"THIRTY-FIVE YEARS LATER"

A Sermon By

Philip A. C. Clarke

Park Avenue United Methodist Church
106 East 86th Street
New York, New York 10028
December 1, 1991
"THIRTY-FIVE YEARS LATER"

TEXT: "Of this Gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me by the working of His power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." (Ephesians 3:7, 8)

INTRODUCTION

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"Young man, you're going to have to speak louder if you expect me to stay awake...."

The coffee hour back then was held in the old fourth floor lounge (now the library) with about a dozen people staying for it...two men and about twelve wonderful older ladies. No young adults. No infants, no children in the church back then.

DEVELOPMENT

This was my first Church. I had had practically no experience in running a Church. I hadn't preached that much either...oh, I had a few sermons "in the barrel"...sermons preached in North Bush up in the Adirondacks (they use to "pay" me in vegetables), and a few sermons preached in the Methodist Church in Poultney, Vermont where I filled in for three months while in Middlebury College. And the Bishop didn't know much about me. Those first few months were a nightmare - for me and for you. But I was a pretty fast learner and soon caught on. Those half dozen sermons - if you can call them that - (and
which I knew from memory) were used up quickly those first three months. And every Sunday morning from that time on I have delivered a sermon from this pulpit which has been fully written out...which exposes me to the criticism of the Scottish beadle who once remarked of a minister's sermon that it was fine, except for three things:

"First, it was read. Second, it wasn't well read. Third, it wasn't worth reading...."

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GROWING WITH THE GOSPEL  "Of this Gospel I was made a minister...to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ."

That's a wonderful phrase. I believe that next to having one's life rooted and grounded in the spirit of Christ, the most important gift of the Spirit is the grace to change one's mind. Let me touch briefly on two specific areas where my thinking has undergone change...hopefully matured "in Christ".

The first has to do with Karl Barth's description of the preacher as "the person who stands with the Bible in one hand and the morning newspaper in the other". My appreciation of that description of a Gospel preacher has grown and deepened across the years.

As some of you may know, my father was a preacher upstate, in the Albany area. He and my mother came to this country from Yorkshire, England just about the time this Church was being built. I grew up on the streets of Albany, back in the late thirties and early forties and remember when I was about 10 going with Dad to the George Washington Carver Center on Second Street and remember the ease and openness he felt with all people. He was not what one would call a "flaming activist", but more of a devout pietist. My grandfather in Yorkshire was a lay preacher in the Wesleyan Church. Those are my spiritual roots, you might say. But I know I stand to the left of where my parents and grandparents stood - theologically...as a result of having to search and find my own way through tough college years (where I majored in Philosophy), and then through four years of Seminary - three at Boston University and one in Edinburgh University in Scotland. Those were demanding years as I built my own faith convictions which have undergirded 35 years of preaching and pastoring in this city.

I believe that the Gospel cannot be preached, week after week, in fidelity to the Bible without reference to those concerns, questions and issues that are troubling people and are reflected in our daily lives. Harold Bosley once said "The church can afford to be wrong, but it cannot afford to be irrelevant". I am grateful that you believe in the freedom of the pulpit and have given me the freedom to speak on whatever may be on my heart or on your minds.

A SECOND AREA  Then, let me touch on a second area where growth has taken place.
Although I remain without apology a Christian of the Protestant Church and the United Methodist denomination (and in that order), I have learned that it is possible to hold convictions and beliefs without isolating or offending those of other beliefs.

I rejoice in the revolutionary change that has taken place in the years I have been here between Catholics and Protestants. I remember that in growing up in Gloversville, New York (my teenage years) that St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church was right next door to my home church, Fremont Street United Methodist. I don't recall ever stepping inside that Church. It wasn't done back in the forties. I remember my parents cautioned me against dating Joan McCarthy, the prettiest girl in 10th grade...because she was a Roman Catholic.

Things are a bit different now-a-days and I rejoice in the ecumenical spirit that has been moving for some time among Catholics and Protestants. The Holy Spirit is at work in ways that some of us did not predict or foresee.

Perhaps the greatest point of change for me has been my deepened understanding of Judaism as a living faith and a dynamic force in the lives of many dear friends and neighbors. I've said it more than once that I feel more in common with a Jewish friend who takes his religion seriously than with a Christian who is only a Christian in name. And I think it is so true that we cannot be Christians unless, in a sense, we are Jews first...accepting the revelation of God's mighty acts that come through the Old Testament. I for one rejoice in the warmth and goodwill that flows in and around this city of many Christians and Jews.

And how it pleased me last May when Congregation Or Zarua first approached us about using our sanctuary for their September "high, holy days" that our Board of Trustees without any hesitation responded affirmatively to that need and request even though we all knew that it meant covering over our symbols in the process.

Rabbi Ronald Sobel of Temple Emanu-el had some lines in his Temple bulletin some time back that I appreciated. Let me share them with you.

"For almost 18 centuries Judaism and Christianity faced each other as enemies. In the past 100 years we have learned much that earlier centuries failed to learn. Perhaps we have now learned that, in a world of many currents and cross currents, Judaism and Christianity are not so much on opposite sides of the fence as on the same side. We are not so much opposed as we are different from each other, working in cooperation.

The helmsmen of the craft of faith are of different persuasion, but through steering carefully across the currents and cross-currents of troubled times that direction may well be toward a mainland of understanding and thereby of a blessing to all humanity."

There is in my thinking no place for anti-semitism in this Church; in this city; in this country; and in this world.
OUR CHURCH  I deeply believe in this Church. In its inclusive nature, in what we are doing, in what we are attempting to stand for; and in the kind of ministry that flows out of here into the lives of many people. We are an inclusive congregation - interracial, international and inter­denominational and hopefully, this is helping to break down some of those old walls that have long separated people from each other.

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Let me close with an illustration that is one of my favorites. Several years ago Pele had "his" day and everyone was respectful. When the celebrities and diplomats were introduced, they waved to the crowd and remained silent in deference to his presence; even the unretiring Muhammad Ali stood quietly. After a few speeches, it was time for Pele to speak. They handed him the microphone and the silence covered the stadium like a fog. And then Pele spoke. I think it was over here at the stadium on Randall's Island. It went like this:

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"And then...for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire!"

PRAYER

O Thou, whose nature is love...and who hast gathered us together in this sanctuary so many times across the years...this house of worship, this place of prayer...grant that we may continue to commit ourselves to You and to Your great purposes for us. Give each of us now the courage to do the things we talk about and think about...to practice this faith we preach - in words and in deeds of loving kindness.

Visit our sick with the quiet assurance of Your care. Encircle the bereaved with Your warming, healing presence. Point our markers along the way for those who have lost their way.

And let Your light shine through us into our world in days to come. We pray - each in his own way...but for most of us present - in the name and spirit of Christ.
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"And then...for the second time in the history of the world, man will have
discovered fire!"
VISITORS: Sunday, November 24, 1991

Weather: Misty and Moderate!

Attendance: 198 Adults and 28 Children. Total: 226


1. IT Ms. Doris Nelson: 444 East 87th Street
   New York, New York 10128
   Telephone: 534-7325

   Pink card. Letter. Interested in joining Church on December 8. UM from Merrick United Methodist Church, L.I. Pc talked to her on Sunday P.M. All set to join! "Redish hair, blue eyes" (SJ)

2. IT Ms. Nicola Joice: 45 East 89th Street
   New York, New York 10128
   Telephone: 369-6103


3. IT Mr. Jeff Fong: 1276 Lexington Avenue
   New York, New York 10028
   Telephone: 722-3585

   Pink card. Letter. New to city. Oriental background. Tall, single, from San Francisco. Coffee hour. In marketing. 27ish
   PC called him on Sunday night.

4. IT Ms. Ter Larson: 231 East 89th Street, #1FE
   New York, New York 10128

   Pink card. Letter. UMC. Kansas. 30-34 age group. No other information.

5. IT Ms. Adriana M. Enriquez: 220 East 65th Street
   New York, New York 10021

   Pink card. Letter. UM from Haddonfield, NJ. Coffee hour. 25ish. Tall, attractive brunette.

( over )
6. IT Miss Pamela Walker: 522 East 88th Street
New York, New York 10128
Telephone:


BACK AGAIN:

1. Sue Koten. Um. Syracuse, NY
2. Louise Howard. (369-2261)
3. Noel Lucky. Tuesday at 4:30
4. Mark and Mary Ellen Kris
5. Janet Helin (C)
6. Mark and Kristen Raker
7. Ann Hesselink
8. Tom de Bow Monday evening
9. Suzanne Miner (879-1934)
10. Teressa Liotta
11. Sam Potter (C)
12. Steve Anderson (C)
13. Marcus Kettles (C)
14. Shelly Roper
15. Rhea Lesley (C)
16. Allison Haney 2nd visit
17. Karen Gilliam 2nd visit
18. Linda Hutcherson, and daughter Bridget Mohamed
19. Joanne Woolsala
20. Mrs. Mills

Pastoral Notes:

1. Death of Lena Scutt's mother, November 21.
2. Death of Tseleng Ramothibe, November 22.
VISITORS: Sunday, November 17, 1991

Weather: Sunny and cold. Forty degree day.

Attendance: 145 adults and 25 children. Total: 170


1. IT Miss Holly Bauer: 201 East 86th Street, 14 H
New York, New York 10028
Telephone: 360 - 6825

Pink card. Letter. New in community. Interested in knowing more about PAUMC. First UM, San Diego, California. PC will call her on Monday evening. 18 - 23 age group. I (PC) don't recall greeting her at door. "Pageboy...5'11...25 ish" (SJ)

2. OT Mr. Brian Barrentine: 591 Favorwood
Marietta, Georgia (check ZIP, Judy)
Telephone: 401-L 435 - 4236 30060


3. IT Miss Linda Hutcherson: 411 East 90th Street, 2 W
New York, New York 10128
Telephone: 360 - 6293

Pink card. Letter. Introduced to PAUMC by Carol Hawkins. Early 40s. Duane said she had a child for Sunday School. Great. Coffee hour. PC will call her on Monday night.

4. IT Miss Allyson Schenck: 131 Sunset Drive
Sayville, New York 11782

Pink card. Introduced to PAUMC by Jonathan Goodman, tenor soloist. 18 - 23 age group. Second visit. First time to get her name. Comes at 9:30. UM Church in Sayville. We should try to get her in to the Adult Bible Class. May have come to coffee hour with Jonathan.

( over )
5. **IT Miss Kathy Ferguson:** 239 Central Park West, Apt. 10E New York, New York 10024
   Telephone: "nothing listed at that address"

   Pink card. Letter. Greeted at door by PC. "Blond hair, 5'4" - Sharon's description...." No other information.
   Signed Guest Book, No. 1

6. **IT Miss Leticia Magtika:** 1725 York Avenue, 2A
   New York, New York 10128
   Telephone: 348-2953

   Pink card. Letter. Judy: she signed "1725 York" as the address, but telephone information has a person at 1700 York for this name. Go with the "1725"...it's legible...if it is returned then try the "1700 York". May have been the oriental young woman who arrived at 10:45 with a friend. Pleasant.
   PC greeted her before church.

7. **OT Miss Janet Anderson:** 4/82 Fox Street
   St. Albans, Melbourne
   Australia

   No pink card. Passing through, I would assume. Send an out of town letter in her direction.

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**SOME NOTES FOR THE RECORD**

1. Christopher and Li Kin Loke and infant son, Esmund, are heading off to Singapore this Thursday for three weeks. Will be back around December 12th. We are planning a baptism for December 22nd for Esmund.

2. David Vicente Pezzotti - who has been attending "Hounds" was here but arrived late...stayed for Memorial Service and came down afterward. He lives at 79 East 110th Street, New York, New York and is a member of Grace UM Church on West 110th Street...student at Hunter.

3. Good to see John Hornaday and Krista Wolf at church. Krista is doing battle with cancer at Mt. Sinai...chemotherapy treatments. A nanny for the George White family and originally from Germany. Gives us the Advent wreath...doing this for 20 years.

4. Kristin Cole was able to stay for coffee hour. A Tuesday night "Hound". Sam Espinal also stayed and was here for Bible study and church, too.
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Thomas De Bow</td>
<td>&quot;Conversations&quot; in evening and joining.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Elizabeth Jensen</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not in church in the morning, however.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Mona Jung</td>
<td>&quot;Conversations&quot; in evening and thinking about joining. PC needs to follow up. 831-1982</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Antonio C. Kho</td>
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<td>Paula Rucker</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Mavis Vann</td>
<td>&quot;Conversations&quot; in evening and joining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Michele Winslow</td>
<td>&quot;Conversations&quot; in evening and joining.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(Note: As of today - Monday, the 18th - we have 15 definitely joining on December 8th. 16 came to &quot;Conversations&quot;. We have about another 10 who we will approach between now and the end of November...there's still time for us to build the number joining from 15 to 25.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Chris Williams</td>
<td></td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Jennifer Karim: has spoken to PC about joining.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Veronica Boutte: possible new member ????</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Beth Osborne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Chris and Likin Loke and Esmund</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Noel Lucky &quot;Golf season is over....I'm back&quot; and expressed interest in joining.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Lillie Klein and Dunia</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Mark and Mary Ellen Kris</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Rhea Lesley</td>
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<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Jonathan Goodman</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Joanne Woolsala</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Evelyn Thayer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Sam Espinal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VISITORS: Sunday, November 10, 1991

Weather: 60 degree day. Overcast...bit of drizzle.

Attendance: 171 adults and 38 children. Total: 209


1. IT Miss Jean C. Childers: 417 East 64th Street, 5E
New York, New York 10021
Telephone: 517 2575

Pink card. Letter. With her dad, Dr. Victor Childers, former active member here in the sixties...actress - singer. Coffee hour. 25 ish. Hopefully, she'll return and join the choir.

2. IT Mrs. Annalisa Davakis: 124 West 60th Street, 39 M
New York, New York 10023
Telephone: 262 - 0299

Pink card. Letter. Guest of Effie French. Coffee hour ???

3. OT Mrs. Mildred Gustin: 5560 Scenic Drive
Beaumont, Texas 27706
Telephone: 409 - 892 - 4228


4. IT Dr. and Mrs. Waldmar Palutke (Bonnie): 1735 York Avenue, 35 B
New York, New York 10128
Telephone: 369 -3388

Pink card. Letter. Middle-aged couple, greeted downstairs at coffee hour by PC. PC called them on Monday. They're new to city and living in same building that John and Kathy Simms lived in. I think her name is Bonnie and his first name is Waldmar. (Wally). She - Christian Reformed. He - UM. Ann Arbor, Mi. Michigan. Kids are grown. He is new Medical Examiner with a hospital out on Long Island. Look for them to return. Came to coffee hour. Impressed by the warmth of the church. PC called them.

( over )
5. OT Reverend and Mrs. Russell Sargent: RD #2, Box 692 Cairo, New York (research zip)
   Out of town note...here for Bryant twins baptism. Address them in the letter and "Dear Russell and Nancy". Their son, Paul, was also along...next on list. Uncle of Anne Bryant.

6. OT Mr. Paul Sargent: 14 Red Oak Lane Rensselaer, New York (research zip)
   Out of town note to Paul...came for the baptism of twins.

7. OT Mrs. Joseph King: 15 Merion Road Blvd, Long Island
   Out of town note...but I don't believe this is sufficient address for a letter. She also signed another book that said Washington, D. C...."Mary King and daughters". PC Met her and daughters and talked to them in Russell Room corridor.

8. IT Ms. Lisa Waterworth: 232 East 83rd Street, 3 NW New York, New York 10028 Telephone:
   Pink card. Letter. JUDY: catch this...she was here on November 3rd and signed the Guest Book...we missed her on our list last week. Send letter but refer to Sunday, November 3rd. Thanks.

ALSO HERE

   Former member.
4. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Williams (Dawn and sons, Robert and ????) Married by PC, 10 years ago...living at 1045 Park Avenue. Day School ties...hold up on letter. PC will call them.

NOTES FOR JUDY:

1. Howard DaCosta says his mail is still going to his old address. He moved back in the Spring.
2. Directories requested: Leopold and Ingram...plus two or three others. Will be calling you. Send George one and Lisa one.
3. Steve White will be in LA from now through mid-February. OK to send mail to NYC address. I believe.
I. LOSS FOR WORDS

I'm at a loss for words to adequately express the depth of my feelings for this celebration.

Honored by your presence...so many dear friends..."dignataries"...members, friends from across the years.

Deeply touched...I had a feeling something was "up" when I saw the Bishop and our DS...and some familiar faces from out of town arrive...

Something Dr. Maurice Boyd said in his Thanksgiving Day sermon comes to mind, "There was never a celebration without excess"...there's a lot of "excess" to this celebration...what a celebration.

The Bishop is here out of a sense of curiosity...what is going on here...why does a man stay 35 years...lack of ambition...initiative...or is there something "good going on here"...

Two stories to share:

A. Church in Maine...10 ministers, 10 years, then he appointed a man who ended up staying 20 years...he visited that church and sought the Lay Leader..."Never really wanted a minister...so we got rid of the ten...then you sent us this guy...closest thing to not being a minister...."

B. Trip to Turkey Summer of 1990...first night out on plane...Bishop Jones...Nevel Jones...

I knew something was "up" when I saw George Leopold here at 11!

II. "THANK YOU"

So many things to thank you for: Trip to Singapore...World Methodist Conference.

Thank you for patiently enduring my YOUTHFUL INEXPERIENCE...my PASTORAL INADEQUACIES...most generous in your judgements...infinitely considerat in your kindnesses....

My gratitude goes out to city of NY...NYC - most difficult mission field in the world...perhaps it is...but the city has been good to our church by so growing that it has given us a strategic site in this metrop0list...buildings going up all around us...not one HIGH RISE when I came here....

Across these 35 years the church has maintained /...preserved this wonderful spirit...identity...here when I arrived...never forget Paul Russell sweeping the sidewalk...Harold Black's devotion to children.
III. STORIES TO SHARE

First of many baptisms...infants, children and adults. Charles Wesley Kim, Jr...in the Spring of 1957...Arnold Simbuchimba..."thank you...introducing Mukendala to our dear friend Jesus". Zambia....

Weddings: Peter Duchin's...Charay Zauderer...Averill Harriman...
Charlie Evert...wedding where bride fainted....

Funerals: Billy Martin's...Horowitz....
Lay Reader fainting...Sunday organ broke down in Easter service, 1958.
Organist broke down...failed to show for two services...

Painting in basement... Jon Bush / bottles /

Fire Extinguisher Incident

Spider Man Story

Names: David Breien, Grace. Here in 1959...came back 13 years later and greeted at the door by name.

Funerals: one funeral...no one present...

IV. CLOSING STORY

Wedding here on November 9th...Michele and Michael Healey...Michael's a reporter for the Catholic News...official newspaper of the Catholic community...presented PC with a book:

"To the Lou Gehrig of NYC clergy"

1600 services...counting Christmas and Maundy Thursday and other service...1700.
Lou played in 2,130....

Like to pass that record...maybe I will...who knows?
YORKVILLE COMMON PANTRY

Let's fill our baskets which will, in turn, fill the shelves...

December  HOT COCOA, HOT CEREAL
January  STEW, SOUPS "SOUPER BOWL"
February  PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP OR HONEY
March  CANNED MEAT, INSTANT POTATO
April  CEREAL, DRY MILK
May  PASTA AND SAUCE
June  DRY BEANS, STEW
July/Aug. TUNA, DRY MILK, CEREAL

* More detail on monthly items to follow

Now all we need...

THE SOUP KITCHEN
Place: P.S. 151 (School located at 91st Street and 1st Avenue)
Time: Open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Duties: Distributing prepacked meals to approximately 300 clients, wiping tables and kitchen after meal

LUNCH FOR LIFE (LUNCHEON FOR CLIENTS WITH AIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES)
Place: YCP (14 East 109th Street)
Time: Monday - 3 shifts available for volunteers (see Page 2)
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (All day)
Duties: Preparing food in the YCP kitchen, serving clients and cleaning up tables and kitchen after the meal

PANTRY PROGRAM (DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD PACKAGES TO PANTRY CLIENTS)
Place: YCP (14 East 109th Street)
Time: Thursday - 3 shifts available for volunteers (see Page 2)
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (All day)
Duties: Food sorting and prepackaging, distributing food packages to clients

OFFICE
Place: YCP (14 East 109th Street)
Time: Open Monday through Friday, Office workers needed 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
Duties: General office work, i.e., answering telephone, filing, light typing. Special Need: Someone who could work one day a week putting information on the computer

...is a hand.
The mission of the Yorkville Common Pantry is:

- to feed hungry people in New York City;
- to enable the hungry to become healthy and independent by providing on-site assistance and by making referrals to appropriate social service agencies in the community;
- to make people in the community aware of the existence of hunger and to elicit community participation in and support of the YCP's programs; and
- to serve as an advocate for the hungry and to bring about change in society with the goal of eliminating hunger in this city.

Since 1980 the Pantry has grown from a small voluntary organization relying mostly on donated cans of food to one that during the 1990's will provide over 120,000 meals a year.

Every donation of $500, provides one day's hot meals to over 250 people at the Soup Kitchen. Every $400, provides 60 families with a weekly food package. Thank you!

If you'd like to volunteer your time please contact Doreen Morales or call the Pantry (410-2264) directly.
ANTHEM: "Jubilate Deo"

"O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before His presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord He is God. It is He that hath made us and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. O go your way into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful unto Him and speak good of His name. For the Lord is gracious, His mercy is everlasting and His truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen!"

ANTHEM: "Let All the World"

"Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King. The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither fly: the earth is not too low, His praises there may grow. Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King.

The Church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out, but above all, the heart must bear the longest part. Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King."

ORGAN POSTLUDE

The organ postlude - a final offering of our praise to God - is played after the Benediction. Time permitting, we invite you to share in the beauty and the majesty of it.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath with its four red candles is one of the traditions of the Christmas Season. Our Advent Wreath - made possible through the kindness of one of our members - is on the chancel steps.

Today, on the first Sunday of Advent, we light the first candle - the candle of Hope. Today's candle lighter is Rosie Kinchen.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Those wishing to give to the fund for Christmas decorations in the Church are invited to use the envelope in the pew.

"HOUNDS OF HEAVEN"

The "Hounds of Heaven" will meet on Tuesday evening at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. Lynn Clarke is leading the class in the study of "Your God Is Too Small" by J. P. Phillips. New friends are most welcome.

ALDERSGATE CLASS

The Aldersgate Class meets on Wednesday evening at 7:30 in Fellowship Hall. The study and discussion of the Ten Commandments will be led by Anna Delson and Janet Ernst. All are most welcome to join us.

HOLIDAY PECANS AVAILABLE

See Marlene Mare for your one pound bag of delicious holiday pecans. For $6.50 you just can't go wrong! It's a bargain.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers - especially more men - are needed for the Saturday Food Program for the Homeless. Be in touch with Fran Ellison at 246-3807 if you can lend a hand. It's every Saturday from one-thirty to three-thirty at the Park Avenue Christian Church, 1010 Park Avenue.

TRUSTEES TO MEET

The Trustees will meet on Monday evening at 6:30 pm in the fourth floor library.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL TO MEET

The Administrative Council will meet on Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm in the downstairs Russell Room.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

The Oratorio Society of New York under the direction of Lyndon Woodside will present Handel's Messiah at Carnegie Hall on Tuesday, December 10th at Carnegie Hall. Include this performance of the Messiah as a part of your Christmas.

NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN

New members will be received into the Church next Sunday, December the 8th. Persons interested in strengthening their tie with the Church at this time are invited to be in touch with Mr. Clarke as soon as possible. Some twenty-two people have already indicated their desire to do so. There may be others.

FINANCIAL CANVASS

The 1922 Every Member Financial Canvass is well under way. To date we have gratefully received 159 pledges totalling $127,000.

Our goal for 1992 is $150,000 and 250 pledges. We are off to a splendid start, but still have some way to go. Can we be up to 175 pledges and $130,000 by today?

We would like to complete this undertaking in the next two weeks. If you have not yet responded with a pledge for 1992, may we encourage you to do so today. Pledge cards are in the pews and copies of the 1992 budget are in the narthex. We welcome pledges of financial support from friends of the Church, too.
PARK AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
106 East 86th Street
New York, N.Y. 10028
289-6997

MINISTER
Rev. Philip A. C. Clarke

STUDENT ASSISTANT
Duane Thompson

ORGANIST-CHOIR DIRECTOR
Mr. Lyndon Woodside

BUSINESS MANAGER
Mr. Jack Schmidt

CHURCH SECRETARIES
Mrs. Judy Ferland
Mrs. Ellen K. Siesel

DAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Mrs. Judith Keisman

Mr. Roberto Meriles
CUSTODIAN

The light shines in the darkness
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
December 1, 1991

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
11 A. M.

ORGAN  
"Sonata in C Minor"  
Mendelssohn

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN NO. 211  "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
(Verses 1 - 4)  
No. 881

APOSTLES' CREED  
No. 71

GLORIA PATRI

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

A PRAYER AND A SONG BY THE CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE  
Ephesians 3: 7 - 21  
Page 1018

PARISH CONCERNS

ANTHEM  
"Jubilate Deo"  
Britten

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY

HYMN NO. 196  "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"  
Mr. Clarke

SERMON  
"Thirty-Five Years Later"  
Mr. Clarke

PRAYER

ANTHEM  
"Let All The World"  
Vaughan Williams

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation
The Great Thanksgiving  (Page 9)
The Sanctus
The Lord's Prayer
The Breaking of the Bread
The Taking of the Cup
The Prayer of Resolution

HYMN NO. 203  "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

BENEDICTION

ORGAN  
"Carillon-Sortie"  
Mulet

LAY READER

We welcome Larry Morales to the lectern today. A native of Texas, a graduate of American University in Washington D. C., Larry is Chief Fiscal Officer for the NYC Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcohol Services. Here in the Church, Larry is Lay Leader, a member of the Finance Committee, the Administrative Council, the PPR Committee and is also an usher.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given by Andrea Cawelti in loving memory of Brent.

GREETERS AND USHER

The greeters today are Lillian Bates and Chester Naramore. The ushers are Len Williams, Robert Lewis, John Lombardo, Larry Morales, Kim and Scott Taylor, and Wayne Wiebe.

AN INVITATION

Coffee and tea will be served in Fellowship Hall on the third floor following the service. Members and friends are invited to share in these moments of warmth made possible for us today by Marie Birillo, Jo Garcia, Anette Lewis and Gloria Percy.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND NURSERY CARE

Sessions of Church School for children are offered Sunday mornings from ten-thirty to twelve. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available on the fourth floor.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

The Adult Bible Class meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. A study of the book of Job is now being studied. Janet Ernst is class leader.