

First Notes

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

Volume XX Issue 1

January 2012

A New Year, A New Beginning

At the beginning of the new year we never know what may happen, but we do have some idea of what is planned. I'm looking forward to the new year because it's going to bring a great deal of measurable change to our building and facilities. For the past three years, those of you who have been supporting the capital campaign, First for the Future, have been patiently waiting for signs of progress and improvement in the Mellin-Macnab Building. Behind the scenes and almost without being noticed, some significant changes have been underway. Not only have architectural plans been prepared for the renovation of the Mellin-Macnab Building, but important achievements have been reached.

Among the important accomplishments has been approval by the Landmarks Commission of the first phases of work on the interior and landscaping of the Twelfth Street Entrance. Completed work includes the new roof and playground area at the top of the building. This work, which had been planned for later in the project, was moved forward because of water infiltration, mold and mildew damage. With the purchase of new playground equipment by the Nursery School, the roof is renewed and usable again. New windows were installed throughout the building with the exception of the lobby, and teachers during the week and on Sundays already notice that the rooms are less drafty and it is no longer necessary to wear a sweater to keep warm on cold autumn days.

Next steps in the project will include the completion of sidewalk

replacement, an element that was visible to all of our neighbors as well as our congregation throughout the early fall. This aspect of the project will be finished when a new water main is brought into the building on the Northwest side of the building to service the new sprinkler system. ConEdison and an electrical contractor have finished the installation of a new electrical delivery system and increased capacity to sustain the air conditioning and increased load of energy needed in the years ahead. Windows in the lobby will be replaced and a new glass vestibule and doors will be arriving soon thereafter. As winter approached, a new boiler and water circulating heating system was installed in the building, and soon there will be significant renovation to the lobby, lower level and parlor/library floors of the building. Offices will be moved to the South Wing during construction and eventually relocated to the lower level of the Mellin-Macnab Building.

As we look toward to the completion of these next phases of the project, an invitation will be offered to current donors to extend their support and new members will be invited to participate in the campaign to pay for these efforts. The total for renovations is \$15,000,000, of which more than \$10,000,000 was raised in 2008 through pledges and outright gifts. As the new year dawns, we will close the gap between the goal and the committed support and your help will be needed.

Stay tuned and please give thought and prayer to the role you can play in helping our congregation's dreams come to reality. You'll be hearing more very soon.

The Rev. Dr. Jon M. Walton

Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York will be held following the morning worship service and an all-member brunch on Sunday, January 29, 2012, in the Great Hall, on the second floor of the South Wing.

The business meeting will begin at approximately 1:15 p.m. in the church sanctuary and will last about an hour. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, to receive reports of the joint boards on financial results for 2011, and to review the 2012 budget. A printed Annual Report, including reports from the ministers, boards, and committees, will be available Sunday, January 22, for review before the meeting.

The Nominating Committee, elected by the congregation last January, has been working diligently to prepare a slate of officers to serve on the Session, the Board of Deacons, and the Board of Trustees to replace elders, deacons, and trustees who are retiring this year. This slate of officers will appear in the Annual Report.

There will be no Coffee Hour that Sunday. Visitors are welcome to attend the brunch and meeting, although only Active Members are eligible to vote. To reserve your place for brunch, please sign up in the lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building. A free-will donation will be taken at the brunch.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: FPC EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES THIS MONTH



The Presbyterian Hymnal Project

The biblical narrative contains many references to singing joyfully to our God. In every generation we are called to claim our song and bear witness to what God is doing in the

world. In 2004, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) authorized the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and the Office of Theology and Worship to begin work on a new Presbyterian hymnal.

On **Sunday, January 15 at 9:45 a.m.**, please join **David Eicher**, Hymnal Editor with the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, for a discussion on the New Presbyterian Hymnal Project, an undertaking that will result in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (2013). The new hymnal intends to make available a wealth of hymns and spiritual songs that have arisen since the 1990 hymnal, to acquaint worshipers with resources from Christian communities around the world and to review the great heritage of congregational songs that have been passed on to us from past generations. David will discuss the process used by the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song for selecting hymns, the reasons for a new hymnal now, the challenges of publishing a modern hymnal in an electronic age, how the new hymnal will be organized and the influence praise music, global music and contemporary hymns have had on the selection.



READING THE QUR'AN FOR CHRISTIANS: THEOLOGY OF THE QUR'AN Sundays at 12:30 p.m. with the Imam Khalil Abdur-Rashid January 15 and 22, February 5 and 19, March 4 and 11

This is a six-week course on the six essential pillars of faith in Islam—belief in God, His angels, His books, His messengers, the Day of Judgment and Divine Destiny—as explained in the Qur'an. Each class session will be devoted to an examination of one of the pillars of the Qur'anic theology. Students will learn what it means to believe in each pillar, why such a belief is necessary, the benefit of having such a belief and how maintaining such a belief is relevant to being a believer in the Qur'anic sense. The content of this course will consist of readings from several verses from the Qur'an, occasionally excerpts from Qur'anic commentary, and class discussions. **Recommended Text:** *The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an* (Amana Publications), translated by Abdullah Yusuf Ali—available online at Amazon.com as well as in major bookstores such as the Strand and Barnes & Noble.



Khalil Abdur-Rashid serves as Imam and Executive Director of Iqra Mosque in Brooklyn, New York and as Columbia University's Muslim Religious Life Advisor. Imam Khalil received his BSW degree in social work from Georgia State University; completed a specialization program in Islamic Law at the Dar al-Mustafa Institute in Yemen; and earned an MA in Islamic law at Marmara University and a doctorate in Islamic law from the Mirani Seminary, both in Turkey. He is currently a PhD student at Columbia University, specializing in Islamic Law and Bioethics; and teaches at NYU's Wagner School of Public Service.

INTERFAITH BOOK GROUP

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

January 18, February 8, March 21 and April 18

Led by the Rev. Barbara E. Senecal-Davis
in conjunction with Fellows from Faith Acts Group*

Led by the Rev. Senecal-Davis and this year's NYC Faiths Act Fellows,* the Interfaith Social Justice Book Group will begin by reading *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. From two of our most fiercely moral voices, *Half the Sky* is a passionate call to action against the oppression of women and girls in the developing world. Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn guide us on an eye-opening odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet the extraordinary women struggling there, among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered devastating injuries in childbirth. Drawing on their combined reporting experience, Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and, ultimately, hope.

Over the course of 4 sessions, individuals from a wide variety of faith backgrounds will come together to reflect on the book and share how their own religious traditions shape their reading of the text as well as their commitment to social justice.

Please contact The Rev. Barbara E. Senecal-Davis for information. The group is very limited in size and participation is at the discretion of the leadership. *For more information about Faiths Act, please visit www.faithsact.org.

HALF THE SKY

TURNING OPPRESSION
INTO OPPORTUNITY
FOR WOMEN WORLDWIDE

Nicholas D. Kristof
and Sheryl WuDunn



LUNCH 'N LEARN:



Friday, January 20 at 12:00 p.m. *The Rev. Barbara E. Senecal-Davis*

“With the buzz around the book and then the film version of THE DA VINCI CODE reaching a fever pitch and The PASSION OF THE CHRIST ranked among the 10 highest-grossing movies ever, what is it about religion that’s got America hooked? It’s an old debate between absolutes, the contrasting viewpoints of belief and disbelief that stirs the passions....What could be more salient to the discussion of faith and reason in a time of polarized passions than to ask our creative minds from the world of literature for guidance through the absolutes and ambiguities of our age? In negotiating our way into the gray world between faith and reason, we need all the help we can get.”

—Bill Moyers

In 2006, Bill Moyers talked with some of the voices at the PEN World Voices Festival about their struggles with faith and reason. While much has transpired in the public conversation about faith and reason in the last five years, the writers Mr. Moyers talked to then continue to write and wrestle with these issues. During this lunchtime series, participants will watch one of Bill Moyer’s interviews with a selected writer and then discuss the issues of faith and reason raised in the interview.

Please bring your own lunch. The group meets in the library for these adventurous discussions.



January 20: Richard Rodriguez writes about the intersection of his personal life with America’s most vexing cultural and political issues. The son of Mexican immigrants, Rodriguez described his struggles to assimilate into American society in *Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez*, an autobiography that remains controversial today for its criticism of bilingual education and affirmative action. Rodriguez is also the author of *Days of Obligation: An Argument with My Mexican Father* and *Brown: The Last Discovery of America*, a series of essays on art, culture and racial politics. Rodriguez is a contributing editor to *Harper’s* magazine and commentator on *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* on PBS.

UPCOMING SESSIONS

February 10: Margaret Atwood

March 16: Will Power

BREAKFAST REPRISE:

LUNCH 'N LEARN FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

January 22 and 29

The Rev. Barbara E. Senecal-Davis and Ms. Sarah Cairatti



This past fall, participants in our Friday Lunch 'n Learn program watched selected interviews from Bill Moyers’s *Faith and Reason* series and then discussed the issues raised in the interviews. This Friday lunch series has been so powerful and nourishing, we had to bring a few sessions to Sunday mornings! Join us as we watch fantastic interviews from Bill Moyers’s *Faith and Reason* series on PBS followed by a discussion. **On January 22, we’ll watch the interview with Mary Gordon and on January 29 the interview with David Grossman.**

To learn more about “Bill Moyers on Faith and Reason” or to watch the interviews online, please go to www.pbs.org/moyers/faithandreason.



CHILD CARE AVAILABLE!

*Don’t forget that **child care for children under age 3** is offered on the third floor of the Mellin-Macnab Building from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sundays for parents who wish to attend educational programs or the 11:00 a.m. worship service.*

Qigong at First

Mondays at 5:45 p.m. starting January 23

The next series of classes in Qi Gong will begin on Monday evening, January 23, 2012, from 5:45-6:30 p.m. The classes will run until Monday, March 26. We welcome all to this moving meditation that can be done standing or seated. The slow progression of movements originated thousands of years ago. The spiritual and physical dimensions of this discipline resonate in the body and spirit. A donation of \$5 per class is appreciated.

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

First Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>1 <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> <i>New Year's Day</i></p> <p>NO Family Music Ministries NO Exploring Our Faith NO Church School</p> <p>9:30 Child Care 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>The Rev. Senecal-Davis preaching</i> 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Family Ministries 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Staff Holiday</i></p> <p>8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>3 <i>N.S. Re-opens</i></p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>
<p>8 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i></p> <p>9:30 Child Care 10:00 Family Hymn Sing 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>Communion</i> <i>The Rev. McCaslin preaching</i> 11:20 Church School/Music Time for 3-4 Year Olds and K-1st Grade 12:00 Children's Music Ministry 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Confirmation for Parents 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">First Notes and Calendar Due</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups 6:30 Joint Finance Committee 6:30 Personnel Committee 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>
<p>15 <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:30 Child Care 9:45 Exploring Our Faith 11:00 Worship ♥ <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 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Exploring Our Faith: Reading the Qur'an for Christians 12:30 Pre-Baptism Meeting 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.</p> <p><i>Staff Holiday</i></p> <p>8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups 7:00 House Committee 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>
<p>22 <i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:30 Child Care 9:45 Baby and Toddler Worship 9:45 Breakfast Reprise of Lunch 'n Learn: Faith & Reason series 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>Baptism—Dr. Walton preaching</i> 11:15 Confirmation Kick-Off 11:20 Church School/Music Time for 3-4 Year Olds and K-1st Grade 12:00 Children's Music Ministry 12:15 Coffee Hour ♥ 12:30 Exploring Our Faith: Reading the Qur'an for Christians 12:30 Ecclesia Event for Youth: Hunger and Homelessness 1:00 Literary Group 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open 5:45 Qigong 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>
<p>29 <i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:30 Child Care 9:45 Breakfast Reprise of Lunch 'n Learn: Faith & Reason series 10:00 Children's & Youth Music Ministry Rehearsal 11:00 Worship ♥ <i>Reception of New Members—Dr. Walton preaching</i> <i>First for the Future Minute for Mission; Children & Youth Sing</i> 12:00 Children's Music Ministry 12:30 Annual Meeting Brunch 2:30 Trustees Meet to Elect Officers Session Examines New Deacons/Elders 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">1:00 ANNUAL MEETING</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open 5:45 Qigong 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESBYTERY</p>

JANUARY 2012

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Organ Meditation</p> <p>6:00 Wednesday Worship 6:30 Fellowship Supper Committees Meet 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:15 Al-Anon</p> <p>6:00 Twelfth Night Party 7:00 CWSW 7:00 60+ Circle Committee Mtg. 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>6 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p>6:00 CWSW 6:15 NA/D.A. Groups 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>11</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Organ Meditation 12:15 60+ Wednesday Circle</p> <p>8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:15 Al-Anon</p> <p>8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p>6:15 NA/D.A. Groups 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS DUE</p> </div>	<p>14</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 Lenten Planning Meeting 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Organ Meditation 12:15 60+ Wednesday Circle 6:30 Interfaith Book Group 6:30 Deacons/Trustees 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:15 Al Anon</p> <p>6:30 N.S. Board Meeting 6:30 Marie Sibilla "Aging Well" Lecture Series 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00 Sanctuary Open 12:00 Lunch 'n Learn</p> <p>6:15 NA/DA Groups 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 Inquirers' Class</p> <p>12:00 Session Lunch with Inquirers</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Organ Meditation 12:15 60+ Wednesday Circle</p> <p>6:30 Session 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:15 Al Anon</p> <p>8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <p>First Notes Mailing Team ♥</p> </div>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00 Wedding Rehearsal Jeffords/Moreau <i>Dr. Walton, officiant</i></p> <p>6:15 NA/DA Groups 8:45 Homeless Shelter ♥</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 N.S. Puppet Show</p> <p>4:30 Wedding Jeffords/Moreau <i>Dr. Walton, officiant</i></p>
<p><i>The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York</i> 12 West 12th Street (at Fifth Avenue) New York, NY 10011 Tel: (212) 675-6150 Fax: (212) 675-8674</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>DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY 2012 FIRST NOTES: MONDAY, JANUARY 9</p>	
		<p>ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS ARE DUE ON JANUARY 13, 2012</p>	
		<p>DEACONS FOR THE MONTH Elizabeth White-Pultz (212) 567-5546 Lisa Wolfe (212) 755-6317</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, 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.
- **LAYREADERS** – Those interested in participating as lay readers are asked to contact **DENISE HOLNESS JACKSON** at (212) 675-4366 or dlhj138@gmail.com.
- **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, January 26**. Call **PAULETTE GRIEFEN** at (212) 942-0620 to help.
- **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, or **NADINE STEWART** at (212) 206-7725 or nadineanddavid@rcn.com.
- **HOMELESS SHELTER**—Volunteers are needed. Please email homeless_shelter@yahoo.com or call (212) 741-8620 for more information.
- **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, January 4—Fellowship Supper

3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Prep, Serve, Clean-up

Saturday, January 21—Session Lunch w/ Inquirers

Friday, January 20—11 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Prep.

Sat., January 21—9 a.m.-3 p.m. Prep., Serve, Cleanup

Sunday, January 29—Annual Brunch and Meeting

Friday, January 27—11:00-4:00 p.m. Preparation

Saturday, January 28—11:00-4:00 p.m. Prep.

Sunday, January 30—9:00-11:00 a.m. Prep

Sunday, January 30—12:30-3 p.m. Prep, Serve, Cleanup

THE 60+ WEDNESDAY CIRCLE WEEKLY LUNCH PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

- January 4:** No lunch, no program
- January 11:** FPC member Virginia Baron on “**Searching for Peace in Bethlehem: Stories of Nonviolence**”
- January 18:** Nicole Berger, Site Coordinator of P.S. 226 at FPC, on **Autism**
- January 25:** Tour of the newly renovated **New York Historical Society** including the film “New York Story”

PLACE: Mezzanine of the South Wing **LUNCH** (\$5.00) at 12:15 p.m. **PROGRAM:** 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

ENTER through the main door of the church. **SIGN UP** by the preceding Monday on poster in lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building or by phoning the FPC receptionist at (212) 675-6150.

ORGAN RECITAL: If you arrive between noon and 12:15, please sit and enjoy the organ recital by Dr. Entriken.



The Marie Sibilla “Aging Well” Lecture Series END-OF-LIFE ISSUES (INCLUDING SPECIFICS APPLICABLE TO NEW YORK STATE)

Thursday, January 19 in the Mellin-Macnab Parlor, 2nd floor
The Rev. Martha R. Jacobs, author and certified Chaplain since 1998

Light Supper—6:00 p.m. (\$5.00 charge)

Program and Discussion—6:45 to 8:15 p.m.

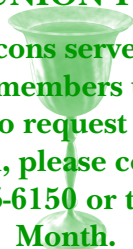
Information & reservations at reception desk or by calling (212) 675-6150.

If you plan to eat with us, please make a reservation by Tuesday, January 17.

ALL AGES AND COMMUNITY WELCOME

COMMUNION FOR ALL

The Board of Deacons serves the sacrament of Communion to members unable to attend worship services. To request Communion, or for more information, please contact the Church office at (212) 675-6150 or the Deacons of the Month.



BABY AND TODDLER WORSHIP

Sunday, January 22 at 9:45 a.m.

Baby and Toddler Worship is an opportunity for families with young children (2 years old and under) to worship God through singing, storytelling, and activities. Snacks are provided and opportunities are available to learn more about child care on Sundays and Church School. Siblings of any age are always welcome. **RSVP to families@fpcnyc.org with “Baby and Toddler Worship” in the subject line.**

Budget and Pledge Update: *Have you made your pledge yet?*



Thank you to everyone who has submitted a pledge for the 2012 church budget. Your willingness to make your pledge enables First Church to responsibly create its budget for 2012. The dollar amount of pledges to the 2012 Annual Fund has reached \$922,391 as of December 23, 2011. First Presbyterian Church needs your commitment to ensure that the ministry and mission of the church continue. Please show your commitment to the church and the fellowship of our community by making a pledge to the 2012 Annual Fund. **Our goal this year is 100% participation.**

To make a pledge, you may

- (a) download and print a pledge card through the church website at www.fpcnyc.org/sermons-media.html (click on the section "Forms and Reports");
- (b) complete the pledge form available in the pews of the sanctuary;
- (c) send an e-mail to annualfund@fpcnyc.org with the amount of your pledge; or
- (d) call the Business Office (212) 675-6150 and tell Susan Tedesco the amount of your pledge.

If we join together, we will maintain and grow the ministry and mission of First Church.

Warmest wishes this holiday season,
Michael Scott, Chair of the Annual Fund Committee

CONFIRMATION STARTS IN JANUARY!

This winter our 7th-8th grade youth will begin the confirmation process.

CONFIRMATION FOR PARENTS: Sunday, January 8 at 12:30 p.m.

Parents of 7th-8th graders and parents who have had youth go through the confirmation in the previous two confirmation sessions are invited to join the Rev. Barbara E. Senecal-Davis for this special new program. If you have ever wondered what our youth study in confirmation or been curious about the topics and faith formation they encounter, this is your chance to be in their shoes! Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience confirmation from the inside out.

CONFIRMATION KICK-OFF: Sunday, January 22 at 11:15 a.m.

Youth in 7th and 8th grade (or older who have not been through confirmation) are invited to join the Rev. Barbara E. Senecal-Davis on Sunday, January 22 for the first session of this spring's confirmation journey! Please feel free to contact the Rev. Senecal-Davis at bdavis@fpcnyc.org if you have any questions or are interested in signing up for confirmation but cannot attend the January 22 meeting.

Parents, please register your youth for Confirmation in advance at www.fpcnyc.org/parents-and-kids/confirmation.



THANK YOU!

December's Advent Shelter Night for families was a time of food, fellowship, singing and service as children of all ages and their loved ones prepared to usher Christ into their midst. Youth cooked dinner while children created cards and gift bags for our shelter guests.



Parent Reading List: Raising Spiritually Healthy Children

In the introduction to her book, *99 Ways to Raise Spiritually Healthy Children*, Kathleen Long Bostrom reminds us that "Even the tasks that may seem unrelated to faith, such as proportioning out the daily chores or deciding how we handle our finances, are reflections of our faith in a living, loving and forgiving God. God does not expect us to be perfect. God abounds in grace, and we rely on that grace over and over again as we raise our children." Her list is not (nor is it meant to be) a conclusive guide to raising spiritually healthy children, but it is a great start!



WEB EXCLUSIVE! To encourage parents to consider these 99 suggestions, the Rev. Barbara E. Davis highlights one topic in a special web exclusive article each month. Look for this month's article online! Copies of the book *99 Ways* will be available in the Church library for parents to borrow and can also be purchased at thethoughtfulchristian.com or amazon.com.

A Month of Sundays

January Worship at FPC

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

First Sunday after Christmas—New Year's Day

Sermon: The Rev. Senecal-Davis preaching

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Baptism of the Lord

Sermon: The Rev. McCaslin preaching

Sacrament: Communion

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: Dr. Walton preaching

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: Dr. Walton preaching

Sacrament: Baptism

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: Dr. Walton preaching

Reception of New Members

Children and Youth Sing in Worship

Minute for Mission: *First for the Future*

BRUNCH

before the Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2012

In the South Wing
immediately after the Service

Sign-up sheets will be
available in the lobby of the
Mellin-Macnab Building after church
on Sundays, January 8, 15 and 22.

*A free-will donation will be collected
at the brunch — (\$10.00 suggested)*

**ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS
ARE DUE ON JANUARY 13, 2012**

DEACONS FOR THE MONTH

Elizabeth White-Pultz (212) 567-5546

Lisa Wolfe (212) 755-6317

**DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY 2012
FIRST NOTES: MONDAY, JANUARY 9**

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. Senecal-Davis, Minister of Christian Education

Mark D. Hostetter, Associate Pastor

William F. Entriken, Organist and Choirmaster

Emily Scott, Director of Family Music Ministries

