

A nondenominational Christian congregation



for persons of all faiths  
and of uncertain faith

meeting in historic St. Peter's Church  
346 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011

Sundays, except August, 12:00 p.m.

[www.chelseachurch.org](http://www.chelseachurch.org)

[info@chelseachurch.org](mailto:info@chelseachurch.org)

(212) 886-5463

# THE CHELSEA COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Winter 2011-2012  
December - February

*"There shall a star from Jacob come forth ..."*

## Special Services

December 18                  6:00 p.m.                  37<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Carol Service

### CCC 37th Annual Candlelight Carol Service Chelsea Actor William Fowle to Read "A Visit from St. Nicholas"

Chelsea Community Church, a lay-led nondenominational Christian church for people of all faiths, will hold its 37th Annual Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday, December 18th at 6 p.m. The service, comprising lessons and choral and congregational singing, will take place in historic St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 346 West 20th Street, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues. There is no charge for the event. An offering will be accepted.

Actor William "Will" Fowle, a Chelsea resident for 35 years and a member of Chelsea Community Church, will read Clement Clarke Moore's famous poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas." St. Peter's Church stands on land that was part of Moore's estate.

Mr. Fowle has worked as an actor and print model for many years and is a member of SAG, AFTRA and AEA. He is frequently featured on TV in "Law & Order," "Saturday Night Live," and "The Colbert Report" and is a regular on "30 Rock." His numerous film credits include "The Hoax," with Richard Gere, "Greta," starring Ellen Burstyn, "Wall Street II," with Josh Brolin, and "The Dictator," to be released next year with Sacha Baron Cohen.



Some of his favorite theater roles include the Tin Man in "Wizard of Oz," Sky Masterson in "Guys and Dolls," and Gaston in "Gigi," performed in regional theater. Most recently, Mr. Fowle originated the role of Mal Peters in the off-Broadway production of "The Lady Swims Today." As a print model,

he has appeared in advertising and magazines such as *Men's Health*, *MAXIM* and *Forbes*, where he graced the cover! When he's not working, he can be seen walking his dog, Wilson (as in Will's son), around Chelsea.

This year's choral program, under the direction of Music Director Larry J. Long, offers a broad range of music styles, from the beautiful, historic chant "Hodie Christus natus est" to George Frederic Handel's stirring "And the glory of the Lord" from his beloved oratorio, *Messiah*. Other pieces include a Ukrainian carol arranged by Mr. Long, "To the whole world"; Johannes Brahms's "The white dove"; a motet by the Renaissance composer Jean Mouton, "Noe, noe psallite"; "Angels we have heard on high" in an exciting arrangement by Stephen Paulus; and Felix Mendelssohn's "There shall a star from Jacob come forth." Violinist Linda Fennimore will also play during the service.



The choir has a new rehearsal venue this year and is enjoying the beautiful sanctuary and acoustics at St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church on West 31st Street, and Father Tom Franks of St. John's will join us as our speaker for our New Year's Day worship service; see page 10. (Picture above right: Choir Director Larry Long rehearses basses and tenors before working with the entire choir, left. Photos: K. Buck)

For a brief history of the "Lessons and Carols" tradition, see page 5.

### **Help Us Meet the Cost of Christmas**

Every year, we all look forward to presenting our annual Candlelight Carol Service. It is our "gift" to our friends in Chelsea. The popularity of this memorable carol service grows each year and, alas, so does the cost -- from choir director to sheet music, decorations, advertising, programs, reception supplies, and more. **Please consider providing a special donation towards these costs this year.** Your name will be included, with your permission, in our printed program if we receive your check (made out to Chelsea Community Church) no later than Sunday, December 11. Thank you very much for helping us offer this special service as a Christmas gift for our extended community!



### **Pastoral Reflections**

As I write this, thousands of people to the north, south and east of NYC are still without power from the surprise snow storm on Halloween weekend. At the same time, the autumn colors are peaking around the city in the most spectacular fashion, and the weather is pleasant, if somewhat cooler than normal for this time of year. Even as the garden in our backyard is giving up its leaves and flowers to the season change, it is bursting with color, with the blueberry bush a spectacular red, the winterberry is bright yellow and the serviceberry has a fiery range of colors from burnt orange to deep magenta.

As the old season dies out, the seeds of the new are being planted in the midst of contradiction. Wealth and poverty co-exist side by side in our city and world. The



Occupy Wall Street movement grows out of these disparities, pointing up the unsustainability of the current system where wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few. The universal church struggles over questions of what is church, who is saved, what are the boundaries, are historic dogmas and traditions unchanging or do they evolve over time?

As Christians, we worship a "king" who was born in a barn, who ruled no nations, commanded no army, and died with common thieves on a cross. During his life, Jesus pointed out social and spiritual contradictions to us through sermons like the Beatitudes, and actions such as feeding the hungry and overturning the tables in the Temple.

As we enter the season of Advent, contradictions and questions such as these swirl around us. Theologian Paul Tillich wrote, "Sometimes I think it is my mission to bring faith to the faithless, and doubt to the faithful." I feel that these words could as easily come from Jesus' lips. This season is one of preparation for the coming of the Christ. As we move through these weeks, we need to let these contradictions rest in our minds, not seeking to reconcile them but finding space for them, expanding our minds to accept them. The Christ will be born in the manger of our hearts, and our King will sit on the throne of our spirits.

Much love to all!  
Rev. John

### **CCC Book Group**

Our Book Group is currently reading *Francis of Assisi: A Revolutionary Life*, by Adrian House. We meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Rectory Chapel, three Sundays a month. All are welcome at anytime. For more information, email Rev. John at [jmagi@aol.com](mailto:jmagi@aol.com)

### **"Welcome Back!" Sunday Potluck**



A feeding of 40 folks or so took place at the church back on September 11--the Second Annual Homecoming Potluck Brunch. Though it was a far cry from the feeding of the 4000 to be sure, it was miraculous in its own modest way.

One might assume that a fair amount of planning and coordinating goes into putting these potlucks together--and a few years ago that assumption would be right: back when I first became the hospitality committee person and, accordingly, assumed oversight over the potluck brunches at church, I would call nearly everyone in the church directory to invite them to each brunch and to record what dish they might bring, and to strive for a proper balance between main dishes, salads and side dishes, and desserts.

How I found the time to make all those calls is a mystery to me now, but that was before I got connected to the internet, and maybe that explains it. Nowadays, I will make an announcement in church and send out an email, and that's about it--some folks email me back with their dishes, which is great, but I pretty much let the potluck run its own course. Of course, there were no church services prior to September 11 due to the August recess, and, hence, no announcement in church: my email announcement about the brunch was my one attempt at getting the word out. And it seemed to work. It was not quite a leap of faith, but perhaps a hop of hope, if you will.

The potluck brunches over the years have had a solid rock or two to stand on: namely, Thad McGar's venerable church supper bean casserole and Rick Carrier's renowned mac-'n-cheese. That twosome has become a foursome with the addition of Gloria Shofner's fan-favorite green salad and Will Fowle's "world-famous" pasta salad.

As for being both seasonal and simple, and yet so sweet, what can beat corn on the cob? That has been my contribution these past two homecoming brunches--and will remain so--I just hope no one else steals it from me. All I have to do is put the corn on to boil right before setting up the tables, and it is ready by the time we sing the doxology before the meal. That is a sweet deal for a busy brunch coordinator. And that first bite into an ear of corn is sweeter still, in the taste and texture, and in the sense of going back in time to golden days, golden as corn.

But no potluck is complete without the element of chance, or variety, and Hilda Regier's widely-acclaimed flavorful, low-fat dishes and Lynne Robinson's crowd-pleasing zesty, adventurous fare fill that bill. And I owe Lynne further thanks for her bringing the butter smearer for the corn-on-the-cob. Madeleine brought a classic green bean and mushroom casserole.

All this good food needs something to wash it down. Of course, there was coffee, but I had not arranged for any other beverages. But Ginger Ray came through, showing up with a variety of Sssips fruit drinks.

There were several other contributions to the brunch, and I thank everyone for what they brought. Betty Samuels brought a dessert and helped considerably with the set-up--which is a lot of work in a very short span: we do not start setting up until the offering takes place in the church service. That is a miracle in and of itself!

– Wayne Kammerer (Mouth-watering photo: Madeleine Gill)

## **Highlights of Our 36<sup>th</sup> Year & Board of Trustees Elections**

On October 2nd, the CCC board of trustees and members of the congregation met in St. Peter's Rectory for our Annual Congregational Meeting. The purpose was to elect trustees, review the highlights of the year, and get feedback from the community.

Lynne Robinson, Wayne Kammerer, and Merle Lister, whose terms had expired, were all reelected to the board. Paul Bodden, who has served as clerk for the past year, was newly elected to the board. Thad McGar resigned from the board, and Merle Lister will fill his two-year term. Robert Perretti was elected clerk. Thank you, Robert, for agreeing (with some arm twisting) to take on this important task of clerk of the congregation!

We are very thankful to all our trustees for their generosity and dedication, but especially to Thad, who has been on and off our board many times over more than 30 years. His loyalty, commitment, wisdom, and sense of humor have been an enormous contribution to CCC's leadership.

The new 2011-2012 CCC board, including its officers (who were voted on by the board following the Annual Meeting) include: Lynn Ramsey (re-elected as chair), Alana Atterbury (re-elected as vice chair), Paul Bodden (treasurer), Kathryn Buck, Wayne Kammerer, Merle Lister, Hilda Regier, Kathy Reid, Lynne Robinson. We are also grateful to Hilda, who has been our dedicated treasurer since 2006, and who was very happy to turn that responsibility over to Paul, our new trustee. We also thank Lynne Robinson, John Magisano and Mary Sheeran for early work spearheading the e-mail dissemination of our weekly Worship Notes.

### **2010/2011 Highlights**

- We had our highest attendance ever – 495 -- at our 2010 Candlelight Carol Service.
- Our 2010 Blessing of Animals also had a record attendance: 110 humans (and about 50 pets).
- We celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year, and Kathy Reid updated our printed history.
- We met last year's budget goals, with a little to spare, thanks to careful oversight by Hilda Regier.
- Print publicity increased, with thanks to Lynn Ramsey, including a feature in *The Daily News* and a page on our very successful 9/11 "Forgiveness" service in *Chelsea Now*.
- Online publicity, overseen by Alana Atterbury and John Magisano, generated more CCC awareness via social media.

- We improved our e-mail and internet communications with weekly e-mail worship notes and quarterly newsletters via Constant Contact. Thank you, Kathryn Buck, for initiating this effort, and Alana Atterbury and Kathy Reid for assistance.
- Special music in our weekly services was expanded. Thank you, Joanne Downes, for coordinating these memorable music offerings.
- Our Worship Committee, headed up by Hilda Regier, has expanded, and our guest speakers continue to inspire, stimulate and delight us.
- A new Community Liaison Committee (currently comprised of Merle Lister and Lynn Ramsey) was created to pursue more active community outreach. To learn about our new Book Reading Club for Fulton Youth of the Future in Chelsea, see below.
- Trustees participated in two board retreats to work on present and future issues. Thank you, Susan Switzer and John Magisano, for your thoughtful guidance.
- Our wonderful potluck buffet tradition was expanded, facilitated with great style and success by Wayne Kammerer, Virginia Pfeiffer, Lynne Robinson, and Gloria Schofner, among others.

In our discussion of how to more aggressively promote our unique church, there were several good ideas that the board will explore with the congregation in the future. Mary Ellen Sweeney proposed copyrighting and publishing the guest speakers' sermons. Will Fowle suggested the same be done with a CD of the special music as a way to raise funds that would be shared among church, speakers and singers.

Many thanks to all who attended and for your ongoing support of CCC! -- Lynn Ramsey

### **Making Reading Fun for Children in Chelsea**

In September children's book publisher and Chelsea-neighbor Kathleen Doherty of Tom Doherty Associates and CCC's Community Liaison Committee created a weekly **Book Reading Club for Fulton Youth of the Future**, mainly 8-to-12-year-olds, who live in nearby Fulton Houses. With support from Miguel Acevedo, founder of Fulton Youth of the Future, the club meets every Tuesday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on West 17<sup>th</sup> Street. The group ranges anywhere from 6 to 15 participants each week, with 2 adults. The children take turns reading aloud, and occasionally an adult will have a turn. When we finish a book, we celebrate with a pizza party. We are currently reading the latest in the hilarious *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. Volunteers are welcome to join the fun and help nurture the reading skills of these young kids. For more information, contact Lynn Ramsey at 212-989-2106.

### **A Brief History of "Lessons and Carols"**



Our CCC Candlelight Carol Service, now in its 37<sup>th</sup> year, is based on traditional 'lessons and carols' services originating in England in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The service, alternating New Testament gospel texts referencing Old Testament "prophecy" texts with choral and congregational singing, is traditionally held during Advent, and celebrates the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. It narrates the so-called "Christmas story" from the prophecy of Christ's birth through his birth to Mary and Joseph and his veneration by the three kings and presages his death on the cross and role as savior.

Although the tradition itself is not as old as one might think, it has deep – though according to one source, below, flawed -- roots in the tradition of Christian worship.

The now famous "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" is the adaptation of an earlier service and was established -- and virtually institutionalized -- by Eric Milner-White, Dean of the Chapel at King's College, Cambridge University, on Christmas Eve 1918 for the university community and the City of Cambridge. Dean had just been appointed to his post at King's College following WWI service as a British army chaplain and was responding to a perceived need for a more imaginative worship. The original service was adapted from an Order drawn up by E. E. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed which at the time served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve in 1880. Milner-White's service was first broadcast in 1928 and has been

broadcast by the BBC every year except 1930. During the Second World War, it was broadcast even when the ancient glass – and the heat -- had been removed from the King's College chapel. The service can be heard today broadcast live on Christmas Eve morning, on National Public Radio (WNYC), at 10 a.m. EST and is rebroadcast on Christmas Day.

The “lessons and carols” tradition has spread throughout the Anglican, English-speaking world, has been much replicated in cathedrals and churches throughout the U.S., and has become perhaps the single most familiar service in Christian worship. The first such service to be held in the US took place at Appleton Chapel in Harvard Yard in December 1909, and another, designed by F. Melius Christiansen, founder of the music department at St. Olaf College, was instituted in 1912. More recently, similar services have been designed to celebrate All Hallows' Eve, All Saints' Day, Easter and Pentecost.

The origin of carol singing is itself pagan, the term may derive from the Greek *koros*, the circle of dancers and singers complementing the dialogue of Attic drama. Although the medieval Catholic Church only reluctantly permitted Christian carols to take root in Europe, by the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century carol-singing had become an integral part of seasonal worship. Carols were, however, banned in England during the Puritan regime of Oliver Cromwell in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but they were preserved and augmented in the New World and eventually restored as tradition in Britain.

The terms “carol” and “hymn” occasionally overlap, but the two genres are different. Hymn texts tend to teach; the carol – which stems from the medieval mystery play – is narrative. For the largely uneducated people of the Middle Ages, the carol, like a stained glass window or a fresco, depicted momentous events. In fact, it was St. Francis of Assisi who proclaimed the nature of most carols to be both “hilarious” (joyous) and reverential. Carol-singing originally celebrated several seasons of the church year but today is associated most closely with the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

All of this is well and good, and begins to explain the beauty and the comfort so many find in this service. But in 1997, John Spong, Bishop of Newark, wrote forcefully of his own rethinking of the festival of lessons and carols (<http://dioceseofnewark.org/vox20197.html>), based on what he considers an attitude toward the Bible that he finds “uninformed and increasingly distasteful,” claiming that the assumptions on which the service format is based represent “biblical nonsense” and a “superstitious interpretation of the Bible,”

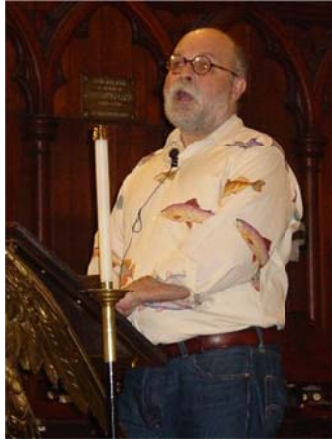
*... the mentality that suggests that the prophets foretold exact events according to the long range plan the God had encoded centuries earlier in the Bible. Only Gentile interpreters, imposing their western minds upon these Jewish scriptures, could devise such a strange doctrine of revelation or seek to impose upon the scriptures such a superstitious explanation ... I want the Church to shout to the highest heaven “God was in this Christ!” This is our experience. But that God presence was not achieved by a Wizard of Oz who had a heavenly script worked out centuries before that was magically hidden in the ancient texts of the Jews only to be discovered by the Gospel writers. Jesus did not fulfill the literal expectations of the Hebrew scriptures... We must ... begin to ask ... “What does it mean that, when trying to understand the God met in Jesus, these evangelists cast the events of his life in terms of those sacred stories of their past?”*

Spong advocates a “new form for this beautiful service.”

In this season of tradition and rejoicing, it is wise to reflect on its history and origins and the ways in which we can most meaningfully, rather than reflexively, carry it with us into the future. In the words of Bishop Spong, “A Church that wants to engage the future cannot perpetuate this ignorance of the past.”

Compiled by Kathryn Buck. Sources: Website, program and other information from The Anglican Singers; St. Dunstan's Episcopal (Dover, MA); King's College, Cambridge; *The Voice* (Episcopal Diocese of Newark)

### Blessing of Animals a Very Special Service



A trumpeted racing call set our annual Blessing of Animals service off resoundingly well, as lay leader Otto Walberg, left, in his traditional “fish shirt,” wove together a strong sequence of elements connected to the theme.

**Karen Durbin** read scripture and **Merle Levine** a poem she wrote for the occasion, and **Kevin Coughlin**, right, offered a profoundly thought-provoking meditation about his journey through sudden blindness to personal growth, propelled by the strength of the human spirit and aided by his canine companion, Elias, present with him.



Very special music was commissioned for the *Soliloquy*, music by composer and baritone lyrics by **Steven Turtell** and sung by tenor Daly. The piece was both interesting and very beautiful.



service in a piece entitled *St. Francis’s* saxophonist **Claire Daly**, center, with Otto Walberg accompanied by Ms.



A sizeable crowd of attended the service, companion animals, some 140 people with and without though there were about 64 of those present – mostly dogs (some of whom barked with enthusiasm at key points in the service), a few cats, and at least one ferret. Some went directly to the garden for treats and refreshments, while many waited in line for individual blessings by **Rev. John Magisano**, left, who had also led a general blessing, and **Keith Gardner**, right, of St. Peter’s congregation. Several people received blessings for their animals by bringing a photograph.



Though not as well-attended or as “traditional” as our Candlelight Carol Service, the Blessing of Animals is definitely also a gift to our community, a way for the many in Chelsea who love their animals to connect through our church to the Creator of “all things that have breath.” -- Kathy Reid, text and photos

### Chelsea Food Pantry

Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Saturdays from 11-11:30 a.m. **Volunteers are needed** for food distribution on Saturday mornings, 10-11:30 a.m. Contact St. Peter’s at 212-929-2390 for further information. The pantry can also use clean plastic grocery bags.

### At St. Peter’s Episcopal, Chelsea

**Taizé Services** Taizé is the name of a town in eastern France. It became a refuge during World War II, and a monastic community grew there in the years since the 1940s. Worshippers gather in Taizé still to worship in a simple style with candlelight, repetitive chants, and short periods of silence. St. Peter’s holds its Taizé service each month on the second Sunday of the month. There will be a hiatus in December, and the series will resume January 8, 2012. Each service concludes with an anointing rite. All are welcome.

**Christmas Eve at Saint Peter’s** There will be a Christmas Eve service, with Christmas music, at 10 p.m., and a festival choral mass with organ, woodwinds and choir beginning at 10:30 p.m.

## News of Members and Friends

### Scholomiti-Nicolosi Wedding

On Oct. 23rd, Chelsea Community Church hosted a wonderful wedding service for two men in the Chelsea community, George Scholomiti and Gregory Nicolosi. The church was full of family and friends, gathered in the warmth of this couple's love. Together for 14 years, George and Gregory decided to marry when NYS law was amended to allow same-sex marriages.

The ceremony included all the traditional elements of vows and ring exchanges, the couple's nieces serving as the ring bearer and flower girl, with each groom accompanied up the aisle by their respective family members. The ceremony also incorporated an element of a Greek Orthodox liturgy, with an exchange of handmade, beaded crowns connected by a long tassel. The crowns were placed on the grooms' heads, exchanged three times and then the couple circled the altar three times accompanied by Greek hymns sung in English by CCC music director Jeffrey Cubeta.

It was a beautiful, moving ceremony, and we are grateful to the couple for coming to Chelsea Community Church for their holy day.

### Martha of Bethany Inspires a New Screenplay by Mary Sheeran

Martha of Bethany appears frequently in the New Testament and is prominent in Christian lore and art. The accounts point to a strong woman who knew her own mind. But who was she and how did she and her family, friends of Jesus, become leading voices in the early Christian movement?

For a couple years now I've been working on a screenplay, *Martha, of Bethany*, a Biblical epic with women in the leading roles. The latest revision had a reading Saturday, October 22, for a small audience at Ripley-Grier Studios on Eighth Avenue. Members of Chelsea Community Church were included in the cast: Paul Bodden (Jacob/Narrator), Lynne Robinson (Joanna/Mary of Nazareth), and Will Fowle (Joshua – ie, Jesus). Other cast members included Maria Cabrera (Martha), who directed, Tessa Martin (Mary of Bethany), Robert Georges (Octavius), Jeffrey Harmon Smith (Benjamin), R. J. Katz (Lazarus), Julie Praetzel (Sarah/Susanna/Narrator), Amy Slingerland (Salome), and Sarah Bichler (Chorus). The script has an epic-sized cast, and most actors read more than one character.

This particular script was a whittling down of a previous version that was read in October 2009, when several readers gathered around a table at the Church of the Epiphany on the Upper East Side – with food from Michael's Deli. Since the screenplay had stretched to 200 pages by then, the reading stretched over two nights! Several members of Chelsea Community Church also took part in this reading, including Paul Bodden, Wayne Kammerer, Kathy Reid, and Lynne Robinson. Maria Cabrera, Tessa Martin, and Amy Slingerland also participated in that first reading, with Amy reading Mary, and Beth Rake reading Martha. This workshop was helpful to me in deciding how to approach revisions, and after my novel *Quest of the Sleeping Princess* was published, I was able to return to this script.

My interest in Martha probably started with my mother and my aunt, both devout Catholics who insisted vehemently that, when it came to Martha, "Jesus was just wrong." And no priest, bishop, or theologian could tell them differently. Well, I've studied many theological commentaries, all saying in many ways how Jesus was definitely right when he told Martha she was wrong. But they couldn't convince me. *Martha, of Bethany* will be performed again, sometime early next year. In the meantime, when you are sitting in church at St. Peter's, just look around and find the window that features Martha, Mary, and Jesus as well as the pictures that depict the women at the Resurrection. And wonder! -- Mary Sheeran

**SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS and SPECIAL MUSIC**  
**Worship Service, Sundays 12:00 p.m.**

**December 4 Min. Yvette Vanterpool** (American Baptist) is an associate minister at Memorial Baptist Church in Harlem and minister of evangelism and outreach at Devoe Street Baptist Church in Brooklyn, as well as an adjunct instructor at The College of New Rochelle. She previously worked with Face to Face/Faith to Faith, a multi-faith youth program at Auburn Theological Seminary. She received her M.Div. degree *summa cum laude* from Drew Theological Seminary in 2008 and was awarded The Rev. Florence Spearing Randolph Prize, awarded to African American women students demonstrating powerful preaching skill and potential for outstanding pastoral leadership. An accomplished classical singer, she holds a Master of Music degree in voice/opera from Binghamton University. She has sung with the *Deutsche Oper Berlin*, The New World Symphony, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Texas Opera Theater and toured with the New York City and Glimmerglass Operas. ***Special Music: Yvette Vanterpool***

**December 11 Rev. John Magisano** (Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches) is Chelsea Community Church's pastoral counselor. He also works as a consultant to nonprofit organizations in the New York area. He earned his M.Div. degree at New York Theological Seminary and previously served as assistant pastor for development at the Metropolitan Community Church of Hartford.

**December 18 C.B. Stewart** (United Church of Christ) is a student at Union Theological Seminary who expects to receive her M.Div. degree in 2013. She is also a community minister at Judson Memorial Church, where she is "under care," a step toward ordination in her denomination. In 2010 she assisted the pastor at Lemuel Haynes Congregational United Church of Christ in Jamaica, Queens, via a fellowship from Judson.  
***Special Music: Martha Bernard***

**December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY Lay-Led Service Wayne Kammerer, Leader**

**January 1, 2012 NEW YEAR'S DAY Fr. Tom Franks** (Roman Catholic) is pastor of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church on West 31<sup>st</sup> Street, where our choir is rehearsing for the Candlelight Carol Service. He was ordained to the priesthood at Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers in 2008. A graduate of Fordham University, he earned his M.Div. degree at Weston Jesuit Seminary in Cambridge, MA. He is now working toward a licentiate degree at Boston College.

**January 8 Rev. Patricia Lawson** (Baptist) is assistant to the pastor at Community Protestant Church in the Bronx. She has been with the nondenominational congregation since 2010. From 2002 until 2009, she was the director of Children and Family Ministries at The Riverside Church. She joined the Riverside staff as an intern in the Youth and Young Adults program in 1996 while studying for her M.Div. degree at New York Theological Seminary. Before attending the seminary, she was an actress, appearing Off Broadway and in the TV series "The Jeffersons," and a jazz and gospel singer. ***Special Music: Rob Mosher***

**January 15 Rasheed Hart** (Nondenominational) works with Back in Stride, a re-entry program for ex-offenders founded by Rev. Loren Russell. Released from prison in 2010, he is the author of *Play Your Position*, published by Author House in 2005. While in prison he earned a certificate in theology and human services from the Rising Hope program. He is starting a company, Pet Life Assurance, to offer life insurance policies for pets.

**January 22 Sheryl Sohn** (Nondenominational) was until recently an academic counselor at College Initiative working with at-risk youth. Previously she worked in various capacities at Exodus Transitional Community, including being the director of its Mentoring Project. A graduate of Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, she participated in the first clinical pastoral education program offered in a prison and has begun work toward an M.Div. degree from Trinity Bible College and Seminary, Newburgh, Ind. ***Special Music: William Safkow***

**January 29 Rev. John Magisano** (Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches) is Chelsea Community Church's pastoral counselor. He also works as a consultant to nonprofit organizations in the New York area. He earned his M.Div. degree at New York Theological Seminary and previously served as assistant pastor for development at the Metropolitan Community Church of Hartford.

**February 5 Rabbi Jill Hausman** (Jewish) is the spiritual leader of Congregation Ezrath Israel, also known as the Actors Temple. Before coming to the 47<sup>th</sup> 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. ***Special Music: Jill Hausman***

**February 12 Rev. James Campbell** (United Church of Christ) is pastor of Broadway United Church of Christ. He earned his M.Div. degree at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio and was ordained in the United Methodist Church in 1991. He served congregations in that denomination in Ohio and New Jersey for eight years before working in the private sector for several years and transferring to the United Church of Christ.

***Special Music: Pamela Palmieri***

### **February 19 Lay-Led Service**

**February 26 Rev. Addie Banks** (Mennonite) is associate minister at King of Glory Tabernacle in the Bronx, where she has worked as a co-pastor with her husband for about 25 year The reading took two nights The reading took two nights The reading took two nights s. A spiritual director, she is executive director of the congregation's Groundswell Research Center, which provides mediation and conflict resolution and works with community organizations. She is co-chair of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, an interfaith organization, and is a member of the executive committee of the national governing board of her denomination, Mennonite Church USA. She holds two master's degrees from the Metropolitan College of New York, one in public administration and one in public affairs.

### **CCC Trustees Plus**

Lynn Ramsey, Chair (Publicity/PR; Community Liaison)

Alana Atterbury, Vice Chair (Social Media)

Paul Bodden (Treasurer)

Kathryn Buck (Newsletter; CCS Committee)

W. Kathleen Reid (Benevolence; Editing/Proofreading)

Lynne Robinson (Sound System; Newsletter Postal Mailing List)

Merle Lister (Community Liaison)

Wayne Kammerer (Hospitality)

Hilda Regier (Worship)

Robert Perretti, Clerk

John Magisano, Pastoral Counselor

Jeff Cubeta, Music Director

Joanne Downes, Special Music Scheduling

Robert Hickey, Website & Graphics

Virginia Pfeiffer, Roster Coordinator

### **CCC Mission Statement**

An independent, non-denominational, lay-led Christian congregation, Chelsea Community Church is not a building but a people. We offer a supportive environment for people of all faiths and uncertain faith: **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 anyone to worship with us and become part of our extended Christian family. [www.chelseachurch.org](http://www.chelseachurch.org)

### **The Newsletter**

**Published quarterly in December, March, June and September**



Special thanks are due, with each issue, to those who help put it together and get it to you – to all of you who submit news and material, to Lynne Robinson for maintaining the postal mailing list, to Kathy Reid for proofreading, to Robert Hickey for posting it to the website, and to all of you who “stuff, stamp and seal” at coffee hour. **Please submit material for the Spring Newsletter** (March - May) to Kathryn Buck **by February 15: [blsspks@aol.com](mailto:blsspks@aol.com)** or call (212) 243-0273.