

First Notes

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

Volume XVII Issue 4

April 2009

Thank You from Dr. Walton

I want to thank all of you who have expressed your concern and prayerful support of me since February 9, when I underwent open heart surgery. I am humbled by the outpouring of affection that has come my way in these past weeks and grateful for the encouragement that so many in the congregation have provided me. From the prayer vigil that took place on the day of my surgery to the avalanche of mail, get-well cards, flowers, food, books, and offers of help that have come my way, there is no way I can express the depth of my appreciation.

This flood of concern benefited not only me but many others as well. Twenty-three people, for instance—parishioners, colleagues in the Presbytery, and friends—each gave a unit of blood prior to my surgery, filling the blood bank at NYU Medical Center and benefiting not only me but many other patients as well.

My recovery has had its ups and downs, just as I expected it would—for instance, a longer stay in the hospital than I would have liked. While I am not as strong as I would like to be, I am making good progress. I hope to enter cardiac rehabilitation within the next week, and that should move things forward more rapidly. If all continues to go as I expect, I should be able to

return to preach and lead in worship on Easter Sunday.

I want to thank Rev. K.C. Ptomey for his willingness to drop everything and come to be with us as our stated supply pastor; and Rev. Katharine Henderson, who has moderated the Session in my absence. I also appreciate the tireless efforts of Rev. Barbara Davis to hold things together; Rev. Sarah McCaslin, who is now enjoying the arrival of Claire Anne McCaslin, born March 10th; and Rev. Edee Fenimore, who has stepped in to support the congregation during Sarah's family leave. And, as always, thanks to Betty Jones, our Clerk of Session, who has kept the church in one piece.

Because my return on April 12, Easter Sunday, is a day which belongs to the highest of Christian celebrations and the focus of our attention and joy should be on the resurrection, I hope you will understand that I will not make reference to my recent illness or focus attention on myself, but rather emphasize the joy and hope we all draw from the good news of God's love which no earthly power, not even death itself, can overcome. Nonetheless, it will be a great joy to see you again soon, and I give thanks for all that you have done to speed that day.

Jon M. Walton

For the Living of These Days

PALM SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY
Sunday, April 5, at 9:00 a.m.

Among the Crowd in Jericho—Mark 10:46-52
 The Rev. Barbara E. Davis



GOSPEL TALK

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Resurrection Appearances in the Gospels
April 19 & 26, and May 3

Great for curious bible readers of all experience levels.

WHAT DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE ABOUT...?

Sunday, April 26 at 12:30 p.m.

The Trinity, part 1

The Rev. Barbara E. Davis

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.

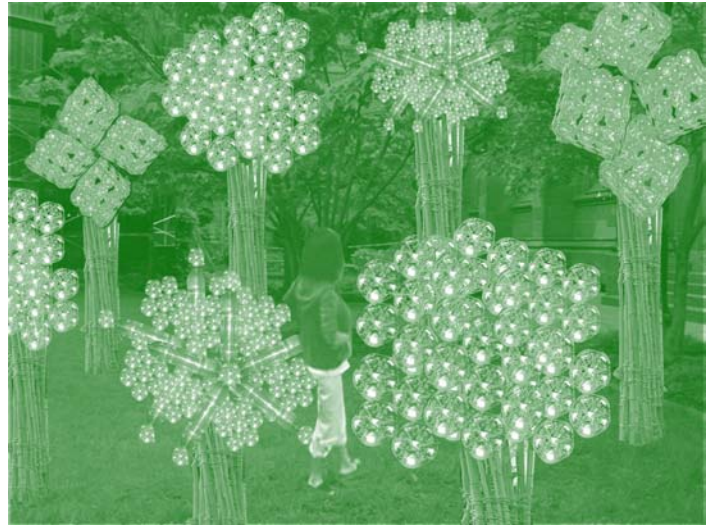
Please bring your own lunch and join us for these conversations in response to the DVD series "Living the Questions." Bring your questions and your spirit of curiosity and join us for these lively discussions.

The Myth of Redemptive Violence
April 24



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.

TREE GEMS **EARTH DAY ART INSTALLATION**



Contribute, Participate, Celebrate!
Help Create an Earth Day Artwork

Bring in your plastic bottles!

We need your empty clear plastic bottles to include in an art project for Earth Day, April 22nd. New York artists Barbara Lubliner and Thea Lanzisero will be using your donated clear plastic bottles to compose a special and extremely beautiful earth-sensitive installation titled "Tree Gems" for the South Lawn. Look for the collection boxes as you enter the church and Mellin-Macnab buildings, and thanks for your bottles!

Join the artists in the workshops below!

Saturday, March 28

Wednesday, April 1

Saturday, April 4

Thursday, April 9

Saturday, April 11

Monday-Friday, April 13-17

Saturday, April 18

All workshops take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Visit the artists' websites!

<http://www.thealanzisero.com>

<http://www.barbaralubliner.com>

氣功
 qi gong

Qi Gong at First

Qi Gong classes will resume Monday, May 4, at 5:45 p.m. and run until June 29.

All are welcome.

STAFF APPRECIATION

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church is proud of the men and women on the church staff and grateful for their work. We appreciate the way in which they go about their work and their presence in our community. Each month, *First Notes* will recognize and honor two members of our staff. This month we focus on Tony Feliciano, Sexton, and Keith Blacknall, Assistant Sexton. Say hello to them when you see them!

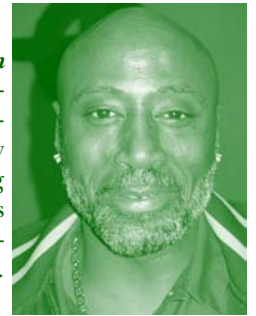


TONY FELICIANO, Sexton

As the Sexton of First Presbyterian Church, Tony manages the space and time logistics for every church event—from the Sunday service to meetings, for the congregation as well as for outside groups. He supervises the custodial staff. Tony is responsible for keeping the church buildings up to city code requirements, and he is the “go-to guy” for just about everything. “A lot goes on here, seven days a week,” says Tony. “You know, we are even open on Sunday!” Tony began working at First Church in the summer of 1996. He keeps his focus by occasionally riding his Kawasaki Ninja sport bike through New York City traffic: “I can’t be thinking about any room set-ups when I am on the bike. It keeps me sane.” In Tony’s own words, “I feel fortunate to be working in a place where I enjoy what I do.” Tony has been on two Mission trips to Nicaragua.

KEITH BLACKNALL, Assistant Sexton

Keith joined the staff at First Presbyterian Church in 1995. He assists Tony Feliciano in all aspects of managing the space and events at First Church. A priority is taking care of the Homeless Shelter. Keith arrives at the church each morning at 5:30 to assist the guests to the Shelter bus. Then he miraculously transforms the Parlor from a shelter into a room for meetings and other activities. Keith enjoys playing chess and watching sports, particularly basketball and football. He is a Giants and Jets fan, but his heart is with the Miami Dolphins. Keith has a brother, Quentin, also on the staff, and lives with his thirteen-year-old daughter Imani.



TARTAN FAIR SPRING YARD SALE

Saturday, May 9 (Rain Date: Saturday, May 16)

We have to clear out the basement before the start of the Mellin-Macnab Building renovation in June! So—on Saturday, May 9, in the North & South gardens, we’re selling anything that doesn’t move!

If you have treasures or gently used household items, toys, children’s clothing (NO adult clothes and NO computer components), or books, bring them to us BEFORE April 1. After that we can’t accept them for storage in the church, but you are welcome to bring them at 9:00 a.m. on Sale Day and add them to our offerings.

All proceeds go to the First for the Future Campaign!

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP IN APRIL

April 1: Lent, led by the Church & Society Committee
6:00 p.m. in the Alexander Chapel
includes Communion

*This service will be followed by a light supper
in the Esther Morrow Room*

April 22: Celebrating the Earth
6:00 p.m. on the South Lawn

A service in celebration of Earth Day
and to unveil the outdoor art installation “Tree Gems”

Please join Art at First, Conserve First, and the Family Ministries Committee for this service on the South Lawn, followed by a discussion with the Tree Gem artists, Barbara Lubliner and Thea Lanzisero

Art at First
The First Presbyterian Church

Karen Fitzgerald: LUXE
Sunday, April 5, through Sunday, April 26

Evening Discussion: Thursday, April 16,
from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Coffee Hour Reception: Sunday, April 19

From the artist: “Our world is steeped in change. It is only through determination that we blunt our awareness of the constant turning of old to new. It seems that when we are conscious of change, we can understand our experience as a transformation, an inexplicable or mysterious transmuting of old to new. Karen Fitzgerald and Ann Sgarlata present work that explores questions of change and provides answers in stunning, luxurious reply.”

First Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue
<p><i>The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York</i> 12 West 12th Street (at Fifth Avenue) Tel: 212-675-6150 New York, NY 10011 Fax: 212-675-8674</p> <p><i>All data subject to change without notice.</i> Check with Church Receptionist for confirmation and details.</p> <p>Indicates Volunteer Opportunities ♥</p>		
<p>5 <i>Passion/Palm Sunday (Holy Week Begins)</i></p> <p>9:00 Adult Education 10:00 Service in Washington Sq. Park (march at 9:45 a.m.) 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ (no Communion)—<i>Dr. Ptomey preaching</i> <i>(Grades 2-12 remain in worship)</i> 11:20 Church School and Children's Choirs Rehearsal 12:15 Coffee Hour♥ 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 6:15 A.A. Groups</p> <p>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>
<p>12 <i>Easter/Resurrection of the Lord</i> <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i></p> <p>7:00 Kitchen Crew 8:00 Communion Service—<i>Rev. Davis preaching</i> 8:30 & 10:30 Easter Breakfast 9:30 & 11:30 Worship♥<i>Dr. Walton preaching</i> 10:15 & 11:15 Child Care 10:15 Youth Hide Easter Eggs 12:45 Easter Egg Hunt 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Staff Holiday</i></p> <p>10:00 Art Workshop</p> <p>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:00 Art Workshop 6:15 A.A. Groups 6:30 Personnel 6:30 Buildings & Grounds 7:00 House Committee</p> <p>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>
<p>19 <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education 10:15 Youth Choir 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥<i>Rev. Davis preaching</i> 11:20 Church School and Children's Choir Rehearsal 12:15 Coffee Hour♥ <i>Art Show Reception</i> 12:30 Habitat for Humanity Lecture 12:30 Young Adult Brunch (off-site) 12:30 Pre-Baptism Meeting 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p> <p>9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups 7:00 Justice Works 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>
<p>26 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>9:30 Adult Education 10:15 Youth Choir 10:45 Child Care 11:00 Worship♥ <i>Baptism—Dr. Hostetter preaching</i> <i>3rd grade Communion program w/ Deacons & Elders</i> 11:20 Church School and Children's Choir Rehearsal 12:15 Coffee Hour♥ 12:30 Adult Education 1:30 Literary Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥</p> <p>6:15 A.A. Groups</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">First Notes Mailing Team</p> </div>

APRIL 2009

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:00 Art Workshop 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 6:00 Wednesday Worship/ <i>Communion</i> 6:30 Fellowship Supper Committees Meet 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al-Anon 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal Allerton/Fox <i>Rev. Davis, officiant</i> 8:00 NA Solutions 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open 4:30 Wedding Allerton/Fox <i>Rev. Davis, officiant</i> 6:15 NA/DA Groups 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 Art Workshop</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>9 MAUNDY THURSDAY <i>P.S. 226 closed (4/9-17)</i> 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:00 Art Workshop 12:15 Al-Anon 5:30 Garden Meditation for Youth and Families 6:00 Potluck Family Dinner 7:00 Worship/<i>Communion</i> 8:00 NA Solutions 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>10 GOOD FRIDAY <i>N.S. Closed</i> 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Participants' Lunch <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Service "Seven Last Words from Cross"</p> </div> 3:00 Kitchen Crew 6:15 NA/D.A. Groups 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>11 GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER 10:00 Art Workshop 10:00 Family Service 10:30 Easter Egg Decorating</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:00 Art Workshop 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Midday Prayers 6:30 Joint Boards Meeting 6:30 Deacons/Trustees 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">First Notes and Calendar Due</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:00 Art Workshop 12:15 Al-Anon 6:30 N.S. Board 6:30 Art Show Discussion 8:00 NA Solutions 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:00 CIDNY 10:00 Art Workshop 12:00 Sanctuary Open 4:00 Wedding Rehearsal Hickerson/DeLauro <i>Rev. Davis, officiant</i> 6:15 NA/D.A. Groups 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 Art Workshop 4:00 Hickerson/ DeLauro Wedding <i>Rev. Davis, officiant</i></p>
<p>22 EARTH DAY</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Wednesday Worship: Celebrating the Earth (South Lawn) 6:30 Session 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al-Anon 6:00 Marie Sibilla "Aging Well" Series 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:00 Sanctuary Open 12:00 Lunch 'n Learn 6:15 NA/DA Groups 6:30 Young Couples Reception 9:00 Homeless Shelter♥ <i>(last day)</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mission Service Committee Habitat for Humanity Project (off-site)</p>
<p>29 <i>N.S. Auction Set-Up</i> 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 10:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>30 <i>N.S. Auction Set-Up</i> 9 to 5 Caring Community♥ 12:15 Al-Anon</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>DEADLINE FOR MAY FIRST NOTES: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15</p> <p>DEACONS FOR THE MONTH: Paulette Griefen Ryan Tirre (646) 584-2137 (646) 261-1914</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, 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, March 26**. 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.
- **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, April 1—Fellowship Supper
3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Prep, Serve, Cleanup

Sunday, April 12—Easter Breakfast
Friday, April 10—3:00-6:00 p.m. Prep.
Sat., April 11—11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Prep.
Sun., April 12—7:00-11:30 a.m. Prep., Serve, Cleanup
Sun., April 12—12:30-3:00 p.m. Prep., Serve, Cleanup

Wednesday, April 22—Fellowship Supper
3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Prep, Serve, Cleanup

THE MISSION SERVICE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES A LECTURE AND SIX OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER ON SATURDAYS IN THE SPRING

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Lecture: Sunday, April 19, 12:30 p.m., in the Library

Andrew Olson, in charge of relationships between Habitat for Humanity's NYC chapter and faith communities, will explain Habitat's mission and methods.

Saturday Volunteer Projects

April 25 Habitat for Humanity; new project in the South Bronx.
Maximum group size is 10. No special skills required. Meet at FPC at 8:30 a.m. and work until 5 p.m.

May 2, 9, 30; and June 13 and 27

Scrape and paint the church fence (Fifth Avenue section from 11th to 12th Streets)
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 6 people needed for each Saturday
Beverages provided; bring your own sandwich.

Sign up on the list hanging on the kiosk in the lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building or by phoning the FPC receptionist. Please include your phone number so you can be contacted with details.

The Marie Sibilla "Aging Well" Lecture Series



THINKING AHEAD TO WHEN YOUR PARENTS OR OTHER LOVED ONES NEED HELP TO CONTINUE LIVING INDEPENDENTLY

Thursday, April 23

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

6:45-8 p.m. Presentation

Speaker: Diane Sherwood, LCSW
President, Sherwood Associates,
an eldercare planning & management company

Diane will share her 25+ years' experience in providing services to people who need support in order to remain in their homes. You can make better decisions if you know what the options are before a crisis occurs.

Sign up after worship on Sundays, April 12 and 19, or call the FPC receptionist at (212) 675-6150 by Tuesday, April 21.



Ecumenical Service

On Palm Sunday, April 5, there will be an ecumenical service in Washington Square Park at 10:00 a.m. Plan to join other First Church friends at the church at 9:45 and process together to Washington Square. Participants will return together in time for the 11:00 a.m. worship.

Palm Sunday Procession

All families with children and youth are invited to participate in the Children's Procession at the start of the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, April 5. We will gather at 10:30 a.m. in the Esther Morrow room of the South Wing to review the processional hymn and to line up for our entrance into the sanctuary. Children under 8 years old must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver during the procession.

Special note: Children and Youth CHOIRS should arrive at **9:45 a.m.** in the Assembly Hall for warm up and rehearsal with the adult choir. After rehearsal we will join the other children and youth for the procession.

—Faye Timmer, Director of Youth and Children's Music;
ftimmer@fpcnyc.org

At the Table in the Garden A Garden Meditation for Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m.
on the South Lawn (weather permitting)

*The Youth Group, Children's Choirs,
and the Rev. Barbara E. Davis*

followed by a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m.

Please join us for this brief service of prayer, music, and Scripture readings from the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane.

*All are welcome!
Families, please join us!*

Easter Breakfast

On Easter Sunday, April 12, you are invited to join other members and friends of First Church for a fellowship breakfast in the South Wing. There will be two seatings: 8:30 a.m. in the Esther Morrow Room and 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall. Sign-up sheets are available in the lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building—please make your reservation by Wednesday, April 8. A freewill offering will be collected: suggested donation is \$8.00. Volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up are welcome. We ask that you indicate your willingness to help when signing up.



Family Service and Easter Egg Coloring



**Saturday, April 11
10:00 a.m.
Assembly Hall**

This is an event for all ages. Children will gather at 10 a.m. for a brief family service to begin the morning. Eggs and dye will be provided; parents are asked to bring unfrosted cupcakes for decorating as well. The eggs the children color will be hidden for the Easter Egg Hunt on the lawns following the 11:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday. Egg coloring is a very popular event! Please sign up in the Mellin-Macnab lobby so that we will know how many children to expect and will be sure to have enough materials for everyone.

Volunteers are needed to help set up & clean up – please contact Heide Valero at thevaleros@yahoo.com or (917) 297-2221 if you can help.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 12

Communion Service at 8:00 a.m.

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Childcare is provided at both of these services.

No Church School on March 23 for children over 4 years of age.

All children 5 years old and up go to church with their parents and remain with them for the duration of the service.

Easter Program during Services for 3- and 4-Year-Olds

Children 3-4 will have a special Easter program which will begin after the "Children's Prayer" at both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services. Sessions will be led by church school teachers. Parents may pick up their children after the service.

Easter Egg Hunt on the North Lawn
(weather permitting) at 12:45 p.m.**

Children of early elementary age and younger are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring a basket for your child. Parents are asked to talk with their children ahead of time about finding only FOUR eggs each, so that we can be sure each child gets a chance to find eggs. Any older children in 3rd grade or above who would like to help hide the eggs should meet in the Church House lobby at 10:15 a.m.

*(**Please note that the Easter Egg Hunt takes place after the 11:30 a.m. Service ONLY.)*



A Month of Sundays

Worship This Month at First Presbyterian

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Passion/Palm Sunday

Scripture: Mark 14:10-15:47

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. K.C. Ptomey Preaching
"What's Passion Got To Do With It?"
Grades 2-12 Remain in Worship

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Jon M. Walton preaching
"What Happens to God?"

Music: Festival Music for Choir, Brass and Organ
Prelude begins 15 minutes before the service

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Maundy Thursday

Garden Meditation for Youth and Families 5:30 p.m.

Service 7:00 p.m.

Scripture: John 13:1-17

Sermon: The Rev. Barbara E. Davis preaching
"A Share with Jesus"

Sacrament: Communion

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Sermon: The Rev. Barbara E. Davis preaching
"Putting a Finger on Forgiveness"

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture: I Corinthians 13

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Mark D. Hostetter preaching
"The Greatest of These"

Sacrament: Baptism
3rd Grade Communion Program
w/ Deacons and Elders

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Good Friday

Service 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Music: "The Seven Last Words of Christ"
Anthems of the Cross

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Easter/Resurrection of the Lord

Service 8:00 a.m.

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: The Rev. Barbara E. Davis preaching
"Ahead to Galilee"

Sacrament: Communion

Festival Worship 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8, I Corinthians 15:1-11

THANK YOU

The Worship Committee would like to express deep gratitude to Suzanne D.H. Mecs for the gift of 150 new NRSV bibles that may now be found in our sanctuary. These bibles are given by Suzanne in memory of her grandmother, Heather MacMillan, and aunt, Jane Muller.

A special thanks to First Kids for placing the new bibles in our sanctuary pews!

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





EXTRAORDINARY PROGRESS FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED CAMPAIGN

Dear Members and Friends,

It is a pleasure to share with you the unprecedented success that our congregation has achieved since we began our fund raising efforts for the *First for the Future* Campaign.

As you may know, in February, Dr. Walton announced that the campaign has already passed the \$10,000,000 mark in pledged support towards our \$15,000,000 goal. This is due to the generosity of First Presbyterian Church members who have made sacrificial commitments to the campaign representing nearly 70% of our goal. This support includes over 20 Leadership Pledges that range from \$100,000 to \$1,500,000 and more than 30 that range between \$25,000 and \$100,000. Gifts at all levels are moving us closer to our goal and at this time, over 180 individuals and families in our congregation have invested in the future of our Church by pledging support over a five year period to the campaign.

We are also excited to report that we have pending pledge decisions from many members who have discussed their support with a volunteer. If you have been contacted by a fellow member, we encourage you to take the time to meet and learn more about how you can participate.

We are truly thankful for the remarkable level of sacrifice and commitment undertaken by the congregation. Now is the time to really focus on "bringing the campaign home." We hope that if you have not done so already, you will support the campaign by making your own sacrificial pledge over five years.

The promise of the *First for the Future* Campaign is strengthened by the support of so many of our dedicated members and friends.

Thank you.

Stuart Buice, Duane Wall, and John Wilmot
First for the Future Campaign Co-Chairs



When First Presbyterian Church launched the *First for the Future: Building on a Faithful Heritage* Campaign with a goal of raising \$15,000,000 for the renovation of the Mellin-Macnab Church House, it was abundantly clear why this project was so important to our current and future members of our congregation and our community. For almost 300 years, our Church has been a welcoming and inclusive house of worship with a ministry rooted in scripture, a place for families to learn and grow, and a haven for service and outreach in Greenwich Village and beyond. These traditions have been made possible because of our facilities and our unique location.

In the 1950's, our congregation was experiencing growth similar to the growth that we are experiencing today. The need for a new building to house the activities, outreach, and life of the congregation was critical and a capital campaign was begun. Later in 1958, the congregation celebrated the opening of the Church House (later to be named in honor of Pastors Jack Mellin and John Macnab).

Over the past 50 years, the Mellin-Macnab Church House has provided our congregation with a home for the ministry, programs, services, education, and outreach that fulfills our mission as a congregation of faith.

continued on back...

After 50 years of nearly round the clock use, seven days of the week, our Church home is showing signs of wear. Not only is the building inadequately lit, the outdated floor plan restricts the flow of traffic on Sundays and during busy weekdays. Restroom facilities need improvement throughout the building and infrastructure elements including electrical, fire-safety, plumbing, heating and ventilation, and communication systems require frequent and costly maintenance.



Water and electrical repair in the Mellin-Macnab lobby

The Church's facilities are in constant use throughout the week. A study conducted in 2005 reported that an average of at least 500 people entered and exited the Mellin-Macnab Church House each day for meetings,



Recent water damage caused by aging plumbing infrastructure. Similar damage has occurred in the Mellin-Macnab lobby ceiling pictured above.

school events, or to participate in programs and outreach activities. That number has continued to grow in recent years as more and more Church members and community groups use the building. On Sunday it is obvious how crowded the Mellin-Macnab lobby is before and after worship service. The congestion in this area makes for crowding and inefficient movement from the Sanctuary. During worship, the children cannot easily move from the sanctuary to their classrooms because of the narrow hallway in the pulpit apse. Because of the growing number of children in the church school, we also need more classrooms.

Our needs are more urgent than ever. Maintenance staff spends increasing amounts of time with electrical, plumbing, and other problems that are the result of deferred maintenance and an aging infrastructure. Windows throughout the building need to be replaced to prevent significant heat loss in the winter, thus saving valuable dollars which are needed elsewhere and reducing injury to the environment. Ministry offices and meeting spaces are scattered throughout the building creating a more difficult working environment for

staff and volunteers. These are just some of the many reasons why now is the time for us as a congregation to capture the moment and meet the needs of today while planning for our future. To put it simply, when you take a look around the Mellin-Macnab Church House the needs are clear. As members, each and every one of us have the opportunity to be a part of something that is greater than ourselves. Now is our opportunity to leave a legacy for the future even as those before us have left us so much.

Leading the Way

Dr. Walton and a team of campaign volunteers have been leading the way to make the *First for the Future* Campaign a success. Whether it be attending an event, making a personal visit, placing a phone call, or sharing a conversation over a cup of coffee, campaign volunteers have informed, engaged, encouraged, and assisted other members to make commitments to the campaign, all while truly strengthened the bonds and relationships within our congregation.



Dr. Walton discusses the project with a group of early supporters

We hope that when you receive a call from a campaign volunteer, a request for a personal visit or packet of information about the campaign in the mail, you will respond with enthusiasm and make a commitment in this unique and exciting time in the history of First Presbyterian Church.

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