

# A SECOND LOOK

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

## Second In Session

by Nancy Hughes, Clerk of Session

The Session met on April 19, and here are some highlights:

- At our first meeting with Interim Pastor Lindsay Borden we heard reports from the Clerk, the Pastor, the school, Worship & Music and Stewardship Committees.
- In the culmination of much conversation and careful review, we voted to renew the contract of Alexander Robertson School Head of School Irwin Shlachter.
- We discussed building issues, including next steps in the long-awaited accessible bathroom project.
- A date was set for the Special Congregational Meeting to elect our 2018 Church Nominating Committee: May 6, immediately following worship.
- We also talked about the Mission Study process, and hope to begin with a church-wide conversation to be held before the summer begins – stay tuned.



Lindsay Borden, Nancy Hughes and Karen Amrhein are all smiles as ARS musters for the Tartan Day Parade.

## From the Pastor

Well, dear new friends, I'm here! And though I've met many of you, I'm eager to get to know all of you better. That will happen in time, I know – but meanwhile, please don't be shy about reaching out if you'd like to get together for a cup of coffee or a walk or just a phone chat.

Since there are some changes taking place – and there will be more – I want to use this space in the next two months, at least, to talk about some new or different (or, perhaps, revived) elements in the worship service; and about upcoming steps in the interim period.

## A Word About Worship: The Prayer for Illumination

I hope you've noticed that now, before we hear the Scripture readings and sermon – before that is, hearing the Word of God read and proclaimed – we offer a prayer asking God to send the Holy Spirit to help open our ears to hear and our hearts to receive what God is saying to us through Scripture and interpretation. According to our denominational Directory for Worship (W-3.0302): "This sense of utter reliance on the illumination of the Spirit is an important and distinctive mark of the Reformed tradition. The prayer for illumination precedes the reading of Scripture and preaching of the sermon and applies to all of the readings, as well as the proclamation [preaching] of the Word."

Please note: a common error (even among pastors!) is to call this The Prayer of Illumination, rather than The Prayer for Illumination. Prayer "of" implies that the mere fact of praying illumines our minds and hearts. Prayer "for" rightly acknowledges that we seek God's help.

One more thing: The Directory for Worship is part of our Book of Order,

*continued on reverse*

## SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

212-749-1700 [www.secondpresbyteriangny.org](http://www.secondpresbyteriangny.org)

Rev. Lindsay Borden, Interim Pastor

Eunjung Ahn, Minister of Music

Worship at 10:15 a.m. Sundays

*Seeking a Better World Together*

which is in turn part of the Constitution of the denomination to which we belong, The Presbyterian Church (USA). The Book of Order is Part II of the constitution; Part I is our Book of Confessions, which contains the ancient and contemporary "confessions," or affirmations, of our Reformed Christian faith.

### **Interim – But Not, We Pray, Interminable!**

This month, I simply want to give you a brief overview of the process of calling a new installed pastor (based upon *The Revised On Calling a Pastor* guide, available at the PC (USA) website at <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/clc/revised-calling-pastor/> ). Please note: I said overview, not timeline, as God alone knows how long each step will take; and, notice the acronyms – you'll be seeing them a lot in the next year or so!

Interim Pastor arrives --- Mission Study Review process begins, involving survey questionnaires and in-person meetings with church and community members, review of the congregation's financial capability, etc --- completed Mission Study goes to COM (Committee on Ministry, Presbytery of NYC) --- COM approves Mission Study and authorizes the church to elect a PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) --- the Session calls a congregational meeting to elect PNC ---PNC elected and begins work --- PNC writes the MIF (Ministry Information Form: like an in-depth job description/want ad for the pastor position) --- COM approves MIF --- PNC submits to the CLC (Church Leadership Connection website) --- PNC defines search/interview process; begins reviewing PIFS (Personal Information Forms – a pastor's "resume") --- PNC interviews --- Presbytery conducts reference checks ---PNC chooses a nominee and extends a call --- PNC and pastor candidate negotiate terms of call --- COM approves call --- Session authorizes a congregational meeting to elect --- Pastor Nominee preaches at worship --- immediately after worship, congregation meets to elect (God willing!) your new pastor!!!

Please don't hesitate to ask me if you have questions about any or all of the above. And in any case, I hope to see you soon!

*Grace and peace,  
Lindsay*

Saturday, May 5: 11 am - 3 pm

The Landmarks Conservancy Sacred Sites Weekend will feature an Open House in our Sanctuary. We'll offer guided tours and showcase our historic organ. Stop by to meet, greet, and add to the excitement.



The church was the site for a concert on April 21 by Music Aloud, which brings together professional musicians and aspiring student musicians. Pictured here, in the center, are Yoonshin Song, concertmaster of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Elaine Douvas, principal oboe of the Metropolitan Opera, with students from Intempo, a program based in Connecticut that strives to make classical music relevant, accessible, and inclusive.

## *May Calendar*

*Elaine Steele is Worship Coordinator; Gordon Bakoulis is Coordinator for Fellowship Hour*

**All Sundays in May: Worship at 10:15 in the Sanctuary - Lindsay Borden preaching; Eunjung Ahn, music.**

**Choir rehearsal every Wednesday at 7 pm.**

Wednesday, May 2, 5 pm: Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 3, 7 pm: ARS Spring Benefit, Acqua restaurant, 95<sup>th</sup> Street and Amsterdam Avenue

Saturday, May 5, 11 am – 3 pm: Sacred Sites Open House, featuring a special presentation about our organ by Minister of Music Eunjung Ahn

Sunday May 6, 10:15 am, worship, immediately followed by a special meeting of the congregation to elect the 2018 Church Nominating Committee

Tuesday, May 8, 11:30 am: Second Tuesdays Prayer Meeting. Optional lunch in the neighborhood afterwards;

Wednesday, May 9, 5:30 pm: Stewardship Committee Meeting

Sunday, May 13, 10:15 am: Special Mother's Day worship featuring the Children's Chimes Choir. And during our Time with Young Disciples, we'll Shine a Light on the Mothers In Prison/Children in Crisis Campaign by our partners at the Church of Gethsemane

Tuesday, May 15: Presbytery of New York City Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Jamaica, Queens

Thursday, May 17, 6:15 pm: Session meeting

Sunday, May 20, 10:15 am: At our Day of Pentecost worship service, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion.

Sunday, May 27, 10:15 am: Worship on Memorial Day weekend. Church & ARS office closed on Monday, Memorial Day. Have fun and be safe!

Tuesday, May 29, 8 pm: New Amsterdam Singers Concert to benefit the SPC Organ Fund. Suggested donation: \$20.

