

MAPC

LIFE

THE MAGAZINE OF MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | WINTER 2014-2015

STEWARDSHIP
Words in Action

Reflections On
ADVENT

Challenges to the
TRUE GOSPEL
in the African Continent



Bringing
Home **FAITH**

OUTREACH Local
Ministries & Grants

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

This issue of MAPC Life comes to you as we are in the midst of our stewardship campaign, seeking pledges for 2015. This annual season of giving also comes as we have entered into Advent; the season of God's giving. As you look through these pages, we hope you will discover the many ways your giving is multiplied in the lives of others, and through them into the world for which Christ came.



Your giving proclaims God's giving and presence among us.

When we first envisioned MAPC Life, we thought of it as not only a means of communication, keeping members, near and far, in touch and informed in ways more complete than with our weekly e-letter from the pastors, but also as a way of helping you get a sense of the scope of the work being done at MAPC, to better understand the many ministries that emerge from this place because of your faithful financial support. The Stewardship Committee saw this as an important part of their annual ministry of interpretation to the congregation—an ongoing one that was more than a once-a-year brochure, and the committee quickly embraced the idea. At the same time, the Evangelism Committee recognized the value of the church magazine as well, for those who are on our mailing list as friends of the congregation, and for those who visit us for worship or pass through the doors of the Church House on a daily basis. Therefore, you see copies of MAPC Life in the Narthex as well as on the large table in the Church House Lobby. We hope it is on coffee tables, night stands, and desks at home and in offices as well, bearing witness to your membership here.

I invite you to take time to savor this issue, which is filled with announcements, calendars,

interpretation of various ministries, devotional offerings, invitations to service and photographs of our life together—lots of photographs! Beverly offers us a daily Advent Calendar to help guide us deeper into an appreciation of the season. Don tells us about the many places that are enabled to do ministry because of our financial support. Words in Action by Julian Schroeder and Meme Peponis focus upon the ways in which our giving nurtures us as we care for this place that is our spiritual home. There is an update on the new 7:30 pm Candlelight Communion service as well as on the MAPC Fund, and how some of the tithed dollars from the 921 Fund are making a difference for our partnership in Zambia. Don reminds us of the planned trip to Zimbabwe next spring and invites you to join us on what will be my last trip as MAPC's Pastor. Linda Field reports on the work of the Day School Director Search Committee. All of this, and more, is here as a means of helping you understand how important your annual giving is to the work and worship of MAPC.

By now you should have received my stewardship letter and a 2015 pledge card. If you returned it for Pledge Dedication Sunday—thank you! If you have not yet returned it, you will soon be contacted by one of the church's officers to receive your pledge for the year. If you are having trouble getting your schedules together, you may go to our website at www.mapc.com, click on the "Giving" tab at the top, then scroll down to "Annual Pledging," click on it, and fill out the form there. Be sure to designate the pledge for 2015. Or, if you prefer, use the pledge card/envelope that is enclosed with this issue. However you make your pledge, please do so before the end of January so that the Session has an idea of the support we will receive to enable us to responsibly plan for next year's ministries.

Finally, this winter issue of MAPC Life brings with it a special poignancy with its call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Sunday, February 1, in the Parish Hall, immediately following the

11:15 am service. At that meeting I will ask you to approve my request for "the dissolution of our pastoral relationship" on May 30, 2015, so that Questa and I can retire to our home in Whitefield, New Hampshire, where we plan to live for the next five to ten years—Lord willing!

In the days since I have announced that, I have regularly been asked by my pastor friends and colleagues what I am looking forward to and what I will most miss. I laughingly say I'm most looking forward to no more meetings—something each of them understands! (I have it on good report that, in heaven, there are no meetings!) What I will miss most takes far more thought: those of you I have been privileged to work together with and serve; a congregation that has never lost sight of trying to live out the gospel in this very challenging day and place, the richness of our life together, the "holy roar" that exists in the Parish Hall, Church House Lobby or our front room at the Manse, when we come together for fellowship. All of that is surely true—I will miss each. But what I will most miss is being lost in wonder, love and praise in our Sanctuary as we gather on the Lord's Day. I don't know what I will miss more; preaching, talking to the children at the font in the lessons for young Christians, baptizing, holding the chalice for you saying, "The blood of Christ shed for you," blessing babes in arms as they are brought forward with their parents to "commune," praying together with those who are seeking healing, or simply being bathed in the glorious music with which we are weekly blessed. All of these fill my heart and cause me to rejoice—rejoice in you, rejoice in the 23 years we have been here, and most of all, rejoice in the Lord.

Thank you for your part in all of that. God has come, God is here among us, God is coming—thanks be to God!

Fred R. Anderson, Pastor

SESSION AT WORK



From Left: Elder Alicia McDonald, Dr. Andrew Henderson, and Elder Sharon Boersma; Dr. Anderson Moderating, Elder Dan Klein, serving as temporary Clerk; Elder Marty Scotzin, and Rev. Don Wahlig.

MAPC

WINTER 2014

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KEEPING ADVENT



Every year I am determined to observe the season of Advent—not just get caught up in the rush toward Christmas, but slow down and really keep Advent. And every year I fail. But since Advent comes around every year, there is always another chance! When Fred suggested I write a piece for adults on Advent for this issue of MAPC Life, perhaps with an adult Advent calendar, I realized that here was a golden opportunity to plan ahead this year, to prepare (which is a good Advent word!), so that Advent is not almost over before I even begin to think about it. So, here is my Advent offering for MAPC members and friends—and for myself—that we may observe a meaningful, worshipful Advent season.

Children's Advent calendars are clearly counting down the days to Christmas. I love them, but they have little to do with what Advent is all about. They either have secular seasonal images under the doors that are opened each day, or a piece of candy or trinket, or, if they are religious, you may find a small portion of the nativity story under each little door. But even remembering the nativity story is not what Advent is all about.

Advent means “coming.” It is the season of the church year when we remember Christ's promise that he will come again and make all things new. It is a time of expectation, waiting, hope, and preparation. Yes, we are looking forward to celebrating Christmas, when God first came to us as a human being, Emmanuel—“God with us.” But, more than that, we are looking to that time when the kingdom will be ushered in, in all its fullness. It is a time for us to remember that all the sufferings and evils of this world will not have the final say: pain, suffering, violence, disease, war, racism, oppression, despair—God has already triumphed over them through the resurrection, and that triumph will be complete when Christ returns in glory. Advent is a time for us to remember that, amidst the fear and struggles of our world, we are a people of hope. We live in hope—waiting, watching, trusting, and preparing for God to enter our lives and our world again—each and every day, and once and for all. Trusting in God's promise, we can live as people of hope, as witnesses to the way of love and faith in a world where even those who profess Christ are often consumed by fear.

At the right are verses appropriate to the Advent season—one for each day for you to reflect on, with a question or suggestion you may use as a jumping off point. Some of the verses are scriptural, others are lines from Advent hymns. Perhaps you can cut each day's verse out and put it in your pocket or purse as you begin the morning. Or commit it to memory as you shower and prepare for the day. Say it to yourself throughout the day and listen for what God may be saying to you through this verse.

May we all have a blessed Advent and learn to wait upon the Lord in hope and joyful expectation.

Sunday, November 30: *“To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.” Ps. 25: 1-2a.*

What particular worry keeps you from trusting in God? Share that worry with God and pray for God's assurance.

Monday, December 1: *“Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.” Matthew 24:42.*

What can you do to wake up to God's presence today?

Tuesday, December 2: *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13.*

Ask God to transform whatever weighs heavily on your heart, that even in the midst of challenge or fear, God can fill you with joy and peace in believing.

Wednesday, December 3: *“O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright? Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, A lamp within my breast, To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.” Paul Gerhardt, 1653, First verse of hymn “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”*

When we welcome guests, we clean and make preparations. What “cleaning up” and preparations do you need to do to welcome Christ aright?

Thursday, December 4: *“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5-6.*

Who are you not in harmony with? How does that discord keep you from preparing for, and glorifying, God?

Friday, December 5: *“O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.” Ps. 43:3.*

Through the course of your day ask God to lead you by God's light and truth.

Saturday, December 6: *“Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.” Charles Wesley, 1744.*

What fears and sins are keeping you from finding your rest in Christ?

Sunday, December 7: *“For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light.” Ephesians 5:8.*

What does it mean to you to live as a child of light?

Monday, December 8: *“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” Isaiah 40:3.*

How can you prepare the way of the Lord? Even the wilderness of your, or our society's, life?

Tuesday, December 9: *“In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom*

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR BEVERLY BARTLETT

of heaven has come near.” Matthew 3:1-2.

What do you need to put behind you, turn away from, to be ready for the coming kingdom?

Wednesday, December 10: *“Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.” Ps. 85:8.*

Take a few moments of silence this day to turn to God. Listen for the peace God speaks.

Thursday, December 11: *“The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9.*
Give thanks for God’s grace and patience!

Friday, December 12: *“In accordance with God’s promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.” 2 Peter 3:13.*

Think about what it would look like for righteousness to be at home. And give thanks for God’s promise.

Saturday, December 13: *“O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!” Latin, c. 12th century.*

What, in you, is captive and in need of Christ’s ransoming?

Sunday, December 14: *“I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.” Ps. 89:1.*

Throughout this day, rejoice in the steadfast love of the Lord.

Monday, December 15: *“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” John 1:6-9.*

How can your life today, your words and deeds, testify to the light?

Tuesday, December 16: *“For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.” Isaiah 35:6b-7b.*

Imagine life-giving water breaking forth in abundance to quench all thirsts, and to make the wilderness flower—your own wilderness and that of all who suffer.

Wednesday, December 17: *“Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your heart, for the coming of the Lord is near.” James 5:7-9*

What can you do to strengthen your heart as we wait for the coming of the Lord?

Thursday, December 18: *“Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of Light descendeth From*

the realms of endless day, That the powers of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away.” Verse 3, “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent.” From Liturgy of St. James, 4th Century.

Use this verse as a guided meditation. Imagine the Light of Light descending from the realm of endless day, clearing away the darkness.

Friday, December 19: *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.” Philippians 4:4-5.*

In expectation and trust that Christ is near, practice gentleness, kindness.

Saturday, December 20: *“Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’” Luke 1:38.*

Mary said “yes” to God’s improbable, possible-only-for-God call. What is God calling you to say “yes” to this Advent?

Sunday, December 21: *“The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 29:19.*

As you move through this day, pay careful attention to the “meek and the neediest” around you. Remember that God’s promises are for them as well, especially for them.

Monday, December 22: *“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” Luke 1:45.*

Mary and Elizabeth believed in God’s promises to them, though they seemed impossible. Author Madeleine L’Engle referred to Jesus’ birth as a “Glorious Impossible.” As you walk through this day, remember God has blessed you with a faith in the “Glorious Impossible.”

Tuesday, December 23: *“Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.” Georg Weissel, 1642, third stanza of “Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates.”*

In the course of the day, mindfully inhale and be aware of God’s “inner presence”, and as you exhale, pray that God’s grace and love may be revealed in you and thus shared with others.

Wednesday, December 24: *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” Isaiah 9:2.*

In the bustle of Christmas Eve, give thanks for the light that shines in the darkest corners of our lives and our world, the light that will one day dispel all darkness.

NEW MAPC DOCUMENTS



ALICIA SHEEN



TAI-LI AND KATIE CHANG



NANCY NACHTIGALL



VICTORIA MEW



KATE BAIER



LINDSEY DORAMUS

REPORT ON THE SEARCH FOR THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE DAY SCHOOL

As this issue of MAPC Life goes to press, the search committee for the next Director of MAPCDS is still meeting and deliberating. We hope to have a candidate to nominate for approval by the Session by December. After that happens, a brochure introducing the newly appointed Director will be sent to all members of the church and school communities. The search committee is grateful to all who have participated in and supported the committee throughout the search process.

— Linda E. Field



CHALLENGES TO THE TRUE GOSPEL IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT ABUSA LIBIAS BOLOMA

Just

as in the early church, Christianity on the African continent is growing quickly and widely. But for many church members, whose faith is not deep, there are factors threatening this growth. What follows are some of the challenges facing the spread of the gospel in Africa.

Christian sects are mushrooming. Many are Pentecostal, started by self-appointed preachers who call themselves Prophets, Apostles, or Overseers. They emphasize miracles, healing, exorcisms, immediate prosperity, and take advantage of the high poverty levels and desperate living situations many experience in most African countries. Compromised by unemployment, limited health and education, and low self-esteem, people are vulnerable to these “false messiahs” who preach a prosperity gospel full of false promises. People are enticed by the sweet talk, eloquence and well-crafted promises of a ‘good and successful life,’ being told that if they follow and support the prophet, they too will become prosperous, if not rich.



“Apostolic Ministries” are not Christian sects, but a unique challenge that has emerged since 1980. Male “Prophets,” dressed in white robes and carrying a shepherd’s staff, claim to be apostles filled with special spiritual powers. Devoted followers, dressed in similar white robes, come together for twenty-four hour Sabbaths, on Saturdays, and sit at the prophet’s feet, soaking in their teachings and prophecies. The Bible is rarely used, as people depend on the prophet’s direct spiritual revelations and cleansing rituals. Followers gather about the Prophet in open fields, regardless of the

weather, sitting in the sun, rain, or cold. As a result, many die from such exposure; some are struck by lightning, others by malaria, cholera or other deadly illnesses. When a follower becomes sick, the prophet tells them not to go to hospital or take medicine, but simply to depend upon the prophet’s healing powers and prayers. Women are denied maternity care, and AIDS patients are encouraged to abandon medications. Children are kept from school, and girls are frequently married off as young as 12 years of age, often to these prophets who may have as many as 10 wives.

Islam is another challenge that is spreading quickly, again, by taking advantage of the desperate situations that people are living in. Supported by foreign financial sources, the mosques give out food, clothes, and money for school fees, and pay hospital bills for any that show an interest in becoming Muslim. They even promise to bore deep water safe-wells for schools that have no water, if they can be allowed to teach their religion in the schools.

Finally, traditional African spiritual practices, such as “appeasing the spirits of the dead,” are still strong in rural areas. People gather one year after a burial, to perform rituals to bring back into their homes the spirit of the dead person to join them with the spirits of others who have died before them and reside there. If this is not done, people believe the spirit will become a lost soul—a ghost that haunts them, especially its family members. Because this contradicts the Christian understanding of what happens when a person dies, it puts a large number of African Christians in a dilemma, especially women married to a husband who is not a Christian; who should she please?

What can be done to safeguard the gospel against these challenges? The answer is well-trained pastors, elders, evangelists and lay people. A congregation without a Pastor is like a flock of sheep without a shepherd. Predators come to devour the sheep. MAPC is helping us in this area in four important ways. Three new pastors (the current student will soon be our first female pastor) have been well-trained at Justo Mwale Theological College, in Lusaka, Zambia. Not only are they preaching the true and relevant gospel, they are training lay leaders. Remember, it is these lay leaders who do much of the preaching when pastors are visiting other congregations under their care. Second, during MAPC delegations’ recent visits to Zimbabwe they have encouraged and trained our people to lead Bible studies. In addition, MAPC has provided Bibles to those who did not have one, and in the peoples’ native languages, so they can continue to study and understand on their own. Finally, in the last two years, the Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellows have, at the end of their time at TEEZ, come to Zimbabwe to teach, enhancing the preaching and counseling skills and knowledge of our church lay leaders.

Currently, we are talking about ways our partnership can transform our Rock Haven Retreat Center into a theological training center for our lay people to help further address these challenges. Thanks to MAPC for its faithfulness in this partnership, as it helps us proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

FOR REGULARLY
SCHEDULED
WEEKLY AND
MONTHLY EVENTS
CHECK THE
FULL CALENDAR
ON THE
MAPC WEBSITE

December 9

MAPC Movie Club
2 pm, Parish Hall

January 12

MAPC Movie Club
2 pm, Parish Hall

January 12

Moms Night Out
7 pm, TBA

January 23

Church Family Night
6 pm, Parish Hall

January 25

Library Awareness Sunday
Hood Library & Church House Lobby

January 30

Annual Cabaret Evening
6:30 pm, Parish Hall

February 8

Senior Lunch
1 pm, Parish Hall

February 9

Men's Fellowship
6:30 pm, TBA

February 10

MAPC Movie Club
2 pm, Parish Hall

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & NUTURE

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Kids Club



Church Family Night Halloween



Kids Club: Sharon Boersma leads the singing of Grace



Shelter Dinner



New 5th Floor Youth Lounge!



Preschool and Children's Worship
Preschool through 3rd Grade
Sunday Mornings during Worship Services, Phillips Lounge
9 am Service offers separate Preschool and Children's Worship.

Church School
Preschool through 5th Grade
Sundays, 10:10 am, 5th Floor
Learning about God's love for us and the world through music, Bible study, games, and crafts.

Church Family Night
Jan. 23 and March 6, 6pm, , Parish Hall
Get to know other families, dinner, movie for young children, and playing in the gym.

Families With Young Children
Jan. 10, Feb. 7 and March 14, 10 am, 5th Floor or Roof Garden,
Get to know other families with young children, play on Roof Garden playground or with 5th Floor toys, depending on weather.

Kids' Club
Kindergarten through 5th Grade
Wednesdays, 3:45 to 6 pm, Parish Hall & 5th Floor
Bible study from the MAPC Pastoral Staff, choir, and weekly family dinner.

Wee Kids
Preschoolers
Mondays, 3 pm, Phillips Building 4th Floor
Bible study, art, music, movement and games.

Sunday Morning Nurseries
Infants and toddlers
Sunday mornings, 8:30 am to 1 pm, 4th Floor
Led by Day School teacher Rosie Agosto and other experienced child-care professionals.

MAPC Children's Library
Open Sundays during morning worship, next to Lobby
Includes resources for parenting and Christian parenting.



Middle School Wednesdays

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Hour
Middle & High Schoolers
Sundays, 10:10am, 5th Floor Youth Lounge
Activities and talks directly relating faith in Christ to student life.

Middle School Wednesdays
6th to 8th grade
Wednesdays, 4:30pm, 5th Floor Youth Lounge
Activities and talks directly relating faith in Christ to middle school life.

High School Lunch
9th grade to 12th grade
Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb 8, Feb. 22, 1 pm, 5th Floor Youth Lounge
Twice a month, high schoolers have lunch together, get to know one another better, and talk about topics directly relating faith in Christ to high school life.

Youth Worship
4th Grade to 8th Grade
9 am and 11:15 am worship, Dana Chapel
Worship tailored to youth.

Middle & High Schoolers at Shelter Dinner
Middle & High Schoolers,
Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, 6pm, Parish Hall
One Thursday a month, our youth group helps prepare, serve, and clean up a free dinner to homeless, underhoused, and other members of the community.

Confirmation
8th Grade +
Sunday, 1pm, Oct 26 – April 26, Community Services Room
Young people become prepared to personally profess our Christian faith and accept responsibility in the life of the church.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday Adult Education

Sundays, 10:10 am, Dana Chapel or Parish Hall

Join us on Sunday mornings during the CE Hour for special classes led by our pastoral staff or guest speakers on various topics covering theology, Biblical studies, church history, and spirituality.

Parents' Coffee Hour

Sundays, 10:10 am, Dec. 14, Feb. 1, and March 1, 8th Floor

Parents of children of all ages are invited to join Rev. Dr. Fred Anderson and other guest speakers for conversations about raising our children as people of God.

Reading Through the Bible

Wednesdays, 12:30 pm, Phillips Lounge

Bring your lunch and come to the Phillips Lounge on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm, where a member of the Pastoral staff will lead a lively and informative discussion. Bibles and beverages provided.

If you would like to learn more about these programs, please contact:

Millie Tourtelot
Director of Christian Education and Discipleship
mat@mapc.com
212-288-8920 x8478

Or

Christopher De La Cruz
Director of Youth and Family Ministries
cdlc@mapc.com
212-288-8920 x 8480

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study is the oldest continuously-attended Bible study group at MAPC. It began in 2001 with a core group of longtime church members and gradually grew to include women from across the MAPC community. Rosanna Piper, the Director of Christian Education from 1999-2003, introduced the group to the biblical commentary series "Shepherd's Notes", which the Women's Bible Study still continues to use as a supplement to help guide its discussions. Virginia DeBono is the group's facilitator.

Except on holidays when the Church House is closed, the Women's Bible Study meets at least twice per month, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Phillips Lounge. Participants bring their own sack dinners (drinks are provided), and we chat and eat for a half-hour or so before opening with prayer and engaging in the scheduled study. We use "Shepherd's Notes" as an outline and try, as much as possible, to consider the historical period and socio-political aspects of the time, in addition to theological perspectives. After discussion, we close with individual prayer concerns and a short benediction. Currently, we are reading Isaiah, which we began in the spring. The last few chapters will carry us through the end of this year at least, and the group will discuss which book to read next, near the start of 2015. We have a lively fellowship, and we welcome women of any age and any affiliation with MAPC. For more information, please contact Millie Tourtelot, Director of Christian Education and Discipleship.

20'S/30'S BIBLE STUDY

Being a twenty- or thirty-something in the "busy-ness" of New York can be an exciting and dizzying experience. Amid the hustle and bustle of life, it is increasingly important to feel grounded in something that reminds you why you're doing what you're doing in the first place.

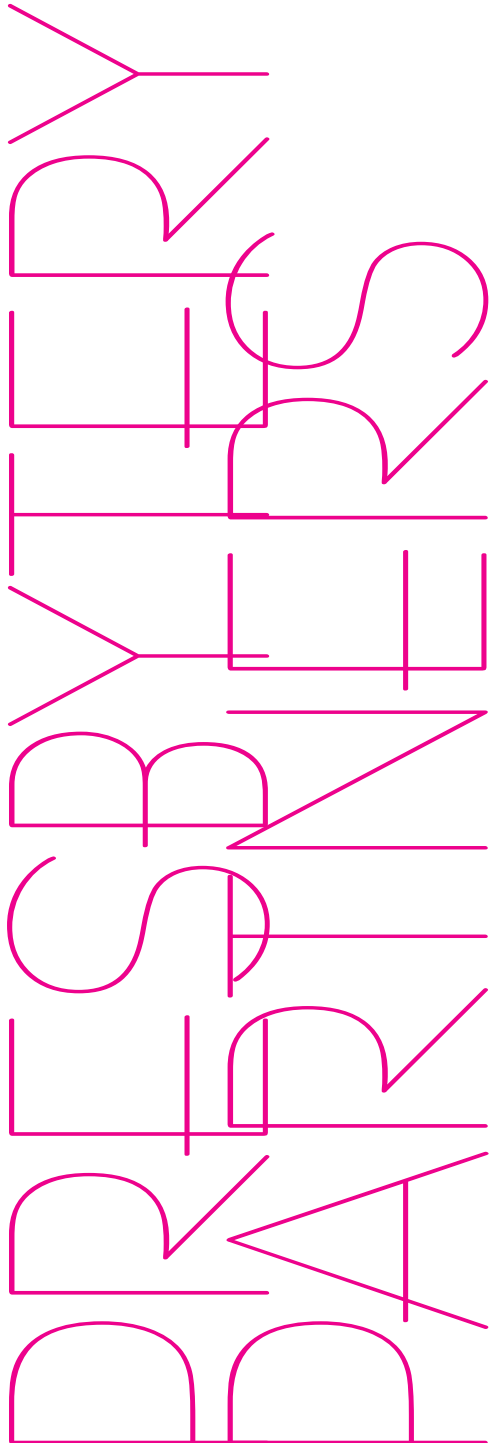
Our 20s/30s Bible Study, which meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, provides that "grounding" in community and in faith. Over dinner and drinks, we spend a good deal of time just hanging out, getting to know one another better. We then dive into study together, either going through a book of the Bible or exploring different topics having to do with faith. In both of these studies, we explore how faith in Christ affects our routines throughout the week and what faith means in our particular places in life.

We end with people sharing prayer requests with each other. This allows us to intentionally listen to one another's joys and struggles--venting about long work days, celebrating new marriages and dealing with family problems. This is a welcome, open space, where people can provide support for one another.

If you're a twenty- or thirty-something, come check 20s/30s out, and feel free to invite friends! Food and wine will be provided; if you can chip in \$10 to help pay for the cost of the meal, that would be helpful. RSVP to Ellen Klein, Administrative Assistant, at eck@mapc.com or 212-288-8920.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Twice a month, on the first and third Wednesday evening, a group of men gathers in the Phillips Lounge to sit around the coffee table there and read their way through scripture. But it is more than reading. The text is a catalyst for asking questions, for exploring what it meant when it was written, what it must have meant to those for whom it was initially written and, most of all, what it means for us today. For as Reformed Christians, we believe God speaks to us through these texts as we read and discuss them in reliance on God's Spirit. We begin at 7 and are done by 8:30. Each brings his own Bible, and with that comes a multiplicity of translations, which only makes the discussion richer. The conversation is led by Dr. Anderson, but he often asks more questions than he answers and joins us in pondering what God is saying to us. Though beer, soft drinks and "nibbles" are available, inevitably, a bottle or two of wine make their way to the table as well. Some men make it every time, others come and go as their schedules allow. Most are members, but an occasional visitor joins us and is most welcome. We hail from all sorts of church backgrounds: some Presbyterians all of their lives, some Baptists, others Lutherans or Methodists—some having sojourned in more than one of those traditions—and even a former Roman Catholic or two. It all makes for a fulsome and energetic conversation. This last year, the group read its way through the Gospel of Mark—the earliest of the gospels to be written. We did it, if only to get our gospel "facts" and the flow of the story straight, as many had never read a gospel from beginning to end. As this is being written, the group is contemplating its next book—Exodus, Revelation, Romans or The Acts of the Apostles, and is strongly leaning to the last. Gentlemen of the congregation, join us on the first and third Wednesday evening of the month. We'd love to see you and enjoy what you have to bring to the discussion.



YOUR MISSION DOLLARS IN ACTION HERE IN NEW YORK CITY

You have heard and read much in previous issues of MAPC Life about MAPC's robust international partnerships. As this issue is focused upon stewardship, we would like to acquaint you with the way MAPC supports a number of local organizations through our designated Presbyterian partnership funds.

PRESBYTERIAN SENIOR SERVICES

Presbyterian Senior Services was founded in 1962 by a small group of committed volunteers seeking to help care for older members of their church community. Over the past 52 years since PSS's founding, MAPC members have provided both financial and hands-on support to PSS as it systematically and strategically expands its programs, always bearing in mind its founding principle: affirming and supporting seniors as an integral part of our community by keeping them healthy, engaged, and connected.

Under the leadership of Rimas Jasin, PSS is widely recognized as a leader in the areas of senior services and caregiver support. It is now a multi-service agency operating seven senior centers, two senior residences, and an extensive network of Caregiver Support Programs. These include the groundbreaking Grandparent Family Apartments project in the Bronx, initially made possible, in part, by a \$150,000 grant by MAPC from the mission portion of The Fund for Renewal. A first of its kind in the nation, it provides safe, affordable housing and supportive programs for grandparents raising grandchildren, enabling those children to meet their full potential.

CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE

Founded as a new PCUSA church development in 1986, under the leadership of many from MAPC, the Church of Gethsemane reaches out to incarcerated men and women. Through its "Project Connect" program, the church uses a highly effective, four-pronged approach to join in ministry with people who are incarcerated, and then helps them in the transition back into the home and the community upon their release from prison. Led by Head of Staff Rev. Diane Lacey and Minister of Evangelism Mr. Chibueze Okorie, Gethsemane operates a re-entry peer support group, a food pantry and a clothing bank and provides its members and other newly released people with referrals and resources for housing, job training, and social services. Through its JusticeWorks advocacy program, Gethsemane works to change public criminal justice policies that discriminate against persons of color and the poor.

MAPC has continued to provide support to Gethsemane through annual funding and hands-on help, including the Christmas Angel program in which MAPC members and Day School parents provide hundreds of Christmas presents for distribution to children of Gethsemane parents who are incarcerated.

PRESBYTERIAN HOPE IN ACTION (PHIA)

Founded by pastors from MAPC, Fifth Avenue, First and Brick Presbyterian Churches, in the weeks following Superstorm Sandy in October 2012, Presbyterian Hope in Action helps survivors of the storm rebuild their lives physically, emotionally and spiritually. By organizing work groups who come from across the Presbytery of New York City and beyond, PHIA has coordinated housing, hospitality and meaningful work assignments for hundreds of volunteers who labor in the hardest hit areas of the city and are transformed by the experience of helping those in need.

MAPC Associate Pastor Don Wahlig chairs the board of PHIA, which hired Executive Director Lisette Robustelli in the Spring of 2013. PHIA received its initial funding from the four founding churches, whose staff and members serve on the Board of Directors. MAPC members have joined in the relief work with their hands as well. Our youth have teamed up with those from 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church and two Iowa congregations, First Presbyterian Church of Spirit Lake and Lake Park, to be a part of the "Sent by Love" mission project last summer, which was featured in the September 2014 issue of MAPC Life. In addition MAPC members participated in the Presbytery-wide Sandy Relief day on Saturday, November 15.

HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Located on 550 bucolic acres, 55 miles north of New York City, Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center is the outdoor Christian education and retreat facility of the Presbyteries of Hudson River, Long Island and New York City, representing nearly 260 congregations and 55,000 members in the metropolitan New York area. The camp and conference center is set among pristine forests, lakes, cliffs, trails and wetlands in the hill country of northern Putnam County/southern Dutchess County in the lower Hudson River Valley.

Under the direction of Executive Director Rev. Peter Surgenor, Holmes operates two conference centers year-round, three retreat cabins year-round, two seasonal youth facilities, a rustic camping program, several tent/trailer and day group areas, and an environmental science and arts program. The Center's three lakes provide the natural resource for swimming and boating activities, as well as winter fishing and ice skating. Holmes provides programmed events as well as rental facilities for self-directed conferences and retreats. But more, Holmes Camp has provided a traditional summer Christian camp experience for generations of MAPC members, and members of other churches and denominations, that has been life-changing for those young people. MAPC has provided funding for Holmes for many years and continues to offer support through our Presbyterian partnership funds.

These are but a few of the local mission projects of the Presbytery of New York City supported by our Presbyterian Mission Partnership Fund.

LOCAL OUTREACH GRANTS

In addition, the church provides annual support to nine local organizations reaching out to vulnerable populations of youth and families at-risk, the elderly and the hungry / homeless.

- Booker T. Washington Learning Center is a ministry of the Church of the Resurrection serving at-risk youth in Spanish Harlem and the site of our LEAP ministry.
- Health Advocates for Older People and Search and Care serve the elderly and homebound on the upper east side with programs promoting good health, socialization and assistance with managing financial affairs, in order to help seniors continue to live independently.
- James Lenox House Association provides comfortable, secure and affordable housing for older adults in New York City through its two residences, James Lenox House and Carnegie East House.
- Jan Hus Presbyterian Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Program provides clothing, food, storage and other services to assist the homeless and hungry in our area,
- Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter offers an array of housing and comprehensive services, including counseling, substance abuse treatment, vocational and educational programs, and employment support.
- New Amsterdam Boys & Girls Choirs provides opportunities for musical enrichment for at-risk youth in Harlem.
- New Life of New York City is a faith-based youth outreach organization dedicated to providing support and nurture to at-risk inner city youth growing up in some of New York's toughest neighborhoods.
- New York Common Pantry is New York City's largest community-based food pantry and is designed to meet the needs of families by providing culturally-appropriate and nutritiously-balanced food.

MAPC's support of all these local ministries is informed and motivated by our understanding of the words God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah to the exiled Israelites in Babylon, "seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you." By continuing to support the important work of these local organizations, MAPC continues its 100+ year legacy of seeking the welfare of this city, whose vulnerable and marginalized populations we seek to serve through tangible acts of love that speak powerfully of the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. – *Donald B. Wahlig*

HOW OUR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES PLAN TO BRING FAITH HOME SHARON BOERSMA

From the Christian Education Committee, I have a word for you this year and a call to action.

The word: "We're all in it together."

The action: "Bring it home."

We are blessed at MAPC to have a unified worship vision. Our children, our youth, our adults, all of us, gather around the same songs, prayers, praise and, yes, the same scripture and message. This year we are privileged to have Megan Doyle-Rosen leading our very youngest 3- and 4-year-olds, at the 9 am service, in their own worship experience. Every morning the scripture is being unfolded to us all, the holy church catholic at MAPC, by Fred, by our Children's Worship teachers and by Christopher De La Cruz, in a thoughtful, planned, coordinated manner.

When we say together, "I believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints," I trust you are remembering all God's people who lived long ago, those still to come, those of us here today, all coexisting throughout eternity, worshiping God. I also hope, as you meet the eyes of our toddlers with a smile, shake hands with our youngsters as we pass the peace, give a good word to our teens, that you are aware that we, at whatever age, are all moral peers in God's worshiping community. We're all in it together.

Then, "take it home." The Christian Education Committee has voted to make the phrase "Bringing Faith Home" our mantra for the year. We trust that, as our program year unfolds, you will hear and experience this phrase in many places, and it will call you to action.

This fall we are sending our children and youth home with Prayerbooks, which will help bring faith home. These contain pages of songs, liturgies, scripture portions and prayers, which families can use to continue worship themes at home. Each week you will see youngsters re-enter the sanctuary before communion with a new page for their book.

Worship is certainly a piece of our faith that we need to 'take home.' I hope you can see how our unified worship plan helps parents bring faith home, more able to look for those "teachable moments" in the week ahead, because everyone in the family has heard and experienced the same word in worship. If you're blessed to share life at MAPC with grandchildren, the same holds true for you. If you share worship with a partner, bring worship home to recreate and discuss. Even if you live "home alone", we all need to bring our worship home.

Home to our hearts in remembrance of Jesus, home to our hearts with regular devotion to God, home to sharing the Spirit of God with thoughtful friends, home to our own particular New York cultural nexus.

Worship: We're all in it together, and let's bring it home.

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION INTRODUCING A NEW SUNDAY 7:30 PM LITURGY

Our Sunday 7:30 pm services resumed at the beginning of October with a new liturgical format in the Dana Chapel. The 40-minute service is an informal candlelit gathering that consists of a reading from scripture, a short reflection on it, time for communal and personal prayer, and the celebration of the Eucharist. Various musical styles are being used from Taizé, Iona, and folk traditions, as well as traditional evening hymns. Members of the pastoral staff have been rotating in the leadership of the service, and, while the scripture is taken from the appointed lectionary readings for the day, the preaching style is less formal than on Sunday mornings. The service concludes with the Passing of the Peace, with worshipers gathering in the Church House Lobby for a time of refreshment and fellowship.

The service is designed not only for those who have not been able to attend services in the morning, but also for those who would enjoy a more meditative form of worship on Sunday evenings. Worshipers are welcomed through the Sanctuary doors and directed to make their way through the Sanctuary to Dana Chapel. If you have not yet had an opportunity to attend on Sunday evenings, we encourage you to come and take part in this meaningful service. – *Dr. Andrew E. Henderson*



REFLECTIONS ON ADVENT

With this issue of MAPC Life we are in the midst of Advent, which, along with Beverly, I must confess to being my most favorite of the seasons of the liturgical year—see her gift of an Advent Calendar for Adults in this issue; it is excellent. Advent is my favorite, not so much because of the steady approach of Christmas, but because of the clear message of the season: God is coming to keep God's promise; therefore, wait, prepare, rejoice and marvel at what God has done, what God is doing and what God promises yet to do.

Wait—waiting on the Lord is a constantly recurring theme in all of scripture, but it is a special kind of waiting. It is not like standing on Madison Avenue between 72nd and 73rd wondering when the bus is going to come, with nothing to do but look south in hope, only to see the next bus is not yours after all. You wanted an M-1 and this is an M-2 Limited! Waiting on the Lord is waiting in a hope that is more than hope—it knows the promise will be kept, because it was kept and at exactly the right time. As the apostle Paul has said, “In the fullness of time God sent his Son, born of a woman.” (Gal 4:4) And, God continues to come to those who wait on him. God comes, but not always when we want him, but, rather, when we need him—at the right time. This is our hope.

Prepare—in this season when preparing can exhaust us, looking for the right gift, the proper card, tree, wreaths, lights and package wrappings, Advent calls us to indulge in another kind of preparation. It calls us to be still and know. Just as Elijah did not find God in the fire, wind, rain and earthquake, but in the sound of silence, so, as you and I take time to be still we are truly preparing for God's coming. If you have not been accustomed to setting aside a time for prayer, scripture and meditation, let me encourage you to take on that discipline this Advent. You can follow my blog, or you can use Beverly's Advent Calendar verse. Whatever you choose, be still in your waiting. You will know God, and you may just discover that God has been there, but you have been so busy running here and there that you have failed to recognize and know God.

Rejoice!—it is the message of the third week of Advent and what comes of knowing God. I've always been struck with the difference between “being happy,” “content” or “satisfied” and “rejoicing.” Whereas the former emerge out of a sense of pleasure in things we have done, rejoicing has something at the very center of it that does not come from us but comes from God and cannot be contained. It simply must escape lest we burst. It insists on coming to expression. When God comes, often God fills us with the Spirit, a spirit so buoyant that it not only fills us, but lifts us beyond ourselves.

Marvel—one of my favorite hymn text writers, Charles Wesley, captured what it means to marvel in his hymn “Love Divine, All Love's excelling,” with these words: “Lost in wonder, love, and praise.” That is precisely what Advent does. As the story of God coming to us as one of us unfolds, I find myself lost in wonder, love and praise. God has come to us, God comes to us, God promises yet to come. – *Dr. Fred R. Anderson*

MAPC MOMS

We have two ministries specifically for moms at MAPC: the weekly Mothers of Young Children group, and Moms' Nights Out every couple of months.

Mothers of Young Children meet in the Hood Library beginning at 9 am every Monday (except for holidays and during the summer months). In the past we have had anywhere from two to eight women attend. Those who have participated have found it to be a wonderful source of fellowship and support. This group has strengthened the sense of community among the mothers of the congregation over the years. Our discussions spring from whatever is on our minds—various parenting issues like faith development, discipline struggles, school matters, technology use, communicating with children; some moms have found valuable resources to address health or developmental or learning concerns by talking with others in the group. There is much shared wisdom to gain, especially since our children are different ages. You do not have to commit to being there each week—come when you are able. Some moms with newborns have attended while they are on maternity leave. If you don't have childcare, bring your child along. They can play on the floor or nap while we talk. You do not need to sign up or RSVP—just come along to the Hood Library at 9 am on Mondays! If you'd like more information, contact Beverly Bartlett at 212-288-8920 x8481 or bab@mapc.com.

Moms' Nights Out—it is that second ministry especially for moms. Whether you are a stay-at-home mom or a "work outside the home" mom—we all need a break now and then! Moms' Nights Out happen every 6 to 8 weeks. Usually, we meet at an Upper East Side restaurant at 7 pm on a Monday evening for dinner and conversation. Occasionally, we meet at the church which allows for more mingling. It's a great time for fellowship and it's open to moms with kids of any age—some of the Moms' Night Out regulars have newborns and others have teens, college-aged kids and beyond. The next Moms' Night Out is scheduled for January 12. Watch for details in the Pastoral Staff Newsletter.



MAPCOTT Cocktail Party on the Roofgarden

From Left: Andy Smothers, Edna Palmer, Nancy Hauber, Josie McFadden and Joyce Kadzakumanja

MAPC ON THE TOWN (AKA MAPCOTT)

MAPC On the Town events are open to any members (and friends) who would like to join in an evening exploring some of the wonderful cultural offerings of our city. Recent MAPCOTT outings have included docent-led tours at the New York Historical Society, the Asia Society and the Rubin Museum of Art, as well as a concert at the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association. After the museum tour or event, the group typically dines at a local restaurant. In the summertime, we make a short trip up to Van Cortlandt Park to share a picnic and listen to the New York Philharmonic, and, often, we buy a block of tickets for an excursion to watch the Staten Island Yankees (and drink in the fabulous view from the stadium!). Our next event is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2015. Look for details in the Pastoral Staff Newsletter closer to the date.

MAPC SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

The Senior Fellowship has added new programs and ministries this fall—at the request of MAPC seniors! While these programs grew out of the Senior Fellowship brainstorming sessions and completed surveys, they are open to anyone who would like to participate.

MAPC Movie Club, December 9, 2 pm in the Parish Hall

We are planning to have a Movie Club gathering once a month, alternating between Mondays and Tuesdays to accommodate various schedules. The next scheduled MAPC Movie Club will meet on Tuesday, December 9 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall. We'll watch a movie together, complete with popcorn, and have light refreshments and conversation afterwards. Upcoming Movie Club dates are January 12 and February 10.

MAPC Book Club meets at 4 pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Hood Library. Upcoming dates for the Book Club are December 16, January 20, and February 17. The books for each month are announced in the weekly Pastoral Staff Newsletter.

A New Spiritual Growth/Faith Sharing Group began in November. This group, led by Associate Pastor Beverly Bartlett, meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 1 to 2:30 pm in the Hood Library. The group is open to all. Consistent participation helps build a sense of community and trust. We know things come up and people cannot be there every session, but we ask people to commit to regular participation in order to strengthen the group. We will engage in various practices to reflect upon and deepen our relationship with God and share our faith stories, questions and struggles with one another. For more information, please contact Beverly at bab@mapc.com, or 212-288-8920 x8481.

Senior Fellowship Lunches are held every other month or so. We meet at 1pm on Sunday afternoons in the Parish Hall for a light lunch, conversation and an occasional program. The next Senior Lunches are scheduled for February 8 and March 15. The cost for lunch is \$10.

We are still working on some "hands-on ministry" opportunities—exploring ways a small group of seniors could help sort groceries at the New York Common Pantry, and possibly gather school supplies or other types of relief kits. – Beverly A. Bartlett



MAPCOTTers at the New York Historical Society, October 3

NEW MEMBERS



CESAR ROCHEZ



CHRIS DE LA CRUZ



KAY SEO



EUGNEIA CHOI



KALPANA DAVID

THE CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE

The Church of Gethsemane has been in existence for 28 years. The church began as a worshipping fellowship in the New York City Presbytery in February 1985, became a New Church Development in 1986 and was incorporated as a congregation of the presbytery in 1989.

Gethsemane was created by and for incarcerated persons and formerly incarcerated persons, their families, neighborhood persons and people who feel called into ministry with the poor. In solidarity, the church seeks justice for the world and the empowerment of the Christian gospel in people's lives. The congregation thrives on its diversity and values its inclusiveness. No one is turned away. All are welcome. Its members strive to create a spiritual community that comforts and challenges, struggles and sustains, heals and liberates. They strive to value people for who they are, which frees them to struggle for who they and the world might become.

The Church of Gethsemane is a church where people who have been disinherited and disempowered by the world have moved from the margins to the center of religious life, where their life experiences are valued and their stories are heard. In worship and in community life, the church focuses on the empowerment of previously unheard voices to participate fully in the life of the church.

Although the Church of Gethsemane is located in Brooklyn, the congregation comes from the 5 boroughs of New York City and especially from what are termed the "Seven Neighborhoods". These are neighborhoods in the metropolitan area from which most of the New York State prison population originates. When newly-released prisoners return to the city, they can come to Gethsemane, become active members of the congregation, participate in its Re-Entry Support Group and receive referrals and resources.

Project Connect is a successful 26-year-old program of The Church of Gethsemane that connects men and women who are incarcerated to a faith community outside the prison system. There are currently over 125 Project Connect members in prison who directly benefit from this outreach program of monthly letter writing, prison visits and care packages and who have the option of taking a 7-part Membership Correspondence Course. There are 20 members in the Project Connect Re-Entry Peer Support Group. As word spreads about the Re-Entry Support Group, new members are joining each week.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Collect food for the Food Pantry
- Join in prison visits
- Assist with referrals for housing and employment for formerly incarcerated persons recommended by the church
- Provide professional legal assistance, budget planning, resume writing
- Participate in the annual Mother's Day Public Awareness event and volunteer to assemble origami flowers for the event

Gethsemane values its ties with Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, including grants from Outreach Ministries and Christmas gifts for our annual Children's Christmas Party. These children are the forgotten victims of the criminal justice system.

To learn more about the church and its ministry, go to www.thechurchofgethsemane.org. To view a trailer of a new documentary about Gethsemane or to order a DVD, access www.gethsemanefilm.com. — *Mary-Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Elder, Church of Gethsemane*



Left: The diverse congregation of The Church of Gethsemane.

Right: Chibueze Okorie, Minister of Evangelism, takes volunteers to visit Project Connect Members who are in nearby prisons and jails.



IN ACTION

OUR CHURCH HOME, A WORD IN ACTION MARGARET S. PEPONIS SUNDAY OCTOBER 26, 2014

Good morning, everyone!

At each of our morning services on Sundays, Fred or another pastor shares with the congregation concerns of the Church and invites anyone present who does not have a “church home” in the city to make Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church his or her home.

This always resonates with me because I have come to think of our Church, in a way, as my home, because, like my actual home, the Church (the place, the people) provides a feeling of welcome, safety, acceptance, inspiration and peace. When it comes to stewardship, these feelings exert a very strong pull, motivating me to do my part to take care of our “church home”.

Each of us works hard to create and maintain homes for ourselves and/or our families. If I don’t take care of my home, who will? I feel a similar desire and duty to contribute financially to support and strengthen our Church. If the members and friends of this Church do not take care of our Church, who will?

Unlike our own homes, however, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church is much more than a private refuge...it is an institution whose mission and work extends well beyond the physical bounds of our space and our neighborhood. Our financial contributions support and strengthen our Church’s mission and outreach ministries, opening the doors of our church home to others, some very far away. And they will help us, as the statement of our mission says, “build a community of God’s love, justice and mercy, trusting God to lead us into faithfulness.”

Please think of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church as your home and please think of our need to care for it and its work when you make your pledge for this coming year.



WORD IN ACTION BY JULIAN C. SCHROEDER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014

Whether we have a little or a lot, money can be isolating. Sadly, we see this every day, whether with respect to individual lives or in our more prosperous society, as we have a diminished sense of community, less need to reach out to others. Our responsibility as Christians is to use money to reach out for a closer connection with God and a closer connection with our fellow human beings. This is the deeper meaning of generosity, to share God’s joy with our fellow sisters and brothers and, in so doing, God’s joy is reflected in our own lives.

In Psalm 30, the petitioner boasts, “As for me, I said in my prosperity, ‘I shall never be moved.’
But God hides his face.

And the petitioner asks, “What profit is there in my death if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?”

Money, alone, eventually turns to lifeless dust. But it doesn’t have to be that way. We can use it now to bring Christ’s healing to everyone.

I quote from Marilynne Robinson’s most recent book, *Lila*.

“[W]hen you [do] a good thing it should seem to come from God, not from you. It should not feel to other people like your goodness, and it should not feel that way to you either. Any good thing is less good the more any human being lays claim to it.” (p 32)

In making our Stewardship commitment this year, let’s think of our lives, including our money, as God’s. How does God want us to use our resources and our money to heal a torn world? To spread God’s message of peace and justice? In taking ourselves out of the consideration, money is no longer isolating. We are free to spread God’s joy to our sisters and brothers, and, thus, facilitate reconciliation and sharing in our community. Then, God’s joy is spread to everyone, including ourselves.



YOUR MISSION DOLLARS

THE "MISSION" IN MAPC MISSION FUND: GROUNDED IN FAITH, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Keeping with tradition at MAPC, a portion of MAPC Mission Fund gifts will support partnership ministries of the church internationally, locally and within the denomination (nationally or locally). The first allocation of the fund was made a few months ago to help TEEZ, the Theological Education by Extension in Zambia, purchase a much needed new truck. The previous vehicle was no longer running, and the TEEZ ministry suffered as a result. The new vehicle (pictured below) was purchased in August and will enable TEEZ to continue its ministry and assure our Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellows are operating in a safe vehicle. Though Fred Anderson and Don Wahlig had to cancel their planned trip to Zambia to review plans to build a new apartment to house the Global Ministry Fellows during their stay and also serve as an income generator for TEEZ, that project is still being worked on, utilizing Fellow Andy Smothers on site as well as Skype and other internet technology, and a proposal is planned for review before the end of this year.

Session also recently approved the Mission Allocation Subcommittee's recommendation of a \$50,000 gift to the Synod of Harare to partner with them in building a new church in downtown Harare with a 50/50 dollar-for-dollar match. A photo of the groundbreaking ceremony that was held last month is pictured to the right.

Next, the Mission Allocation Subcommittee will review opportunities to use the mission tithe to support projects and partnerships in New York City and the United States. Currently under discussion is a youth mission trip to Iowa to help a Native American reservation there. The trip would be in partnership with several Iowa churches we collaborated with previously on a youth mission project in Queens. Please stay tuned for future updates on how the MAPC Mission Fund will help us continue to serve communities locally and around the world.

— Dr. Fred R. Anderson

For more information on the MAPC Mission Fund: Grounded in Faith, Embracing the Future, please

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From Left: Shiny New Toyota for TEEZ; Moderator Pattison Chirongo offers prayer of dedication at the new Harare Church groundbreaking



The Pastors and congregation look on as Abusa Pattison Chirongo breaks ground on Synod of Harare's new church.

PARTNERSHIP

JOIN THE
DELEGATION
TO ZIMBABWE
IN MARCH, 2015!



Festal Procession Greet MAPC Delegation

As part of MAPC's historic partnership with the synod of Harare, we will be sending a delegation to visit our friends and partners in ministry in Zimbabwe in March, 2015, to encourage them in their ministries and to be encouraged and inspired by what we see and learn. Current plans call for the group to leave from JFK airport on Thursday morning, March 12, returning on Saturday morning, March 21. This will be a very special trip, as it will be Fred Anderson's last visit to Zimbabwe as MAPC's Pastor.

The group will travel from Harare, where we will stay with local families, to see CCAP congregations along the way to beautiful Victoria Falls. En route, we will engage in worship and Bible study with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Christ, an experience which has made a deep impact on the faith of many MAPC folks who've gone on previous trips. We are monitoring closely the current situation with regard to the Ebola epidemic in Western Africa, and, though it is far away—Africa is a large continent!—and has not affected Zimbabwe as of this writing, we will adjust our plans as necessary. But for now, plan on joining us. Speak with anyone from MAPC who has previously been a member of one of these mission trips, and you will learn how it can deepen your faith and change your life. Please let Don Wahlig know if you are interested in learning more about this trip!

— Donald B. Wahlig

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS

JOIN US FOR THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS!



Sunday, December 14, 4 pm

10th Annual Carol Sing
Saint Andrew Chorale & MAPC Children's Choir
New York City Children's Chorus
Fred & Questa Anderson, readers
Andrew Henderson & Mary Huff, conductors
Free Admission!

Thursday, December 18, 11:15 am

Day School Christmas Chapel

Sunday, December 21 – 4th Sunday of Advent

9 & 11:15 am: Services for the Lord's Day
10:10 am: Annual Christmas Pageant, Parish Hall
7:30 pm: Candlelight Communion, Dana Chapel

Wednesday, December 24

5 pm: Christmas Eve Family Service
10:30 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service (Prelude begins at 10:15 pm)
Choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, with Strings & Harp

Thursday, December 25

11:15 am: Service of Lessons and Carols
Carols & Anthems sung by the Choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 28 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

9 & 11:15 am: Services for the Lord's Day
7:30 pm: Candlelight Communion, Dana Chapel

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

In this Advent and Christmas season, we celebrate the coming of God incarnate, the one true light and the world's greatest hope.

The light of Christ shines on us even as it illuminates the world's greatest needs, calling us to act as Christ's faithful disciples to alleviate that suffering. Since the Christmas Joy Offering was first received in Presbyterian churches in the 1930s, this has been its goal: to support efforts to shine the One True Light of Christ's love on the poor in circumstance and the poor in spirit.

As we do each year, we will receive the annual Christmas Joy Offering during both services on Christmas Eve. Gifts made to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed equally, to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, and to help provide student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic schools and colleges.

So, whether through scholarships that allow impoverished Native American and African American children, youth and young adults to attend school, or to provide assistance grants to help pastors and their spouses pay their medical bills and stay in their homes, our gifts to this annual offering can make a real difference in the lives of some of the poorest of the poor.

There are two ways to participate in this offering. You can give online anytime at the MAPC website, clicking on the "Giving" tab on the home page and then selecting the Christmas Joy Offering from the drop-down list. You can also use the envelopes in our worship bulletins on Christmas Eve.

Whichever you decide is the best way for you, please support this offering with glad and generous hearts, motivated by all God has done for you in Jesus Christ. – *Beverly A. Bartlett*



From Left: Debbie Keith, David Carleton, Marina Seyffert, Lauren Gee, Amalie Seyffert.

SAINT ANDREWS MUSIC SOCIETY WINTER EVENTS

Sunday, December 7, 3 pm

Music on Madison: Eugenia Choi, violin & Henry Wong Doe, piano

Sunday, December 14, 4 pm

10th Annual Carol Sing

Sunday, January 11, 3 pm

Music on Madison: Vassily Primakov & Natalia Lavrova, piano duo

Sunday, February 8, 3 pm

Music on Madison: Katherine Wessinger, soprano & Helen Karloski, mezzo-soprano

Sunday, March 1, 3 pm

Music on Madison: Nadejda Viaeva, piano.

Sunday, March 15, 3 pm

Music on Madison: Elora Festival Singers; Noel Edison, conductor

Thursday, March 19, 7:30 pm

Music on Madison: Juilliard415, with guest Rachel Podger, violinist

Sunday, March 22, 3 pm

Music on Madison: Peter Vinograde, piano

Sunday, March 29, 3 pm

Professional Choir of MAPC with the Saint Andrew Orchestra: Bach Cantatas & Motets.

All events take place in the Sanctuary

COME TO THE MAPC ANNUAL JANUARY CABARET

This year's Cabaret will be Friday evening, January 30, and, once again, the entertainment will be provided by our own talented musicians—four of our professional singers from the choir and MAPC members and pianists David Carleton and Carol Kechulius. The theme for the evening is “A Night in Vienna” and will include portions of the Liebeslieder Waltzes and other musical selections from various ages and genres—a little Kurt Weill, perhaps? Maybe something from the musical “Cabaret”? Or Strauss’ “Die Fledermaus”? Come find out! We’ll start with appetizers in the Church House Lobby at 6:30 pm, then move downstairs for a sumptuous dinner and entertainment. The cost for the evening is \$40. Where else in NYC can you enjoy a good meal and music for that? Reservations are required, and we need to receive your payment to hold your seat at the table. It’s not too early to let us know you’re coming! RSVP to Maria Soto in the church offices, mts@mapc.com, or 212-288-8920 x8479.





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CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Session of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, February 1, 2015, in the Parish Hall, immediately following the 11:15 am worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect new officers for the Session, Deacons and Trustees classes of 2018, to receive a financial report on the church's work in 2014, vote on recommended changes in pastors' salaries for 2015, and receive reports on the work of the three boards, including the approved operating budget for 2015. In addition, Dr. Anderson will ask the congregation to approve and recommend to the Presbytery of New York City that his request for the pastoral relationship between MAPC and himself be dissolved, May 30, 2015, and that he be granted Honorably Retired status in the presbytery effective that date.