



## May 2018

- 1 — Church, 4 p.m.  
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.  
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
Yoga, 6:30 p.m.
- 2 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.  
Taizé, 7 p.m.
- 4 — Kids Club, 5 p.m.  
Youth Group, 7 p.m.
- 6 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.  
Worship, 11 a.m. w/communion  
Faith Forum, 12:30 p.m.  
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.
- 8 — Church, 4 p.m.  
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.  
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
Yoga, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 — Taizé, 7 p.m.  
AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.
- 11 — Kids Club, 5 p.m.  
Youth Group, 7 p.m.
- 12 — Spring Clean-up, 9 a.m.
- 13 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.  
Worship, 11 a.m.  
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.
- 15 — Church, 4 p.m.  
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.  
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
Yoga, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.  
Taizé, 7 p.m.  
Pub Theology, 8 p.m.
- 18 — Kids Club, 5 p.m. (last)  
Youth Group, 7 p.m. (last)  
Book Club, 7 p.m.
- 20 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.  
Worship, 11 a.m.  
Stop Hunger Now, 12:30 p.m.  
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.
- 22 — Church, 4 p.m.  
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.  
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
Yoga, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.  
Taizé, 7 p.m.
- 25 — No Kids Club  
No Youth Group
- 27 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.  
Worship, 11 a.m.  
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.
- 28 — Building & Office CLOSED  
in observance of Memorial Day
- 29 — Church, 4 p.m.  
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.  
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
Yoga, 6:30 p.m.
- 30 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.  
Taizé, 7 p.m.

## I have seen Jesus in you! by Reverend Jes Kast



Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks with  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body. – Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

I have seen Jesus a lot at West End Collegiate Church, lately. In our prayers on Sunday morning, I see God in the way you pray and encourage each other. During the sharing of Faith Forums, I see God's faithfulness in each of you when you bravely share more of your story. In the line at A Taste of Heaven Soup Kitchen, I see God in the rough hands of someone who calls the concrete their home and in the hands that are serving water. In the spiritual wisdom of our Consistory and in the imagination of the Senior Minister Search Committee, there is God. Through the hard work and care of the staff, I see God. In the music that elevates us from the pews to the heavenly courts, Christ is right there.

Join us on Sunday May 6th at 12:30 p.m. in the chapel for this month's Faith Forum, as I interview West End member, Cambridge Ridley Lynch. We will hear how she lives her commitment to Christ.

Be looking for Jesus. He likes to surprise us as he shows us the heart and love of God. Encourage one another and pray for each other. God is doing a good thing in our midst and we are privileged to partake in God's work!

Grace and Goodness – Pastor Jes Kast, Interim Head of Staff

## SERMONS

**May 6 — Water in the Desert**

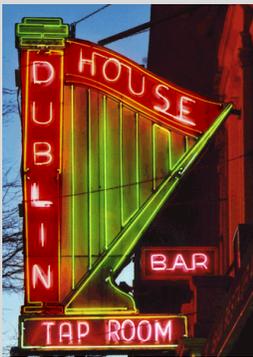
**May 13 — The Choice — Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel**

**May 20 — In the Last Days**

**May 27 — Who's in Your Corner?**

On Monday, May 28, Memorial Day—the Building, Office and Programs will be CLOSED.





**Pub Theology**  
**The Dublin House**

**May 16**  
**8 PM**

**“Sports Theology”**

*You get the drink of  
your choice and  
pizza is provided !*



## Profile of Cynthia Powell by Pastor Howard

She seems so laid back. Yet, Cynthia Powell, with consummate grace juggles her roles as West End’s music director and organist; director of the historic Stonewall Chorale; founding conductor of Melodia Women’s Choir; and organist at Temple Sinai of Bergen County (Tenafly, NJ).

Music comes naturally to Cynthia. Her father and brother were pianists and her mother, aunt, and grandmother were a musical vaudeville act who once opened for Gypsy Rose Lee. Beginning at a young age on piano, Cynthia became enamored of the pipe organ: “an instrument so majestic and that could generate that amount of sound!”

Although a self-described “weirdo” in high school, Cynthia had a wide circle of friends including eggheads and outcasts. She was captivated by Fauré’s and Duruflé’s settings of the requiem mass and precociously composed her own Latin requiem for her high school humanities class.

Cynthia is a graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J., a unique conservatory specializing in sacred music. As a member of the Westminster Choir, she sang under renowned conductors - the memorial service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. conducted by Leopold Stokowski in Central Park is one of her most vivid memories.

For several years Cynthia taught primary and middle school music. To capture her middle school students’ attention “who otherwise would have jumped out the windows”—she rented silent horror movies. Equipping the kids with instruments, she invited them to compose their own film scores.

Cynthia has been music director of West End since 2008. She is as creative as she is musically talented. She conceived and launched the Taizé service as well as encouraged the clergy and staff to have the Animal Blessing service occur indoors in the Sanctuary, and it has become the best attended service of the year after Christmas and Easter. Ken Chase says, “in addition to being a fine musician, Cynthia is versatile in so many musical genres and traditions from jazz to Gospel to early American folk music. She brings, from within and outside of the congregation, a remarkable range of musical talent,” including a Klezmer Band and Debra Monk singing “Feeling Good” at Easter.

Cynthia is loved by her choir and is often “choir mother” as well as conductor. Long time choir member Chris Lyons says of her, “Cynthia is not only tremendously talented, she’s also an incredibly kind, generous, and loving human being who has become more than a boss —she’s family!”

With her partner, Allison Sniffin (organist at Middle Collegiate), Cynthia lives in Englewood, N.J. She enjoys tennis and has a fascination with how things work. She enjoys “fixing things that are broken” and “MacGyvering solutions that make life easier.” She adores wielding power tools.

A graduate of the Humanist Theological Seminary in New York, Cynthia is an ordained Humanist minister. Her theology is based on “God as an action that serves the highest good.”

Cynthia believes the purpose of music in the church is “to offer artistic expression of beauty to elevate the congregation.” She hopes that “through musical participation in the service, the congregation is inspired to sing about noble ideals for humankind. We’re bombarded with so much in the form of entertainment - it’s my hope that sacred music can offer something lofty and inspiring.”

Thank you, Cynthia! - Howard Major, III

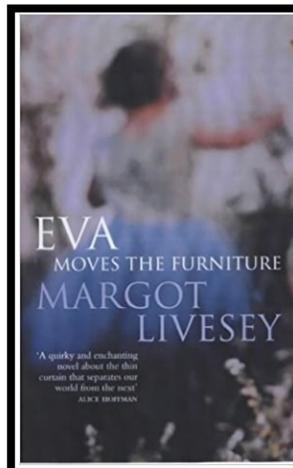


Want to keep up with what’s happening with your WECC family?

Go to Facebook :  
WestEndChurchNYC

and Twitter:  
@WestEndChurchNY

It’s a great way to stay connected to our community.



On May 18 at 7 p.m.

### THE BOOK CLUB

will discuss

*Eva Moves the Furniture*

by Margo Livesey

Our June book is

*Foreign Affairs* by Alison Lurie



## Musical Notes by Cynthia Powell



"This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." ~Leonard Bernstein

2018 is being celebrated worldwide as the centennial year of Leonard Bernstein, the great American conductor, composer and educator.

This tribute was written by his daughter, Jamie Bernstein:

"My father grew up in a world of stark political contrasts. From the Depression to Roosevelt and the New Deal, from Nazism to World War II and the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima, he witnessed a world full of evil that was occasionally tempered by powerful forces of good.

Through it all, my father clung hard to the belief that by creating beauty, and by sharing it with as many people as possible, artists had the power to tip the earthly balance in favor of brotherhood and peace. After all, he reasoned, if humans could create and appreciate musical harmony, then surely they were capable of replicating that very same harmony in the world they lived in.

When he conducted Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* in Berlin in 1989 to celebrate the fall of the Berlin Wall, the feeling that he had attempted to convey all his life was at its most palpable: that if enough hearts would open themselves to the beauty of great music, there would be no room left in any of those hearts for evil, greed or hate.

Shortly after President Kennedy's assassination, my father said: 'This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.' Since that time, there have been all too many occasions on which to cite that quotation again. Yet each time it is reprinted or uttered, that statement provides the same gleam of comfort and all-embracing optimism that my father conveyed to the world during his lifetime, through his every note and act."

May we bring intensity, beauty and devotion to our worship through our music!

See you in church,  
Cynthia Powell  
Director of Music Ministries



## What is Youth Group? by Rebecca Stevens-Walter

*Youth Group* can be many things. Youth Group can be a place to come and be with friends, to talk about God, to ask questions about faith, to engage in service and mission work, to play, to laugh, and to learn. **WECC Youth Group** is currently made up of teens from our congregation and some additional folks who were, in a sense, recruited by Caiden Steinkamp. We consistently have about eight to ten in attendance on Friday nights from 7 to 9:00. There has been a lot of discussion, particularly between me and the youth, as to what our goals and mission should be. Those who grew up in a traditional Protestant church may have specific memories of youth group and also may have particular ideas around how youth group functions within the church as a whole. What I have found important about helping to develop our youth program here is that listening to the group, understanding current needs of teenagers, and holding space for trustworthy communication is vital to the strength of the program. I have learned a lot about the youth. Most valuable for me is that the group is unique. There are no two youth groups alike and there's no way to define how one group of youth should interact and then try and apply it to another youth group. So what is *Youth Group*? More specifically, what is **WECC Youth Group**?

1. **WECC Youth Group** is inter faith - this ensures rich discussion and range of experiences.
2. As a general rule, **WECC Youth** are really excited about service projects. We have several in the planning stages that we will be working on in the Fall.
3. **WECC Youth** drink A LOT of Sprite - this is the one thing that is always in the fridge in the Youth Room. Kids often use the Youth Room during the week as a study spot or quiet space. Snacks and drinks are provided as the room is intended to be a comfortable place to relax and restore.

Please pray for these kids. The **WECC Youth** are brilliant and bright and are also navigating the really tough challenges of teen-dom. We have a lot to offer **WECC Youth** and I look forward to continuing to engage the **WECC Youth Group** as we learn about each other, learn about God, and share in the bounty of ways we can all be stewards of love.

## CONSISTORY CORNER *by Andrea Steinkamp*

It's May and spring is FINALLY in the air! I've always loved spring because it is the living embodiment of my six-word story of faith, "light will come after the darkness". It's the one time of a year I can always count on being inspired to dust off the cobwebs, clean out the old, get organized and prepare for summer and the rest of the year to come after hibernating all winter. As I consider West End and the forthcoming welcoming of a new Senior Minister, I can't help but reflect on how important this spring and these months of transition are to what we will become.

In that spirit, I am thrilled to announce West End's first official Spring Cleanup morning on Saturday, May 12th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. We'll supply the coffee and pastries, but we need YOU to help prepare the West End facility and street scape for the summer months ahead. Come for an hour or come for the whole morning. Any amount of time that you can contribute will make a difference!

Please sign up here: <http://bit.ly/WECCSpringClean> or on the sign-up sheet posted in the back of the sanctuary.

Beyond the physical cleanup, as a Consistory we are also working with the staff and ministerial team to help implement systems and build a foundation that will support the programs and initiatives that are, and will become, West End's structure enabling us to activate as a congregation to better care for one another and better care for those in need outside of our doors.

To this end, keep your eyes peeled for a survey to be distributed later this month – it will help us update our church directory, better understand our membership, and identify skills and talents within our church community.

Finally, please continue to keep the Search Committee in your prayers, as April 30th marked the end of our 90-day open recruitment period and we now begin the work of narrowing the many wonderful candidates we have screened to date down to a group of finalists who will participate in an increasingly in-depth interview process. If you aren't sure how or what to pray for, the following blog provides some great guidance and suggestions: <http://bit.ly/SearchCommitteePrayer>.

With Gratitude for Our Community,

Andrea Steinkamp, On Behalf of the Deacons and Elders of West End Collegiate Church

### The Pledge Gratitude Campaign 2018

We are in the midst of our pledge campaign, which is focusing on the theme of gratitude. It is a time when we pause to count our blessings and also to prayerfully consider how we can make our blessings count through our giving to West End. At the time of this printing we have 71 people who have pledged \$138,320. It is through your generosity that we are able to touch and transform lives through the ministry God has entrusted to us all. In doing this we experience the reality of Jesus's words: "You're far happier giving than getting" (Acts 20:35, The Message). Therefore we ask that you prayerfully consider your commitment to West End in the coming year. You can fill out a pledge form, located in the back of the sanctuary, and place it in the pledge box. Or you can mail in your form or pledge online at [westendchurch.org](http://westendchurch.org).

### Another Way to Give to West End

We are pleased to announce that you can now make donations to West End via your mobile phone. It's very simple to do. Just text "Give" to 917-259-3001 and then follow the instructions for the one time registration process. After you've registered your account and card, you can then make donations at anytime by texting the amount, with the dollar sign, and what it's for. For example, you can text "\$100 offering" or "\$50 talent show." You will receive immediate verification and a receipt will be emailed to you. That's all there is to it! Thank you for your continued support of our ministries.



West End Collegiate Church

245 West 77th St. | New York, NY 10024

*a neighborhood church for all people*