



October 19, 2008

# Ecclesia Ministries

Madison Square Park Church  
Ecclesia Ministries of New York

## *Give to God*

## *the things that are God's*

*“you became an example to all the believers... to serve a living and true God.”  
Thess. 1:7...9*

Paul opens his letter to the Thessalonians with great praise. The new community has accepted the word of God and has become a voice proclaiming the good news to surrounding regions. On Sunday, we were joined by the St. Bart's youth group. These young ambassadors of the faith have received the word of God and have put their faith into action. Not only did they prepare the second meal earlier that morning, they participated in the liturgy, led the intercessory prayers and distributed lunch to the homeless at our service and throughout the park. They have demonstrated service to the living and true God.

In Matthew, Jesus tells us to give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to give to God the things that are God's. It is difficult to not get caught up in the world of material goods, especially when you are homeless and long for shelter and possessions. But, we know that our life is not about material possessions. One of our members came to service on Sunday with a fresh bouquet of flowers for the altar. An offering from God... to God. Our ministry is focused on giving thanks for the image of God that rests within each of us, regardless of our possessions or our social or economic status. Most importantly, once we recognize the image of God, to answer the call of Jesus and offer ourselves back to God in service and love.



*Photo courtesy of: Ted Sikorski*

*Our congregation gathered for worship at Madison Square Park*



*Photo courtesy of: Ted Sikorski*

*The Rev. Tom Ehrich celebrating Eucharist at Madison Square Park on October 19, 2008*

**Fall is upon us.** It was brisk in the park on Saturday and Sunday and cooler weather is right around the corner. During our pastoral care visits on Saturday we came across some who were less interested in a snack and more interested in a warm jacket. I expect these requests to increase. As always, please keep those without shelter in your prayers. May god provide for their needs and keep them safe.

**It was a pleasure to have Deacon David Madsen** among us again. He is such a gentle, quiet and confident presence. We pray for David's ministry as a chaplain and also pray that, if able, he remain involved in the Madison Square Park and other Ecclesia NY ministries.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Ecclesia needs your help!

We always need 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. Office angels to help with our mailings, newsletters, and accounting
3. Discussion leaders for our weekly forums on homeless issues
4. Writers, photographers to help us spread the good word about Ecclesia
5. More? – what do you want to do?



Photo courtesy of: Ted Sikorski

Members of our congregation and the St. Bart's youth group receive Holy Communion on Sunday, October 19, 2008

## Upcoming Services...

Sunday, November 2: Sponsoring congregation: St. Ignatius  
Celebrant and Speaker: The Rev. Andrew Bloom

Sunday November 9: Sponsoring congregations: Marble and Transfiguration

Celebrant and Speaker: The Rev. David Fleenor

Sunday November 16: Sponsoring Congregation: St. Bart's  
Celebrant and Speaker: Clayton Crawley and JD Clarke

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

#### **SATURDAY**

We also invite you to join us on Saturday afternoons from 3 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) on Sunday afternoon, to help us invite people in the park to our 2PM 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)

## Thank you...

To our celebrant and deacon on October 19, the Rev. Tom Ehrich and The Rev. JD Clarke of St. Bart's, even though Tom was a bit under the weather.

Also, thanks to St. Bart's, our supporting congregation. And especially to Julie Ross And the St. Bart's youth group. It was great having youthful energy in the park.

Last but not least, we owe gratitude to Ted Sikorski for all of the wonderful photos in this newsletter and many in prior newsletters. The photos are greatly appreciated and capture a bit of our ministry in action.

## Pastoral Care in the Park

Part of the Ecclesia mission is to provide pastoral care throughout the week in Madison Square Park. To this end, members of the Ecclesia team are usually in the park on Saturday afternoons to visit with the local homeless, talk about their needs and concerns, and invite them to the service. As always, we invite members of the supporting congregations to assist with this ministry and we always need more 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.

Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to assist in ministering to the homeless population.

**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)