



April 2010 Conference Minister's Message

Reverend Dr. Rita Root

*When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you.
When you pass through fire; you will not be burned; the hard trials that will come will not hurt you.*

For I am the Lord your God, the holy God of Israel who saves you.

Isaiah 43:2-3a

There was a time when I believed that having faith and doing the right thing was like a magic potion that could prevent hard times.

I know I wouldn't have said it that way for that sounds far too superstitious and naive, but I know I believed it never-the-less because when those hard times came, I took all the blame. If only I had believed the right thing, if only I had done the right thing, if only I had been a better person...well I think you know the mantra It's taken a long time—not to mention some really good therapists and loving friends—to bring me to my current understanding that life is hard—not all the time but often enough—and the mettle of a person is not seen in how they avoid those hard times but how they engage in them—trusting the words of God as told to us through the prophet, Isaiah—when (not if) you pass through deep waters...when (not if) you pass through fire—the troubles will not get the best of you and the hard times will not defeat you. Just as peace is not just the absence of war—and love is not just the absence of hate—a good life is not just the absence of hard times. The hard times come—and when they do—God is right there with us.

We will gather soon at our annual meeting. We will worship together. We will play together. We will study together. We will also be asked to make some difficult decisions. Those of you who have received the annual meeting materials, and have had the opportunity to read through them, know that the Executive Council has approved and will recommend a 2011 budget that is calling for a dramatic reduction in our Personnel line item. This reduction, which represents one professional staff position and one ½ time support staff position, challenges us to rethink how our conference accomplishes its ministry; it challenges us to vision anew where and how God is calling us into the future. We can face this challenge in a variety of ways—and face it we must—so that we can continue to be the radical welcoming—justice-proclaiming—prophetically speaking—conference we have always been.

So that we might be fully engaged in this work throughout our time together, I encourage all of you—clergy, lay delegates, guests and friends-- to attend the budget hearing and all the business sessions. Your voice, your insight, your ideas are needed and most welcome. If you are not able to attend the annual meeting, do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Executive Council with your ideas and hopes for our future together. Together we will be the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ—together we will be the body of Christ in this place and for this time.

Blessings & peace,
Rita



Safe Haven

United Church of Christ



Rev. Dr. Ruby M. Wilson, Pastor



"We are SHUCC where the doors of the church swing open to "whomever will, let him [and her] come."
ONA & God is Still Speaking

www.safehavenucc.com

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Mailing address:

172 5th Avenue #133

Brooklyn, NY 11217

Services held at :

601 Onderdonk Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Sunday Services

10am The Sunday Not School Experience

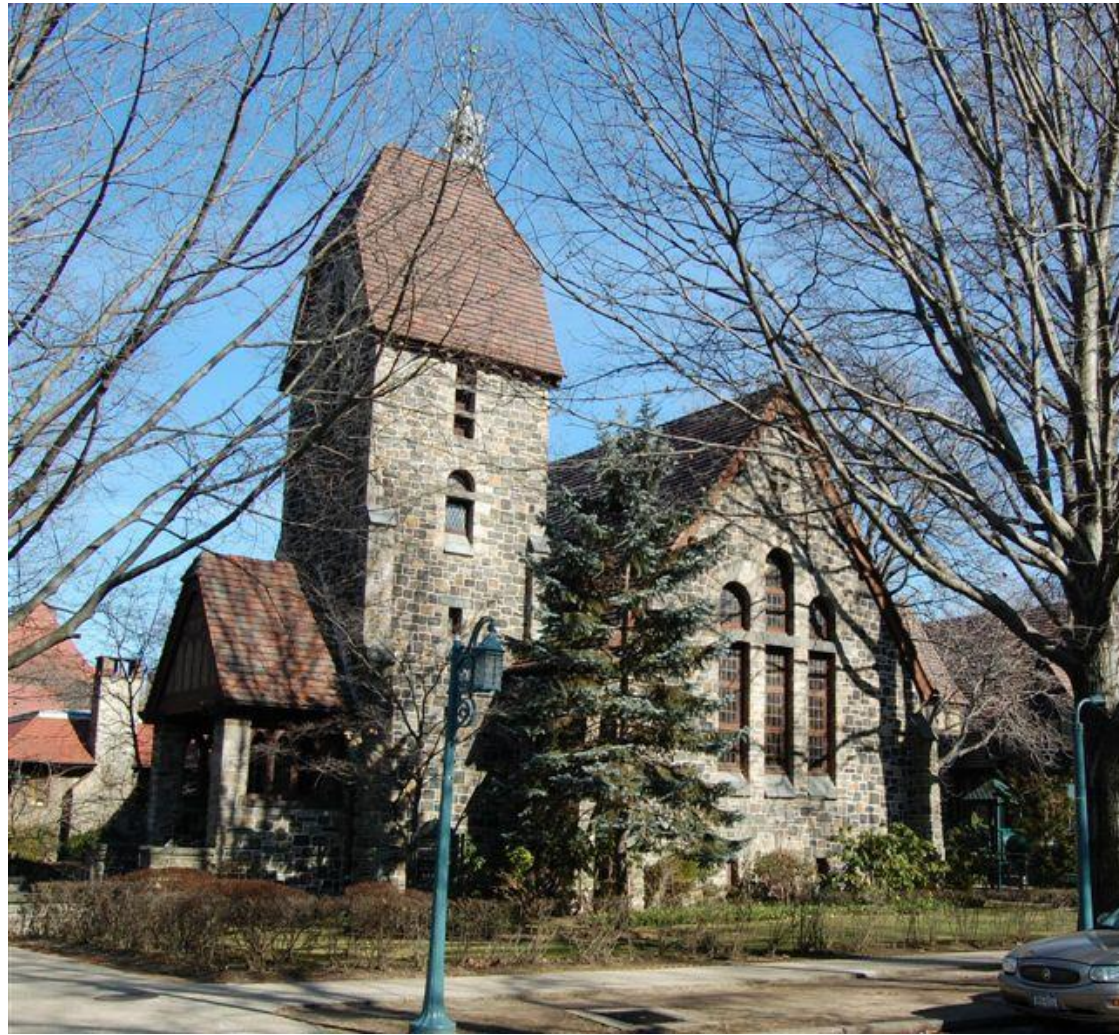
11am Sunday Worship Service

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601 Onderdonk Avenue
Ridgewood, NY 11385



The Church in the Garden

Reverend Dr. Noel Vanek, Pastor



The Church-in-the-Gardens is a congregation of about 275 very diverse members, reaching out to central Queens with the message of Jesus Christ since 1912. Our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Noel Vanek, has served our congregation since 1992. You can read about our activities at our website: www.thecig.org. Current priorities include working at becoming a "green church" (an environmental stewardship goal adopted by the congregation in 2008); offering opportunities for faith development through Laity Empowerment and weekly Bible Study groups; reading through the Bible as a congregation in 2010; and continued outreach to the world around us through our varied World Service activities.. Come join us for spirited worship at either 9am (a contemporary service) or 11am (the more traditional service with choir) on Sundays. The staffed nursery is open 9am - 12:15 pm. Sunday School for all ages runs from 10 - 10:50 am, September through June. (Please note: in August there is one service only, at 10 am. On all fifth Sundays of the month throughout the year, worship is also 10am, and we gather together after worship for an all-church program with refreshments.)



The Church-in-the Garden

Play Ball! June Mets Game

We have 25 seats in a very good first base, infield section of the new Citi Field, for the Tuesday, **June 9th** game with the Mets taking on the San Diego Padres. Cost is \$20 per ticket. We discovered from last year's trip to Citi Field that this is a very interesting ball park and a GREAT place to watch a game!

Tickets are first come, first serve, and will be on sale at coffee hours in May. Or you may call the church office at (718) 268-6704 to reserve your tickets, as long as you pay for them within the next 7 days.

(Note on the arrogance of power: we tried for a Yankee group sale....but they never called us back!)

A Musical Treat

A musical treat is coming your way on Sunday, **June 13, 2010**, at **7:30 pm** in the sanctuary, when guitar students of Jeanne DeYcaza will perform classical and popular music in a recital that will bring joy to your heart, rhythm to your toes, and leave you humming familiar tunes all week. Admission is free, and light refreshments will be served in the Music Room following the one-hour performance. There is no charge for admission. All are invited!



Church-in-the Garden

You Can Help Your Church

We are still looking for one or two volunteers to learn to operate the sound system on Sundays at the 11 am worship service. It's fun, helpful, and you won't have to do it every Sunday. If you can see yourself doing this please contact Rev. Vanek

CIG Goes Green in the Parish House

Notice, please the new recycle cans in the breezeway and the Parish House lobby. Please use them, and help our custodian, Javier Reyes out, by paying particular attention NOT to place regular garbage in a recycle can. Also, all light switches are gaining stickers to remind you "to turn out the lights!" when you leave a room.

Let's go Green!

A Prayer For You

O God, breath of every living being, breathe anew in me. Let me exhale all that is dying inside. Encourage me to let go of everything that separates me from an awareness of your constant love and care. Help me to say goodbye to the hurts of the day, the little 'nicks' to my pride and self-esteem, the jealousies and envies I felt towards others, and the angry but misplaced junk others may have dumped towards me this day. Instead, with each breath I take, breathe inside me your renewal, your faithful presence, your forward moving hope both in me and in this world, that I may renew my life and live gratefully in the grace of your present moment. I thank you for that grace which overflows my life, like oil flowing into and over the lip of the communion chalice. Abundant Life Giver, all blessing, praise, and glory be unto you! Let the healing river of your Holy Spirit flow through me. Amen

Contact Info: Rev. Vanek: churchinthegardensv@juno.com

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(718) 268-6704/ Fax: (718) 268-5477



Mission Priorities & Stewardship, Metro Association, UCC

Upcoming Missionary Visit

On behalf of the UCCNY Commission on the Global Church and in conjunction with the Committee on Mission Priorities & Stewardship, Metro Association, UCC I would like to extend an opportunity to the members of the Metro and Suffolk areas to spend time with Dawn & Jon Barnes, UCC missionaries. The Barnes are returning from serving in South Africa and will be available in New York to visit with congregations and share their mission story.

Dawn & Jon will be in NY July 1-9 and July 18-24.

If your congregation would be interested in hearing their story please contact Marcie Agee at ageefam@hotmail.com please reference missionary visit in the subject line or call:

Marcie at 516-764-1549.