

# MAPC

**LIFE**

THE MAGAZINE OF MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | FALL 2014

**"MISSION"**  
The **MISSION** in the MAPC Mission Fund

## SENT BY LOVE

Youth Sandy Relief  
Mission Trip

SAINT ANDREW MUSIC SOCIETY'S  
**50<sup>TH</sup> SEASON!**



ORIGINAL SAMS ARTWORK 1965

# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

This fourth issue of MAPC Life continues to focus on the many ministries that are at the heart of our life together. The first of those

is, of course, worship, which is as rich and nurturing as any I know. I hear it again and again, from MAPC members who have moved away: "We simply cannot find a church where worship is so wonderful as it is at MAPC—the preach-

ing, the sacraments and the music." Music is so central to all of that, and this congregation has been blessed over its 114 years on this corner with some of the most gifted and dedicated church musicians in the country, if not the world. In the 50th year of the Saint Andrew Music Society, it is fitting that we should lift up "SAMS" as well as other music ministries that touch and nurture lives through this church. The most recent is, of course, the New York City Children's Chorus. In two short years, this has become a much-sought-after choral ensemble, recognized as a premier place for a child to receive a solid music education, as well as an opportunity to enjoy and receive the benefits of public performance.

Much has already been said about our emerging and important ministries to young people, especially with the leadership of Millie Tourtelot and Christopher De La Cruz and their commitment that fellowship be wedded to discipleship and spiritual formation. I hope you enjoy not only the article on the Youth Mission Trip, "Sent by Love To Serve", but also the photos of their work. They clearly not only had a good time, but also learned a good deal about putting faith in Christ in action and developed a stronger bond to one another as sisters and brothers in Christ. Earlier this spring, our young people led us in an extraordinary Youth Sunday. Millie and Chris had worked hard with our worship leaders and preachers, and it was a joy to watch them take on

the experience which they will long remember. On that day, we were also blessed to welcome four of those same young people into active membership of the church, as they confirmed the vows taken for them in baptism as their own and supported another member of the class as she was baptized.

Partnership ministries have become a strong emphasis here, growing out of the ten percent that was set aside from the monies received in the 921 Fund: A New Century of Worship and Service. Over the last several years, those resources have been used to help establish the Global Ministry Fellowship Partnership with TEEZ (Theological Education by Extension Zambia), later endowed by an anonymous member of the congregation. Those resources also helped fund our partnership with the First Spanish Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn and continue to provide scholarship at Justo Mwale Theological College in Lusaka, Zambia for ministry candidates from Harare Synod. The first student to receive our support was Partson "Pattison" Chirongo, who is now the Moderator of the Synod and has become well known to us at MAPC. Thereafter, for three years we supported Cosmas Pamaso and his wife, who are now serving the church in Kwe Kwe, Zimbabwe. Currently, we are supporting Excitars Phiri, the first woman candidate for ministry in the Synod. You will read more about the partnership and exciting things taking place within it in Don Wahlig's first of two articles on the partnership.

A word of thanks to our Administrative Assistant Ellen Klein, who, with this issue, has become the Designer of the magazine. Ellen joined our staff about a year ago, just as the magazine was being conceived, and we soon learned she had the skills to do design and layout. Ellen is the person who has been designing the wonderful flyers posted in our elevators and other places in the church. For those first three issues of MAPC Life, we outsourced them to give Ellen time to settle in, using our friend Lee Ryer, whose gifts and experience in publishing have been so

valuable in helping us establish this publication. With this issue we begin design and layout in-house using Ellen's gifts and skills. Thank you, Ellen, and thank you, Lee.

Finally, a reminder of why MAPC Life came into being. It was conceived of as a joint project of the Evangelism and the Stewardship Committees and has been jointly funded by them in their annual program budgets. The dual focus seems appropriate, not only as a way of reaching out to visitors and non-church members such as Day School parents as a means of introducing the church and its many ministries, but also as a means of helping our members know where their mission dollars are at work. As we enter into this, my last season of stewardship leadership among you, I ask you to search these pages and see the way your pledges and other financial gifts are at work to serve Christ and to nurture us and our children as his body in this place, as well as the opportunities it gives us to serve his church in the world. When one of our officers calls on you this November, asking for your pledge, please remember what you have read and seen in these pages and how dependent it all is upon your pledge, and then give prayerful consideration to stepping up your annual gift until you are tithing. Or, you may complete the "Estimate of Giving—2015" envelope included in this issue. Also, remember you may make your pledge online at [www.mapc.com/giving/annual](http://www.mapc.com/giving/annual). However you make your pledge for this next year, please do so in a way that gives expression to your faith and gratitude. Do so, and you will learn the grace of generosity, and again discover how God continues to provide for all of our needs while using us to do his work here in New York City, as well as many other places in the world. Yours in Christ and his ministry and service,



Fred R. Anderson, Pastor

## 2014 David H.C. Read Preacher-Scholar Award Winner Announced

The 2014 winner of the \$20,000 David H.C. Read Preacher/Scholar Award is Richard Goeres, who received a Master of Divinity degree from Lenoir-Rhyne University's Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, in May. This annual award, which was created by the congregation of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (MAPC) as a tribute to the Rev. Dr. David H.C. Read, is awarded to a student in the final year of a Master of Divinity program at a Protestant theological school in the United States or Canada, who demonstrates exceptional distinction in both preaching and biblical scholarship and is committed to parish ministry. Mr. Goeres was selected from 29 candidates nominated by 21 theological schools. The other finalists, each of whom receives a \$1,000 award, were: David Boyd, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, TX; John Medendorp, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI; and Jonathan Meyer, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO.

**Richard Goeres will preach at MAPC on Sunday, September 28 at 9 and 11:15 am.**



# MAPC

FALL 2014

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Cover Art by Lajos Szalay, commissioned by MAPC in 1965 for the Saint Andrew Music Society's programs and brochure.

## Not Just Another Program—the MAPC ESL ‘Community’

By Nancy G. DeBono, ESL Program Coordinator



*Two ESL students hard at work on a Sunday afternoon*

In the spring of 2012, the Immigration Ministry Team of MAPC (IMT) petitioned Session for permission to form a new mission program which would effectively spearhead efforts to help immigrants who were new to the New York metropolitan area. Session granted approval, and IMT established a program to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) which began in September of the same year. Thanks to eager support from Session and Staff, an anonymous angel donor, and a dedicated and enthusiastic group of volunteers, the ESL Program is now poised to begin its third year at MAPC.

The idea to start the ESL Program evolved from both IMT committee discussions about how to improve existing programming and the recognition that improving English language skills is a basic need among new immigrants. From the start, the primary goals of the ESL Program have been to facilitate learning English in a comfortable and supportive environment and to foster social interaction between MAPC members and immigrants, while also encouraging immigrants to practice their English language skills. We received a gracious anonymous grant that initially enabled the program to purchase necessary books and supplies, and in the last year, our

success has earned the ESL Program a place in the budget as part of the Mission arm of MAPC.

IMT has a history of partnering with groups whose mission is to help immigrants seeking asylum acclimate to New York City, and some of our ESL students are, in fact, people seeking asylum. But curiously, when word got out that MAPC had an ESL Program, immigrants who had been living in New York City for several years came for classes, and many of them brought friends. We have a handful of students who have been with the program since it started, and new students continue to find us each semester. Many MAPC members and friends have also spread the word, and we have attracted students through those connections as well.

Our ESL students have vibrantly demonstrated the diversity of the immigrant population in New York City: they hail not only from Latin American countries such as Honduras, Columbia, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic, but also from Russia, Bangladesh, China, Tibet, Turkey, and Iraq! In addition to representing many countries around the world, our students also live in every borough of New York City—even Staten Island. They always arrive happy and eager to learn. In the last year, not only have the students developed friendships within the group, but some have also regularly attended Sunday services. Being a springboard for fellowship is a bonus, which has become a true measure of success for the ESL Program.

This success would not have been fostered without the devotion, skills, and true commit-

ment of our valiant teachers. To date, more than 20 members of the MAPC community have stepped up to participate in the ESL Program. These ranks include not only members of the church, but also members of the Chancel Choir and Saint Andrew Chorale. Many of our volunteers have some teaching experience; some have taught English, ESL, or another language, and others have taught math, music or other subjects. Others come from the corporate world or have experience working in the arts. But involvement in the ESL Program has been a learning curve for all of us, and we are united in our desire to interact with our immigrant neighbors. As we encourage them to learn and perfect their English skills, they give us a new perspective on New York City and the world.

### Going Forward

This fall, as the ESL Program moves into its third year, we look forward to welcoming MAPC middle and high school youth to the 5th floor, as they begin to use their new Youth Lounge. There is exciting potential for both groups to expand their sense of community as we embark on sharing the 5th floor.

The ESL Program is also entertaining ideas about expansion, but we have no solid plans yet. We are thinking about including a component for writing skills and possibly trying to hold classes on days other than Sunday. Stay tuned!

### Interested in Joining the ESL Community?

The ESL Program follows a consistent 14-week schedule in the fall and spring, for three hours per week, on Sunday afternoons. We also meet in the summer on two Sundays per month in June, July and August. The ESL course structure includes classes for beginning, intermediate and advanced students, and offers a light lunch as a conduit both for socializing and practicing conversation in English.

We welcome student referrals and anyone who would like to volunteer—no teaching experience necessary! Who knows? It could change everything! ■

If interested in the program or if you know someone who would benefit from the classes, please contact either **Don Wahlig, Pastor for Outreach & Evangelism at 212-288-8920 x8475 (dbw@mapc.com) or Lissette Perez-Erazo, the MAPC Office Manager at x8485 (ljp@mapc.com).**

## Do You Have “Will” Power? By Lauren Logan

**D**o you have “will” power? There are really three questions hidden behind this one question. The first question, of course, is “*Do you have a will?*” The basic importance and power of making a will should be obvious to everyone: it gives guidance to your loved ones about your wishes and intentions for your estate (that’s why it’s called a “will,” after all!); it structures your estate so that it will do what you want it to do; it ensures that the people and organizations you cared about supporting during your life are remembered, cared for, and supported after your death. Yet, an astonishing number of adult Americans have made no plans or provisions for their estate, which causes untold difficulties for their heirs, both in terms of time and red tape, and often in terms of tax implications.

The second question is, “*Do you have a current will?*” If you’ve made a will, when was the last time you sat down and read through it? Does it still convey the power it should, reflecting your “will” the way it did when it was first written? Many of those who have made plans have made no effort to keep their instructions current with life changes: children who may have grown up, parents who may need to be cared for, new philanthropic relationships. Thus, on simply a pastoral level, the Development Committee feels it important to create opportunities for people to think (or re-think) through what they need to do

to ensure that their will is expressed clearly to their loved ones.

The third question is perhaps the deepest one, which we encourage every member of MAPC to spend time thinking about: “*Do you have a Christian will?*” This is a very special question: *What makes a will “Christian?”* Perhaps the easiest way to answer that is by reviving the old language of providing a “*Will and Testament.*” A Christian will is not simply a well-conceived and well-structured legal document that ensures your wishes are carried out. It is a testament, a testimony, a message expressing who you are as a person: your values, your commitments, your relationships, your hopes and, perhaps, the most important, at your time of death, your faith. Do you have a will that conveys that kind of faith power? This is the question the Stewardship and Development Committee wants to keep before you. We urge you to read Christopher Trinka’s article, below, which is a powerful expression of why including MAPC in your will is important. Then, we ask you to reconsider the three questions and, when you draft your new will, assure that MAPC is remembered. In fact, consider tithing your estate; what a wonderful testament to what has been important to you in life, and a legacy that will enable you to continue to participate in the ministry of this wonderful congregation. ■

## “Where There is a Will, There is a Way.”

**W**hen Samuel Smiles coined this famous phrase in the 18th century, he also elaborated on its intended meaning: “*He who resolves upon doing a thing, by that very resolution often scales the barriers to it, and secures its achievement.*”

I, too, want to further elaborate on it, with the aim here to get you to think about that saying in a more literal sense, about your own legacy, your will. For without a will, there is no clear way for your final wishes to be met. And, if something suddenly happens to you without having a will, there could be further havoc for your loved ones. So, resolve now to make sure you have one if you do not, or make sure yours is up to date if you do.

Plus, I urge each and every one of you to include MAPC’s Endowment Fund as a beneficiary in your will. I have done so, and here’s why. Since joining MAPC more than 16 years ago, I have experienced many miraculous things: a reaffirmation and deeper understanding of my faith in God; being part of the overall impact MAPC has had on our members, our community and our world; plus, the on-going nurturing and caring that the MAPC community (pastors, staff and members) provide day in and day out, year after year. I included MAPC in my will many years ago for the above reasons and so that they will be carried forward for all of us and for future generations.

I truly experienced the MAPC community’s caring for my wife Cheryl and me during her 2 year struggle with cancer and for me through and since her passing last February. There was a time for both of us when despair seemed at our doorstep. But, no, despair never entered. Rather, the words and actions of our pastors and the MAPC community rallied to our support, reminding us of our uplifting faith in Jesus Christ, giving us strength to cherish and thank God for the forty-two years of marriage we shared. Being part of the MAPC community contributed much to our joy and peace during Cheryl’s final days on earth. I treasure that and have seen many times how others have had similar support.

I want that to continue for all, far into the future. That is why MAPC is included in my will.

- **Christopher Trinka**, Church Treasurer

## Annual MAPC Women’s Brunch

November 1, 10 am to Noon  
MAPC women, please put Saturday morning, November 1 on your calendars for our annual Women’s Brunch. This has become a wonderful time of fellowship among MAPC women of all ages. Each year, we invite four women to share their stories with us—what were some of the turning points in their lives? What role has faith or the church played in shaping them? In each person’s story, we can hear bits of our own stories, learning more not only about each other, but about ourselves. Come enjoy a delicious breakfast, mimosas, and good table fellowship.

The brunch is from 10 am to noon in the Parish Hall, and the cost is \$20. RSVP to Maria Soto in the church offices, [mts@mapc.com](mailto:mts@mapc.com), or 212-288-8920 x8479. Or, sign up during Fellowship Hour after worship on Sunday mornings in October!



From left: Meg Connor Johnson, Ruth Schroeder, Sarah Chithenga and Robin Weaver shared their stories at a previous Women’s Brunch

## The “Mission” in MAPC Mission Fund: Grounded in Faith, Embracing the Future By Dr. Fred R. Anderson

**B**y now you have heard of the MAPC Mission Fund: Grounded in Faith, Embracing the Future—from a Word in Action during services, at one of the campaign events, or an article in *MAPC Life*. This important campaign began in late 2013 to support four needs at MAPC: the cost of the restoration of the church tower infrastructure (which we borrowed), completion of city-mandated upgrades to the fire suppression system in the Church House, repayment of the 921 construction loan negotiated after the crash of 2008-2009, and the allocation of 10% of funds raised for partnership ministries of the church. All of these are critical to the future of MAPC.

For over one hundred years, our buildings have housed generations of worship, service, learning, and fellowship for the community within and beyond the congregation. This campaign is essential to maintaining our buildings so that we may continue to house future generations of ministry. I am excited to share with you our significant progress toward achieving these goals since we began this necessary endeavor almost a year ago. Through the generous support of our membership, we have raised over \$3.5 million of our \$7.5 million goal. We have received extraordinary six- and seven- figure gifts, which makes our average gift nearly \$190,000. The Session has approved the Mission Allocation Sub-Committee’s recommendation to commit up to \$40,000 from the mission portion of the MAPC Mission Fund to help TEEZ purchase a new truck, to enable TEEZ to continue its ministry and assure our Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellows are operating in a safe vehicle. Most recently, Session approved the committee’s recommendation of a \$50,000 gift to the Synod of Harare to partner with them in building a new church in downtown Harare, on a 50/50 dollar-for-dollar match.

In June, we held two events, the first of which was a reception for new families of the Day School to welcome them to the MAPC community, to tell them about the renovations to the Day School and invite them to participate in the campaign. We are looking forward to having these new parents and their children become a part of the family here. The second event was held at the Manse to thank our early contributors to the campaign for their generous commitments supporting the future of MAPC. I also wish to extend a special thank you to our Campaign Committee (listed here) which has been seeing this campaign forward.

Our needs are significant, but with the support of the MAPC community I am confident we will reach our goals. I hope you will join us in helping continue our rich tradition and ensure that we have a safe infrastructure for our extended MAPC family for the next one hundred years.

### Campaign committee list:

Nicolie Christin	Robert Knakal	Nancy Rabstojek Nichols
Greyson Clymer	Roy Lennox	Arthur Peponis
Andrew Forbis	Lauren Logan	Susan Plagemann
Katherine Hoffman	Julian Schroeder	
Richard Iverson	Josephine McFadden	



be entering the Bronx High School of Science as a freshman this fall.

**Kate John** – Kate, the older daughter of member Liz John and her husband Ian, is a Day School graduate and longtime Kids’ Club participant (first as a student, and then as a teacher’s helper). Kate’s family was involved in Kids’ Club before they joined, and Kate was baptized a few years thereafter. Kate is both brainy and athletic, and she is excited to start at Trinity School this fall.

**Kiran Srivastava** – Kiran is the youngest of three children, and her situation is unusual in that her parents and older brothers are members at another church. Kiran first came to MAPC for Mary Huff’s music program, which led her to join Kids’ Club and become active in our children’s and youth ministries. A gifted singer, Kiran sings with the NYCCC and will be starting in La Guardia High School’s music program this fall.

**Xaviera Zime** – As you may have heard during her sermon on Youth Sunday, Xaviera came to the United States about five years ago from Cameroon with her four sisters and mother, having to learn English and a vastly different culture along the way. Her uncle, Francois Silatchom, who sings in our choir, is a longtime member of MAPC. Xaviera loves discussing theology and is already very active in church life, helping out with our children’s ministries and regularly attending youth events. She continues this fall at Democracy Prep Charter School. - **Millie Tourtelot**

## Confirmation Class 2014

**O**n Youth Sunday, May 18, 2014, MAPC welcomed 4 confirmands as the newest members of our church community: Jack Cook, Kate John, Kiran Srivastava, and Xaviera Zime. We hope you will help us continue to welcome them into church life!

**Jack Cook** – Jack is the eldest child and only son of long-time members Elaine and Todd Cook. One of his greatest passions is computer programming, and at the age of 13 he already has 4 apps for sale in Apple’s app store. Jack has been active in our children’s ministries since he was very young, including Kids’ Club, which helped prepare him for the challenge of preaching on Youth Sunday! Jack will

# MAPCDS Book Fair

The Day School is holding its annual book fair in the Church House Lobby.

Tuesday, October 28th - Friday, October 31st: 8:30am - 3:00pm; Sunday, November 2nd: 10:30am - 1:30pm.

Featuring : Teachers' recommendations, Pat's favorites, new releases for children and Caldecott Medal award books!

## MAPCDS Director Search Continues

**P**at Pell will mark her final year as director of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School in 2014-15, and the search for her successor is ongoing. Search consultant Jean Lamont continues to solicit names of appropriate candidates and to receive dossiers from those who are interested in the position. The search committee has been on hiatus since the spring but will begin examining candidate materials in late summer, with the goal of interviewing the most interesting candidates in early fall and selecting the new director before the end of 2014.

The search process has highlighted the school's need for an assistant director, something that was strongly suggested in 2007, in response to the NYSAIS (New York State Association of Independent Schools) evaluation of MAPCDS at that time. This position is crucial for keeping the school working smoothly day to day, and it will be especially important during the transition to a new director. Having someone in place who understands the school as a whole, and particularly the "exmissions" process of helping each family find the right ongoing school for their child, will be invaluable to the new director and will help current families to feel confident that every child will be well served throughout the transition period. Pat Pell is in the process of evaluating candidates for this position, with the plan that an assistant director will be in place by September 2014.

As plans for celebrating Pat's twenty years as director of the Day School gain shape, they will be announced to the larger church community. If you are or have ever been associated with MAPCDS, please look for these announcements and join the school in thanking Pat for her service to the school. - **Linda Field**

## Children in Worship

**W**hen we baptize infants and children, we, as a congregation, promise to tell those children "the good news of the gospel, to help them know all that Christ commands, and by our own lives of faith, discipleship, and fellowship seek to strengthen their family ties with the whole people of God."

When a member of the pastoral staff does baptismal counseling with parents prior to their child's baptism, we impress upon them that we need to see them and their children regularly participating in worship and the life of the church, that the congregation is making a promise to help raise their child in the Christian faith, and that we cannot keep that promise if we do not see them and their child.

Families and their young children are welcome in worship at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. In Deuteronomy, as the people are on the verge of entering the Promised Land, the Lord, through Moses, repeatedly stresses that they are to pass the traditions and the story of salvation down to their children and grandchildren, to each new generation (Deut 30:1-3, and 31:11-13). Jesus scolded the disciples when they tried to keep the children from coming to him (Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16, Luke 18:15-17).

When children become particularly vocal or active, we have the glassed-in Narthex and the Children's Library (with sound piped in from the Sanctuary) where families may retreat and parents may still hear and/or see what is happening in the worship services. Some families take advantage of our well-staffed Nursery on the 4th Floor. But many families, either because their children are having a hard time separating, or because they want them to be with them in worship, choose to have their children in the service. You will note that most of these families sit in the back pews so they can make a quick, unobtrusive exit if they need to.

On the other hand, we also know that we have many adults who are not accustomed to the noise of children as part of their daily life, or who may have difficulty hearing. We encourage you to move up closer to the front of the Sanctuary, where you will be able to hear better! Whatever you do, please do not ask parents to leave with their child or "shush" them. That sends the message, "you and your child are not welcome here." And that does not represent who we are as a welcoming congregation of the body of Christ. - **Beverly A. Bartlett**

*Right, Top to Bottom: Ben Doramus holds son William in the pool for playtime; Denis Somar helps his daughter slam-dunk; and Jill Feury warms up her son, Timothy, after a splash in the pool.*



**Families with Young Children on the Roof Garden in June**



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & NATURE

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES AT MAPC

At MAPC, every member—young and old and anywhere in between—are invited to join us on the journey of discipleship to Christ in our community of faith. With many new and returning opportunities for fellowship and study this fall; we hope you can join us!

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

### Millie Tourtelot

Director of Christian Education and Discipleship  
mat@mapc.com  
212-228-8920 x8478

OR

### Christopher De La Cruz

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

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### Children's Worship

#### Preschool through 3rd Grade, Sunday Mornings during Worship Services

Every Sunday morning during our worship services, children in preschool through 3rd grade are invited to a special worship lesson, returning in time for communion with their families. Beginning this September, this group will be divided into 2 sections most Sundays, with children in preschool having a separate worship lesson from children in K-3. Parents are always welcome to join us!

### Church School

#### Preschool through High School, Sundays at 10:10 am, 5th/6th Floors, begins September 7

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.

### Kids' Club

#### Kindergarten through 6th Grade, Wednesdays 3:45 to 6 pm, begins September 17

Kids' Club is a Wednesday afternoon afterschool program made up of three key components that provide children a firm foundation of faith and strong relationships with one another. These are:

Biblical Education—Taught by the MAPC Pastors

Choir—Our children are regularly invited to sing at MAPC Sunday morning worship

Fellowship—A weekly Family Dinner, to which parents, siblings and friends are invited!

### Wee Kids

#### Preschoolers, Mondays at 3 pm, begins September 22

Our popular Wee Kids' program for preschoolers is moving back to Monday afternoons at 3pm. Wee Kids is an abbreviated version of Kids' Club, with Bible study, art, music, movement and games.

### Sunday Morning Nurseries

#### Infants and toddlers, Sunday mornings, 8:30 am to 1 pm

Our nurseries are open on the 4th floor of the Church House every Sunday morning during worship services. Day School teacher Rosie Agosto leads a team of experienced child-care professionals to care for your child, and beepers are provided to parents so they may be summoned back to the nursery in case of an emergency.

### MAPC Children's Library

Located between the receptionist's office in the Church House and the side door to the Sanctuary, this children's library is open on Sunday mornings and is equipped with a speaker, so that parents may continue to listen to the worship service as children play or read in the library space. In addition to books for children, which include religious literature for children and young people, you will also find a number of resources for parenting and even some specific for Christian parenting.



## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### Middle School Group, **NEW!**

**6th to 8th grade, Wednesday afternoons starting Sept. 17**

Activities and talks directly relating faith in Christ to middle school life.

### High School Group, **NEW!**

**9th grade to 12th grade, Sundays at 1 pm, twice a month starting Oct. 5**

High Schoolers have lunch together, get to know one another better, and talk about topics directly relating faith in Christ to high school life.

### Youth Worship

**4th Grade to Confirmation age, Sundays 9 am and 11:15 am worship, Dana Chapel**

Worship tailored to youth. After the Children's Lesson, youth are led out of the Sanctuary for a youth sermon, hymns, and other elements mirroring worship, returning to the sanctuary to participate in communion and the rest of the service.

### Church School Youth Bible Study

**Middle & High School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor**

Young people learn about the Bible and get to know one another in a small group setting.

### Middle & High Schoolers at Shelter Dinner

**One Thursday a month**, our youth group helps prepare, serve, and clean up a free dinner for the homeless, under-housed, and other members of the community in special need in the Parish Hall.

### Confirmation

**Begins October. Exact dates and location TBD.**

Young people become prepared to personally profess our Christian faith and accept responsibility in the life of the church.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Sunday Adult Education

**Sundays at 10:10 am in the Dana Chapel or Parish Hall, begins September 7.**

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

### Parents' Coffee Hour

**Sundays at 10:10 am; check announcements for specific dates and locations.**

Parents of children of all ages are invited to join the Rev. Dr. Fred R. Anderson and other guest speakers for monthly conversations about raising our children as people of God. Each conversation will revolve around a particular topic, including "How to talk about death with our children" or "How do we talk to our children about other religions?"

### SMALL GROUPS

Our small groups meet regularly for Bible study and fellowship, and new members are welcome to join us at any time!

### Reading Through the Bible

**Wednesdays at 12:30 pm, 5th Floor**

A member of the pastoral staff leads the guided reading.

### Women's Bible Study

**2nd & 4th Mondays at 6:30 pm, Phillips Lounge**

### Men's Bible Study

**1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, Phillips Lounge**

Group is led by Dr. Anderson.

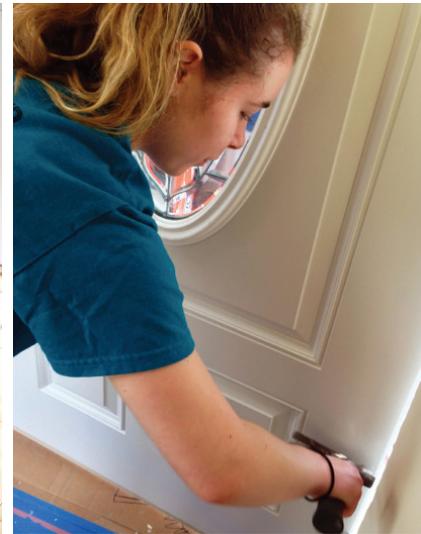
### 20s/30s Bible Study

**2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 7:30 pm**

Contact Ellen Klein at eck@mapc.com for meeting locations.

**Left Page:** Kids Club recreation on the roof garden during Kids Club  
**This Page; From Top:** Adult Education class on Christians in Syria;  
Church School; students participating in our annual Youth Sunday





*Clockwise, from left: Christopher De La Cruz helps prepare a wall for painting; Chris Rowan, 16, from MAPC at work in a school; Jane Wahlig, 15, from MAPC helps fix up a newly installed door. Ella Joyce Dogouo, 15, from MAPC prepares a tile to be placed*

## Sent by Love to Serve

**How Our Youth Sandy Relief Mission Trip Brought Churches Together for Outreach  
By Christopher De La Cruz**



*From left: Chris Rowan, Jane Wahlig, Ella Joyce Dogouo, from MAPC, pose with Meredith Hickerson from Iowa in Times Square. MAPC and FAPC took the students from Iowa around New York City*



**Left:** New York youth and Iowa youth get to know one another in a game led by MAPC Director of Youth and Family Ministries Christopher De La Cruz **Right:** Mission Trip participants pose in front of the home they worked on

**M**s. G lived a quiet life in her small, two-story home in the Roxbury neighborhood on the Rockaway Peninsula. Retired for years after a career as a nurse, the elderly but active woman anticipated living a relaxing retirement.

Hurricane Sandy changed all that.

On that week in October 2012, flood waters filled her basement and flooded through the entire first floor, reaching at least two-and-a-half feet off the floor. Chairs, bureaus, cabinets, and other furniture were washed away, along with family photos and other mementos holding cherished memories.

After the water receded, the stench of mold, a cracked basement foundation, and the remains of her kitchen and family room scattered in ruins made Ms. G's house unlivable. After living in four different locations, she still does not yet live in her house.

"I just want to be home," Ms. G said. "I feel like I've been living out of bags."

This is the story of just one of the several different worksites that the Youth Sandy Relief Mission Trip Team visited. The team hoped, though, through its service in the name of Christ, to play a small yet significant part in helping people pick up the pieces after Hurricane Sandy.

This storm, as we know too well, devastated our region and continues to have an impact long after the media coverage subsided. Our worksite groups spackled ceilings and walls, painted them, put together door frames, laid down floor tiles, and did other things to help continue projects that previous mission groups have been working on.

This Mission Trip, which MAPC participated in from June 25 through June 29, was borne out of a vision of mutuality, partnership, and a response to Christ's love for the world. The youth and adults came from two churches from Iowa, First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Spirit Lake and FPC of Lake Park, and two New York churches, MAPC and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (FAPC).

The Mission Trip participants stayed at First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica in Queens, which provided food, housing, and other amenities. Brick Presbyterian Church and FPC New York also contributed supplies. And, the entire trip was coordinated and overseen by Presbyterian Hope in Action, an organization created by NYC churches to serve victims of Hurricane Sandy and led by Executive Director Lisette Robustelli, in conjunction with local non-profit Friends of Rockaway.

*"This is what happens when churches across the country and denominational structures come together to serve in the name of Christ,"* Rev. Don Wahlig, my fellow mission trip supervisor, said. *"We have seen it with our partnership with Presbyterian churches in Zimbabwe. It is a real blessing to see the Holy Spirit at work as God makes possible this coordination and cooperation among different churches."*

The trip allowed for a multi-layered cross-cultural experience, united in mission. People from Iowa and people from New York got to know one another's experiences better, both things held in common as well as our differences. Then, both groups were taken out of their own comfort zones to seven different worksites, including homes and schools, affected by Hurricane Sandy.

We learned that on a bus ride to the Minneapolis airport, one bus driver warned the Iowa church teams of the horrors of New York, riddled with supposed crime, nasty locals, and muggings at every corner. Yet, the Iowa team

reported to us multiple times that they felt this couldn't be further from the truth.

*"My experience has been that you have been helpful, nice, and caring."* Dave Dau, a member of FPC Spirit Lake, said during a small group meeting. *"We're all just people."*

When the groups were not at their worksite, there were also "get-to-know-one-another" activities for all the youth together, as well as daily small group and personal devotions, a worship service, and a candlelight reflection, all to make sure our young people experienced and encountered God during the Mission Trip, both in service and in reflection.

On the last day of the mission trip, half of the Iowa youth visited Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church and half visited MAPC, where Michael Gewecke, Associate Pastor of FPC Spirit Lake, greeted the congregation on behalf of his church. Afterward, all the groups came together to have a picnic in Central Park, followed by different groups being taken around Manhattan sites such as Times Square, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Broadway. Many Iowans told us this was their first time ever seeing many of the places New Yorkers often take for granted.

MAPC is in talks with FAPC, FPC Spirit Lake, and FPC Lake Park to continue our relationship in some form, including the possibility of a mission trip of the same group to Iowa to serve the Native American community in the region.

As for Ms. G, Friends of Rockaway told us they hoped she would be in her home by the end of this summer. Meanwhile, during one of our mission trip's worksite days, Ms. G herself walked into the house, smiling at the progress that was being made, taking pictures with our youth, and even telling us to "go jump into the ocean" after we were done with our duties.

*"I am so grateful for all of you. Thank you,"* Ms. G said. *"You are such a blessing."* ■

# FELLOWSHIP



## New York City Children's Chorus Benefit

**From left:** Meme Peponis and Kimberly Thurston; Laura MacDonald and husband Peter MacDonald; NYCCC parents browse the silent auction items; NYCCC parents Anne-Rose Fredericks, Dore Lebeau, and Mathew Veedon

# Lenten Prayer Garden

By Millie A. Tourtelot

Prayer is one of the most basic disciplines of the Christian life, but it can often be difficult to fully engage ourselves in prayer. It is particularly challenging for children, especially young children, to learn to pray. Not only is God invisible, we most commonly teach our children to pray with eyes closed and express themselves through language, which they are still working to master. It is easy to forget that children are capable of experiencing God and are invited as much as we are to do so!

Inspired by the work of Krista Lovell, a highly regarded Christian Educator, I asked the Christian Education Children's Subcommittee, comprised of Sharon Boersma, Jill Feury, Megan Doyle Rosen, Stephanie Murray and Chris De La Cruz, to gift our children and families with a special prayer garden during Lent, a time traditionally associated with exploring new means of prayer and drawing closer to God. Instead of imagining prayer as simply words, we challenged each other to think about how we might pray with all of our senses and expressive abilities.

Although none of us had personally experienced such a prayer garden before, ideas came tumbling out during our planning sessions. Children may not be the most eloquent speakers, but we knew they loved to express themselves in art, movement, and noise, and could explore God's presence not just with their minds but through all of their senses. Sharon Boersma, the chair of the committee, created the first station, a quilting station where children could create their own paper quilts, using the images of the cross and the crown. Notes directed parents to help younger children associate these images with Jesus, while questions directed older children to associate the cross pieces with the "sacrifice" of our bad impulses, and the crown pieces with spiritual fruit. Eventually, seven stations were

developed; in addition to the quilting station, there were stations for praying with water, with sounds & music, with light, with scents, with beads, and by making portraits of Jesus.

The Prayer Garden opened on Palm Sunday, April 13, to children and families, and again on Good Friday, for children and adults alike, and it was very well received. Meme Peponis echoed the sentiment expressed by more than one family when she told me, "James and Charlotte and I really enjoyed going through each station together, so much so that, when we ran out of time and could not visit the last station, they begged me to bring them back later and we made a second trip." Given the attention spans of young children, the expectation was that children would go through each station very quickly and be done with the entire garden in 20-30 minutes at the most, but for most kids, that was not the case!

It seems the prayer stations did help our young people (as well as a few adults) connect with God. One anonymous commenter wrote that our water station "showed me how God was fluid." Jill Feury reported back to the committee that her daughter brought home a scent packet she created at the scent station to sniff during her evening prayers because it "smells like God." Stephanie Murray, a parent and church school teacher, specifically mentioned our prayer garden when we asked our teachers to share when they had experienced God this year.

Overall, the prayer garden was an incredible blessing to our community, and I am so grateful to the committee members who helped put it together and the families who visited! Because of its success, the committee hopes to do something similar next year, so if you missed out on the prayer garden this year, it won't be long before it is back again. ■



# SESSION ACTIONS THIS SPRING

## Session Appoints Christopher De La Cruz as Director of Youth and Family Ministries

At its May 27 meeting, the Session approved the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel and Christian Education Committees that Christopher De La Cruz, who has been serving a one-year internship, be appointed Director of Youth and Family Ministries on a permanent basis, effective June 1, 2014. Chris has accepted the appointment, and there is great rejoicing all around! Two years ago the Session developed a job description for a Youth Director, but subsequent financial challenges meant we could not afford to fill the position. Instead, we sought an intern, preferably a recent seminary graduate, funded, in part, by a grant from the Vidda Foundation. Chris joined us last June and immediately went to work, winning the hearts and minds of our young people, their families and the staff. Though some had doubted that there were enough youth in the congregation to merit this, that doubt was soon dispelled as a misconception—they are here, but we were not ministering to them effectively. As this year's budget approached, efforts were made to provide a full-time salary, but these fell short, due to other financial constraints. However, a fortuitous decision by our auditors on a tax matter meant that additional funds were suddenly available, and Dr. Anderson nominated Chris to the Personnel and Christian Education Committees. Session unanimously approved the motion, with words of praise and thanks to Chris for all he has done. Congratulations, Chris!



## Welcome Andrew Smothers, 2014-2016 Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow

As we said "Farewell" to Claire and Andrew Ruth, we welcomed our 8th Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow, Andrew "Andy" D. Smothers. Andy is a recent graduate of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He was examined by New York City Presbytery in May and approved for membership upon his ordination, and ordained by his home presbytery of East Iowa, in late June. Andy joined us on the pastoral staff June 2 and soon was leading worship and getting to know us all. In July he participated in our denomination's orientation program for mission workers, as well as the mission conference at New Wilmington, PA. Thereafter, Andy continued to immerse himself in African studies as well as lead in worship and other pastoral responsibilities here at MAPC. August 24 Andy preached and was commissioned to take up his work, and on September 1, began his responsibilities with TEEZ, and he will remain there for the next year.



# Session Actions This Spring

## Session Actions in May:

- Approved the Worship Committee's recommendation to suspend the Sunday evening service until October and commissioned the Committee and staff to develop a new format for a forty-minute candlelight communion service on Sunday evenings, held in the Dana Chapel using Taizé, Iona and other alternative musical forms.
- Approved the recommendation of the Worship Committee to institute a healing station in the side transepts during Communion on the first Sunday of each month, for those who wish to receive prayers for healing either before or after communing, and discontinue the once-a-month Healing and Wholeness service.
- Approved the recommendation of the Outreach Committee to make grants to the following partnership organizations.
 

Booker T. Washington Learning Center	\$5,000
Health Advocates for Older People	\$2,500
James Lenox House	\$2,500
Jan Hus Homeless Ministry	\$7,500
Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter	\$3,000
New Amsterdam Boys & Girls Choir	\$3,000
New Life of New York City	\$2,500
Search and Care	\$4,000
New York Common Pantry	\$5,000
- Voted to endorse Christopher De La Cruz to the Presbytery of New York City as an Inquirer for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament / Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- Approved the recommendation of the Christian Education Committee that Room 503 be officially designated the "Youth Lounge."
- Approved assisting TEEZ in a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of a new double cab, four-wheel drive Toyota Truck, and disbursed \$20,000 from the mission tithe of the MAPC Fund: Grounded in Faith, Embracing the Future.
- Approved Chris De La Cruz to become a full-time employee as of June 1, 2014 with the title Director of Youth and Family Ministries.
- Approved the Executive Committee's recommendation that Session appoint a representative Mission Review Committee comprised of seven or eight members of the congregation, chosen by the session, and begin a process to identify those people.

## Session Actions in June:

- Approved the NYC Children's Chorus Tour to Austria, June 26-July 3 or 4, 2015.
- Approved the NYC Children's Chorus benefit in November 2014, (date to be specified) to help underwrite the costs of the Austria Tour.
- Approved a motion from the Worship Committee that the yellow envelopes for donations for the food program be available at church services in the pews on a weekly basis, rather than just the first Sunday of the month.
- Approved distribution of the 2014 Presbytery Partners funds in the amount of \$41,000, giving \$10,000 to the Church of Gethsemane, \$16,000 to Presbyterian Hope in Action, \$7,500 to Holmes Camp, and \$7,500 to Presbytery Senior Services.
- Approved a recommendation from the Capital Campaign Mission Subcommittee that up to \$50,000 from the MAPC Fund mission tithe be directed to the construction of a new church in Harare in a projected 50/50 partnership with the Synod of Harare.
- Received and ratified the report of the Commission to Establish the Mission Review Committee membership, with word that each of the first choices for the committee had accepted. The members are: Kevin Brumit, Vickram David, Kristin Hohmann, Barbara Iverson, Ruth Schroeder, Christopher Trinka, William Welsh, and Cari Wint.
- After a second reading, approved a new charter for the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School Committee, as presented by the task force to draft that charter.
- Approved a Personnel Committee motion to recommend to the congregation that it raise the Rev. Donald B. Wahlig's salary to reflect his experience and performance and to reduce the disparity between his salary and Beverly Bartlett's. The change would take place in two stages, the first on July 1, 2014, the second on January 1, 2015. A congregational meeting was called for Sunday, July 13, at or after the 10:30 am service in order to act on the recommendation.

- Dr. Fred R. Anderson, Moderator of Session



## Word in Action by Robert A. Knakal

Introducing the MAPC Mission Fund: Grounded in Faith, Embracing the Future.

I have been a member at MAPC for about 3 years. My daughter Sophie attends the Day School, and occasionally you may see my wife, Cynthia, here with me as well. In these three years, I have been involved in a number of activities and committees. I am currently a member of the Trustees and serve on the MAPC Mission Fund Committee.

Through my involvement in these and other activities at MAPC, I have come to know the importance of preserving our church for the future. I also have an appreciation of the time and energy that is required to make it happen.

So, you may be asking yourself why a 51-year-old guy, who has lived in Manhattan for 30 years, has only been a member of the congregation for three years. I grew up in Northern New Jersey and, from as far back as I can remember, I was active in our church. I attended Sunday School and attended services with my mom and brother. I was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Maywood, was an acolyte there and, during my high school years, was a Sunday School teacher.

After high school, I was off to college and didn't attend church services unless I was home from school on my various breaks. During my junior year, my mom passed away and I became angry that she was taken away from me. I stopped going to church, other than attending weddings and funerals. I no longer was an active member of the church. I still said my prayers, but attending services in the Lord's House was no longer for me.

About 30 years later, I was attending a charity event and met Nancy Nichols. We began chatting and came to realize that, decades ago, our families had known each other. She began to tell me about MAPC and, as those of you who know Nancy will attest, she can be very persuasive. I decided to give church another chance (Thank you Nancy!).

I remember that first Sunday so vividly. The sun was shining, Don was preaching, and attending church again made me feel warm inside. Close to my family again. It was clear that MAPC was a very special place.

As I sat in my pew, I was overcome with emotion. You could feel sorrow and sadness here. But there was heaven and happiness and sunshine too. The spirit of peace moved free and clear, making way for joy and instilling a profound sense of community within these walls.

There were voices of people here who believe in this place. They live and breathe in this place, and they want to be in this place.

And I have come to love this place. And, now, we need to preserve this place.

We want future generations to know the warmth, care and faithfulness of our congregation. Worship and fellowship are central to this; however, another very important responsibility of membership is supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents.

A few weeks ago, you heard about the importance of stewardship at MAPC for budgeting and sustaining our operations and ministry; but, just as important is supporting special initiatives, such as the MAPC Mission Fund, which help to sustain the future of our church without taking funds from the annual budget or incurring debt.

Supporting the physical plant at MAPC is critical, especially when the maintenance issues are so apparent, such as the pieces of the tower falling to the sidewalk and the impending deadline to make upgrades to the Church House. It is necessary to support these efforts to fund the work so that the buildings here remain a center for worship, service, learning, and fellowship for generations to come.

The objective before us reminds me of a quote from the Polish screenwriter and author Leo Rosten who said, *"The purpose of life is not to be happy, but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you lived at all"*. And when it comes to making a difference, it is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little; do what you can.

I am honored to have been asked to join this committee and play a role in the work that needs to be done in this place. As we move forward with the campaign, you will hear more about campaign activities and progress toward our goal through announcements like these from both Fred and members of the committee. You will also see the campaign mentioned in *MAPC Life* articles and on the MAPC website.

And remember that it is easy to *"sit-up"* and take notice. What is difficult is *"getting-up"* and taking action. As a friend of mine always used to say, "Go the extra mile. It's never crowded there".

And in closing, I will leave you with a quote from the English entrepreneur, Quaker and philosopher William Penn, *"If there is any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do, let me do it now, and not deter or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again"*. ■

## Word in Action by Julian C. Schroeder

### Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

I want to invite you to be part of an exciting and important initiative by our MAPC community.

But first I want you to look around.

Look up. That beautiful carved wood work was uncovered – yes, it used to be behind plasterboard – and hand reworked and finished by skilled Latin American craftsmen in the Fund for Renewal.

Look down. In that same fund, we replaced worn carpet held together with duct tape with our beautiful marble and wood floor, a redesign that carries our choral and organ music throughout the congregation, a redesign with sight lines to Madison Avenue and a Narthex where parents can hear the service while children play.

In the 921 Fund, we established the Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellowship. We have sent seven individuals or couples to further theological education in Africa, a continent where the rapidly growing Christian church is desperately short of church leaders. And this same fund facilitated the exchange of lay people and pastors in annual visits with our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe. Their faith commitment has energized us as we have shared our skills with them.

We have another opportunity to take an important step forward with the MAPC Mission Fund, Grounded in Faith: Embracing the Future.

This Mission Fund is to pay for steeple repairs, ones essential to maintain the structural integrity of our steeple, to fund government mandated sprinkler systems and other infrastructure and to repay loans from the 921 Fund. As with every fund at MAPC, we dedicate a tithe, 10%, to Mission.

But there is another important reason for this fund – it's part of the slogan Grounded in Faith, Embracing the Future.

Throughout our history, our church has maintained the integrity of Biblically based preaching and faithful celebration of the sacraments; we provide Christian Education at every level, including a new and exciting program for youth and young families. We have a truly exceptional music program with inspirational music every Sunday, the St. Andrew Chorale that performs difficult pieces, some rarely heard, and rigorous musical education for tots to teens. We are *"grounded in faith."*

What about *"embracing the future?"*

Although it seems that Fred came only yesterday, he has been with us for over 20 years. He will be with us only for about another 12 months before we must embark on the difficult journey to call another senior pastor. I believe that the Mission Fund is essential to put us in the strongest possible position to call the finest senior pastor we can find. Our program, preaching, liturgy, outreach and mission are all strong. The Mission Fund will make our infrastructure and finances strong. That is why a core group of 12 of us, some of us blessed with substantial resources, have already pledged over \$3 million to the Fund. But, we cannot do it alone. We need everyone in our community to embrace the future.

There is a lack of character and leadership in much of public life today. This is our chance to make a difference.

Our wonderful church is *"grounded in faith."* It's up to us to *"...embrace the future"* with character and courage.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen!

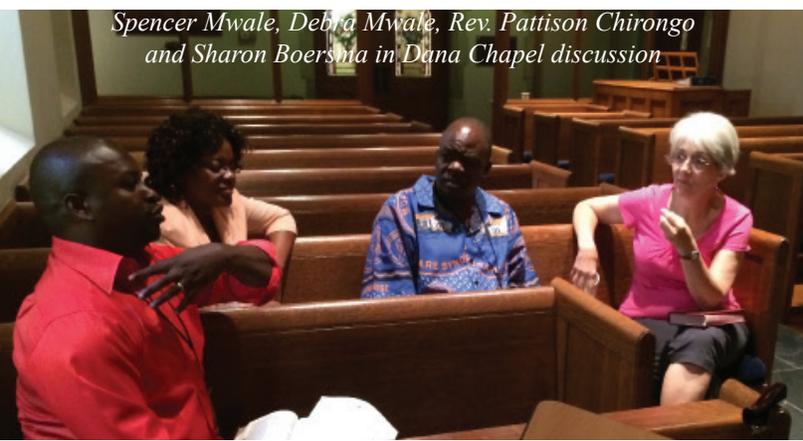
**Julian  
Schroeder**



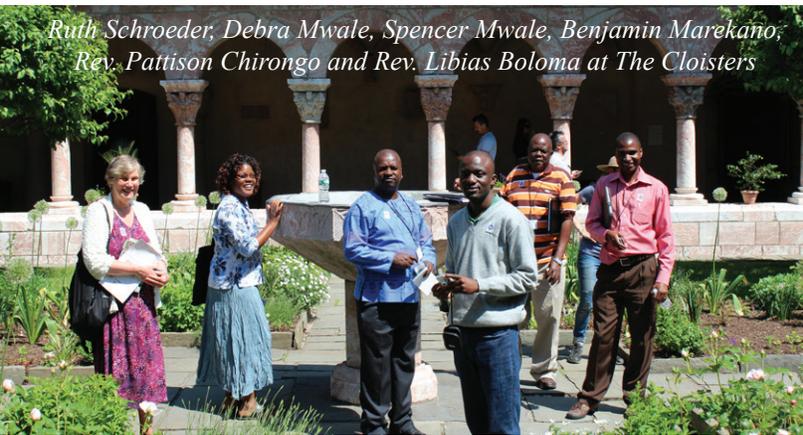
# PARTNERSHIP



*Sharon Boersma, and Spencer Mwale dine in the Parish Hall*



*Spencer Mwale, Debra Mwale, Rev. Pattison Chirongo and Sharon Boersma in Dana Chapel discussion*



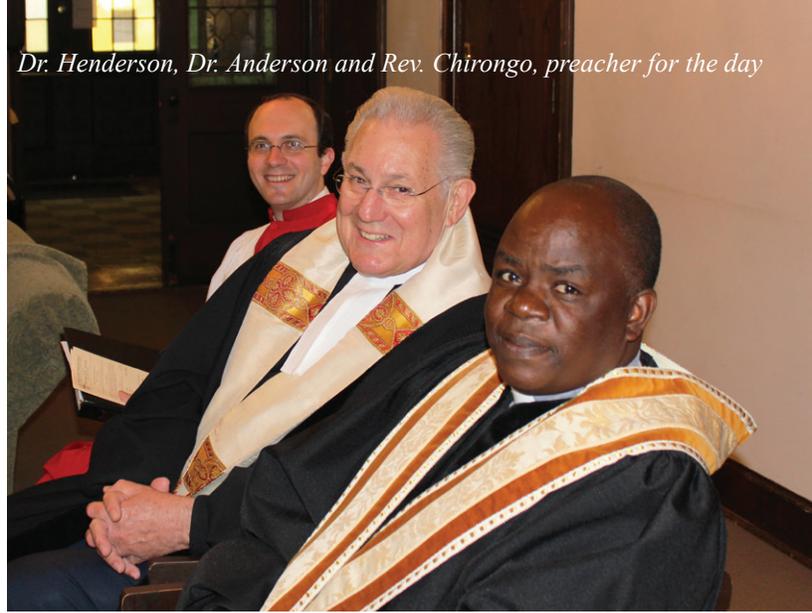
*Ruth Schroeder, Debra Mwale, Spencer Mwale, Benjamin Marekano, Rev. Pattison Chirongo and Rev. Libias Boloma at The Cloisters*



*Morning Bible Study in the Philips Lounge*



*Delegation and Pastors preparing for worship*



*Dr. Henderson, Dr. Anderson and Rev. Chirongo, preacher for the day*



*Debra Mwale (HIV/AIDS Coordinator & Pastor's Wife), Rev. Libias Boloma (General Secretary), Elder Spencer Mwale, Benjamin Marekano (Youth Delegate), Elder Margaret Mills and Rev. Pattison Chirongo*



*Rev. Boloma, Dr. Anderson and Rev. Chirongo sign the partnership agreement as Rev. Wahlig looks on*



*Rev. Boloma with MAPC children*

# Renewal of MAPC Partnership Covenant with Harare Synod by Donald B. Wahlig

- “Our Zimbabwean guests’ faith in Jesus Christ is inspirational to me and my faith. It is a living faith that cannot be hidden or put aside, and I see it every time they visit.”
- “There is a great deal of energy and enthusiasm from our Zimbabwean Christian brothers and sisters which I feel invigorates our faith. Their faith is part of their daily life in a way that we can all learn from.”
- “I love the utterly unselfconscious way the Zims relate to and talk about their faith, how interwoven it is in their lives and how fundamental it is to their very being.”
- “Participating in the trips - and with the groups who visited here - have been powerful experiences for me.”
- “I am more able to share my faith; I value even more the simple basic elements in human relationships. I carry the personal Zim connections in my heart & in my prayers.”

These are just a few of the comments the Zimbabwe Partnership Committee (ZPC) received from MAPC members who responded to a ZPC survey in the late spring of 2013. With the conclusion of the first three-year term of MAPC’s ground-breaking partnership with the Synod of Harare CCAP (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian), the committee conducted an online survey and ran in-person focus groups to help determine one fundamental question: Had the primary partnership objective - strengthening the ministries and discipleship of both Harare Synod and MAPC - been achieved?

After 7 trips by MAPC delegations to Zimbabwe and 4 delegations from Harare Synod received at MAPC, there was abundant anecdotal evidence that our partnership has had a significant, some would say life-changing, impact on the depth and practice of Christian faith by those who participated. What the committee needed was a clearer picture of this impact in New York as well as Harare.

## The Impact of the Partnership at MAPC and at Harare Synod

The results were substantially positive. After 2 months of research, the committee found that half of those who responded claimed the partnership had a positive impact on their faith. Not surprisingly, the impact was greatest on the two dozen members who had actually traveled to Africa, where they experienced first-hand the warm Christian hospitality of our hosts, the vibrancy of their worship and the

mutual sharing of our faith in Bible Studies.

The impact was also positive on those who engaged with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Harare Synod here at MAPC. For the vast majority, this interaction occurred in worship and Christian Education. This was largely due to the Pastor-in-Residence program, a central aspect of the partnership which enables one pastor from Harare Synod to spend 6 weeks here at MAPC each Fall, participating in all aspects of the congregation’s life. Abusas Aston Galanti, Joseph Juma and, most recently, Pattison Chirongo have all been Pastors-in-Residence. We expect Abusa Libias Boloma to be with us this fall from mid-October until Thanksgiving week.

ZPC also asked our partners in Zimbabwe for their impression of the effectiveness of the partnership. Their answer was as enthusiastically positive as ours. The provision of over 900 Bibles has enabled many impoverished families, including many youth, to have direct access to scripture in native languages for the first time. This reenergized their Bible studies. The provision of computers and printers has enabled 15 of the 19 ordained clergy to have internet communication with one another at a level previously only imagined.

The impact of the partnership in Harare Synod is experienced broadly among all 24 congregations who are surprised and encouraged that Christians here in the United States care enough about them to walk in faith with them. For these 8,000 Presbyterians, struggling to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ amid very challenging circumstances, it is a source of deep joy to know that we at MAPC want to worship with them, pray for and with them, visit them and learn from them, all in the name of making both of us more faithful and effective in our ministries and discipleship.

Based on this feedback, the Zimbabwe Partnership Committee recommended to Session earlier this year that the partnership be renewed for another three-year term. At its April meeting, Session approved unanimously the renewal of the partnership.

## What’s in the Renewed Partnership Covenant?

As part of the renewed partnership covenant, MAPC will help Harare Synod construct a new city church on a lot adjacent to the existing synod headquarters in the central business district of downtown Harare. Session approved giving \$50,000 from the MAPC Fund mission tithe to help build this new church on a 50-50 partnership basis, and the work has begun. MAPC has also begun work with Harare Synod to further the development of its retreat center at Rock Haven, turning it into a lay training institute. Part of that commitment includes our Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellows spending an additional week in Zimbabwe, in residence at Rock Hav-

en, training the Synod’s lay leaders. Finally, MAPC has begun to explore how it can help the Synod expand a nascent HIV/AIDS ministry to provide training, testing and, eventually, drug treatment for those who are HIV positive.

Likewise, Harare Synod will help MAPC become more effective at reaching out to Zimbabwean, Malawian, and other African Christians here in New York, as well as encouraging the continued growth of our youth ministry in collaboration with the Synod’s youth leaders, and helping MAPC learn from the Synod’s models for ensuring that members stay connected with the congregations of which they are members.

While the actual work contemplated in the renewed covenant partnership represents new activities, the primary objective of the partnership covenant remains the same as outlined in the original agreement: *“With the help of the Holy Spirit, through this partnership we aim to strengthen each other’s ministries and discipleship, while developing a shared ministry between us.”*

## The Partnership Renewal Celebration - June 1, 2014

After the respective governing councils at MAPC and Harare Synod each approved the renewed Partnership Covenant, MAPC invited the Synod to send a delegation of 5 pastors and lay leaders to come to New York for a celebration. On Sunday, June 1st, 2014, in a joyous signing ceremony in the Parish Hall following worship, MAPC congregation members and choristers sang the refrains of Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus as the renewed Covenant of Partnership was signed by the Rev. Dr. Fred Anderson and Abusas Libias Boloma and Pattison Chirongo, and later by Robin Weaver, MAPC Clerk of Session.

During the week that followed, the five-member delegation met with MAPC staff and lay leaders for worship, Bible Study and discussion of the logistics of the partnership initiatives. Together, next steps for each initiative were outlined. All in all, it was a week full of joy and Christian fellowship, mutual encouragement, education and collaboration.

## Next Step: MAPC Delegation to Visit Harare in March, 2015!

When the congregation finally said farewell to our guests during Sunday coffee hour at the end of the week, plans were already being made for a return delegation to Zimbabwe in March, 2015. It’s not too early to reserve a spot on this trip! If you are interested in experiencing the power of the partnership, there is no better way than to participate on a trip to visit our brothers and sisters in Christ in Harare synod. **If you are interested, please email Don Wahlig at [dbw@mapc.com](mailto:dbw@mapc.com).** ■



## Saint Andrew Music Society Celebrates its 50th Season

“We want Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church to be known for its good music and feel this is a way not only to reach our members, but also to make these programs musical events for the community.” – MAPC Church News (November 1965)

MAPC’s concert series and choral society, the Saint Andrew Music Society (SAMS) and Saint Andrew Chorale, are about to embark on their 50th Season. A number of special concerts and events over the next year will highlight this notable anniversary and strong legacy of a rich musical history.

An “Oratorio Choir” was formed during the tenure of Dr. Seth Bingham, MAPC’s beloved Organist & Choirmaster from 1913 to 1951, offering large-scale choral works at the 8 pm Evening Service on a monthly basis. Following the appointment of Dr. George Markey (Organist & Choirmaster from 1961 to 1970), and the installation of the new Casavant Organ in 1962, the music program expanded to incorporate organ recitals and the addition of guest instrumentalists and orchestras to accompany the major works sung by the 70-voice Oratorio Choir at the evening services. In 1965, the Music Committee spearheaded the creation of a new external program that was to be named the Saint Andrew Music Society, a name that was chosen by the committee “because St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and Presbyterianism. He was the disciple who brought others to Christ. By means of this society we hope to extend the worship of our church through music.” Under the leadership of Music Committee members Elizabeth Smith, Dorothy Hupper and Gordon Hardy (who, at the time, was Dean of The Juilliard School), along with capable committee volunteers including our indefatigable members Anne Connor and Douglas Williams,

the program was transformed into a Sunday afternoon concert series that, the committee believed, “will testify to the performance of a rich musical heritage within a richly blessed church.”

The first season was evidently a busy and successful one, with four major concerts performed by the Saint Andrew Chorale, four concerts sung by MAPC’s professional octet—the “Saint Andrew Cantata Singers”, two young artist chamber music concerts, and six organ recitals! 116 members of the church showed their support to become the first “members” of the Saint Andrew Music Society during the 1965-1966 Season. As reported in MAPC’s Church News, the first Chorale concert, on November 21, 1965, featured Bach’s Magnificat and Bingham’s Concerto for Organ and Brass and drew “the largest audience that any of our musical events have attracted in years” and proved “that our music program has indeed progressed to the point where we can, and should, invite city-wide attention to our major works.”

The Saint Andrew Music Society continued to thrive under the leadership of Dr. John Weaver, Director of Music & Organist from 1970 to 2005. A regular series of keyboard and chamber music concerts was organized when a new Steinway grand piano was donated to the church in 1972. Since my tenure began in 2005, the series of varied instrumental and vocal concerts has continued as our “Music on Madison” series, reflecting the desire of the society’s founders and Dr. Weaver’s vision to offer “a place for groups to perform free of expense, so they can establish themselves as ensembles” and to encourage talented young artists in their concert careers. Over the years several outstanding artists have performed on the series, including James Levine, Thomas Hampon,

Seymour Lipkin, Michael Parloff, Dame Emma Kirkby, and the Guarneri and Emerson String Quartets. Recent collaborations with Mannes College and The Juilliard School’s historical performance program, Juilliard415, help to encourage the remarkable talents of the many young musicians studying in New York City. Our first annual Carol Sing of audience carols, seasonal choral music and readings was held in December 2005, becoming quickly established as a popular MAPC Christmas tradition.

Since 1965, the Saint Andrew Chorale and Orchestra have performed over 165 sacred choral works ranging from the 16th to the 21st Centuries, as well as instrumental works and works for organ and orchestra. (A complete listing of the Chorale repertoire can be found on our website at [www.mapc.com/music/archive](http://www.mapc.com/music/archive).) At the time of its founding, the Saint Andrew Chorale was among many choral societies based in New York City churches. The Saint Andrew Chorale is the only such ensemble to maintain its roots in the founding church, still directed and administered as an integral part of that church’s—MAPC’s—music ministry.

Our 50th Season is a cause for celebration. I hope that you will come to as many concerts as you can, including Brahms’s Requiem and Alto Rhapsody, our 10th Annual Carol Sing, a concert of Bach cantatas and motets sung by our professional singers, our very own New York City Children’s Chorus and Saint Andrew Chorale collaborating in a program of music by American composers, in addition to our Music on Madison series concerts and special events throughout the year. Please join us as we celebrate our 50th Season of SAMS, supporting the musical life of our congregation and reaching out to our neighbors in the wider community. – Dr. Andrew E. Henderson

## NYC Children’s Chorus Tour to Toronto & Niagara

The New York City Children’s Chorus, our resident graded children’s choir program, undertook a successful concert tour to Toronto & Niagara in May. Forty choristers, Artistic Director Mary Huff, Accompanist and Executive Director Andrew Henderson, Associate Pastor Beverly Bartlett, and a host of parent chaperones spent four busy and enjoyable days in Ontario. Choristers sang a benefit concert at St. Thomas’ Church, St. Catharines (which raised approximately \$3,000 for Community Care of St. Catharines-Thorold); a midday concert at Casa Loma in Toronto; and took part in the Sunday morning worship service at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto. The chorus, Ms. Huff and Dr. Henderson are pictured with William Maddox, Director of Music at Yorkminster Park Church, following the service.

As the NYCCC enters its third season, the remarkable popularity and expansion of the program continues. The choirs are operating at maximum capacity, with over 130 choristers in the main program of five graded choirs from first grade through high school, and 30 young singers in the four classes that make up the Preparatory Division. - Dr. Andrew E. Henderson



## Fall 2014 Events

**Friday, September 19, 6 pm**

Church Family Night

**Sunday, September 21, 1 pm**

Senior Ministries Lunch

**Sunday, September 28, 9 am & 11:15 am**

Rev. Richard Goeres, DHC Read Award Winner Preaches

**Monday, September 29, 7 pm**

Moms' Night Out

**Friday, October 3**

MAPC On the Town

**Sunday, October 19, 3 pm**

Music on Madison: Students from Mannes College

**Monday, October 20, 6:30 pm**

Men's Fellowship, Oktoberfest

**Friday, October 24, 6 pm**

Church Family Night

**Sunday, October 26, 3 pm**

Music on Madison: Andrew Henderson, organ  
& Jorge Ávila, violin

**Saturday, November 1, 10 am**

MAPC Women's Brunch

**Monday, November 3, 7 pm**

Moms' Night Out

**Sunday, November 9, 1 pm**

Senior Ministries Lunch

**Monday, November 10, 6:30 pm**

Officers' Stewardship Dinner

**Sunday, November 16, 9 am & 11:15 am**

Stewardship Consecration Sunday

**Sunday, November 16, 3 pm**

Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra: Brahms Requiem  
& Alto Rhapsody

**Friday, November 21, 6 pm**

Church Family Night

**Sunday, November 23, 10 - 1:30 am**

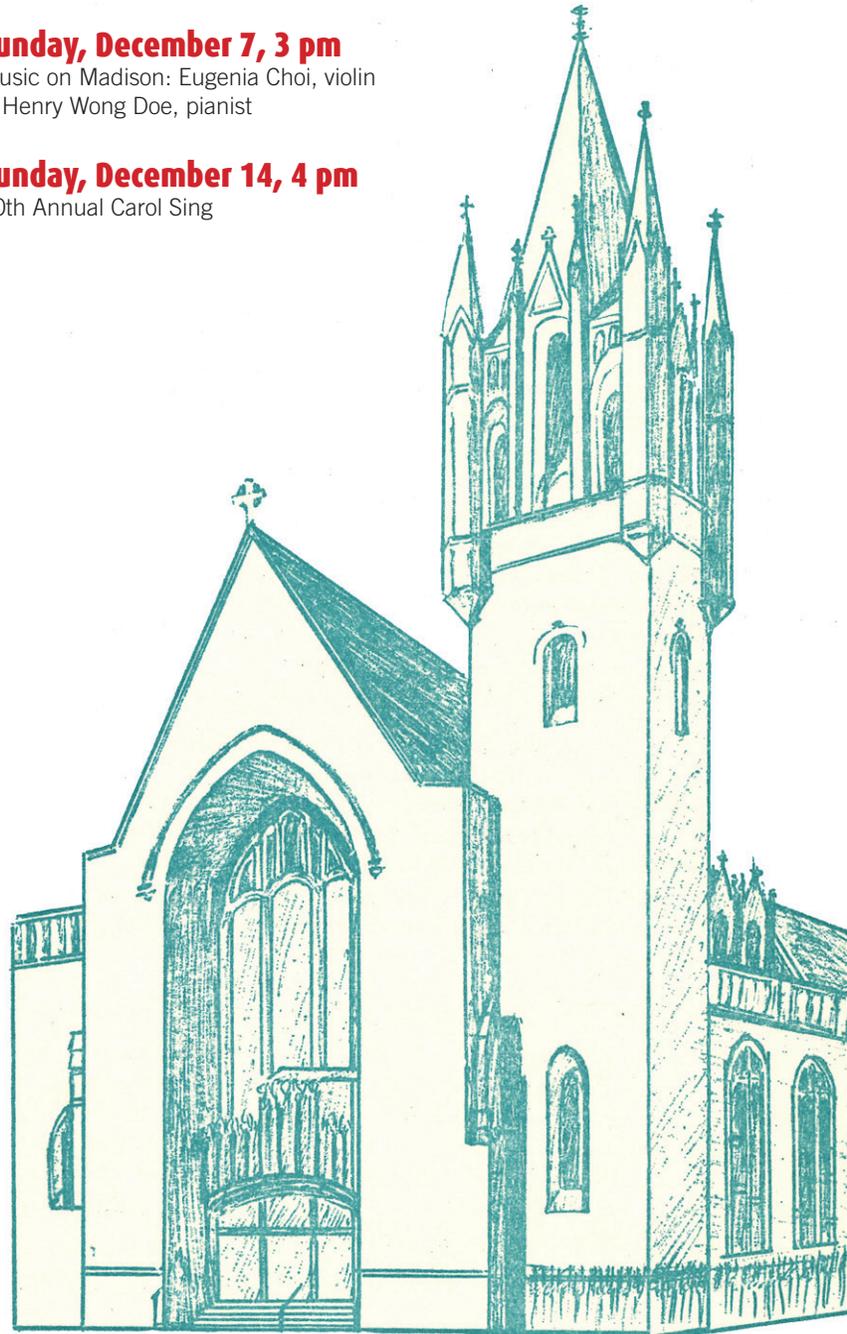
Library Fellowship Book Sale

**Sunday, December 7, 3 pm**

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

**Sunday, December 14, 4 pm**

10th Annual Carol Sing



## Christmas Services

*Christmas Eve – Family Service*  
December 24 at 5 pm

*Christmas Eve – Candlelight Communion Service*  
December 24 at 10:30 pm (Prelude begins at 10:10)

*Christmas Day – Service of Lessons & Carols*  
December 25 at 11:15 am



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# Brahms Requiem

## Sunday, November 16 at 3 pm

The Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra will open its 50th Anniversary season with a performance of one of the world's most beloved choral works, Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem* ("A German Requiem"). This is Brahms's largest work, and one which marked a turning point in the success of his career after its first performance in 1868. He began composing the piece in 1865, following the death of his mother, setting excerpts from scripture instead of the traditional Latin Requiem text. The resulting work, for chorus, soprano and bass soloists, and a particularly large orchestra, is sacred in scope but intended for concert use rather than for liturgical performance. The concert will open with a ravishing work for alto and men's chorus, the *Alto Rhapsody*, featuring MAPC's mezzo-soprano soloist, Helen Karloski.

Tickets available in advance for \$25 (\$20 – Students/62+) by calling the church or going online to [www.mapc.com/music/sams](http://www.mapc.com/music/sams). A festive reception to celebrate the opening of our Saint Andrew Chorale's 50th Season will follow the concert in the Parish Hall.