

# First Notes

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

Volume XV Issue 3

March 2007

## Missing Church

Sunday, February 18, 2007. I missed church today, which is to say that I was not only not in worship, but I also wished I had been. I have the weekend off, a rare and unusual occurrence, and short of being ill, I am almost never *not* in worship. On the Sundays when I am not preaching I normally participate in worship nonetheless, leading in other parts of the liturgy, offering prayers, singing the hymns, and hearing my colleagues preach, which is always helpful for my own spiritual health. But today I am resting at my home in Wilmington, Delaware, taking some time for myself before the busy days of Lent begin. I needed a break from the crush of work lately. Everybody needs sabbath; even the preacher.

But I didn't get to church this morning. I wanted to go, but the weariness in my body made me want to stay in bed a little longer. It was 21 degrees this morning; cold and dreary, a good morning to sleep in. I didn't have a suit here. I didn't even have any dressy slacks, not even a sport coat or a tie. I made a mental note to bring some dressier clothes down here, so that on another Sunday, if there ever is another, I will have something to wear. At Old First, people wear whatever is practical. Some come in suits, some in jeans and a shirt, others a blouse and skirt. We don't stand on formalities. Personally, I like the mix of styles and sensibilities. But the memo hasn't gotten all the way to Delaware. Here, people still dress up... another reason to stay in bed. Actually, I got up and flipped channels looking for a religious program to inspire me... but Charles Stanley, Joel Osteen, Jimmy Swaggart persuaded me that none of them had anything I needed to hear. I concluded that it wasn't the same as being in church.

Over the years a lot of people have tried to convince me that you can be a Christian and never attend worship. After all, they say, the hermits in tiny monasteries on remote islands did precisely that, practiced pietistic disciplines, lived and worshipped alone, and remained faithful. But what people conveniently forget is that while the solitary monks observed their rituals, celebrated the mass for only themselves, and

lived lives in virtual or actual seclusion, they did so knowing that they were a part of a much wider community of monks who were doing precisely the same thing they were, in far-flung locations all around the world. So they lived in a virtual community of the faithful which connected them in Spirit in spite of their distance from one another.

Worshipping through religious television programs may be helpful to some who are shut in, hospitalized, or cannot get to worship, but for all of the rest of us, there is no substitute for attendance in worship with other Christians. Why? Because corporately we sing together, pray together, keep silence together, something we cannot do alone. Hearing the sermon may be a solitary experience, but it is a shared experience too. It makes a difference that you are present to that experience, engaged in its power and subtlety, there to affirm the promises of baptism, present to taste the bread and the wine of communion. The music is more vivid, the hymns more powerful when you hear the organ shaking the floor and rattling the windows. The Spirit has a more direct line to our hearts where it can inspire our lives as we stand and sit together, say the creed for and with each other, and feel the presence of others who are every bit the mix of humanity and holiness that we are. We lend strength to one another when we enter the sanctuary and join in worship. The full range of ages, young children running down the aisle, and older ones leaning on the pew in front of them to get the steadiness to stand, young couples holding hands, and older ones too... these are the bearers of a power that one cannot get in the same way practicing the faith alone. Christianity is finally not a solitary faith. It is corporate in nature, drawing people together, just as God is drawing the whole earth together in unity and peace.

Yes, of course the whole creation is a sanctuary, and yes, the beauty of a mountain stream, or the vastness of space seen through a telescope, the quietness of nightfall in the forest,

*(Continued on page 7)*

## For the Living of These Days

FROM THE FEARS THAT LONG HAVE BOUND US  
FREE OUR HEARTS TO FAITH AND PRAISE.  
GRANT US WISDOM, GRANT US COURAGE,  
FOR THE LIVING OF THESE DAYS,  
FOR THE LIVING OF THESE DAYS

-Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930

### FAMILY MINISTRIES PROGRAMS

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 4

10:00 a.m.—Youth Breakfast and Dialogue

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 9

6:00 p.m.—First Kids: Friday Nights—*Homeless Shelter Service Project*

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 11

11:00 a.m.—Children's Choirs sing in Worship  
12:15 p.m.—*One Great Hour of Sharing* Bake Sale

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 17

6:00 p.m.—Youth Fellowship—*Superman Returns*

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 18

12:30 p.m.—Pre-Baptism Meeting  
12:30 p.m.—Toddlers Gathering—*Spring Fling*

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 25

12:30 p.m.—Family Ministries Committee Meets



### ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 3

9:00 a.m.—2007 Women's Retreat—*Spiritual Discipline and Keeping the Sabbath*, The Rev. Leslie Mott. Held at Marble Collegiate Church.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.—*Lord Teach Us to Pray, Part One*, Lindsay Borden  
12:30 p.m.—*First Press Conference—Religion and Current Events*, Dr. Jon Walton

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 11

9:30 a.m.—*Lord Teach Us to Pray, Part Two*, Lindsay Borden  
12:30 p.m.—*Foundations for the Journey—What Presbyterians Believe, Part One*, The Rev. Mark Hostetter

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 18

9:30 a.m.—*Going Up to Jerusalem, Lenten Journeys in the New Testament, Part One*, Dr. Beverly Gaventa

12:30 p.m.—*Foundations for the Journey—What Presbyterians Believe, Part Two*, The Rev. Mark Hostetter

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 20

7:00 p.m.—*Protestants Consider the Seven Deadly Sins: What They Tell Us About Ourselves*, The Rev. Willie J. Smith, LCSW, MDiv.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 25

9:30 a.m.—*People of the Way, Lenten Journeys in the New Testament, Part Two*, Dr. Beverly Gaventa



### First Kids: Friday Night Homeless Shelter Service Project

Friday, March 9, 6–8:00 p.m.

Save the date for Friday March 9, 6:00 –

8:00 p.m. for a special *First Kids* evening event for kids and parents. Enjoy a delicious family dinner sponsored by *First Kids* (a free will offering is appreciated). Kids and families will then split into different activities.

*Parents* will gather for a one-hour adult church school program. Don't miss this opportunity to talk about the topic of prayer with Dr. Jon Walton.

*Kids* will assemble kits to be distributed to men staying in the homeless shelter at our church. Shelter organizers emphasized how appreciative the men were of last year's packages – to get coffee at Starbucks and an official ride on the subway is an act of real dignity. Our hope is to make 20 complete kits, but the more supplies the more kits we can make. After we organize the kits we'll pop in a movie. We ask that each family or each child of each family bring the following items:

A small package of AA batteries  
(many men have found music players)  
A \$5 Starbucks card

A \$4 roundtrip MetroCard  
A granola bar (individually wrapped)  
Nail clippers

*First Kids* offers faith, fellowship, and service opportunities for FPC kids and their parents throughout the church school year. This program is for kindergarteners through 7th graders and allows families to share their faith through community service and discussion – and food! This year, *First Kids* will be focusing on the biblical principles of Psalm 24: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it."

Please signup in the church house lobby or RSVP by Wednesday, March 7 to families@fpcnyc.org or by calling 212-675-6150. See you then!

## MUSIC VESPER SERVICE

### “ALL NIGHT VIGIL” by Sergei Rachmaninoff

On Sunday afternoon, March 18, at 4:00 p.m. the Choir and Soloists of First Presbyterian Church will present Sergei Rachmaninoff's sacred choral masterpiece, "All Night Vigil." This is the first time this inspired work of great beauty and spirituality has been presented in its entirety at First Presbyterian Church. Premiered in Moscow on March 10, 1915, this *a cappella* choral-symphonic work received great acclaim by critics and audiences and was repeated four more times that same month. One critic wrote, "Rachmaninoff's new composition, "All Night Vigil," is undoubtedly a contribution of great importance to our church's music literature. . . . Of unusual value is the artist's loving and conscientious attitude toward our church's chant, for in this lies the promise of a splendid future for our liturgical music."

In the Russian Orthodox Church, the service of the All Night Vigil consists of basically three different offices or services: Vespers, Matins, and First Hour. These offices, which have prescribed orders of worship and texts, are celebrated during the night before great feast days. Rachmaninoff's setting for the All Night Vigil is comprised of 15 anthems, and it is unclear if Rachmaninoff intended for this work to be sung all at once, as in a concert setting, or to be sung separately, at the appropriate office.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Russian sacred music, while largely based on chant, was influenced by Italian and German composers. However, with the rise of Russian Nationalism in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Russian composers, such as Tchaikovsky, were encouraged to develop a Russian school of composition, which included not only secular works, but sacred works for the church. Rachmaninoff and several other composers created settings of the All Night Vigil. This school of Russian composition ended with the Revolution of 1917, when sacred music and religion were banned. Rachmaninoff went into self-exile and composed no more sacred music.

In the "All Night Vigil," Rachmaninoff creates a uniquely Russian sound, which is different from the compositional techniques normally associated with Western music. In addition, the choir, while unaccompanied, performs with the full dynamic range and color of a large symphonic orchestra, and the basses are required to sing in a two and one-half octave range, from high F to a B-flat below low C. While most choral music is written for four voices (soprano, alto, tenor, bass), Rachmaninoff achieves unique sonorities with the choir singing in twelve parts.

This Music Vesper Service will include hymns and prayers and will be about one hour in length. Please mark your calendars, and bring a friend to experience this beautiful music at First Presbyterian Church.

## WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP JULY 2007



Are you intrigued with the idea of spending a week on a mission trip to Appalachia with your children this summer? Then make sure to attend the informational meeting on **SUNDAY, MARCH 11, FROM 12:30 TO 1:30 P.M.** in the Esther Morrow Room of the South Wing. Rich Korchak, the trip coordinator, will discuss the details of the trip to West Virginia scheduled for Saturday, July 7, to Saturday, July 14. One reason for choosing this particular mission opportunity is that children as young as middle-school age can participate – making it possible for families to share the experience. Please give some serious thought to signing up to help people improve their living conditions by doing many kinds of home repair. It will be an eye-opening experience for children, teens, and adults alike. Come to the March 11th meeting with all your questions so you can decide whether this mission trip is for you. In the meantime, Rich Korchak can be reached at 718-981-5555 or [korchak@nyc.rr.com](mailto:korchak@nyc.rr.com)

“Aging Well” Series Continues . . .

**SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 12, 2007.** The "Aging Well" series continues. The next lecture and discussion will be on Thursday, April 12, in the parlor of the Mellin-Macnab Building. As usual, a light dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. (voluntary contribution) and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude by 8:00 p.m. The topic will be Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Karl Davis will describe the disease in terms the layperson can understand. John Davis will discuss how to provide care for Alzheimer's patients while preserving their dignity.

### OGHS Bake Sale

On Sunday, March 11, Church School children will be at coffee hour, selling baked goods they have made. All of the proceeds will be donated to One Great Hour of Sharing. Please stop by and participate in this delicious tradition!



# First Presbyterian Church

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue  |
|--|---|--|
| <p align="center"><i>The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York</i><br/> <b>12 West 12th Street (at Fifth Avenue), New York, NY 10011</b><br/> <b>Tel: 212-675-6150 Fax: 212-675-8674</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Indicates Volunteer Opportunities ♥</b><br/> <b>All data subject to change without notice.</b><br/> <b>Check with Church Receptionist at 212-675-6150 for confirmation and details.</b></p>  |   | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p align="center"><b>DEACONS FOR MARCH</b><br/> <b>Meg Harper</b><br/> <b>(718) 624-1516</b></p> <p align="center"><b>David Fellows</b><br/> <b>(212) 460-8058</b></p> </div> |
| <p><b>4</b>    <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>9:30    Adult Education<br/> 10:45    Child Care<br/> 11:00    Worship ♥ <i>Communion—Dr. Walton preaching</i><br/> 11:00    Kitchen Crew ♥<br/> 11:20    Church School and Choir Rehearsals<br/> 12:15    Coffee Hour ♥<br/> 12:30    Nicaragua Meeting<br/> 12:30    Shelter Forum<br/> 12:30    First Press Conference—<i>Dr. Walton</i><br/> 9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p>   | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>9 - 5    Caring Community ♥</p> <p>12:00    Sanctuary Open</p> <p>9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p>   | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>9 - 5    Caring Community ♥</p> <p>6:00    A.A. Groups<br/> 6:30    Candidates Committee<br/> 6:30    Building. &amp; Grounds Committee</p> <p>9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p>                                   |
| <p><b>11</b>    <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>9:30    Adult Education<br/> 10:00    Youth Breakfast and Dialogue<br/> 10:45    Child Care<br/> 11:00    Worship ♥ <i>Children's Choirs Sing/Receive New Members</i><br/> <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i><br/> 11:20    Church School<br/> 12:15    One Great Hour of Sharing Bake Sale and Coffee Hour ♥<br/> 12:30    Foundations for the Journey Pt. One/<i>Rev. Mark Hostetter</i><br/> 2:00    Candidates Committee</p> <p>9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p>   | <p><b>12</b></p> <p align="center">First Notes and<br/>Calendar Due</p> <p>9 - 5    Caring Community ♥</p> <p>12:00    Sanctuary Open</p> <p>9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p>                             | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>9 - 5    Caring Community ♥</p> <p>6:00    A.A. Groups<br/> 6:30    Personnel Committee</p> <p>9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p>  |
| <p><b>18</b>    <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>9:30    Adult Education<br/> 10:45    Child Care<br/> 11:00    Worship ♥ <i>M4M—OGHS/Rev. Fenimore preaching</i><br/> 11:20    Church School and Choir Rehearsals<br/> 12:00    Kitchen Crew ♥<br/> 12:15    Coffee Hour ♥<br/> 12:30    Toddlers Spring Fling<br/> 12:30    Pre-Baptism Meeting<br/> 12:30    Foundations for the Journey Pt. Two/<i>Rev. Mark Hostetter</i><br/> 5:00    Kitchen Crew ♥<br/> 9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p> <p align="center">4:00 Vespers Service<br/>All Night Vigil</p> | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>9 - 5    Caring Community ♥</p> <p>12:00    Sanctuary Open</p> <p>9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p>  | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>9 - 5    Caring Community ♥</p> <p>7:00    Third Tuesday Dinner and Program<br/> 6:00    A.A. Groups</p> <p>9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p>   |
| <p><b>25</b>    <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>9:30    Adult Education<br/> 10:45    Child Care<br/> 11:00    Worship ♥ <i>Baptism/Associate Pastor Candidate Preaching</i><br/> 11:20    Church School and Choir Rehearsals<br/> 12:15    Congregational Meeting<br/> 12:30    Family Ministries Committee<br/> 1:30    Coffee Hour ♥<br/> 1:30    Literary Group</p> <p>9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p>   | <p><b>26</b></p> <p align="center">Nursery School Closed<br/>Thru April 6<br/>P. S. 226 Returns</p> <p>9 - 5    Caring Community ♥</p> <p>12:00    Sanctuary Open</p> <p>9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p> | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>9 - 5    Caring Community ♥<br/> 10:00    First Notes Mailing Team ♥</p> <p>6:00    A.A. Groups</p> <p>9:00    Homeless Shelter ♥</p>  |

# MARCH 2007

| Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>DEADLINE FOR APRIL<br/>First Notes<br/>MONDAY, MARCH 12</b> </div> | <b>1</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>12:15 Al-Anon<br>6:30 Aging Well Dinner<br>and Discussion<br>7:30 Bible Study Group<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥   | <b>2</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>12:00 Sanctuary Open<br>6:00 D.A. Group<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥   | <b>3</b><br>9:00—3:30 Women's Retreat<br>(Off Site-Marble Collegiate)   |   |
|  | <b>7</b><br>8:00 APNC<br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>10:30 Staff Meeting<br>12:00 Midday Prayers<br>3:00 Kitchen Crew♥<br>6:00 Vespers/ <i>Communion</i><br>6:30 Fellowship Supper<br>Committees Meet<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥ | <b>8</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>12:00 Kitchen Crew♥<br>12:15 Al-Anon<br>7:30 Bible Study Group<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥  | <b>9</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>11:00 Kitchen Crew♥<br>12:00 Sanctuary Open<br>6:00 D.A. Group<br>6:00 First Kids/ <i>Dr. Walton</i><br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥ | <b>10</b><br>8:30 Inquirer's Class<br>9:00 Kitchen Crew♥<br>12:00 Session Lunch with<br>Inquirers<br><div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME<br/>BEGINS</b> </div> |
|  | <b>14</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>10:30 Staff Meeting<br>12:00 Midday Prayers<br>6:00 Vespers/ <i>Communion</i><br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥  | <b>15</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>12:15 Al-Anon<br>7:30 Bible Study Group<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥  | <b>16</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>12:00 Sanctuary Open<br>6:00 D.A. Group<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥   | <b>17</b><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">             Mission Trip to Nicaragua<br/>             Thru March 25           </div> 6:00 Youth Fellowship  |
|  | <b>21</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>10:30 Staff Meeting<br>12:00 Midday Prayers<br>6:00 Vespers/ <i>Communion</i><br>6:30 Deacons/Trustees<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥   | <b>22</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>9:00 Design & Construction<br>Committee<br>12:15 Al-Anon<br>7:30 Bible Study Group<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥                         | <b>23</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>12:00 Sanctuary Open<br>6:00 D.A. Group<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥   | <b>24</b>   |
|  | <b>28</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>10:30 Staff Meeting<br>12:00 Midday Prayers<br>6:00 Vespers/ <i>Communion</i><br>6:30 Session<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥  | <b>29</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>9:00 Design & Construction<br>Committee<br>12:15 Al-Anon<br>6:00 Katrina Meeting<br>7:30 Bible Study Group<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥ | <b>30</b><br>9 - 5 Caring Community♥<br>12:00 Sanctuary Open<br>6:00 D.A. Group<br>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥   | <b>31</b><br>Presbytery Off Site<br>(Korean Central)  |

# 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 Lenten Season services**. To volunteer, call **JOAN RYAN** at (212) 765-2141, or **SUZANNE FREEMAN** at (646) 827-4559.
- ☛ **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, March 27**. Call **PAULETTE GRIEFEN** (212) 226-2531 to help.
- ☛ **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 THOMPSON** at (212) 242-6916.
- ☛ **HOMELESS SHELTER**—Volunteers are needed. Call **DIANA PARDUE** (212) 645-4387 for more information.
- ☛ **IN THE KITCHEN**—If you can help with *Vespers*, please call **James Hollander** at (646) 335-2969 or e-mail [hollander-james@yahoo.com](mailto:hollander-james@yahoo.com). For all other events call **Jackie Fike** (914) 793-4017 or e-mail [jackiecf@verizon.net](mailto:jackiecf@verizon.net).

## Wednesday, March 7—Vespers Fellowship Supper

Sunday, March 4—11:00-4:00 p.m. Prep.

Wednesday, March 7—3:00-8:00 p.m. Prep., Serve, Cleanup

## Saturday, March 10—Session Lunch with Inquirer's

Friday, March 9—11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Prep.

Saturday, March 10—9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Prep., Serve, Cleanup

## Sunday, March 18—Lenten Music Concert Reception

Sunday, March 18—12:00-4:00 p.m. Prep.

Sunday, March 18—5:00-7:00 p.m. Prep., Serve, Cleanup

## 2006 Tartan Fair Benefits Are Shared

As I said in the Annual Report, *mirabile dictu*, we did it again! The weather was good, the people came, and we had a wonderful weekend of Tartan Fairing. The six months of steady work and the two weeks of day & night work paid off, resulting in over \$25,000 that was shared between three non-profits chosen by the Committee and confirmed by Church & Society. Our recipients included the **Church of Gethsemane** in Brooklyn, a church created for prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families, and all those who stand in solidarity with the poor. Gethsemane is unique, the only church in the country dedicated to providing a house of worship for these marginalized souls in our society. We also shared our profits with the **Presbyterian Center at Holmes**, the 800-acre camp and conference grounds open to all the churches in our Presbytery. Holmes is not just a marvelous church camp site for kids; there are spiritual retreats, workshop weekends, and week-long adult re-creating experiences available all year round as well. **The Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund**, with focus on Katrina Relief, was the third recipient of the fruits of our collective efforts.

Financial sharing with the groups named above was not the only or, possibly, even the most important sharing that resulted from this Fair. For those of us who worked on the Fair, the best part was the fun we had and the fellowship we enjoyed, even over cold pizza. We encourage all of you who haven't yet stuck your toe in our Fair waters to do so for the 2007 Fair. Working on a shared project is a proven way to get to know people in the congregation. Working on something that benefits others is also a proven way to live out your faith. Listed below are the names of the chairs of the various departments of the Fair and their contact information so that you can find out more about how you can be part of the *2007 Tartan Christmas!*

Books – Janet Keith = (212)982-0306 or [jhkeith@att.net](mailto:jhkeith@att.net)

Crafts – Annie Jeffrey = (212) 367-7077 or [anniecwny@aol.com](mailto:anniecwny@aol.com)

Food – Jackie Fike = (914)793-4017 or [jackiecf@att.net](mailto:jackiecf@att.net)

Baked Goods – Sarah Curtis = (212) 533-1213 or [sarahcurtis@nyc.rr.com](mailto:sarahcurtis@nyc.rr.com)

Greenery – Buffy Barton-Davis =(212)254-4222 or [Elizabeth.barton@hotmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.barton@hotmail.com)

Silent Auction – Sanford Goin= (212)222-7186 or [sandfordgoin@usa.net](mailto:sandfordgoin@usa.net)

Susan Schubert =(212)228-9367 or [susanperrin@earthlink.net](mailto:susanperrin@earthlink.net)

White Elephants – Jane Ritter = (212)255-1852 or [jmr719@aol.com](mailto:jmr719@aol.com)

General volunteers and questions – Joan Ryan = (212)765-2141 or [joanryan@aol.com](mailto:joanryan@aol.com)

## Missing Church *(Continued from page 1)*

or standing under the canopy of redwood trees in a California glade are powerful experiences of the presence of God. Yet in church, in a different and equally powerful way, there is the presence of God for those who are attentive to God's nearness, a presence confirmed in the lives of others binding us all together.

There are many images of the power of corporate worship. Simeon saw his life's desire fulfilled that day when Jesus' parents brought the newborn Jesus to the temple. Jesus worshipped in the synagogue on the Sabbath, and the psalmist of the 122<sup>nd</sup> psalm exulted in the joy of being in the temple's gates in Jerusalem, *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."* Throughout the scriptures we see evidence that God is present to us in worship. So, I will be glad to be in the house of the Lord next Sunday, and back to the routine that feeds my soul and gives me the opportunity to praise and worship the God who gives us all life and breath and every good gift. I hope to see you there as well.

Jon M. Walton

### THE HOMELESS SHELTER at First Presbyterian Church

A COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH

Partnership for the Homeless  
John Heuss House • Saint Luke's in the Fields

## HOMELESS SHELTER FORUM

### Sunday, March 4



Join us on March 4 to learn more about the activities of Partnership for the Homeless, the John Heuss House drop-in center and our homeless shelter. Representatives from these organizations will discuss current issues related to the homeless in New York City, what is being done about it, and how you can help. Lunch will be provided.

**Location and Time:** First Presbyterian Church – South Wing, 12:30 p.m.

**Purpose:** To provide more information on the homeless shelter system, give an update on the homeless condition in New York City, and discuss ways to make a difference.

**Speakers:** Representatives from the John Heuss House and Partnership for the Homeless, current volunteers, and shelter guests.

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone thinking about volunteering for the homeless shelter, current volunteers who want to learn more about the program, and volunteers who want to meet some of the other volunteers.

#### The Homeless Shelter Needs Volunteers!

Information on the shelter and volunteer duties is available on the church's website at: <http://www.fpcnuy.org/volunteer.html>. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, send an email to [homeless\\_shelter@yahoo.com](mailto:homeless_shelter@yahoo.com) or contact Buffy Barton by phone at (212)254-4222.



## Toddlers Spring Fling!

Please join us for the third annual Toddlers Spring Fling on Sunday, March 18, after church. Meet old

friends and new and celebrate the Spring season. Siblings are welcome. Sign up in the lobby or RSVP to [families@fpcnyc.org](mailto:families@fpcnyc.org) or 212-982-3168.

### New Contact Directory

A new directory of contact info will be published early in March and we need your updated information - new snail mail address, new home or work or cell phone and new email address. Email Lisa Polite at [lpolite@fpcnyc.org](mailto:lpolite@fpcnyc.org) with changes, call the church at (212)675-6150 or pick up and return the completed form to the reception desk.

Art at First  
The First Presbyterian Church

Presents

## 7 DAYS: Visions of the Creation

9 artists share their visions  
of the first chapter of Genesis

Viewing in the Great Hall of the South Wing of First Presbyterian Church. Gallery open Monday and Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m., or by appointment

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL**  
**First Notes IS MARCH 12**

# A Month of Sundays

*Worship This Month at First Presbyterian*

## SUNDAY, MARCH 4 Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 27; Luke 13:31-35  
Sermon: Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching on "Under Hens' Wings"  
Sacrament: Communion

## SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Third Sunday in Lent—*Children's Choirs Sing*

Scripture: Psalm 32; Luke 13:1-9  
Sermon: Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching on "A Good Year for Figs"  
Pastoral Rite: Reception of New Members  
Music: "Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands" K-1st grade Children's Choir  
"Dona Nobis Pacem" 2nd-5th grade Children's Choir

## SUNDAY, MARCH 18 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: II Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:11-32  
Sermon: The Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore preaching on "A New Creation, An Old Story"

## SUNDAY, MARCH 25 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sacrament: Baptism  
Sermon: Associate Pastor Candidate Preaching

### MUSIC VESPER SERVICE

March 18, 4:00 p.m.

"All Night Vigil"

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Soloists and Choir of First Presbyterian Church  
William Entriiken, Director

### DEACONS FOR THE MONTH

Meg Harper (718) 624-1516  
David Fellows (212) 460-8058

# 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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