

# First Notes

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

Volume XIV Issue 7-8

July/August 2006

## Family Reunion

Family reunions are inevitably a bit awkward. If everybody comes you are faced with the prospect of seeing the cousin whom you wish you would never see again, the uncle who whistles in his teeth, and the third husband of Aunt Marie who has trouble keeping his dentures in place! It is always a mixed bag of pleasure and pain.

The biennial General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is more than a little like that. Every two years we get together (this year in Birmingham, Alabama, in the midst of a heat wave lasting nine days) and discuss family business. High on the agenda this year were matters of theological, political, and ecclesiastical importance. The Assembly spoke on immigration, the doctrine of the Trinity, peace and divestment policy in Israel-Palestine, the ordination of gay and lesbian persons to the offices of the church, and its response to the Theological Task Force Report (approved by a 57% vote). You can find details on the Presbyterian Church website at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org), and click on the "217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly." In the two most hotly debated issues, the General Assembly continues to hold out the threat of divestment as a last resort from American corporate interests supporting Israel military interests, but it apologized both to American Jews and to Presbyterians who were offended by the last Assembly's action. It also emphasized the importance of investing in Israel and Palestinian groups which are building peace whenever possible, rather than divestment. Many in the Jewish community in this country have welcomed that change of heart. In the matter of ordination, the Theological Task Force Report, which offered a plan for Presbyterians to live together in a time of strong theological disagreement, opened the door slightly to allow for the ordination of gay and lesbian persons to serve as officers and ministers in the church. Relying on an historic approach to declaring an exception to the church's teaching, the local session and presbytery can determine whether individual persons may be ordained even though they do not uphold a particular teaching of the church. It is a compromise position, but one which, if judiciously applied, may allow for ordination in

many cases where it is now prohibited.

A cursory report like this does little justice to the main issues and none of the complexities of the General Assembly's meeting. But my point in mentioning it, aside from the fact that the church provides me time and allowance to attend these meetings and the Assembly's actions affect us as Presbyterians directly and indirectly, is to say that I am never quite sure how much to say about these Assembly gatherings. Like a family reunion, the essence of the thing is being there with all of the mixed emotions, pride, embarrassment, and feelings that attend it. I am always struck by how much and how little Presbyterians share in common any more on a national scale. We are a mainline Protestant denomination existing in a time when mainline Protestantism is on the decline. Like politics, all church life these days is local (more or less), and yet nothing is more frightening to a dyed-in-the-wool Presbyterian than the threat of creeping congregationalism. We are a "connectional church" with national standards and historic creeds, and we are not free to believe whatever we choose. We assert this reality, however, in a time when fewer and fewer people join a church or attend a worship service because it is connected to a national denomination. People make choices about what church they will attend based on factors that center on personal need and interest, like whether the church encourages their family, nurtures their children, supports their marriage, or provides help for spiritual searching. In fact, the national trend is for people not to join a congregation but to simply attend, take what is helpful, and move on if the church fails them in any way. What happens at the denominational level seems less and less relevant to a rising generation of young adults.

Of course, as a Presbyterian minister, I am discouraged by this trend, but I understand it. The church has disappointed many people. Many clergy are viewed with suspicion because of the few who have failed their congregations. Denominational churches spend too much time fighting internally and

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Summer Education Programs

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

July 9, 16, 23, 30 & August 6, 13, 20, 27  
at 10 a.m.

*(Bible Study held in the Morrow Room)*

Each session of the summer bible study series will be led by trained lay leaders. Resources for this year's summer series will utilize a new web-based curriculum called "The Thoughtful Christian" ([www.thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com)). This series is specifically designed to accommodate the vacation schedules of busy New Yorkers—stop in whatever weekend you are in the city; every session stands on its own. These sessions are also a great way to ease yourself into bible study if you have never attended or haven't attended in a while.

Please note the time change from our usual 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. This change is to coordinate with summer worship. We have two worship services each Sunday, at 9 a.m. in the Alexander Chapel and at 11 a.m. in the Great Hall. Bible study will take place *between* the two services, so we hope you will either stay after the 9 a.m. service or come early for the 11 a.m. service and enjoy this time of conversation, learning, and fellowship.

## Summer Child Care

Child care for children under three years old is provided in July (except July 2) and August during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. It will be available in the Mezzanine in the South Wing. There will be no child care available on September 3.

As always, children are welcome in the worship services at both 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. throughout the summer.

Child care will resume after the summer break on September 10.



## Save These Dates for Fall

**Sunday, Sept. 10**—Child care resumes with reception for parents at 10:15 a.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 17**—First Day of Church School Classes & Welcome Home Picnic

**Sunday, Sept. 24**—Children's Choirs resume rehearsals

## Summer Movie Series: Food and Family Tuesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m.

*Each film begins promptly at 6:30 p.m.  
and is followed by a brief discussion.*

**JULY 11—BABETTE'S FEAST** (1987-Danish) - Writer-Director Gabriel Axel's Oscar-winning adaptation of Isak Dinesen's short story has the kind of wistful warmth that makes it seem like a tale told by a wise old storyteller. The finale, a sumptuous dinner prepared by an expatriot French chef (Stephane Audran) for a group of devout Danish Lutherans, may be the funniest meal ever put on screen. In French and Danish with English subtitles. (Discussion Leader: Liz Hubbell Riggs)

**JULY 18—BIG NIGHT** (1995) - Primo and Secondo are two brothers (played by Tony Shalhoub and Stanley Tucci) who have emigrated from Italy to open an Italian restaurant in America. The owner of the nearby Pascal's restaurant, enormously successful, offers to help the brothers' struggling business by calling his friend, a big-time jazz musician, to play a special benefit at their restaurant. Primo begins to prepare his masterpiece, a feast of a lifetime, for the brothers' big night. Directed by Campbell Scott and Stanley Tucci. (Discussion Leader: Joshua Thomas)

**JULY 25—SUPER SIZE ME** (2004 US Documentary) - New York Filmmaker Morgan Spurlock spends an entire month eating only from the menu at McDonald's in this video diary that unearths numerous nutritional issues as Spurlock very nearly eats himself to death. (Discussion Leader: Marcia Thomas)

**AUGUST 1—JUNE BUG** (2005 US) - Madeline is a go-getting art gallery owner from Chicago, recently married to George, a near-perfect Southern beau. When Madeline needs to close a deal with a reclusive North Carolina artist, George introduces her to his family. Madeline's presence exposes fragile family dynamics as hidden resentments and anxieties surface. (Discussion Leader: Barbara Sherman)

**AUGUST 8 -- WHAT'S COOKING** (2000 US/British) - This film introduces four extended Los Angeles families (African-American, Vietnamese, Jewish, Latino) as they meet for Thanksgiving. This volatile melting pot of vividly portrayed characters threatens to boil over as traditions are both embraced and compromised and tolerance is tested. Directed by Gurinder Chadha, and featuring Lainie Kazan, Kyra Sedgwick, Julianna Margulies, Alfre Woodard, and Mercedes Ruehl. (Discussion Leader: Karen Ruocco)

## Alexander Chapel Organ CD Review

In September of 2003, the Rees Jones memorial pipe organ was dedicated in Alexander Chapel and a series of dedicatory recitals was played by William Entriken. The organ was built by the firm Glück New York. In the spring of 2004, Dr. Entriken recorded the organ on compact disc, and the recording, "A Small Wonder, Music from Alexander Chapel," was first presented at The American Guild of Organists National Convention in Los Angeles. Copies of the CD are available at the front desk in the Mellin-Macnab Building. The following is a review of the CD from the June, 2006, issue of *The American Organist*.

A SMALL WONDER: Music from Alexander Chapel. William F. Entriken, organist. II/6 Glück New York organ (2003) of Alexander Chapel, First Presbyterian Church, New York City. GO5764; <www.glucknewyork.com>. The Rees Jones Memorial Pipe Organ was given by Mr. Jones's wife, Betty, following his death, in honor

of his wish that a pipe organ be installed in the intimate space of Alexander Chapel. Seating only about 50 people, the room offers little space for an instrument. But Glück New York has skillfully created a delightful instrument, occupying only 34x120 inches of floor space, that is capable of performing a surprisingly wide range of repertoire. Living room acoustics present special challenges, revealing the slightest nuances and imperfections of tone and technique. Both builder and performer meet these challenges impeccably. The voicing of the organ is gentle, smooth, clear, and balanced. Dr. Entriken plays with ease, control, and technical assurance, avoiding excessively fast tempos, often a temptation in a dry acoustic. Works by Lübeck, Bach, Clérambault, Vaughan Williams, Boyce, Zachau, and Handel prove that this instrument is indeed a small wonder.

### DEACONS FOR JULY

Buffy Barton-Davis (212) 254-4222  
Donny McCaslin (718) 596-5092

### DEACONS FOR AUGUST

David Earle (212) 581-9085  
Michael Hatchett (212) 228-3403

## Mad for Plaid?

Even at this time of year? I know it's hot, but think Christmas, and when you do – think *A Tartan Christmas!* And then think, "I need to clean out that closet – that jewelry box – that book shelf TODAY." And bring the goodies you find to the church any week day from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or on Sunday for our Silent Auction or White Elephants and Books. Remember – **no adult clothing** (but yes! all those gently used infant and toddler togs) – and **no computers** and no furniture. We welcome the rest, and there are donation forms at the desk. Have questions? Email Sanford Goin at sanfordgoin@usa.net.

**Now is the time for the crafty** - and the not so crafty! Our *Christmas in July* craft night is **Wednesday, July 19**. We begin at 6 p.m. with a cook-out in the north garden. At 7 p.m. the craft makers – both experts and learners – will gather in the air-conditioned Great Hall to create for the 2006 Tartan Fair.

*Christmas in August* will be another evening of bar-b-q and crafting on **Wednesday, August 16**.

RSVP to Joan Ryan at [joan-ryan@aol.com](mailto:joan-ryan@aol.com) for either or both of these nights.

And for the aggressively NON-crafty who still want to enjoy the fellowship and the cook-out on those nights, when the crafters go up to the Great Hall, we will go down to the cool basement and sort White Elephants & Books.



## Summer Cookouts

**Wednesday Evening Cookouts:** During July and August, beginning July 12, the Membership-Fellowship Committee is sponsoring cookouts in the North Garden at 6:00 p.m. Bring a picnic supper or food to grill; hot coals and beverages will be supplied. If it is raining at 4:30 p.m., the cookout will be canceled.

### Summer Worship Schedule

July 2—August 27

South Wing

- 9:00-9:45 a.m.**.....Chapel Worship Service  
*Alexander Chapel*
- 10:00-10:45...** .Adult Christian Education  
*Morrow Room*
- 10:45-12:15**.....Child Care  
*SW Mezzanine*
- 11:00-12:15**.....Worship Service  
*Great Hall*
- 12:15**.....Coffee/Lemonade  
*Morrow Room/Garden*

# JULY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>2</b>    <i>13th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:00 Chapel Service NO Adult Education today NO Child Care today.</p> <p>11:00 Worship♥ Communion <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i></p> <p>12:15 Coffee Hour♥</p> <p>3:30 Wedding – Jordan/Nkongho <i>Dr. Walton</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Independence Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Staff Holiday</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>10:00 First Notes Mailing Team♥</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p>6:00 D.A. Group</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed.</p>
<p><b>9</b>    <i>14th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:00 Chapel Service</p> <p>10:00 Adult Education</p> <p>10:00 Stewardship Committee</p> <p>10:45 Child Care in Mezzanine, S.W.</p> <p>11:00 Worship♥ <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i></p> <p>12:15 Coffee Hour♥</p> <p>12:30 Pre-baptism Meeting</p> <p>4:00 Beth Waltemath Ordination at FPC, Brooklyn</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:00 A. A. Groups 6:30 Movie and Discussion</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation</p> <p>6:00 Fellowship Cookouts Begin</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p>6:00 D.A. Group</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed.</p>
<p><b>16</b>    <i>15th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:00 Chapel Service</p> <p>10:00 Adult Education</p> <p>10:45 Child Care in Mezzanine, S.W.</p> <p>11:00 Worship♥ (<i>Baptism</i>) <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i></p> <p>12:15 Coffee Hour♥</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:00 A.A. Groups 6:30 Movie and Discussion</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation</p> <p>6:00 Fellowship Cookout 7:00 Christmas in July</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p>6:00 D.A. Group</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed.</p>
<p><b>23</b>    <i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:00 Chapel Service</p> <p>10:00 Adult Education</p> <p>10:45 Child Care in Mezzanine, S.W.</p> <p>11:00 Worship♥ <i>Rev. Fenimore preaching</i></p> <p>12:15 Coffee Hour♥</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:00 A.A. Groups 6:30 Movie and Discussion</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation</p> <p>6:00 Fellowship Cookout</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p>6:00 D.A. Group</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed.</p>
<p><b>30</b>    <i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:00 Chapel Service</p> <p>10:00 Adult Education</p> <p>10:45 Child Care in Mezzanine, S.W.</p> <p>11:00 Worship♥ <i>Rev. Fenimore preaching</i></p> <p>12:15 Coffee Hour♥</p> <p>3:00 Bailey House♥</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Note: Sunday Worship will be in the Great Hall in July and August. Coffee Hour will be in Morrow Room.</p>	<p><i>The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York</i> 12 West 12th Street (at Fifth Avenue), New York, NY 10011 Tel: (212) 675-6150 Fax: (212) 675-8674 All data subject to change without notice. Check with Church Receptionist at (212) 675-6150 for confirmation and details ♥ indicates <b>volunteer opportunities</b></p>			

Note: Preaching Schedule is not yet confirmed.

# AUGUST 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York</i>                      12 West 12th Street (at Fifth Avenue), New York, NY 10011                      Tel: (212) 675-6150 Fax: (212) 675-8674                      All data subject to change without notice. Check with Church Receptionist at (212) 675-6150 for confirmation and details.</p> <p>♥ indicates <b>volunteer opportunities</b></p>						
		<b>1</b> 9 to 5 Caring Community♥	<b>2</b> 8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥  10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation  6:00 Fellowship Cookout	<b>3</b> 9 to 5 Caring Community♥   Closed at 5 p.m.	<b>4</b> 9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Chapel Open  6:00 D.A. Group	<b>5</b>      Closed.
<p><b>6</b> 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>9:00 Chapel Service                      10:00 Adult Education                      10:45 Child Care in Mezzanine, S.W.                      11:00 Worship♥ <i>Communion</i>  <i>Rev. Davis preaching</i>                      12:15 Coffee Hour♥</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Chapel Open   Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥   6:00 A. A. Groups 6:30 Movie and Discussion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b></p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥  10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation  6:00 Fellowship Cookout</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥   6:00 Wedding Rehearsal Hall/Hall <i>(Rev. Fenimore)</i> Closed at 7 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>11</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Chapel Open  6:00 D.A. Group 7:00 Wedding Hall/Hall <i>(Rev. Fenimore)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>12</b></p>      Closed
<p><b>13</b> 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>9:00 Chapel Service                      10:00 Adult Education                      10:45 Child Care in Mezzanine, S.W.                      11:00 Worship♥  <i>Rev. Davis preaching</i>                      12:15 Coffee Hour♥                      12:30 Pre-baptism Meeting <i>(Rev. Fenimore)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>14</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Chapel Open   Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>15</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥   6:00 A.A. Groups</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>16</b></p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥  10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation  6:00 Fellowship Cookout Christmas in August</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>17</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥   Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>18</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Chapel Open  6:00 D.A. Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>19</b></p>      Closed.
<p><b>20</b> 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>9:00 Chapel Service                      10:00 Adult Education                      10:45 Child Care in Mezzanine                      11:00 Worship♥ <i>(Baptism)</i>  <i>Rev. Fenimore preaching</i>                      12:15 Coffee Hour♥</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>21</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Chapel Open   Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>22</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥   6:00 A.A. Groups</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>23</b></p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥  10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation  6:00 Fellowship Cookout</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>24</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥   Closed at 5 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>25</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Chapel Open  6:00 Wedding Rehearsal Lane/Waller <i>(Rev. Fenimore)</i>  6:00 D.A. Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>26</b></p>     4:30 Wedding Lane/Waller <i>(Rev. Fenimore)</i>
<p><b>27</b> 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>9:00 Chapel Service                      10:00 Adult Education                      10:45 Child Care in Mezzanine, S.W.                      11:00 Worship♥  <i>Rev. Fenimore preaching</i>                      12:15 Coffee Hour♥</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>28</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Chapel Open</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>29</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥  10:00 First Notes Mailing Team♥</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>30</b></p> <p>8:00 APNC 9 to 5 Caring Community♥  10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation  6:00 Fellowship Cookout</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>31</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ P.S. 226 Teachers Arrive   Closed at 5 p.m.</p>		

First Notes and Calendar Deadline for September issue

# Volunteer Opportunities

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

- ☛ **COFFEE POURERS and GREETERS NEEDED** — Coffee pourers and greeters are needed for Coffee Hour after church. To volunteer, call **JOHN COX**, Chair of the Membership-Fellowship Committee, at **(212) 260-3094**.
- ☛ **USHERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES** — Volunteers are needed to usher for **Sunday morning services**. To volunteer, please call **JOAN RYAN** at **(212) 765-2141**, or **ELLIE GARLOW** at **(718) 237-5128**.
- ☛ **FIRST NOTES** — Volunteers are needed to help assemble and stuff envelopes for **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, August 29**. Call **PAULETTE GRIEFEN** **(212) 226-2531** to volunteer.
- ☛ **LAY READERS** — Those interested in participating as lay readers during worship 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 THOMPSON** at **(212) 242-6916**.
- ☛ **BAILEY HOUSE** — Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve the evening meal to residents of Bailey House on the 5th Sunday of the month (July 30). Call **LIZ HUBBELL-RIGGS** to help **(212) 247-0355**.
- ☛ **IN THE KITCHEN** — If you can help with these events, please call **JACKIE FIKE** at **(914) 793-4017**.  
**Wednesday, September 6—Vespers Fellowship Supper**  
 Sunday, September 3—12:30-3:30 p.m. Preparation.  
 Wednesday, September 6—3:00-8:00 p.m. Prep,  
 Serve, Cleanup

## 2006 Nominating Committee Needs Your Help

The Nominating Committee has begun preparing a slate of new officers to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January 2007. In addition, prior to the Annual Meeting, the Committee needs to fill a couple of positions that were vacated during the year. With this in mind, we are soliciting suggestions for elders, deacons, and trustees for the three boards of the church. We need your suggestions so the Nominating Committee can begin its work in the fall. Here is a brief description of each of the three positions:

**Elders.** Serve on the Session, which is the principal decision-making body of the church. Session is responsible for the overall mission and government of the congregation.

**Deacons.** The Board of Deacons has responsibility for ministering to “those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress.”

**Trustees.** The Board of Trustees “holds and manages properties and, as authorized, conducts business for the church.”

Please assist your Nominating Committee in this task by suggesting members of the church to be considered for these leadership positions. Members should also feel encouraged to propose themselves for positions in which they would be willing to serve. All officers serve three-year terms and should expect to meet at least once a month and often more frequently.

*Here are some general qualifications to consider when suggesting yourself or another person for office:*

**Church involvement:** regular attendance at worship, active participation in church activities, offices held and leadership rendered, evidence of commitment to the church and its

mission, understanding of and commitment to Presbyterian polity.

**Christian life:** evidence of grace and compassion in common life, evidence of maturity and effectiveness of ministry in the world.

**Personal qualifications:** cooperativeness, willingness to listen, readiness to learn, ability to follow through on assignments, organizational ability, creativity, openness to new ideas, maturity of judgment, freedom to express ideas and thoughts.

**Other factors:** occupational background and life experience, service in other organizations, interest in particular causes, offices held and quality of performance in them, education and training in the duties and responsibilities of the office.

*As you suggest a person, please specify some of the qualities above that lead you to offer this person's name. Please remember that the Nominating Committee will consider many names. Your suggestion is important, but not all those suggested will actually be nominated, so help the committee with as much information as possible.*

Please place your suggestions in the labeled box in the Mel-lin-Macnab Building lobby. You may also speak to a member of the committee (noted below) or contact the committee chair, Steven White (graywhite58@hotmail.com or 212-533-5931).

**Members of the Committee:** Sandy Carland, Martha Ferry, LouAnne Gilleland, Don Kilpatrick, Susan Korchak, Heather Mee, Rita Rochford, Douglas Sherrod, Steve White, *Chair*.

## Family Reunion..... (continued from page 1)

not enough time exemplifying the love and peace of Christ. And too many people come to church spiritually hungry and go away unfed.

Nevertheless, there are times when the church comes through amazingly well, times when God's work is accomplished. In the wake of Katrina and the tsunami in the South Asian area, Church World Service and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance helped restore lives and get people back into their communities. Every week communities rely on their local church to provide space for 12 Step programs, outreach to the homeless and needy, and provide glorious worship to praise God and inspire faith. Every day, ministers counsel people who are broken in spirit and are looking for hope to go on. At the local level there may be some things that are wrong with the church, but there is much that is right.

The family reunion of the Presbyterian Church this past June laid bare both the good and the bad of denominational life. And while I am glad I went, I was reminded that for all the good that I see at the local level here at First Presbyterian, there are other places where there is still a lot of work to be done, a lot of healing to take place, and a lot of correction needed. Like any family, some of the relatives are inspiring and some less so. Taken altogether, however, the good outweighs the bad by a long shot, and if nothing else being with some of the more difficult members of the family makes you aware that together we are only human and all of us are more dependent on the love, grace, and forgiveness of God than we sometimes realize.

Jon M. Walton

## Knitting Circle News

After three years and piles of knitted booties, hats, afghans, and scarves, I am not going to be able to continue heading the First Church Knitting Circle. This has not been an easy decision. But since I am going back to school full-time in the fall, I know I will not have the energy to give the Circle the attention it deserves.

The Knitting Circle has been a small example of a central tenet of our Christian faith—we believe in giving of ourselves, in reaching out to others. Through the Knitting Circle, we have made and given gifts of ourselves. Recently, I received a note from the Deacons thanking us for our gifts to the Foundling Hospital. It contained words I will always treasure, "Each little knitted piece was a prayer." I hope all of us in the Knitting Circle will continue to share the gifts of our hands because our "work will live on in the comfort of a stranger."

If someone is interested in continuing the work of the Circle, I will be happy to help you take over. In any event, I will always be happy to answer any questions you have on your knitting. Just ask me at Coffee Hour.

Thanks to all of you!  
Nadine Stewart

### Advance Notice: 2007 Mission Outreach Trips

January 13-20: Gulf Coast—Katrina Relief  
March 17-25: Nicaragua House Construction  
(*Bridges to Community*)

Summer: (Dates to be announced)  
West Virginia (Appalachia) Work Camp

Details in the Fall

## Nursery School

The First Presbyterian Nursery School will open for the 2006—07 school year on Monday, September 11, 2006. Applications for the following (2007-08) school year can be requested by phone between September 11 and September 29. To be eligible for one of our programs, children must be two years old on or before May 31, 2007.

To receive an application, please call the Nursery School office at (212)691-3432 between the hours of 9:30 and 3:30 during the two weeks between September 11 and September 29. The option of early notification, which is not a guarantee of admission, is offered to families who joined First Church before January 1, 2006.

## The Church Tower

The Communications Committee is currently looking for submissions to be included in the 2006 edition of *The Church Tower*. *The Tower* began publication at First Presbyterian back in 1924. Initially, it was created to distribute sermons and included articles on First Church history and faith issues of the day. Today *The Church Tower* has grown into a publication that reflects the diversity and large number of members in our congregation and community. We are looking for faith-related poetry and short stories, articles about life here at First Church, and stories related to the church and its history. We would also like to include pictures of church-related activities as well. We welcome any ideas or comments that you might have that may help in the construction of this exciting, deep-rooted project. Please contact David Earle, email: hampten@aol.com, Kristine Dickson, email: Kristine.dickson@gmail.com, or Luke Gebhard, email: lgebhard@gmail.com.

# A Month of Sundays

## *Worship This Month at First Presbyterian*

### **SUNDAY, JULY 2**

#### **Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching

Sacrament: Communion

### **SUNDAY, JULY 9**

#### **Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching

### **SUNDAY, JULY 16**

#### **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching

Sacrament: Baptism

### **SUNDAY, JULY 23**

#### **Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore preaching

### **SUNDAY, JULY 30**

#### **Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore preaching

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 6**

#### **Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: Rev. Barbara E. Davis preaching

Sacrament: Communion

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**

#### **Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: Rev. Barbara E. Davis preaching

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 20**

#### **Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore preaching

Sacrament: Baptism

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 27**

#### **Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore preaching

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER**

***First Notes* IS AUGUST 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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