

MAPC

LIFE

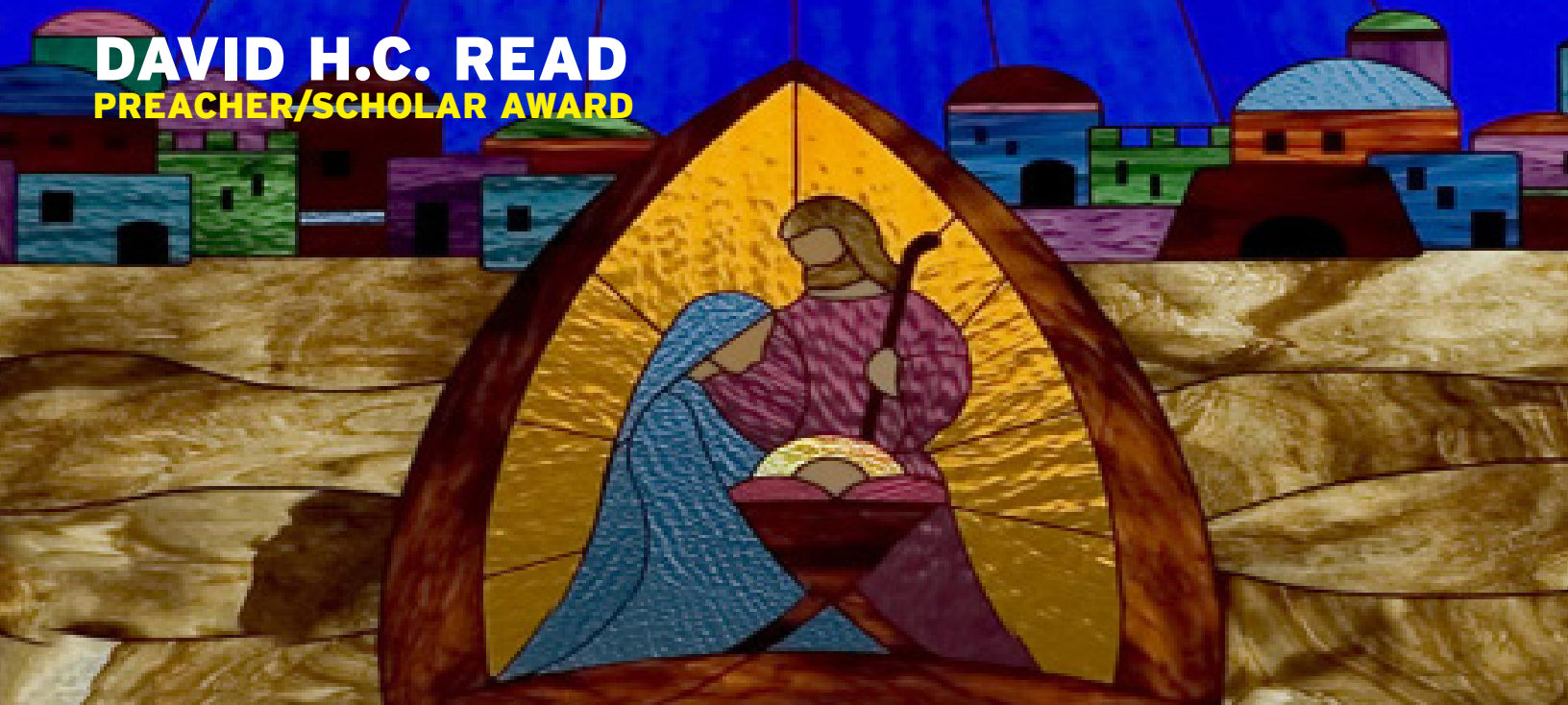
THE MAGAZINE OF MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | WINTER 2016

UPDATE
FROM THE
PNC

REFLECTING ON THE
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
SYNOD OF HARARE

WHY WE SING
WHAT WE SING
AT MAPC

DAVID H.C. READ
PREACHER/SCHOLAR AWARD



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,



The season of Advent is once again upon us. It is the beginning of the church year. As is appropriate for beginnings, Advent is a season whose main theme is hope.

There are, of course, some very specific things for which we hope in the coming year. Most specifically, the Pastor Nominating Committee was elected last spring and, at this point, is deep into its search for MAPC's new installed pastor. Deo volente (God willing), he or she will be the one writing the Pastor's letter in this magazine when Advent next rolls around. The MAPC Mission Fund is drawing to a close; we hope for its success and for that of the programs and projects it is meant to support. Similarly, we hope right now for a successful stewardship campaign and that we can welcome a new pastor spiritually and financially ready to embrace the future to which God calls us. In both of these latter two cases, our hope is directly tied to your efforts and generosity.

These sorts of hopes, though, are, I suppose, the type of hope that simply wishes one well (e.g. the sort of thing we mean when we say, "I hope your trip goes well.") Similarly, to say that one hopes that the stewardship campaign goes well is not so much a wish or a hope as it is an exhortation.

But, truth be told, the hope is that this season is about something much more radical. Just as the people in the Old Testament hoped for redemption, we who have seen what that redemption means in Jesus Christ have the hope that he will finish that work, bringing God's kingdom and transforming the world into what God meant for it from the beginning.

That is a pretty radical hope, and it is sometimes hard to concretely imagine what it is like to hope in such a way. I think I got a glimpse of it this last September, though. When it turned out last spring that our partners in Zimbabwe could not come to New York, we decided that a small delegation should go to them. There were all sorts of reasons to do so. We needed to renew our partnership for another three years, and, in doing so, we needed to find out what the priorities of our partners are. We needed, too, to talk to them face to face about what life is like right now in Zimbabwe and what we can do to be helpful to them. And, we needed to find ways to help them visit us.

All of that was successfully negotiated. But, for me, it was really secondary to how much my eyes were opened by the trip. Life is not easy there at the moment. Our friends are not particularly worried about the politics of the country with respect to the church, although, of course, as is the case everywhere, everybody has an opinion, and everybody has concerns about the future. The economy, however, is not good. Time and time again as we visited churches and talked to

people, they would mention projects that were stalled or that couldn't be launched because of the economy. It presses hard on them individually, too. Their hospitality can involve some personal sacrifices. Yet, in the midst of all that, the church is thriving. The leadership is convinced that the church is thriving because it is the one place where there is honesty and genuine concern for others, where people are trying in the best sort of way. In short, it is the one place that there is real hope that goes deep and that is not just facile optimism or mere dreaming. Short on resources, they are still giving of themselves to make things happen. Why? Because the gospel is good for people, because the church can and ought to be a place where human beings can flourish. As far as I can tell, God's image is clearly to be seen in all those faces as they worship, and there is hope for the kingdom.

This partnership is not just a matter of our outreach and mission to others. When it was established, we hoped that we could appreciate what mission our partners might have among us. Right now, that mission they have to us is, I think, a matter of showing us what hope is and what we can do in a broken world by being a place where humans can thrive.

I hope that we can all have that kind of hope in this season.

Peace,

Eric O. Sprangstad

MAPC

WINTER 2016

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UPDATE FROM THE PNC

[PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE]

by Edward Kleinert and Nickie Christin, Co-Chairs

PNC



We wanted to take a moment to update you on the work that is being done by your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The congregation selected 10 members to lead the search process for Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church's next Senior Pastor, and the PNC has been meeting weekly since June 2016. In person or by telephonic conference call, every member is present every week and committed to discerning God's will for all of us at MAPC. Aided by the Mission Study, which the congregation assisted in formulating through surveys, a retreat at Holmes Camp last fall, focus groups, and conversations with the Mission Review Committee, the PNC has created a Ministry Information Form (MIF), which describes the experience and competencies required for our next Senior Pastor and we believe also reflects the vision of the MAPC congregation. Session approved the MIF in September, and the Committee on Ministry of the New York City Presbytery affirmed its approval at their meeting in early October. The MIF has now been posted to the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection website. Ways you can be involved in the process:

- Spread the word that we are looking! We have reached out to seminary presidents, our former Global Ministry Fellows and David Read Preacher/Scholar Award winners, and posted ads in "Christianity Today" and other publications as well as on the websites of various Presbyterian caucuses, but we also welcome suggestions from other friends of MAPC and contacts you may have at various seminaries and in ministry.
- Refer potential candidates for Senior Pastor to the PNC. You can email the PNC at pastorsearch@mapc.com with this information, or you can reach out directly to a member of the PNC:

Susan Anderson
David Carleton
Nickie Christin
Kristin Hohmann
Meg Johnson
Edward Kleinert
Roy Lennox
Laura Macdonald
Kunbi Oni
Julian Schroeder



DAVID H.C. READ PREACHER/ SCHOLAR AWARD DRAWS TO A CLOSE



Jessica Christy &
Audrey Brown

When David Read retired from the pulpit of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in 1990, it was decided to honor his service and memory by establishing an award to be given to a recent seminary graduate who showed great promise in preaching and scholarship and

who was committed to serve as a pastor in a congregation. Reflecting Dr. Read's own post-seminary travels, the award, it was hoped, would enable the winner to do something after seminary to enhance his or her education in some way that they could not have otherwise done.

The award was purposely generous, both to attract serious applicants and to be able to do something significant for them. Each applicant has had to submit two sermons preached in front of a congregation and an exegetical paper for each sermon, as well as an extensive personal statement and statement of plans. By making the award generous, it was also decided that the award would not be given in perpetuity, but would end at some point. This year's winner, Jessica Christy, a 2016 Union Seminary graduate, was, therefore, the last Read Preacher/Scholar. Ms. Christy noted that the award allowed her to pursue a second master's degree, one in Old Testament, while doing her necessary "Lutheran year" at Luther Seminary in her home state of Minnesota.

Ms. Christy's preached at MAPC on Sunday September 25, 2016. Her sermon was based on the story of the prophet Jeremiah's purchase of land on the eve of the destruction of Jerusalem, a seemingly pointless act. But it was, she said, a profound act of hope. Even though the future seemed bleak, and surely would be for a time, still Jeremiah wanted to demonstrate that the people would return and the land would flourish. For some time, American churches have not flourished. I would like to think that MAPC's support of excellent young preachers is a similar act of hope in the midst of that situation.

Many people in the congregation have served on the selection committee over the years. Special thanks goes to them for their service, and most especially thanks goes to Audrey Brown who has served as its chair from the beginning.

-Eric Spingsted

Stewardship

The stewardship campaign for 2017 began receiving pledges on Consecration Sunday, November 20, and is now in the midst of securing the pledges of members who were not able to be in church on that Sunday.

During this year's Stewardship Campaign, the Stewardship Committee has not only encouraged members to be generous, and as Chris Trinka has regularly exhorted us, "to step up," but has also wanted to help the congregation to understand clearly how the church is financed. Pledges make up only a portion of the church's income. A significant portion comes from the draw taken from the investments in the endowment. As membership shrinks in all American churches, and even as giving fluctuates due to occasionally losing highly generous members to death or moving from the area, the endowment becomes more and more important. But for this reason, it is important to increase the size of the endowment in order to maintain all the church's ministries. To this end, the Committee wants to make a renewed effort to make members aware of their annual need to pledge, and also to think about the church in their wills and through planned giving. In coming months, they will be working on this, even as they seek to get full participation from the congregation in this year's pledging.

This is the season of generosity. We therefore urge each and every one of our members to remember to make a pledge and to consider how they might also make a continuing impact on the church's future mission.

-Eric Spingsted

"Why Do We Sing What We Sing at MAPC" by Andrew Henderson, Director of Music and Organist

"O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day." (Psalm 96:1)

Why do we sing in church? Singing is one of the most appropriate ways we can respond to God in prayer and praise. References inciting us to sing can be found throughout the Bible, and singing has been a historically integral part of corporate worship according to the earliest Judeo-Christian sources. At MAPC, we have long taken this to heart. I am reminded of a quip made by a prospective member at a New Members' class some years ago: "Do you have to read music to join this church?" And one Episcopalian colleague once commented to me that "at MAPC you sing much more than we do in our church" – something that is not often the case when comparing the worship of our two denominations!

When we come into God's presence in worship each Sunday, we sing using a variety of musical forms, all drawing on different text sources and traditions. Hymnody provides the backbone of what we sing each week, a form Martin Luther once referred to as "potted dogma," where deep theological reflection, praise, prayer, and personal commitment to our calling as Christians commingle. Ancient Eucharistic texts such as the Kyrie and Sanctus are sung by the congregation, in addition to more meditative forms of prayer from the Taizé and Iona traditions that we sing during the distribution of communion. Choral music in the form of anthems, motets and spirituals, while not involving the entire congregation in a physical sense, is intended to engage the mind and heart of those who experience it. Works from the great corpus of sacred choral music from across the centuries, based on biblical or poetic texts that I have selected to match the lectionary for the day, provide a worthy means for reflection. The psalms contain some of the earliest Judeo-Christian liturgical texts. Excerpts from verses of the psalms, as well as whole groups of psalms, have always been a part of



Christian worship. During the reformation and at the time of the birth of Presbyterianism, "metered" psalms that could be sung by a congregation to a set of catchy tunes began to appear. John Calvin recognized the importance of metrical psalms as the most suitable music for divine worship, and they were indeed the only acceptable form of congregational song in most Presbyterian churches until the mid-19th century. While the regular singing of psalms in any form is a rarity in many reformed churches today, at MAPC we sing the psalm or biblical canticle appointed in the Revised Common Lectionary each Sunday. Typically we use a metrical setting, such as those found in *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (1990), or those written by our Pastor Emeritus, Fred R. Anderson (whose complete set of lectionary-based metrical psalms, affectionately known as "FRAImS," will soon be published). We also occasionally use "responsorial" psalms, a form in which the psalm verses are chanted by a soloist and the choir and congregation "respond" with an antiphon drawn from the psalm text.

In selecting hymns that we sing on Sundays, I am conscious of many things: appropriateness to the scripture and themes of the day, the variety of poetic texts, tonalities, musical periods/styles, familiarity, and the occasional inclusion of new texts and tunes that fit a particular context. Every congregation develops a "corporate repertoire" over time, shaped by both national and local traditions, our past ministers and musicians, as well as our hymnals [*The Hymnal* (1933), *The Pilgrim Hymnal*, and *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (1990) having shaped MAPC's worship for the past eight decades]. While there is a new Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) hymnal, I feel that our current hymnal continues to serve us well. Through our copyright license agreement, I frequently augment our repertoire by introducing new hymn texts and tunes in our bulletins that I select from the many resources available from the wider church.

As we gather each Sunday to celebrate the



African Choral Music

on February 5

Eucharist, we regularly sing words that came to us from the first centuries of Christian worship. Short responses that could be easily memorized and sung by the whole church community began to develop: both the Kyrie eleison (Greek for “Lord, have mercy”) and the Sanctus (“Holy, Holy, Holy” based on a text from Isaiah), which we sing each Sunday, have their roots in the first or second centuries. We frequently sing the Gloria in Excelsis and Gloria Patri in response to the Assurance of Pardon, both 4th-Century hymns that were written around the time of the first Council of Nicaea. While occasionally singing the Lord’s Prayer might seem like a foreign idea to some, the Lord’s Prayer has been sung or chanted in worship for centuries. In fact, in the small-town Canadian Presbyterian church of my childhood we sang the Lord’s Prayer every Sunday to an old Scottish chant! Our musical settings of these texts range from John Weaver’s two congregational settings written for MAPC during his 35-year tenure, and still a part of our congregation’s musical DNA, as well as those adapted from Franz Schubert’s *Deutsche Messe*, and an effective setting by the contemporary Scottish composer, James MacMillan.

“Those who sing pray twice,” is a phrase attributed to the early Christian theologian and philosopher Augustine, who can also be credited with this: “Do you know what a hymn is? It is singing to the praise of God. If you praise God and do not sing, you utter no hymn.” Singing engages more neurons and muscles – indeed our whole being – in a way that speaking cannot. Every time we sing in worship we elevate what we say, engaging us all in a unique, communal act of worship. I encourage you all to sing lustily on Sunday mornings, and to think about what we sing, no matter how familiar or unfamiliar the words or music might be. “It is to have songs not only honest, but also holy, which will be like spurs to incite us to pray to and praise God, and to meditate upon his works in order to love, fear, honor and glorify him.” (John Calvin, from the introduction to the Genevan Psalter, 1543)

Based on the positive reactions to the Church Choir’s singing movements from the Congolese Missa Luba in worship last April, Mary and I have decided to mount a similar celebration of exuberant African music at the 11:15 am service on Sunday, February 5 – the same day as MAPC’s Annual Congregational Meeting. The Church Choir and Children’s Choirs will be singing arrangements of music from Kenya, Zambia, and Zimbabwe as our anthems that day, and there will be a few opportunities for the congregation to join in, too. One of the three drummers who joined us last April, Javier Diaz, will be with us to accompany us on the conga drum. I believe it is important to offer a range of choral music from the wider church and to share in the liturgical expressions and traditions of our friends on other continents!

MAPC Delegation to the Synod of Harare, Zimbabwe



S

ince 2009 MAPC has had a ministry partnership with the Synod of Harare, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, in Zimbabwe. The partnership is evaluated and renewed on a three-year basis. The conversations about the next three years were scheduled for the spring of 2016, when we hoped to welcome a delegation from the Harare Synod to New York City. Those plans changed when the delegation members' visas were denied. Instead, a small delegation from MAPC travelled to Zimbabwe in September to meet primarily with Synod leaders to discuss objectives for the next three years of our shared ministry. Interim Pastor Eric Springsted, Associate Interim Pastor (and recent Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow) Andy Smothers, Elder Curtis Field and Elder Kathy Hoffmann represented MAPC on this trip. Kathy and Curtis share their reports here, along with an update from the Executive of the Synod of Harare, Libias Boloma.



The MAPC delegation with the students & staff of the School at Rock Haven

An Update from the Harare Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian

by Abusa Libias Boloma,

General Secretary of the Synod of Harare

Spiritual and numerical growth: August is a special month on our church calendar—the Presbytery committees physically visit all the congregations under their jurisdiction to audit the financial books and update the membership of each congregation. Generally, in all four Presbyteries of the Synod of Harare, the membership continues to register an upward trend, despite a massive exodus of Zimbabweans leaving the country in search of greener pastures due to the persistent economic hardships. The challenging social, political and economic conditions prevailing in the country have brought people closer to God. In such times, people tend to focus on God for divine intervention in their lives. Starvation due to poor harvest in the last farming season; limited availability of cash in the banks and in circulation; an unstable political situation and continuous demonstrations; uncaring and uncommitted parliamentarians and councilors; deterioration of public services and non-payment of salaries: all these have engulfed Zimbabweans, and our hope is in the Lord that one day this will come to pass.

Deployment of pastors: According to our system of deploying pastors, one has to be moved to another congregation after serving for four years. This year in December, twelve pastors will be shifted. Currently, we have four pastors in theological training.

CCAP General Assembly: This is a gathering of our five Synods which takes place every four years. This time CCAP Synod of Harare has been given the opportunity to host for the first time since this assembly was instituted/established. The major issue before us is to draw a conclusion to the divisive border issue among the Synods. The Synod borders determine jurisdiction, and decisions need to be made about encroaching upon each other's boundaries to plant new churches. This issue has been on the table for a very long time.

Presbyteries' Annual General Meetings: In September, the Presbyteries hold their annual general meetings. These were conducted successfully, and new officers were installed for terms of two years.

Synod Strategic Plan Workshop: From the 18th to 21st October 2016, we held a strategic planning workshop. All the departments in the church brought their plans, which were consolidated into one document that will be guiding us for the next five years. The departments include: Evangelism, Women's Guild, Men's Guild, Music, Schools, Child Ministry and Youth, Presbyteries, Rock Haven, Ministerial Training and Recruitment.

Reflecting on the Fruits of Our Partnership with the Synod of Harare

by Elder Kathy Hoffman

In September I had the privilege of being part of the MAPC delegation to Zimbabwe to visit our friends and partners in the Harare Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). It was my fourth visit to the country, and it was a pleasure to see familiar faces and places and to observe things accomplished since my first trip in 2009.

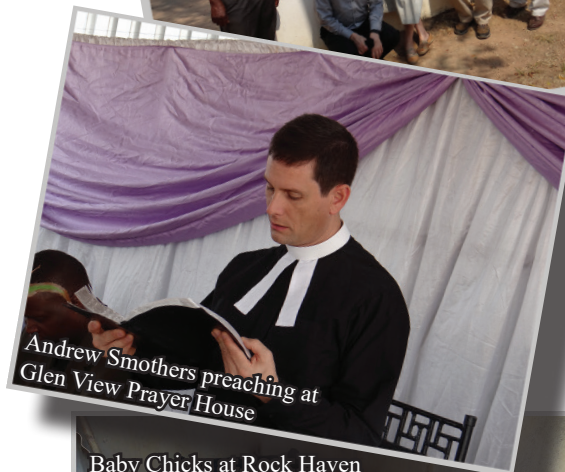
Unlike previous trips, this one was not designed to travel around the country to visit as many congregations and meet as many people as possible. This time the purpose was to meet with the Synod leadership to discuss how the partnership could develop over the next three-year stage, which has just begun. We met and traveled with Abusa (Pastor) Pattison Chirongo and Abusa Libias Boloma, both of whom are familiar to MAPC members from their terms as Pastors in Residence with us.

Even in the current difficult economic conditions in Zimbabwe, there are good things happening in the CCAP. We saw new facilities at Rock Haven, the Synod's retreat center outside Harare that every MAPC delegation has visited. In 2009 there was a wire fence along the road. Now there is a sturdy metal fence and a handsome gate built by MAPC and Zimbabwe youth in 2013. Where we saw brick walls going up in March of 2015, there is now a thriving secondary school with 120 neatly-uniformed students, and the Synod hopes to build another four-classroom building and establish a boarding school. We saw 500 chickens of various ages, the first stage of a projected egg business to generate income to fund the Synod's plans, and we admired the trees planted by members of MAPC's youth delegation in 2013. They have all survived!

The March 2015 delegation attended a Sunday service at the newly established City Church in downtown Harare that a grant from the MAPC Mission Fund helped finance. At that time the building was bare bones—an open framework with a corrugated roof, no walls and half of a poured concrete floor. Now the floor is complete and the walls are head-high.

We did do some traveling, driving south to the country's second-largest city, Bulawayo, visiting three churches on the way and two more in Bulawayo. At each church we heard of their "prayer houses," satellite congregations attached to the main congregation. And we heard of the work of their evangelists, lay people who carry out mostly self-supporting "tent-making" ministries to spread the Good News.

In the CCAP, a pastor's wife has considerable responsibilities in the congregation. For one thing, she leads the Women's Guild, which each congregation has. From one pastor's wife we learned that, along with their many responsibilities, the women just have fun. They play sports, including football (soccer, to us Americans)! I'd never imagined these women, in their long dresses or skirts and head wraps, kicking a ball around a field and yelling and laughing! Cheers to them!



A

s of this writing I've been back in New York for four days. My thoughts still are not yet fully defined, but I think I can provide some desultory impressions of my time as a "Scatterling of Africa" (with apologies to Johnny Clegg).

Kathy Hoffman has given us Zimbabwe from the perspective of someone who has been there many times. This was my first visit. Both Kathy and Andy Smothers' experience was invaluable in engaging with our partners as we mapped out goals for the next phase of this relationship. I hope that I, along with Eric, was able to bring some new points of view to this ministry that is such an integral part of how we define our global ministry presence.

One cannot adequately prepare for first impressions of Zimbabwe, especially someone who has never been outside North America before. But there were some surprises that I could not have predicted. One was the amazing industriousness exhibited by people in this desperately poor country, with an estimated unemployment of 85-90 percent. I had read that employment is largely "informal" in Zimbabwe, and had interpreted that as meaning it was largely out of sight or underground. The opposite is the truth. Business life is bustling, mostly centered on roadside vendors who sell an amazing variety of goods and services: timber, concrete, sofas, easy chairs, TVs, computers, mirrors, gravestones (with inscription services), goats, tree-cutting services, sculpture, prefabricated small cabins that can be used for (yes!) other roadside stands, as well as all types of produce. For souvenirs, one can buy old, worthless Zimbabwean \$10 billion bills. I tried to compile a list of items for sale on the roads around Harare but finally gave up the task.

I don't want to sugar-coat these observations. The poverty is real, and in many cases dire. But this bustling commerce appears to prevent the horrific conditions that are so often described by travelers returning from developing countries. It's a testimony to the courage, practical ingenuity, and the strength of spirit that I encountered often in Zimbabweans. It also helps that Zimbabweans seem to have a wonderful, unaffected sense of humor.

Through our discussions with the leaders of the Synod of Harare, we were able to clearly discern priorities for the future. Two top items build upon projects we have already participated in at the Synod's Rock Haven Retreat Center 30 miles outside Harare. During the first phase of the partnership, MAPC helped to build a school at Rock Haven for upper-form students (high school). The school started three years ago with four students. They now have more than one hundred. Not surprisingly, they want to expand with another classroom block. The Synod also is exploring ways to generate income for itself using the land it owns at Rock Haven that is currently unused. The Synod already has a small business at Rock Haven that raises and sells chickens to the local population. Under a proposed pilot project, the Synod would develop an egg production facility on a large scale that would seek a larger customer base beyond the local population.

An Accidental Scatterling of Africa

by Elder Curtis Field



Viewing new housing under construction at Rock Haven

The Pastor in Residence program has provided experiences that are deeply valued both by members of MAPC and the Zimbabwean pastors who have served here in New York. We want to continue the program. We also look forward to welcoming a delegation of members of churches within the Synod of Harare to MAPC next spring. We had hoped to greet a Pastor in Residence and delegation in New York this past spring, but the plans fell through when the U.S. Embassy in Harare denied all their visas. In an effort to prevent a recurrence of this misfortune, the four of us had a meeting with officers in the Consular Section of the Embassy, explaining to them the history of the partnership and its goals. In turn, they provided valuable advice on how to prepare for the application process in the future. Though there are no guarantees, we hope that future attempts to bring delegations to MAPC will proceed without disappointment.

With this visit, MAPC and the Synod of Harare have embarked on a new phase of our relationship, one that builds on the foundations that were established in 2009.

Oh ... and in case you were wondering, a scatterling is a vagrant or wanderer.

Friday Night Fireside Jazz,

January 27, 2017, 6 to 9 pm



This year we are trying something new for our annual January fellowship event. Rather than a sit-down meal with cabaret-style entertainment in the Parish Hall, the Congregational Nurture Committee invites you to come enjoy “Friday Night Fireside Jazz” in the Church House Lobby—an extended cocktail hour beginning at 6 pm. There will be heavy hors d’oeuvres, beverages, and a live jazz combo. The suggested donation for the evening is \$40 per person. We will offer childcare on the 5th floor, and ask parents to contribute \$15 per child for the evening. Come enjoy a fun evening of fellowship with the MAPC community!

RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church office, wdis@mapc.com, or sign up in the Church House Lobby after Sunday worship services in January.

New Initiatives

From The Congregational Nurture Committee

Yoga for Every Body!

On the 2nd and 4th Friday mornings of the month*, the Congregational Nurture Committee is offering yoga for "every body" beginning at 9 am on the 5th Floor. Sometimes yoga classes in NYC can be a bit intimidating, full of people who seem to have been doing yoga for years and easily bend into any shape imaginable. MAPC yoga is designed to welcome everyone, regardless of experience, age or body type. Come enjoy a relaxing class and a cup of coffee or tea and conversation either before or after the class. We'll try to have the coffee made by 8:30! There are a few yoga mats available, but we encourage you to bring your own if you can. The suggested donation for each class is \$20.

New MAPC Picture Directory coming in the spring!

It has been at least ten years since we last produced a church photo directory. The face and faces of our congregation have changed considerably in the last ten years! During the season of Lent, the Congregational Nurture Committee will be gathering photos of MAPC members. On Lenten Sundays, March 5 through Palm Sunday, April 9, someone will be in the Church House Lobby to take members' photos. We want every MAPC member/family to be included! You have three options:

- 1) Have your photo taken on Sunday morning during Lent.
- 2) Submit a photo of your own.
- 3) As a default, if we already have your photo in our database, we will use that!

The photo directory will be helpful to all of us in putting names and faces together, and it will be an invaluable tool for our new pastor as she or he gets to know the congregation. Please make sure you have an up-to-date photo for the directory!

Winter Quiet Day/Retreat, Saturday, February 4, 2017, 9 am to 3 pm at MAPC

On Saturday, January 21, 2017, Beverly Bartlett will offer another Quiet Day/Retreat, similar to the Advent Retreat of last year. After the busyness of the holidays, give yourself a day of quiet for reflection and prayer. Winter is a good time to focus on new beginnings as the days slowly grow longer and we look toward the seasons of Lent and Easter. What is God's call to you in this New Year? The day will include morning prayer, guided meditation, group discussion, individual quiet time, and fellowship over morning coffee and lunch. The suggested donation for the day, to cover lunch and materials (namely the rental of a labyrinth) is \$25. Scholarships are available. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, wlds@mapc.com, or 212-288-8920 x8479.

* Schedule subject to change with holiday closings. Check calendar at www.mapc.com for monthly dates

Annual MAPC Women's Brunch October 15, 2016

Lauren Logan, Josie McFadden,
& Judy Prince



Meme Peponis, Rosa Schupbach,
& Xaviera Zime shared their stories at the
brunch



ADULT EDUCATION AT MAPC

NEW! Alpha Course

Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus, and why should we worship Jesus as God? Who exactly is the Holy Spirit?

These questions engage us, whether we have never come to faith before or we have been Christians our entire lives. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, run over eleven weeks. In each session, we watch a video that looks at a different faith question and is designed to create conversation.

Alpha is run all around the globe. Check out some videos for yourselves: www.alphausa.org.

Our pilot run started on Wednesday, October 12, and continues with weekly meetings through December and into January of next year.

Interested? Contact Chris De La Cruz at cdlc@mapc.com or Andy Smothers at ads@mapc.com.



Sunday Adult Education

10:10 am, between morning services.

Engaging classes and guest speakers, with topics ranging from Bible and church history, politics and faith, social justice and service, and being a Christian in the busyness of New York City, among others. Check out the schedule in our weekly MAPC newsletter, as well as on mapc.com.

20s/30s Bible Study

We encourage all 20s/30s to participate in the Alpha Course! When the Alpha Course concludes, we will post news of ongoing 20s/30s Bible Studies in the weekly Pastoral Staff Newsletter.

Women's Bible Study

2nd and 4th Mondays

6:30 pm, Phillips Lounge

(If you can, come at 6pm with your dinner to chat!)

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study is on hiatus until the conclusion of the Alpha Course; we encourage Men's Bible Study participants to join in the Alpha Course!

Reading through the Bible

Lively discussion and study; bring a bagged lunch.

Every Wednesday

12:30pm, Phillips Lounge

For more information on the above ministries, contact Christopher De La Cruz, Director of Christian Formation, at cdlc@mapc.com.
Registration information at mapc.com.

Middle & High School Ministries

SUNDAYS:

Youth Worship
During Worship

Sunday Youth Hour
10:10 am

Teen Trips around NYC

One Sunday afternoon a month, 8th grade+
Teenagers take trips around sites in New York City that look at how Christian faith interacts with the world. Includes trips to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, and more. Contact Chris for more info.

Confirmation

4:30p -5:30 pm, 8th grade+

Youth Sunday

May 21, 2017

WEDNESDAYS:

NEW! Youth Group

Wednesday afternoons, 5 pm choir, 5:30 pm dinner and gathering

Kids Club Youth Leaders

Wednesday afternoons during Kids Club

WANT TO SERVE?

NEW! High School Service Group

Weekdays, various times, including once-a-month service club debrief

Middle & High Schoolers at Shelter Dinner

First Thursday of the Month, 6 pm

NYC/Iowa Youth Mission Partnership

Summer

WANT TO RELAX?

White Elephant Pizza Party, after December Carol Sing

December 18 after Carol Sing

Pizza and Game Nights

2017 Winter dates: February 10, March 10

CROP HUNGER WALK

October 16, 2016



OUR VISIT TO THE STONE BARN CENTER FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURE by Laura Graham

“We took time to notice beauty in the most unsuspecting places.”



W

e begin each year at the Day School with a staff retreat which is intended to build community and provide professional development. This year we went to the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Pocantico Hills, NY and invited Jim Moran, MAPC Chef, to join us. Our initial goal for the trip was to reconnect with each other in a natural setting and to remind ourselves of the importance of working together to build a strong school. In addition, we planned to use the farm to prompt conversation about best practices for classroom mealtimes.

While these initial goals were met, the experience surpassed our expectations. We were surprised to discover many parallels between taking care of a farm and taking care of children. A healthy farm relies on an interdependence of all aspects, including the soil, the animals, and the caretakers. Similarly, we must recognize the unique gifts of each teacher and call upon those strengths in order for our children to thrive. Without healthy soil, nothing can grow; the same is true for children. Children benefit from a supportive and emotionally safe foundation.

The retreat has had a profound impact on our teachers. They reflected:

“The greatest gift of our visit to The Stone Barn Center for Food and Agriculture was the reminder of the importance of community - of the interconnectedness of all its members - and that it is as a result of the thoughtfulness and care that is extended to each member and the respect given to each member’s unique contribution that the entire community thrives.”

“We took time to notice beauty in the most unsuspecting places.”

“Each stone in the wall supports and depends upon its neighboring stones. Without collaboration, the wall would crumble.”

“There was a lot of love and care.”

“Survival of all is dependent on the contributions of others.”

The farm offered many elements of inspiration. It sparked a sense of wonder, curiosity, and joy for us all which has organically transferred to our daily life in the Day School.

MAPC FALL EVENTS



**Stephen Macdonald
at Pizza & Game Night**



Oktoberfest 2016



Oktoberfest 2016



**Emily Bartlett & Liliana Nasrallah
at Pizza & Game Night**



**Eric Springsted
& Chef Jim Moran
at Oktoberfest**



**Amelia De La Cruz
at Halloween Church
Family Night**



Officers' Retreat at Holmes



Officers' Retreat at Holmes



Halloween Church Family Night

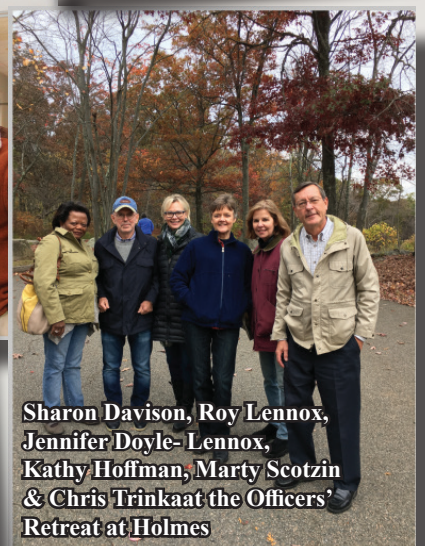
**Chris Trinkka & Eric Springsted
at the Officers' Retreat
at Holmes**



The Officers' Retreat at Holmes



**Brent Jones, Greg Ballard, Cesar Rochez,
Marty Scotzin & Judy Prince
at the Officers' Retreat at Holmes**



**Sharon Davison, Roy Lennox,
Jennifer Doyle-Lennox,
Kathy Hoffman, Marty Scotzin
& Chris Trinkka at the Officers'
Retreat at Holmes**



Winter 2016-2017

Sunday, December 4 at 3pm

Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra
New York City Children's Chorus
Vaughan Williams: Hodie & Magnificat

Sunday, December 18 at 4pm

12th Annual Carol Sing
Saint Andrew Chorale & New York City Children's Chorus

Sunday, January 22 at 3pm

Music on Madison: Grandos Goyescas
Yoonie Han, piano

Sunday, February 12 at 3pm

Music on Madison: Works for Tenor, Oboe & Piano
by Vaughan Williams, Britten & Butterworth

Sunday, March 5 at 3pm

Music on Madison: Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition
Henry Wong Doe, piano

Sunday, March 19 at 3pm

Music on Madison: Ensemble 1816
Works by Beethoven, Spohr & Schubert

Sunday, March 26 at 3pm

Music on Madison: Amy Beach at 150
Pianist Margaret Mills and friends

Sunday, April 9 at 3pm

Music for Holy Week: Bach & Schütz
Professional Choir of MAPC & Saint Andrew Orchestra

UPCOMING MAPC EVENTS

December 4

Alternative Gift Fair

Fellowship Hour
Church House Lobby

December 11

Senior Fellowship Lunch

Parish Hall
1 pm

December 18

SAMS Annual Carol Sing

Sanctuary
4 pm

January 6

Church Family Night

Parish Hall
6 pm

January 9

Moms Night Out

TBA
7 pm

January 21

Families with Young Children

5th Floor
10 am

January 22

Library Awareness Sunday

Church House Lobby
10 am

January 27

Friday Night Fireside Jazz

Church House Lobby
6 pm

February 4

Winter Retreat/Quiet Day

Parish Hall, Dana Chapel
9 am

February 5

Annual Congregational Meeting

Parish Hall
12:45 pm

February 11

Families with Young Children

5th Floor
10 am

February 13

Men's Fellowship

Parish Hall
7 pm

March 12

Senior Fellowship Lunch

Parish Hall
1 pm

March 13

Moms Night Out

TBA
7 pm



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
921 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
www.mapc.com



Christmas at MAPC

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18 at 10:10am
The children of MAPC act out the story of Jesus' birth.

12th Annual Carol Sing

Saint Andrew Chorale & New York City Children's Chorus
Sunday, December 18 at 4 pm
An MAPC favorite! Audience carols, choral music, seasonal readings. Free admission.

Christmas Eve – Family Service

Saturday, December 24 at 5 pm
A child-friendly, family-oriented service that includes the telling of the Christmas story in a tableau, and the singing of carols.

Christmas Eve – Candlelight Communion Service

Saturday, December 24 at 10:30 pm (Prelude begins at 10:10 pm)
Excerpts from Handel's Messiah, with guest instrumentalists
The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted preaching

Christmas Day – Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion

Sunday, December 25 at 11:15 am
Carols and anthems sung by the choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. A quiet, meditative service that includes the telling of the Christmas story through scripture and carols. Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we will also celebrate communion at the conclusion of the service.

1st Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, January 1, 9 am and 11:15 am
We will return to our usual worship schedule on New Year's Day, with two morning services. The Rev. Tyler W. Orem, Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow will be preaching.