



*The Park*



**Celebrating 205 Years!**



**Winter Edition 2015-16**

**PARK AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**

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

**Upcoming Events at  
The Park**

**Congregational Town Hall:**  
December 13, 12:30 pm

**Christmas Concert:**  
December 19, 7:00 pm

**Christmas Eve — Children-  
Oriented Family Service:**  
December 24, 5:00 pm

**Christmas Eve — Carols,  
Candles, and Communion  
Service:**  
December 24, 7:00 pm

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# FORWARD

A Christian Community that Embraces the Divinity of Difference

Vol. 117, No. 1

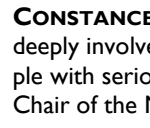
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Winter 2015-16

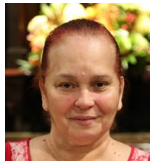
## Meet Our Pastoral Search Team



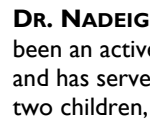
**RICHARD STURM** is Secretary of the Ministry Council, as well as Chair of the Team of Elders. He has served the church in several roles over the past 40 years, and for 12 years was Associate Minister at The Park during his years at Union Seminary as an M. Div. and Ph.D. student. He also served over 20 years as a Professor and Director of the New York Program of New Brunswick Theological Seminary at St. John's University in Queens.



**CONSTANCE PACKARD M.S.W.**, is a retired family therapist. For many years she was deeply involved in providing alternative community-based treatments and services for people with serious mental illness. She has been a member of the Park for five years, is Vice Chair of the Ministry Council, a Deacon and a member of the Building Committee.



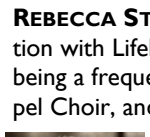
**REVEREND DR. MARIA LOPEZ** has worked with the incarcerated for over 20 years. She is a graduate of New York Theological Seminary, and has completed a Doctorate of Ministry at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. While she was working at Rikers Island, Maria became a member of The Park. John Payne was her pastor. He and members of the church visited Rikers and engaged in dialogue with the incarcerated.



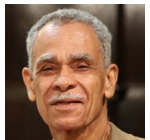
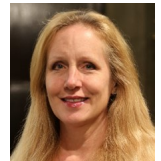
**DR. NADEIGE GENECE-SEKYIAMAH** is a Pediatrician at NYU Langone Hospital and has been an active member of *The Park*, since 2010. She is a member of the Gospel Choir, and has served on the Minister of Music Search Team. She and her husband Stephen have two children, Simone and Samuel.



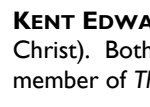
**HEATHER BICKHAM** joined *The Park* in 2009. She has been a stagehand/actor and has used her skills for numerous projects, including Theater 1010, the Columbari Troupe, the production of Noah's Ark, and Mark Leach's play. Heather is also a personal trainer, and has used those skills to lead a strength and conditioning class. She has volunteered in our choir, our Bazaar, the Building Committee, the youth group's Halloween party, and the Saturday Community Lunch Program. She is a Deacon and attends *The Park's* Sunday morning Bible Study.



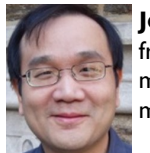
**REBECCA STANTON:** Originally from Nebraska, Rebecca found *The Park* via a connection with Lifeline. She joined *The Park* in 2012, and has been an elder since 2013. Besides being a frequent marcher in the Pride Parade, Rebecca is a jubilant member of the Gospel Choir, and volunteers at the Immigration Clinics.



**CARL BUCKLAND** is a long standing member of The Park, an Elder, Chair of the Building Committee, and Member of the Ministry of Music Search Committee.



**KENT EDWARDS** is a life-long member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Both of his parents are Disciples clergy. Kent is a personal trainer and has been a member of *The Park* for almost 10 years.



**JOHNSON LIU** has been a member of The Park since 2003, having moved to New York from Washington DC. Johnson is an MD specializing in blood disorders. He has been a member of the Ministry Council, and is a new Elder. He is anxious to forward The Park's mission as a beacon of diversity, tolerance, and witness.

# 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 rehearsal times.

#### Sunday Adult Bible Study

Adams Room (Room A), 10:00 AM

#### Sunday Morning Prayer

Idelman Room (Room B),  
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

### SPECIAL OCCASIONS

#### Annual Giving Tree at The Park to benefit Harlem United's housing program for People Living with HIV/AIDS

Many children whose families have experienced hard times will not have gifts to open this Christmas. Please join the Children & Youth Ministries in making Christmas brighter for those less fortunate. Here is what you need to do:

1. **Select** an ornament from **The Giving Tree** in the narthex.
2. **Buy** an age-appropriate gift for the child describe (\$20 minimum please).
3. **Affix** the ornament you selected to the gift (unwrapped).
4. **Bring** the unwrapped gift to church no later than Sunday, 12/13/2015.

Questions: please contact Margie at [mwatrob-wski@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:mwatrob-wski@parkavenuechristian.com)

### MONTHLY HAPPENINGS

#### Latino Initiative presents

#### Bilingual Bible Study

SECOND Sunday of every month, 10:00 AM, at *The Park*



#### Latino Initiative

#### Bilingual Worship Service

THIRD Sunday of every month, 1:30 PM, at *The Park*

#### Intercessory Prayer

FIRST Tuesday of every month, 6:30 PM, at *The Park*



**Open Table** will resume on the last Sunday of every month at 10:00 AM as an opportunity to break bread and share in a conversation that will intersect our faith and current issues. We hope you will join us. Coffee, tea, and a light breakfast will be served.

#### Congregational Town Hall

Sunday, December 13



Please join the Congregational Town Hall meeting, when the Pastoral Search Team will present a draft of the Congregational Profile and Senior Minister's Profile, and seek further congregational input on both.

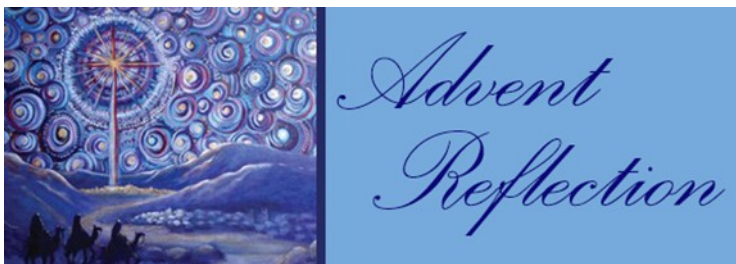
## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



Christmas at *The Park* is a beautiful time of year, in part because of the festive greenery that is added to the Sanctuary, including gorgeous poinsettias. The poinsettias are an annual tradition made possible by your donations. People often like to donate poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one, or in observance of a special personal occasion.

If you would like to make a gift of poinsettias to The Park this holiday season, please visit: <http://www.parkavenuechristian.com/poinsettias/> to access the online order form, or email the church office at [office@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:office@parkavenuechristian.com), or fill out the form at the church on Sunday.

Be sure to join us in worship this season, while enjoying the splendid holiday flowers at The Park. Thank you for helping to make the season merry and bright!



Advent Reflections are posted every day during Advent, on The Park's website, as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages. If you would like to receive the Reflections by email, visit: <http://www.parkavenuechristian.com/newsletter-subscribe/> to be added to the RELECTIONS list, or send a request to [office@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:office@parkavenuechristian.com).

### SoulFood Fellowship – Upper

#### West Side – Manhattan:

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

**SoulFood Fellowship for Spanish Speakers:** TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 6:00 PM. Meets in the home of Ismael Sanchez & Daisy Machado (Morningside Heights, Manhattan) and is led by Ismael Sanchez and Hugo Monroy.

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



## NEWS & NOTES

### BIRTHS

Congratulations to DR. KATRINA MITCHELL (2015-16 Breast Surgical Oncology Fellow) and family on the birth of her son.



Her son, BECKER MORGAN MITCHELL, 8.5 pounds, 20-inches, is named for great-grandmothers Kathryn Becker and Ruth Morgan. Becker was born on October 11, 2015 at 8:54 PM.

### DEATHS

LUELLA (SANDY) MARTIN, a member of *The Park*, who has been living in Washington state, died on Monday, November 20, in Topeka, Kansas, where she had recently moved to be closer to her children. Her sister, MONA LISA MARTIN, was with her, has returned to her home in Kenmore, WA. A memorial service was held on November 20 in Parsons, Kansas, the home town of the Martin family.

A memorial service was held for the REV. MARK LEACH on Sunday October 25 at The Park. Mark died on October 13, 2015. His ashes, and those of his wife, BELLE TAYLOR, were interred in The Park's columbarium.

### NEW MEMBERS:

JOSHUA WATKINS joined *The Park* on August 9, 2015.

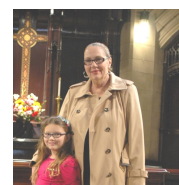


ALEXANDER COOK joined *The Park* on August 30, 2015

FELIX CARUAJAL joined *The Park* on October 4, 2015.

MICHAEL VANACORE joined *The Park* on October 11, 2015 and was baptized November 8, 2015.

MARIAN FABIAN and her family joined *The Park* on October 18, 2015.



ROSEANNE AND JULIA ROSE KYRIAZIS joined *The Park* on October 25, 2015. Julia was baptized on November 8, 2015.

MARY NORTON joined *The Park* on October 25, 2015

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## Update on our Mission Efforts



On Friday, November 20 at 10:30 am, Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena Zayas led the Jericho Walk around Federal Plaza. The Jericho Walk is a peaceful faith action where participants walk around the Federal Building seven times and petition the Lord as we battle the powers and principalities on Immigration Reform.

The Park is a member of The New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City, and participates in this interfaith network of congregations, organizations, and individuals, standing publicly in solidarity with families and communities resisting detention and deportation in order to keep families unbroken.

We recognize that unjust global and systemic economic relationships and racism form the basis of the injustices that affect immigrants. We seek reform of United States immigration laws to promote fairness, social, and economic justice. This is especially true today when the political elite seek to justify inaction by blaming the victims and instilling fear in the hearts of citizens.



Also on Friday, November 20, Park members, Rev. Hugo Monroy and Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena Zayas participated in a press conference on the steps of City Hall as a coalition of immigration advocates marked the one-year anniversary of President Obama's announcement of Executive Actions Providing Immigration Relief.

New Yorkers are calling on the Supreme Court to take up an Immigration Relief Lawsuit to enable millions of families the right to stay together. Participants include: Steven Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, Council Member Carlos Menchaca, Commissioner Nisha Agarwal of the

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel of Latino Justice PRLDEF, Rosa Gaona, member of Cabrini Immigrant Services, Jong-Min You, member of MinKwon Center for Community Action, Manuel Lazo, leader at Make the Road New York, Teresa Gutierrez and Onleilove Alston, Executive Director, Faith Leader at Faith in NY. A statement of support was read by City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

On Saturday November 21, The Park participated in the Thanksgiving Lunch at our sister church, La Segunda del Bronx. As part of the Northeastern Region's Outreach, our two congregations, motivated by Jesus' love, joined in service to members of the community of the

South Bronx. We were able to serve 250+ meals. La Iglesia Cristiana La Segunda extends Thanksgiving wishes to all members of The Park near and far.



# NEWS & NOTES

continued from page 4



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to John Darsie and Samantha Nick, who were married at The Park on October 3. John is a descendant of James and Ann Darsie, charter members of our congregation. Rev. Dr. Richard Sturm officiated.

## Progress Report: Latino Ministries Initiative

The Latino Ministries Initiative, after its approval in August 2015, has completed the following goals:

- Set up Latino Ministries Initiative Team with 18 participants from The Park.
- Created a publicity strategy using radio, social media, and flyers.
- Some sections of The Park's website have been translated into Spanish.

Set up a schedule of activities:

- Sunday School with a Latino focus, second Sunday of the month, 10:00 AM, three Sunday School classes have occurred.
- Bilingual Worship Service, third Sunday of the month, 1:30 PM, three worship services celebrated thus far.

- SoulFood Fellowship, Bible study/fellowship in Sanchez home, every Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM; two SoulFood Fellowship meetings held thus far.

The overall goal of the Latino Ministries Initiative remains the same as initially proposed:

*To create a holistic Latino worship community that can embrace diversity with a spirit of hospitality, to provide a space for fellowship, worship, healing, and outreach.*

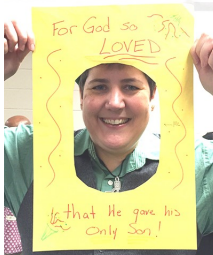


Rev. Ismael Sanchez

For more information:

[lsanchez@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:lsanchez@parkavenuechristian.com) or [latinoministry@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:latinoministry@parkavenuechristian.com)

## Children & Youth Ministries at The Park



Marjorie Watrobski

Join Us Each Sunday for Worship, Learning, and Play



## Pastoral Search Team Update

The Pastoral Search Team --consisting of Connie Packard, Rebecca Stanton, Nadeige Sekyamah, Heather Bickham, Maria Lopez, Carl Buckland, Kent Edwards, Johnson Liu, and Richard Sturm -- has met three times. The Team has been working on two main tasks.

First, they are drafting a congregational profile (to present to prospective candidates for our next Senior Minister), using the report of the Transition/Development Team.

Second, they are drafting a ministerial profile, to describe the responsibilities of our Senior Minister -- and the qualities, skills, gifts, and graces we are seeking in our next Senior Minister.

These drafts will be presented at a Town Meeting/Holy Conversation on Sunday, December 13, where they hope the congregation will give them further input. Thanks to the Children's Ministry, a suggestion box will also be available for congregational suggestions, prayers, and concerns. In addition, each member of the Search Team is eager to hear from individuals.

Once the congregational and ministerial profiles are complete, the Team will announce *The Park's* Search to others, particularly the Vocational Offices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Stay tuned!

## 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.

### THE-PARK-PRAYS ON-LINE

To be added, contact Pam Wood, [bandpwood@aol.com](mailto:bandpwood@aol.com) (or 917.882.7667, talk/text). As a member, you can post a prayer or prayer request.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Contacts:

Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena - [lcartagena@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:lcartagena@parkavenuechristian.com);

Hillary Buckland - [candhbuckland@optonline.net](mailto:candhbuckland@optonline.net)

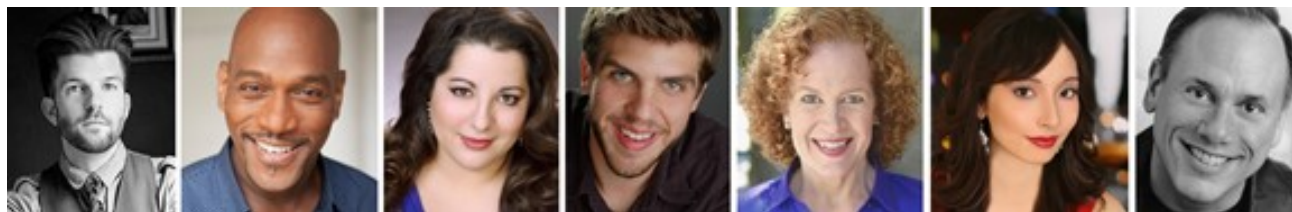
### ORDER OF ST. LUKE THE PHYSICIAN

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

## Park Avenue Christian Church Christmas Concert

Join us on Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 pm.



Come listen to your all-time favorite Christmas music at The Park, featuring our two choirs, wonderful soloists, recorder, violin, and more! Some highlights:

- Favorite Christmas carols
- Gospel fun
- Our angelic female choir
- Park sopranos sing classical favorites
- Beautiful choir music from the organ loft
- Park Recorder Consort
- Christmas secular fun time
- More favorite Christmas carols
- Spiritual, "Mary Had A Baby"
- "Silent Night"

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parkavenuechristian.com

The Forward...in continuous publication since 1899

### Birthdays at *The Park*

#### DECEMBER

Ronald Raines 12/2	Pauline Marie Eveillard 12/8	Karen Gruber 12/21
Christopher O'Brien 12/3	Rolayn B. Harper 12/8	A.J. Virga 12/28
Myrna Payne 12/3	Sidvett Fabian 12/13	Oliver Gruber 12/30
Rev. Miriam Martinez 12/3	Gloria Piro 12/17	
Kent Edwards 12/4	Lois Tene Jenkins 12/18	
Robert (Bob) Cunningham 12/6	Mark Fairchild 12/19	
Ashley Hawkins 12/7	Marjorie Watrobski 12/19	
Rebecca Stanton 12/7	Maximillian (Max) Nadler 12/19	

#### JANUARY

Rev. Hugo Monroy 1/3	Xifeng (Ryan) Jin 1/19
Tina Jackson 1/10	Harry Eicher 1/20
Martha & Stanley Butt 1/11	Winthrop Gruber 1/21
Lisa Robateau-Epps 1/16	Rev. Dr. Suzanne Webb 1/25
Ann Canady 1/17	Kayla Ichikawa 1/31
Sigrid Sunstedt 1/17	
Keith Wiggs 1/17	
Carl Buckland 1/17	

#### FEBRUARY

Jordana Goiman 2/2	Rev. James Calvert 2/10	Beverly A. Brown 2/20
Frank E. Tyson Jr. 2/4	Greg Crosser 2/10	Eric Tan 2/21
Thomas (Tom) Hogan 2/5	Mary Devon O'Brien 2/13	Kristen McLaughlin 2/22
Andrew Ray Chester 2/6	Charlotte A. Raines 2/13	Peter Zizzo 2/22
Rev. Mark Johnston 2/6	Alaina Davis 2/13	Pamela Branche 2/24
Charles Harris 2/9	Esther Jusino 2/14	Marian Fabian 2/24
Amanda Gilpin 2/10	Robert Orr 2/14	

