

# MAPC

**LIFE**

THE MAGAZINE OF MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | FALL 2016

UPDATE FROM  
**TYLER  
OREM**  
PHILLIPS TALBOT  
GMF



**UPCOMING**  
FALL  
PROGRAMS

REPORT ON  
**THE YOUTH  
MISSION  
TRIP**



# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,



Fall is upon us. A time of new beginnings. We could use some new beginnings after the turbulence of the summer, with violence, shootings, terrorist attacks, and

political upheaval filling the news. At this writing, it has been a week since Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and the five Dallas police officers: Brent Thompson,

Patrick Zamarripa, Michael Krol, Michael Smith and Lorne Ahrens were killed. The political conventions are about to begin. Emotions and tensions are high. A new, or renewed, reinvigorated civil rights movement seems to be upon us, and we are all being challenged to examine and do something to correct the injustices and imbalances of our society—the great and ever-widening disparity between the wealthy and those who cannot even feed, shelter, clothe or educate their families; the different ways in which we are treated based on the color of our skin—the opportunities, privileges and advantages we have if we happen to have been born white.

I saw a Facebook post during this turbulent July that said, “Can’t we just get back to normal?” I understand that yearning, that longing to return to a time when things seemed less fraught, less violent, less fearful. But what “normal” would that be? The normal of a society that still knows deeply entrenched, systemic racism? The normal of a society and world with great income inequality? Does returning to normal mean going back to a relative state of ignorance about all that divides us and the oppressive situations under which

many of our sisters and brothers live? That is not a “normal” we should aspire to return to. It is not a “normal” that is anywhere near the kingdom of God we are called to strive for and live into.

Instead of returning to “normal”, the ways things were, we are called to move forward, to make a new beginning, over and over again. There’s another post I saw on Facebook in July that has become one of my favorites. It was originally posted on Instagram by the writer Adrienne Maree Brown,

“things are not getting worse, they are getting uncovered. we must hold each other tight, & continue to pull back the veil.”

I think that is a much more hopeful and forward-looking sentiment than “getting back to normal.” It honestly acknowledges that living into a future that is hope-filled, more peaceful and more just is hard work. We need to hold on tight to each other while we do it—to support one another, to back each other up, to catch each other when we fall, to inspire and exhort one another, to know that we are not alone. I think this short piece of Brown’s writing describes what we are about as a church. We don’t nurture our community in order to have an insular, safe space; we come together as the body of Christ to hold on to each other as we engage in the work of being Christ’s body. Some of that work is indeed “pulling back the veil,” revealing what is broken, what needs to be healed and transformed. That’s what Jesus did in his teaching and ministry, when he challenged the religious leaders and turned long-held beliefs, rules, patterns and ways of being in the world upside down: “You’ve heard it said ‘an eye for

an eye? No! I say turn the other cheek and love your enemy.” “You think the rich man is the one who has it made? The rich man who let the poor man lie at his door covered in sores? No! He will go to the place of eternal suffering, but the poor man will be with me in heaven.” “You’re worrying about filling your barns and building new ones for all your surplus? What if you died tonight? Those full barns mean nothing!” Jesus spent his short time on earth trying to pull back the veils and teach us what really matters: loving God, loving our neighbor, and serving those who are poor and suffering—the hungry, the sick, the naked, the widows, the orphans.

As we enter into this fall of new beginnings—a new season of programs and ministries—remember that all we do together is for the purpose of strengthening us and nurturing our growth as the body of Christ, it is for empowering us to bring others into the transforming love of Jesus Christ, for giving us resources to change what is normal—to work for a new normal, where race does not divide or mean one lives with greater fear and fewer opportunities, where violence does not feel like an everyday part of life, where those who live in poverty have greater opportunities, where refugees and immigrants are welcomed and able to build new lives, where people find the sustenance they need to begin again and again and again, a normal where the love of Christ truly transforms—not just our individual hearts and lives, but the brokenness all around us.

Beverly Bartlett  
Associate Pastor

# MAPC

FALL 2016

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## Features

4 | **From the Interim Pastor**  
*Eric Springsted*

6 | **From the Day School Director**  
*Laura Graham*

8 | **MAPC's Music Ministries**  
*Andrew Henderson*

9 | **Challenges & Opportunities: MAPC's African Partners**  
*Andrew Smothers*

10 | **Sent by Love: Youth Mission Trip**  
*Christopher De La Cruz*

12 | **Christian Formation**  
*Christopher De La Cruz*

14 | **Strengthening the Body of Christ**  
*Tyler Orem*

16 | **Congregational Nurture**  
*Beverly Bartlett*

18 | **Holmes Presbyterian Camp**  
*Beverly Bartlett*

# PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS WELL UNDER WAY!



At a congregational meeting on May 15, 2016, a Pastoral Nominating Committee was elected to begin searching for a new installed pastor. The ten members serving on this important committee are: Susan Anderson, David Carleton, Nickie Christin, Kristin Hohmann, Meg Connor Johnson, Ed Kleinert, Roy Lennox, Laura Macdonald, Kunbi Oni, and Julian Schroeder. They are being staffed by Laura Jervis, a member of the Presbytery of New York City's Committee on Ministry.

Over the course of this summer the PNC received training for its task and began its duties by writing the church's Mission Information Form (MIF) which is, in essence, the church's resume. In order to accomplish this first important task, they interviewed many of the staff members about the duties of the pastor/head of staff, and consulted the Mission Review Study, all in order to come to a thorough understanding of just what sort of pastor for whom they need to be looking to best serve MAPC in the coming years.

As soon as the MIF is finished, it will be approved by the Session, in all likelihood at its September meeting. After being approved by the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of New York the next week, it will then be posted on the denomination's job website. At that point, applications will begin to start coming in, and the committee will begin its extensive work of analyzing them, and seeking to put together a short list of candidates with whom they will conduct initial interviews. After that, they will generate an even shorter list and keep on interviewing until they have reached a decision on whom to present to the congregation for its approval.

While there is not much specific information that the PNC can give while in mid-course, it will be giving updates from time to time. Watch for them!

In the meantime, because of important issues of confidentiality, the best way for you to support the PNC is to give them time and space to do their work—and keep them in your prayers.

— Eric Springsted

# ANDY SMOTHERS INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR



When Don Wahlig left MAPC in January to accept a call to a congregation in Pennsylvania, it left a potentially big hole in the pastoral staff. Providentially, the Rev. Andy Smothers had just returned from Africa as the Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow. When he was presented with a request to increase his duties beyond those normally expected by the “at home” GMF, he graciously said “yes.” As a result, that hole never opened, and the duties of the Associate Pastor for Outreach and Evangelism have been filled seamlessly. His diligence has been exemplary.

In the time since January, a search committee to fill the position in a more regular way was formed and has been looking at candidates. At the June meeting of the Session, it presented its recommendation to hire Andy as the Interim Associate Pastor for Outreach and Evangelism. A week later, the appointment was confirmed by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, and Andy has now stepped into his new role – one that is, of course, by now utterly familiar to him.

The Session's vision in filling this position on an interim basis is to create space and flexibility for the new pastor to shape the staff, while having somebody experienced in the position during the time needed to discern what shape the staff should have. Andy sees it as a great learning opportunity, with valuable experience that should help him discern more clearly his future path in ministry.

In addition to staffing the committees for Evangelism and Outreach, Andy will continue to oversee the shelter ministry, and to play a significant role in the Global Ministry Fellow Program and the Zimbabwe Partnership, important programs to MAPC, and ones that there is none more qualified to handle than he is.

Andy not only brings considerable experience in our Africa programs, but a wealth of background experience from his previous career in engineering, and thus a keen scientist's eye for detail. This is combined with an all-important passion for ministry, especially outreach and international mission. He will continue to live in the Church House.

Welcome, once again, Andy, and thank you for your dedication and hard work! — Eric Springsted



# FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



The fall stewardship campaign will kick off on October 16 with an initial Word in Action, and will move towards its culmination on Stewardship Sunday, November 20. During the campaign, a number of members will be offering Words in Action, talking about why giving is important to them. And, of course, Chris Trinka will be presenting his own "Step Up" Word in Action, a central and entertaining part of any campaign.

The Stewardship Committee would like, during this particular campaign, to make some efforts to help everybody in the congregation become fully aware of how the church finances itself. A good portion of the church's operating budget comes from the annual pledging of the congregation, as well as occasional gifts from friends and members. Some of the church's annual income comes from building use fees. A very significant part comes from the church's endowment.

In order to maintain the number and quality of the church's programs, each member is urged to make an annual commitment, a pledge. Many members have regularly increased their pledges, and this will continue to be important. But the size of our membership does not allow us to finance our mission strictly by giving. The endowment – the giving of previous generations – therefore plays a significant role, and in order to maintain it, gifts for the endowment are important. Capital campaigns help in this, but so does planned giving, whereby members include MAPC in their wills. In the future, this sort of fund-raising will become even more critical, as we live in a society where church membership has become less important to many people. Therefore, along with its annual stewardship campaign to encourage people to pledge, the Stewardship Committee will raise awareness of the need for planned giving to help ensure the future of our mission here. – *Eric Springsted*

# MAPC MISSION FUND UPDATE

**T**he MAPC Mission Fund has had several stages. In the current one, it has been seeking wide support from members of the church, as two donors have pledged to match all new gifts up to a total of \$700,000. As of the beginning of July, the campaign saw a little over 4.7 million dollars pledged, including matching money. These gifts have come from just under one hundred members.

The campaign will continue through the fall. Day School families, which have largely received only notifications of the campaign to this point, will be particularly urged to participate. Since much of the money will be used for code-required infrastructure improvements, especially a sprinkler system, the Day School is especially impacted, and could otherwise face increased costs if the improvements are not paid for when done. An additional incentive for these families is that whereas ten percent of contributions coming from church members will go towards mission, ten percent of the contributions from Day School families will go towards the Day School tuition assistance program.

All members are urged to participate if they have not, and to consider increasing pledges if they have and are able to do so. As the church prepares to go into the future with a new pastor, being able to do so without debt and without having to be distracted by building issues would be a wonderful, welcoming gift, and a sign of strength and commitment. – *Eric Springsted*

# FROM THE MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR



LAURA GRAHAM

It feels like it was only yesterday that we had our Closing Day Celebration and here we are beginning a new school year again. A highlight of our June Days program was the addition of an art studio in room 806 where the children worked a few times a week. Ms. Julia Bosch, our art specialist, and Ms. Renee Nikita worked together to transform the classroom into an inspiring and beautiful work space for children to express their artistic abilities. A daily light projection of oceans, waterfalls, or beach scenes on the wall extended children's imaginations to explore new ways of creating and expressing themselves. Opportunities for encounters with natural materials were plentiful. The children's ideas and enthusiasm extended to every adult who entered the art space. It was magical, exciting, and transformative.

This October we welcome our New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) Visiting Committee for our ten-year annual review. NYSAIS is an organization that has 192 member schools. We have been a member since 1992, and this association provides our institution with professional development, a connection to a community of schools, and a platform from which to think critically and uphold our quality of educational practice. Last year every teacher was a part of working on a

team that wrote a section of our self-study. Day school parents have also been involved in writing sections, and almost every parent participated in contributing crucial feedback through a variety of surveys. This effort was a community-wide project led by Becky Simon, who spent countless hours organizing, planning and motivating everyone to finalize their work. We will all feel extremely proud to continue our commitment to the mission of the Day School.

In November we are collaborating with the Church to host Lisa Miller on the evening of November 8th in the Parish Hall. Lisa Miller is the author of *The Spiritual Child: The New Science on Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving*. Lisa Miller's research shows that "a child's personal spirituality is more developed, and a greater source of thriving, when it comes through family. From the perspective of science, the quality of spiritual engagement in our children hinges on the combination of our unconditional love plus our sharing of spiritual life." Last year, Christopher De La Cruz, MAPC's Director of Christian Formation, joined a staff meeting with the teachers to explore the topic of spirituality and children. We are looking forward to meeting Lisa Miller and continuing this conversation with Day School parents and church members.



Day School Events, clockwise from top: Butterfly wing parade after the Closing Day Celebration; interactive light projection in Day School classroom; June Days rooftop pool party; Closing Day Celebration in the sanctuary





# MUSIC MINISTRIES

## NYC CC



Our New York City Children's Chorus embarked on a successful 3-day tour to Massachusetts on Memorial Day weekend. 98 participants, including parent chaperones and chorister siblings, visited Boston, Salem and Plymouth. The choir made concert appearances at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home, the Plimoth Plantation, and a noonday concert at Boston's Old North Church. On Sunday, May 29, the choir sang for the morning worship service at Old South Church, where we collaborated with their choir and were very warmly received by the music staff and congregation. Also included in the tour were visits to the fascinating Boston Tea Party Museum, a quick inspection of Plymouth Rock, and a jaunt to Salem, MA, where we experienced the Salem Witch Museum. As choir tours go, this one went remarkably smoothly, thanks to our experts at Opus Tours, our seasoned chaperones, and Mary Huff's firm and deliberate leadership. - *Andrew Henderson*

## SAMS

Vaughan Williams: Hodie & Magnificat on December 4

The Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra will open its 52nd Season with one of its most ambitious undertakings to date. The Christmas Cantata Hodie ('This Day') by the British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams requires large orchestral and choral forces, three stellar soloists, and an accomplished children's choir. Fortunately, we have all of these – in abundance – in house! We will be joined by choristers from our New York City Children's Chorus in the Hodie, as well as in the rarely-heard and beautiful Magnificat for mezzo-soprano, women's chorus and orchestra, featuring MAPC octet soloist Helen Karloski. The concert will be mounted as a part of our Saint Andrew Music Society series on Sunday, December 4 at 3 pm. Tickets will be available in advance and at the door.

The primary mandate of the Saint Andrew Music Society is to present outstanding works of sacred music in our sanctuary for the benefit of both MAPC's congregation and the wider community. Come and support MAPC's resident choral society and children's chorus program in this grand concert event as we enter the Advent and Christmas season. - *Andrew Henderson*



**Above, from left:**  
**The Saint Andrew Chorale performing the St. John Passion;**  
**The New York City Children's Chorus at Boston's Old South Church;**  
**NYCCC visit veterans at the Chelsea Soldiers Home**

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITY WITH MAPC'S AFRICAN PARTNERSHIPS

# F

or several years MAPC has enjoyed relationships with two African partners: Theological Education by Extension in Zambia (TEEZ) and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Synod of Harare (Zimbabwe).

We have sent new seminary graduates as Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellows (PTGMF) to Zambia to serve for a year, and we have learned from their experiences when they return. For a number of reasons—declining numbers of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seminary graduates being one of them—recruitment of Fellows has become more difficult. As of this writing, we are continuing the search for the next Fellow and have cast a wider net in recruiting. We are hopeful, as two or three people have expressed interest over the summer. For future years, the PTGMF Committee is contemplating various options for increasing the applicant pool: from posting the opportunity even more widely to welcoming applicants who have been out of seminary for a longer period of time but still have many years of ministry ahead of them. We invite your prayers as we continue to recruit Fellows for this important ministry.

We were greatly disappointed with the denial of visas to our Pastor-in-Residence and delegation expected from Zimbabwe this spring. Despite engagement of our local Congresswoman and other efforts to secure a visa for our friends, we were unsuccessful. A very high burden of proof is placed on individuals seeking a non-immigrant visa to show that they have no intention of staying in the U.S.A. Our embassy claimed they did not meet this standard, though most delegation members demonstrated compelling reasons to return to Zimbabwe. The deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe most likely contributed to our embassy's decision. I read regularly that President Mugabe's health has declined, despite the government's reassurances otherwise. At age 92, Mugabe is the only leader the nation has known since independence from Britain in 1980. The President's party, the ZANU-PF, is fractured, and there is not a clear successor to Mugabe. Several opposition parties are preparing to challenge the ZANU-PF in the next election in 2018, or should President Mugabe be unable to complete his current term in office.

Uncertainty in the political realm is magnified by deep economic challenges in the country. As a result of economic and other systemic challenges, the government has begun to delay payments to civil servants throughout the country, including teachers. Teachers have threatened to strike, which would leave children and youth across the country without something to occupy their day. Payments to police and military, generally used to solidify Mugabe's power, have been delayed as well. Protests have already begun across the nation, and the police have begun to crush some of these protests with force. The overall situation makes the State Department wary of giving visas, since the uncertainty may be a reason not to return.

This challenging situation is the context in which we are to renew our three-year agreement with the Synod of Harare. We remain dedicated to the partnership. We have learned new ways of being a church from our Zimbabwean friends. Likewise, they have assured us of their commitment based on the gains they have received through our partnership. We had hoped to engage in conversation about the partnership with the delegation that was scheduled to visit us last spring. Now, we are considering a trip this fall by a small delegation from MAPC to begin discussions about the next three years. We anticipate continuing some areas of the partnership while expanding our vision for the relationship. After enjoying several years that allowed us to offer and receive hospitality from one another and to support and teach one another, we hope to deepen the partnership with new and greater gains in ministry. Our discussions two years ago in New York City already offer some ideas. This fall trip will depend upon the situation on the ground in Zimbabwe and the ability of our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Synod of Harare to host us in the midst of challenging circumstances. As a contingency plan, we are exploring electronic means of engaging in a portion of the discussion.

Our partners in Zimbabwe request your prayers during this challenging time. Though they are living through uncertain times, they hope the future will bring changes that will benefit the nation. They particularly ask for prayers for rain in the next rainy season as they have experienced a drought in the last few years, for God's guidance as they find roles for 55 recently-trained evangelists, for the nation as it experiences desperate economic challenges, for political tolerance across the nation, for the success of the partnership between the Synod of Harare and MAPC, and for the synod as they transition to a new constitution. Our partners have assured us that MAPC remains in the prayers of the Synod of Harare. - *Andrew Smothers*



**Above, from left:**  
PTGMF fellows Meredith Loftis and Andy Smothers join Abusa Pattison and Susan Chirongo and sons, Andrew and Crispin, in Zimbabwe in September 2014; PTGMF fellow Andy Smothers joins the elders of Kuwandzana Church near Harare, Zimbabwe, after preaching at the congregation.

# SENT BY LOVE FOR A THIRD YEAR

## OUR NYC AND IOWA YOUTH COME TOGETHER AGAIN TO SERVE AND GROW CLOSER TO GOD AT TRIENNium

**F**

or a third year, youth from Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and two Iowa churches, FPC Spirit Lake and FPC Lake Park, came together for a joint mission trip, first to serve in the Midwest and then to go to Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which gathers over 5,000 young adults across the country and around the world for worship and youth events.

The Iowa churches came to New York City for Hurricane Sandy relief two years ago, and last year New York City went to Iowa to work in areas of rural poverty. For our third year, we decided that attending Triennium together would cement a relationship from halfway across the country, knowing that our own kinship is really just a small version of the familial bond that exists among all people gathered in Christ.

Before the actual Triennium event, we set aside Saturday, Sunday, and Monday to serve at different locations in the Midwest. In addition to providing opportunities to do direct service, this would allow time for our groups to reconnect in fellowship and grow stronger together.

We stayed at Floosmoor Community Church in Floosmoor, IL Saturday thru Monday morning. There, we worshiped with the church and did initial icebreakers and Bible study in small groups. Our original plan was to work with Keen at Loyola Park in Chicago, IL, a nonprofit that works with young people with disabilities. Unfortunately a freak combination of vandalism and weather damage prevented us from being able to help. We ended up using it as a day of relaxation around Chicago.

We then traveled, via our bus, to Westminster Neighborhood Services in Indianapolis, IN--a ministry that serves the poor and homeless through meals and a unique food pantry set up like a grocery store, giving clients more autonomy and dignity. Young people were able not only to serve, but also interact directly with clients, and many of our students said that this was the favorite and most meaningful part of the trip.

After staying overnight at Faith Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, IN, we took our bus to Purdue University, where Triennium is held. Over 5,000 youth flooded into the sprawling campus - imagine a chaotic church lock-in, only an entire college. The four days included one worship service a day in a huge music hall. Prior to worship, each session kicked off

with fun-oriented "energizers" that got kids dancing and moving to lively songs.

Each sermon oriented around the theme of "Go," how Christ calls us to go out into the world. Many talked directly to teenagers about struggling to fit in and feel comfortable with themselves. One speaker, Rodger Nishioka, director of adult ministries at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS, had the whole hall erupt in spontaneous and passionate applause as he simply said the words: "You are enough." And if you were a teenager, wouldn't you? Nishioka had listed all the ways that high schoolers feel like they aren't enough - not being tall enough, short enough, masculine enough, feminine enough, too young. Not enough to be loved, much less used by God. But the fact that God chose to reveal the birth of Jesus to shepherds, otherwise looked down on in 1st century society, says otherwise, Nishioka said. "All those 'not enough' messages are a lie," Nishioka said. "You are called to be here. That is not your doing. It is the doing of the Holy Spirit."

Teenagers, like all people, feel like their failures and shortcomings define them, said Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill, the preacher on Thursday and the founding pastor of New Faith Presbyterian Church in Greenwood, SC. Her powerful message to high schoolers was that they were enough. Not because they had done anything to earn it, but because of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, purely out of grace. "God loves you and there ain't a thing you can do about it," Ridgill said. "If God was a God of second chances, I would have used up all of my chances. God is the God of another chance... We never use up all of our chances with God." Carrying a backpack the entire sermon, she ended by connecting it with the sorrow, shame, and burdens all people carry. "God doesn't want us to carry our burdens alone," she said, letting her backpack drop to the floor. "So I'm taking it off."

These types of messages empowered and emboldened the teens on our trip to feel closer to God. Almost every speaker mentioned issues of racism, and many of the teenagers themselves seemed to have been affected one way or another by the string of shootings and horrific events that have defined this year. Both the speakers and small group workshops emphasized that God's

love in Jesus Christ transcends the barriers and walls we set up against one another.

Some of our delegation's kids felt strongly about these issues, but many had never really engaged them. So we decided as a group to sit down and have an honest, open conversation about race and similar issues. The pastors and I started with our own experiences with these conversations, and then the young people from both Iowa and NYC were able to share their experiences and questions, and how they shape our views on these difficult issues. It was one of the most vulnerable and honest conversations on this topic I've seen; where both youth and adults actually listened to one another and didn't just say talking points.

There were many fun fellowship activities throughout, including games and lip-sync battles on the campus green mall, service opportunities like sending letters to our mission partners in the world, and free time to explore the whole campus.

I am so glad that we, as partners, decided to use our third year together to do a "third thing" that would bring us closer to God and ultimately equip us for whatever mission work we decide to do next year. Multiple youth from our side have regular and meaningful contact with our Iowan partners, and they have told me those relationships have deepened. Our adults got along well together and had many meaningful conversations with one another as well.

Through this 3-year partnership, our group of New Yorkers and Iowans have gotten our hands dirty together serving those in need. We have also formed a genuine, loyal, and unapologetically messy fellowship with one another. Our New York teens have learned that cow tipping and mud racing are all, yes, a thing. We've also experienced firsthand how heartwarming and life-giving real Midwestern hospitality can be. Iowans have learned that we fold our pizza in half for support and live in apartments the size of closets for thousands of dollars.

They, I hope, have also seen the warmth beneath our tough New York exterior.

Want to hear more? Come to Sunday Adult Education at 10:10 am in the Parish Hall on Sunday, September 25, for a presentation with all the adults and youth who went on the trip.

- Christopher De La Cruz



# YOUTH MISSION TRIP



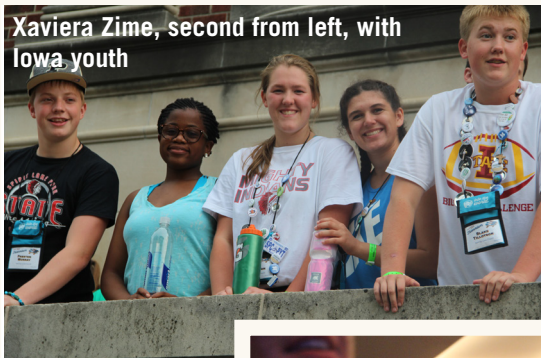
Iowa & NYC youth get ready for worship



Alicia Sheen & Cesar Rochez



Alicia, left, & Cesar, center, with Iowa youth



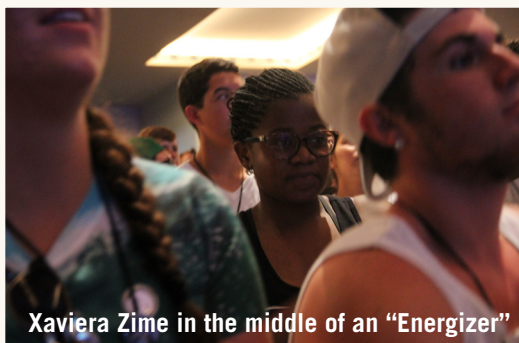
Xaviera Zime, second from left, with Iowa youth



Colin Kleinert



Drama team during worship



Xaviera Zime in the middle of an "Energizer"



"Sent By Love" joint delegation pin



Xaviera Zime continues her Energizer at Triennium



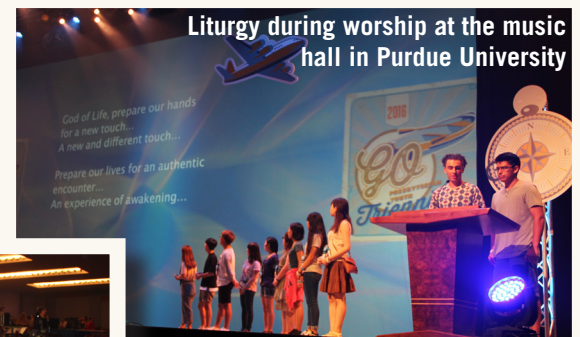
Hanging out at a fountain in Purdue University



Cesar Rochez with James Harmon



Waiting for worship



Liturgy during worship at the music hall in Purdue University



## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES AT MAPC

### What Happens on Sundays?

#### Children's Worship

Kindergarten through 3rd Grade, during both Sunday morning worship services year-round

This interactive worship lesson is designed to teach children about worship and prepare children to participate more fully in the main service when they are older. Children remain in the sanctuary through the children's lesson, and return in time for communion.

Separate Preschool Worship during the 9 am service.

#### Church School

Age 3 through Elementary School

Sundays at 10:10 am, starts Sept. 11, on the 5th Floor of the Church House. At Church School, we learn about God's love for us and the world through music, Bible study, games and crafts. This fun and engaging, member-led program helps students of all ages deepen their faith in God while meeting new friends and mentors.

### Looking for an Afterschool Ministry?

#### Kids Club

Wednesdays at 4 pm to 6 pm, starts Sept. 14

Our Wednesday after-school program for children in K through 5th grade includes Bible study, recreation, choir rehearsal and a family dinner, to which parents, siblings and others are invited.

MAPC's Children's Choir program is under the direction and leadership of Mary Huff, our Associate Director of Music, and Dr. Andrew Henderson, the Director of Music at MAPC, who conduct, accompany, and teach our children's choirs. During the course of the year, the Children's and Cherub Choirs regularly sing at MAPC Sunday morning services, approximately once per month, October through May. The Children's Choir also enjoys caroling at the James Lenox House and performs at the Annual Christmas Carol Sing in December.

#### Wee Kids

Wednesdays at 4pm, starts Sept. 14

An abbreviated version of Kids Club, with Bible stories, art, music, movement, and games.

### Have an Infant, Toddler, or Preschooler?

#### Baptism

The sacrament of Baptism is the moment of initiation into Christian life. If you would like your child to be baptized, please contact the Rev. Beverly Bartlett at [bab@mapc.com](mailto:bab@mapc.com) or another pastor on staff. They will discuss with you the meaning of baptism and help make arrangements with you.

#### Sunday Morning Nurseries

Sundays 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Church House, 4th Floor

Our professionally-staffed nursery enables parents to participate fully in morning worship services and adult Christian education. Parents are provided with a special beeper so that they may be summoned to the Nursery in the event of an emergency.

### Need Support as a Parent in Raising Children in Faith?

#### MAPC Children's Library

Open Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm, or by appointment

Located behind the receptionist's office in the Church House, this library also serves as a playroom for children during worship services. Parents may listen to the worship service as children read. In addition to storybooks, you will find books on parenting, Christian parenting, children's Bibles and more.

**For more information on these ministries, contact Christopher De La Cruz, Director of Christian Formation, at [cdlc@mapc.com](mailto:cdlc@mapc.com). Registration information at [mapc.com](http://mapc.com).**

## THREE YEARS LATER, GROWING OUR MINISTRY FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLERS

In 2013, we as a church made a conscious decision to concentrate on building up our ministry for middle and high schoolers. Part of that involved investing in hiring a Youth Director who would facilitate this ministry as part of our mission to bring people into the transforming presence of Jesus Christ.

Then-Director of Christian of Education & Discipleship Millie Tourtelot, as well as our passionate Christian Education Committee, led in equipping me to lead this task, coming together to brainstorm how we can strengthen our commitment to young people as children of God.

Under my oversight and with the service of many faithful members, we started up a regular youth group that included Bible study and fellowship groups, Youth Worship during services, serving once a month at our Shelter Dinner, a youth leadership ministry in assisting with our Wednesday Kids' Club program, a rejuvenated Youth Sunday, Pizza & Game Nights, and a youth mission partnership with Iowa churches, where urban New Yorkers and rural Iowans serve together as the body of Christ.

We also oversaw the transformation of a conference room into a Youth Lounge, equipped with couches, beanbags and chalkboard-painted walls that create a sense of belonging for our young people.

Young people now have more spaces for growing in faith. Youth also are experiencing firsthand how serving others and discipleship are intricately related. We have a regular group that serves monthly during the school year at our Thursday evening Shelter Dinner for those who do not have enough money for food. This ministry has grown to the extent that our biggest problem is accommodating all the volunteers!

MAPC young people have become more comfortable inviting friends to service and fellowship events like our seasonal Pizza & Game Nights. We have been the strongest in building long-term relationships and connections with older elementary and middle schoolers, so that as they get older, they feel more a part of the MAPC community.

There is room for growth and improvement. We still don't see as many high schoolers in worship and community life as we could. Relationships between other adult mentors and young people could be more intentionally strengthened and sought.

When we baptize children, the church makes promises to nurture and care for their faith, alongside their parents. We have been working hard to live up to that commitment.

- Christopher De La Cruz



## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES 2016-17

Check out some of the new offerings this year, including NYC trips for teenagers to explore faith in different contexts, a mid-week Youth Group, and a service club for high schoolers.

### SUNDAYS

#### NEW! Teen Trips around NYC

One Sunday afternoon a month, 8th grade+, starts in September. Teenagers take trips around sites in New York City that look at how Christian faith interacts with the world. Includes trips to the MET, the American Museum of Natural History, the United Nations, and more.

#### Youth Worship

During Worship, starts Sept. 11  
Worship tailored to young people, 4th Grade through 8th Grade

#### Youth Hour

10:10 am, starts Sept. 11, in the Youth Lounge on the 5th Floor  
Hang out, get to know one another, and talk about how faith in Christ relates to everyday life.

#### Confirmation

4:30-5:30 pm, 8th grade+  
Are you getting older and are ready to make the next step of professing Christian faith as your own, as well as accepting responsibility as a member of the Church? Eighth graders and up are invited to a school-year-long experience culminating in Youth Sunday.

#### Youth Sunday

May 21, 2017  
Young people lead the whole MAPC community in worship that includes the call to worship, the readings, and even preaching!

### WEDNESDAYS

#### NEW! Youth Group

Wednesday afternoons during Kids Club, starts Sept. 14  
Young people have dinner and talk about faith and life, with a youth choir option.

#### Kids Club Youth Leaders

Wednesday afternoons during Kids Club  
Young people help with leading aspects of Kids Club, including Wee Kids. Will not interfere with Youth Group.

### SERVICE

#### High School Service Club

Weekdays, various times, including once-a-month Service Club debrief, starts in October  
Work with MAPC outreach programs as well as MAPC partner organizations in the area to serve people in need. Those with community service hour requirements: this is a great way to fill those hours.

#### Middle & High Schoolers at Shelter Dinner

First Thursday of the Month, 6 pm, starts Oct. 6  
Young people help prepare, serve and clean up at a free dinner to homeless, under-housed and other vulnerable members of the community.

#### NYC/Iowa Youth Mission Partnership

Summer  
High Schoolers participate in a unique partnership with churches from Iowa and NYC, where urban New Yorkers and rural Iowans serve together as one body of Christ on a week-long mission trip.

### RELAX

#### Pizza and Game Nights

Seasonal  
Play games, sports, etc., in the Youth Lounge and in the Gym. Also, eat pizza.

#### White Elephant Pizza Party

December 18, after December's Annual Carol Sing  
Compete for the best absurd gift. Also, more pizza!

## ADULT EDUCATION AT MAPC

### Sunday Adult Education

10:10 am, between morning services, starts Sept. 11

Engaging classes, conducted by various guest speakers and staff members, on a wide range of topics: Bible and history, politics and faith, social justice and service, prayer and the life of the Spirit, and being a Christian in the "busyness" of New York City.

Check out the schedule in our weekly MAPC newsletter, as well as on mapc.com.

### 20s/30s Bible Study

2nd and 4th Thursdays  
7:30 pm, 10th Floor  
(3rd Thursday, 20s/30s serve at Shelter Dinner, 6 pm)

### Women's Bible Study

2nd and 4th Mondays  
6:30 pm, Phillips Lounge  
(If you can, come at 6 pm, with your dinner, to chat!)

### Men's Bible Study

1st and 3rd Wednesdays  
7 pm, Phillips Lounge

### Reading through the Bible

Lively discussion and study; bring a bagged lunch.  
Every Wednesday  
12:30pm, Phillips Lounge

For more information, contact Christopher De La Cruz, Director of Christian Formation, at [cdlc@mapc.com](mailto:cdlc@mapc.com).



**MAPC offers Christian Education and Fellowship for all ages**



**Editor's Note:** Tyler Orem is MAPC's current Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow. Over the summer he finished his year of serving with Theological Education by Extension in Zambia, and as you read this, he will have begun his months of travel in the Global South. We look forward to welcoming Tyler back to MAPC at the beginning of December. Tyler's article gives us a picture of the work TEEZ and our Fellows do as they serve the church in Zambia.

**STRENGTHENING  
THE BODY OF  
CHRIST:  
THROUGH  
THEOLOGICAL  
EDUCATION  
BY EXTENSION  
IN ZAMBIA  
TYLER OREM**

“W

ow! I get it! I have never really understood the history of the Church until now. All these divisions, all this fighting, it never made sense. But people had real concerns and sincere beliefs that were different from others'. It even happens today, doesn't it? I was talking with a friend from an independent church nearby who is thinking about breaking away and starting something new. Her current church doesn't allow women to preach, and she is called to preach. It seems right to me that she should be in a church that honors her call. We all come from the same day of Pentecost and we are all one body of Christ, but I see the need for diversity in this unity. We can do this work. We can labor together to learn from each other's strengths and challenge each other's weaknesses. And maybe, just maybe, we will be one again someday!"

This is an excerpt from a conversation with Ms. Mwale, one of our TEEZ Tutors' Course trainees in Chipata, just after our lesson on ecumenism. Ms. Mwale works for the local chapter of the Council of Churches in Zambia. After our lesson, which covers a brief survey of the history of the Church as well as major projects underway for Church unity, and a lively discussion amongst all of the trainees, she felt a renewed passion to continue her work with a better foundation of knowledge.

Such experiences are common on our TEEZ training tours. Lay leaders from our nine member denominations participate in lessons and discussions about the Church, the organization of TEEZ, teaching methodologies, and psychological theories about learning and group development. Once duly and successfully examined they are certified to hold classes for other members of their congregations in the following fields: preaching, counseling, teaching, worship, and church administration. With ordained clergy in Zambia often being individually responsible for anywhere from twenty to eighty congregations, prayer houses, and preaching points, it is vital that lay leaders be adequately trained to carry forth the work of the Kingdom in their communities.

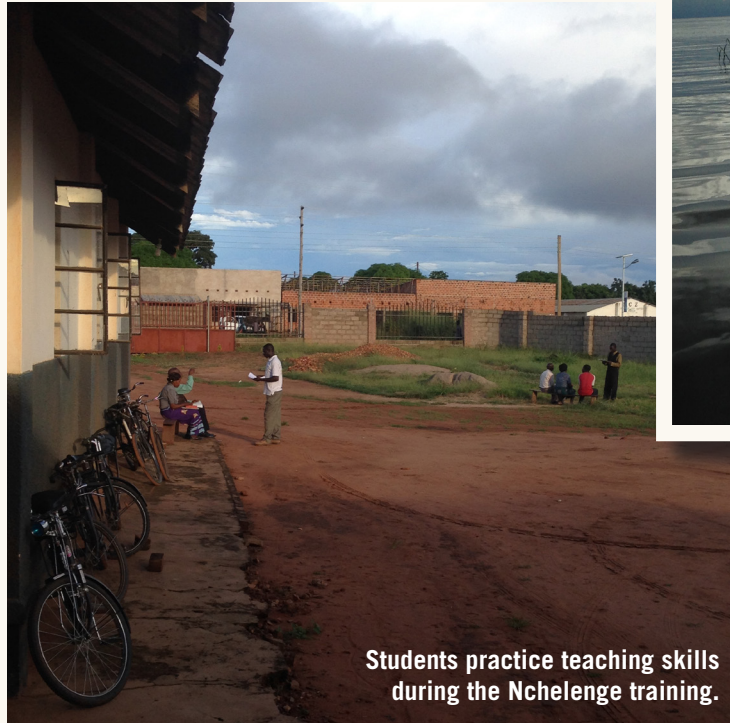
Ms. Mwale's cohort was an especially heartening one for us in the training team because four of our member denominations sent people to participate, meaning that the ecumenism we practice as an organization and teach to our trainees was truly in action. Representatives of the Anglican Church, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, the Reformed Church in Zambia, and the United Church of Zambia were learning together, discussing together, and strategizing together for the future of the body of Christ in their shared community. Throughout Zambia these four churches are also joined by the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Community of Christ, the Lutheran Evangelical Church of Africa, the United Methodist Church, and the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa.

Rev. Hopkins Changwe and I have the joy of traveling to the different provinces of Zambia to lead these trainings, ensuring that theological education is extended to both rural and urban areas across the country. Our goal is to reach one province per month and to complete 2-3 trainings in each province we visit. The sites we visit are chosen based on requests from the communities themselves. Thus we go upon invitation from churches that have identified a need and a passion for training. Upon reaching each destination this passion quickly becomes evident, as trainees come over long distances by bus, bike, foot, and even boat to dedicate a full week to the course.

Our two most recent training tours have been to Luapula Province and Eastern Province. Luapula is the land of lakes and waterfalls bordering the eastern part of the Pedicle region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is a stronghold of the IciBemba language and is considered one of the most rural parts of the country. In Luapula we trained 116 students in the towns of Nchelenge, Samfiya, and Mansa. Eastern Province is the mountainous area along the border with Malawi. The Chichewa and Chitumbuka languages dominate here. Most Presbyterians in Zambia originally come from this part of the country, where we trained 26 students in the towns of Lundazi and Chipata. For our next two trainings we are scheduled to go to Muchinga Province along the border with Tanzania and Southern Province along the border with Zimbabwe.

Ms. Mwale struck upon the truth that if we labor together, learn from one another, and challenge each other, then the body of Christ will be all the stronger, and maybe someday we will be one again. The nine member denominations of TEEZ are indeed laboring together for the Church, and our students are certainly learning from one another and challenging each other. The ministry of TEEZ is moving ever onward!

# PHILLIPS TALBOT GLOBAL MINISTRY FELLOW



Students practice teaching skills during the Nchelenge training.



TEEZ students boating across Lake Mweru to reach the training in Nchelenge, Luapula.



**RIGHT: The Smiling Faces of the TEEZ Office, Top to Bottom: Tyler Orem, Esther Chishala, Marvellous Zunda, Edina Mbewe, Yvonne Sakala, Hopkins Changwe**



TEEZ students practicing their teaching skills on one another during a training.



The TEEZ Tutors' Training cohort from Chipata, Eastern Province



Annual Summer  
Roof Garden Party



Curtis and Linda Field &  
Sharon Davison



Susan Tonking &  
Lyn Krueger Baier



Enjoying the feast



Natalie Pennington, Meme  
Peponis, Vicki Schmelzer,  
& Jennifer Doyle Lennox



Jennifer Doyle Lennox &  
Natalie Pennington



Gordon Shearer  
& Roy Lennox



Sarah Coles, Susan Tonking, & Lisa Somar



It was a great party!

## ROOF GARDEN PARTY

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Clockwise: Lauren Logan, Susan  
Tonking, Beverly Bartlett,  
Nancy Nachtigall, & Marty Scotzin



Vicki Schmelzer,  
Marty Scotzin, & Nancy DeBono

## SI YANKEES GAME



Emily Bartlett, Christian &  
Elliot Henderson



Two rows of MAPC folk  
enjoy the game



## FELLOWSHIP AT MAPC

The Congregational Nurture Committee works to provide many opportunities for fellowship for MAPC members of all ages and stages in life. One of the liveliest fellowship times happens every week—in the Church House Lobby after worship! After both the 9 am and 11:15 am services you will find coffee/tea/juice and cookies in the Church House Lobby. After the first service, there will be a few people who linger for conversation, and many others will get their coffee or tea and head to an adult education class, or up to the 5th Floor to drop their children off for church school. After the second service the Church House Lobby is almost always full of warm chatter as MAPC friends catch up with one another and keep an eye out for newcomers to introduce and welcome them to MAPC. If you are not in the habit of coming to “coffee hour”, please venture over to the Church House Lobby after worship and enjoy this rich, weekly time of fellowship!

## ANNUAL WOMEN’S BRUNCH, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Every fall we have a women’s brunch for MAPC women and friends of all ages. In addition to conversation around the table, we invite four MAPC women of varying ages to share stories about events or people that have shaped their lives. Sometimes we hear faith stories, sometimes we hear about mentors, families, or life-changing events. Every woman’s story is interesting and helps us to reflect on our own stories. Please make sure this event is on your calendar. For those of you with young children, we usually open the Roof Garden for dads or caregivers to take children to play while the moms are enjoying the brunch and fellowship. The suggested cost for this event, which includes brunch with mimosas, is \$15. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, [wds@mapc.com](mailto:wds@mapc.com), or 212-288-8920 x8479. Or sign up during fellowship hour on Sundays in coming weeks.

## MOMS’ NIGHT OUT

Every six to eight weeks a group of MAPC moms goes out to dinner. That’s it! No agenda. No program. Just dinner and enjoying each other’s company. We know moms need time to simply relax, and this is a great way to do just that! We are blessed to have a lot of families with children of all ages at MAPC, and our Moms’ Nights Out help build a sense of community among those families. We typically go to an Upper East Side restaurant—though a couple of our Upper West Side moms have suggested we venture across the park, so we may try the West Side soon. The dates for Moms’ Nights Out this fall are Monday evenings, September 19 and October 24. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, [wds@mapc.com](mailto:wds@mapc.com), or 212-288-8920 x8479.

## MEN’S FELLOWSHIP--OKTOBERFEST

October 17, 2016

We haven’t left the men out of the fellowship picture. They have an evening of their own, three or four times a year, and since fall is right around the corner, so is the annual Men’s Fellowship Oktoberfest. Weather permitting, we’ll be serving a traditional Oktoberfest meal, with beer, of course, on the Roof Garden. If the weather is uncooperative, the gathering will be in the Parish Hall. Suggested donation for this event is \$25. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, [wds@mapc.com](mailto:wds@mapc.com), or 212-288-8920 x8479. Or sign up during fellowship hour on Sundays in coming weeks.

## FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Once a month, on a Saturday morning from 10 to noon, families with children ages 5 and under gather for a time of play and conversation. If the weather is good, we meet on the Roof Garden, if not, we gather on the 5th Floor. There are always bagels, coffee and juice, good conversation, toys to play with and artwork to create. The dates for the fall Families with Young Children gatherings are September 17, October 15, and November 19. MAPC Day School families welcome!

## CHURCH FAMILY NIGHT

Come to the Parish Hall for a tasty dinner prepared by Chef Jim and get to know other families, on periodic Friday evenings beginning at 6 pm. After people have eaten, the preschool-aged children stay downstairs to play or watch a movie, and the school-aged children go to the gym. Suggested donation for dinner is \$20 for adults, and we ask that you make a contribution for your child based on their appetite.

Fall dates: September 23 and October 21, our annual Halloween party. MAPC Day School families and those without children are welcome.

## SENIOR MINISTRIES (LUNCHESES, SMALL GROUP)

Every few weeks MAPC seniors gather in the Parish Hall for lunch and conversation after the 11:15 worship service. We enjoy a light lunch and fellowship, casual conversation and, on some occasions, guided discussions led by Beverly Bartlett. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10, and the Senior Lunch dates for the fall are September 18, November 6 and December 11.

Beverly also leads a twice-monthly Spiritual Growth and Faith Sharing Group. This group meets to reflect on a Biblical passage, share their faith stories and discern how the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives. We meet in the library at the James Lenox House, around the corner from the church on 73rd St, on the first and third Thursday of the month, beginning at 1 pm. For September, the dates are adjusted to the second and fourth Thursdays, Sept. 8 and 22. This group is open to all, and is attended by both James Lenox House residents and MAPC members.

# HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CAMP

MAPC has been strengthening its ties with Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center over the last couple of years. A few of our youth, now seniors or in college, attended in past years, and their younger MAPC friends are now following in their footsteps. Holmes is a beautiful camp, about an hour and fifteen minutes north of the city, and a wonderful resource, co-owned by the Presbyteries of New York City, Hudson River and Long Island. In addition to offering several weeks of summer sleepaway and day camp, they have facilities for retreats and church gatherings. Last October more than 80 MAPC members and staff enjoyed an all-church retreat at Holmes, and this coming October we will return to Holmes for an officers' retreat. We look forward to more all-church retreats in the coming years.

Last year, the Session voted to give a grant from the mission tithe portion of the Mission Fund to renovate "Don's Diner", one of the dining halls at Holmes. That renovation should be complete over this coming fall and winter.

Here are some photos of our happy MAPC campers who enjoyed Holmes this summer: - *Beverly Bartlett*



Adeline Burg works on the organic farm at Holmes.

"I love it at Holmes!  
When it's winter, I just  
want summer to come  
so I can be at Holmes!  
--Emily Bartlett



Adeline & fellow campers get to know the chickens on the farm



Liliana Nasrallah, Emily Bartlett, Rowan Williams & Jena Silatchom



Elliot & Christian Henderson go paddle boating



Adeline & friend go fishing



Adeline & fellow campers dancing in the Lodge



Elliot Henderson making cookies



Jena Silatchom, left, & Saddle Up campers



The summer season's first group of Trailblazers



# FALL 2016

Please note: For the full calendar, visit the church's website, [www.mapc.com](http://www.mapc.com).

Regularly scheduled weekly or monthly programs and meetings are not listed below, but you can see them on the calendar on the website.

<b>September 18 at 1 pm</b>	Senior Fellowship Lunch
<b>September 19 at 7 pm</b>	Moms' Night Out
<b>September 23 at 6 pm</b>	Church Family Night
<b>October 15 at 10 am</b>	Annual Women's Brunch
<b>October 16 at 3 pm</b>	Mannes College Students: France en Musique
<b>October 17 at 7 pm</b>	Men's Fellowship Oktoberfest
<b>October 21 at 6 pm</b>	Church Family Night--Annual Halloween Party
<b>October 24 at 7 pm</b>	Moms' Night Out
<b>October 28 and 29</b>	Officers' Retreat at Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center
<b>October 30 at 3 pm</b>	Andrew Henderson & Mary Huff: A Halloween Organ Concert
<b>November 6 at 11:15 am</b>	Memorial Sunday, with excerpts from Fauré Requiem sung by the Choir of MAPC
<b>November 6 at 1 pm</b>	Senior Fellowship Lunch
<b>November 8 at 6:30 pm</b>	Conversation with Lisa Miller, author of <i>The Spiritual Child: The New Science on Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving</i>
<b>November 13</b>	Annual Hood Library Fellowship Book Sale, 10:10 and 12:45
<b>November 13 at 3 pm</b>	Peter Vinograd & Friends: Bach, Beethoven & Rachmaninoff
<b>November 18 at 6 pm</b>	New York City Children's Chorus Annual Benefit
<b>November 20</b>	Stewardship Sunday with brunches at 10:10 am and 12:45 pm
<b>December 4 at 3 pm</b>	Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra New York City Children's Chorus Vaughan Williams: Hodie & Magnificat



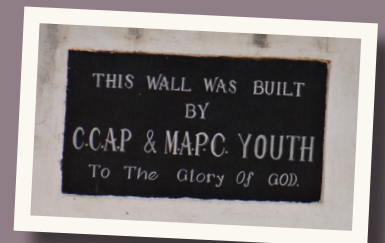
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church  
921 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10021  
[www.mapc.com](http://www.mapc.com)



CONGREGATIONAL  
NURTUREPG16



TYLER OREM'S  
FELLOWSHIP IN  
ZAMBIAPG14



CHALLENGES  
& OPPORTUNITY  
WITH MAPC'S AFRICAN  
PARTNERSHIPSPG9



CHILDREN & FAMILY  
MINISTRIESPG8



ANDY SMOTHERS  
INTERIM  
ASSOCIATE PASTORPG4



YOUTH MISSION  
TRIPPG10