



September 2017

- 3 — Worship, 11 a.m.
- 4 — Building Closed — Labor Day
- 5 — AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 6 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.
- 10 — Worship, 11 a.m.
- 12 — Church, 4 p.m.
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 13 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.
- 15 — Book Club, 7 p.m.
- 17 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.
Faith Forum, 12:30 p.m.
Social Justice Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.
- 19 — Church, 4 p.m.
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 20 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.
Pub Theology, 8 p.m.
- 22 — Kids Club, 5 p.m.
Youth Group, 7 p.m.
- 23 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.
- 25 — Church, 4 p.m.
A Taste of Heaven, 4:30 p.m.
AA, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 26 — AA, 7 & 8:15 p.m.
- 29 — Kids Club, 5 p.m.
Youth Group, 7 p.m.
- 30 — Adult Christian Ed, 10 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.
Wholeness Center, 1 p.m.

Beyond Ourselves by Pastor Michael

I have been pondering the words of Irenaeus, the second century saint, who said, “The glory of God is a human being fully alive.” This was a truth embraced by early Christians as a way to express their hope for what their lives could be. And isn’t this what we all want... to be fully alive? We yearn to get the most out of life, leaving nothing on the table when we die. Yet so many of us aren’t sure how to become fully alive.

In the play Joan of Lorraine, these words are placed on the lips of Joan of Arc before her death:

“I know this too now: Every man gives his life for what he believes. Every woman gives her life for what she believes. Sometimes people believe in little or nothing, nevertheless they give up their lives to that little or nothing. One life is all we have, and we live it as we believe in living it, and then

it’s gone. But to surrender what you are, and live without belief— that’s more terrible than dying— more terrible than dying young.”

These are words we should all heed. When we believe in nothing larger than ourselves, when we trust in no one other than ourselves, we’ll find ourselves at a dead end in the search for a meaningful life. Seligman, one of the pioneers of positive psychology, has found in his research that we have the ability to “purchase a lot of positive emotion through good restaurant meals, theater tickets, massages, a sunny retreat in the dead of winter, and fashionable clothes. But meaning and engagement in life would remain unchanged; it derives from belonging to and serving what we believe is larger than we are.”

Scripture expresses it in this way: “Take delight in the Lord [i.e., look beyond yourselves to



something larger], and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4). It’s only when we see beyond ourselves that we discover what it means to be fully alive. It’s only when we trust in a power greater than ourselves that we are able to live into the potential God gave us.

As we begin a new church year together, here is a prayer we can use each morning to help us see beyond ourselves: “O God of grace and love, help me to see the world as You see it. Help me to see people as You see them. Help me to catch hold of Your dream for me and for others. And most of all, give me the courage to follow wherever Your dream takes me, for I know that is where I become fully alive. In Christ’s name I pray. Amen.”

-Pastor Michael

Looking for a Daily Devotional?

I have been looking for a new daily devotional and found a wonderful resource through the United Church of Christ, with whom we are now affiliated. It is *God is Still Speaking: 365 Daily Devotionals* (available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble). It is a wonderful way to start one’s day and consider how our faith informs how we live. - Pastor Michael



Pub Theology
September 20
8 PM
The Dublin House



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.

Musical Notes by *Cynthia Powell*

We're looking ahead to a wonderful new season of music and worship!

The **West End Choir** will be back in the choir loft on **Sunday, September 17** at our 11 a.m. service of worship. And right after church, during lunch, I'll meet you in the chapel for *faith forum* to discuss our heritage of music and how it impacts peoples' faith.

We're so proud that our Emily Donato received a full scholarship to Yale this fall! So we won't see or hear her every Sunday, but she's promised to pop in and sing with us every now and then.



We're happy to welcome **Benjamin Robinson**, tenor, who joins with fellow tenors Chris Lyons, James Gedge and the rest of the West End Choir. Ben hails from Raleigh, North Carolina, and has sung with opera companies throughout the country to great acclaim. Welcome, Ben!

We're also pleased to welcome Lisa Barone! Originally from Methuen, MA, Lisa is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, earning a Masters in classical vocal performance. She was a Choral Scholar at the Oratorio Society of New York where she was the soprano soloist in Haydn's Creation at Carnegie Hall.



Taizé services begin again on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., starting **Wednesday, October 4**, then every Wednesday until the end of June. These services have become a high point of the week for many folks and feature gentle chants, and music played by some of NYC's finest instrumentalists in a peaceful environment bathed in candlelight.

Melodia Women's Choir returns on **Sunday, November 19** at 4 p.m. "Melodia Sings with Radiance and Beauty," by proclaimed composer Meredith Monk. Don't miss this opportunity to hear them FREE. Conducted by yours truly, in this, our fifteenth season!

Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. is our **Annual Carol-Sing** in the sanctuary. Hosted by Pastor Michael, with Eric Sedgwick on piano and yours truly on organ, you'll sing some of your favorites, whether it's "Silent Night" or "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Bring friends - it's free, with complimentary refreshments!

See you in church,

Cynthia Powell

Consistory Nominees

As we announced in July, we are pleased that Allen Blankenship, Rich Bohart, Madie Ivy Head, and Narvie Rundlet have agreed to serve on consistory. They are a wonderfully talented and committed group of people who will be a blessing to the leadership of our congregation.

We are also deeply grateful to Dan Varrichione, Joseph Panetta, and Jenni Minter Wolf for their service on consistory. Their leadership made a difference at West End! We will have an ordination and installation service this autumn that will celebrate our new leadership and express our gratitude to those who have completed their service.

Angels Are For Real by Pastor Howard Major

Who needs to spend a mint at the Four Seasons when you can partake of Merle and Debbie's gourmet chili at "Taste of Heaven" (formerly The Soup Kitchen). I am a chili connoisseur and their chili is hands down the best. And for free!

One day I pulled rank (there have to be some perks to my job) and got my chili before the afternoon rush. I stashed it in the kitchen microwave for later enjoyment.

But the chili is also a great favorite of the "Taste of Heaven" diners. Demand was especially high that Tuesday and there was just enough to go around.

When an older woman arrived late, her face fell when she learned there was no more chili. I thought of my own chili stashed in the kitchen. I am ashamed to say I momentarily hesitated before offering it to her. I retrieved the chili and her face lit up. I was disappointed but resigned myself to a chili-less dinner, when who should appear unto me but an angel! Amazingly enough, this angel remarkably resembled Debbie. The angel bore in her hands a large Tupperware container, which she presented unto me with a big smile. It was chili! A lot of it. Manna from heaven. The lesson is that like the Israelites in the wilderness, "Doubt not! The Lord will provide"...even more than you expected!



Pastors' Pick

What movies have deeply inspired your pastors spiritually...even made them cry?
The first three Friday evenings in October, these movies will be shown with introductions by the pastors.
What the movies are, for now, is a surprise.

Mark Your Calendars! by Ian Carr McPherson



As I look at the marked-up 2017-2018 calendar on my desk, I am filled with excitement about all the great programs coming up this year. Our *Message for All Ages* will begin again on September 17 with the first ever *Blessing of the Backpacks*! Please remember that kids should bring their book bags, lunch boxes, pencil cases, or whatever other special items they carry with them during the school year for a collective blessing during the service. The following Friday, September 22, Kids Club and Youth Group kick off in style, and at a new time! Kids Club (K-5th) is now from 5-7 p.m., while the Youth Group (middle and high school) will close out the night from 7-9 p.m. There will be Youth Group Lunches for middle and high schoolers held after the service on the following Sundays: October 1, December 10, April 15, and June 3.

Parents, please take down the following dates for our Parent Ministry Team (formerly the Parental Advisory Committee) meetings following the service: September 17, November 5, January 7, March 11, and May 6. These meetings provide the chance for parents to socialize and learn how they can plug into children's ministries. There will also be a special Parents Workshop on Technology Safety following the service on Sunday, October 29. Looking ahead, our annual Family Christmas Decorating Party will be held following the service on December 3. In the spring, our Annual Family Talent Show and Bake Sale Fundraiser will follow the service on March 4. Rounding out the year, our Volunteer Appreciation and End of the Year Party will be held during the service on June 10, 2018 (with summer schedule commencing the next Sunday, the 17).

Mark your calendars and get ready for a year full of fun and faith here at West End! We look forward to seeing you there!

Rooted in Your Faith

For me, Jesus is my cleft in the rock. He is my safest friend, my safe totally loving accepting big brother. – Anne Lamott

West End, I took the summer to dig deeper into my roots so that we could go deeper together as a congregation, and I want to invite you to come on this journey of faith in Christ. I encourage you to commit more deeply this year and watch God at work in your life. God has given us the church so that with one another we can pray, support, and walk the journey. Join us as we explore what it looks like to grow in our faith this year. Here are some ways to do so:

Faith Forums

How does faith guide and influence your vocation? What does it look like to live your faith publicly? This year our Faith Forums will focus on members of our congregation and how they are living their faith “out loud.” You won’t want to miss this wisdom during lunch after worship in the chapel!

September 17 — Cynthia Powell

October 29 — Kim Yancey Moore

November 12 — Nathan Stilwell

December 10 — Wendy Cambor

Pub Theology

Every third Wednesday of the month we will look at a current event and reflect on it from the perspective of our faith, involving politics, popular culture, music, and movies, and current affairs.

Spiritual Retreat

On Saturday, December 18 at 1:00 p.m., join us for a spiritual retreat at the Marble Collegiate Church labyrinth. Plan on an afternoon of yoga, prayer, walking the labyrinth, and nourishing snacks. This is a place for your soul to reconnect with God for a few hours in the midst of our busy lives.

Adult Education

One of the ways to grow deeper in our faith is to commit to studying the Bible. Whether you are new to the Bible or you grew up with our faith stories, everyone is welcome on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. for fellowship, prayer, and a Bible Study. I encourage you to come because it makes worship at 11:00 a.m. that much more meaningful. In November we will welcome Dr. Jocelyn Camp for a month of poetry on the themes *hope, peace, joy, and love*.

Social Justice Ministry Team

Are you passionate about doing justice in the name of our faith? Join us for our next Social Justice Ministry Team meeting on September 17, after the service.

Life Groups

This year you will have a chance to journey more intimately with a small group of people from West End Collegiate Church. Life groups are small groups that will meet monthly to pray, support, and enjoy Christian fellowship. Have you ever felt like you would like to be connected and know the people you worship with? This is the opportunity for you! Please sign up in the back of the sanctuary.

My friends, may we grow in God’s grace together this year –Reverend Jes Kast



SUNDAY SERMONS

September 3: **Outdoing One Another**

September 10: **From Worthless
to Worthwhile**

New Series — The Seven Deadly Sins: Obstacles to Flourishing in Life

September 17: **Pride**

September 24: **Envy**

October 1: **Anger**

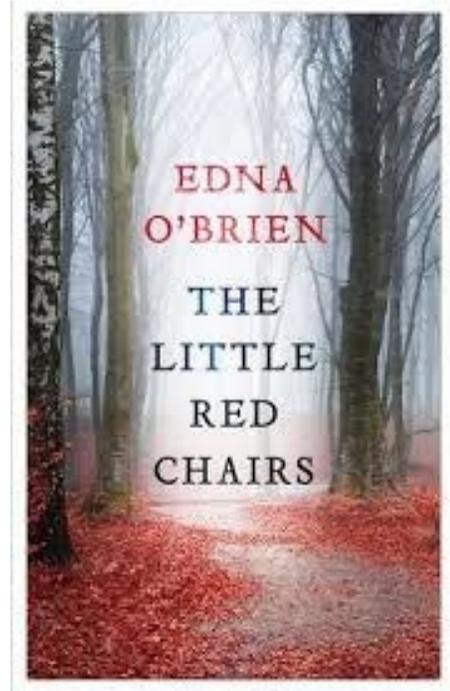
October 8: **Lust**

October 15: **Blessing of the Animals**

October 22: **Gluttony & Sloth**

October 29: **Greed**

THE BOOK CLUB'S September 15 selection will be



We will meet in Room 4 at 7 p.m.

Our October book is *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen.

A New 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