

Friends of West Park

ATTENTION FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Landmarks Committee Meeting - CB7
11 October 2007 @7pm 250 West 87TH Street

Friends of West Park (FWP) has been fighting to preserve **West-Park Presbyterian Church (WPPC)** at the corner of 86th Street and Amsterdam Avenue for the past five years and is now gaining momentum to **landmark** the building. At 7pm on Thursday, October 11th at the offices of Community Board 7, 250 West 87th Street, **WPPC** is on the Committee's calendar. **Friends of West Park** will present a proposal to the Landmarks Committee of CB- 7, outlining the intrinsic value and social contribution the church has made over the past century. CB-7's endorsement of this proposal is the first step in the Landmarking process. Architectural historians and **Friends of West Park** Board Member Momette Broderick, Director of Urban Design and Architecture Studies at NYU, and Board Member Lauren Jacobi, a PhD candidate, have dedicated extensive time and energy to the research of WPPC and the Landmark process. A short but fascinating presentation will be given on the architectural history of the church, its significance in the development of the Upper West Side, and its contribution to the community throughout the 20th century.

West-Park Presbyterian Church epitomizes what a New York City Landmark should be: a beautiful, century old structure; a rare survivor of years past with significant architectural value, and an important center of the city's social and cultural history. **West-Park Presbyterian** has a history deeply rooted in the 20th century. Specifically, **Papp's Shakespeare Festival** started here. New York City's Anti War Movement (and **Peace Now**) was centered here. **Gods Love We Deliver** and the West-Side Food Pantry started here. **WSFSH** (West Side Federation of Senior Housing), which runs Euclid Hall and hundreds of senior housing units on the west side, began out of West-Park.

* Although some members of our community may believe that churches should be exempt from **Landmarks** and that their property should be developed as their leadership sees fit, many more believe that these buildings express the highest hopes of our early immigrant generations of New Yorkers. These buildings were often the site of historic events as congregations embraced important social movements -- like abolition, universal suffrage, the war against poverty, and the peace movement. **West-Park Presbyterian Church** has been repeatedly threatened with total or partial destruction over the last few years. We would like this historic structure to be preserved and restored. The best way to ensure its future is to Landmark it. Please come to the meeting and show your support for this first step in the preservation of our West Side heritage.

Note: CB7's doorway, which is easy to miss, is between the 87th St subway entrance and the garage. The offices are on the mezzanine level, marked HC on the elevator button.

Please Attend