

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

M A Y 2 0 1 7

'Reformation 500' May 17, 7pm
Holy Name of Jesus Church, West 96th and Amsterdam
We'll Party Like It's 1517

In an inspired role reversal, we have been graciously invited by the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus – Saint Gregory the Great parish to a service of evening prayer to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation!!

Holy Name of Jesus is a Roman Catholic parish in the Franciscan tradition. Their letter of invitation reads, in part, "St. Francis of Assisi befriended the creation and his brothers and sisters with a greeting of peace. In that spirit of peace we look forward to celebrating 'Reformation 500' with you and to seeing in this event the fruit of widespread and longstanding ecumenical conversations."

Following the service there will be a reception in St. Mary of the Angels Chapel in the lower church.

What a wonderful moment in the life of the holy, catholic, church. I suspect that Pope Francis, of the loving and open heart, is a closet Presbyterian.

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

Preparing for the Transition

When the time comes, the process for finding a new pastor will include the congregation, the Presbytery, the candidate, and most of all, God. That process will begin in earnest after Leslie's retirement begins in September.

For now, the Session is preparing to find a temporary preacher and moderator of the Session to fulfill the needs of the church during the months immediately after Leslie's last day until we find an interim pastor. The interim pastor would then serve until the congregation completes its mission review and search for an installed pastor.

We are currently working on two fronts: 1) Preparing a job



The pieces will come together and we will be renewed.

description for an interim pastor; that job description will be reviewed by the New York City Presbytery; 2) Seeking candidates who will be available to serve as a temporary preacher and moderator until we find an interim pastor.

Candidates considered for service as a temporary preacher

and moderator might be asked to serve as guest preachers during July and August. The Session hopes to approve the temporary preacher and moderator during the summer. The Session will also create a search committee for an interim pastor; that committee has not yet been formed.

Guiding us throughout this process will be our liaison to the Committees on Ministry (COM) of the New York City Presbytery, Sharon Davison. Sharon is an elder at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and a member of the COM. She served on the pastor nominating committee for her church and knows a lot about our church and neighboring congregations.

Second Presbyterian Church

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

212-749-1700 / www.secondpresbyteriannyc.org

Leslie Merlin, Pastor

Musical Treats Abound -- Tra-la! It's May!

Harold Stover, Super Star
Benefit Organ Recital for ARS
Sunday, May 21, 4pm

Renown, revered, former organist and choir master, Harold Stover, will give a benefit organ recital on behalf of Alexander Robertson School Sunday, May 21, 4pm, in the sanctuary of Second Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Stover will play selections from Bach, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns, and his own compositions!!

Sponsorship packages (2 reserved seats, corporate or family name mention in the program) are available for \$150, the suggested donation for General Admission is \$20, and children under twelve are invited for free.

Harold Stover is beloved and admired for his masterful music and for his personal qualities. This will be a great treat for all. An informal reception will be held in the Carnegie Library after the recital.

The Ebony Ecumenical Ensemble will give their 38th Annual Spring Concert at First Corinthian Baptist Church, 116th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd., **Saturday, May 6, 7pm**. It is open to the public and free-will offerings are accepted.

The Fort Washington Church Community Choir, 729 181st Street (corner of Fort Washington and 181st Street) will present a concert of sacred and secular music **Tuesday, May 9, 8pm**. Our own Susan Gordon Clark sings in this chorus!!

We Remember Mama ---- Sunday, May 14
It has long been our custom at Second Presbyterian to remember our mothers by bringing flowers in their honor on Mothers' Day: red for those we can still hug and kiss, white for those who live with the saints in light. It is a lovely gesture.

That day we also remember and pray for women who are incarcerated, and separated from their children.



First Corinthian Baptist Church
1912 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.
West 116th Street, New York, NY 10026

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
FREE WILL OFFERING



M A Y 2 0 1 7

Calendar for May

- Nancy Hughes is Worship Coordinator for May
- Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 6 or 6:30pm, Choir practice, Carnegie Library
- Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25: 3pm, Minister of Music Search Committee, Pastor's Office / sanctuary
- Sunday, May 7: worship, 10:15am, Leslie Merlin preaching, Kristen Cho, musician
- Tuesday, May 9: 11:30am, *Tuesdays at Prayer*, sanctuary, followed by lunch
- Wednesday, May 10: 6pm, Taizé Service of Song, Silence, and Prayer, sanctuary
- Thursday, May 11, 18 & 25: ARS Open House Tour, 9:15am
- Saturday, May 13: 8am, Bedford / Taconic Prison visit
- Sunday, May 14, Mothers' Day: 10:15am worship, Eunjung Ahn, musician
- Monday, May 15: 6pm, Session meeting, Headmaster's office
- Tuesday, May 16: 6pm, Trustees meeting, Pastor's office
- Wednesday, May 17: 7pm, 'Reformation 500', Holy Name of Jesus RC Church, West 96th / Amsterdam
- Thursday, May 18: 6pm, ARS Talent Show, gym
- Friday – Sunday, May 19-21: Thrive NYC, faith weekend for mental health
- Sunday, May 21: 10:15am, worship, Leslie Merlin preaching, 4pm, Harold Stover Organ Recital to Benefit ARS
- Sunday, May 28: 10:15am, worship, Leslie Merlin preaching
- Monday, May 29: Memorial Day

Thrive NYC Weekend of Faith, May 19-21

New York City's second annual Mental Health Weekend is sponsored and spearheaded by First Lady of NYC, Chirlane McCray and her team. This year the focus is on addiction and substance abuse.

To participate we simply make a commitment to speak about mental health during worship that weekend. It is a topic well worth our consideration, compassion and action.

Ministering to One Another With Skill, Help, and Support

On-going pastoral care is something our congregation may want to actively address during the months of pastoral transition ahead. Our congregation has a great will to be loving; strong pastoral care and communication help us all support and pray for one another.

Those inclined to develop skills that can provide active care may be interested in pursuing a program called Stephen Ministry. This is an international, not-for-profit, educational organization, a lay caregiving system, now used in over 12,000 congregations in the U.S., Canada and 29 other countries. The training gives people the confidence to listen, care appropriately, pray, and walk with people as long as needed, as an extension of God's mercy and grace.

Those who are interested will gather, on a date yet to be determined, for an informal discussion of what person-to-person pastoral care, and the Stephen Ministry, entail. If you would like to participate please speak with Leslie or Elaine Song.



Left: Maundy Thursday, when the Sanctuary becomes Jesus' Tomb. Right: Easter morn!

