

A nondenominational Christian congregation



for persons of all faiths and of uncertain faith
meeting in historic St. Peter's Church
346 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011
Sundays, September – July, 11:45 a.m.

www.chelseachurch.org

(212) 886-5463

THE CHELSEA COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

Special Services & Events (all dates Sundays unless otherwise noted)



September 9 Memorial Service for John Eggleston, 11:45 a.m.

Saturday,

September 29 Film Screening of "Hard Road Home," featuring Exodus Transitional Community, St. Peter's, 11 a.m.

CCC Table at London Terrace Tenants' Association Street Fair,
24th St. between 9th & 10th, ca. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

October 7 World Wide Communion Sunday, 11:45 a.m.
Annual Congregational Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

October 14 7th Annual "A Blessing of Animals" Service, 11:45 a.m.

November 4 Anniversary Sunday

December 2 Chelsea-Elliott Chelsea House "I Have a Dream" Choir, at 11:45 a.m. service (see pg. 8)

December 16 Candlelight Carol Service, 6 p.m.

Pastoral Reflections

Greetings! It is late August and summer is winding down. Autumn will soon be here with an invigorating chill and the start of CCC's program year. I have done some traveling this summer, mostly to church and business conferences, but also to visit family and to relax. I have tried to follow God's call to engage in Sabbath rest, sometimes unsuccessfully.

I have also taken the opportunity to do some thinking about my call to the ministry, what it means for today and for tomorrow. The time I have spent in reflection has



Reflections (cont'd.)

been rich, reaffirming, sometimes unsettling. I have been able to understand God's call to wholeness in a new way. I am grateful for this new "set of eyes" and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to move in my life, pushing me, sometimes dragging me kicking and screaming, toward wholeness.

It's hard to believe, but we have been engaged in our strategic planning process for almost a whole year. We have surveyed the congregation, made lists of our fondest wishes for the church, discussed priorities and settled on areas in which to focus our efforts. We have met almost monthly to discuss outreach and membership, spiritual growth, worship, and our life as a community. You, the members and attendees of CCC have worked hard to be intentional about our life together, and to look to the future with hope.

Our work is already bearing fruit. We were featured on *blogchelsea*, and we have seen some new ideas about leading worship come from the lay leaders.

<http://legends.typepad.com/blogchelsea/2007/07/chelsea-communi.html>

I am grateful to all of you for committing time, energy and love to this project. We will continue in the fall to work on envisioning our future and introducing CCC to all in the community who might find a spiritual home in our church for "people of all faiths and of uncertain faith." I look forward to more opportunities for us to enliven our lovely worship services, grow spiritually together, and model a healthy, loving community.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Much love to all,

John

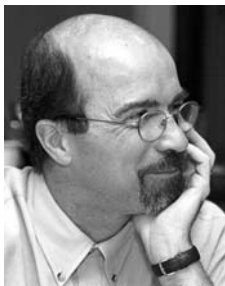
Strategic Planning Process

A date for the next meeting will be discussed at the annual congregational meeting on October 7th. Strategic planning sessions are on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. following coffee hour and end promptly at 2:30 p.m.

Book Club

Meetings resume Sunday, September 30th, at 10:45 a.m. in the Rectory Chapel. At that meeting we will discuss the books we would like to read in the coming year and may develop the booklist for the whole year and order them all at once. If you have suggestions prior to our meeting on the 30th, feel free to email them to John Magisano at jmagi@aol.com. We meet three times a month, have wide-ranging discussions, and all are welcome to join.

A Few Notes from the Music Director



Following the service in special tribute to former music director John Eggleston on September 9th, CCC's program of special music resumes in its regular form on the following Sunday with piano pieces by the nineteenth-century German master Johannes Brahms, and then continues through the season with piano and vocal solos representing a rich diversity of styles and periods. Our own choir sings on November 4th for Anniversary Sunday, and the Chelsea-Elliott "I Have A Dream" Children's Choir visits on December 2nd. This year's Candlelight Carol Service, which will feature everything from Renaissance carols to hand-clapping contemporary Gospel, goes into rehearsal in mid-November. Finally, I've been asked to give an introduction to each Sunday's music during the weekly announcements; I will try to make these helpful and brief. – Christopher Johnson (Photo © 2007, Neal Rosenau)

Memorial Service for John Eggleston

A memorial service to celebrate the life of John Eggleston will be held at Chelsea Community Church on Sunday, September 9th, 11:45 a.m., followed by a coffee hour/reception. John's good friend for many years, Lutheran pastor Thomas Mugavero, will preside. There will of course be music, including a choir of singers who sang with John for our Candlelight Carol Services, for St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and for the Lutheran Summer Conference at Silver Bay where they broke a 2-year staff limitation rule so John could continue to serve as music director for many summers. If you have any stories or thoughts you would like to share about John, there will be an opportunity during the service. If you have any pictures or mementos that represent John's life, you might want to share them at "John's table" at the service/reception.

CCC Summer Outing Ventures to The Garden State

Intrepid CCC members and friends Thad McGar, Paul Bodden, Mary Sheeran, Lynn Ramsey, Rick Carrier, Hilda Regier, Lynne Robinson, Betty Samuels, and Virginia Pfeiffer hopped aboard NJ Transit, riding the Raritan Valley Line rails to the Netherwood Station (Plainfield), with varied and delicious pot luck offerings in tow, for a day of food, sprinkles of rain, and in- and outdoor relaxation at the home of Mark Russell (and Kathryn Buck). It was a little too wet for croquet and, many seemed to feel, for substantial weeding activity, so activities were confined to eating and lots of conversation and plant identification under the breezeway and the Big Orange Umbrella (Keep the food dry; the guests will fend for themselves!). (Photos: Kathryn Buck)



St. Peter's Celebrates 175th Anniversary of Parish's Founding

St. Peter's Episcopal Chelsea celebrated the 175th anniversary of the parish's founding with a special service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 1st. Members of CCC helped host and usher for the service, with CCC's chairman of the board of trustees, Lynne Robinson, serving as mistress of ceremonies and lector. The joyful morning included a bagpipe-led procession of worshippers around the block, and messages by Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of New York Catherine S. Roskam, celebrating and presiding, and Brother Christopher Stephen Jenks, who resided in the rectory as a child when his father was rector of St. Peter's. Special music was provided by Cynthia Powell, organ, Allison Sniffin, French horn, and a specially-assembled choir. A catered reception was held in the rectory and garden following the service; the weather -- and the food -- couldn't have been better!

News Notes

Pictorial Photographers of America (PPA), which meets in the rectory on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays and boasts a number of CCC members among its own membership, begins its 2007-2008 season on October 16th with a brief meeting, program and party. The first monthly members' competition will be October 23rd; guests are welcome. For more information on PPA activities and membership, see www.ppa-photoclub.org or call Kathryn Buck at (212) 243-0273.

A number of complimentary tickets to the December 3rd New York City debut recital of the first prize winner of the **Cleveland International Piano Competition** will be available from Kathryn Buck (see contact information above). The evening recital will be in Carnegie Hall and is part of the competition's first prize

Newsnotes (cont'd.)

package, which includes a significant cash award and a concert and recording contract. This year's winner, announced at the end of the final round of competition on August 4th, is Russia's Alexander Ghindin. The competition's final concerto round features each of the four finalists and takes place in Cleveland's Severance Hall with the Cleveland Orchestra. For more information on the competition, see: www.clevelandpiano.org.

News of Friends

Scot Albertson appeared with the Daryl Kojak Jazz Quintet at the West Bank Café, Laurie Beechman Theater, on West 42nd St., on August 2nd.

Alice Frazier returns to New York with "Broadway Without Boundaries," Laurie Beechman Theatre, 407 W 42nd St., Thursday, October 4th at 7 p.m. The show features musical director and renowned pianist, Don Rebic, who has worked with Leslie Uggams, Maureen McGovern, Margaret Whiting and who is currently working with Karen Akers. Alice has won a loyal following by entertaining audiences in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. New York City venues include Danny's Grand Sea Palace & Skylight Cabaret, Helen's Hideaway, Dillon's Restaurant, the Iridium Jazz Club and most recently the Friar's Club in New York City. For information on upcoming performances, see <http://www.AliceFrazier.com>. Special cover rate for CCC: \$10.

Lynn Ramsey is shown here (red jacket) with friend Yolanda Laybourne in June at the conclusion of their 84-mile, 6-day trek across the Hadrian Wall Walk in northern England. Despite 4 days of rain, the challenging terrain, and an encounter with a bull, it was "an exhilarating, fun, and highly satisfying accomplishment," said Lynn.



Mary Sheeran will sing with the St. Peter's (Citicorp) Choir and the Bach Festival Orchestra, Thomas Schmidt, conductor, in their Bach Festival performance of the St. Matthew Passion, September 29th at 7:30. Tickets are \$30 (\$20 seniors and students); 619 Lexington Ave. & 54th Street. For information about the Bach Festival: <http://www.saintpeters.org/music/index.html>.



Diana Solomon-Glover, soprano and frequent guest at Chelsea Community Church, has become the featured soloist for Project People Foundation's fundraising concert series, *Celebrating Life*, an avenue for people to gather together and *celebrate* the diversity and multiculturalism in their communities. PPF, founded in 1995 by Rev. Linda Tarry-Chard (see p. 7, October 28), works with local communities in Southern Africa and the U.S. to provide humanitarian assistance, economic empowerment, leadership training, and education for women, children, and youth. The inaugural concert, held in Delray Beach, Florida, on April 22, 2007, raised over \$50,000 toward expanding PPF's capacity to support skill development, employment and computer literacy programs in South Africa's townships and expand community service and volunteer projects for youth and adults in the United States. Solomon-Glover will perform with *Celebrating Life* in concerts throughout the US.

News of Friends (cont'd.)

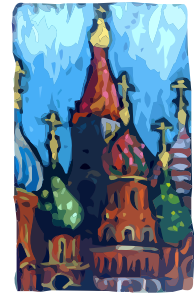
Sherdina Straughan, and her year-old Papillon **Angel**, have been among those affected by the mysterious dog poisonings at the Chelsea Waterside Park run. Sherdina and Angel have been featured in a number of television and newspaper reports of the events, and have become activists in the search for answers.

Rector K. Dennis Winslow, St. Peter's Chelsea, and The Rev. Mark Alan Lewis were joined in civil union on Tuesday, May 22. Both have master's degrees in divinity. In 2002 they were the lead plaintiffs in the Lambda Legal lawsuit challenging New Jersey's marriage laws. The case resulted in the 2006 New Jersey Supreme Court ruling that led to the legalization of civil unions by the New Jersey state legislature.

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A Brief History of St. Peter's, Second in a Series, by Mary Sheeran

Way back in 1989, at the Candlelight Carol Service, I had to give a little history about Clement Clarke Moore and the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas." I dug into a huge folder someone handed me and found at the bottom of the heap a story I hadn't heard at any other service, apparently because no one believed it. But I'm going to bring it up again. True or not, it illustrates the point I want to make!



This particular story about "A Visit from St. Nicholas" starts with Mrs. Clement Clarke Moore – her name was Emily – packing Christmas turkeys to give to the poor. Finding she was one turkey short, she sent Clement out to purchase another bird. According to the story, it was during this sleigh ride that he composed The Poem.

I like this story because it hints at Emily Moore's character and at something happening in churches just beginning at this time. In the early nineteenth century, people were changing their perceptions of the church's position in society. You can infer the responsible benevolence and industry that might have been part of Emily Moore's character. This same attitude might have influenced the not quite yet typical decision to build a church in Chelsea that was not simply a "once a week meeting place" but a central spiritual home and part of community life.

St. Peter's Church was founded in the East Hall of General Theological Seminary on May 9, 1831, and the cornerstone of the chapel was laid in June. The co-founders included Clement Clarke Moore, James N. Wells, and Professors Turner and Wilson. Moore had set aside seven lots on the south side of 20th Street, and in September a building committee began considering designs for the church. Samuel Isaac Haight, a senior at General, was called to be the first rector. The parish would be called "St. Peter's" for no other reason than that there were not yet any other churches in Manhattan by that name.

St. Peter's launched a Sunday school with General Seminary for 417 pupils, with seminarians assisting with the teaching. The church had twelve communicants in addition to the seminarians. That year, fifty-nine children were baptized, and there were two marriages and eight burials. Moore, an accomplished musician in keyboard and violin, served as the organist, or keyboardist, as there are disagreements about what instrument he played. There were two services, sometimes three, on Sundays.

In 1833, not long after the chapel (now the rectory) was consecrated, the church's Sunday school numbered 547 scholars, including an infant school (!), with forty-one teachers! Bishop Onderdonk confirmed forty at the parish.

A Brief History of St. Peter's (cont'd.)

At this time, there is also a record of a ladies' organization for the relief of the poor. Jane Gunderson, in "Women and the Parallel Church: A View from Congregations" writes about the parallel but invisible force of women in the life of the church. The usual history of St. Peter's tells of Clement Moore, Don Alonzo Cushman, and James Wells and other real estate developers forming the Vestry (the parish's governing board), meeting at irregular times and electing themselves over and over, planning the church--and the neighborhood. (To be continued)

Chelsea Community Church Statement of Mission

An independent, non-denominational, lay-led Christian congregation, Chelsea Community Church is a people not a building. We offer a supportive environment for people of all faiths and of uncertain faith. Our mission is:

- ❖ to enable each individual to define personal religious beliefs,
- ❖ to worship in prayer, music, reading and interpretation of Scripture with speakers from a variety of backgrounds,
- ❖ to nurture each other in spiritual growth, while respecting and accepting a diversity of beliefs,
- ❖ to share with and support each other in the daily and extraordinary events of our lives,
- ❖ to help those in need both inside and outside our congregation.

We welcome all to worship with us and become part of our extended Christian family. Services are at 11:45 a.m. each Sunday (except during August) at St. Peter's Church, 346 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011 (212) 886-5463, www.chelseachurch.org

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CCC Committees Plus

Benevolence (Kathy Reid)
Music (Joanne Downes)
Publicity (Alana Atterbury)
Worship (Hilda Regier)

Hospitality (Wayne Kammerer)
Newsletter (Kathryn Buck)
Website (Robert Hickey; Robert Mitchell, Jr.)
Strategic Planning (John Magisano,
Pastoral Counselor)

Lynne Robinson, Chair, Board of Trustees
John Magisano, Pastoral Counselor
Christopher Johnson, Music Director

Virginia Pfeiffer organizes the roster of ushers, lay leaders, and hospitality hosts on a quarterly basis.

If you are interested in contributing in any of the areas above, please contact us.

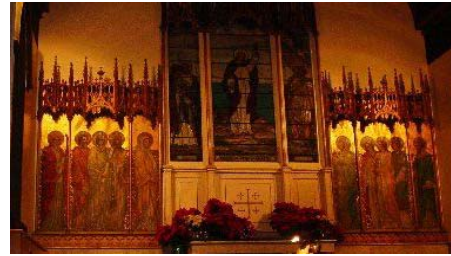
The submissions deadline for the next newsletter is December 1st.
Send submissions to blsspks@aol.com or call (212) 243-0273.

Special thanks to Mary Sheeran for article contributions to this issue and to Kathy Reid and Lynne Robinson for assistance with proofreading.

Errata Apologies for the occasional odd uncontrolled left-hand margin. Guidance from anyone versed in Word is always welcome! -KB

SCHEDULE of SPEAKERS

Worship Service, Sundays 11:45 a.m.
Our full program of special music resumes!



September 9 A Celebration of the life of John Eggleston, February 17, 1944 - May 19, 2007.

For 16 years, John played the piano and organ at our Sunday services and directed our annual Candlelight Carol Services, including the 2006 service. He died May 19 of metastatic lung cancer. **Rev. Thomas Mugavero**, a retired pastor associated with St. Peter's Lutheran Church, New York, and a long-time friend of John's, will celebrate a memorial liturgy with a Eucharist. A choir composed of members of groups John directed will sing, and another friend of John's, James Hopkins, will play the organ prelude and postlude, both pieces by John's favorite composer, J.S. Bach. The congregation will be able to sing a few of John's favorite hymns, and family and friends will have an opportunity to share memories.

Special Music

September 16 Sharon White (Nondenominational), program manager at Exodus Transitional Community in Manhattan, spent 11 years in Bedford Hills Correctional Facility before being released in 2005. A trustee of New Jerusalem Church in the Bronx, she is also studying at Lehman College and expects to graduate in 2008 and then hopes to work toward a master's degree in social work.

September 23 Rev. Lisa Hill (Presbyterian) is director of special projects for the West Side Federation for Senior & Supportive Housing. She was previously the director of the Frederic Fleming House in Chelsea, which is operated by the same agency. She holds an M.Div. degree from Union Theological Seminary.

Special Music: Lynne Robinson accompanied by Jerry Scott

September 30 Rev. Dr. Dale T. Irvin (American Baptist) is president of New York Theological Seminary. A faculty member there since 1989, he is also professor of world Christianity. He is the author of *Hearing Many Voices* (1993) and *Christian Histories, Christian Traditioning: Rendering Accounts* (1998) and a co-author of *History of the World Christian Movement: Earliest Christianity to 1453* (2001). He earned his M.Div. degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. at Union Theological Seminary.

Special Music: Martha Bernard

October 7 Worldwide Communion Sunday Rev. Dr. Mariah Britton (American Baptist), an associate minister at Memorial Baptist Church in Harlem, is the founder and chief executive of the Moriah Institute, which provides comprehensive sexuality training for seminarians as well as working with adolescents. An associate minister for youth and young adults at Riverside Church for 17 years, she earned a Ph.D. in family, marriage and human sexuality at New York University. ***Special Music: Shannon Rolbiecki***
Annual Congregational Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

October 14 Blessing of Animals Service. The service will be led by a team of lay people.

October 21 Roger Manning (Pentecostal) received a certificate in ministry and human services in a program co-sponsored by Rising Hope, Inc. and Boricua College at Woodbourne Correctional Facility, graduating in December 2006. Incarcerated for 25 years, he also earned an A.A. degree from Ulster Community College while in prison. He is employed as an interviewer for Universal Survey.

Special Music: Vivian Beckford

October 28 Rev. Linda Tarry-Chard (United Church of Christ) is associate minister for new members, ecumenical and interfaith relations at The Riverside Church. She was previously an associate minister for social justice at Broadway United Church of Christ. She holds an M.S. in education from Fordham University and an M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary. ***Special Music: Alice Frazier***

Schedule of Speakers and Special Music (cont'd.)

November 4 *Anniversary Sunday* **Rev. John Magisano** (Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches), Chelsea Community Church's pastoral counselor, is director of training and client services at Nonprofit Connection, a firm that provides capacity-building technical assistance to nonprofit organizations in New York City. He earned his M.Div. degree at New York Theological Seminary and has served as assistant pastor for development at the Metropolitan Community Church of Hartford.

Special Music: Chelsea Community Church Choir

November 11 **Rev. Dr. Glorva C. Askew** (African Methodist Episcopal) is ministerial program coordinator of the New York State Department of Corrections and an adjunct professor at New York Theological Seminary. She was formerly an assistant pastor at St. Paul Community Church in Harlem. She earned an M.Div. degree at New York Theological Seminary, an M.S.W. at Fordham University and a D.Min. at Hebrew Union Theological Seminary. **Special Music: Deborah Karpel and William Safkow**

November 18 **Rev. Vincent Corso** (Roman Catholic) is manager of spiritual care and bereavement services at Hospice Care of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York. A member of Celibacy Is the Issue, a consortium of married Roman Catholic clergy, he received an M.Div. degree from St. Anthony on Hudson and an M.S.W. from Syracuse University. **Special Music: Ginger Ray**

November 25 **Rabbi Jill Hausman** (Jewish) is the spiritual leader of Congregation Ezrath Israel, also known as the Actors Temple. Before coming to the 47th Street shul in 2006, she was with the Boro Park Progressive Synagogue in Brooklyn, first as a cantor and then as assistant rabbi. She was ordained at the Rabbinical Seminary International in Manhattan.

December 2 **Rev. Dr. Roy Lloyd** (Lutheran) is senior manager of media relations for the American Bible Society. He was formerly director of broadcast news and producer of network TV shows for the National Council of Churches. A graduate of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, he also earned a Ph.D. in communication in education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Special Music: Chelsea-Elliott "I Have a Dream" Children's Choir

The 60-voice Elliott Chelsea "I Have a Dream" Children's Choir is part of an exciting program modeled after Eugene Lang's original plan to help children stay in school. Choir members range in age from 8 to 10 and live in the Elliott Chelsea Houses on 9th Avenue between 25th and 27th Streets.

December 9 **Sister Carol Perry** (Roman Catholic) is resident Biblical scholar at Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan. A member of the Sisters of St. Ursula, she studied at Regina Mundi in Rome, where she earned the equivalent of a master's degree in theology. She also holds an M.A. in theology from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind. She has retired from the faculty of John Coleman High School in Hurley. **Special Music: Scot Albertson accompanied by Jerry Scott.**

CCC's Merle Lister, dancer and choreographer,
performing interpretive dance for the July 21st service.
(Photo: © 2007 Robert Mitchell, Jr.)

