Fireworks in New York City, July 4 and
The Chapel At Union Square
Saturday, July 2, 2011
New York City is spectacular during July 4th celebration.

“Oh, say can you see by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
“And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!”

The July 4th weekend is always a special time here in New York City as the nation celebrates its founding on that fateful night of July 4, 1776, when the colonies separated from the British Empire and so began the United States of America. On Saturday, July 2, at 11:15 a.m. The Chapel At Union Square, 123 East 15th Street, NYC will celebrate with some fireworks of our own, as we come together to ignite in a deeper understanding of the Word and have as our focus “Sharing The Gospel of Peace.”

Join us for a look at the commission Jesus Christ gave to his disciples and what it means for us today. You can read a bit more about the topic if you scroll down, where you will find a full schedule of events and a short essay by Pastor Tony Romeo.

Please come and stay for lunch. We are an intimate group, meeting in an intimate chapel, and there is room for you.

A look back at some friends and recent events

The ordination of our friend Alan Murchie
Our good friend, Rev. Alan Murchie an outstanding and accomplished pianist and organist added so many blessings to the worship service at Church of the Advent Hope, NYC who for the six years I was pastor there, created a spiritual atmosphere prior to each of our gatherings. Alan was recently ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in Hartford, CT.

Rev. Murchie is a graduate of Yale University Divinity School and will be serving as a priest at a local Episcopal school in New York City on East 11th Street and Broadway. I look forward to working with Alan in ministry. He shares the belief as I do, in the concept that we are all working for the same God and share as fellow members as part of The Body of Christ. It was a wonderful day and we met some old friends, Janine and Nathan Whitaker, members of Church of the Advent Hope, who it was my pleasure in marrying in Pasadena, CA a few years ago. It was great to be able to come together and support our gifted friend Alan.

Friends Gather at The Chapel At Union Square to Celebrate Berky Wong’s Birthday!

We never miss a chance to eat
delicious food at our luncheon after our worship gathering's at The Chapel At Union Square. This past week, we were happy to join Berky Wong as she celebrated her (We’re not telling) birthday.

The delicious and well designed birthday cake on the left, is a traditional Chinese birthday cake that Berky had brought to share with her friends. It was a wonderful example of the many ethnic and creative "foodies" that populate New York City.

The fruit was fresh, the cake was lite and the smiles on each munching face said it all. Happy birthday Berky Wong. Berky has been a key member of our REACH-NYC team from the very start providing dedicated help at Cafe Reach, The Chapel At Union Square and the many Vegetarian Seminars REACH-NYC sponsors each month.

At The Chapel At Union Square, we are always surprised with how wonderful the Lord supplies all of our needs with great friends and good times.

Berky Wong and Tony Romeo (photo left) prepare to eat some cake.

Having seen way too many Three Stooges movies in my youth, I am always suspicious around cake and get this strange desire to throw it in someone’s face. Pray for me.

We never make formal plans for our gatherings, with things like a bulletin and the usual nervous tension that usually surrounds other groups we have been a part of. We prepare a simple program expecting God to bless with a song here, a testimony there and sometimes, even a Chinese Birthday Cake. This is a growing small group. We use the example found in Acts 2:42 “They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Visitors are instant friends and we share whatever we have with those who come.

In the photo above, which gives an example of only part of the group that came to our morning service last week at The Chapel At Union Square.
Square, are people originally from California, Trinidad, Cuba, Ethiopia, Puerto Rico, Arizona, Dominican Republic and all of the five boroughs that make up New York City. We learn from each other and somehow it all works.

Moozam, the gentleman, (top photo on the left) is originally from Trinidad, currently living in Brooklyn, NY and was a first time guest to The Chapel. He asked some great questions about the Bible, our beliefs and some answers that he found not only interesting but refreshing. He first found out about The Chapel At Union Square and REACH-NYC via an internet website called Meetup.com. A place where people can find each other. It was an idea introduced to us by one of our supporters, Steven Sikora. From the first day we placed an announcement on Meetup.com, we have had people visit us at our worship service and also our newly created test, Cafe Reach, which meets in the lobby of a local bookstore.

Meetup.com may be something your group may want to try, since it is a universal website used by small groups all over the city and the United States. The low cost is a great way to reach out into the community.

Packed New York City Streets and Parade Does Not Stop Another Successful Vegetarian Seminar Sponsored by REACH-NYC on Sunday, June 26, 2011

On Sunday, June 26, REACH-NYC sponsored another successful, Vegetarian Seminar. Featured speaker Christina McGeough, Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) MPH (Top Photo) shared her knowledge of healthy eating with the twenty participants in the latest seminar.

With the streets of New York City packed with millions of people participating in the yearly Gay Pride Parade, it was impossible for our vehicle full of samples and food items to be allowed to pass through the barriers that the NYPD has placed in the street where the seminars were to be held that afternoon.

Rather than canceling the seminar, instructors Christina McGeough, Marlene Romeo and associate team member Berk Wong decided to take some of the food that was in the vehicle and walk it through the maze of pedestrians, parade celebrants and police, the three blocks to where the seminar was to take place. In spite of the press of the enormous crowds, twenty excited and energetic participants attended the seminar.

Each of the seminar's feature new recipes and a demonstration with a popular tasting of that days featured foods. Each participant also received a free copy of the latest Vibrant Life magazine, which carried an article about the recent new China Study that outlined the outstanding, not to be denied benefits of eating as naturally and as many wholesome foods as possible.

If you would like to be put on the mailing list for the next Vegetarian Seminar that is held monthly, just send an email to: reachnyc.contact@gmail.com or write: REACH-NYC, P.O. Box 651, North Salem, NY 10560.

We are always looking for financial support for these programs which have proven to be of interest to New Yorker’s from all walks of life. To become a supporter of the ministry of REACH-NYC, make out your tax deductible check to “REACH-NYC” and mail it to the address mentioned. REACH-NYC is a registered and recognized 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation recognized by the State of New York and the IRS. Your gifts are certainly
A safe and blessed July 4th to you and to those you love.

This Saturday, July 2, 2011
The Chapel At Union Square / 123 E. 15th Street / 11:15 A.M.

Looking for a loving and intimate church family?
You just found it.
Saturday Morning, July 2, 2011 / 11:15 A.M.
The Chapel At Union Square
123 East 15th Street / NYC / Between Irving Place and Third Ave.

Arrive at 11:15 a.m. and enjoy a relaxing meditation as our resident musician and organist, Eiichi, plays hymns in praise of God on the pipe organ.

11:30 a.m. Worship Experience / Music / Prayer
-- A Conversation with the Word --
"Sharing the Gospel of Peace."
Tony Romeo, Pastor

Meet together with our group of nice, loving people this Saturday to share in the message of hope that Christ came to give each one of us.

Join us for a simple vegetarian luncheon in the Mezzanine / Library after the service at 12:45 p.m.
Invite your friends to enjoy a relaxing morning with us in the peaceful atmosphere that is The Chapel At Union Square, New York City

The Chapel At Union Square.
Where thinking and Jesus Christ are always welcome.

Below is a photograph of a Camp Meeting held in Fresno, California, circa 1904. People would leave the cities they lived in and the farms they worked on and spend some time together studying the Word in a quiet, country setting under the stars.
Some of our friends will be traveling to a camp meeting held in Upstate New York this Saturday. If you can't get to a camp meeting, we invite you to spend this Saturday with us here in New York City.

No need to travel by horse and buggy. Just take the bus or the train.
We will have a nice lunch waiting for you!

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Traveling here by car?
There is a parking garage on the south side of East 18th Street, in the middle of the block between Irving Place and Third Avenue, where you will be able to park your vehicle from the time you arrive until 7 p.m., for the reasonable fee of $11.00. 
(See attendant for details.)

There is also street parking with payment via metered parking machines located in the area.

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Sharing the Gospel of Hate or of Peace?

Am I confused, or do we hear people sharing all too often the gospel of hate, rather than the gospel of peace? Have you ever been part of a conversation that started out simple enough, but the moment someone gave a differing point of view on any given subject, the finger pointing begins?

It's the old "I'm right and you're wrong!"

Suddenly, ideas start flying and you learn that the person you are speaking with has created God in their own image, with their own ideas of who God is, and if you don't share that same exact image of God, or believe in the God they have created, or worse, the concept of God they've inherited, then you are somehow not a genuine believer. The same is true in many aspects of life, but when it comes to religion, people seem to really get a bit too hostile.

It is easy to see why, often, the gospel of peace and good news becomes the gospel of hate or worse.

I have come to the conclusion that we should not be surprised at all, since Jesus had the same problem with the organized religion of His day, and the Apostle Paul had the same problem in his world and in the churches that he visited.

Did you ever wonder what Jesus meant when He said to His own disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation"? (Mark 16:15).

In Luke 4:14-21 we read the following:

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised Him. 16 He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”
Jesus was reading from Isaiah 61:1-3:

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor."

All too often I hear people tell others how they believe God wants other people to live, or to believe, or to change. It rarely sounds like very good news. In fact, it often sounds like bad news. Oppressing news. At times, people are left in more despair than before a well-meaning individual started speaking to them.

It seems to me there is something wrong with this picture. As we share the Good News of the Gospel, perhaps we should remember that in fact it is Good News. That Christ came "to proclaim good news to the poor." He was sent "to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free..."

Remember, the organized religion within which Christ wanted to minister had enough rules and regulations to burden and break the back of even the strongest packhorse. Could it be that offering people rules is not what the Gospel is all about? Perhaps the character of a loving God, of an accepting, sacrificed, and resurrected Savior is what we should be sharing; perhaps we should leave the life-changing power and work of a transformed life to the Holy Spirit.

In New York City or any place we speak or meet people, we must always try to share the good news with those who are hurting and seeking and have a spirit of despair and do our best to point people to "the oil of joy." If we allow the Spirit to do the work, with care and delicate ministry in the lives of individuals and our own, we will find in due time, the promise fulfilled "They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor."

If you are in New York City this coming Saturday, June 2, at 11:15 a.m., please stop by The Chapel At Union Square (123 East 15th Street) as we gather together for a Conversation with the Word--"Sharing the Gospel of Peace." Please scroll down for more information.

May God bless you and bring you His lasting peace, and may He abundantly shower you with the "oil of Joy."
Best regards--Tony Romeo, Pastor / The Chapel At Union Square / REACH-NYC

P.S.: You can always contact me at reachnyc.romeo@gmail.com.


Individual and group Bible study sessions are always available. "Cafe Reach" will be reopening soon. For more information write to: reachnyc.romeo@gmail.com.

Click on the link below to view the REACH-NYC website:
reach-nyc.com

Help REACH-NYC grow and reach out to the people of New York City. PayPal is a safe and easy way to donate to REACH-NYC.

Just click on the PayPal button above.

Thank you for your contribution* to REACH-NYC and for helping to meet the needs of others.

*All donations are fully tax deductible.