



Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church

The Rev. David Aja-Sigmon
Pastor

Telephone: (718) 836-0681

Dear Church family,

Just ask anyone who has tried to get a taxi or car service to pick them up in front of the church and they will tell you the truth: Fourth Avenue Presbyterian is hard to find. Yes, it would seem like half of the work of finding us is accomplished by the pronouncement of our name, but somehow we are located firmly within the Brooklyn Triangle -- that most dreaded place where vehicles get lost...

One would think that a certain swirling wind might make us more easily found. When people of the neighborhood, whether at a playground or a store, have asked me which church Fourth Avenue Presbyterian is, I often say, 'the church that was hit by the tornado.' Some know us well by this distinction, but on the whole I have received some surprising answers: 'When was there a tornado?!' (These folks might never find the church.) Or, 'Which church was that again?'

Now before you start wondering about the invisibility cloak that must hide our church or worry that I am speaking out of our insecurity, I think you'll be pleased to know what *has* helped to identify us: **WE** have. Once I expand in detail about our church, most know exactly which one I'm talking about. Then I hear some gratifying words, such as:

"Oh, my son was part of the community chorus. What a great program that is for the kids and neighborhood." Or,

"My mom used to attend your Seniors Gathering - she loved those people." Or,

"Do you know so-and-so? They go to that church and they love it and tell me how gracious the people are." Or,

"My friend was searching for a church home for a while and now she goes there." Or,

"Isn't that the church that hosts the vegetable drop-off and has the food pantry?"

You might be asking yourself, why is he putting us through this? After all, if you are receiving this newsletter, you probably have a pretty clear sense of our location and mission.

First, I want to make clear that I am excited for the church to gear up again for the Fall season.

Second, sometimes people of small churches think that small is equated with less. We are a small church but we are not less important than other larger churches. We are not a struggling shell. I am humbled to serve this church because we are a dynamic, vibrant, intimate faith community. And, truth be told, we are not so small after all! According to Faith Communities Today Report (FACT, 2001) we are larger than half of the churches in the US.

Finally, our size can be a gift -- A place where you can involve yourself in whatever ministry of the church to which you feel called, a place where you are known and loved, where a deeper level of concern and care can be extended...

While at the same time, you should be pleased that our pews are getting fuller and louder (we welcome babies!).