

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

Summer 2007

Special Services & Meetings

June 3rd _ CCC Strategic Planning Meeting, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

July 1st
11 a.m. **St. Peter's Chelsea 175th Anniversary -- Joint Service**
Sunday, July 1, 2007, St. Peter's Chelsea will celebrate the 175th anniversary of its founding as a parish. The service is at 11 a.m. and at the invitation of St. Peter's we have suspended our regular time of worship to join in St. Peter's celebration. A very special, surprise preacher will participate in the service, and many from far and near are being invited to be present. Music is being directed by Cynthia Powell with assistance by George Hansler. Cynthia is music director of Christ Church, Ridgewood, NJ, as well as director of the Stonewall Chorale of New York and The Melodia Women's Choir of NYC. George Hansler is St. Peter's organist and choir director. A gala reception will follow the service in the Rectory.

CCC Appoints New Music Director



We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Christopher Johnson** as CCC's new music director, succeeding John Eggleston. Chris is a conductor, keyboard player, editor, and publisher based in New York City. He was Director, Music (USA), at Oxford University Press, where he also conducted the OUP Choir and co-founded and served as managing director of the Oxford Summer Institutes, an annual music festival and training ground for composers, singers, and conductors. He was choral director at St. Paul's Church, Brooklyn, where he led premières of works by Libby Larsen and Rebecca Clarke. An expert on Clarke, Chris has edited many of her compositions for publication and has given lectures and lecture-recitals on her life and works at universities and conservatories throughout the United States. In the theatre, he has acted in classic and contemporary plays and musicals and has directed music for *Marat/Sade*, *The Tempest*, *Salad Days*, and *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. Chris studied acting at Boston University's School of Fine and Applied Arts, music at the Manhattan School of Music, and musicology at the City University of New York. He is "very happy to be playing for such kind, welcoming people and in such a beautiful acoustic setting ... and looking forward to working on the Candlelight Carol Service." (Photo © 2007, Neal Rosenau)

Pastoral Reflections

Kathy Reid, Mary Sheeran, Wayne Kammerer and John Magisano, CCC pastoral counselor -- 'caught' here in a 'pastoral scene' enjoying our first fine Sunday-in-the-garden coffee hour – with wishes from all and to all of us – a warm, sunny, relaxing, joyous, restorative summer season 2007! (Photo, Lynn Ramsey)



Strategic Planning Process: Progress Report

The May 6th strategic planning meeting focused on outreach, and many potential initiatives were proposed and discussed, including how to formulate various goals (new members, higher attendance) and specific objectives (increase attendance and membership by target amounts in a period of time); discussion concentrated on various ways to increase community awareness of CCC and its programs.

Trustee Alana Atterbury reported on various activities she has undertaken to contact various community organizations, especially younger audiences currently unrepresented at CCC (via online outreach and Chelsea area connections); she also reported her activity in taking flyers to various schools and universities, as well as residential buildings and lobbies. Those present generated a number of ideas for consideration and further discussion.

Ideas generated by the group discussion included inviting musicians, singers, etc. from other local groups to provide music at our services, new ways to publicize our special speakers, ways to team up with other churches, 'open mic' opportunities for young performers, as well as PR tools like business cards, a logo, weekly flyers for specific placement, increased coverage by media such as Chelsea Now, and special outreach to local social service and similar organizations.

An informal committee will pursue a number of these; current members are Alana Atterbury, Kathryn Buck, Robert Mitchell, Jr., and Lynn Ramsey. If you have suggestions, and if you are interested in working with this committee, please let us know.

The next strategic planning meeting will be Sunday, June 3rd, at 1:30 p.m. following coffee hour. Sessions end promptly at 2:30 p.m.

Book Club

The Book Club will continue its focus on Paul as it takes up its next selection, *What Paul Meant*, by Gary Wills. The next meeting will be Sunday, May 26th, at 10:30 a.m. in the Rectory Chapel. It is not necessary to read the book to participate in the book group. We always have wide-ranging discussions and all are welcome to join. We meet three times a month. For more information, email John Magisano at jmagi@aol.com.

News Notes

Easter Sunday Special Music



Our Easter Sunday service this year featured two selections of special music by a quintet accompanied by Jerry Scott. Pictured, left to right, are Kathryn Buck, Paul Bodden, Mary Sheeran, Thad McGar and Lynne Robinson. Anyone interested in joining in to provide occasional special music is invited to get in touch! (Photo © 2007, Robert Mitchell, Jr.)

... and Special Food

as is our tradition, was enjoyed by all at the annual Easter Brunch following the service. Special thanks to Wayne Kammerer and his team for organization, setup (and clean-up), as well as to all who contributed to a delicious day!

Exodus Transitional Community Film Screening

On Thursday, May 3rd, Joanne Downes, Kathy Reid, Hilda Regier, and Robert Mitchell, Jr. traveled by train to Rye Presbyterian Church for a private screening of the new film *The Hard Road Home*. A full-length documentary about Exodus Transitional Community, *The Hard Road Home* shows what former inmates go through to reintegrate into society after being incarcerated. The film follows Griffik Negroni through this transformation, also focusing on ETC founder Julio Medina, the staff at Exodus, and the trials they themselves face.



For a number of years Chelsea Community Church has welcomed to our pulpit men and women connected with Exodus Transitional Community, some of whom, like Medina, hold a masters degree from New York Theological Seminary's program at Sing Sing prison. Hilda Regier, Chair of the Worship Committee, initiated and continues these invitations.

CCC was included in the shooting of the film, and many of our congregation were interviewed on camera as a crew from Greenhouse Pictures visited our service Memorial Day weekend, documenting the story of Sharon White, who spoke for us for the first time that day. Although this footage ended up "on the cutting room floor," this powerful and enlightening study by award-winning director Macy Alston offers all who see it a better understanding of the profound issues surrounding reentry. CCC hopes to be able to host a New York City screening of *The Hard Road Home* in the near future. Photo, l. to r.: Julio Medina, Griffik Negroni, Macy Alston. Photo © 2007, Robert Mitchell, Jr.)

Rising Hope

The Sunday following the screening of *The Hard Road Home*, Michael Wilcher (Protestant Baptist Society) was our guest speaker. Michael was the inside coordinator of the Rising Hope program at Woodbourne Correctional Facility and earned a master of professional studies degree in the New York Theological Seminary program at Sing Sing. Photo: Kathy Reid (a Rising Hope volunteer), Michael Wilcher, and Roger Manning, a Rising Hope December 2006 graduate, who received a certificate in ministry and human Services. (Photo © 2007, Robert Mitchell, Jr.)

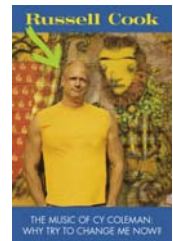


News of Friends

Scot Albertson and Daryl Kojak appeared, "Solo & Together," at the Triad Theater on Friday, April 20th. Scot was also nominated for a 2007 Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs (MAC) Award. Their music videos from the 2005 shows can be heard on www.scotalbertson.com/pages/Performances.htm Scot will appear again with the Daryl Kojak Jazz Quintet at the Triad on Friday, June 8th, at 7 p.m.

Karen Benedetto continues to garner recognition for her work in songwriting contests, including 1st Place in the Children's/Fantasy/Novelty category of the International Narrative Song Competition, Canada, for her "Right Off the Bat '04" (a baseball love story set during the Yankees/Red Sox World Series in 2004); 2nd Place in the Texas Songwriters Cruise Contest in its Christian category for "One", as well as Finalist in the same event for "Southern Rains" (Karen's response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita); and 2nd Place in the Piano Press Annual Art of Music Writing Contest (lyrics about music and the process of its creation) for "A Pencil and A Pad" ("The Songwriter Song"). You can hear these and other Benedetto originals at www.KarenBenedettoSongs.com. When not a part of our worship services here at CCC, Karen is a member of 'Voices In Unity', the 45-voice choir of Unity Church of New York. Their 2nd annual choir concert is Monday, June 4th, at Symphony Space, 95th & Broadway in Manhattan."

Russell Cook, who has played King Herod in our Palm Sunday/ Superstar Jesus Christ pageant, is re-doing his cabaret show, "The Music of Cy Coleman: Why Try to Change me Now?" at Don't Tell Mama, 343 West 46th Street (between 8th & 9th Aves) on Monday, June 11, and Tuesday, June 19, at 7pm. \$12 cover/2 drink minimum.)



John Eggleston remains in Room 1019, 10th floor hospice unit, Cabrini Medical Center, 227 E. 19th St. NYC 10003 and welcomes cards and visitors.

Alice Frazier, one of our soloists from Erie, PA, presented a cabaret show, *Broadway Without Boundaries*, at Helen's on Eighth Avenue, 7 p.m., May 9 & 17. (We apologize to Alice for listing this announcement in the last issue under the name Alice Fisher.)



Thad McGar performed two solos in a cabaret night/fund-raiser at the Church of the Holy Apostles (28th & 9th) on April 22nd. The first was "The Blue Room" by Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart, followed by "Time, You Old Gypsy Man," lyrics by E.Y. (Yip) Harburg, music by Philip Springer. Paul Bodden, Wayne Kammerer, Merle Lister, Lavesa Mitchell, Mary Sheeran, and Robert Mitchell, Jr. attended from CCC. It also turned out to be a fine way to help Merle Lister celebrate her birthday.

(Photo © 2007, Robert Mitchell, Jr.)

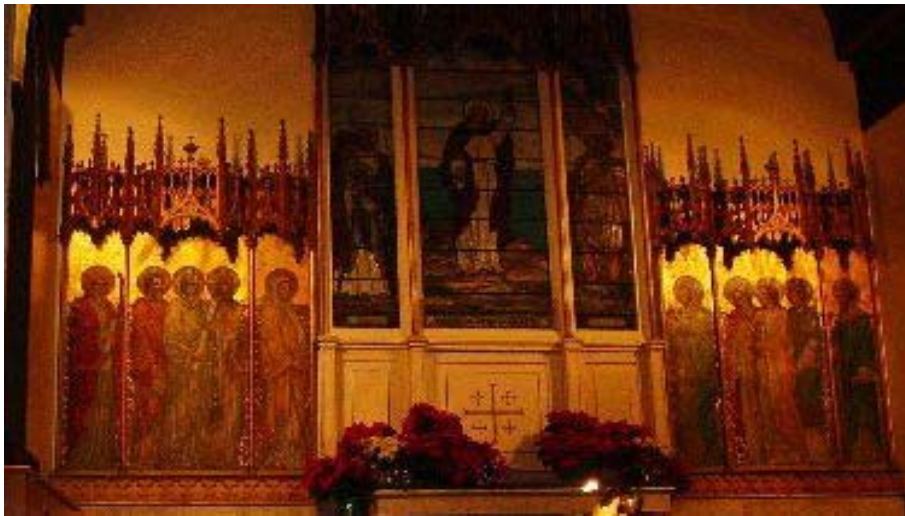
Anthony Santelmo, Jr., one of our soloists, is performing at the Hideaway Room at Helen's in a show with Valerie diLorenzo entitled, "The Last Time I Felt Like This..." (a 'Seeks Out the Tunes' Duo cabaret) on Saturdays, May 26th and June 9th, at 7:00 p.m., and a special brunch show on Sunday, June 10th, at 4:00 p.m. Helen's is at 169 Eighth Avenue (betw. 18th & 19th Sts.). Reservations and information: (212) 206-0609.

Jerry Scott, long-time friend of Chelsea Community Church and frequent accompanist, has won a Manhattan Association of Cabarets & Clubs (MAC) 2007 award for best Piano Bar/Restaurant/Hotel Lounge Instrumentalist. Jerry has received numerous MAC and BISTRO awards for Best Piano-Bar Performer as well as the Critics' Choice Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Piano-Bar performance. He has appeared all over the world, performed for President and Hillary Clinton and has appeared on ABC's "The View." He can currently be heard at Nino's Tuscany, 117 West 58th Street, Thursdays – Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at Ruby Fruit, 531 Hudson Street at 1 p.m.



For All the Saints ...

Every so often Mary Sheeran hears someone ask: "Who are those saints on the murals over the altar?" Fortunately, she has the answers. The stained glass window over the altar is flanked by murals of figures dating from 1900 and representing the Old (left) and New (right) Testaments. On the left are Abraham, Moses, David (with the crown), Isaiah, and Hannah. On the right of the altar are Mary, Matthew, John, Stephen (with the cup to show that he was a deacon and also as a symbol of his martyrdom), and Paul. (Photo below by Kathy Reid)



Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, Hannah;

Mary, Matthew, John, Stephen, Paul.

There is also a mural in the church that cannot be seen. In the "chapel" (on the left aisle), behind the altar, there is a 1947 mural of Jesus blessing two American servicemen. St. George appears on the left, and Michael the Archangel is to the right. After a few years, the parishioners thought that the mural was too militant and covered the piece with a cloth and a crucifix.

The portable altar that was at the center of the chancel for many years has been moved to this chapel. The lovely altar that now is the center of St. Peter's chancel dates from 1859; the communion rail in the side chapel dates from the church's beginnings.

Chelsea Community Church Statement of Mission

An independent, non-denominational, lay-led Christian congregations, 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

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)

Virginia Pfeiffer puts together 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 Tuesday, August 21st.
Send submissions to blsspks@aol.com or call (212) 243-0273.

Special thanks to Robert Mitchell, Jr. and Mary Sheeran for article contributions to this issue.

Errata

- in the previous newsletter, Alice *Frazier* was incorrectly identified as Alice Fisher.
- in the print version of this newsletter, the date given for the St. Peter's Chelsea 175th anniversary celebration was incorrectly given (but will be duly corrected before distribution), as Sunday, July 1, 1007, thus making it the 1,175th anniversary.
- in the print version of this newsletter, *Scot* Albertson's name was incorrectly spelled as Scott.

SCHEDULE of SPEAKERS

Worship Service, Sundays 11:45 a.m.

Our full program of special music will resume in the Fall.

- May 27 **Rev. Sylvia Shirk Charles** (Mennonite) is pastor of Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship. Previously campus minister at Goshen College in Indiana for 10 years, she earned a master of theology degree at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass.
- June 3 **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.
- June 10 **Rev. Susan Switzer** (United Church of Christ) is a consultant to New York Theological Seminary. Until May she was interim pastor of Emanuel United Church of Christ in Woodhaven, Queens. Formerly director of stewardship and fund development at Riverside Church, she received her M.Div. degree from Union Theological Seminary in 2003.
Special Music: Mary Sheeran
- June 17 **Leslie Rodgers** (Nondenominational) is a consultant to Exodus Transitional Community, a program for ex-offenders, and to for-profit organizations wishing to develop mechanisms to ready hard-to-place persons for the work force. He is also working toward a Ph.D. degree in social welfare at Hunter. He earned a master of professional studies in the New York Theological Seminary program at Sing Sing Prison and an M.A. in sociology from SUNY New Paltz.
- June 24 **Sabra McKenzie-Hamilton** (Roman Catholic) teaches religion and social justice at Marymount High School for Girls in Manhattan, where she also coordinates community service projects. She will return June 23 from a Mustard Seed Community project with high school students working with orphans and abandoned disabled children in Kingston, Jamaica. She earned an M.Div. at Union Theological Seminary and a master's degree in religion at Fordham University.
- July 1 *Chelsea Community Church joins St. Peter's Episcopal Church in celebrating its 175 years of service to the community.*
Service begins at 11 a.m.
- July 8 **Rev. William Weisenbach** (Presbyterian) is the senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Katonah in Westchester County. Previously vice president for academic affairs and professor of church management at New York Theological Seminary, he was a frequent speaker at Chelsea Community Church during his time in New York. He later served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown in Cold Spring, NY, for some years.
- July 15 **Rev. Dana Fenton** (American Baptist) teaches sociology at Lehman College and at Yeshiva University. She earned M.Div. and M.Phil. degrees at Union Theological Seminary. She is working toward a Ph.D. in sociology at CUNY and recently completed fieldwork research for her dissertation on the conservative movement in the Episcopal Church. She is a former pastor of churches Long Beach and Queens.

- July 22 **Rev. Clifford Frasier** (United Church of Christ) is campaign coordinator of field sites for the Communications Center of the Service Employees International Union. He is also clergy liaison to the Ordination Committee at Riverside Church. He has been coordinator of Presbyterian Welcome, a program encouraging inclusivity, associate pastor of Jan Hus Presbyterian Church and a member of the social justice staff at Riverside Church. In 2003-04 he spent six months in prison for civil disobedience at Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly School of the Americas). He earned his M.Div. at Harvard Divinity School.
- July 29 **Rev. John Magisano** (Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches), For biographical information, see June 3 listing.

Sunday services are suspended during August and on Labor Day weekend.



New music director Chris Johnson assumed his official duties at the May 6th service.
(Photo © 2007, Robert Mitchell, Jr.)