

# MAPC

LIFE

THE MAGAZINE OF MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | FALL 2017

INTRODUCING  
PAULA COOPER

THE NEW  
PHILLIPS  
TALBOT  
GLOBAL  
MINISTRY  
FELLOW

YOUTH  
MISSION  
TRIP

UPDATE  
FROM THE  
SYNOD  
OF  
HARARE

CHURCH  
AS  
COMMUNITY

CHRISTINA COSBY  
THE NEW  
DIRECTOR  
OF  
CHRISTIAN  
FORMATION



# New Rhythms in a New Year



Many of us are significantly affected by the rhythm of the academic year. Spanning from about September through May or June, it is the rhythm of most academic programs in the Northern Hemisphere. It is also, in many ways, a rhythm of the church year as we return to two services and regular programs after Labor Day. Summer vacations and outdoor activities form the break in the year for us. I'd like to invite you to re-develop and develop a new rhythm of faith as we enter this new academic year.

Sometimes, I worry that our reformed heritage discourages the development of spiritual disciplines. Martin Luther and John Calvin were both significantly guided by Paul's writings. In particular, they focused on Ephesians 2:8-9 (and other similar passages) where it states, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast (NRSV)." We are saved or justified through faith by God's grace; this is a free gift and not a response to our works.

We risk believing God does all the work, and we can merely wait for all that work to happen. We are right to believe that we are justified through God's action and not by our action, but our work is not complete. In his commentaries, John Calvin writes of us having been clothed in the righteousness of God in this justification. It is not our own righteousness but that of God.

The task before us is to remain in God's cocoon of righteousness, while the Spirit works to make us more and more perfect, righteous, and holy. In this case, it is not the self-righteousness to which our minds may go but the righteousness and perfection God has always intended for us.

This is not an easy task, for even Paul complains, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (Romans 7:15, NRSV). Continuing to confess our sin each Sunday, we wrestle to eliminate sin more and more and engage in activities to which God calls us more and more. To aid in this process of being made perfect—being sanctified—the church has practiced spiritual disciplines for millennia, and I invite you in this new year to engage in a couple of these practices. For lack of space, I'm including very brief summaries of categories included in Richard Foster's book, *Celebration of Discipline*. Feel free to seek out other resources such as *Soul Feast* by Marjorie Thompson.

Foster notes four disciplines that are inwardly focused: meditation, prayer, fasting, and study. Many of these are familiar to us. I invite you, in particular, to make regular Bible study a discipline so that you might grow in understanding who God is and God's call to each of us.

Foster notes four outward disciplines: simplicity, solitude, submission, and service. In a world where I am bombarded with electronic notifications, advertisements, and news, I know I would benefit from practices of simplicity and solitude. Perhaps, some would like to add a new service activity to their schedules.

Finally, we practice corporate disciplines of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration. We practice confession

and worship on Sunday mornings and at other times together. In my experience serving in Africa and traveling through the Global South, I realize we are lacking in celebrations of milestones. We may have small birthday, retirement, and anniversary parties among other events, but there are many other milestones that offer opportunity for celebration together.

I invite you to start this new year with an intentional plan for practicing spiritual disciplines. You might even find a friend with whom you can covenant to do a practice together or even to join one of our Bible studies.

God has wrapped us in a cocoon of Christ's righteousness. Working through our daily spiritual disciplines, Christ transforms us, so that our very beings become infused with the righteousness of God.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy".

Andy



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# Church as Community



“We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community.”-Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*

Parisians are regarded by non-Parisians, including other French people, as brusque, often rude, and generally uninterested in others. I have, more than once, had the experience of non-Parisian French people in the Paris Metro asking me for directions, as it was apparent that 1) I was not from Paris and, hence, 2) would be far more likely to answer them. Often, Americans will generalize from what Parisians are like to what they assume all French people are like. I always correct them. The French are not generally like that. In fact, I tell them that Parisians are really more like New Yorkers than anybody else.

Not that there aren't wonderful acts of kindness that New Yorkers or Parisians show every day. There really are, and to say that such things don't happen is to give New York or Paris an unwarranted bad rap. But, somehow, those acts seem episodic. They are individual acts, and, as delightful exceptions, they really are not the normal expression of the citizenry. This is also to say, that in such places there really isn't a community. There are individuals and individual acts. There is also a lot of loneliness.

Many of us want more than episodes of compassion and generosity. We want a community. It is because we do that I was very much struck last year by a phrase in the MAPC Mission Study that said that people here are looking for a Christian home in the city. I think that is right, and I think it is revealing in many important ways.

What does community look like? A real community of friendships, shared respect, mutual support, etc., what does it look like? How do we have it? We ask those questions because such communities seem to be slipping away. In an age of identity politics, few people will venture outside their own comfort zones. They insist on a right to stay within enclaves of all sorts that are populated by people just like them, and people who like just them. That is damaging to the larger culture, as I think we can all see. I think it is damaging to us as individuals, too. That is a matter of some irony, since it begins in our extreme individualism.

There are people who think about this a lot and who are proposing ways to deal with the problem. Perhaps the most obvious example I can think of is David Brooks, the columnist for *The New York Times*. Noting our increasing loneliness, he has written thoughtfully on what is involved in a community. Although he does not try to say what it means to be a church, he thinks the church has a valuable role to play. He, for example, thinks that churches can help in getting people to “rebind” to each other and to combat the overwhelming loneliness that many people feel. There is a lot that the church can learn from him. But the church also needs to figure out what it means to be a church community. It isn't just another get-together, nor is it only for the sake of the larger culture.

One recent attempt to say something about this has been the book *The Benedict Option* by Rod Dreher. The title refers to St. Benedict of Nursia, who, in the sixth century, fled the increasing moral incoherence of the late Roman Empire to live in prayer and work. He became the founder of the monastic movement that ultimately was a major factor in civilizing Europe as its population grew and expanded outwards. Dreher, critical of the incoherence of modern society, suggests that Christians need to withdraw into their own communities. He has given up on the political parties (in his own case, the Republican party) as being able to do anything for Christian communities. He thinks both parties have made Christian community and life harder and worse off.

Dreher is uncompromising in his critique of the corrosive effects of modern society on Christian communities. Whether one agrees with all of his points, one should take them seriously. However, at the end, I cannot help but believe that there is more critique of modernity than there is the spirit of St. Benedict here. That is to say, I think that he shows a lot of resentment for a lost “Christian” dominance in the culture but not a lot of vision that says what exactly it takes to build a Christian community. And building Christian community and making it cohere and be bound together is the trick. That was what St. Benedict was good at.

I don’t think it is obvious how we can become new St. Benedicts in our day. We certainly aren’t going to simply withdraw from the culture at the corner of Madison and 73rd in New York. But I do think we can create a Christian home in the city if we pay attention to what it means to be a Christian community. There are a number of central elements to this. What follows is not an exhaustive list, but it does focus where our sight needs to be.

We, above all, need to find our common narrative — the story and history that tells us how we got here and what we are to do about it. Israel had such a thing. In *Deuteronomy*, Moses tells the people that when they enter the land, and when the harvest happens that they are to go to the Temple and offer their tithes. When they get there, the priest will ask them why they are there. Then, he says, they are to recite the history of God’s dealings with them, from his electing them in Abraham, to the exodus that brought them out of Egypt, to the promised land. The point is: “This is who I am, this is where I came from. This is why I am doing here in the Temple what I am doing.” As Christians, we have a common narrative. We sketch it out in the creed each Sunday and replay it in the annual liturgical cycle. We need to take it seriously. No community will cohere, much less endure without such a common narrative. That is the problem with identity politics – the narrative has shrunk to include only a very narrow range of humanity.

A good part of this narrative’s reality is the way we enact it. That above all, for us, means that worship is central. But worship in this case is not simply an aesthetic experience. It isn’t just the experience of the individual. Like the Hebrew of *Deuteronomy* who brought his offering to the Temple because of who he was, we come to worship God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, because we are a community that has been called from loneliness and ignorance to the knowledge of God by God through Jesus Christ. This is a knowledge that causes us to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. There’s a history to it, and that history leads this people to the Temple. Without worship, our narrative has, in practice, been forgotten.

We also need to be a people with a certain set of distinctive priorities that reflect these first two elements. When Benedict formed his communities, he founded them around a balance of prayer and work (*ora et labora*). This balance was a matter of seeing the priority of prayer. Work was so that one could pray better – and one prayed better if one worked. However, work was never the primary object of life. In our time, and in our situation, we are not going to be monks. That’s not why we come to this place or what kind of community it can offer us. We can, however, use our being here and our worship to think carefully about how we understand the work we do. Work, and more importantly, what work is done for, needs serious rethinking, if not in our culture as a whole, then certainly among the sort of people who come here. When work is competitive, and when it is obsessive, and when it is not done in a spirit of doing something for somebody else, work will only increase our loneliness. In fact, it is probably one of the main causes of loneliness. This is the sort of community that can make us be something different.

We also need to pay attention to others outside the church. A healthy church community is not just focused on itself, it is a community where the members put some effort into doing things, especially “hands on” things, for others. Financial generosity is important, also, but a healthy church cannot be content simply to do checkbook mission.

Finally, we need to take the time to be a community. This applies to secular as well as religious communities. Aristotle noted how important spending time together is to a friendship, and a good community involves friendship. If we don’t spend time together, we won’t have a community. Togetherness has to involve real, face-to-face, being with each other. That, in itself, is a first antidote to loneliness. But it is also realistically a matter of setting priorities. Oddly enough, in the modern world where we think we have mastered nature to make our lives easier, the one thing we have not mastered, because of our priorities and the way we tend to work, is time. Time has become our master and we are its slaves too often. Part of our own liberation is a matter of being in control of how we use our time and what we use it for. Is it being used for things that create community and that combat loneliness? Is the way we use our time a matter of engaging life in its fullest sense? Time, its quality and how we use it, lies at the heart of how we are related to others, which is to say, community.

In a time when we are losing our communities and becoming alienated from each other, the church can play a significant role in helping to re-establish them, and to give them vitality and substance. But, in order to do that, the churches are going to need to make a serious effort to be communities, and to resist the corrosive effects of our individualism.

Eric O. Springsted

# Fall Stewardship Campaign

## Fellowship Gatherings

### Our Calling, Our Faith, Our Mission, Our Church Home!

In Hebrews 10:24–25, the author challenges us “... to provoke one another to love and good deeds” and “to meet together” to encourage one another in our faith. In this spirit, the Stewardship & Development Committee is arranging fall fellowship gatherings in the homes of MAPC members. On week-day evenings or Sunday afternoons, we will gather to renew old friendships and meet new friends. We will speak about Stewardship, and, if desired, we can discuss other church issues.

The theme of this fall’s campaign is that Stewardship is part of our Calling and commitment to our Faith, Mission and Church Home. In I Timothy 5:8, the author advocates support of relatives and family, in this case our church family, as essential to faith. Our committee hopes these gatherings will strengthen our ties as a faith family.

Details about the gatherings will follow through electronic and hard copy communications. Eight families are generously hosting these events. In most cases, you will be invited to a gathering in your neighborhood, but, if the time or location is inconvenient, you may choose from the full list of gatherings which will be posted on the [mapc.com](http://mapc.com) website. All members and friends of our church are encouraged to attend one gathering. All confirmed members – from teens to people who have been members for over 60 years – are invited. Hors d’oeuvres, wine and refreshments will be served.

Our committee hopes these gatherings will strengthen our ties as a faith family and our foundation for the future.

We look forward to seeing all.

Grace be with all of you (*Hebrews 13:25*)

Julian Schroeder

## Farewell Tyler

Farewell and Thank You to Tyler Orem

In mid-July we said farewell to Tyler Orem, our 2015-2017 Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow. Tyler returned to MAPC last December after his year in Zambia and his travels in the Global South. When our Director of Christian Formation, Christopher de la Cruz, left at the beginning of the year, Tyler took over many of Chris’s responsibilities, leading our youth ministry and working with the Christian Education Committee on our various CE ministries. We are grateful for his gifts and talents and willingness to step into this role! Our PTGMFs usually finish their time with us at the end of May, but Tyler stayed on to lead our youth mission trip, Sent by Love.

Thank you Tyler! God bless you as you discern your new call.



# Christina Cosby

## The New Director of Christian Formation

When Christopher De La Cruz left the position of Director of Christian Formation (DCF) last December, we began a search for a new Director. The search committee, chaired by Elder Carolyn Clark and including Stephanie Murray, Nancy DeBono, Peter Macdonald, and Xaviera Zime, worked through the spring. In May, they recommended to session that Christina Cosby become the new Director. Session concurred.

Christina is a native of Lynchburg, VA, and is an ordained elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg. She is a graduate of Queens University in Charlotte, NC and received her M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary in May.

Christina is familiar to many already. She first came to MAPC as a seminary intern from Princeton Seminary in 2015-2016, working with Kids' Club and Youth Worship, and was a regular presence in worship. When Chris left, she was invited to return to take on the duties of coordinating Sunday children's and youth worship, as well as teaching the Youth Sunday School. In addition to her experience here at MAPC, Christina also served as Student Pastor at the Church of the Covenant in Lynchburg during the summer of 2016.

As the new DCF, she will be responsible for overseeing the entire Christian Education program, including adult education, and will work closely with the youth groups. She began on July 15 and has already preached in August.



# YOUTH MISSION TRIP

## SENT BY LOVE TO NYC



By Tyler Orem  
Phillips Talbot Global  
Ministry Fellow (2015-17)

***"I'm going to live here someday!"*** Several visiting youth from our Iowan partner churches expressed this sentiment during the mission trip from July 5-10. This year marked the fourth time youth and chaperones from MAPC, First Presbyterian Church of Spirit Lake, Iowa, and First Presbyterian Church of Lake Park, Iowa, came together as 'Sent by Love'. Our partnership came full circle, as it all began when these youth groups journeyed to New York in 2014 to help out in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

This year we had 36 youth, including 8 from MAPC. With chaperones there were over 50 people joining in to do the work of the Kingdom! In true mission trip fashion, we packed an extraordinary amount of activity into a few short days. We had the great joy of serving three of MAPC's outreach partners—New Life of New York City, Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, and New York Common Pantry.

Projects ranged from stocking pantry shelves and organizing a clothing closet to playing whiffle ball and kickball with kids in the park. We also spent a Spirit-filled Saturday at First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, Queens with Rev. Chris De La Cruz and his youth, engaging in workshops on creative expression of Christianity and forming community around active fellowship. Finally, with the help of several volunteers from MAPC, we hoofed it around lower Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn, experiencing some of the great highlights of New York City.

By the end of it all, everybody had that feeling of satisfaction that can only come from giving of oneself to serve the most vulnerable. They, of course, also had that feeling of exhaustion that can only come from a packed, joyous youth mission trip!

Many thanks are owed to the congregation and staff for hosting this great ministry, especially you individuals who gave your time and energy to prepare the space, chaperone our youth, and guide the whole group!

1. Wiffle Ball on East Side
2. They Made It!
3. Youth from MAPC, First Presbyterian Church of Spirit Lake, & First Presbyterian Church of Lake Park enjoy Central Park
4. Colin Kleinert rides the ferry with Iowa partners
5. The group visits the 9/11 Memorial
6. Jan Hus Presbyterian Church
7. New York Common Pantry



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Fall 2017 Christian Education & Youth Ministries

Full details of the fall education programs were being finalized by the Christian Education Committee as this issue of MAPC Life went to press, after new Director of Christian Formation Christina Cosby arrived on staff in mid-July. Look for information about specific programs soon! For now, here is a highlight of our fall focus for the Adult Education classes, and a reminder of the children's and youth programs that will start up again in the fall.

## Adult Education Classes beginning Sunday, September 10, 2017

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of Wittenberg Castle Church. That event is generally regarded as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, an event that shaped the history of the West after it and certainly has brought us as Protestants to where we are now. During the fall, we will focus on this anniversary, talking about what happened during the Reformation, why it is important, and how it shapes our identity. But the Reformation is not simply a past event. The motto of the Presbyterian Church is *reformata, semper reformanda* – "reformed and always reforming." The work of the Reformation is not finished. We will talk about what that means, including the important issue of the Church's present fractured state and how we might find the unity that we confess when we say that the Church "is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic." Sunday adult education classes meet between the two worship services, from 10:10 to 11 am, in the Dana Chapel or Parish Hall.

## Fall Schedule for Children's and Youth Education Programs

*All the programs below begin Sunday, September 10, 2017, when our worship schedule of two Sunday morning services (9 am and 11:15 am) resumes.*

**Children's Worship and Youth Worship** Following the children's lesson in both the 9 am and 11:15 am worship services, children and youth are dismissed to the Phillips Lounge or Dana Chapel for a worship service designed for younger folks. They return to the sanctuary and their families in time for communion.

Children's Worship is appropriate for children through 3rd grade, and Youth Worship is designed for youth in 4th grade through 7th grade. Of course, if your child or youth prefers to stay with your family in the service and hear the sermon, they are welcome!

### Church School

Church School for children from age 3 through 5th grade is on the 5th Floor of the Church House from 10:10 to 11 am on Sunday mornings. Children engage with each other and their teachers in song, story, and crafts.

### Youth Hour

Middle School-aged youth are invited to join us during the 10:10 am education hour in the youth lounge on the 5th floor, for a time to learn about what it means to be Presbyterian. This year, as we commemorate the 500th year of the Reformation, our youth will explore what it means to be part of the Reformed tradition.

## Wednesday Afternoon Ministries for Children & Youth

### Kids Club

Our popular Wednesday afternoon Kids Club program will resume on September 20th. Kids Club is for children and youth, kindergarten through 5th grade, and includes Bible Study, recreation, choir rehearsal and family dinner. The program begins at 4 pm, and dinner is at 5:30 in the Parish Hall.

### Wee Kids

This program for 3 and 4 year olds meets concurrently with Kids Club. The class begins at 4:20 pm, though you can come and play beginning at 4 pm.

## Youth Group

Youth Group for middle and high schoolers also meets on Wednesday afternoons, beginning at 4 pm. They have a time of Bible Study and fellowship, choir rehearsal, and dinner.

Registration forms for Kids Club, Wee Kids and Youth Group can be found on the MAPC website: <http://www.mapc.com/education/childrens-ministries/>

## Confirmation Class

Youth in 8th grade or older are encouraged to participate in Confirmation Class. They will engage in in-depth discussion and reflection on what it means to be a Christian and a church member. Confirmation class begins mid-to-late October, and continues through the spring, meeting on a weekly basis. Details of the schedule will be available in September. At the end of the course, participants will make a decision about whether they want to publicly profess their faith and become members of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church on Youth Sunday at the end of April. If you are interested in confirmation class this year, please contact the Director of Christian Formation, Christina Cosby, at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

## More Youth Education, Fellowship and Service Opportunities

In addition to the youth ministries listed above, Friday evening Pizza and Game nights are held every other month for middle and high school students. The evening begins in the Youth Lounge for pizza and the fun includes games like pool, ping-pong, laser tag, basketball in the gym, and maybe even a game of sardines in the Sanctuary.

On the first Thursday of the month, middle and high schoolers have an opportunity to serve at the Thursday Shelter Dinners in the Parish Hall.

In addition, there are occasional Sunday afternoon outings in the city for high schoolers.

Keep your eye on the weekly Pastoral Staff Newsletter, or the calendar on the MAPC website, [www.mapc.com](http://www.mapc.com), for dates and further information on these youth programs.

For more information on any of the above ministries, please contact Christina Cosby, the Director of Christian Formation, [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

## Adult Christian Education Opportunities:

### Reading Through the Bible

For the last several years, a small group has been meeting weekly on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 1:30 in the Phillips Lounge to read through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, Alpha to Omega. You are welcome to join them whenever you can, whether you were there from the beginning or not! Where in the Bible will they be by September? Probably somewhere in the Psalms. Bring your lunch and join this cover-to-cover adventure in scripture!

### 20s/30s Group

If you are in your twenties or thirties, join us for food, fellowship, and a rich discussion about expressions of faith on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, from 6 to 7 pm in the Youth Lounge on the Fifth Floor of the Church House.

### Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, at 6:30 in the Phillips Lounge. If you can, bring your dinner and come at 6 pm to chat.

### Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 7 pm in the Phillips Lounge, and will resume September 6. This fall they will be studying the letters of Paul.

# CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE COMMITTEE

## Dinner with Mayada and Friends

November 6, 2017

6:30 pm in the Parish Hall

Last April we hosted “Dinner with Mayada and Friends” as a special women’s fellowship evening. It was a popular event. The only complaint we got was that it was a women’s gathering rather than being open to the entire congregation—so we have planned another one as a congregation-wide event! Mayada, her husband, and their four children are Syrian refugees that the Rutgers Presbyterian Church has helped to sponsor as they resettle in this country. Mayada is a wonderful cook, and “Dinners with Mayada” have given her an opportunity to raise money for her family, while giving those who attend a chance to enjoy Syrian food and learn more about what it is like for this family to begin again in a new home.

Please plan on joining us for Dinner with Mayada and Friends on Monday, November 6, 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. All proceeds from this dinner will go to Mayada to help support her family. We hope to have members from the second Syrian refugee family Rutgers has sponsored with us as well. The suggested donation for adults is \$40, \$20 for children under 16. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, [wlds@mapc.com](mailto:wlds@mapc.com). You may also purchase tickets online, at [www.mapc.com](http://www.mapc.com). Look for a link to the event in the calendar section of the website.



## Annual Women’s Fellowship Brunch

Saturday, October 21, 2017

10 am-noon in the Parish Hall

Come join in our annual women’s brunch. Each year we invite four women at various stages in life to share with us about their journey—what specific events, people or influences have shaped their lives. This is a time to enjoy intergenerational fellowship among the women of the church. For those with young children, the Roof Garden will be open and spouses or caregivers and children can enjoy a Families with Young Children play-date while moms enjoy brunch. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, [wlds@mapc.com](mailto:wlds@mapc.com).

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## Men’s Fellowship Oktoberfest

Monday, October 16, 2017

7pm on the Roof Garden

We will continue the tradition of the annual men’s fellowship Oktoberfest event on the Roof Garden. Come enjoy traditional Oktoberfest fare and good conversation beginning at 7 pm. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, [wlds@mapc.com](mailto:wlds@mapc.com). You will also be able to sign up during fellowship hours on Sundays in the fall.

# CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE COMMITTEE

## Annual Roof Garden Party July 17, 2017



1. Natalie & Paul Pennington
2. Brenda Springsted & Paula Cooper
3. Brenda Springsted, Denise Welsh, Bill Welsh, Fred MacEachron, Eric Springsted
4. Pearl Forde & Edward Hudaverdi
5. Nancy Hauber
6. Susan Anderson & Barbara McLanahan
7. Curtis Field, Mark Ahearn & Kathy Hoffmann
8. Nancy Nachtigall & Katie Keiley
9. Barbara Iverson, Linda Field & Mariam Toubia
10. Christina Cosby & Meg Johnson

## Congregational Nurture Events and Groups

### Moms' Nights Out

Monday, September 18, 7 pm, Off-site

Monday, November 6, 7 pm, Off-site

### Church Family Night

Friday, September 29, 6 pm, Parish Hall

Friday, October 27, 6 pm, Parish Hall

Friday, December 1, 6 pm, Parish Hall

### Families with Young Children

Saturday, September 16, 10 am to Noon,  
Roof Garden

Saturday, October 21, 10 am to Noon,  
Roof Garden

### Spiritual Growth and Faith Sharing Group

First and Third Thursdays of the month,  
1 pm in the library at James Lenox House

### Senior Fellowship Lunch

Sunday, September 17, 1 pm, Parish Hall

Sunday, October 29, 1 pm, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 10, 1 pm, Parish Hall

### Hood Library Awareness Book Sale

Sunday, November 12, During Fellowship  
Hours, Church House Lobby

### Yoga for Every Body

Second and fourth Fridays of the month,  
9 am on the 5th Floor

Exception: in November, Yoga will be held  
on the first and third Fridays

### MAPC Book Club

Third Tuesday of the month, 4 pm,  
Hood Library

### Hood Library Fellowship

First Tuesday of the month, 5 pm,  
Hood Library

# All-Church Retreat at Camp Holmes!

## October 6-7, 2017

Once again we will travel to Camp Holmes for an all-church retreat. This gathering is for all ages! We hope many of you will come up Friday night for an evening of relaxed fellowship beginning with dinner, followed by games and conversation, and evening prayer before bedtime. The Nunemaker Lodge has plenty of room—think indoor camping. The Lodge is accessible for those with mobility challenges. Those who have come up for Friday evening on previous retreats have had a wonderful evening of fellowship.

The purpose of this retreat is to spend time together as a church community, reflect on what it means to be a community, and look at ways in which we can strengthen it. We will spend time on Saturday morning in group discussions, while the children have their own programming. After lunch, we will have an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Holmes through a variety of activities—games, walks, hikes, perhaps a visit to the farm, or just sitting on the porch by the lake.

### What is the time frame?

Dinner is at 7 pm on Friday night, but you can arrive earlier to get settled into Nunemaker and take a walk. We will begin our Saturday program at 9:30, and plan on finishing by 4 pm.

### How do you get to Holmes?

For those with cars, it is about an hour and twenty minutes north of the city. In the past, several people have carpooled. You can also take Metro North to the Southeast Station, and either another MAPC member or someone from the Holmes staff can pick you up at the station.

For those coming up on Saturday only, carpooling is an option, and we will also charter a bus, as we did two years ago, if there is sufficient demand.

### What will it cost?

Friday night and Saturday, for lodging, meals and day-use fee:

Adults, approximately \$80 (transportation additional)

Children, approximately \$60

### Saturday, day-use and lunch:

Adults, approximately \$30 (transportation additional)

Children, approximately \$20 (transportation additional)

*Scholarships are available! Talk to Beverly Bartlett, bab@mapc.com.*

### What do I need to bring?

If you are staying overnight: bedding, towels, and whatever else you need for an overnight stay. Flashlight for walking to and from the dining room. Beverages and snacks for sharing Friday evening.

Everyone: casual, weather-appropriate clothing, shoes for walking on trails.

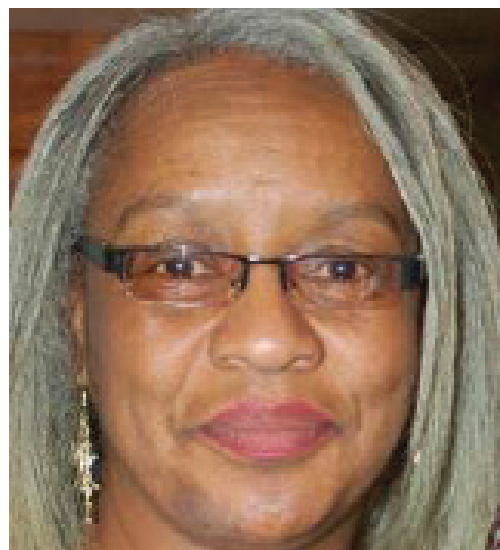
Please let us know if you are coming as soon as you can—the sooner we have a count, the sooner we can make firm plans. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices: [wlds@mapc.com](mailto:wlds@mapc.com) or 212-288-8920 x8479. We will need to know whether you are coming Friday and Saturday, Saturday only, how many are in your party, and how you plan to travel (and if you would like to take the bus on Saturday, or can offer room in your car).



# PAULA COOPER

## The New PTGMF

*From Paula Cooper, the 2017-2019 Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow*



*Editor's note: Paula joined us at MAPC as our PTGMF on June 16 and will be leaving for Zambia about the time this reaches your mailboxes, at the end of August. She will follow in our past PTGMFs' footsteps: spending a year working with Theological Education by Extension in Zambia, then traveling in the Global South for two to three months, before arriving back at MAPC December 1, 2018, where she will spend the last six months of the fellowship telling us about her experiences, getting used to life in the US again, searching for her next call, and working as a member of the pastoral staff.*

Greetings! I come to you from Saint Louis, MO, where I was ordained a Teaching Elder in March 2014. I served as designated pastor at Curby Memorial Presbyterian Church until this past May 31st. I am a single-parent of a 40-year old daughter, Goodness Charnett.



I was asked to emphasize what excites me most about this 2-year journey. One of the reasons that I am so excited to join MAPC and TEEZ is that I get to participate in and live out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)! Jesus gave a directive to His disciples: "go into all the nations to make disciples..." And He concludes that directive with a promise to be "with us always to the end of the age." These two, the directive and the promise, are the motivating influences that inspire and embolden me for the journey. An African American woman, who has conquered, with God's help, many difficulties in her life while living in an urban community of Philadelphia, is destined to go, teach and witness to the transforming Good News of Jesus Christ, who delivered her from the "snares and tares" of the wicked one.

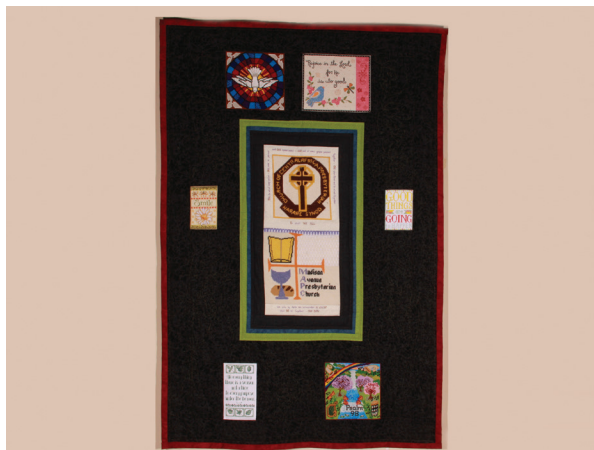


Second reason: I have a chance to live in and through, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the scripture passage found in Acts 1:8-11. In verse 11, the "Men of Galilee" (NRSV) are looking toward Heaven after Jesus' ascension, and two men wearing white robes ask why they are looking (NRSV) or gazing (KJV) up into Heaven. It is as if they are saying, "Move it! He gave you instructions; what are you waiting for?" I do not want to be standing and gazing up into Heaven when Jesus returns; I want to be busy at my Father's work; witnessing to His saving and merciful grace. Don't you?

## SYNOD OF HARARE

# UPDATE ON MAPC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SYNOD OF HARARE IN ZIMBABWE by Kathy Hoffman

For several months, a quilted hanging has been on display in the front of the sanctuary, with needle work by several MAPC members to honor the partnership of MAPC and the Harare Synod in Zimbabwe. The intention was to present it to the Synod delegation scheduled to visit this past spring. But for the second consecutive year, all visa applications were denied.



What can we do to promote the partnership in the absence of visits from our partners? The Zimbabwe Partnership Committee has been working on this.

Since exploratory talks began in 2007, the partnership has been more than an exchange of visits, important though they are. It has been about building mutual capacity to share God's love in Jesus Christ without building dependency, a partnership based on sharing prayers and ideas, not simply on disbursing money. And prayer does not require government approval.

Since 2007 those who have become acquainted with our partners, either by participating in a trip to Zimbabwe or by welcoming our guests here, have been impressed by the active faith of our partners—their persistence in the face of hardship, and even more, their determination to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and the resultant church growth.

One place this persistence and faithfulness can be seen is at the Rock Haven Retreat Centre outside Harare, where there is a new secondary school and a poultry project to raise money by selling eggs. The planning and hard work have been done by our partners, while funding from MAPC helped get the projects off the ground. The Zimbabwe Committee is studying other projects proposed by the Synod, including building another classroom at the new school and a library for use by pastors. The Committee may make another attempt to bring a Pastor-in-Residence in the fall.

Future pastors for churches in the Harare Synod study at Justo Mwale Seminary in Zambia with scholarship aid from MAPC. In the absence this year of a Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow from MAPC, Abusa Esau Mbondo, a pastor sent from Harare with MAPC assistance, is helping to train laypeople with the Theological Education by Extension Zambia— TEEZ. This fall, as in past years, our new Fellow, Paula Cooper, may participate in Synod programs in Zimbabwe before taking up her duties at TEEZ.

What has begun in Zimbabwe, with some help from MAPC, will yield results for years to come. We must never lose sight of the fact that the partnership is not centered on MAPC giving and Harare Synod receiving. The giving and receiving, the learning and the prayers, go in both directions.

God willing, we will be able to take that quilted hanging down in the near future and present it to the Harare Synod for their new church.

# An Update from Our Partners in Ministry Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Synod of Harare, Zimbabwe

Greetings to our sisters and brothers in Christ at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church!

We are happy to share news with you of our ministries in the Synod of Harare:

Three delegates from the Synod of Harare attended the World Communion of Reformed Churches Conference and participated in the 500th Anniversary Celebration of the Reformation held at Leipzig in Germany, from the 29th of June to the 7th of July, 2017.

The month of August is quite a busy month in our Church Calendar:

- (a) The Women's Guild will be holding a National Women's Conference this year from the 16th to the 20th of August. This is normally attended by more than eight hundred women.
- (b) The Sunday School Convention will be held from the 11th to the 15th of August at Bindura CCAP.
- (c) The Youth National Conference will be held from 17-20 August at Chinhoyi CCAP.
- (d) Our four Presbyteries, namely Harare, Highfield, Gweru and Bulawayo, will be doing congregational audits.

On the 21st of July, we will have the Synod Committee Meeting. One responsibility we will fulfill at this meeting is the deployment of three new pastors who will complete their studies this year in November. One of these pastors will be Excitars Phiri, whose seminary studies MAPC has sponsored.

Presbytery meetings will be held in the month of September.

We are planning to start Bible College early next year at Rock Haven Lay Training Centre. This will also help to upgrade fifteen Evangelists to Pastors. Currently, we have 57 evangelists, and four more are still studying.

The Construction of the CCAP City Church continues, but at a very slow pace due to the harsh economic challenges that we are experiencing. The unemployment rate, which has reached 89.5%, and non-availability of cash in circulation has paralyzed all efforts.

The Layers Chicken project is going very well. Six hundred birds were bought in early April and the egg production is now at 71.6%. Since we are in winter, the egg production is depressed. We expect a sharp increase in egg production beginning in mid-August when it becomes warm. A crate of 30 eggs is being sold at \$3.75 at a wholesale price. This is already proving to be a successful project and we are very happy about its performance so far.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and partnership in ministry,

The Rev. Libias Boloma  
General Secretary  
Harare Synod



## An Update from Abusa Esau Mbondo at Theological Education by Extension Zambia



**I**t is my pleasure to share with you my experiences in Zambia after leaving Zimbabwe on the first of April 2017. First and foremost, I would like to thank the Almighty Creator for qualifying me and my family to work in his Vineyard. My spouse, Judith, our son Esau Barnabas and I arrived in Kitwe on the second of April, 2017. Zambia became our second home as we share similar life experiences as well as food staples. Communal life strengthened our hope and we felt at home even in a foreign land. The high cost of living is what surprised me most as compared to Zimbabwe.

As an intern, I am humbled by the services TEEZ offers. With much pleasure, I share with you the joys of interaction which I am experiencing through TEEZ staff and members of the church where we have conducted trainings. This interaction, which includes learning local languages and seeing the degree of devotion the members have in church work, excited me most. I am expecting to launch TEEZ in our church in Zimbabwe after completing my work here sometime in August when the next intern, Reverend Paula Cooper, arrives in September.



*Editor's Note: When MAPC did not have a Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow to send to Zambia in 2016-2017, we worked with the Synod of Harare in Zimbabwe and the staff at Theological Education by Extension Zambia to send a pastor from the Harare Synod to fill the position normally held by the PTGMF. Abusa Esau Mbondo has been in Zambia since April, assisting with training sessions and learning about TEEZ in order to start a TEE program in Zimbabwe upon his return this fall.*

## Synod of Harare and TEEZ

It is my prayer that the Synod of Harare accommodate TEEZ programs fully. In this view, the Synod has a lot to learn and implement—the Synod understands TEEZ as evangelism yet TEEZ is more than that. It is my dream that the Synod of Harare will support the smooth running of these programs. I thank God who intervened through MAPC and the CCAP in Zimbabwe to appoint me to take this responsibility. Upon completion here, the Synod of Harare Executive Committee expects me to run the TEEZ department, hence I need your prayers to faithfully accomplish this task!

## Life Experience

Life has been great in Kitwe. We usually extend our length of stay on a monthly basis at the local immigration office in town. We faced a challenge in trying to secure a place for Early Childhood Development (ECD) for our son, Esau Barnabas. The money needed to get him a student permit was exorbitant for us (three thousand Zambian Kwacha). In this regard, as a family we resolved to send him back to Zimbabwe to proceed with his ECD there. He was accompanied by his mother on May 9th, who left him there in the care of family. I dearly miss him, and I feel the vacuum in me due to his absence. However, time shall come again soon for us to unite. Currently, we communicate through “WhatsApp”. He is being cared for by our sister-in-law, Martha Nyirenda alongside our two daughters who are also going to school. I had a sudden attack of hypertension for the first time in my life, and was unable to attend the tutors’ training in Lusaka in early June. I thank God that it is now stabilizing. Below and on the previous page are photos of my family, another during one of the tutors’ trainings we conducted and another for the Timothy Leadership Training that was held in late May at United Church of Zambia in Riverside, Kitwe. We had 120 participants during this Timothy Leadership Training.

By the time you read this, I will have helped conduct tutors’ trainings in Siavonga and Monze in July, and a Timothy Leadership Training in Ndola.

I ask your continued prayers for our family, for wisdom to lead us, for the work of TEE Zambia, for strength as I return to the Harare Synod and start the TEE Zimbabwe program, and for God’s guidance for all who work with Theological Education by Extension, both here in Zambia and in Zimbabwe.

God’s grace be with us all. Thank you. Rev. Esau Mbondo.



Mrs. Judith Mbonda



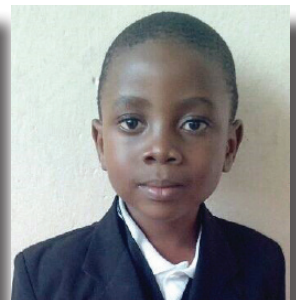
Violet Blessing  
Mbonda



Martha Nyirenda



Kean Brendah  
Mbondo



Esau Barnabas  
Mbondo

## AN UPDATE FROM THE DAY SCHOOL



Laura Graham  
Day School Director

In April we welcomed ‘Springtime in NY’ in a variety of ways: it was the theme for our Spring Benefit, parents joined their children and teachers in Central Park for picnics among the blue sky and green grass, and we joyously celebrated the end of the school year with a well-attended closing ceremony in the Sanctuary.

Teaching requires passion and commitment, and it often carries an emotional component as we further our own adult development to grow and take new risks. Taking new risks, literally and figuratively, is important for human growth and change. Every year we try to follow our school traditions and incorporate the new and ever-changing realities of the world around us into our classroom curriculums and daily practices.

Last March, five Day School teachers spent six days participating in a study tour of early childhood schools in Pistoia, Italy. They returned inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach and Italian culture, and shared their findings and reflections with the parent community and teaching staff. The Italian culture gives great thought and practice into how they value time, and it reached us all and positively impacted our June Days programing.

June days brought both familiar and new experiences to our children’s lives. In addition to our Roof Garden water play, the 8th floor was filled with special learning experiences. Laura Liben led music and movement with songs accompanied by handmade instruments that the children created with recycled materials.

Lakmini Besbroda and Hope Feldman designed a classroom space and curriculum dedicated to theatre. They provided a fun and creative drama experience where each class explored elements of story, movement and improvisation through an open-ended and process-based lens. Through a multi-sensory approach the

teachers guided and ignited the children’s colorful imagination and together discovered the possibility of what can happen when we build on the children’s ideas, characters and original story concepts.

Julia Bosch and Renee Nikita transformed an entire classroom into an art studio. The children were fully emerged in artistic explorations through paint, clay, light projections and light tables. The children were delighted to enter this new environment.

“Look! There are mysteries in there!”  
“I never knew it could be so magical!”  
“I never did this before.”

It is a beautiful experience to work in early childhood and to grow alongside others, especially the youngest ones. Both intentionally and organically, we constantly reflect, recognize and question our livelihoods, our place in the world and who we want to be. Through our modeling, nurturing and teaching good risk-taking skills, children will be better prepared to overcome life’s challenges and ultimately achieve the fulfillment of their dreams.





"LOOK! THERE  
ARE MYSTERIES  
IN THERE!"  
"I NEVER KNEW  
IT COULD BE  
SO MAGICAL!"  
"I NEVER DID  
THIS BEFORE."





# NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S CHORUS

## Touring Nashville

### Forty-One

choristers drawn from the In Harmony and Concert Choir ensembles of our New York City Children's Chorus, along with 17 parent chaperones and family members, went on tour to Nashville, Tennessee over the Memorial Day weekend. The tour was a great success and provided the ideal combination of artistic opportunities, cultural exposure, bringing the name of the NYCCC & MAPC to new audiences, and an opportunity for chorister bonding. We sang for the principal Sunday worship service at West End United Methodist Church, singing anthems on our own, as well as one combined piece with their fine Chancel Choir. The opportunity to do a brief recording at the famous RCA 'Studio B', where so many of Elvis's and Dolly Parton's recordings were made, was a particular highlight. Our appearances on a riverboat cruise honoring Navy veterans, and a Memorial Day concert at the Veterans' Home in Murfreesboro, were well received. We also toured The Hermitage (the home of President Andrew Jackson), the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum, and the Parthenon in Centennial Park, and received instruction in the art of Line Dancing at the Wildhorse Saloon!

## NYCCC Recording *Passioni dell'anima*

### On

Friday, May 12, the Concert Choir of our New York City Children's Chorus premiered a song cycle for children's chorus by Roberto Scarcella-Perino, *Passioni dell'anima*, at NYU's Casa Italiana. The challenging 10-movement work has an Italian libretto by Federica Anichini based on different emotions: six emotions form the core of the piece, paired in opposites: Tristezza/Gioia, Paura/Coraggio, Rabbia/Gentilezza (Sadness/Joy, Fear/Courage, Rage/Kindness). Four additional movements are scored for solo voice, which were performed by two of our NYCCC choristers, Annabelle Bunis and Katie Gurney. Perino is a respected Italian composer who lives in New York City and teaches at NYU, and with whom we've had the pleasure of working in the past: the NYCCC premiered his first song cycle for children's chorus, *Passioni dell'aria*, in 2014. We also spent a 5-hour session recording *Passioni dell'anima* for the composer on the evening of Monday, May 15 in MAPC's sanctuary, and we were pleased to work with our friends from Candlewood Digital who were the recording engineers for the NYCCC's acclaimed CD, *Simple Gifts*. Copies of the recording will be available in the fall.

# Saint Andrew Music Society Concert Announcements

October 1 at 3 pm

Andrew Henderson, organ: Works by J. S. Bach & César Franck including Franck's monumental *Trois Chorals*.

October 15 at 3 pm

Mannes College Students:  
*The Romantic Spirit Through the Ages*

November 5 at 11:15 am  
Memorial Sunday

Excerpts from John Rutter's *Requiem*  
sung by the Choir of MAPC

November 12 at 3 pm

Juilliard415, with Monica Huggett, violin  
Chamber Works by François Couperin featuring students  
from The Juilliard School's historical performance program

November 19 at 3 pm

Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra  
Haydn: *Harmoniemesse*; Schubert: *Mass in G*  
Mendelssohn: *Verleih uns Frieden*



NYCCC sporting hats in downtown Nashville, TN



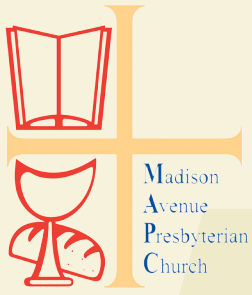
Recording in the famed RCA 'Studio B', Nashville



NYCCC singing with the Chancel Choir of West End Methodist Church, Nashville



The Concert Choir recording Roberto Perino's *Passion dell'anima*



# WAPC

