



A Second Look



An Invitation to the Life and Work of Our Community of Faith and Fellowship

A S E C O N D L O O K

A P R I L 2 0 1 7

Session Calls Congregational Meeting: Sunday, April 23

The Session, at its March 27 meeting, received and accepted the letter of resignation/retirement, effective September 1, of Leslie Merlin as Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church and Pastor to Alexander Robertson School.

In accord with The Book of Order and Presbyterian polity, the Session now calls a *pro re nata* Congregational Meeting for Sunday, April 23, during Coffee Hour, so that the congregation may do likewise.

2 6 0 Y E A R S O F M I N I S T R Y

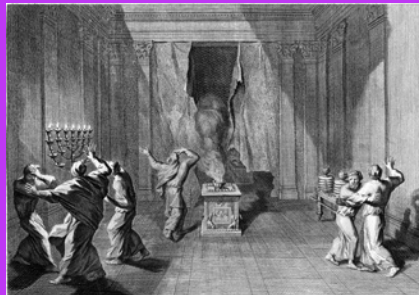
There Are A Lot Of Things To Think About And Remember This Eastertide

The ground of all future hope is the promise of resurrection. That expression of new, God-given life in the face and defiance of death is the well from which all hope is drawn.

Thus we celebrate with abandon, while unafraid to stare into the abyss and acknowledge its devastation. This season is full.

Please remember to:

- Make donations for **Palm Sunday and Easter flowers** in honor or in memory of people you love. Envelopes are available in worship, or send a check to Second Presbyterian Church, 3 West 95th Street, 10025, by April 10. Print the name you wish included in the Easter program legibly, please.
- Give generously to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, our denomination's strong, creative participation in world-wide



In the aftermath of the crucifixion the curtain of the Temple was torn in two by a mighty wind, signifying the merging of the sacred and the profane and of a new relationship with God.

disaster relief and the self-development of people. Gratitude for our great good fortune, and compassion for the undeserved misfortunes of so many, offer us this avenue of common humanity and mutual blessing.

- **Our Annual Agape Luncheon on Palm Sunday**, April 9, is a potluck delight! We begin the festivities of the day by assembling for worship in the Carnegie Library, following the piper around the short end of

the block to enter "the gates of Jerusalem" (the red ones on 96th Street). Our worship takes us from joyful shouts of praise for Jesus to the foreboding awareness of his impending death. But we eat together and take comfort that, in community, we find his life in and with us.

- **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service**, April 13, 7pm. Jesus' last act was a Passover meal with his disciples, so we celebrate this meal with him again. Then, as we read through the sad and inexorable events of the passion and Jesus' execution, we dim the lights of the sanctuary. The light comes into the world and there is that in the world that wants it extinguished.
- **Good Friday** the sanctuary is open for prayer, April 14, noon – 2pm.
- **Easter Sunday Festival Worship**, 10:15am. God overcomes the darkness of death. Light and life return to the world. Once again we sing "Hallelujah".

Second Presbyterian Church

Sanctuary: 6 West 96th Street/Office: 3 West 95th Street

212-749-1700 / www.secondpresbyteriannyc.org

Leslie Merlin, Pastor

Worship at 10:15 am Sundays

Music Supports Our Church and School

Great Moments in Church Music Come to Worship

The Music Search Committee is working hard. One way of sharing with you our work and our joy is by asking some of those who audition for our Minister of Music position to accompany our worship. This gives us a fuller sense of the musician's personality and the potential "fit" for us and our hopes. Listen up and listen in!!

Keeping Our Organ Safe Among Other Things

For the past few years there has been a leak above our organ pipes. James Konzelman, our organ builder/repairer for 10, these many years, and Paul Sanner rigged a tarp over the pipes to protect them. That was about the best they could do until building rights and ownership responsibilities had been sorted out.

It happened that the section of the roof that was leaking is owned by Argo, Inc. They agreed to have a "quick fix" done by our contractor, Two Tone, at their expense, and it was accomplished – before the snow storm, WHEW! Argo has further agreed to do a permanent fix, at their expense, and to pay SPC for the damage to the organ for which they are responsible. All's well that ends well.

You also may have noticed the new electrical wall switches in the narthex – a great aesthetic and safety improvement.

Weather has stalled our hopes to begin to finish masonry work on the church façade, but spring will come and we will address it with alacrity.

Also planned for the summer is the long-awaited electrical upgrade! We are making progress.

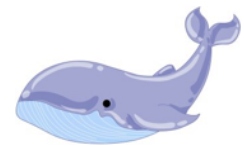
Jonah: The Musical

A Merlin/Sanner Production

After the fun and success of last year's "Up From Egypt", Paul and Leslie decided to write a musical together, and, by George, I think we've finally got it.

The Biblical story of Jonah has a lot to offer children. It's short, involves disobedience, crime and potential punishment, some serious scolding, the amazing reform of the bad guys, and a cockeyed, but mostly happy ending. And it's a whale of a tale.

It took us awhile, but Paul and I have finally focused and it looks as though we will produce it, with the talents of Alexander Robertson School students, in late May or early June. Stay tuned!



A P R I L 2 0 1 7

April Calendar: Susan Gordon-Clark, Worship Coordinator

Sunday, April 2: *5th Sunday in Lent*, 10:15am worship, Leslie Merlin preaching, Andrew von Gutfeld, musician

Monday, April 3: ARS resumes

Wednesdays, April 5, 12*, 19, 26: Choir practice, 7:30pm, Carnegie Library

Saturday, April 8: Set-up for Agape Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, April 9: *Palm/Passion Sunday*, 10:15am worship, Leslie Merlin preaching, Holy Communion, *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*. Worship begins in the Carnegie Library, Colin Nesbit, piper, Kathryn Schneider, musician; *Agape Potluck Luncheon*, Carnegie Library

Monday, April 10: *Holy Week* begins

Tuesday, April 11: *Passover*, ARS closed, *Tuesdays at Prayer*, 11:30am, Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 12: *Taizé* service of quiet, prayer and song, 6pm, Sanctuary; *Choir practice, 7pm

Thursday, April 13: *Maundy Thursday*, Holy Communion and *Tenebrae*, 7pm, Dr. Sean Jackson, musician

Friday, April 14: *Good Friday*, Sanctuary open for prayer, noon – 2pm; ARS closed

Sunday, April 16: *Easter Sunday* Festival Worship, 10:15am, *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* Leslie Merlin preaching, Kathryn Schneider, musician

Sunday, April 23: *2nd Sunday of Easter*, 10:15am worship, Leslie Merlin preaching, Mark Adamy, musician; Pro re nata Congregational Meeting during Coffee Hour

Sunday, April 30: *3rd Sunday of Easter*, 10:15am worship, Leslie Merlin preaching, Mark Adamy, musician

Harold Stover
Gives
Benefit Concert
for
Alexander
Robertson School
at Second
Presbyterian
Church
Save the Date –
Sunday, May 21