



October 26, 2008

Ecclesia Ministries

Madison Square Park Church

Ecclesia Ministries of New York

The Gospel in Action

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matt. 22:39



Photo courtesy of: Ted Sikorski

The Reverend David Fleenor distributing Holy

The two great commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." We all know these and we all do our best to follow them but sometimes we are not sure how. This last Sunday a member of our congregation returned to Ecclesia in Madison Square Park after an absence of several months. He arrived at our service and told us that he had heard the gospel earlier in the day and just knew he couldn't stay at home... he needed to get out and "love his neighbors." He was so thrilled to be in the park with us, so happy to be answering God's call, so happy to be following the second of the great commandments. We invited him to read the Gospel at the service which he did well, loudly, and with love and conviction. And immediately following he gave a brief homily. Telling all of us how important it is to him to serve God by loving his neighbor.

His actions are a fulfillment of the first of the great commandment as well. By loving his neighbor, he is loving God. And he is loving God with his whole heart, his soul, and his mind. What a joy it was to see the gospel in action!

Upcoming Services...

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

Sunday November 9: Sponsoring congregations: Marble and Transfiguration
Celebrant and Speaker: TBD

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

Welcome Visitors!

A special welcome to our visitors from St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. As always, it is nice to welcome new members to our community and to invite them into ministry for the homeless. We hope to see more of them in the future and, as always, we welcome visitors to our congregation.



Photo courtesy of: Ted Sikorski

Clyde offering his thoughts and meditations on the Gospel

Thank you...

To the Rev. David Fleenor, who, once again, filled in as our celebrant at the last minute. We are thankful for his willingness to participate in this ministry.

And, to our supporting congregation, Holy Apostles. They, as always, demonstrated great hospitality and generosity.

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 Holy Apostles distributing the second meal after communion on Sunday, October 26, 2008

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 or joe@ecclesiany.org.

Presence in the Park

Over the past few weeks, I've emphasized that part of the Ecclesia mission is to provide pastoral care in Madison Square Park. While a few members of the Ecclesia team visit with homeless in the Park on Saturday afternoons, our pastoral presence requires much more effort.

This last week we attempted our first community concern meeting of the fall. At service on Sunday we invited people to meet on Wednesday. Only two showed on Wednesday. But, at least we met. Please look for more information on community concern meetings in the near future.

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 or 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

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)