



November 16, 2008

# Ecclesia Ministries

Madison Square Park Church  
Ecclesia Ministries of New York

## *This is God's Holy Ground*

*"For to all those who have, more will be given,  
and they will have an abundance."*

*Matt. 25:29*



*Photo courtesy of: Ted Sikorski*

*Clyde, opening the service with a welcome to those gathered and preparing for the asperges.*

It was cold and windy on Sunday, November 16, but the Madison Square Park Congregation pressed on. As is our custom, we open each service with an asperges, blessing the ground and those people gathered as belonging to God: This is God's holy ground... we are God's holy people. Many of our congregation find themselves with little possessions, no place to sleep, hungry, thirsty, hoping to find a hot cup of coffee or a warm meal. Yet, they gather for Sunday service, to worship God. To give God thanks for the great gifts that God has given all of us. The gift of life, the gift of community, the earth, the seasons: God's holy ground, God's holy people. By gathering they use their gifts, and offer them back to God. With them, we all rest in the promise that as we work to further the kingdom of God here on earth we know that God will and does provide in abundance. And on a cold day, it's good to be reminded of the abundant love of God that warms the heart and soul.

### **Upcoming Services...**

Sunday November 23:

Sponsoring congregations: Holy Apostles  
Celebrant and Speaker: The Rev. John Denaro (St. Mark's)

Sunday November 30:

Sponsoring Congregation: St. Andrew and St. Paul  
Celebrant and Speaker: The Rev. K. Karpen

Sunday December 7:

Sponsoring Congregation: St. Ignatius  
Celebrant and Speaker: The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp



*Photo courtesy of: Ted Sikorski*

*Fr. Clayton Crawley opening the service with prayer*

## Thank you...

To The Rev. Clayton Crawley for celebrating Eucharist with us on November 16. He gave a wonderful homily and was a joyful presence on a cold day.

Thanks to the congregation of St. Bart's who supplied our Second Meal. As always, they provided a wonderful lunch and an ample supply. God's abundance was present in their ministry to those in need. And, with St. Bart's we get great singing! Thanks for the music!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Ecclesia needs your help!

To remain effective, Ecclesia needs effective volunteers. If you can offer assistance with any of the following or simply want to be a part of the Ecclesia Ministry, let us know. We'd love to have you!

1. **Music Leaders** – We are blessed with many wonderful voices but we can always use more! come help lead our hymns
2. **Accounting** – We are looking for someone with QuickBooks experience. It's a small job and won't take much time
3. **Discussion leaders** – to assist with weekly forums on homeless issues
4. **Writers** – If anyone is interested in writing a short piece for the Ecclesia newsletter, contact [joe@ecclesiany.org](mailto:joe@ecclesiany.org)
5. **More?** – what do you want to do?

### **ECCLESIA NEW YORK WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

#### **SATURDAY**

We invite you to join us on Saturday afternoons from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM to visit with folks in the park, and invite them to Sunday worship. Please join us and become better acquainted with our friends in the park.

#### **SUNDAY**

If you can, please come a half hour early (1:30 PM) on Sunday afternoon, to help us invite people in the park to our 2:00 PM worship service. Many of us also hang around in the park after the service to visit with guests and to offer practical ministry, prayer and care. Without our partners taking the time to get to know our friends in the park through weekly outreach visits, many of our guests would remain faces without names. They might come once, but they wouldn't return.

**Ecclesia Ministries of New York** is a ministry in motion. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, and critiques. We especially appreciate the offering of your time, talents and abilities (the gifts of the Church) that will make our park church more significant, relevant and meaningful for everyone involved. This ministry is a work of faith. "The gifts of the Church for all God's people"

Want to know more about how to participate? Call Clyde at 917-617-5945 or email Clyde or Joe at [clyde@ecclesiany.org](mailto:clyde@ecclesiany.org) or [joe@ecclesiany.org](mailto:joe@ecclesiany.org)

**Check out our web site: [www.ecclesiany.org](http://www.ecclesiany.org)**

Ecclesia New York is part of a network of street congregations in over 50 cities in the US and around the world. To learn more about the history of the Ecclesia movement, and about Ecclesia ministries in America and in [other countries](http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org), go to [ecclesia-ministries.org](http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org)



*The Rev. Clayton Crawley administering Holy Communion*

## Presence in the Park

It's getting colder... like it or not, winter is right around the corner. Now, more than ever, we need to be present to those in need and offer pastoral care in Madison Square Park. Ecclesia ministry is more than worship. A few members of the Ecclesia team visit with homeless in the Park on Saturday afternoons but we need additional support. As always, we invite members of the supporting congregations to assist with the pastoral care ministry. We always need volunteers. If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact Joe or Clyde at [joe@ecclesiany.org](mailto:joe@ecclesiany.org) or [clyde@ecclesiany.org](mailto:clyde@ecclesiany.org), respectively.

Community concerns meetings have been held but sparsely attended. We have been meeting in the park but will have an indoor space for our next meeting.



*The Madison Square Park congregation gathered for worship.*