

First Notes

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

Volume XVIII Issue 5

May 2010

E-Bible

On a recent flight, I noticed in the airport and on my plane how many people are using electronic books. Kindles and i-Pads and Sony Readers are everywhere. Some friends are now extolling the virtues of having thousands of inexpensive books only seconds away from ordering and delivering and reading via internet transmission. As I looked at people reading books on screens the size of a printed page, I realized that I was looking at a machine capable of replacing my own theological library at the church, or at least most of it, assuming that some day theological texts, commentaries, and religious writings become available on e-readers. I thought, too, about the church library and whether that room dedicated in so many churches to resourcing church school teachers, parents, and general readers might some day be a thing of the past, a relic as quaint as the bridal dressing room or (dare we suggest it?) the church newsletter. I wondered as well, if some day the lectern in the sanctuary might be replaced by a large print Kindle to be used for scripture reading rather than the large bound copy of the Bible which sits there now, a Bible with ribbons of different colors to mark the readings for the day. Perhaps e-readers might become so inexpensive and so ubiquitous that they might replace the pew Bibles. I awoke from that reverie (nightmare?) as the plane's wheels touched down at LaGuardia.

The next day, an article appeared in the New York Times describing a Torah scroll at Central Synagogue where my friend and colleague Peter Rubenstein is rabbi. The article describes how questions came to be raised about a scroll used by the synagogue which purportedly had been sneaked into Auschwitz and saved by a Polish priest after it had been entrusted to him by Jewish prisoners. But with questions about the authen-

ticity of the Auschwitz scroll, a donor in the synagogue purchased a second scroll for the synagogue's use whose authenticity is documented and undeniably traceable to the Holocaust. For Rabbi Rubenstein and his congregants, the Torah's history adds to the veneration that the congregation feels about the scrolls' contents.

What a contrast in the understanding of the value of the printed and hand written page are these two perspectives! With the exception of a rare manuscript such as the 1382 Wycliffe Bible or the 1450 Gutenberg Bible, Protestants don't come close to veneration of a printed Bible, and none vested with the same emotional and spiritual power as a Holocaust scroll. Even so, call me sentimental or call me old fashioned, I think I am far more in the camp of my friends at Central Synagogue than I am those who are e-readers when it comes to Bibles. Not that there is any suggestion that we go to e-Bibles in worship, but for me there is something that adds to the value of scripture when it is printed on paper.

Besides, isn't there something more valuable about inheriting a Bible from the family with worn pages that your mother or grandmother thumbed over the years and has now passed on to you? If my only choice were between a person not having a Bible to read at all and having an e-Bible, I would say take the e-Bible. But all in all I'd rather have the printed Bible. Maybe ten years from now I will read these words and laugh at how old fashioned I was a decade ago, but for the time being, having a Bible with a bit of a history and worn pages in hand beats magnetic dots any day.

Jon M. Walton

ADULT EDUCATION MAY 2010



A JOURNEY WITH PAUL **Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

May 2—First Corinthians, part 2
(The Thoughtful Christian)
The Rev. Sarah S. McCaslin

**May 9—Radical, Liberal,
and Reactionary Paul**
The Rev. Dr. Mark D. Hostetter

**May 16—Paul's Understanding
of the Resurrection**
The Rev. Barbara E. Davis

May 23—Faith, Grace, and Justification
The Rev. Dr. Mark D. Hostetter

May 30—NO CLASS
Memorial Day Weekend



LUNCH 'N LEARN **ECLIPSING EMPIRE:** **PAUL, ROME & THE KINGDOM OF GOD** **Fridays at 12:00 p.m.**

Friday, May 14—Eclipse
The Rev. Barbara E. Davis

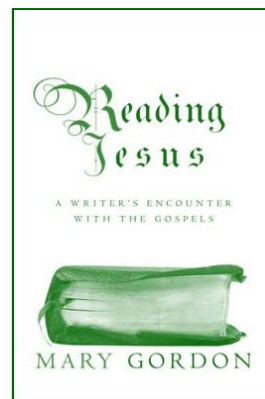
ADULT EDUCATION **WEB EXCLUSIVES!**



The Adult Education Committee encourages you to check out two new additions to the church library!

Reading Jesus: **A Writer's Encounter with the Gospels** **by Mary Gordon**

In *Reading Jesus*, fiction writer and memoirist Mary Gordon reflects personally and thoughtfully on Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John's accounts of the life of Christ. Turning her novelist's eye on such familiar topics as the Prodigal Son and the Beatitudes, Gordon approaches the New Testament with the curiosity, open mind, and skepticism of a non-scholar. As she grapples with the mysteries and contradictions in the gospel stories, Gordon raises questions to intrigue and challenge any believer: what does it mean to be perfect? What exactly is a miracle? And what might people of faith make of the troubling images of Jesus that arise in opposition to the benign Santa-Claus image of Jesus?"

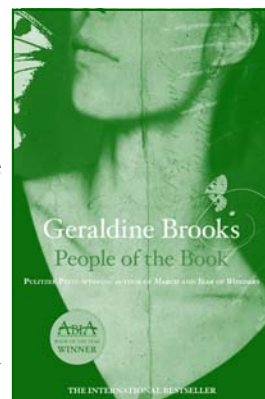


WEB EXCLUSIVE! Read a review of this book by the **Rev. James Speer** online at <http://www.fpcnyc.org/uncategorized/reading-jesus-review>

Don't miss Mary Gordon at First Presbyterian Church! Mark your calendars now to join us on **June 6 at 12:30pm**. For more information see <http://www.fpcnyc.org/first-notes/spring-2010-adult-education-brochure>

People of the Book **by Geraldine Brooks**

People of the Book tells the story of rare-book restorer Hanna Heath and her encounter with the Sarajevo Haggadah, an illuminated Hebrew manuscript from 15th century Spain. We follow Hanna as she traces the origins of the book—all the way from the present, through Sarajevo in 1940, to Seville in 1480—and meets its savior, a Muslim librarian named Karaman. The history of anti-Semitism, the struggle for women's independence, and the transcendent power of art and love all figure into this tale of how a sacred text came to be made, lost, and found.



WEB EXCLUSIVE! Read a review of this book by FPC Adult Education Committee Member **Janet Harris** online at <http://www.fpcnyc.org/uncategorized/people-of-the-book-review>

CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS?

As you cull your books and treasures during Spring Cleaning, please consider boxing up the ones you no longer need and bringing them to the Church for next December's Tartan Fair. Newlyweds, bring us those "what-in-the-world-is-this!" gifts you got. (But, please: no adult clothing and no computer components.) We meet periodically to sort and price your goodies and books. The next session is set for **Saturday, May 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the basement of the Mellin-Macnab Building. Come one, come all!

And as long as you are already thinking of Christmas and the Tartan Fair, it is not too early to join the Fairest team and help us plan the best Tartan Christmas ever. Our regular meetings are on the **second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.**—pizza provided. The next meeting is on **Wednesday, May 12.** Call Joan Ryan at (212) 765-2141 or email joanryan@aol.com to volunteer to work or to be on the Fairest team!

*A Tartan
Christmas*



MILESTONES FOR 3RD GRADERS

Please plan to join us for worship on Sunday, May 2, 2010 to celebrate the growing faith of our third grade Church School participants. Third graders (and a few older students this year!) will receive Bibles from the church during worship. Also on May 2, the 3rd through 12th graders will remain in worship for communion. The third and fourth grade class will have a special program on Communion on Sunday, April 25, during Church School, where they will learn about what we believe about this sacrament as well as how it is prepared, set up, and served by the leaders of the church. Please see the list of bible recipients and be sure to congratulate any of these children you know!

Hannah Shepherd Escobar

Katherine Irene Escobar

Ginger Gordon

Eugenie Blake Haring

Sarah Patricia McCaffrey Hatchett

Diana A. Hewitt

Jack Kneisley

Camille Elise Ladendorf

Annelies Christien Parke

Eric Albert Parke

Alain Rabarisoamihono

Eden Henderson Sherrod

Jiwon Lee Simpkins

Benjamin Wallace Smith

Prez Bolt Thomas (4th grade)

Deborah Elizabeth Escobar (6th grade)

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, May 23



On Sunday, May 23, this year's confirmation class will be welcomed into membership during the 11:00 a.m. service. Confirmation is an important time in the life of our youth, when they explore not only the foundations of their faith but also the questions they have about those beliefs. Join us on Sunday, May 23 to celebrate this wonderful class of confirmands: *Malcolm McGiness Girand, Verona C. Gowrie, Sinead McLagan Larkin, Sophia Naro Maciel, Eric William Muscosky, Justin Paul Myrick, Isabella Jasper Picallo, Fletcher Charles Sherrod, and Lydia Lizhen White.*

MAY 2010 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Confirmation Breakfast with Families

Sunday, May 23 at 11:00 a.m.

Confirmation Class Received as Members in Worship
Celebration of Children and Youth Sunday/Pentecost

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>2 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>Communion/Dr. Walton preaching</i> <i>Gr 3-12 Remain in Worship</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Pre-Baptism Meeting 12:30 Adult Education 12:30 Family Ministries</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community ♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p>	<p>4 <i>Take down artwork</i></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community ♥ 6:15 A.A. Groups</p>
<p>9 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Mother's Day</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education 10:00 Confirmation Breakfast 10:00 Youth Music Ministry (Grades 5-12) 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>Baptism/Children & Youth Sing (tent.)</i> <i>Dr. Walton preaching</i> 11:20 Church School/Music Time for 3-4 Year Olds and K-1st Grade 12:00 Children's Music Ministry (Grades 2-4) 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥</p>	<p>10 SCHOOLS CLOSED</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community ♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <p>First Notes and Calendar Due</p> </div>	<p>11 9 to 5 Caring Community</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups 6:30 Buildings and Grounds 6:30 Personnel</p>
<p>16 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education 10:00 Youth Music Ministry (Grades 5-12) 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>Reception of New Members/Dr. Hostetter preaching</i> 11:20 Church School/Music Time for 3-4 Year Olds and K-1st Grade 12:00 Children's Music Ministry (Grades 2-4) 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Adult Education</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community ♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community ♥ 9:00 N.S. Information Meeting 6:15 A.A. Groups 7:00 House Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESBYTERY</p>
<p>23 <i>Pentecost</i> Children & Youth Recital & Art Showcase</p> <p><i>Pentecost Offering/Celebration of Children & Youth</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>Confirmation Class Received in Worship</i> <i>The Rev. Davis preaching/K-12th Grade Remain in Worship</i> 11:20 Church School (last day) 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Choir and Church School Brunch/Adult Education 1:30 Literary Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community ♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00 N.S. Parents' Breakfast 9 to 5 Caring Community ♥ 6:15 A.A. Groups</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <p>First Notes Mailing Team ♥</p> </div>
<p>30 <i>Trinity Sunday/Presbyterian Heritage</i></p> <p>NO Adult Education</p> <p>10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>The Rev. McCaslin preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥</p>	<p>31 <i>N.S. Closed</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Staff Holiday</i></p>	

MAY 2010

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f0e0;"> <p>DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2010 FIRST NOTES: MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010</p> </div>			<p>1</p> <p>5:30 Wedding Macino/Phend <i>Dr. Walton, officiant</i></p>
<p>5</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers</p> <p>6:00 Wednesday Worship 6:30 Fellowship Supper Committees Meet</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al-Anon</p> <p>7:00 60+ Circle Committee 8:00 NA Solutions</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p>6:15 NA/D.A. Groups 6:30 Nursery School Spring Auction</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 Inquirers' Class 12:00 Session Lunch with Inquirers</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 6:30 Tartan Fair Meeting 6:30 Candidates Committee 6:30 Advisory Committee 7:00 New Sanctuary Movement</p>	<p>13 <i>Ascension of the Lord</i></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al-Anon</p> <p>8:00 NA Solutions</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open 12:00 Lunch 'n Learn</p> <p>6:15 NA/D.A. Groups</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Midday Prayers</p> <p>6:30 Deacons/Trustees</p>	<p>20 <i>New School Graduation</i></p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al Anon</p> <p>6:00 Marie Sibilla "Aging Well" Lecture Series 8:00 NA Solutions</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p>6:15 NA/DA Groups 6:30 New Member Reception <i>(March and May)</i></p>	<p>22</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 9:00 Planning Meeting 10:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Midday Prayers 6:30 Session</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al Anon</p> <p>6:30 N.S. Board Meeting 8:00 NA Solutions</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p>6:15 NA/DA Groups</p>	<p>29</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>DEACONS FOR THE MONTH:</p> <p>Rebecca Johnson (201) 433-8272</p> <p>Rita Johnson (212) 777-2068</p> </div>			

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, contact **HEATHER MEE** at (212) 366-0341 or hmee@earthlink.net.
- **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 **Tuesday, May 25**. Call **PAULETTE GRIEFEN** at (212) 942-0620 to help.
- **LAYREADERS** – 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.

Wednesday, May 5—Fellowship Supper

3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Prep, Serve, Cleanup

Saturday, May 8—Session Lunch with Inquirers

Friday, May 7—11 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Prep.

Sat., May 8—9 a.m.-3 p.m. Prep., Serve, Cleanup

Upcoming 60+ Circle Events

The Marie Sibilla “Aging Well” Lecture Series

Thursday, May 20

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE Film Screening and Discussion

Discussion led
by The Rev. Dr. Jon Walton

The 60+ Circle Committee invites people of all ages to a screening of the 1999 made-for-TV adaptation of Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays With Morrie*, starring Jack Lemmon. After the movie, which runs 89 minutes, Dr. Jon Walton will lead a discussion of the issues raised by the film.

Place: Parlor of the Mellin-Macnab Building
Light Supper available at 6:00 p.m. for \$5.00
(Please be sure to sign up if you plan to eat.)
Movie and discussion will start at 6:45 p.m.

*Sign up after worship on Sundays, May 9 and 16,
or by calling the FPC receptionist by Tuesday, May 18.*

Overnight Trip to Stony Point in July Sponsored by The 60+ Circle Committee

Focus: PEACE & JUSTICE Discussion Leader: VIRGINIA BARON

The 60+ Circle Committee is pleased to sponsor an overnight trip to PC (USA)'s Stony Point Conference Center for 12 people who would like to participate in a program focused on peace and justice, issues which are central to the work of the Center. Stony Point is the headquarters of the 60-year-old Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and hosts the Community of Living Traditions, a multi-faith residential community dedicated to peace and nonviolence.

FPC member Virginia Baron will be the discussion leader, drawing on her extensive involvement in efforts to make the world a more peaceful, just place.

Dates: Thursday, July 22; and Friday, 23
Cost: \$145 per person

*Included in cost: Van to and from Stony Point
Overnight accommodation at Stony Point (double occupancy)
4 meals at Stony Point*

Ticket for Thursday evening Penguin Rep Theater performance

*To sign up for this trip,
please call Michael Clay at (201) 792-9062.*

DEACONS' BABY SHOWERS



The Deacons of First Church are again sponsoring baby showers for the New York Foundling Hospital on May 9 (Mother's Day) and June 20 (Father's Day). Look for the baby stroller in the lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building after Sunday church services on May 2 and May 9, and drop off your gifts on or next to the stroller. Gifts must be new and may be wrapped or unwrapped. Virtually anything for infants, small children, or new mothers/fathers can be donated. This year, Foundling Hospital has a specific need for umbrella strollers, toys with lights and sound, and assorted batteries for toys. Other possible gifts include infant/small children's clothing, blankets, and diapers. Gift cards for new mothers/fathers are also welcome. Your generosity made this a most successful project the last six years, and we ask for your support again.



LOCAL WORK PROJECTS FOR MAY sponsored by the Mission Service Committee

CARDINAL SPELLMAN SOUP KITCHEN

Saturday, May 8 from 11:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

5 people needed. Call Suzanne Mecs at (212) 677-3890 to sign up.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Saturday, May 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

5 people needed. Call Kurt Regush at (646) 428-5180 to sign up

FPC FENCE PAINTING ON 12TH STREET

Saturday, May 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (all or any part thereof)

6 people needed. Call Dick Pease at FPC, (212) 675-6150, to sign up. If he's not available, please leave a message including your phone number.

FPC FENCE PAINTING ON 12TH STREET

Saturday, May 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (all or any part thereof)

6 people needed. Sign up as for previous week.



“Gifts of the Spirit” Children and Youth Recital and Art Showcase

Sunday, May 23 at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Paul wrote to the congregation in Corinth, “There are many gifts, but the same Spirit.” Come celebrate the abundant gifts of the children and youth of First Presbyterian. This afternoon of music, poetry, and artwork will feature young people from grades K through 12. For more information, or to sign up to be on the program, contact Emily Scott, Director of Family Music Ministries, at escott@fpcnyc.org.

A Month of Sundays

May Worship at FPC

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Sacrament: Communion
Grades 3 through 12 Remain in Worship

SUNDAY, MAY 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mothers' Day

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

Sacrament: Baptism
Children & Youth Sing in Worship

SUNDAY, MAY 16

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Mark D. Hostetter preaching
Reception of New Members

SUNDAY, MAY 23

Pentecost/Pentecost Offering

Celebration of Children and Youth

Sermon: The Rev. Barbara E. Davis preaching

Sacrament: Confirmation
K through Grade 12 Remain in Worship

SUNDAY, MAY 30

Trinity Sunday

Presbyterian Heritage

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah S. McCaslin preaching

DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2010

FIRST NOTES:

MONDAY, MAY 10

DEACONS FOR THE MONTH:

Rebecca Johnson

(201) 433-8272

Rita Johnson

(212) 777-2068

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
Emily Scott, Director of Family Music Ministries

