

Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church

June 2010

Dear Church family,

One of my favorite biblical metaphors is from the Apostle Paul. As you have probably heard me say repeatedly, Paul considers the church to be the Body of Christ (I Cor 12). All of us have our various functions that contribute to the overall work of the body with no part more necessary or more loved.

Yet, when talking of the body, I often stop there. It is a disservice.

The other day, when running along the shore, it occurred to me that in our house of prayer where we often talk of people's souls and how we should use our hands, we should also spend time discussing the rest of the body.

Jesus didn't after all float about as a big-handed spirit, looking like a Disney character, but was an incarnate God. He, like all of us, was fearfully and wonderfully made, knit together in his mother's womb (Ps 139).

This summer I want to encourage us all to celebrate the body. Not in a cheap, burlesque sense, we certainly get enough of that in society. Rather, in the way that tries to comprehend, the Apostle Paul's other famous quote about the body: "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, a gift from God (I Cor 6:19).

As the weather warms up in our fine borough, rather than sitting like the

lamentable clump of trashbags fermenting on the corner, embody something else Brooklyn is known for. After all, we are the borough, who can claim the Boys of Summer, and while the Dodgers are long gone, may we still get out and play as if we were one of them.

This might be hard for some of us when our bodies are failing, seemingly betraying us. This might be hard for some of us when the mirror tells us what Hollywood would say. This might be hard for some of us when work or stress keeps us from recognizing anything not consuming our brain, even that which lives below it.

But, I invite you to prayerfully consider the body you have been given: a body full of breath that allows you to breathe in the Spirit of God, a body with vision that allows you to see God's creation, a body graced with movement that allows you to journey through the world, a body sensitive to touch that allows you to feel those beloved around you.

Instead of just focusing on the Body of Christ, may we faithfully consider our own bodies gifted to us by God and improving our health in what ways we can.

Peace,
Rev. David Aja-Sigmon

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Upcoming Events

* On June 10th at 7:30pm the book club will gather at the church to discuss Stranger in a Strange Land.

* On June 13th the Sunday School will lead us in worship. This Sunday the many gifts of our Sunday School and its great teaching are on full display. The children not only lead us in worship, but compose the prayers.

* On June 20th we will worshipfully celebrate with new members their commitment to join our congregation. Our new members are: Evangeline Martinez, Gladys Johnstone, Sara Thompson, and Shama Ramlochan.

* On July 11th at 3pm Bethel Presbyterian-Reformed Church will have a special worship at 3pm. It will be a service of celebration and dedication for their building. This Ghanaian congregation moved into the former Ft. Hamilton Presbyterian Church on Palm Sunday, but they want to gather the community for a service of thanksgiving.

* On August 8th Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church travels to Coney Island for an evening Brooklyn Cyclones game. Speak with Bill Costello to reserve your tickets for this unique baseball experience: good company, rides and beach in the background, and a good seat for all.

Quoteworthy:

Descartes was mistaken; “Cogito ergo sum”—“I think therefore I am”?

Nonsense. “Amo ergo sum”—“I love therefore I am.” Or, as with the unconscious eloquence St. Paul wrote, “Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” I believe that. I believe it is better not to live than not to love.

--William Sloane Coffin, former pastor at Riverside Church, NYC

This is the reason why we have no ease of heart or soul, for we are seeking our rest in trivial things which cannot satisfy, and not seeking to know God, almighty, all-wise, all-good. God is true rest. It is God's will that we should know God, and God's pleasure that we should rest in God. Nothing less will satisfy us.

---Julian of Norwich

I would love to live
like a river flows
carried by the surprise
of its own unfolding.

--John O'Donohue

Pastoral Intern:

Starting in September Christopher Peet will begin a year as our Pastoral Intern. Chris presently studies at New York Theological Seminary. He is an elder of Olivet Presbyterian Church in Staten Island. He is a husband, father, employee of the Board of Education, and longtime Brooklyn resident.

Please note:

Don't forget to sign up to volunteer at the Soup Kitchen. They still need our help every fourth Saturday of the month. Contact Esther D'Amico or David Aja-Sigmon for details.

Prayer:

Praise from all creatures, laughs and list-makers, wonders and worriers, poets and plodders and prophets, the wrinkled, the newborn, the whale, and the worm, from all, and from me. Praise, praise be to you, God, for amazing grace. Amen.

--Ted Loder, Guerillas of Grace