

MAPC

LIFE

THE MAGAZINE OF MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | SPRING 2016

PARTNERSHIPS
WITH ZIMBABWE
AND ZAMBIA

LENTEN
REFLECTIONS

MUSIC
MINISTRY
AT MAPC



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,



This issue of MAPC Life arrives in your hands midway through Lent and near a fast-approaching Easter. It is appropriately timed, I think. What other time could be more symbolically useful as we look at the mission of the church which we are doing here? For Christians are a pilgrim people. They are not tourists who wander from sight to sight, collecting experiences and then returning to the comfort of whatever modern caravansary they might be occupying. Pilgrims, instead, walk the whole way and put a lot of effort into that walking. The effort is what makes them, not what they have captured through the lens of a camera. They, unlike tourists, have a goal, which is the new life found in Easter. They also have a route, which is the coming to grips with who our real selves are in God; and that is Lent. And they have to guide them along their route a purpose—a pole star—that leads them through their journey. It is in the light of that purpose that they see what is around them, and all that they pass by.

It is that purpose that constitutes our pilgrimage that holds together the various parts of our church's life as we present it here. And what a lot of parts there are!

As you begin, I invite you to think on Beverly's meditation on

Lent to set the tone of the season. Let me then highlight the feature on Andrew Henderson and Mary Huff, our music directors. Music is an important part of life here at MAPC and we justly celebrate it. But it doesn't just happen, and it isn't just about an experience. It is a decidedly important part of our mission – our mission to the community around us, to serving our central task of worshiping God, to being a key part of our educational program. Mary's and Andrew's musical talents are quite apparent; but the hard work they put into music as mission should not be overlooked. As in everything we do, that dedication is crucial to our having a mission.

We are also fortunate to have Andy Smothers back from Africa and to have his reflections on his time there on our behalf. And, I would add, as we are saddened by Don Wahlig's departure to accept a call to serve as pastor of the Silver Springs Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania, we are also blessed in the abilities and energies Andy has brought to ensure that the mission tasks in Outreach and Evangelism for which Don had been responsible, continue to go on seamlessly. We welcome Andy as part of our staff at 921 Madison Avenue. Make sure you get to know him better.

As for the important role of education, both young and adult, Chris De La Cruz reports on all that has been going on there in recent months as well as what is coming up, including the mission trip to Iowa this summer. Laura Graham tells us about

what is going on in the Day School.

We are not without our celebrations, either. You can see the beginning of the pilgrimage with a look back at Christmas, and also at the various Congregational Nurture Committee activities that have happened and that are on the horizon.

Finally, let me note two important ongoing activities that will make a great difference in determining the quality of our future steps. First is the Mission Study Review. As it now comes to a close, the final report will give us a sense of who we are, and where we have come from. That will help tell us a lot about where we are going, especially as it talks about the hopes and dreams of so many who took part in the small group discussions. As we then move to the step of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee, and as it begins its search, because of this report we will have a good sense of what sort of person is needed to lead us in the further journey. Second is a report on the Mission Fund. We are in a stage with this campaign wherein we are now trying to enlist the help of all the members of the church, and all contributors big and small. Our successful completion of this campaign will make it that much easier to continue down the pilgrim's route. Please be a part of it.

With wishes for a Holy Lent



SPRING 2016

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And the following were elected at the February 7 Annual Meeting:

Lauren Logan (to fill an unexpired term, Class of 2017)
 Nancy DeBono (Class of 2019, second term)
 Elle Clymer (Class of 2019, second term)
 Nancy Hauber (Class of 2019, second term)
 Jennifer Doyle Lennox (Class of 2019, second term)
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 Katie Keiley (Class of 2019, first term)
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 Greyson Clymer (Class of 2017), Chair of Stewardship Committee, Vice-Chair of Evangelism Committee
 Curtis Field, Vice Clerk (Class of 2018), Chair of Zimbabwe Partnership Committee
 Edmund Herrold (Class of 2018), Vice-Chair of Personnel Committee
 William Hinrichs (Class of 2017), Vice-Chair of Christian Education Committee
 Kristin Hohmann (Class of 2016), Vice-Chair of Christian Education Committee
 Barbara Iverson (Class of 2018), Vice-Chair of Christian Education Committee
 Carol Kechulius (Class of 2017), Chair of Worship and Music Committee
 Daniel Klein (Class of 2016), Chair of Outreach Committee
 Robert MacNeill (Class of 2016), Vice-chair of Evangelism Committee
 Jeffrey Miller (Class of 2018), Chair of Evangelism Committee
 Margaret Peponis (Class of 2017), Chair of Day School Committee
 Vicki Schmelzer (Class of 2016), Chair of Congregational Nurture Committee and Chair of Congregational Nominating Committee
 Martha Scotzin (Class of 2017), Vice Chair of Outreach Committee
 Robin Weaver (Class of 2016), Clerk of Session

And the following were elected at the February 7 Annual Meeting:

Kathy Hoffman (to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2018)
 Kristin Hohmann (Class of 2019, second term)
 Kate Baier (Class of 2019, first term)
 Greg Ballard (Class of 2019, first term)
 Laura Burg (Class of 2019, first term)
 Carolyn Clark (Class of 2019, first term)
 Brent Jones (Class of 2019, first term)



Newly elected Elders, Deacons and Trustees after the Annual Meeting, from left to right: Nancy DeBono, Nancy Hauber, Kathy Hoffman, Katie Keiley, Lauren Logan, Maggie Mills, Greg Ballard, Kathy Reichardt, Fred MacEachron, and Laura Iverson Burg.

OBSERVING A HOLY LENT: TAKING A LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

B

y the time this magazine reaches your hands, we will be nearing Holy Week and Easter. How are you doing with your Lenten disciplines? Did you make a special commitment to help you observe “A Holy Lent”? Perhaps you “gave up” something for Lent, or “took on” a Lenten discipline or practice, only to have it fall by the wayside in the midst of life’s daily press of work, chores, family time, and everything else that demands a piece of each day? I am among the worst at following through on resolutions, spiritual disciplines and practices. If you are like me, let’s start again and make the end of Lent a meaningful, spiritual pilgrimage.

Pilgrimage is a good metaphor for the season of Lent. While pilgrimages have a destination—usually a holy site of some sort—it is the journey itself that holds the most meaning. On pilgrimage we take time to reflect, pray, engage in self-examination, re-direct ourselves, and grow in our knowledge and experience of God. We arrive at our destination, the sacred site, changed in some way—or in many ways—with a deeper understanding of who we are as a child of God, how God is present in our lives, and what God is calling us to.

The destination of the Lenten pilgrimage is, of course, Easter, the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the triumph of life over death. The Lenten pilgrimage itself is one of repentance. Repentance is the primary theme of Lent: turning around, changing course, leaving behind what keeps us from faithfulness, what gets in the way of our relationship with God, and turning to God once again. People engage in this pilgrimage of repentance in many different ways: by “giving something up”—making a sacrifice, or fasting, in order to draw their attention back to what really matters. Fasting is a discipline that reminds us of our dependence upon God. Others “take something on” for Lent—perhaps a new practice of prayer or contemplation; or a commitment to serve Christ by serving others, engaging in a “hands on” ministry; or a pledge to read scripture or a devotional text every day; or to practice a “random act of kindness” each day. If you made a Lenten resolution or commitment and have managed to stick to it, good for you! If you have not, it’s not too late!

Here are some suggestions of spiritual disciplines to help even very busy people observe a Holy Lent, or take a meaningful Lenten pilgrimage:

— Sit in silent prayer for at least five minutes upon waking each morning, or during a mid-day break. You will be surprised at how quickly those five minutes pass, and how you want to extend them to ten, and even more!

— At the end of each day, practice a brief form of the ancient Ignatian practice of Daily Examen: simply ask, “When was I most aware of God’s presence today?” And, “When was I least aware of God’s presence?”

— Tape a list of people you would like to pray for to your bathroom mirror. Pray for them as you get ready for the day, and as you get ready for bed at the end of the day.

— Read a Psalm, or a portion of a Psalm each day. Or read through the gospel of Mark between now and Easter. With one chapter a day, you’ll make it!

— As you walk to the bus, the subway, or the corner to catch a taxi, use those steps to breathe deeply and be aware of God’s Spirit within you. As you are walking or waiting on the sidewalk, really notice the world around you: the trees, the people—each one a child of God, the color of the sky, pigeons dancing in flight, small architectural details that manifest the creativity God instilled in each of us.

— As you make your way home each evening, think about one thing you could have done differently that day to better reflect the love of Christ.

— Stop for brief moments throughout your day to say the “Jesus Prayer”—breathe in, saying to yourself, “Lord, Jesus Christ”, and exhale saying, “have mercy on me.” Then return to your work with a greater awareness of God’s presence.

— During Holy Week read through the passion narrative of one of the gospels, imaginatively walking the road to the cross with Jesus, (Matthew 26:1 – 27:66; Mark 14:1 – 15:47; Luke 22:1 – 23:56; or John 18:1 – 19:4).

— Attend at least one of the Holy Week services, so you don’t skip over the passion altogether, going from Palm Sunday to Easter. The schedule of Holy Week services is on the back cover of this magazine.

Whether you choose from these suggestions, or have your own inspiration for a Lenten practice, may these next two weeks be a time of holy pilgrimage for you: a period of repentance, of self-examination, of turning anew to God. Your celebration of Easter will have more depth, meaning and joy for having engaged in a spiritual pilgrimage through Lent and Holy Week. - *Beverly Bartlett*



FROM THE
MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DAY SCHOOL
DIRECTOR
LAURA GRAHAM

E

very child has a human right to the gifts of nature and play. The Day School encourages a child's instinctual connection to nature through the materials and experiences offered in the classrooms, on the Roof Garden and when out on class trips to Central Park. We deeply believe that children learn best by using their senses. Nature provides the perfect outlet to use each sense to its fullest.

Childhood is a special time in one's life when the world is full of possibility and discovery. There is a growing body of research on how nature benefits children's development. Other studies show that a love of nature and a caring, ethical attitude toward the environment develop when children have regular time to play in and explore the natural world. Nature helps to calm and focus children, enabling them to form and strengthen those relationships with their world that are so important to their development.

Natural materials are brought into the classrooms to inspire children to follow their own curiosity, imagination and interests. Questions and observations with nature stimulate children's critical thinking and problem-solving techniques. They are also a medium for counting, sorting and organizing. Teachers support and extend children's ideas and suggest ways for them to revisit their explorations and build upon their relationship with natural materials. There are bountiful opportunities for children to use natural materials as art tools in the creative process. Seashells, twigs, wood, feathers and stones are palettes for composition and collections. Shadow, light, color and water explorations are investigatory work that delight and nurture children as they build personal and collective relationships with the world around them.

Bringing the natural world into a child's life also plays an important role in children's spiritual development. Nature evokes feelings of being valued, respected and special. It brings a child closer to the beauty of our world and a sense of the sacred and connectedness with others.

Children are an endless reminder to be joyful, fearless and to cherish every small moment life offers us. One day a five year old was digging for worms, holding them in his palm and letting them go back to their home in the earth. After moments of quiet contemplation, he said, "Habitats are beautiful; I wish I was a worm."



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

20S/30S BIBLE STUDY



SUNDAY ADULT ED



CHURCH SCHOOL

WORSHIP



KIDS CLUB



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PIZZA & GAME NIGHT

YOUTH MISSION PARTNERS TRIP INDIANA AND TRIENNIUM | JULY 16-23, 2016

WE'RE GOING TO INDIANA!

In 2014, MAPC invited young people from Iowa churches to help rebuild homes affected by Hurricane Sandy. Last year, MAPC went to Iowa to help with rural communities affected by flooding, the post-2008 crash, and endemic poverty.

For the summer of 2016, we've decided to continue our partnership by trying something new. First we are going to Indiana and doing service work with our Iowa church partners. And, then, we are going together to **Triennium**, a national gathering of Presbyterian youth for spiritual growth and retreat.

WHAT IS TRIENNIUM, AND WHY?

Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which takes place every three years, brings together high schoolers from all across the country. This is an opportunity for our young people to see they are not alone as Christians in the country and to be spiritually renewed. There are large talks, small groups, fun activities and games, and opportunities to deepen our relationship with God and one another.

The Iowa churches and MAPC will go as one joint delegation to Purdue University, and we expect to have accommodations in the same location.

WHY CONTINUE THE PARTNERSHIP?

Within the past two years, our young people have formed great relationships with our Iowan partners, FPC Spirit Lake and FPC Lake Park, and everyone has expressed desire to deepen those ties.

From a spiritual standpoint, our work and friendships bring New Yorkers and Iowans, people from halfway across the country, together serving as the one body of Christ. Differences of culture and location are celebrated while also seen as less important than our unity in Jesus Christ. - *Christopher De La Cruz*



SPECIAL EVENTS AT MAPC



CAROL SING

One of the most popular events in our Saint Andrew Music Society concert series is our December Carol Sing. Our 11th Annual Carol Sing on December 13 featured over 100 performers, including 73 choristers from our New York City Children's Chorus. With approximately 475 in the audience, we truly raised the roof with a host of favorite audience carols! Two of MAPC's professional singers, Desirée Baxter and Rod Gomez, read poetry and seasonal readings; the NYCCC sang excerpts from Britten's A Ceremony of Carols; and the Choir of MAPC sang works by Rutter and Saint-Saëns, accompanied by strings and harp.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's Christmas Pageant was a great team effort from our parents, elders, Church School teachers, pastors and most of all our kids! Sharon Boersma and Barbara Iverson put together a script that split up our children by ages, so that each group had the opportunity to tell the story in their own age-appropriate ways. Highlights include Joseph's Woody-Allen-esque musings over the baby news, played by 4th-grader Elliot Henderson, and our angel shouting "Surprise!" to shock our little preschooler shepherds, played by Day Schooler Charlotte Peponis.

CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAUX

Every year, our children help tell the Christmas story through their costumed performances, while our pastors narrate. This wonderful worship service in the main sanctuary brings families in throughout the neighborhood to experience together the story of God's love for the world in Jesus Christ. We are grateful, as always, for the children and parents who make this happen.

MAPC DAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CHAPEL

On December 17 the Day School gathered in the Sanctuary to celebrate with nine alumni of the Day School telling the nativity story. Beverly Bartlett participated, as did Andrew Henderson, who assisted MAPCDS music specialist Laura Liben in leading the children in singing many seasonal songs.

MAPCDS MLK DAY

On January 14 the whole school community gathered in the Sanctuary to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. This is a significant occasion as well as an opportunity to help children develop a healthy respect for differences of all kinds so they don't interpret them judgmentally. We regard Dr. King as a true hero, an extraordinary model of compassion, integrity and courage. Young children are innately concerned about fairness and justice, as exemplified by Dr. King's life and work, and this is one of the many ways we are helping them develop an ethical viewpoint.



CABARET

The MAPC Annual Cabaret was held on Friday evening, January 29. Church members and friends enjoyed a night in Savannah with a southern feast and chanteuse Minda Larsen's tribute to Johnny Mercer.

Above, left: Our catering staff member, Jewel Brimage, serves wine to Edward Kleinert, Marty Scotzin and Cesar Rochez at the Cabaret.

Above, right: Ruth Schroeder and Lisa Chickering enjoy the reception hour before the Cabaret.



ADVENT RETREAT AT MAPC

Thirteen people participated in the Advent Retreat at MAPC on Saturday, December 5 led by Associate Pastor Beverly Bartlett. Beginning at 9 am, we gathered for coffee and bagels, then moved to the Dana Chapel to hear the first of three talks Beverly had prepared reflecting on the major characters of Advent: John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph. Periods of silence for individual prayer and reflection were interspersed within the talks, participants had an opportunity to use a labyrinth as a form of walking prayer and to share their insights, and the group enjoyed fellowship together over lunch. The retreat ended at 3 pm, with participants feeling restored, inspired and ready for Advent!



SNOWPOCALYPSE 2016

Our building staff Alvin Ceralde and Rafael Liriano, hard at work early Sunday morning, January 24, clearing away 26.8 inches of snow so we can get to church! Thank you Alvin and Rafael!

Our Bi-ennial Wine and Food Tasting at the Manse Friday, April 8, 7 pm

It's back! This is one of our most popular fellowship events—the wine and food pairing at the Manse. We'll have 4 or 5 different wines to sample from a specific country or region, paired with delicious morsels prepared by MAPC members who love to cook! Come enjoy a spring evening of good fellowship and delicious wine and food—with the unbeatable views of Central Park from the Manse windows! Thanks to Eric and Brenda Springsted for opening their home for this well-loved event. The cost for the evening is \$35, and reservations can be made after worship on Sundays during coffee hour in the Church House Lobby, or with Maria Soto in the church offices, mts@mapc.com, or 212-288-8920 x8479.



MORE THAN I EXPECTED IN AFRICA AND ASIA BY ANDREW SMOTHERS

First, I want to thank the congregation for an incredible opportunity to teach in Africa and to travel back to New York City through the Global South. The experience has been more than I could have imagined—a time of great growth, an opportunity to build confidence, and a constant learning experience.

I also bring greetings from our partners in Zambia and Zimbabwe; it was obvious to me that our partners deeply appreciate our relationships with them.

As most of you are aware, the majority of my time away was spent in Zambia. My primary responsibilities were teaching the Tutor's and the African Indigenous Christian Counseling (AICC) courses for Theological Education by Extension in Zambia (TEEZ) in various parts of Zambia. TEEZ partners with nine denominations in Zambia to train lay people to lead in congregations where the pastor cannot be present regularly. Being aware that individual pastors have been assigned five to even eighty-three churches simultaneously, I recognized that the need continues to be great for the training we offer. The AICC course was my favorite as it prepared lay people to provide counseling in a nation wrestling with many challenges. Through the devaluing of African culture during colonial times and the substantial stress that nations and people face, African identity and culture has been dismembered. Through the course, we invited students to re-member Africa — to bring back African cultural practices that are consistent with scripture. We also introduced some non-African psychological methods that are generally consistent with the community-focus of African culture. This is followed by practical units focused on rebuilding communities and offering pre-marital, marital, and family counseling among other skills. I had the opportunity to teach nine programs around Zambia, spanning six provinces.

Each fellow in the program brings unique experiences and skills to the ministry. My engineering background allowed me to address some long-standing computer challenges at TEEZ. I also had the unique opportunity of overseeing the building of a duplex that MAPC graciously funded for TEEZ. This duplex will house future fellows, and Tyler Orem is now living in this facility. The second half of the building will be used as a funding stream for TEEZ as they rent the two-bedroom flat. For me, it was challenging in two significant ways. First, my previous engineering experience focused on developing handheld computer/communication systems and Intel-based computers — not on building large structures. To prepare for one meeting with our builder, I was searching the web for standard practices for preparing concrete, demonstrating my lack of background. Second, I was building in a culture that was not my own — one that was person-oriented rather than task-oriented, with building materials and practices different than I had used and observed here in the USA. We had a wonderful builder, however, who did much to keep us on schedule in an environment that was very unpredictable at times. As a result, the duplex was very close to completion upon my departure.

I also had the joy of orienting Tyler Orem, our ninth Global Ministry Fellow, and I'm excited to learn over the next several months what he does with degrees in both divinity/theology and social work. His input into the AICC course could be particularly valuable.

As fellows, we also have the opportunity to travel back to the USA through the global south for about 2.5 months. My travels took me through Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Oman, Singapore, Indonesia, and the United Arab Emirates. I've been able to share some significant stories from my experience in my adult education programs; I have space to share two briefly here.

With thanks to former Senior Pastor Fred Anderson, I visited the Al Amana Centre, a ministry of the Reformed Church of America, in Muscat, Oman. Unexpectedly, upon arrival, I was invited by the Associate Director of the Centre to attend a meeting they had with a close advisor to the Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, where they pitched an idea to host workers from agencies in Europe supporting Syrian refugees. They would come to Oman to learn about Muslim culture and Islam to better support refugees.

In Indonesia, I met with one of our PCUSA Mission Co-Workers, Bernie Adeney-Risakotta, who helped found and teach an inter-religious PhD program that partners state, Muslim, and Christian universities.

I'm also excited to be back in New York City to continue my PTGMF responsibilities, but also to take on many of Don Wahlig's former responsibilities after his transition to Pennsylvania. If you'd like to discuss my experiences further, I'd be glad to share more. I'd also enjoy hearing about travel experiences you have had and to learn more about you.

TEEZ DUPLEX IN KITWE, ZAMBIA

For several years, Global Ministry Fellows have been housed on the campus of the United Church of Zambia University College, which is next to Theological Education by Extension in Zambia (TEEZ) where they work. The college is expanding its programs and informed TEEZ that they may no longer be able to house the Fellows. To ensure available housing, MAPC funded the construction of a duplex in Kitwe next to the TEEZ Director's house. Future Fellows will live on one side, and the other side will provide rental income for TEEZ. Our current fellow, Tyler Orem, has moved into the duplex and reports it's working well for him. His gardener, Emmanuel, is starting a garden and a lawn in front of the duplex. Tyler also reports hot showers are normally available in the house — a true blessing in Zambia.

- Andy Smothers



ZIMBABWE PASTOR-IN-RESIDENCE & DELEGATION ARRIVING IN NYC IN APRIL

MAPC has welcomed pastors and delegations from the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Synod of Harare (Zimbabwe) and sent delegations to Zimbabwe for several years. This spring, we're looking forward to welcoming both a Pastor-In-Residence and a delegation to NYC.

We look forward to welcoming Abusa (Reverend) Alexander Malemelo as our Pastor-In-Residence on April 2. Abusa Malemelo and his wife, Mary, have three daughters and a son. Originally from the Highland township of Harare, he trained as a primary school teacher and taught from 1983 to 1994, when he sensed a call into ministry. Since that time, he has served three churches in the CCAP Synod of Harare and has held several leadership positions. He currently serves as Vice-Moderator of the Synod of Harare and as the pastor of the Zengeza CCAP Congregation. We are beginning to plan his itinerary and would welcome you to volunteer to take him to dinner or to other activities during his stay. Abusa Malemelo will stay with us until around May 2 when he will join our denomination's Zambia/Zimbabwe/Mozambique (ZZM) mission network conference in New Jersey, before returning to Zimbabwe on May 5.

Overlapping with the Pastor-in-Residence's stay in New York City will be a delegation of about 6 Zimbabweans staying here from April 23 to May 2. We are also planning an agenda for them through which we can share experiences in ministry and in life and introduce them to New York City culture and sites.

If you would be interested in providing housing to members of our delegation, joining them for activities around New York City, or inviting our Pastor-in-Residence to activities, please contact Andy Smothers by email at ads@mapc.com. - Andy Smothers

HARARE CITY CHURCH

Work continues on City Church in the city of Harare, Zimbabwe. MAPC provided significant but partial funding for this structure for the CCAP Synod of Harare after discovering the synod does not have a church near the city center. Construction on the walls has re-started after additional funds were raised, and Andy Smothers reports looking at tiles and ordering windows with General-Secretary Libias Boloma when he was in Harare in September.



THE INTERIM PERIOD: MISSION REVIEW UPDATE

The

Mission Review Committee at the end of January finished its small group session discussions. While the point of these discussions was, in the first place, to help determine what the mission of MAPC currently is, and then what it will be in the future, the exercise also had numerous other benefits. Participants reported how helpful these sessions were to get to know people they did not know before, and to know better ones they did. They also appreciated being asked about what they thought the church was doing, and about the church's future.

The Committee is currently working hard at putting together all its findings from many different sources and producing a report. This report is not to make recommendations, but to lay out what we have discerned the church's mission to be. That will help us determine the sort of pastor we need to lead in that mission. Once completed, the report will be brought to Session and to the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of New York. When the report is approved by both bodies, we will move into the next phase of the search process, the selection of a Pastor Nominating Committee. The current Nominating Committee of the congregation is responsible for this and will be soliciting recommendations. A special congregational meeting will be called when they have determined their nominees, and, once elected, the Pastor Nominating Committee will be off and running. The congregation will be kept up to date on the process as it goes along.

An additional transitional issue arose upon Don Wahlig's accepting a call to serve as Pastor of Silver Springs Presbyterian Church in Mechanicsburg, PA. We wish Don well. We have been extremely blessed to have the Rev. Andy Smothers, our returning Global Ministry Fellow, accept numerous increased duties in Evangelism and Outreach so that, with some other adjustments with Beverly and Eric, all fronts are adequately covered at this point. With regard to the longer future, at its January meeting, the Session approved a search committee to look for an Interim Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Outreach. They have begun their search and expect to be able to conclude the process by June. (The search for an interim is much shorter than for an installed pastor.) By seeking an interim associate, not only will we be able to ensure pretty much seamless continuity in this position, but we also will be able to provide the next head of staff a certain degree of flexibility in determining the configuration of the church's staffing. Please keep all of these committees in your prayers.

- Eric Springsted

MISSION FUND AND STEWARDSHIP

The

Mission Fund has just entered a new phase. After raising \$4.6 million towards its goal of \$7.5 million, chiefly through directed requests to individuals, we are now seeking to include the congregation as a whole, beginning with a Word in Action delivered in worship on February 21. Two individuals have pledged together \$700,000 towards a challenge grant to get this new phase off to a strong start. That means that every dollar pledged, up to a congregational total of \$700,000, will be matched, thus, in effect, doubling all that is given. Not only are we looking to the congregation as a whole, we are now seeking contributions from the Day School parents, which will also be included in the match. A significant portion of the money is meant for infrastructure upgrades in the Day School. Ten per cent of the monies given by Day School parents will go to the Day School scholarship fund.

This is a chance for everybody in the congregation to own this endeavor and to show their commitment. For those who have not made a gift, we would hope for their participation, big or small. For those who already have made one, we would ask that they would consider making an additional gift. "I think it is important," Dr. Springsted noted, "that we be able to finish this campaign in the near future. It will lay solid foundations for MAPC over the next several years. If we do, the new pastor will be able to come in with this campaign already finished, and the work on the building having been completed or near completion. She or he will not have to start out with a new capital campaign or have to finish an old one. It would be a perfect welcome gift." The chair of the campaign, Julian Schroeder, noted in his report to the Session and Trustees: "A successful campaign will immeasurably strengthen our ability to call a strong full time pastor, as well as provide him or her with a strong financial base to work from. It is a strong demonstration of commitment by our congregation's core. It will also put us in good financial shape so we should not need another campaign for many years."

The Stewardship Committee, for its part, is reporting a strong response from the congregation with respect to 2016 pledges. They would especially like to thank all those who have made pledges for 2016 for their generosity and for their commitment to the ongoing mission of MAPC. This showing during a time of transition certainly speaks to the ongoing and deep commitment of the church's members to the church. Thank you to all the members of the committee who have worked hard to implement this campaign, and to the elders and trustees who have made and are currently making follow up calls. If you have not made a pledge yet, we would urge you to do so. It is important for both the near and long term future of the mission of this church.

- Eric Springsted

FAREWELL DON

On December 20th we said goodbye to
MAPC Associate Pastor Donald Wahlig



MUSIC MINISTRY AT MAPC



“S

o,
Andrew, what do you do besides play the organ every Sunday?”

Or, “What Is Involved in the Music Ministry of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church?”

Last fall we marked the 10th anniversary of Andrew Henderson and Mary Huff’s tenure at MAPC as Director of Music and Organist and Associate Director of Music. MAPC has a long, rich history of music ministry—the expectations and standards are high—from Sunday morning worship, to the Saint Andrew Chorale, to Sunday afternoon Music on Madison concerts, to our children’s church choir and the four-year-old New York City Children’s Chorus (NYCCC)—our members, friends, and music lovers throughout the city have long known MAPC as a home of beautiful music. What goes into preparing and offering this music? Beverly Bartlett sat down with Andrew and Mary to find out.

Andrew, what do you do besides play the organ on Sunday?

I administrate constantly! My job is largely administration:
— preparing for the Saint Andrew Music Society’s (SAMS) Music on Madison season, which is set by June.
— writing and planning for all the publicity for the series, various concerts, and special worship services.
— careful budgeting and fundraising for the church music program, SAMS, and NYCCC.
— handling the tuition accounts for all the NYCCC choristers and coordinating the tuition aid process.
— planning liturgy. The choral music for Sunday morning worship is set for the year in August, and it takes a great deal of time researching music, thinking theologically about which pieces will fit with the lectionary texts, and providing a balance of different types, styles and periods of music so we aren’t doing all the same

thing. I pick the hymns for each Sunday, as John Weaver did before me, and that is unusual in the Presbyterian Church. In order to do that I read each text, think about them, and select hymns that will be an appropriate fit.

— managing a staff of 11 people, which includes auditioning and hiring our professional octet and doing payroll.

— oh, and I design and write the program notes for the concerts.

Then of course, there is the preparation for choir and chorale rehearsals, which takes more time than the rehearsals themselves. And I accompany or assist with most of the NYCCC and MAPC Children’s Choirs rehearsals—up to 8 different rehearsals a week.

When do you find time to practice?!

Usually at night. And it is almost always “targeted” practice, not just practicing for fun. I am either practicing pieces for the coming Sunday, or an upcoming concert or recital.

Walk me through what is involved in preparing for a special week in the church year—like Holy Week and Easter.

The choral music, of course, has been planned since last August. The church choir will start rehearsing Holy Week and Easter pieces a month beforehand—I reserve part of each week’s rehearsal to work on that music. We have an extra rehearsal on the Wednesday of Holy Week, and then the choir stays to rehearse on its usual Thursday evening after singing for the Maundy Thursday service. I have a separate rehearsal with the trumpeters and percussionist for Easter morning. The Saint Andrew Chorale will have started working on their music for the Palm Sunday concert in January. There will be orchestra and dress rehearsals on Friday and Saturday for that concert, so I am learning that and conducting from the keyboard!

What else should we know about your role at MAPC?

Well, there are the building matters. Many people probably don't realize what I do in terms of caring for the building. One of the primary gifts of this position is having this beautiful apartment right here in the Church House. Not only is it a nice place to live, but living on site serves the church in many ways as well. Neither Mary nor I have to spend time commuting back and forth to work—that allows us to give far more time to the church than we could otherwise. I am also the “first responder” when there is a problem in the building: the water has gone off, or the roof tank has flooded, or an alarm has gone off, or there is a problem in the shelter. I am always “on alert” for safety issues. I walk the building at night turning off lights and making sure everything is okay—I treat the entire facility as I would my home.

I should also tell you about my involvement in the music world outside MAPC. I am the Associate Organist at Temple Emmanuel. I play for occasional services on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Playing for Sabbath services has taught me a completely different liturgical repertoire! I'm also the organ professor at Manhattan School of Music and Columbia Teacher's College, and I play occasional recitals around the city and beyond. For the last few years I have appeared with Musica Sacra and the Oratorio Society at Carnegie Hall, playing continuo for their Messiah performances, and I played with the New York Philharmonic a few years ago, making my synthesizer debut on John Cage's Short Ride on a Fast Machine! Again, these outside engagements are good for the church as well as my own career—as Fred Anderson said when I was hired, my outside work serves as continuing education—the experience I gain and what I learn enhances my work at MAPC, and it is good for the church for the outside world to see MAPC's organist involved in the larger world of music.

What do you find most satisfying or meaningful about your ministry?

Making music the best it can be, working with skilled colleagues and volunteers, and getting to play the organ for worship every Sunday. I also find liturgical planning meaningful—finding and selecting music that will fit the particular Sunday in the church year and that will complement the day's scripture readings. I read the scriptural texts for each Sunday. It isn't always possible to find hymns or choral pieces that are directly based on the lectionary texts, so to select the music I have to reflect on what the passages are saying, their key meanings. It's really theological reflection.

Mary, how about you, how do you spend your week?

I have twelve separate rehearsals each week that I am responsible for—9 for the New York City Children's Chorus and 3 with the MAPC Children's Choirs. Each of those groups has their own repertoire and requires separate planning. In addition we average two appearances/concerts a month with the NYCCC, and the MAPC Children's Choirs sing once a month during the school year.

I also manage communication with the parents of 200 children, manage two staff members and coordinate voice lessons for the children in the NYCCC program. Oh—and the sheer number of recommendations I write for children applying to kindergarten, ongoing schools, and college is staggering!

Since so much of your week is spent in rehearsals and administrative work, when do you do all the prep work for the choirs?

I spend 2 weeks of study leave each summer researching, planning, and choosing repertoire for each choir. During that time, I also create a schedule for the year for each choir.

What else is involved in your position?

Each spring I hear about 350 individual auditions for the New York City Children's Chorus—that includes every returning chorister and new applicants. And a great deal of time goes into planning the end-of-school-year tour each year for the middle and high school choristers.

Are you also involved in the music world outside of MAPC?

Yes, since I've been here I have served as secretary for the New York City chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and I am currently serving on the executive board of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. I am the chair of the education committee and part of the planning group for the Music and Worship conferences at Montreat in North Carolina.

You also substitute for Andrew when he needs a sub, right?

Yes, we are each qualified to do the other's job, but we prefer our areas of specialty. I play the organ and conduct the adult choirs when needed, and I am always present at the adult choir rehearsals to participate and help as Andrew needs it.

What do you find most satisfying about your job?

Having children sing exceptionally well! And providing special experiences for them, like singing at the nursing homes on the Upper East Side, appearing on Good Morning America, recording two CDs so far, and going on a choir tour to places like Germany and Austria. I also enjoy providing continuing education experiences in the field of children's choral singing—raising the bar by coaching directors and/or choirs, leading workshops, teaching to a wider classroom—at Montreat, in Dallas, on Long Island, in Westchester.

And I want to echo what Andrew said about our apartment and the great benefit of living in the building. Living in the church facility allows us to keep the bizarre hours we keep and still be close to our children. We can be so much more productive this way. If we didn't live in the building, the church would have to add staff to do what Andrew and I do, because we would have to spend much more time away from MAPC, commuting and being home for Elliot and Christian. The apartment is a huge support.

(Andrew chimed in again at this point.)

The other thing we both find very satisfying, and what, in part, keeps us at MAPC is the overall support and appreciation of the congregation. We have very intelligent, thoughtful listeners here. Even those who are not musicians show a deep, perceptive appreciation for the music here. People notice how things fit together and make responses that go far beyond a simple, “that was beautiful!” Though we never mind hearing that as well! We are also very fortunate to have intelligent, hard-working colleagues—the staff here has a real sense of collegiality, and you don't often find that.

Thank you Andrew and Mary for all you give to MAPC! We are grateful for your ten years of faithful ministry in this place, and look forward to many more. - *Beverly Bartlett*

THE LATEST FROM THE NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S CHORUS

MAPC's New York City Children's Chorus has had a busy 2015-2016 season! In addition to our traditional concerts at MAPC and nearby outreach concerts, the choristers had several interesting musical appearances! On Dec. 3, nine choristers filmed 12 commercial teasers for MSG Media's "Merry Knicksmas" which aired Dec. 24-25 on the MSG network. On Dec. 7, twelve choristers made their Broadway debut in "The Man Who Came to Dinner" at Roundabout Theater in a one-night only show starring Nathan Lane and Judith Light. On Dec. 24, thirty-five choristers appeared on Good Morning America in their Christmas Eve broadcast live from Times Square, and finally the NYCCC made their Carnegie Hall debut on Jan. 25, premiering a new piece, "Mortals and Angels". We look forward to our Sunday, April 17 concert at MAPC at 3 pm, "We are Family", featuring art songs by Bach, Dvorak, and Brahms; English and Irish folksongs; and Broadway favorites.

Meanwhile, sales and reviews of the new NYCCC CD, Simple Gifts, continue to be excellent. Please check out the NYCCC on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon, or in the Hood Library! - Mary Huff

BACH: ST. JOHN PASSION SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 3 PM

The Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra will mount a Palm Sunday performance of Bach's stirring and monumental St. John Passion. Composed and performed during Bach's first year as the Cantor of the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, the St. John Passion was first heard on Good Friday, 1724. The gospel account of Christ's passion and death from John's gospel account is presented through dramatically conceived recitatives and choruses, with moments of lyrical and poignant reflection in the solo arias and chorales. Our own octet tenor, Marc Molomot, will sing the role of the Evangelist; with Thomas Meglioranza, bass, singing the role of Jesus; and soloists Eliza Bagg, soprano; Helen Karloski, alto; Tommy Wazelle, tenor; and Rod Gomez, bass; Andrew Henderson, conductor. Immersing yourself in Bach's setting of the betrayal, arrest, crucifixion and death of Jesus is a reflective way for you to enter into Holy Week! Tickets may be purchased in advance online or at the door: \$25 (\$20 - Students/Seniors 62).

SONGS OF THE SPIRIT – AN MAPC HYMN FESTIVAL SUNDAY, MAY 15 AT 3 PM

To conclude its 51st Season, the Saint Andrew Music Society will mount its first Hymn Festival! Join us for an afternoon celebration of hymns – old and new, from the 4th Century to the 21st Century, the familiar and unfamiliar. Choral works based on the themes of Pentecost: wind, fire, spirit, and the birth of the church, will be interspersed throughout the program, including works by Grayston Ives and Arvo Pärt and John Rutter's contemplative anthem Veni Sancte Spiritus. Noted hymn writer and author Susan Palo Cherwien will provide thoughtful interspersed reflections. A free-will offering will be taken.

Ms. Cherwien will also offer a discussion on hymn writing as part of that Sunday morning's Adult Education series at 10:10 am.



The New York City Children's Chorus performs at Carnegie Hall

SAMS UPCOMING CONCERTS

Sunday, March 20 at 3 pm

Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra
Bach: St. John Passion

Sunday, April 3 at 3 pm

Music on Madison: Margaret Mills, piano
with Anthony Newman, organ & Westerlund String Quartet

Sunday, April 17 at 3 pm

Music on Madison: New York City Children's Chorus
We Are Family: Songs from Childhood to Adulthood

Sunday, April 24 at 3 pm

Music on Madison: An Afternoon of Opera
Arias, Duets and Trios from beloved moments in opera

Sunday, May 15 at 3 pm

Hymn Festival: Songs of the Spirit
with Susan Palo Cherwien, hymn writer and author

UPCOMING MAPC EVENTS

March 11, Middle & High Schooler Pizza and Game Night, 6 pm, Youth Lounge and Gym

March 14, Women's Fellowship Evening, 6:30 pm on the Fifth Floor

March 19, Families with Young Children, 10 am, 5th Floor or Roof Garden

March 20, Palm Sunday Brunches and Emergency Hygiene Kit Assembly

March 27, Easter Egg Hunt, 10:15 am, Roof Garden

April 1, Church Family Night, 6 pm in the Parish Hall

April 2, Pastor in Residence Alexander Malemelo arrives from Zimbabwe (here until May 5)

April 3, Senior Fellowship Lunch, 1 pm in the Parish Hall

April 8, Wine Tasting Evening, 7 pm at the Manse

April 8 & 9, Middle & High School Retreat

April 14, MAPC Day School Benefit

April 16, Families with Young Children, 10 am, Roof Garden

April 17, Adult Education by Pastor in Residence Alexander Malemelo

April 23 - May 2, Zimbabwe Visiting Delegation in NYC

April 24, Hood Library Literary Luncheon, 1 pm in the Parish Hall

April 29, Congregational Dinner with the Zimbabwe Delegation

May 1, Pastor in Residence Alexander Malemelo preaches

May 1, MAPC/Saint James Church Shelter Orientation, Shelter, 1pm

May 9, Men's Fellowship Evening, 6:30 pm on the Roof Garden

May 13, Church Family Night, 6 pm in the Parish Hall

May 15, Ordination and Installation of Officers, 11:15 am worship service

May 15, Legacy Society Luncheon, 1 pm in the Parish Hall

May 16, Moms Night Out, 7 pm

May 20, Middle & High Schooler Pizza & Game Night, 6 pm, Youth Lounge and Gym

May 21, Families with Young Children, 10 am, Roof Garden

May 22, Youth Sunday and Confirmation

May 29, Summer worship schedule begins! One morning service at 10:30 am

June 5, Senior Fellowship Lunch at 1 pm in the Parish Hall



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
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HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – March 20

9 & 11:15 am
Services of Word & Sacrament
The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted preaching
Choral Music (at 11:15 am) Mathias & Parker
3 pm – Bach: St. John Passion
Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra;
Andrew Henderson, conductor

Maundy Thursday – March 24

7 pm
Service of Word & Sacrament
with Foot Washing
Christopher N. De La Cruz preaching
Choral Music by Ola Gjeilo

Good Friday – March 25

12 to 3 pm
Meditations on the Passion According to John
Choral Music by Bach, Gesualdo, Morley,
Parker & Walton
4:30 pm – Good Friday Family Service
7:30 pm – Service of Tenebrae
Choral Music by Allegri, Chilcott & Stainer

Easter Day – March 27

9 & 11:15 am
Festival Services of Word & Sacrament
The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted preaching
Choral Music by Dirksen, Handel,
& works for Trumpets, Timpani & Organ