



# The Park

**Celebrating 205 Years!**



**PARK AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**

Affiliated with  
The Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
and  
The United Church of Christ

 **The Park**   
**FORWARD**

A Christian Community that Embraces the Divinity of Difference

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In continuous publication since 1899

Fall 2015

**Homecoming 2015**

**Homecoming**

**Picnic Celebration**

Gather by the Bernard Play-ground in Central Park, Enter at E. 108<sup>th</sup> Street & 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Saturday, September 12 10:00 AM — 2:00 PM

**Homecoming**

**Worship Service**

Preaching: Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin Jr, 11:00 AM, at *The Park*, Sunday, September 13

**Ministry Fair**

following Homecoming Worship

**Inside this issue:**

Great Joy and New Opportunity	2
Events & Opportunities	3-4
UN Impact	5
New Latino Initiative	5
News & Notes	4 & 6
Children & Youth Ministry	6
Ways to Connect	7
Prayer Ministry	7
CPE 1st Graduation	7
Birthdays at <i>The Park</i>	8

**Great Joy and New Opportunity!**

One of the greatest joys of my 40 plus years of pastoral ministry has been leading this community called The Park and sharing together with you the big, bold love of God in this big, bold, beautiful, bodacious and sometimes boisterous city called New York.

As I prepare to move into retirement, I am delighted that we are finally beginning the new building project. It has been a long, arduous and sometimes overwhelming process completing the development agreement and getting all of the approvals from city agencies and community groups. But we stayed the course and now an extraordinary opportunity has been given to our beloved community to begin a new and exciting chapter in a long running story!



Great joy and new opportunity! Maybe that is the theme for this 2015-16 Program Year. The Transition Team stated in its recent report that can be found on the church's website:

*We determined several years ago that it is impossible for a congregation our size and resource-base to maintain the great treasure of our 1911 historic landmark building and remain a vital, living, giving institution that blesses the community. We launched a development project that will provide a new building for church and community use and will enable the restoration of the sanctuary for generations to come. But the development does much more than that. It acts as a catalyst, creating the conditions for us to revisit and reframe many parts of our common life: not only our building, but our whole life – mission, community, stewardship, communications and leadership.*

*This is a critical, urgent moment in The Park's life. We are an old congregation, but in many ways we are a new church start. We have chosen to approach this time of transition in our building and in our pastoral leadership as a moment to choose new life and transformation. If we want to share vibrant, vital Christian community and witness – what we call the big, bold love of God – in this big bold city for many, many years to come, we must plan and follow through on what we have planned now.*

And so we shall with great joy seize this new opportunity!

Three things I would like to ask of every member and friend of our community over the next few weeks:

- **HOMECOMING WEEKEND CELEBRATION** with a Picnic in Central Park on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday Morning Worship and Ministry Fair on September 13<sup>th</sup> with Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr. of Indianapolis, IN as our special guest preacher. This weekend is the beginning of our church program year and we will all be given the opportunity to re-sign up for the great venture we have been called to in this place. Great preaching! Great Music! Great Worship! Great fellowship! Great Fun! Don't miss it! Bring a friend or two or three!
- **A STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITY!** Some of you have already given 'sweat equity' in refreshing and refurbishing our sanctuary to make it more functional during this time of transition, but we will be asking everyone to consider a sacrificial gift small or large over and above your regular giving to defray the cost of the needed capital updates to our sanctuary.
- **A NEW LATINO INITIATIVE** led by the Reverend Ismael Sanchez that will seek to be more intentional in reaching our Latino sisters and brothers in this big city with the big bold love of God. Let's all be in prayer and support of this new initiative.

# EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

## Join us for Worship, Study, Fellowship and Prayer @ *The Park*

### WEEKLY HAPPENINGS



#### Sunday Morning Choir Rehearsals

Visit the online events calendar for more info on the Sanctuary/Gospel Choir times.

#### Sunday Adult Bible Study

Idleman Room (back of the Sanctuary ~ South Room),  
10:00 AM

#### Sunday Morning Prayer

Adams Room (back of Sanctuary ~ North Room),  
10:00 AM

#### Sunday Children Activities and Study

Children's Corridor (Back Hall),  
10:00 AM check in, 1:00 PM pick up

#### Morning Prayer

Monday and Wednesday Mornings, Sanctuary, 8:30 AM,  
Join us in person or dial in at 605-477-2100, enter code:  
121070# to join by telephone

#### Recorder Rehearsal

Tuesday evenings, Sanctuary, 6:00 PM



#### Open Study

A unique study of the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday, Wednesday evenings, 7:00 PM

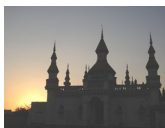
### MONTHLY HAPPENINGS

#### Latino Initiative presents Children's Sunday School

A bilingual Sunday School service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month, 10:00 AM, at *The Park*

#### Latino Initiative Worship Service

A worship in Spanish on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month, 3:00 PM, at *The Park*



#### Intercessory Prayer

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month, 6:30 PM, at *The Park*

### SoulFood Fellowships – Upper West Side/

#### Manhattan:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 @ 6:00 PM. Meets in the home of Peter & Sarah Heltzel, 453 W. 140, Apt 4 (between Convent and Amsterdam), led by Peter and Sarah Heltzel, Lee Grisham and George Schmidt

#### SoulFood Fellowships @ The Park

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 @ 1:45 PM. Meets at the church and is led by Richard Sturm & Bruce Wood

### SPECIAL OCCASIONS



#### Homecoming Picnic Celebration

Gather by the Bernard Playground in Central Park, Enter at E. 108<sup>th</sup> Street & Fifth Ave, Saturday, September 12, 10:00 AM — 2:00 PM

#### Homecoming Worship Service/Ministry Fair,

Preaching: Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin Jr, 11:00 AM, Sunday, September 13, at *The Park*



#### Music Ministry Day Retreat

September 26, 2015 and December 5, 2015  
Open to all members of the Choir and Musicians of *The Park*

#### Church 205<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Celebrating 205 years of witness and ministry  
October 11, 2015

#### The Blessing of the Animals

October 25, 1:00 PM, at *The Park*

#### All Saints Sunday

November 1, 2015 with the Relocation and Rededication of the Columbarium within the Sanctuary

# EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**Come and Join Us for our weekend kick off!**



**Saturday, September 12,**  
from 10:00 AM -2:00  
PM, Picnic at Central  
Park on E. 108<sup>th</sup> Street &  
5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**Sunday, September 13,**  
at 11:00 AM, Worship  
Service with Bishop Gar-  
rott Benjamin Jr.

**Sunday, September 13,**  
Following Worship,  
Ministry Fair

## SoulFood Fellowships – Up- per West Side – Manhattan:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 @ 6:00  
PM. Meets in the home of Peter  
and Sarah Heltzel, 453 W. 140, Apt  
4 (between Convent and Amster-  
dam) led by Peter & Sarah Heltzel,  
Lee Grisham and George Schmidt

**SoulFood Fellowships @ The Park:** SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 @ 1:45  
PM. Meets at the church and is led by Richard Sturm & Bruce Wood

**SoulFood Fellowships for Spanish Speakers:** Date TBA @ 6:00  
PM. Meets in the home of Ismael Sanchez & Daisy Machado (Morningside  
Heights, Manhattan) and is led by Ismael Sanchez and Hugo Monroy.



## Open Study @ The Park

A unique Bible study focusing on the  
upcoming Sunday's scriptures.  
Wednesday nights at *The Park* at 7:00 PM

## Coffee Hour



## Volunteers Needed

Visit the Welcome/Hospitality  
Table at our Ministry Fair on Sun-  
day, September 13,  
for more information.

# NEWS & NOTES

## GRADUATE

This news arrived too late for the sum-  
mer issue: GIANCARLO FERNANDEZ gradu-  
ated May 2015, with honors from the  
Fashion Institute of Technology.

## SUMMER VISITORS

Ohio member, HAROLD LOUTZENHEISER,  
and JAY BECKER, on their annual trip to  
NYC, were at *The Park* during July.

DR. JERRY and VIRGINIA MCCOY, from  
Eureka, IL joined us for worship on Au-  
gust 2. Jerry was student assistant at *The  
Park* while studying at Union Seminary.  
Both are retired from the staff of Eureka  
College.

## NEW MEMBER:

Welcome to JOSHUA WATKINS, who  
joined the church on August 9.

## MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

WADE PAYNE celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> in Au-  
gust.

JOYCE CLEVINGER will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup>  
in September.

## SYMPATHY

To MARGARET RICE and family, whose  
father, Earl, died on August 15, only two  
weeks before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

To STEPHENIE STOVALL, whose brother,  
James, died on August 18, in Oklahoma  
at age 42.

To REV. LUIS-ALFREDO CARTAGENA ZA-  
YAS, whose father, Luis-Alfredo Cartage-  
na, Sr. died in Chile in July.

To ESTELLA PATE, whose cousin, Bill  
Belcher, died on August 30, in Arizona

A public memorial service for MCNEIL  
ROBINSON will occur on Tuesday, Octo-  
ber 13, 7:30 pm, at the Church of the  
Ascension, Fifth Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> street.  
Neil served as organist and minister of  
music at *The Park* from February 1984  
until July 2007.

continue on page 6

## UN Impact



As the United Nations celebrates its founding 70 years ago, *the Park* remembers with gratitude several UN personnel, who have been members during these years. They have served as leaders and widened

our horizons.

Since the beginning, *The Park* has had members from the UN.

First, DR. H. R. WEI, Republic of China. He was chair of elders in the late 50s/early 60s.

JOHN MCMANUS, a friend of *the Park*, a New Yorker, who spent his career leading UN tours.

KINGSLEY DUBE, a deacon, from Zimbabwe.

CAROL GRIFFITHS, a deacon, from Australia.

DAVID WINCH, from Canada, a writer/editor of UN publications.

ROBERT ORR, served as Assistant Secretary General for Strategic Planning, from the USA.

EPHRAIM TCHANDAO, served on the chef staff, Burkano Faso Mission.

NANI BELAY and ABIY HAILE, from Ethiopia.

## New Latino Initiative here at *The Park*: In Footsteps of History

Surely the Latino population in the United States is growing. Compared to the 1940s, when Latinos made up about two percent of the population, Latinos living in the U.S. today make up 17 percent of the U.S. population — averaging about 54 million people, according to the latest information from the U.S. Census Bureau.

But Latinos have been a part of the landscape of NYC for many years. According to Claudio Remeseira, editor of a new book, *Hispanic New York: A Sourcebook*, the first person in New York that would today be considered “Hispanic” was Juan Rodríguez, a free mulatto from the island of Hispaniola, who arrived in Manhattan in the early 16th century. This preceded not only the Anglo-Saxon presence in Manhattan, but also Dutch colonization. NYC was also the site where Cuban intellectual and independence leader José Martí wrote his famous criticisms of the colonial regime in the late 1890s, and in the 1930s Puerto Ricans began settling in NYC’s East Harlem. The area eventually became the largest Puerto Rican neighborhood in the

U.S., often called “Spanish Harlem” or “El Barrio.”

However it was the 1990s that brought a major shift in the population of Latinos in NYC, when immigrants from Mexico and Central America began to arrive in numbers never seen before. Today, Latinos make up 27.5% of the City’s population, or 2.3 million living in NYC, a population that is not only large, but very diverse. Given this demographic reality, it would seem that this is the most opportune time for *the Park* to seriously engage in the process of planning for and launching a ministry to the City’s Latino population.

The Work Plan for this ministry, presented by Rev. Ismael Sánchez to Pastor Jackson and the Ministry Council, calls for launching a monthly bilingual/Spanish-language Sunday School class on the second Sunday of the month, meeting for the first time on September 13, 2015. There will also be a monthly bilingual/Spanish-language worship service on the third Sunday of the month, celebrated for the first time on September 20, 2015 at 3 pm.

If you want to know more about this new ministry or how you can help and support the work to be done, Rev. Sánchez invites

you to contact him. If you have Latino friends or neighbors who may be interested in becoming a part of this new ministry at *the Park*, please send their names and contact information to Rev. Sánchez, and please invite them to attend the upcoming monthly bilingual/Spanish-language Sunday School class on September 13 at 10 am, and the monthly bilingual/Spanish-language worship service on September 20 at 3 pm. The monthly bilingual/Spanish-language SoulFood Fellowship will begin its second year this fall. Meeting dates will be announced in the church newsletter and bulletin.



Rev. Ismael Sanchez

For more information email:  
[isanchez@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:isanchez@parkavenuechristian.com)  
[latinoministry@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:latinoministry@parkavenuechristian.com)

# NEWS & NOTES

continued from page 4

BESS TERRY continues in rehabilitation at Amsterdam Nursing Home, 1060 Amsterdam Avenue, New York NY 10025. She has moved to the 2nd floor.

## MOVING

On August 31, JANA NORDQUIST left Mt. Kisco, NY, and traveled to Sarasota, Florida to her new home. Many good wishes and love go with her.

## NEW POSITIONS

STEPHENIE STOVALL, after working in Alaska during the summer, has begun serving on August 31 as a chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia). She plans to spend some weekends in NYC. The

elder team continues to work with her toward ordination.

DR. KATRINA MITCHELL has left Tanzania. On July 1, she began a one-year breast surgery fellowship at MD Anderson cancer center in Texas.

## REGIONAL, CONFERENCE LEADERS AND FRIENDS FROM GERMANY

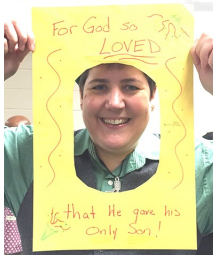
On Sunday, August 30, 2015, the Reverend Mary Anne Glover, Regional Minister of the Northeastern Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Reverend David Gaewski, Conference Minister of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ spoke to our congregation and to the Ministry Council about starting the search process for the calling of a new

Senior Pastor. Reverend Gaewski preached a challenging sermon from the book of Ruth on Crossing the Divide. We also welcomed special guests from the Protestant Church in Germany (EKHN).

And later this month Pastor Jackson will host at the Manse a group five lay and clergy from Germany. The group will be led by Rosalind Gnat, who was ordained at Judson Memorial and is now serving in Germany. They have an interest in learning about the UCC, especially regarding how we do youth ministry, worship, justice work, & outreach. And we will also be discussing with them the relationship between the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from a congregational perspective.

## Children's & Youth Ministries at *The Park*

Join Us Each Sunday for Worship Learning and Play



Marjorie Watrobski



## Ways To Connect

Join Us for our Ministry Fair celebration, following Homecoming Worship on September 13, to sign up for the following:

### Worship and Study

- Bible Study (Open Study)
- Prayer Team
- Sunday Morning Lectors
- Soul Food Fellowship
- Latino Initiative
- Christian Education
- Millennial Ministry

### Service/Outreach

- Mission Team
- Saturday Community Lunch
- Immigration Clinics
- Greeter Ministry
- Elder Ministry
- Deacon Ministry
- Flower Guild
- Stewardship Counters
- Communications Team

### Music & Arts Ministry

- Gospel Choir
- Recorder Consort
- Sanctuary Choir

### Children's Ministry

- Kids Church

## Prayer Ministry

### **EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY**

Morning Prayers, 8:30 am, The Park. Join us in person or dial in 605-477-2100 and enter code 121070# to join by telephone.

### **PRAYER MINISTRY AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

One of our Pastors, other Clergy or Elders are always happy to visit with anyone in need of individual prayer after worship. Someone will be stationed in the Chancel area each Sunday.

### **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

First Tuesday of each month at the church, 6:00 pm

*Contacts:*

Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena - [rev.luisalfredo@gmail.com](mailto:rev.luisalfredo@gmail.com);  
Hillary Buckland - [Hillary.Buckland@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Hillary.Buckland@nycha.nyc.gov)

### **THE-PARK-PRAYS ON-LINE**

To be added, contact Pam Wood, [bandpwood@aol.com](mailto:bandpwood@aol.com) (or 917-882-7667, talk/text). Once you are a member, you can post a prayer or prayer request.

### **ORDER OF ST. LUKE THE PHYSICIAN**

Healing prayer group, NYC Chapter meets monthly for worship, study and healing prayer. Contact Pam Wood: [bandpwood@aol.com](mailto:bandpwood@aol.com), 917-882-7667

## PACC's First Graduating Class in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

On August 8, *the Park's* first Clinical Pastoral Education graduation ceremony took place in our sanctuary. REV. DR. MARIA LOPEZ, one of our Elders, envisioned and established this program as a part of her doctoral requirements at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Maria began working with the incarcerated after her ordination as a Disciples minister decades ago, and has served as a chaplain at Rikers Island and Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women.

In addition to Maria, three teachers spoke, besides Maria: Dorothy Muller gave accounts of her work at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women and at Rikers Island. Richard Sturm spoke on compassion in Scripture and ministry. Abdus-Salaam Musa, an imam and chaplain, said he had served time behind bars, where he learned first-hand, the needs of the incarcerated.

The four graduates spoke from the heart, eloquently recounting what they had learned from the program and one another. HOLLY REID had a career as a registered nurse but wanted to find other avenues where she could contribute more to people in need. REV. HECTOR CUSTODIO was incarcerated for 20 years for a crime he did not commit, but his imprisonment inspired him to help others behind bars. While serving time, he read a great deal, studied, and obtained college and seminary degrees. REV. MIRIAM MARTINEZ, one of PACC's minister Elders, has been involved with mission work since her teens. She has served as a chaplain since being ordained at PACC in May 2012. REV. GEORGE SCHMIDT, also mentored at PACC and ordained here on June 17, 2015, told of his first one-on-one encounters with young people languishing during periods of solitary confinement.

Dr. Lopez presented a diploma to each of the four graduates, and the ceremony closed with everyone singing, "We Shall Overcome." The closing prayer was led by Rev. Larissa Romero, spouse of Rev. Schmidt.

This is a promising beginning, and the program is continuing. See PACC's website for more information on **CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION: FOCUS ON PRISON**. To apply, contact [office@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:office@parkavenuechristian.com) or [revmarialopez@yahoo.com](mailto:revmarialopez@yahoo.com).

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The Forward...in continuous publication since 1899

**Birthdays at *The Park***

**SEPTEMBER**

Allen Merritt 9/2  
Emily Ney 9/6  
Patricia Scales 9/6  
Steven Macdonald 9/6  
George Schmidt 9/6  
Kathryn Brewer-Calvert 9/7  
Judith Wray 9/8  
Carol Somplatsky-Jarman 9/9  
Rev. Dr. Evelyn DeJesus 9/9  
Maggie Adolphe 9/10

Agnes Leyden 9/10  
Scott Edson 9/10  
Jonathan Spencer 9/10  
Sandra Monroy 9/11  
Alison Ney 9/12  
Will Pagano 9/12  
Alec Wirth 9/13  
Paul Vasile 9/13  
Joyce Clevenger 9/13  
Wayne Plumer 9/15  
Leslee Sumner 9/15

Leena Sanders 9/15  
Keith Pinkston 9/15  
Robert Castro 9/16  
Kay McFarland 9/16  
Scott Sublett 9/18  
Alexis O'Reilly 9/18  
Katrina Mitchell 9/19  
Casey Watrobski 9/22  
Deb Wada 9/23  
Fredericka Cunningham 9/29

**OCTOBER**

Alison Gurin 10/1  
Rev. Dr. Anne Coffman 10/2  
Bonnie Thornton Dill 10/5  
Beth Pease 10/5  
Lee Grisham 10/6  
Joseph (Joe) Roberson 10/6  
Carol Griffiths 10/6  
Frances Manners 10/8  
Iris L. Burroughs 10/12

Rev. Dr. Harry B. Adams 10/13  
Vincent (Vince) Pagano Jr 10/14  
Lynn Marie Macy 10/17  
Andrew Seiscio 10/18  
Amenan Kouadio 10/18  
Sherry Giles 10/21  
Nadeige Genece Sekyiamah 10/22  
Mona Lisa Martin 10/24  
Bruce Carlson 10/26

Estella Pate 10/27  
Mary N. Cochran-Schlottman 10/27  
Rev. Gerry Brague 10/28  
Sarah Mook 10/29  
Michael Camara 10/31

**NOVEMBER**

Rev. Dr. Richard Strum 11/1  
Stephen Tickner 11/2  
Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert 11/4  
James (Jim) Gaynor 11/4  
Andrew Adams 11/4  
Carrie Hamby 11/5  
Rev. Dr. Daisy Machado 11/8  
Barbara Shacklett 11/9

Rev. Maria Lopez 11/10  
Donald Wong 11/11  
Jasmine Briggs 11/11  
Rev. John Payne 11/14  
David W. Wallace 11/15  
Samantha Manners 11/15  
Charles Gruber 11/19  
Joseph (Joe) Lynett 11/22  
Phil Chester 11/23  
Matthew James Gruber 11/24

Norman Bell 11/25  
PJ Lovejoy 11/25  
Jonathan Robert Culver 11/26  
Angela D. Starks 11/28  
Christina Crowe 11/29

