

# Pride

by Mike Easterling

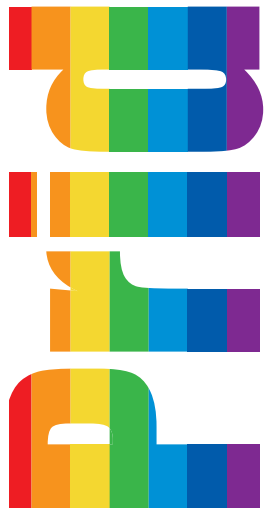
Pride+ is MCCNY's new Pride Month Fundraising Drive. This internet based initiative is not only a fundraiser, it is a month-long celebration of all the things that makes us proud to be part of MCCNY. Check out Pride+ at [www.firstgiving.com/MCCNY](http://www.firstgiving.com/MCCNY). On the Pride+ page you are able to make a donation to MCCNY, set up your own Pride+ page or simply discover the many things that make MCCNyers proud.

*We are proud of the gorgeous pride quilt (at right) hand-knitted by MCCNY's own John Garrett! The quilt is serving as an altar piece in the sanctuary for Pride Tide. Thank You, John!*



## Join with your family of faith on Pride Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

- 9 a.m. **Traditional Pride Liturgy**
  - 11 a.m. **Celebration Pride Liturgy**  
*\*followed by special to-go bags for "Coffee Hour" so that we can all make it to the march site by 12pm (36<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.)*
  - 12 p.m. **Communion in the Streets (at the march site)**  
After-March Celebration immediately following the march. Meet in Hudson River Park at Christopher Street!
  - 7 p.m. **Praise and Worship Pride Service –**  
*No better way to end the day!*
- After-Pride Volunteer Party, Tuesday, June 29 at MCCNY at 6:30 p.m.!*



Metropolitan Community Church of New York  
 446 West 36th Street  
 New York, NY 10018



## Nothing Short of Extraordinary by Daniel Schnorbus

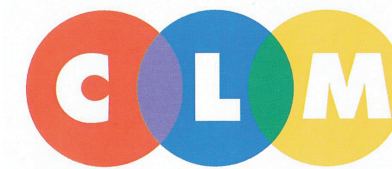
Tuesday, June 15th marked the final session of Creating a Life That Matters (CLM), a three course class spanning 18 weeks where participants have the opportunity to explore the most important relationships in their lives: their relationship with the Sacred, their relationship with themselves, and their relationship with their passion.

During the past six months, 17 CLM students have been meeting each week to explore these relationships through conversation, readings, sharing, journaling, artwork, music, and film. Their dedication to the class – and to each other – has been nothing short of extraordinary.

The overarching goal of CLM is to help us become clearer and more aware of our individual strengths and passions. With this knowledge we are better able to use these gifts to benefit ourselves, our loved ones, our church family, and our world. Through this class, we grow as individuals and as a community to further the goal of creating a truly compassionate world. In doing so, we create a life that truly matters.

On behalf of Rev. Edgard and myself, I would like to congratulate the CLM 2010 class for their dedication, openness, and good humor. It has been a fantastic experience and we cannot thank you enough.

CREATING A LIFE



THAT MATTERS

*If you would like to join next year's CLM class, please see Rev. Edgard or Daniel Schnorbus for more information. Homecoming Sunday will mark the official opening of registration for the 2011 session.*

## MCC New York Shows Its Pride! by Mel Bryant

Pride is well under way here at MCC New York!

As we go to press, MCC New York has already celebrated Pride in Staten Island on Saturday, June 5, 2010 (photo at left), in Queens on Sunday, June 6, 2010 (center photo) and in Brooklyn on Saturday, June 12, 2010 (photo at right).

Pride month began with a Pride Kick Off Party on Sunday, May 31, 2010 following the 11 a.m. Celebration Liturgy. Congregants had an opportunity to learn about the many pride events around the city and to sign up to participate in

whatever Pride events appealed to them.

Other events included NewFest: The New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Film Festival on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 and the Potluck Gathering at Prospect Park, hosted by the Welcoming Team, that will be held this Saturday, June 26, 2010 at 2 p.m. If you would like to attend the potluck, meet on the lawn near the Picnic House. Enter at 3rd Street and Prospect Park West.

Thank you to Casey and Mike Easterling and the Welcoming Team who have worked tirelessly to

ensure that MCC New York has been represented at all of the major Pride events.

The Sylvia Rivera Food Pantry is honored to be the recognized by Heritage of Pride at PrideFest this year, receiving a donation of space at PrideFest where Pride revelers can make donations of food or money to the work of the pantry. Thank you Sheila Sim and Heritage of Pride!

You can get a full schedule of Pride events for Pride weekend and read about our first effort at fundraising for Pride, Pride +, on page 8.



(Photos courtesy of Casey Easterling and Joe Kennedy)



## The Query Quarterly/Summer 2010

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MCCNY is a member of Metropolitan Community Churches, a global movement of faith with congregations in 28 nations. The Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Moderator



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NEW YORK

## A Pride Message from Rev. Pat Bumgardner:

*God has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives....  
from the Prophet Isaiah*

Dear Friends:

*This year as we prepare to celebrate Pride-Tide throughout the month of June, I am reminded that there are many words in the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament that are used to convey the concept of "pride." Most of those words, whether in Hebrew or Greek, carry the connotation of "lifting up," which is then interpreted in the English to mean things like arrogance or presumptive boasting.*

*Pride goeth before the fall, was something we memorized in the land of my youth, right along with the lyrics about Jack and Jill and all the other politically incorrect fairy tales and fables meant to shape our young spirits.*

*Humility was a virtue, we were told, and in the Scriptures it is often juxtaposed with "pride" as its opposite.*

*You save a people that is humble, Psalm 18 says, and humiliate eyes that are haughty. Pride was the real crime of Sodom, Ezekiel proclaims in his 16th chapter.*

*Somewhere along the line, however, I also learned that humility, at its heart, is a concept rooted in the truth of who we are. And Jesus in John's Gospel will say that the truth will set us free — free from guilt and shame and fear and all the things that mask the truth of our lives and hold us back, instead of lifting us up.*

*This Pride Month, the truth is I've never been more proud of Metropolitan Community Churches around the globe. We've worked with spiritual and social activists in Eastern Europe to establish an NGO that supports our efforts on behalf of human rights for God's LGBT children. In South Africa, another is in the birthing process. In Jamaica, MCCers were instrumental in organizing the first ever March for Tolerance just this year. And in Pakistan, Lesbians and Gay Men and Bisexuals and Transgender people will come*

*together for a retreat for the very first time under MCC's banner of "tearing down walls and building up hope."*

*I am very proud of the hope MCC restores and lifts up for LGBTQIA people around the world, including those of us in New York City. — The truth is, people receive more than groceries or lunchbags in our Food Pantry programs. Every time I am present for a distribution on Thursday mornings, people hug me, thank me, and offer their time and energy as volunteers, because their spirits as well as their bodies have been revived in this place, and I think that's something to be very proud of and lift up.*

*When I hear about the success stories of youth like Albert and Elmo and Jermaine at Sylvia's Place — young people who have made a way, with God's help, out of no way — the truth is, I am really proud of them and of this community of faith, where every life is viewed as God's gift of love to the world, and I want to lift that up.*

*Maybe arrogance is a self-destructive trait, but taking pride in the truth of who we are and what God is calling to life through us is a life-affirming, good and joyful thing to do. It is a prophetic and powerful thing to take up the work of God and help set captives, like many of us once were, free.*

*This year's Pride Theme in New York City is "Liberty and Justice for All," and I can honestly say that I am proud of all MCC is doing around the world and here in our city to make that banner more than a distant dream — all we are doing to make it a reality for all God's children.*

*I hope you will join me in celebrating the liberty, the justice, the joy and the peace God is offering the world through our people on Pride Sunday, June 27th.*

With love,



Rev. Pat

## Letter from the Editor:

Dear Friends and Family,

*As we celebrate Pride this month, most of our thoughts turn to living our lives out, loud and proud. Proud of and true to who we are because, as Reverend Pat regularly reminds us, we are who we are by the Grace and Design of God.*

*During this month of Pride, I think it is appropriate to take Pride in the work we do here at MCC New York.*

*The work of Daniel and Casey and Mike and Jeanette and Kawane, from feeding us to finishing us, from welcoming us to walking for us.*

*The work of Alex and the congregation in Binghamton, calling for change so all may prosper.*

*The work of William and Lucky and Frances and James and Christopher and Allison and Andres, making a way for a generation*

*that others won't.*

*The work of Marcus and Anthony and Kierstin, giving customers choices.*

*The work of Sybil and Gefil and Bradley and the entire cast and crew of Church Lady Bingo, raising funds while raising fun.*

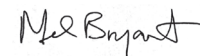
*The work of Reverend Edgard and Daniel, creating lives that matter.*

*The work of Reverend Pat for justice, globally.*

*This PrideTide, come home to MCC New York and celebrate all things queer.*

*Happy Pride.*

Enjoy the issue.



Mel Bryant, Editor

## News From The Sylvia Rivera Food Pantry by Mel Bryant, Director

It is hard to believe that the Sylvia Rivera Food Pantry will celebrate 25 years of service this year! Watch this space for more information about the celebration of this milestone.

It is also hard to believe that I will celebrate my first anniversary as Director of the pantry during Pride month.

Please allow me to use this space for my personal indulgence to publicly thank everyone for their support during this first year of my service to the pantry community.

Thank you Ed and Cliff and Alva and Larry and Jacob and Denise. Thank you Marcus and Aida and James and Victor and Joey and Ted and Sue and everyone from YAI.

Thank you Reverend Pat and William and Frances and Anthony.

And thank you, Bradley, for all of your love and support.

The pantry continues to search for new funding sources and has written its first Federal Grant. Thank you Frances and Anthony for your work on this.

Thanks to our AmeriCorp VISTA, Anthony Reuter, we have recently joined the Chelsea/West Side Neighborhood Network of pantries. Through the network, we have a new partnership with Metro Baptist Church and we are hoping to create a rooftop garden to provide locally grown produce to the communities we serve.

Once again, we are blessed to receive donations of fresh produce every week from the Hudson Guild/CSA. The produce is grown on a farm in the Hudson River Valley and then trucked down for distribution on Tuesday evenings. Any shares not collected by members are donated to the pantry for distribution to our pantry community.

And, once again, we have been blessed to have Alternative Spring Break groups volunteer in the pantry. Groups from the College of Charleston, the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University and Kansas University gave up the beach to work with New York City's hungry and homeless.

In other volunteer news, the pantry hosted the Research Department from People Magazine (pictured at right) on Thursday, June 10, 2010.

Coordinated by Britt Boyd from the New York City Coalition Against Hunger (NYCCAH) the volunteers asked questions about the work of the pantry and NYCCAH before starting their work. During the afternoon, they were addressed by Joel Berg, NYCCAH's Executive Director who spoke to them about the larger issue of hunger in New York City.

If you would like to volunteer in the pantry or make a donation to the work we do, please contact us at 212-629-7440 extension 225 or email us at mel@mccny.org.



## News from MCCNY/Homeless Youth Services

### MCCNY Charities Launches New Mental Health Care Program for LGBTQ Runaway and Homeless Youth by Frances Wood

MCCNY Charities and the Metropolitan Community Church of New York are proud to announce a new phase of critical services for LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth: The MCCNY Homeless Youth Services Mental Health Care Program. Under the direction of Andres Ricardo Schneeberger, M.D. (photo at right), chief resident psychiatrist at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and expert in the psychiatric development of LGBTQ youth, MCCNY Homeless Youth Services will expand its current mental health services by bringing together a dynamic team of mental health professionals with proven experience in improving mental health outcomes for LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth. In response to the lack of crucial mental health care services for LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth citywide, MCCNY Charities pledges to assume its responsibility for ensuring that these youth receive the comprehensive mental health care they need to move towards independence and self-sufficiency.

Services provided by the MCCNY Homeless Youth Services' Mental Health Care Program will include psychiatric evaluations, short-term therapy, case management, life skills training, social work services, psychiatric nurse practitioner services and on-site medical services. Beginning in Fall 2010, MCCNY Homeless Youth Services will begin a collaboration with Hunter College to provide additional mental

health counseling, certified rehabilitation counseling, and school counseling through a team of skilled interns. All services will be provided on-site at MCCNY Homeless Youth Services, located at 446 West 36th Street.

The MCCNY Homeless Youth Services Mental Health Care Program will accept referrals of LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth age 16-24 from partner organizations and hospitals from 6pm-10pm, Monday-Saturday, beginning June 15, 2010. Upon intake, youth will be scheduled with an appropriate member of the MCCNY Homeless Youth Services Mental Health Care Program staff for comprehensive care. Services will be offered in both English and Spanish.

For further questions about this and other MCCNY Charities' programs, please contact MCCNY Charities at (212) 629-7440.



(Photo by Frances Wood)

### A Shelter Success Story

by James Vining

In April of this year, a 22 year-old gay male originally from New Jersey arrived at Sylvia's Place asking for shelter and case management services after having been thrown out of his house by his mother because of his sexual orientation. Although the youth initially had difficulties adjusting to the shelter, his ability to ask for help from HYS staff and his intrinsic motivation to succeed have yielded significant and noteworthy outcomes. In June 2010, he was offered a full time job at Abercrombie and Fitch as well as a part-time paid internship teaching dance at The Door. He has also made telephone contact with his mother and he shared with me that their communication is improving.

He continues to make steps forward. - 7 -

## The QUERY

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Sunday Worship Services at 9am (traditional)  
11am (celebration), and 7pm (praise & worship)

On TV in Manhattan: Sundays 1:30pm,  
Time Warner channel 57, RCN channel 85

# News from MCCNY Charities by Frances Wood, MCCNY Charities Administrator

## MCCNY/Charities Executive Director Nominated for Community Economic Advocate Award

MCCNY Charities Executive Director William Morán-Berberena (*at right*) has been nominated for the Community Economic Advocate of the Year Award presented by the Morris County Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce. The award honors an Hispanic-American leader who has worked to improve economic outcomes among marginalized members of the business community.

Founded in 1989, the Morris County Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce is the leading Hispanic advocate for Hispanic-owned businesses in Morris County, New Jersey and adjacent areas and was named the Best National Hispanic Chamber of the Year in 2007. Congratulations to William for this recognition of his dedication to economic development within our community.



Photos by Frances Wood

## Promoting Change Through City Council Dialogue

Times of economic hardship require renewed commitment from legislators and collaboration and creativity from struggling social service agencies. This was the topic of the second MCCNY Charities' City Council Dialogue, co-hosted by the New York City LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce. Members of the community and representatives from non-profits and government agencies across the five boroughs

were invited to develop strategies to protect vital services to New Yorkers in need, and to define ways in which the need for these services can be better communicated to legislators. The dialogue was attended by Councilmember Lewis Fidler and representatives from the office of Speaker Christine Quinn. Councilmember Fidler, a long-time advocate for runaway and homeless youth funding, called on service

providers to create innovative partnerships, while pledging his dedication to securing diverse city funding streams for these services. MCCNY Charities joined with other providers to commit to ongoing lobbying for funds and the building of an extensive collaborative network of shared resources among social service providers. Look out for information about the third City Council Dialogue this Fall!

## Resource Fair Strengthens Service Network for LGBTQ New Yorkers in Need

On March 26, MCCNY Charities welcomed over 30 community service providers to the first LGBTQ Resource Fair, held in the Jackson Hall Memorial Gallery. Visiting agencies learned more about MCCNY Charities programs, shared information about the services they offer and participated in tours of MCCNY Charities facilities. The event was also attended by representatives of the New York City LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce, who sponsored a raffle for a computer generously donated by Per Scholas. The Resource Fair served as the impetus for a number of emerging partnerships that will expand programs and services for LGBTQ New Yorkers in need. "As funding for services for LGBTQ New Yorkers remains in jeopardy, it is important that we work together as a community to make sure everyone has the resources they need to survive and thrive," said MCCNY Charities Executive Director William Morán-Berberena.



photo by William Morán-Berberena

## Road Trip: Philly, Here We Come! by Daniel Schnorbus

Each year members of Rev. Pat's Finishing School and HYS make their way to the annual Philadelphia Trans Health Conference. This year was no exception, and thanks to your generous donations and a successful MCCNY "Yard Sale", nine people (including staff and volunteers) made their way to Philly for three days of education, community, bonding, and fun.

The Philadelphia Trans Health Conference (PTHC) is held with the mission of providing resources, information, support, and care for the trans community and its supporters. Through a series of plenaries, workshops, and special events, individuals can learn about topics that vary from Community Action for Transgender Health to Trans Pioneers of Color, from Ways to Reclaim Your Spirituality to Hormones 101. Career development activities were also held along with a Career Fair. And workshop members learned about Creating a Trans-Friendly Workplace.

The PTHC focuses on holistic care - body, mind, and spirit. And part of spirit is having fun! Finishing School Students and HYS members worked the runway in the "No Labelz" Mini Ball. The competition was fierce, but as the music pumped and the MC commented, our MCCNYers represented in a competitive extravaganza of voguing,

fashion, and attitude. It was an amazing night and everyone had a great time (and looked fabulous, too!).

Staff, volunteers, and students look forward to next year's PTHC. If you are interested in learning more about the conference, Rev. Pat's Finishing School, Bread of Life Dinner, HYS, or volunteering with any of these organizations, please contact Mel Bryant or Daniel Schnorbus. They are happy to share their experiences of the PTHC, the aforementioned charities, and information about how you can get involved.



Photos courtesy of Daniel Schnorbus



# VolunQueering at MCCNY! by Mel Bryant

Finishing School. Creating a Life that Matters. Hospitality Team. Daniel Schnorbus (*in photo below*) is everywhere! Daniel began volunteering with Rev Pat's Finishing School in 2006. Since then, he has added Creating a Life that Matters co-facilitator and Hospitality Team superstar to his volunteer resume. Thanks to Daniel, our Bread of Life dinners and Finishing School workshops have reached a whole new level. Daniel is a popular member of our 7 p.m. Praise and Worship congregation. Thank you, Daniel,



for your service to MCC New York.

"Who can we ask about Sunday School?" That simple question served as the introduction to what would become the volunteer power couple of



photo by Frances Wood

Jeanette Coleman and Kawane Harris (*in photo above*). Jeanette and Kawane cook every Friday evening for the clients of Homeless Youth Services/ Sylvia's Place and have recently joined the Hospitality Team where they repeatedly provide a repast fit for royalty. Jeanette and Kawane will be married on August 14, 2010 here at MCC New York. Best wishes to the happy couple! And thank you for your service to MCC New York!



photo courtesy of Casey Easterling

Speaking of volunteer power couples and being everywhere, Casey and Mike Easterling (*above*) certainly embody the spirit of volunqueering at MCC New York. Seeing a need for new people to be properly introduced to the church, Casey and Mike took it upon themselves to create the Welcoming Team. Besides greeting the faithful on Sunday mornings, the Welcoming Team ensures that MCC New York has a presence at every Pride event during the month of June. And we mean every event. The Welcoming Team also coordinates MCC New York's presence in the annual AIDS Walk. Thank you, Casey and Mike for your service to MCC New York.

## News From Binghamton by Alex Compton, Lay Minister, MCCNY Binghamton

As I write this, Binghamton Pride is in full swing! Tonight was the annual interfaith service that celebrates inclusive spirituality and we had our most diverse group of participants ever! Despite the cold temperatures and tornado watches earlier in the morning, Sunday brought a family picnic with food and games for everyone. Friday June, 4th was the fifth annual flag raising as Mayor Matt Ryan once again read a proclamation declaring June LGBTQ Pride month in the City of Binghamton. The small group of protesters across the street merely acted as a rallying call for the Queer and Allied of the surrounding area to come and show their pride in record numbers. There is still much to be done in this conservative upstate area, but Binghamton is blessed with a dedicated active core willing to sacrifice time and energy so that all of our families can prosper. The Binghamton Congregation of MCCNY and its individual participants are proud to be able to be just some of the voices contributing to this change.



photo courtesy of Alex Compton

## MCC New York Walks To Fight AIDS by Casey Easterling, Facilitator, The Welcoming Team

On Sunday, May 16, 2010, a group of individuals from Metropolitan Community Church of New York (MCCNY) joined together in Central Park for the 25th annual AIDS Walk New York. Team members met beneath the MCCNY banner for breakfast provided by the MCCNY Welcoming Team before setting off on the 5K walk in and around the park.

Forty-four MCCNYers, family and friends joined the MCCNY team surpassing our

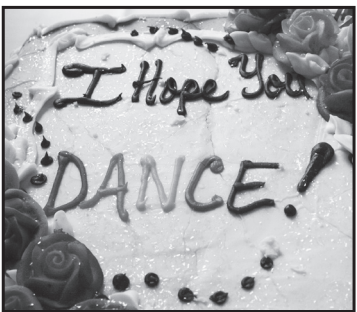
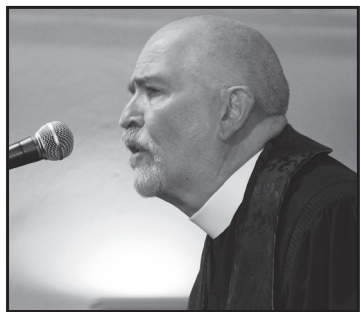
initial goal of 35 people. Each registered participant asked family members, friends and co-workers to sponsor them for the Walk resulting in the team raising \$3,500.23 to benefit the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), the world's oldest HIV/AIDS organization. GMHC is dedicated to ending the AIDS epidemic and uplifting the lives of all those who are affected in New York City.



photo courtesy of Casey Easterling



# Easter



## Church Lady Bingo Starring Sybil Bruncheon Wraps Up Third Season

by Bradley Curry, Executive Producer

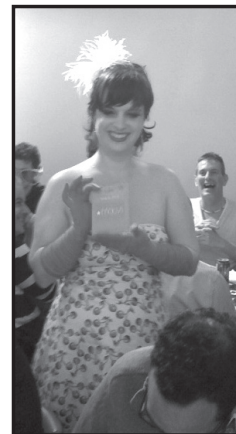
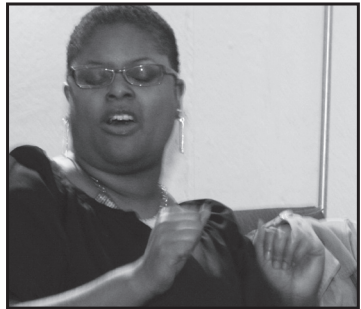
Church Lady Bingo Starring Sybil Bruncheon wrapped up its third season at MCC New York on Friday, June 4, 2010. This was our biggest season yet and we are grateful to the entire cast and crew and, most importantly, our audience for their commitment to us.

After a short summer hiatus, Church Lady Bingo Starring Sybil Bruncheon will resume for its fourth season with opening night on Friday, October 1, 2010. Doors open at 6 and the fun begins at 7 so mark your calendars and make your reservations now!

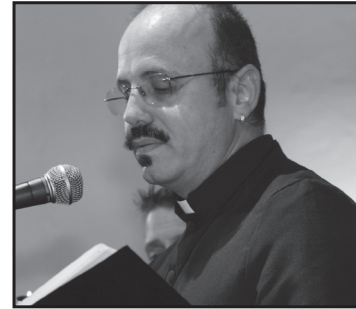
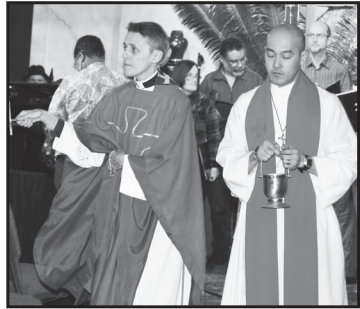
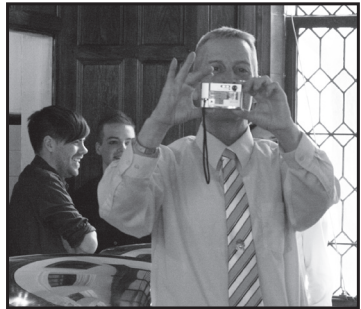
To make it easy to remember, the fourth season of Church Lady Bingo Starring Sybil Bruncheon is always the first Friday of the month beginning with opening night on Friday, October 1, 2010 through closing night, June 3, 2011. Come and join in the fun raising fund raising and maybe you could be a Miss Congeniality!

Make your reservations now by emailing [Bradley@mccny.org](mailto:Bradley@mccny.org) or calling the church office at 212-629-7440 ext. 221.

Don't miss the good time that is Church Lady Bingo Starring Sybil Bruncheon!



(Photos by Mel Bryant)



(Photos by Monte Cherry & Yolanda Holmes)