

# First Notes

The First  
Presbyterian Church  
in the City of New York

Volume XV Issue 6

June 2007

## On Behalf of a Grateful Nation

Last month I stood at the cemetery with a family whose loved one had served in the military during World War II. Because of his service to the country in a time of war an honor guard had been assigned to play taps, fold and present the American flag to his next of kin. As the flag is handed over, the officer says, *On behalf of the President of the United States and the people of a grateful nation, may I present this flag as a token of appreciation for the honorable and faithful service your loved one rendered this nation.* Each service branch has its own phrasing of this ritual. Over the years as I have conducted a number of funerals at which military honors have been accorded, I never fail to be moved by those words of gratitude and respect.

The war in Iraq and Afghanistan continues into this summer with all its political implications at home and its countless dangers for the young men and women who are caught in the midst of sectarian struggles dividing foreign lands. The number of American deaths, while but a fraction of Iraqi and Afghani deaths, is both staggering and escalating. Each week in worship as we pray the names of those killed in the preceding week's conflict, I am more and more saddened by that loss of life and worried at what the outcome of this conflict may be.

Of course there is no good outcome any more. Iraq is in chaos and spiraling out of control in civil war. Sunnis and Shiites are killing each other at astounding levels. Americans have become almost incidental casualties, numerous though they are, amid the escalation of the civil unrest that is under way. There seems no hope that we can leave things in better shape than we

found them, even though the country has been rid of a murderous tyrant in Saddam Hussein.

While it has been clear that popular support for the war has decreased steadily and approval of the administration's policies has all but evaporated, so much so that even Republican congress members are telling the President that they can no longer support him, one thing remains unchanged.... the gratitude of the nation for young men and women who have served their country, and done so at risk to life and limb with great courage. Even the terrible disgrace of Abu Ghraib, and the notable occasions of violent retaliation and gratuitous mayhem that some soldiers have inflicted on civilians, has not diminished the overall respect of this nation for those who have gone to war, done their best in a terrible circumstance, and borne the brunt of war's physical and psychological damage. They will bear those scars for the remainder of their lives. We will owe them a lifetime of gratitude and support for what they have done to serve the nation.

It seems possible that over the summer the country may, indeed, begin thinking about a post-war strategy for Iraq and Afghanistan following our withdrawal. At least we can pray that we will be thinking and planning for that. But we will also need to be thinking of how to honor and welcome back those who have borne the daily burden of living and serving in harm's way on our behalf. We did not do that very well after Viet Nam. This time around, a grateful nation must do better.

**Jon M. Walton**

## For the Living of These Days

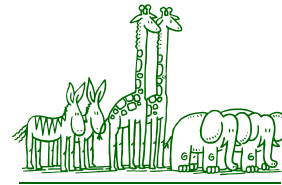


### Adult Education In June

- June 3** 9:30 a.m. *Saving Jesus: Why Jesus is Worth Saving*  
Rev. Barbara E. Davis
- 12:30 p.m. **First Press Conference**  
Rev. Mark Hostetter
- June 10** 9:30 a.m. *Why Esther Needs Vashti at the Banquet: A Further Look Into the Story of Esther*  
Kellie Anderson-Picallo
- June 17** 9:30 a.m. *Amos: Preaching Harsh Words in a Smooth Season*  
Sarah Segal McCaslin, M.Div.
- June 19** 6:30 p.m. **Third Tuesdays at First**  
"Trembling Before G—D" film presentation
- June 24** 9:30 a.m. **Family Faces of Pride**  
Rev. Barbara E. Davis, panel moderator  
Childcare will be provided starting at 9:15 a.m.

### Family Ministries Calendar

- June 3** 11:00 a.m. Youth attend Worship Service  
11:20 a.m. Church School, No Choir Rehearsals. All children to be picked up from classrooms  
12:30 p.m. Family Ministries Committee Meets
- June 10** Last Day of Church School  
11:20 a.m. Church School, No Choir Rehearsals. All children to be picked up from classrooms  
12:45 p.m. Pre-Baptism Meeting



## THIRD TUESDAYS AT FIRST PRESENTS



Trembling before G—D is a documentary built around the personal stories of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian. The profound dilemma of how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the Divine with the drastic Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality unfolds brilliantly as they share their pain, humor, and resilience. Do not miss this amazing film which highlights the struggle between tradition and the truth of these individual lives.

This *Third Tuesdays at First* film event on Tuesday, June 19, will begin at 6:30 p.m. A light supper (sandwiches, salads, and beverages) will be available while the film is viewed. The showing will be followed by a time of discussion.

**We do ask that you RSVP for the dinner by signing up in the lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building on Sundays or emailing [education@fpcnyc.org](mailto:education@fpcnyc.org) by Sunday, June 17.**

## Sarah Segal McCaslin to be Ordained June 10, 2007

Sarah Segal McCaslin will be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and installed by the Presbytery of New York City as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Mission of First Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon, June 10, at 4:00 p.m. The congregation is urged to attend. Sarah was elected by unanimous vote as Associate Pastor at a meeting of the congregation held on March 25<sup>th</sup>. She was examined before the presbytery on May 15<sup>th</sup> and began working the next day, pending her ordination.

Sarah, a 2006 graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York, earned her theological degree in conjunction with Columbia University's School of Social Work so that she holds both a Master of Divinity and a Master's degree in Social Work. Winner of the prestigious Maxwell Fellowship at Union, she distinguished herself as a gifted scholar, preacher, and pastoral caregiver.

Among the participants in the service will be the Rev. Kimberly Clayton, Interim Director of Lifelong Learning Events at Columbia Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, who will preach, and Elder Norman Bumgardner, Moderator of New York City Presbytery, who will preside. Dr. Walton, Rev. Davis, and Rev. Fenimore will also participate. A reception will follow in the Esther Morrow Room of the South Wing.

### DEACONS FOR JUNE

Eleanor Garlow

(718)237-5128

Aurora Jones-Owens

(212)219-1484

## Heritage of Pride Day

On Sunday, June 24, the Gay Pride March will pass by the doors of our church, and we will again host the Evelyn Davidson Water Table in front of the church to distribute water as a visible token of the love and welcome of Christ. We will be setting up after church, and the head of the march will arrive shortly after 1:00 p.m. We need people to pour, run cups out to the marchers, set up, and clean up afterward. If you can give some block of time between 1:00 and 5:00 that afternoon, plan to join us. Watch the bulletin for further details.

If you would like to join Presbyterian Welcome and march in the parade, please check their website for details at [www.presbyterianwelcome.org](http://www.presbyterianwelcome.org).



## Think Christmas in July! Think Tartan Fair!

BOOKS - WHITE ELEPHANTS - SILENT AUCTION - JAMS AND JELLIES. These are the parts of the 2007 Tartan Fair that you can bring us NOW. As you spring clean, bring in your goodies that are still in great shape. (NO computer components or ADULT clothing, please) Don't forget about the Silent Auction . . . items that are large in value, and small in size we love. Do any canning from the garden? Make a few extra for the fair.

Gift Certificates, Tickets, and Services are OUR BEST SELLERS! Donate personal services, give a dinner party, conduct a backstage tour, use of your country house for a week-end, all big money treasures for Silent Auction.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS! If you like to work with money we need someone to work with Ben Mitchell, our Finance Chair, to learn his computer system and take over for him in '08. Other areas needing assistance are the Children's Boutique, Set-up, Advertising, and the Thursday night Pre-view Party. Let Joan Ryan know if you can help with anything. Call (212)765-2141 or email her at [joanryan@aol.com](mailto:joanryan@aol.com).

Watch the July/August First Notes for Christmas in July (7/18) and Christmas in August (8/15) details, lots of crafting and sorting will be done.



# First Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue
<p><b>The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York</b>  <b>12 West 12th Street (at Fifth Avenue), New York, NY 10011</b>  <b>Tel: (212) 675-6150 Fax: (212) 675-8674</b>  <b>All data subject to change without notice.</b>  <b>Check with Church Receptionist at (212) 675-6150</b>  <b>for confirmation and details.</b>  ♥ indicates volunteer opportunities.</p>		
<p><b>3</b> <i>Trinity Sunday</i>  9:30 Adult Education  10:45 Child Care  11:00 Worship♥ Communion—<i>Sarah McCaslin preaching</i>  <i>(Last Day Full Choir)</i>  11:20 Church School  12:15 Coffee Hour♥  12:30 CS Teachers Appreciation and Recruitment Lunch  12:30 First Press Conference—<i>Rev. Mark Hostetter</i></p>	<p><b>4</b>  9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Sanctuary Open  6:00 Presbyterian Camp Meeting</p>	<p><b>5</b>  9 to 5 Caring Community♥  6:00 A.A. Groups  6:30 Bldg. &amp; Grounds Committee  6:30 Meet the Architects</p>
<p><b>10</b> <i>10th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>  9:30 Adult Education  9:45 Youth Leader's Meeting  10:45 Child Care  11:00 Worship♥ <i>Rev. Davis preaching</i>  11:20 Church School (Last Day)  12:15 Congregational Meeting  12:45 Coffee Hour♥  12:45 Pre-Baptism Meeting  4:00 Worship Service and Ordination &amp; Installation Celebration  <i>Reception following Worship Service</i></p>	<p><b>11</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">First Notes and Calendar Deadline</div>  9 to 5 Caring Community♥  9:00 Counting Team  12:00 Chapel Open</p>	<p><b>12</b>  8:00 Advisory Committee  9 to 5 Caring Community♥  6:00 A.A. Groups  6:30 Personnel Committee  7:00 House Committee</p>
<p><b>17</b> <i>11th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Father's Day</i>  9:30 Adult Education  10:45 Child Care  11:00 Worship♥ <i>Baptism—Dr. Walton preaching</i>  12:15 Coffee Hour♥  12:30 Deacons' Baby Shower for Foundling Hospital  12:30 Summer Lay Leader Training</p>	<p><b>18</b>  Nursery School Summer Program Begins  9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Chapel Open  6:30 Co-Op Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>19</b>  9 to 5 Caring Community♥  6:00 A.A. Groups  6:30* Third Tues. Dinner and Program Film &amp; Discussion  *Earlier time to accommodate film.</p>
<p><b>24</b> <i>12th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>  <i>Gay Heritage of Pride Sunday</i>  9:30 Adult Education  10:45 Child Care  11:00 Worship♥ <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i>  12:15 Coffee Hour♥  1:00 Evelyn Davidson Water Table Project♥  1:30 Literary Group</p>	<p><b>25</b>  9 to 5 Caring Community♥  12:00 Chapel Open</p>	<p><b>26</b>  9 to 5 Caring Community♥  10:00 <i>First Notes</i>  Mailing Team♥  6:00 A.A. Groups</p>

# JUNE 2007

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><b>DEACONS FOR JUNE</b></p> <p>Eleanor Garlow (718)237-5128</p> <p>Aurora Jones-Owens (212)219-1484</p> </div>		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p>6:00 Sanchez-Bernat/ Avakian Wedding Rehearsal/ <i>Rev. Davis</i></p> <p>6:15 NA/D.A. Groups</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>5:00 Sanchez-Bernat/ Avakian Wedding <i>Rev. Davis</i></p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>9:00 Planning Meeting</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Midday Prayers <i>(last one for season)</i></p> <p>6:00 Vespers</p> <p>6:30 Fellowship Supper Committees Meet</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>11:30 Architect Interviews</p> <p>12:15 Al-Anon</p> <p>6:00 Nursery School Roof Party</p> <p>6:30 Bldg. &amp; Grounds Committee</p> <p>8:00 NA Group</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p>6:15 NA/D.A. Groups</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>11:00 Baird Hastings Memorial Service and Reception</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation</p> <p>7:00 Justice Works</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:15 Al-Anon</p> <p>8:00 NA Group</p>	<p><b>15</b> Last Day of Nursery School</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p>5:00 Marraro/Schaffner Rehearsal/ <i>Dr. Walton</i></p> <p>6:00 Im/Kim Rehearsal <i>Dr. Walton</i></p> <p>6:15 NA/D.A. Groups</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>3:00 Marraro/Schaffner Wedding/ <i>Dr. Walton</i></p> <p>6:00 Im/Kim Wedding <i>Dr. Walton</i></p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation</p> <p>6:30 Deacons/Trustees</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:15 Al-Anon</p> <p>6:30 Joint Finance Comm.</p> <p>8:00 NA Group</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p>6:15 NA/D.A. Groups</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>P.S. 226 Last Day</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open for Meditation</p> <p>6:30 Session</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:15 Al-Anon</p> <p>8:00 NA Group</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Nursery School Summer Program Ends</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>12:00 Chapel Open</p> <p>6:15 NA/D.A. Groups</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed</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**. 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, June 26**. 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.

➤ **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, June 6—Vespers Fellowship Supper

Sunday, June 3—11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Prep.

Wednesday, June 6—3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Prep., Serve, Clean-up

## Sunday, June 10—Associate Pastor's Reception

Saturday, June 9—11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Prep.

Sunday, June 10—9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Prep.

Sunday, June 10—12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Prep., Serve

Sunday, June 10—5:15 - 7:00 p.m. Serve, Clean-up

## EXPERIENCE CHURCH SCHOOL — WE HAD A BLAST!

Elijah says, "I like church school because I like staying for choir. You get to sing in front of an audience."

I like church school because I get to know children that are a different age than my own child.

Anne Gaines, teacher and parent

I like church school because the kids make me smile and laugh and understand better what I thought I knew about Church and God.

Suzanne Mees, parent and church school teacher

On Sunday June 3, after worship, there will be a celebration of, and reception for the current Church School Teachers. If you are interested in teaching Church School next year, we would like to invite you to join us to learn more about this wonderful experience by meeting the teachers and children who have experienced, enjoyed, and grown through The FPC Church School Program.

I like church school because it teaches me valuable lessons about my religion and shows me how to implement those lessons in everyday life.

Liya, age 15

It gives me some time in the week to reconsider things I thought I knew about the bible and our community, by seeing it anew through the eyes of the students.  
Doug Schwalbe,  
teacher and parent

Emily, age 9, likes church School because she gets to see her Church friends.

## Architects Invite Congregational Input on June 5

This spring, the Session engaged the services of the architectural firm of Herbert S. Newman and Partners, P.C., of New Haven, Connecticut, to conduct a feasibility study of the architectural needs and challenges faced by the congregation. On the evening of Tuesday, June 5, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. the congregation will have an opportunity to influence the thinking of the architects as they solicit the concerns, opinions, hopes, and dreams of the congregation regarding what most needs improvement in our busiest church facility, the Mellin-Macnab Building. The Design and Construction Committee, which has been working for over a year now to help develop a comprehensive approach to the challenges the church faces, has arranged for groups throughout the congregation to have input into the design and planning of these proposed improvements at an early phase of development.

Built in 1956, the Mellin-Macnab Building houses the educational classrooms of the Church School, the Nursery School, and PS 226, a public school for autistic children. It is also the location for the church's pastoral, music, and business offices, the center for the church's outreach to the community, and the site of such activities as Human Services Workshops, Allan's After School, and almost daily Twelve-Step programs. Recent studies by the Special Committee on Facilities and Mission and the continuing review of the Design and Construction Committee have confirmed that significant growth in the congregation has outpaced the ability of the Mellin-Macnab Building to continue to provide for the needs of the congregation.

Herbert S. Newman and Partners, P.C., the architects conducting the feasibility study for the church, want to have input from every corner of the congregation, especially the teachers, officers, children, staff members, groups, and congregants who know this building best and use it most. Interviews have been scheduled with all of these groups, and on June 5 the congregation at large has its opportunity to say what improvements are most needed in order to meet the needs of today's congregation. This is an important opportunity to share the future of the church and have your opinion be heard. Please be sure to attend and make your thoughts known.

## Church & Society Committee Update



### *How Green is Our Village?*

The members of the Church and Society Committee voted to send a representative to the Village Interfaith Social Action Coalition representing 18 churches and synagogues in the Greenwich Village Community. Its present commitment is to increase awareness about environmental issues and some practical things our congregations can do to live greener lives.

So look for ideas, tips, and activities in future issues of First Notes.

# A Month of Sundays

*Worship This Month at First Presbyterian*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 3**

**Trinity Sunday**

Sermon: Sarah Segal McCaslin preaching

Sacrament: Communion

**SUNDAY, JUNE 10**

**Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Scripture: Genesis 18:1-2, 9-15; John 7:53-8:11

Sermon: Rev. Barbara E. Davis preaching on  
"No Laughing Matter"

**SUNDAY, JUNE 17**

**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time—Father's Day**

Sermon: Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching

Sacrament: Baptism

**SUNDAY, JUNE 24**

**Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Gay Heritage of Pride Sunday*

Sermon: Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching

**Vespers Fellowship Supper**

**Wednesday, June 6**

**6:30 p.m.—following Vespers**

Esther Morrow Room—All Invited

*Free-will offering—Suggested donation \$5.00*

**DEADLINE FOR**

**JULY-AUGUST**

***First Notes* is JUNE 11**

*First Notes*

*The First  
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in the City of New York*

*Calendar of Events*

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

*Return Service Requested*

FIRST NOTES is published monthly by  
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Mark Hostetter, Associate Pastor  
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