fare. The current stars of the conservative pantheon range from Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson to Charles Stanley and Dr. James D. Kennedy. I should note that while all fundamentalists are conservatives, not all conservatives are fundamentalists. Even so, it might appear that the question raised by Fosdick were it re-phrased to ask, "Have the religious conservatives won?" might well be answered in the affirmative today, especially in light of the way in which the abortion debate has influenced the latest Supreme Court appointments, the courting of religious conservatives by po-

litical conservatives, and the apparent "Christianization" of the Air Force Academy, to name only a few of the markers.

While the ascendancy of any narrow or restrictive religious bloc in this country should be a matter of concern to all of us, a trend that flies in the face of the values of America's patriot forebears, it only sounds like sour grapes when a liberal Christian voice is raised to question this crossing of the constitutional line between church and state. It is particularly noteworthy, however, when a conservative voice is raised to point out the moral problems involved in the religious right's embrace of all things warlike and jingoistic, as was the case in a January 20th Op-Ed piece in the *New York Times* by Charles Marsh, a professor of religion at the University of Virginia.

Marsh points out the tragic perspective of the Southern Baptist Convention, for instance, which as early as the fall of 2002 blessed the administration's plans for war and saw it as an opportunity for a modern Christian soul-winning Crusade. The SBC's Baptist Press published the statement, "American foreign policy and military might have opened an opportunity for the Gospel in the land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Similarly, former Baptist convention president Charles Stanley wrote, "God battles with people who oppose him, who fight against him and his followers." And, Tim LaHaye, author of the "Left Behind" series, spoke of Iraq as "a focal point of end-time events" whose special role will be made apparent in the earth's final days.

Marsh describes the way conservative congregations rallied behind the invasion of Iraq, citing the fact that 87% of all white evangelical Christians in the U.S. supported the presi-

(Continued on page 7)

A Full Plate



February is full of opportunities to beat the winter blues and routine by attending one of our many adult education programs. History buff? Try our series on *John Calvin*, or this month's *Third Tuesdays at First* about *Evangelicalism in New York City*. Love biographies? Don't miss *Faces of Faith: Religious Celebrities*. Current Events are your thing? How about attending a *First Press Conference* or our program about *Iran* that is part of *Conversations about Peacemaking*? Love a good story? It will be worth waking up early on Sunday morning to attend *Listening to Luke*. These programs and others all begin this month; so find your winter coat and gloves and come out and join us for these wonderful opportunities to strengthen your faith.

Faces of Faith: Religious Celebrities. Current Events are your thing? How about attending a *First Press Conference* or our program about *Iran* that is part of *Conversations about Peacemaking*? Love a good story? It will be worth waking up early on Sunday morning to attend *Listening to Luke*. These programs and others all begin this month; so find your winter coat and gloves and come out and join us for these wonderful opportunities to strengthen your faith.

Sunday, February 5

9:30 a.m. Listening to Luke, the Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore

Using stories from both Luke and Acts, this series will examine themes of doubling in parables, the emphasis on inclusion and prayer, and table fellowship.

12:30 p.m. First Press Conference, the Rev. Mark Hostetter

Tuesday, February 7

7 p.m. Introduction to John Calvin, the Rev. Charles Mitchell

Utilizing the book Calvin for Armchair Theologians, this series will explore what kind of man John Calvin was, as well as explore his impact on religious life and connection to Presbyterianism.

Sunday, February 12

9:30 a.m. Listening to Luke, the Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore

12:30 p.m. Faces of Faith: Religious Celebrities, the Rev. Mark Hostetter

By exploring the biographical and theological lives of famous religious personalities, this series will consider what motivated these persons and how their witness might offer insights today.

Tuesday, February 14

7 p.m. Introduction to John Calvin, the Rev. Charles Mitchell

Sunday, February 19

9:30 a.m. Listening to Luke, the Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore

12:30 p.m. Conversations about Peacemaking: What Happens When the Evil Empire Meets the Great Satan? Virginia Baron

This presentation will focus on Virginia Baron's recent peacemaking trip to Iran, including meeting with church and synagogue leaders, Shi'ite clerics, students, and teachers.

Tuesday, February 21

7 p.m. Third Tuesdays at First: Evangelicalism and New York City: The Global Revival at Home, Dr. Dale T. Irvin

Beginning in the 1850's and moving to the present day, Dr. Irvin will explore the history and presence of evangelicalism in New York City.

(RSVP for supper at 7 p.m. by emailing education@fpcnyc.org)

Sunday, February 26

9:30 a.m. For Everything a Season: Lent, the Rev. Barbara E. Davis

This series explores the meaning of the liturgical seasons.

12:30 p.m. Faces of Faith: Religious Celebrities, the Rev. Mark Hostetter

12:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Group "At the Movies" a discussion of *Transamerica* and *Brokeback Mountain*, the Rev. Barbara E. Davis

People are encouraged to see the movies before the session, which includes a brief synopsis and then opens up for discussion about the intersection of faith in these powerful films.

Children's Choir to Sing at the Church of Gethsemane in Brooklyn

After Church School on Sunday, February 5, the Children's Choirs (grades K-6) will travel to Brooklyn to sing at the Church of Gethsemane. The children will sing an Introit: "Let All Things Now Living," an Anthem, "How Can I Give You Thanks, O God?", and a Benediction, "Go Now in Peace." We hope all children in grades K-6 will be able to participate in this important outreach event. A letter with further information and a permission slip has been sent to all families. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please speak with Faye Timmer, Children's Choir Director: (212)678-3285 or email: fayetimmer@aol.com.

There are many on-going education programs for children, youth, and adults here at First Presbyterian Church. Please watch for the 2006 Winter Adult Education Brochure (also at www.fpcnyc.org/christian-ed.html) and the Spring 2006 Family Ministries Calendar (revised edition forthcoming) for additional information.

Guilmant Organ Recital

Bogusław Grabowski, Polish Organist
Sunday, February 26, 4:00 p.m.

On Sunday, February 26 at 4:00 p.m., **Bogusław Grabowski** from Gdańsk, Poland, will present an organ recital on the sanctuary organ at First Presbyterian. Mr. Grabowski is the main organist at St. Mary's Basilica, Gdańsk, and is Professor of Organ at the Gdańsk Academy of Music. An accomplished performer, Mr. Grabowski has concertized extensively throughout Europe and Russia and has recorded for radio and television in Poland, Germany, Sweden, and Ukraine. His compositions for organ, voice, and symphony orchestra have been met with success, and in 1997 he received the Pomeranian Music Award for his symphonic song "Ave Maria," which was written in celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of the city of Gdańsk. His program at First Presbyterian will include works by J. S. Bach, Jehan Alain, and composers from Poland. The recital will conclude with an improvisation on submitted themes. Mr. Grabowski's recital is sponsored by the Polish Cultural Institute and the Harriman Institute of Columbia University. Mark your calendars for this important music event and invite a friend. The recital will be followed by a reception. There is no charge for admission.

DEACONS FOR THE MONTH

Bonnie Hall (212)989-3160

David Fellows (212)460-8058

Rev. Fenimore Returns

At its December, 2005 meeting, the Session approved the report of the Personnel Committee unanimously recommending that the Rev. Edee Fenimore be invited to serve as Interim Associate Pastor beginning February 1, 2006. The Committee on Ministry of the presbytery gave its approval on January 17th. Originally, Rev. Fenimore had agreed to serve for only six weeks at the end of the year to help with the greater need for pastoral care during the holidays. When the Personnel Committee began to search for an interim associate to help after the first of the year, God seemed to tug on Edee's sleeve again, and thankfully, Edee paid attention. With the approval of the presbytery on January 31st, Edee will return as the church's interim associate pastor, serving until an installed pastor is called by the congregation.

On a related topic, the APNC, Associate Pastor Nominating Committee held its first meeting on Saturday, December 17, getting organized, outlining its task, and determining how it will begin the process of searching for a new Associate Pastor. Reade Ryan was elected as chair of the committee, Stuart Buice vice-chair, Donna Hurley secretary, and Al Picallo treasurer. One of the first orders of business will be for the committee to revise and update the church Mission Study prepared in 2003. After approval of that study by the Session and presbytery's Committee on Ministry, the APNC will use the information it has gathered to write a church information form for circulation to potential candidates and for posting on the Presbyterian Church USA website, www.pcusa.org. This process will take several months, and the committee is already hard at work, eager to do all it can to meet the challenge of finding a new Associate Pastor.

Officer Nominations

The following persons have accepted nominations to serve as officers and will be presented for election at the annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29.

Those nominated to serve as Elders, Class of 2009 are: Susan Jackson, Robert Larson, Patricia McGuire, Suzanne Mecs, Patricia Nunez, Mary Reiman, Richard Rice, James Woolery; Class of 2007: Jack Griem.

Those nominated to serve as Deacons, Class of 2009: Gordon Douglas, David Earle, Eleanor Garlow, Aurora Jones-Owens, Lisa Ruffler, Marie Warmbold.

Those nominated to serve as Trustees, Class of 2009: Carolyn Hansard, Roger Leaf, Warren Nelson, Jeffrey Simpson.

We hope you will join us on January 29, as we review the work of the church in the past year and look forward together to our hopes and plans for 2006.

APNC OPEN FORUMS

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee ("APNC") invites all members of the church to attend one or both of the open forums to be held by the APNC on **Sunday, February 12, 2006, at 12:30 p.m.** and on **Wednesday, February 15, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.** The purpose of each open forum will be to discuss issues relating to the search for an Associate Pastor.

In addition, the APNC will be meeting with the officers of the church (the elders, the deacons, and the trustees) on **Wednesday, February 8, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.** also to discuss such issues, but with particular reference to the work of the Session, the Board of Deacons, and the Board of Trustees.

Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE FORUMS are scheduled as follows. All members of the church are urged to attend one of these forums.</p> <p>Wednesday, February 8, 7 p.m. – for Trustees, Deacons, and Elders</p> <p>Sunday, February 12, 12:30 p.m.– for the Congregation</p> <p>Wednesday, February 15, 7 p.m. – for the Congregation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">INQUIRERS' CLASS FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Next class for those interested in membership will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. New members will be welcomed into the church on Sunday, March 19, 11 a.m.</p>	
<p>5 <i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Bible Study (Rev. Fenimore) 10:00 Youth Breakfast and Dialogue 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ Communion <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i> 11:20 Church School and Children's Choir Rehearsals 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Children's Choirs visit Gethsemane Church, Brooklyn 9:00 Homeless Shelter ♥</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12:30 First Press Conf. (Dr. Hostetter)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:00 A.A. Groups 7:00 Into. to John Calvin (Dr. Mitchell) 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>
<p>12 <i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education (Rev. Fenimore) 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ Installation and Ordination of Officers <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i> 11:20 Church School and Children's Choir Rehearsals 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Homeless Shelter Forum 12:30 Knitting Circle 9:00 Homeless Shelter ♥</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12:30 Adult Ed. (Dr. Hostetter) 12:30 Youth in Action 12:30 APNC Forum</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:00 A.A. Groups 6:30 Personnel Comm. 7:00 House Comm. 7:00 Into. to John Calvin (Dr. Mitchell) 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>
<p>19 <i>7th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education (Rev. Fenimore) 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i> 11:20 Church School and Children's Choir Rehearsals 12:30 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Peacemaking Conversations (Virginia Baron) 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>20</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presidents' Day Staff Holiday</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Notes and Calendar Due</p> <p>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ Nursery School Closed P.S. 226 Recess thru Friday 6:00 A.A. Groups 7:00 Third Tuesday Supper and Program <i>"Evangelicalism and NYC" with Dr. Irvin</i> 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>
<p>26 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education (Rev. Davis) 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ <i>Rev. Lindley DeGarmo preaching</i> 11:20 Church School and Children's Choir Rehearsals 12:30 Coffee Hour♥ 12:30 GLBT Group (Rev. Davis) 12 & 4:00 Kitchen Crew ♥ 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12:30 Adult Ed. (Dr. Hostetter) 1:30 Literary Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:00 Guilmant Organ Recital</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>P. S. 226 Returns</p> <p>10:00 First Notes Mailing Team♥</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:00 First Notes Mailing Team♥ 3:00 Kitchen Crew♥</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 Soup and Song</p> <p>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:00 APNC 9:00 Caring Community♥ 9:00 Lent Planning Mtg 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 3:00 Kitchen Crew ♥ 6:00 Vespers Fellowship Supper 6:30 Committees Meet♥ 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al-Anon 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 7:00 D.A. Group 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00 J. Bowman Memorial Service and Reception Presbytery Officers' Development Day at Brick Church</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 7:00 APNC Forum for Officers of Church 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al-Anon 6:00 Tartan Fair Comm. 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 7:00 D.A. Group 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 Officers' Training 6:00 Youth Fellowship</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 6:30 Deacons/Trustees 6:30 Session 7:00 APNC Forum 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 7:00 D.A. Group 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>18</p> <p> Burns Night Supper (Outside Group)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 6:00 Family Ministry Comm. 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>March 1 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>8:00 APNC 9:00 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers with Communion 6:00 Vespers Communion 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p><i>The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York 12 West 12th Street (at Fifth Avenue), New York, NY 10011 Tel: 212-675-6150 Fax: 212-675-8674</i></p> <p><i>All data subject to change without notice. Check with Church Receptionist at 212-675-6150 for confirmation and details.</i></p> <p>♥ indicates volunteer opportunities</p>		

Volunteer Opportunities

Welcome to the VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CALENDAR, published monthly to let you know of events where you can help.

- **COFFEE HOUR HOSTING** – Hosts, coffee pourers, and greeters are needed for Coffee Hour after church. To volunteer, call **JOHN COX** at (212) 260-3094.
- **USHERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES** – Volunteers are needed to usher for **Sunday morning services and special services**. To volunteer, call **JOAN RYAN** at (212) 765-2141, or **ELLIE GARLOW** at (718) 237-5128.
- **FIRST NOTES** – Volunteers are needed to help assemble and label **FIRST NOTES** mailings. For the next mailing, volunteers will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. and work until about 1:00 p.m., on **TUESDAY, February 27**. Call **PAULETTE GRIEFEN** (212) 226-2531 to help.
- **BAILEY HOUSE** – Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve the evening meal to residents of Bailey House on the 5th Sunday of the month. Call **LIZ HUBBELL-RIGGS** to help (212) 247-0355. Next date is **Sunday, January 29**.
- **LAY READERS** – Those interested in participating as lay readers are asked to call **DENISE JACKSON** at (212) 675-4366.
- **CROSS BEARER** – To explore the possibility of carrying the processional cross at worship, please call **PAT PENICK** at (212) 242-6916.
- **HOMELESS SHELTER**—Volunteers are needed. Call **BUFFY BARTON-DAVIS** (212)254-4222 .
- **IN THE KITCHEN** – If you can help with these events, please call **JACKIE FIKE** at (914) 793-4017.

Wednesday, February 1—Vespers Fellowship Supper
 Sunday, January 28—12:30-3:30 p.m. Preparation
 Wednesday, February 1—3:00-8:00 p.m. Prep. Serve, Cleanup

Sunday, February 26—Guilmant Concert Reception
 Sunday, February 26—12:00-4:00 p.m. Prep
 5:00-7:00 p.m. Prep, Serve, Cleanup

Tuesday, February 28—Soup & Song
 Sunday, February 26—12:00-4:00 p.m. Prep.
 Tuesday, Feb. 28—3:00-8:00 p.m. Prep. Serve, Clean

Julian of Norwich: A Theatrical Presentation

First Presbyterian Church and Auburn Theological Seminary are proud to invite you to the theatrical presentation "Julian" on Sunday, March 12 at 4:00 p.m. The life and times of the medieval mystic Julian of Norwich will be presented in a one-woman drama written by J. Janda and performed by actress and clergywoman Linda Loving.

Julian, a mystic, spiritual guide and author, was the first known Englishwoman whose written work survives. She was born in 1342 and lived into her seventies, surviving outbreaks of the Plague, the Hundred Years' War, the Peasants' Revolt and the Great Western Schism. Because of her experiences, Julian's life and writings can offer a profound word of hope to the turmoil of our times as well. Julian is known for her wisdom, beautiful prose, sound theology, and expansive understanding of a generous God.

This theatre event, co-sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church Worship Committee and Auburn Theological Seminary, will take place in our sanctuary and will last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. A reception will follow during which time you may meet and talk with the actress, Rev. Loving. Tickets will cost \$20 (\$15 for students and seniors), and may be obtained in the Mellin-Macnab Building after worship beginning mid-February and at the door on March 12. We hope you will join us for this special afternoon of drama and inspiration!

DeGarmo to Preach



Rev. Lindley DeGarmo

On Heritage Sunday, February 26, our guest preacher will be the Rev. Lindley DeGarmo, pastor and head of staff of the Towson Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Maryland.

As most of you know, Rev. DeGarmo was the Interim Associate Pastor here at First Presbyterian from March 2000 until May 2003 when he and his family left New York so that he could accept the call to Towson.

A former member of First Church, Lindley returned as a seminary intern while attending Union Seminary, and was ordained here as a minister of word and sacrament on February 20, 2000. For the next three years we benefited greatly from his leadership.

It is with pleasure that we anticipate his visit with us, and we look forward to welcoming him and his wife, Sarah Finlayson, on February 26. Their daughter Ellie may not be able to come along this trip, and will be missed.

Liberal and Conservativecontinued from Page 1

dent's decision to go to war in April 2003. Interestingly, John Stott, perhaps the most widely respected conservative theological voice today, did not speak publicly on the war before it began. Stott told Marsh, "I believed then and now that the American and British governments erred in proceeding without United Nations approval." More recently Stott has written that the Christian community's primary mission must be "to hunger for righteousness, to pursue peace, to forebear revenge, to love enemies, in other words to be marked by the cross."

"What will it take for evangelicals in the United States to recognize our mistaken loyalty," asks Marsh, himself a conservative evangelical. And I would add, what will it take for liberal Christians in the United States to find a voice in the midst of this terrible war?

In the Viet Nam conflict it was the error of liberal churches, as they gave public witness against the war, to remain silent about our own soldiers who died in that painful and protracted conflict while loudly decrying the deaths of Vietnamese civilians and soldiers. We should have prayed in anguish for the loss of all human life in that war. While there are

significant differences between Viet Nam and Iraq, it is important for every church, liberal or conservative, not to turn its back on any human being caught in the midst of war's horror. That includes those who serve the nation in uniform who bear the greatest burden of all Americans. Therefore our prayers need to be as fervent for the safety of our own soldiers as they are for the Iraqi and Afghan people, for both are caught in the web of a war made increasingly worse by the relentless violence inflicted by Muslim suicide bombers on their own fellow Muslims. If conservative churches have been too quick to make peace with war, liberal churches have been too silent in a time when war is tearing us apart. Surely God cannot be pleased with what is happening in those corners of the earth where human beings are killing other human beings. It is long past time when all Christians should be saying so, liberal and conservative alike, and unmasking any who would dress up Christianity in battle gear.

Jon M. Walton

Soup & Song

Come join in one of First Church's most festive and pleasurable evenings—**Soup and Song!** This year it will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28— also known as "Fat Tuesday," which is traditionally a day of celebration before the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.



First Church members and friends will gather in the South Wing Great Hall and share a hearty meal of home-made soup and bread with potluck salad and dessert.

After the fellowship meal of "soup," Dr. Enriken will lead everyone in "song." We will sing many of the best hymns from the Presbyterian Hymnal, as well as old favorites no longer in print! Remember "Life Is Like a Mountain Railroad" or "In the Garden"? It is a delightful evening for everyone of any age. Put the date on your calendar and sign up on the reservation sheet in the lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building.

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday, March 1, we officially mark the beginning of the Lenten season. There will be two communion services at First Church: midday prayers at 12:00 noon and an evening service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The Rev. Barbara Davis will preach.

Also on Ash Wednesday, the midday and vespers services will include the imposition of ashes, an ancient sign of the frailty and uncertainty of human life. The Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* provides for the imposition of ashes as a ritual that belongs to the whole church, not just to the more "liturgical" churches. At the service, those who wish to participate will be invited to come forward for marking the forehead with the sign of the cross and the words from Genesis 3:19, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance, but it is also a call to reflection, meditation, prayer, and preparation. We prepare and turn toward God, so that we are ready for the renewal that awaits us. It is the prayer of the Psalmist that puts our wish to words: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me." (Ps. 51:10)

A Month of Sundays

Worship This Month at First Presbyterian

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching
Sacrament: Communion
Music: Mass in C, Schubert, Kyrie and Agnus Dei
Communion Motet: O Lord of Love
Compassionate, Brahms

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching
Pastoral Rite: Ordination and Installation of Officers
Music: First Presbyterian Church High School Choir,
Haddonfield, New Jersey
Organ: Choral Partita, Jesu, Priceless Treasure

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: Dr. Jon M. Walton Preaching
Music: Organ: Sonata No. I, C.P.E. Bach
Jesu, the very thought of thee, Bairstow

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 Transfiguration of the Lord

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-12 Mark 9:2-9
Sermon: The Rev. Lindley DeGarmo, preaching on
"Is Your Heart in the Clouds?"
Music: Anthem: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, Bach
Organ Recital, 4:00 p.m. Boguslaw Grabowski,
Gdansk, Poland

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Midday Prayers 12:00 Noon

Evening Vesper Service 7:00 p.m.

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Sermon: The Rev. Barbara E. Davis preaching on
"The Impasse of Breath and Dust"
Sacrament: Communion

DEADLINE FOR MARCH

***First Notes* IS FEBRUARY 20.**

First Notes

*The First
Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York*

Calendar of Events

CHURCH HOUSE
12 WEST 12TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10011

Return Service Requested

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Edee C. Fenimore, Interim Associate Pastor
Mark Hostetter, Associate Pastor
William F. Enriken, Organist and Choirmaster
Barbara E. Davis, Minister of Christian Education
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