

SP&SA UPDATE

November 2012

Giving Thanks: We Are Yet Alive!

K Karpen

*Master, the tempest is raging,
The billows are tossing high,
The sky is o'ershadowed with blackness,
No shelter or help is nigh!* Mary Baker, 1874

*Master, the terror is over,
The elements sweetly rest
Earth's sun in the calm sea is mirrored,
And peace is within my breast.*

In the middle of the hurricane, a call came from my daughter Jessie: **'Papa! The tree fell down!'** What tree? There were trees coming down all over the city. But this one was our tree, a tree that shaded the house and framed the church.

Within minutes, a flock of SPSA folks were outside armed with handsaws, kitchen knives, scissors(!). We had the tree apart and the sidewalk cleared in **minutes**. **Hey, we're New Yorkers!** Would that all the damage from this horrible storm were that easy to fix.

But we are yet alive! And it was a tree that fell over and not our 108ft high tower, and it fell neatly between the building and a line of parked cars, causing only a bit of damage to the front steps.

We need to pray for those who are suffering and recovering (including my mom; we had a tree fall on our home). But in this season of Thanksgiving, we also need to appreciate with renewed passion the blessings of God:



Let's pray that the same might be true for all.

Thanksgiving

At St. Paul & St. Andrew

FRIDAY, NOV. 16, 6 PM

Thanksgiving Potluck

at the Upstairs Parsonage
We'll cook the turkeys and the stuffing; bring your favorite Thanksgiving food: veggies, salad, dessert or drink to share.
At K & Charlene's, 550 West End Ave, green gate.

SUNDAY, NOV. 18 11AM

Thanksgiving Worship

Our prayers of gratitude.
K preaching.

TUES, NOV. 20, 4-9 PM!

Pie-Baking for Thanksgiving!

Join us as we make 100 pies, etc. from scratch for the annual Goddard Riverside Community Center Thanksgiving Dinner. Meet us in the Social Hall when you can!
INFO: Charlene Floyd .

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 7:00 PM

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

At West End Presbyterian, 105th & Amst.



YOUNG ADULTS: Getting to Know Elisabeth Erwin

My name is Elisabeth Erwin and I'm from Collinston, LA (population 365). Growing up on the fertile ridges of the Mississippi River delta, I always fancied myself a city girl who loved the comforts of family and home but longed for more, more, always more excitement! I flourished in my Southern Baptist youth group and much of the world I experienced outside of our little town was via youth trips and missions. When I graduated from Louisiana Tech University, I headed North for the hustle and bustle of Little Rock, AR! There I discovered diversity in every form as I had never seen it before. A lot of people seek the Methodist church because of our devotion to social justice. When I darkened the doors of my first Methodist church in Little Rock, I was unaware **of the need for such justice. I didn't know a lot about** what was going on out in the world, but I did know a little something about grace and that was a good place for my education to begin.

My corporate marketing job in Little Rock took me to New York often, and each time I visited I found myself not wanting to leave. There is something about Grand Central terminal, the Manhattan skyline while descending into LGA, and debating what show to see at TKTS that fulfills some inexplicable need within my soul. The familiarity of the South and the crutch of Mom and Dad is not an easy thing to leave, as many of you know, but

God had a plan. I happened to fall in love with the only friend I had in New York City, and once the decision in my heart was made, my mind followed. Now we are engaged and I have a whole new family here in the city, making being apart from my own much easier!

Recently I have been blessed, too, by my involvement with SPSA. Not only have I found a community to **embrace that bears resemblance to home, but I've also** been given the opportunity to be an instrument of God for the good of the city I so love. What a blessing it is to live in a tiny sliver of the world that so well represents the whole kingdom of God! For that, New York City inspires me and SPSA awakens gifts within me that is only illuminated by these bright lights!

YA Calendar:

Nov 4, 12:45 p.m.: Brunch. Meet at the stairs in the social hall and we will go grab lunch somewhere close.

Nov. 11, 5:00 pm, Interfaith Story Feast

Nov. 18: Coffee hour

If you have questions contact Bridget or SPSA directly.

HELP WSCAH HELP!

WSCAH – the West Side Campaign Against Hunger, which is housed in our basement -- is less weeks away from its annual Fall Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction on November 13.

Many of you know the incredible difference that WSCAH makes in our community -- providing food for 1.1 million meals (annually) in our customer choice pantry and offering social services that help connect our neighbors to additional benefits and support. These include enrolling customers for food stamps, providing HIV/AIDS testing, and teaching valuable vocational skills in our Customer Chef Training Program.



This year's benefit will honor WSCAH Executive Director Doreen Wohl, who is retiring after 20 years of service with WSCAH -- and with SPSA. Doreen's vision and hard work have extended the welcome and scope of what began as a small food pantry in the upper levels of our church. Her work is mission work -- work that spreads Christ's love, hospitality, and justice throughout our city.

Please join us in honoring Doreen and continuing to do the work God has called us to -- feeding our neighbors and advocating that in a country with such plenty, **NO ONE** should go hungry.

Go to www.wscah.org for more details and to buy tickets online. We hope to see you at the benefit!

Can't make it to the WSCAH benefit dinner? Here's another way to help:

Join the THOUSAND TURKEY CHALLENGE!

WSCAH wants to make sure every low-income family who needs one gets a turkey for Thanksgiving. You can help by donating one in the days before



Thanksgiving (watch for details at church.) Or you can come to the THOUSAND TURKEY CHALLENGE Kick-off Event on Monday November 12, from 6:30-7:45 p.m. and learn how you can be even more involved. We need every one of you to distribute flyers, help collect turkeys and more. Join us on Monday Nov. 12th for refreshments, tours of the food pantry and information on how you can help.



JOIN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

For the Haiti Study in November

By Christie House, President

United Methodist Women needed to postpone the Haiti study with Anele Heiges in October, but we are all set for November 11 at 2 p.m. in the parlor. History, cultural development, religion, economics, relationship to the United States and Europe—come for a lively discussion, which will include an update on Haiti after the earthquake. The book for the study, *Haiti: Challenges and Hope* by Rev. Dr. Jacques Pierre of the Methodist Church in Haiti, is available from the Mission Resource Center (www.missionresourcecenter.org) for \$10 plus shipping and handling, or from Amazon as a Kindle download for \$5.95. All are welcome to join us.

The November 11 UMW meeting will consider the World Thank Offering and will be led by Shirley Struchen.

The UMW is looking into offering fair-trade Christmas gifts one Sunday in **December (we're still working on which one).**



UMCOR has partnered with two new fair-trade companies, SERRV and Prosperity Candle. Both will contribute a portion of the sales from United Methodists back to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Prosperity Candles are made by women in Iraq, and Burmese and Bhutan refugee women in the U.S. Many of the women received their first paycheck from this company, and some have been able to upscale their businesses to provide for their families and create jobs for other women. SERRV, which started out as a ministry of the Church of the Brethren, works with artisan co-ops from developing countries to provide a market and fair price for their crafts. Equal Exchange products, such as coffee, tea, olive oil, and chocolate will also be available.

SPIRITUAL CORNER: PLEASE PASS THE...

By Barbara Wheeler-Bride

In just a few weeks we'll fill our dinner plates with turkey (in my case, Tofurkey), dressing/filling/stuffing, and cranberry sauce. Thanksgiving. November is a good time to think about food – what feeds us physically, yes, and what feeds us spiritually.



Sometimes those things are connected. Communion, of course **(see last month's "Spiritual Corner")**. And I think anyone in our congregation who volunteers at the West Side Campaign Against Hunger (or similar organization) would also agree that the work of helping people who come to our pantry has made an impact on them spiritually. Whether

it's the fulfillment of the Gospel call to be about the work of sharing God's love and hospitality with others or advocating God's vision of a world where everyone has enough – we can fill our souls with service to others.

Maybe you're fed hearing an encouraging, and even challenging, word in K and Siobhan's sermons. Do you need time alone to re-charge? Do the inspirational writings of a spiritual great nourish you?

This month, pick the things that nourish you spiritually and make time to do them. They will probably be low-cal compared to your Thanksgiving dinner.

If you'd like to contribute to the "Spiritual Corner" contact Barbara Wheeler-Bride or [Contact SPSA](#)

BLANKETS!

Sunday November 18th is BLANKET Sunday. Get on board along with the Sunday School to help fire up the desire to BLANKET THE WORLD IN LOVE!



Just \$5 buys a Church World Service blanket that will find its way to areas of the world that experience natural disasters. Questions? See June Quarfordt.



Hurricane Sandy threatened, but still 50 of us gathered for a great Harvest Potluck at the parsonage.



Trustees President Linda Barrington addresses our Homecoming Lunch



Our Trash Tree was a hit at the Annual NYC Makers Faire!



Former intern Karen Behm returned to NYC to marry her love, Sarah Geiger, in Central Park.



GLEonard Cox brought family and friends to SPSA to celebrate his 25 years helping at The Dwelling Place.



WSCAH's Stewart Desmond and the Board toured emergency food sites.

Basic Biblical Literacy!

Learn more about what's in the Bible and what's not. Learn to draw on scripture to deepen your spiritual life.

Come Monday evenings at 7 pm in the parlor.

November 5: The New Testament in 50 Minutes
We'll consider what the Gospels are and where they came from, then take a quick look at Acts, and delve into the letters of Paul and the other epistles. We'll end with a flourish: the Book of Revelation. After that we'll talk together about what the NT can tell us.

November 12: Surrounded by the Bible
On the eve of the election, we'll take a look at the Bible in literature, politics, and culture.

November 19: What's the Bible Good For?
 Figure out how to use the Bible as a spiritual resource in your life.

Led by K Karpen.

Suzzy & Maggie Roche In a Holiday-ish Concert



with Lucy Wainwright Roche and Julie Gold
 A benefit for St. Paul and St. Andrew
Thursday, December 13, 7:30 pm
 Tickets: \$250 (patron), \$100 (with reception)
 General Admission: \$20
www.brownpapertickets.com

Children & Families:



Finding the Blessings in Thanksgiving

By Julie Nelson
Chair, Children's Education

Thanksgiving has never been my favorite holiday. I'm not really a fan of turkey. Not wanting to be too rude

I would eat about two slices of it and respectfully decline a second helping. I also don't like green bean casserole, sweet potato casserole, or stuffing. Over the years I've grown to enjoy gravy but as a kid I can't say that was an enjoyable part of the meal either. So my plate didn't really look much like the bountiful harvest we were thanking God for. It had two sad pathetic looking slices of turkey, mashed potato, canned cranberry sauce (I didn't like the kind with chunks in it), and corn. I'd leave the table as quickly as possible, run downstairs and play with my brother and sister until dessert. I had NO problems eating any and all dessert options put in front of me of course.

Thanksgiving is a difficult holiday for picky eaters, of which there are many in my family. I gather around a ton of food that people slaved all day over and I thank God for all the great gifts that God has given....and then I **don't eat them.**

So I've thought about it as not being about the harvest. I think about the bounty as being the people around the table: The family, the friends, the love. That way, if one year the table is not nearly as bountiful as others, or if my picky eating leaves only one side dish in front of me, I'm still thankful. The spirit of the holiday is still there. As an adult, after 20-something Thanksgivings of eating food I don't like, I've come clean with my family about disliking turkey, and they now make a honey-glazed ham in addition to the traditional turkey. I love them for that. And thank God for them as I respectfully pass the green bean casserole without taking a scoop.



DATES:

- Nov. 4th & 11th: Pageant casting
- Nov. 17th, 2-4 p.m.: Pageant rehearsal
- Nov. 18th, 12:15-1 p.m.: Children's Choir Rehearsal
- Nov. 18th, 1-3 p.m.: Pageant rehearsal
- Nov. 25: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- Dec. 1st, 1-4 p.m.: Pageant Rehearsal
- Dec. 2nd, 12:15 - 1 p.m.: Children's Choir Rehearsal
- Dec. 2nd, 1-4 p.m.: Pageant Rehearsal

HOSPITALITY FOR VOTERS ON ELECTION DAY: HOW WILL YOU HELP?

In 2008, we charmed the weary voters standing in line to cast ballots with a friendly welcome and cookies. Let's do it again! It's a great way to meet the neighbors know about all the amazing things that take place here at SPSA.

How can you help? Well, by volunteering to come by for an hour (or longer!) on Election Day. All you'll need to do is hand out cookies and answer questions about what we do here. It's as simple as that! Or you can bake cookies (they can even be dropped off a day or two before.)

Want to help? We know you do. Get in touch with Liz Schoen Swavola or [contact SPSA](#) and let her know how we can count on you. Thank you!



SPSA Kids with neighbor Tina Fey and trays of cookies back in 2008.



Every Member
Commitment Campaign
2013
Please support the
church we love
Every pl edge counts!

YOUTH:

PROPHETS (and a few crazed mutants) IN OUR MIDST

By Siobhan Sargent

As I write this, our end-of-October Haunted House looks like a big success. Who will be able to forget the crazed mutated **animals on the loose in our courtyard? I know I won't! But**

beyond being spooky, the Haunted House continues to serve as a way for our Youth Ministry to build relationships outside the walls of our beautiful church and live into the Wesleyan idea that the world is our parish. But the **Haunted house wasn't** the only thing our Youth had a hand in this past October.

At our stockholder's lunch the Youth gave their mission report. While I was sitting there I was reminded again of what a gift it is to listen to the Youth of this church. When asked what they learned from the **Mission Trip to Heifer's** Overlook Farm, Clare Arndtsen said this: **"What was most** striking to me is I learned that we consume way more than we need to. We buy more than we need.

Disproportionately to the rest of the world,

we consume 35% of the earth's resources and yet only make up 5% of the world's population. It's not right." Our Youth are growing as prophets in their own right. They are ready and charged to speak up and speak out and to call attention to the ways we don't always live up to God's call to serve and to love. **I'm excited to see how that energy carries us into this month** and next with our upcoming Interfaith Story Peace Feast, **Pie Making for Goddard Riverside Community Center's** Thanksgiving Dinner, and, **let's not forget, the Christmas** Pageant.



Upcoming Events

Christmas Pageant Casting:
Sunday, Nov. 4th and 11th 1 -3 p.m.

CYM Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 4th 3 p.m.
Interfaith Story Feast

Sunday, Nov. 11th 6 p.m.
Pageant Rehearsal

Saturday, Nov. 17th 2-4 p.m.
Bounce (Middle School)

Saturday, Nov. 17th 4-8:30 p.m.
Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, Nov. 18th 1-3 p.m.
Pie Baking

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 4 - 9 p.m.
Holiday Lock-in

Saturday, Dec. 1 to Sun, Dec. 2

If you have any questions about any of this please contact me, [Siobhan](#)

Welcome to Our New Members!



Lydia Pusateri comes to us from Hawaii, where her dad is a United Methodist pastor and chaplain. A trained vocalist, Lydia sings with the USO. She is active with the Young Adults.



Jared and Jenn Jenkins drive down from Greenwich, CT each Sunday to worship with us. Jared works in IT, Jenn teaches voice. A grad of conservative Liberty U, Jenn is committed to an inclusive church.



Tatiana Dwyer is from Georgia-the one in Eastern Europe. She first learned of the UMC through the relieve work of UMCOR in her country. Now she works for United Methodist Women.

November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 28 Commitment Sunday 11 Worship K preaching 6 Harvest Potluck at the Parsonage	29	30 2 Staff meeting 6:30 Pilates	31 	November 1	2 Fall Retreat	3 Fall Retreat
4 COMMUNION 10 Choir 11 Worship Siobhan preaching 12:30 Pageant Casting 12:45 Young Adult Brunch	5 7 Basic Biblical Literacy	6 Election Day <i>Hospitality!</i> 2 Staff meeting	7 6 Homework Help 7:30 Staff-Parish	8 7:30 Church Council	9	10 4 Manhattan Korean Installation 8 Benefit Concert for Hurricane Sandy
11 10 Choir 11 Worship K preaching 12:30 Pageant Casting 1 United Methodist Women 1 Youth Group 2 Haiti Program 5 Interfaith Story Feast!	12 6:30 1000 Turkey Challenge 7 Basic Biblical Literacy	13 2 Staff meeting 4 Open Youth Rm 6:30 Pilates 7 WSCAH Dinner	14 6 Homework Help	15	16 6 Thanksgiving Potluck at the Parsonage	17 1 Pageant Rehearsal 4 Choir Rehearsal 4 Youth Trip to Bounce
18 Thanksgiving Worship 10 Choir 11 Worship K Preaching 1 Pageant Rehearsal	19 7 Basic Biblical Literacy	20 2 Staff meeting 4 Pie Baking!	21 7 Thanksgiving Eve at West End Presbyterian, 105 & Amsterdam	22 Thanksgiving 	23	24
25 10 Choir 11 Worship K Preaching No Sunday School 1 Youth Group	26	27 2 Staff meeting 4 Open Youth Rm 6:30 Pilates 7:30 knitting	28 6 Homework Help	29	30	December 1 1 Pageant Rehearsal 4 Choir Rehearsal 6 Christmas Lock-in Dec 4 Church Conference

Shelter: Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00; AA Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00; Food Pantry, Monday 8:00 to 6:30, Wednesday to Friday 8:00 to 3:00.



Fall Getaway Retreat!
November 2nd to 4th
Quinipet Retreat Center,
Shelter Island, NY

You Can Play the
Thousand Turkey
Challenge!



Just buy a frozen turkey and bring it to WSCAH
November 15, 16, 19, or 20!



The Taming of the Shrew

At SPSA's West End Theatre

Our Annual Pot-luck
Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner!
Friday, November 18, 6 pm
At K & Charlene's parsonage, 550 WEA



Pie Baking!

Tuesday, November 22

4:00 to 9:30 pm in the Social Hall

Come help us make 100 pies
and dozens of cookies.

Bring: a knife or rolling pin.
Contact Charlene Floyd or [SPSA](#)

See you there!

November 11, 5:00 to 7:30 pm!
Interfaith Story Feast
Vegetarian potluck dinner

Pre-Thanksgiving Potluck!
Friday, November 16, 6 pm on
At K & Charlene's Parsonage



Suzzy and Maggie Roche
in a Benefit Concert for SPSA
Thursday, December 13, 7:30 pm

The Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew
United Methodist
263 West 86th Street
New York, NY 10024
(212) 362-3179
www.stpaulandstandrew.org



The whole new crop of United Methodist missionaries worshiped with us at SPSA in October.
We asked God's blessings on them, on their families, and on their work all over the globe.