

First Notes

The First
Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York

Volume XVII Issue 5

May 2009

Note to Self

During my recent recovery from surgery I attended three worship services: one at another New York City church, one at our own Palm Sunday service, and twice I worshipped “online” at churches which have a streaming internet feed of their worship service. I learned a lot from these “visits” to other churches.

I visited one large midtown church in the midst of Lent and found a warm welcome from several parishioners who know me from other church associations. I also felt at home in the familiar order of worship and the hymns that we sang. The sermon was timely and relevant, preached with enthusiasm and clear connections to scripture. But what I particularly missed was the beautiful choir of First Church. The choir of that other congregation was fine, and there was a lovely soprano solo in one of the anthems, but the warmth and balance, the ensemble sound that so marks our own choir, the power of a group that can create the kind of music that ours does, was missing. When it’s not there, it’s noticeable. *(Note to self: thank Bill En-triken and the choir more often for the glorious and invaluable contribution they make to our worship.)*

One of the “online” churches had a broadcast of their service that was “studio” quality in its excellence. There were wide-ranging shots of the congregation, closeups of particular parishioners, good sound quality, a stellar choir and music program, and excellent preaching. What struck me about the service was that fifty minutes into the service I still had not heard either a scripture reading or a sermon! What was particularly disconcerting was a lengthy presentation by a visiting mission representative who gave a report that lasted about ten minutes, describing the support the

congregation was providing to sustain the health of children in a village in Kenya. This report was followed by seven minutes of announcements, all important in the life of the congregation—but also printed in the bulletin from what I could tell, since every announcement included a reminder to “check the bulletin for more details.” *(Note to self: visitors can feel particularly excluded at the time of the announcements in worship because so many events are for people who know what group they already belong to and where they should go. Make announcements short and always invite newcomers to join. Encourage people to ask members for directions in the building.)*

On Palm Sunday, I worshipped at First and sat on the left side toward the back as you enter from Fifth Avenue. Of course, I thought everything was great. The music was spectacular. KC’s sermon was perfect. The reading of the Passion Narrative was poignant. The children with palms in hand were energizing. But I was struck by how formidable everything looked to a person sitting in the pew a long way away from the chancel and pulpit. I had a sense of humility and responsibility for what we do as leaders in worship and the importance of helping everyone feel “involved.” *(Note to self: the service must be warm, inviting, and on a “human scale.” It is always important to keep visitors in mind and what it’s like to enter a big sanctuary like ours, not knowing anyone, and still hoping that something holy will happen, perhaps even with the people with whom I share a pew.)*

Jon M. Walton

For the Living of These Days

GOSPEL TALK

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Great for curious bible readers of all experience levels.

Resurrection Appearances in the Gospels (Part 3)
May 3

The Apocrypha
May 10 and 17

“The Apocrypha” refers to nineteen books placed after Malachi and before the Gospel of Matthew. How did they come to be placed there and what value do they have for our lives of faith? This series will explore these questions and consider how Christian communities read and regard these books.

WHAT DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE ABOUT...?

Sundays, May 3 and 31 at 12:30 p.m.

The Trinity, parts 1 and 2

The Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore

This series is designed for anyone who is curious about our faith and who has wondered, “what do Presbyterians believe about.....?” Join us to explore more about the foundations of our faith.

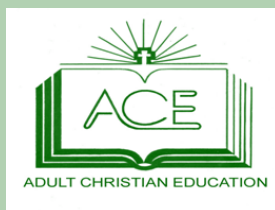
LUNCH ‘N LEARN: INVITATION TO JOURNEY

Fridays at 12:00 p.m.

Please bring your own lunch and join us for these conversations in response to the DVD series “Living the Questions.” Bring your questions and your spirit of curiosity and join us for these lively discussions.

Practicing Resurrection
May 15

Debunking the Rapture
May 29



EDUCATION ALERTS! To receive updates and reminders about programs from Education at First, email education@fpcnyc.org with “add me to the list” in the subject line.

SPRING FILM SERIES



LIONESS

Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m.

*Followed by a discussion
with filmmaker Meg McLagan*

Lioness tells the story of a group of female Army support soldiers who were part of the first program in American history to send women into direct ground combat. Told through intimate accounts, journal excerpts, archival footage, as well as interviews with military commanders, the film follows five *Lioness* women who served together for a year in Iraq. *Lioness* makes public, for the first time, their hidden history.

Meg McLagan is a documentary filmmaker and cultural anthropologist. She is the co-director and co-producer with Daria Sommers of *Lioness*, which won the Center for Documentary Studies Filmmaker Award at Full Frame Documentary Film Festival in 2008 and was recently broadcast on the PBS series Independent Lens. She began her film career working as a producer of the film *Paris Is Burning*, which won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance and both the New York and Los Angeles Film Critics Circle Award for Best Documentary.

氣功
qi gong
at First

The next series of classes in Qi Gong will begin on Monday evening, May 4, from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m., continuing through Monday, June 29. These classes are always open to all. This moving meditation consists of a slow progression of movements originating thousands of years ago. The spiritual and physical dimensions of this discipline resonate in the body and soul. A donation of \$5 per class is appreciated.

For more information, contact Meg Harper at (718) 624-1516 or harpermeg@hotmail.com.

STAFF APPRECIATION

There are many people working at First Church you may have never seen or met. They help maintain the myriad functions and constant life of our congregation, building, and services. We are grateful for their work and thank them for the perpetual support they provide. We will highlight two staff members monthly, hoping you'll better recognize those faces behind the scenes. When you see these faces, say hello and thank you!

José Meijias Daytime Receptionist



“José! José! High-five!” call the nursery school students as they file out the doors. “Yes, I know all the kids’ names,” explains José Meijias, while greeting the children. “Actually, I pretty much know everyone that comes through the front door. If they’re here for school or a meeting, or if they’re in the wrong place, I know.” José has been the Mellin-Macnab daytime receptionist for nearly a decade, joining the staff in 1997 as an evening and week-end assistant supervisor. His talents certainly extend beyond a keen memory. While the desk is simply a flurry of activity, José’s calm persists. Every situation—from an urgent delivery to a request for directions—is attended to with kindness and a friendly attitude. Beyond the front desk, José can be found near his home in Far Rockaway enjoying a margarita—or, better yet, playing golf. “I go as often as possible,” says José, explaining that his love of golf made the switch from the evening to morning shift easy. As with his job, José plays through even the toughest obstacles.

Quintin Blacknall Daytime Receptionist

“Hello!” “Hi, welcome.” “Enjoy your lunch!” These are just some of the many daily greetings that Quintin Blacknall extends to the Caring Community participants as they enter the doors of the South Wing. “I enjoy seeing the same people come in every day and remembering them,” he says. Quintin has been at First Church for sixteen years: “I’ve worked as a receptionist, but help out with maintenance too whenever they need an extra hand.”

Quintin enjoys FPC so much that he helped his brother Keith secure a position at the church, as well. Outside of work, Quintin has plenty to keep him busy. “You see this white hair?” he says. “Four daughters! That’ll do it to you.” A no-nonsense approach has helped him successfully raise Chanel, Janell, Quinel, and Ansoreal. In his free time, Quintin loves “driving, getting out of the city.” He spends most weekends traveling on Long Island and throughout the East Coast. Wherever he goes, his warm welcome is apparent and contagious.



TARTAN FAIR SPRING YARD SALE

Help us have the biggest “Clean-Out-the-Basement” Yard Sale ever on **Saturday, May 9!** We need muscle-power on **Friday, May 8** from **3:00 to 7:00 p.m.** to bring everything up from the basement and we need volunteers to help set it all up and sell our treasures on **Saturday, May 9** in 3 shifts:

8:00 to 11:00 a.m. (breakfast on us!)
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer, donate or work them all!

We also need a lot of homemade cookies, brownies, and other baked goods as possible to sell that day.

Sign up in the church lobby, call Jackie Fike at (914)793-4017, call the church at (212)675-6150, or email Joan Ryan at joanryan@aol.com.

If it rains, we'll do it all on Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16.

POSTPONED!
Please see bulletin for further details.

First Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>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</p> <p><i>All data subject to change without notice. Check with Church Receptionist for confirmation and details.</i></p> <p>Indicates Volunteer Opportunities ♥</p>		
<p>3 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ (<i>Grades 2-12 remain in worship</i>) <i>Communion—Dr. Walton preaching</i> 11:20 Church School and Children’s Choirs Rehearsal 12:15 Coffee Hour♥ <i>Teacher Recruitment</i> 12:15 Pre-Baptism Meeting 12:30 Adult Education 12:30 Mission Trip Meeting 2:00 CROP Walk</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p>5:45 Qi Gong 6:15 A.A. Groups</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups 7:00 New Sanctuary Immigration Forum: Popcorn & Politics</p>
<p>10 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Mother’s Day</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ <i>Baptism</i> <i>Rev. Davis preaching</i> 11:20 Church School and Children’s Choirs Rehearsal 12:15 Coffee Hour♥</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Notes and Calendar Due</p> <p>5:45 Qi Gong</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups 6:30 Buildings & Grounds 6:30 Personnel Committee 6:30 Adult Education Forum 7:00 House Committee</p>
<p>17 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Celebration of Children & Youth</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ <i>Receive New Members (Grades K-12 remain in worship)</i> <i>3rd Graders Receive Bibles—Dr. Walton preaching</i> 11:20 Church School (last day) 12:30 Young Adult Brunch 12:15 Coffee Hour♥ 12:30 Family and Teacher Brunch 12:45 Adult Education</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">12:45 p.m. Children’s Art Showcase and Recital</p> </div>	<p>18</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p>5:45 Qi Gong</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:15 N.S. Parents’ Breakfast 9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups</p>
<p>24 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Presbyterian Heritage</i></p> <p>NO Adult Education 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ <i>Rev. Fenimore preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour♥</p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Staff Holiday</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups</p>
<p>31 <i>Pentecost</i> <i>Pentecost Offering</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour♥ 12:30 Adult Education 1:30 Literary Group 3:00 Bailey House</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f0e0;"> <p>DEADLINE FOR JUNE FIRST NOTES: MONDAY, MAY 11</p> </div>	

MAY 2009

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open 6:15 NA/D.A. Groups 6:30 Nursery School Auction	2 8:30 Inquirers' Class 12:00 Session Lunch w/ Inquirers
6 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 6:00 Wednesday Worship 6:30 Fellowship Supper Committees Meet	7 <i>N.S. Closed</i> 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al-Anon 8:00 NA Solutions	8 <i>N.S. Closed</i> 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open 3:00 Tartan Fair Spring Yard Sale Volunteers 6:15 NA/D.A. Groups <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> 5:30 p.m. Scheer/Barry Wedding Rehearsal Rev. McCaslin, Officiant </div>	9 8:00 - 5:00 Tartan Fair Spring Yard Sale 5:30 Scheer/Barry Wedding Rev. McCaslin, Officiant
13 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 6:30 Candidates Committee	14 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al-Anon 6:00 Marie Sibilla "Aging Well" Lecture Series 8:00 NA Solutions	15 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Lunch 'n Learn 12:00 Sanctuary Open 6:15 NA/D.A. Groups	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Mission Trip to Ghost Ranch, New Mexico 5/16-25 </div>
20 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 6:30 Deacons/Trustees	21 <i>Ascension of the Lord</i> 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al-Anon 4:30 Youth Worship 6:00 Adult Ed. Film Series 6:30 N.S. Board Meeting 8:00 NA Solutions	22 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open 6:15 NA/D.A. Groups	23
27 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 6:30 Session	28 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al Anon 8:00 NA Solutions <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> First Notes Mailing Team♥ </div>	29 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al Anon 12:00 Lunch 'n Learn 6:15 NA/D.A. Groups	30 Closed

DEACONS FOR THE MONTH:

Kurt Regush
(646) 428-5180

Bonnie Voit
(212) 206-6863

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 **CHARLOTTE WALLACE** at (973) 692-0541.
- **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 **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 **Thursday, May 28**. Call **PAULETTE GRIEFEN** at (212) 942-0620 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 contact **MEG HARPER** at (718) 624-1516 or harpermeg@hotmail.com.
- **IN THE KITCHEN** – If you can help with Fellowship Suppers after Wednesday Worship, please call **JAMES HOLLANDER** at (646) 335-2969 or e-mail hollander_james@yahoo.com. For all other events call **JACKIE FIKE** at (914) 793-4017 or e-mail jackiecf@verizon.net.
 - Saturday, May 2—Session Lunch with Inquirers**
Friday, May 1—11 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Prep.
Saturday, May 2—9 a.m.-3 p.m. Prep., Serve, Cleanup
 - Wednesday, May 6—Fellowship Supper**
3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Prep, Serve, Cleanup

Deacons' Baby Shower



The Deacons of First Church are sponsoring baby showers for the New York Foundling Hospital on May 10 (Mother's Day) and June 21 (Father's Day). Look for the baby stroller in the lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building after church services on Sundays of May 3 and 10. Drop off your gifts of new infant/children's clothing, blankets, diapers, toys—almost anything for small children can be used. Gifts may be wrapped or unwrapped, but must be new. Your generosity made this a most successful project the last five years, and we ask for your support again on May 10 and June 21.



The Marie Sibilla "Aging Well" Lecture Series



OLDER, WISER, HAPPIER: LIVING DEPRESSION-FREE IN LATER YEARS

Thursday, May 14, 2009
Parlor of the Mellin-Macnab Building

6:00 p.m. Light supper (voluntary contribution)

6:45-8 p.m. Presentation

Speaker: **Edward Franco, MS**

Therapist in private practice,
specializing in older adults

If you plan to join us for supper, please sign up after worship on Sundays, May 3 and 10, or call the FPC receptionist at (212) 675-6150 by Tuesday, May 12.

**Immigrant Rights Activist Roxroy Salmon invites you to an
IMMIGRATION CONVERSATION:
POLITICS & POPCORN**

honoring U.S. REP. EDOLPHUS TOWNS



with 2 films:

“UNTITLED PROJECT ON ROXROY SALMON,” directed by Zach Fox, 5 min. excerpt; and “BORDER STORIES,” directed by John Drew, 5 min. excerpt

and speakers:

WANYONG AUSTIN, immigration attorney;
DAVID L. WILSON, co-author, *The Politics of Immigration*;
and ROXROY SALMON, Brooklyn father fighting deportation

Tuesday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m.

For more information: (917) 579-0199
neildiamondrulz@hotmail.com
justiceisfreedom.wordpress.com

Sponsored by Roxroy Salmon Defense Committee,
NY New Sanctuary Coalition, Families for Freedom

CELEBRATION BRUNCH

**for Children & Youth Choirs,
Church School teachers,
children, and families**

**Sunday, May 17
immediately following worship**

**Sponsored by
the Family Ministries Committee**

All church school children, teachers, choir members, and families are invited to join us for a brunch celebrating the end of our church school year. Brunch will be served in the Morrow Room following morning worship. (Children and youth help lead worship that day!) Please plan to stay for the Young People's Recital and Art Showcase at 12:45 p.m. in the sanctuary.

RSVP for brunch by signing up in the Mellin-Macnab building by Wednesday, May 13.



Children and Youth Recital and Art Showcase

**Sunday, May 17
12:45 p.m.
Sanctuary**

The congregation is invited to an afternoon of music, poetry, and artwork as we celebrate the gifts of the children and youth at First Church. Young people in grades K-12 who are interested in participating in this event should contact the Director of Children and Youth Music via email at fayetimmer@aol.com for more information.

A Month of Sundays

Worship This Month at First Presbyterian

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching

Sacrament: Communion

Grades 2-12 Remain in Worship

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Sermon: The Rev. Barbara E. Davis preaching

Sacrament: Baptism

SUNDAY, MAY 17

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sermon: The Rev. Barbara E. Davis preaching

Reception of New Members

Third Graders Receive Bibles

Grades K-12 Remain in Worship

SUNDAY, MAY 24

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Presbyterian Heritage

Sermon: The Rev. Edee Chase Fenimore preaching

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Pentecost

Pentecost Offering

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching

End of Church School Year SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

Sunday, May 17, will be the last day of Church School until the fall.

On Sunday, May 17, during worship, First Church will present Bibles to the following Church School students completing the third grade:

**Vivien Douglas, Josephine Llewellyn Girand,
Sam Henning, Serena E. Korchak, Juliana Maciel,
Christian Lee Noll, Adrian L. Schwalbe,
and Sophia Won Ahe Suk.**

Also on Sunday, May 17, we celebrate this year's Church School teachers for their dedication and creativity. Current Church School teachers will share their experiences during Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 3, with members interested in teaching next year.

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

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

12 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011

Tel: (212) 675-6150 Fax: (212) 675-8674

<http://www.fpcnyc.org>

Jon M. Walton, Pastor
Sarah Segal McCaslin, Associate Pastor
Barbara E. Davis, Minister of Christian Education
Mark D. Hostetter, Associate Pastor
William F. Entriken, Organist and Choirmaster
Mia Alvar, Communications Supervisor

