

MAPC LIFE

THE MAGAZINE OF MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | FALL 2015

**YOUTH MISSION
TRIP TO IOWA**

**NYCCC TRIP
TO AUSTRIA**

**WELCOME
INTERIM PASTOR
DR. ERIC SPRINGSTED**

FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Members and Friends,

We hope this Fall issue of MAPC Life finds you reflecting on a summer season of relaxation and play, as you look forward to the start of the



fall season at work, a new school year, and, of course, a new program year here at MAPC!

You'll notice that some of the faces and roles have changed here at MAPC. In May, Millie Tourtelot moved out to New Jersey with her family. Taking on her responsibilities is Chris De La Cruz, who is now in charge of adult education and children and family ministries, in addition to youth ministry. Reflecting his expanded responsibilities, Chris has a new title: Director of Christian Formation. Congratulations Chris!

New Global Ministry Fellow Tyler Orem has joined the staff and is in Zambia with current GMF Andy Smothers. At the end of August, we bade a fond farewell to Meredith Loftis, our 2013-2015 Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow. Meredith has accepted a call to be Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, TN. We are thrilled for her as she moves into this new ministry and grateful that she stayed on for the summer to help with our children's and youth programs, to orient and train our new PTGMF, Tyler Orem, and to give Don and Beverly an occasional respite from preaching.

Long-time book keeper John Clarke announced his resignation effective the end of June. He's been with us for 22 years and we'll miss him, even as we welcome his

replacement, Carmen Olmeda, to the 7th floor.

There is new leadership at the Day School as well. Pat Pell has transitioned into a new phase of her career, and Laura Graham became Director of the Day School on July 1.

The biggest change of all, of course, is that Fred is no longer here. After his retirement at the end of May, Fred and Questa have been enjoying a fine summer at their lake home in northern New Hampshire. Can it really be four months since Fred's goodbye celebrations in May?

Don and Bev have been alternating as Head of Staff, each taking on part of Fred's portfolio and sharing preaching responsibilities. For the two of us, this summer has been a time of remarkable busyness as we prepare for what lies ahead in this period of transition in pastoral leadership.

First and foremost, that means eagerly anticipating the arrival of yet another new face at MAPC: our new Interim Pastor, Eric Springsted. Eric starts later this month. You can read more about his background in this issue. You will quickly notice that he is an immensely talented pastor. A career interim, Eric has more experience in this capacity than any of the other 50-plus candidates considered. We are grateful to the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee chaired by Curtis Field. They did excellent work and they did it quickly!

Meanwhile, the Mission Review Committee (see below), chaired by Barbara Iverson and Kristin Hohmann, is hard at work compiling the results of congregational surveys and staff interviews conducted diligently over the past few months. They'll be joined in their work by the new Interim Pastor / Head of Staff and together they will produce a Mission Study, which is the first step in our search for a new permanently installed Head of Staff. Please be sure to thank Barbara and Kristin and the

other members of the MRC when you see them!

Despite all these changes in faces and roles among the church staff, the summer has gone much as usual: Associate Pastors providing administrative leadership and pastoral care; program staff planning and organizing for the fall; fun fellowship events like a picnic in the park to hear the Philharmonic; a July Roof Garden party; a Senior Fellowship Lunch or two; our usual meaningful worship experience with inspirational music, faithful preaching, celebration of the Lord's Supper and enjoying fellowship afterwards.

Maintaining these routines is important in helping us process the sense of loss which is normal in a period of great change like this one. Change brings grief, anxiety, and tension and yes, a few things will fall through the cracks.

As we move further into this time of transition, we trust that we will continue to work together to faithfully carry out God's call to us in this place: keeping Christ at our center, being kind and patient with one another, reaching out to our neighbors—those who are at our doorstep and those who are thousands of miles away, being faithful in our stewardship.

In all of this, we will continue to listen for the guidance of the Spirit as we discern what lies ahead for MAPC. As your pastors, we are both excited about the future for MAPC and grateful for the opportunity to be in ministry with all of you—it is indeed a blessing for us to serve God in this place, with such a warm, committed company of believers.

Beverly Bartlett and Donald Wahlig,
Associate Pastors

MISSION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Before MAPC can form a Pastor Nominating Committee, we must complete and write a mission review. The Mission Review Committee has been hard at work since late winter—conducting dozens of interviews with staff, committee chairs, committees and members; creating, distributing and compiling the results of a congregational survey; and holding open meetings after worship to give updates on their work and facilitate conversations about what MAPC means to each of us and what our vision for this church is. During the summer, the committee reviewed the information gathered from the interviews and the congregational survey and began the work of creating a mission review document that presents a detailed and up-to-date description of MAPC's current life, as well as our vision for the coming years. Working with our new Interim Pastor, they hope to have a first draft of the report ready for the Session in the coming months.

Please continue to pray for, support and thank this hard-working team that has been meeting almost weekly (sometimes more than weekly) for many months to help ensure that MAPC moves through this time of pastoral transition in a healthy and faithful way. The members of the MRC are: Kristin Hohmann and Barbara Iverson, co-chairs; Kevin Brumit, Vic David, Ruth Schroeder, Chris Trinka, and Bill Welsh. - *Beverly Bartlett*

MAPC

FALL 2015

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TRANSITION

WELCOME, DR. ERIC SPRINGSTED, INTERIM PASTOR!



A career Interim Pastor, Eric has successfully served six Presbyterian congregations in this capacity, including churches in Georgetown, MD, Rye, NY and, most recently, Swarthmore, PA.

A native of Minneapolis, Eric earned his undergraduate degree at St. John's College in Santa Fe, and went on to earn both his M.Div. and Ph. D. degrees at Princeton Theological Seminary. From 1981 to 1997, he taught philosophy and religion and served as campus chaplain at Illinois College. In 1997 he returned to Princeton to spend a year at the Center of Theological Inquiry and served as a guest professor at Princeton Seminary. Eric is the author of twelve books, many focusing on the intersection of philosophy and theology.

Eric is married to Brenda Lockhart Springsted, an archaeologist, now retired. Brenda's professional interests are in American colonial archaeology, particularly ceramics. She continues those interests in extensive work on the board of trustees of the Trenton City Museum, where she heads the collections committee. Eric and Brenda are the parents of three daughters. Simone is a teacher and vice principal in the Apple Valley School district in the Twin Cities, MN area. She and her husband Steven have two sons and a daughter; Holden is going into fifth grade, Sawyer is going into second, and Madi is headed to kindergarten. Leidy is a social worker in the Boston area where she lives with her husband Keith, an artisan woodworker. Elspeth, also a St. John's graduate, is in medical school at the University of Queensland, Australia. In 2010, she and her father walked the five hundred mile pilgrimage route across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostella. - Donald Wahlig

ERIC ON INTERIM MINISTRY

"The work of an interim changes as often as his congregations. I have followed several pastors who left prematurely and under unhappy circumstances. I have also followed a successful long term pastor of twenty years. Working for the health of each church involved different issues. Where there was damage the task was to establish trust and community, congregational self-confidence, and theological purpose; where there was health, it was a matter of understanding what made the church healthy and learning how to move into the future with new leadership.

All required keeping at the fore of the transition process the goals of promoting fairness, transparency, and trust. In some cases in these churches, there was even growth, including financial, yet my most important contributions came, I believe, first, in paying attention to common worship in order to increase its depth and possibilities of transformation, including preaching that was challenging and up-building. Second, I sought to engage the congregation in learning and practicing the faith. Third, I worked to give them confidence to change without fear of losing their identity.

The overall success of these interims was ultimately in the congregation's rediscovery of imagining how it fit in God's plan, and its partnership with the larger church. This was done in cooperation with the sessions and committees giving the congregation ownership of its own operations and pride in them.

The task of an interim is often akin to hitting the reset button on a computer so that the next person can work effectively. While interims cannot initiate long term programs that somebody else will have to shepherd, a lot of the deep change that ever happens in a church comes during this time of transition."

NOTES FROM THOSE ERIC HAS SERVED

"Eric has a clear vision of what needs to be done. He gets leaders to address matters that need attention. He does not force his views."

"Eric's sermons are designed so that people come away with something to think about."

"Eric is straightforward and willing to discuss difficult issues with grace. He was very good at assessing situations."

"Our church might not have survived, if it hadn't been for Eric's Interim Ministry."

**Join the
congregation in
welcoming Eric at the
All-church Retreat at
Holmes Camp,
Friday - Saturday,
October 2-3**

Eric's first day in the office will be Monday, September 28 and his first day to preach will be Sunday, October 4!



OCTOBER 3, 2015 CONGREGATION-WIDE RETREAT AT HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CAMP

B

y now, I hope you are all aware of the church retreat we have planned for Saturday, October 3 at the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in Holmes, New York. If you have not signed up for this, please do so ASAP!! We will have a wonderful day together as a church community—there will be activities for all ages, time to simply enjoy the beautiful grounds, view the foliage, which we hope will have begun to turn by then, an opportunity to get to know our new Interim Pastor, worship, and time to spend in conversation with each other about our church and where we are heading. We will hire a bus to take us up and return us to the church. Or, if you have your own car, you may choose to drive. Some people will be going up to spend the night on Friday the 2nd—that is an option, too!

Church retreats are a rich experience of fellowship and spiritual nurture, and we hope you will join in! More details are available in the Pastoral Staff Newsletter, or contact Maria Soto in the church offices, 212-288-8920 x8479, or mts@mapc.com. If you have not already signed up for the retreat, Maria will be happy to take care of that for you! - *Beverly Bartlett*

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP NOT FINISHED YET!

In his final sermon, Fred Anderson asked each of us to consider increasing our 2015 pledges to the church in order to meet the growing cost of undertaking the numerous ministries that happen here at MAPC. He cited particularly those among us who have given the same nominal amount weekly for several years, even as others have taken seriously the call to tithing, i.e. giving 10% of gross annual income to the work of the church. It is this latter group who are carrying the financial burden of the rest.

The numbers tell this story clearly. 10% of our members – that's two dozen families of widely varying means, most of whom are tithing - provide 70% of the church's pledge income. Let me repeat that: **10% of our members are carrying 70% of the financial load.**

This skewed giving pattern has led to a shortfall in pledge income which needs to be addressed quickly if we are to avoid cutting programs and staff in ways that none of us would like. **If you are giving but not currently tithing, please consider making an additional gift this year.** If you are one of the 35 members who has not yet made a financial gift to the church for the 2015 year, please do so right away.

Why does tithing matter?

Scripture is clear about the critical importance of tithing to our close relationship with God. "Set apart a tithe," one tenth of the harvest, as Deuteronomy instructs us (14:22-23). And why? "So that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always." Fear means to stand in awe at God's goodness and generosity.

Jesus makes the same point a little differently. In the midst of a series of teachings about true piety and growing closer to God, he warns his followers that they cannot serve both wealth and God. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Either we make our money serve God, or we end up serving our money – instead of God.

That is the crux of the issue. Simply put, tithing is one of the most powerful spiritual disciplines we can undertake. It is a tangible, regular and sacrificial reminder that:

- a) God is good. All we have and all we are comes from God, and from God alone.
- b) God comes first in our lives.
- c) Our gifts – returning to God what is already God's own - come out of profound gratitude, not mere obligation.

What if I'm not already tithing? How do I get there?

The best practice is to start at the average giving level of most Christians, which is a pledge of 3% of your annual gross income. If you are earning \$100,000 / year, that is a pledge of \$3,000 – roughly \$60/week. In each subsequent pledge, make it your goal to increase your giving by one percent of your gross income, until you reach the full 10% tithe. Don't be terribly surprised if you find your relationship with God and the work done here at MAPC to serve others in Jesus' name growing deeper and deeper. That's how it's supposed to be.

- *Greyson Clymer & Donald Wahlig*

BOXES, BOXES, WE HAVE BOXES

DR. FRED ANDERSON

Lost among the boxes is a good way to put it. Or, as a friend of mine once said in a similar move, “If I can find the box marked ‘my brain’ I will be fine.”

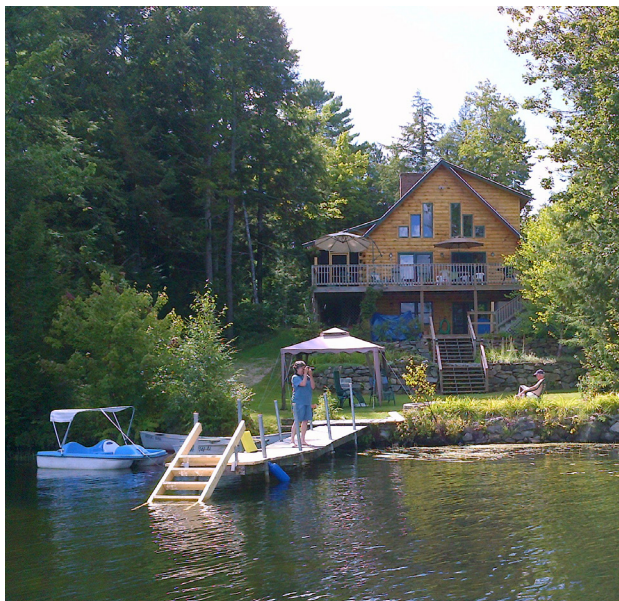
The movers arrived at the manse the Tuesday after Memorial Day to pack us up; loaded and moved on Wednesday, and unloaded us at the home we long ago named *Narnia* on Thursday—Narnia because the girls thought of this place as the magic land they discovered in C.S. Lewis’ *Chronicles of Narnia*. It is indeed a magical place and, in spite of the boxes, we give thanks daily for being able to be here. The photo below (far right) is the view out the window next to my desk in the loft study. The other is of Questa on the dock, taking pictures of the loons.

As I am writing this, we are still in June, and I have just managed to completely move out of my office. The movers came and packed up the books, which have been shipped off to the Princeton Seminary Library for safe-keeping until they are loaded later this winter onto a pallet for shipment to Harare, where the Synod will use them to begin their theological library. This is necessary in order to support their plans to begin training their own pastors. It was a happy opportunity for both the Synod and for me, for every pastor’s dilemma is what to do with the library on retirement. Most of what I will need for the future is now available to me on-line through the seminary library.

Speaking of the seminary library, thanks again to all of you for the vision and generosity that has enabled the dedication of one of the major seminar rooms—the one on the main floor—to those Seminary graduates who have serviced MAPC over the years.

And, finally, thanks to all of you for the marvelous celebrations that began May 1 and came to culmination on Sunday, May 17, especially all involved in the planning (I’ll not attempt to name them, lest I miss someone—every pastor’s nightmare!) Few people ever have the privilege of hearing such kind and gracious words spoken about them, or the pleasure of so many warm hand-shakes, embraces, tears, and well wishes. And thank you, too, for the honor of bearing the title Pastor Emeritus. It helps keep me anchored in this time of transition, and continually reminds me of how blessed I have been to serve Christ in and through all of you at MAPC.

Now, back to those boxes; once I find the one marked “my brain” we’ll take the boat out for its maiden retirement voyage—the other boxes can wait—this is, after all, retirement!



CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF THE REV. DR. FRED ANDERSON

The Celebration Committee hosted two farewell events to honor Fred's (and Questa's) ministry. The Retirement Gala on May 1 at the Union League Club was a wonderful celebration of Fred's 43 years of ordained ministry. Guests came from near and far, and there were many reunions. In addition to many MAPC members, people were present from Fred's first congregation in Pompton Plains, New Jersey; from Pine Street Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; from Princeton Theological Seminary and the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, New Jersey; as well as several of our past Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellows, former seminary interns, and former MAPC staff members. It was a wonderful evening of feasting, fellowship, eloquent tributes, and a special, heart-warming appearance by the New York City Children's Chorus.

On Fred's last Sunday at MAPC, May 17, we had a special worship service at 10:30 am that included a new anthem our Music Director and Organist Emeritus, John Weaver, composed as a gift to Fred, and a hymn text by Thomas Troeger that MAPC commissioned in honor of Fred's ministry and retirement. At the end of the service, several members and staff gave moving tributes to both Fred and Questa, celebrating their ministry with the church and the ways in which they have had an impact on the life of this church and its members. A festive reception in the Parish Hall followed the service, with a few more musical and spoken tributes.

In addition to these two major celebrations, there were several smaller farewell occasions as well: a good-bye party at the April 24 Church Family Night that involved Fred conducting an epic final game of "hide-and-seek in the sanctuary." The families began a memory book for Fred at this event that was added to and completed over the next month.

We had a farewell reception to begin the April 28 Session meeting, Fred's last, which gave the elders an opportunity to say farewell and thank you to Fred for his leadership.

And we had a festive staff lunch on May 12 that gave the entire MAPC staff—pastoral, program, administrative support, building, and day-school teachers and administration an opportunity to say thank you and bon voyage. All in all, it was a couple of months chock full of celebrations!

In lieu of the usual purse that is collected for retiring pastors, Fred requested that the church dedicate one of the seminar rooms in the new Princeton Theological Seminary Library. The generosity of our members and others who have shared in ministry with Fred over the years meant that we surpassed the \$250,000 needed for this dedication. In addition to the gift to the Library, we were able to give Fred and Questa a \$10,000 travel gift, and we will be using the funds that remain in a yet-to-be-determined way here at MAPC to honor their ministry with us.

Fred's portrait is now hanging in the Church House Lobby, next to his predecessor, David H.C. Read, as the fourth permanently installed pastor of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church at the corner of 73rd Street and Madison Avenue.

Thank you, Fred, for all you have done to strengthen and guide Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church over the past 23 years. We wish you a long, healthy, fruitful and relaxing retirement!

Thank you to the Celebration Committee for your year of planning and organizing: Vicki Schmelzer and Marty Scotzin, co-chairs; Dick Iverson, vice-chair; David Carleton; Josie McFadden; Andrew Henderson and Mary Huff, staff; and Beverly Bartlett, staff.

And thank you to all who contributed to the seminar room at the PTS Library, those who funded the portrait, and to Janet Saint Germain for helping to underwrite the costs of the Gala, making it possible for many people to attend who might not otherwise have been able to. - *Beverly Bartlett*



Fred during Church Family Night in April



Nan Fogle and Nancy De Bono prepare centerpieces for the Gala

DR. ANDERSON'S Retirement Gala AT THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB

May 1, 2015



Meredith Loftis,
Chris De La Cruz and Guillermo Catalan



Fred Anderson and John Weaver



Barbara Iverson,
Lisa Chickering
and Ruth Schroeder



Don Wahlig



Laura Burg and
Kent Charugundla



Fred Anderson and
Eric Springsted



Cynthia and Robert Knakal



Fred Anderson and
Laura Graham



Lee, Meg and Timmy Johnson;
Joe Girven;
Kalpana and Vic David



Andrew Henderson
and Mary Huff



Beverly Bartlett



John Leathers
and Lauren Logan



Graduates of Princeton Seminary



Everyone raises a glass
to toast Fred Anderson



Rosa Schupbach
and Dianne Robbins



Fred Anderson and
Nancy Ost



Fred Anderson and
Beverly Bartlett



John Deewall and
Cesar Rochéz



Nickie Christin, Barbara and Dick Iverson
and Carmen Goetschius



Judy Stavrakos, Nancy Dehoff
and Christopher Trinka



Alicia Sheen and Anne Melly



The Union League Club



Don Wahlig



Fred Anderson and Meme Peponis



Rebecca, Larra, Fred and Questa Anderson



Josie McFadden
and Fred Anderson



Fred Anderson with,
Susan, August and
Tom Plagemann



Millie and Max Tourtelot



Marty Scotzin,
Fred Anderson and Peter DeNunzio



Mary Huff
conducts the New York City Children's Chorus

FAREWELL FROM MILLIE TOURTELOT



During the many recent festivities for Fred's retirement, Fred and others on staff and in the congregation would express concern that it was overshadowing my own departure, and they worried that I would feel slighted. In fact, I could not be more grateful for this timing, because it not only allowed me to process the loss of a very important mentor, but also distracted me from the sadness of leaving a church that has meant so much to me. MAPC was my workplace but also my faith community and my family's home—the church that supported me through my marriage and into parenthood.

When I first joined the staff at MAPC in 2008, it was on an interim basis as the church underwent a mission review period to reconsider its staff structure. It made sense to me to take an interim position in NYC right after seminary while I was still discerning if I wanted to continue to pursue an academic career, my original purpose in attending Princeton Theological Seminary. At that point, I wasn't even sure I wanted to identify myself as a Presbyterian. But I very quickly fell in love with the mission and challenges of parish ministry, and with this particular congregation. So, when the offer came to make my position permanent, I did not hesitate for one second, and I have never had regrets about what could have been if I had stayed in academia!

I know I leave at a tricky time, when anxieties are high with Fred's retirement, but I am so encouraged by the strength of this community I leave behind. At my last Youth Sunday with you, watching our youth preach and lead worship, it was so evident. It was also evident my last Wednesday here, when I was delighted to sit with 7 other women as we read through surprisingly fascinating descriptions of ancient post-mortem purification rituals in the book of Numbers at Reading Through the Bible. On my last Sunday here, when I stopped by the Roof Garden to check in on the children playing there during the end of our protracted worship service, I also saw how much joy the children had in being together in this place, which has become a spiritual home for them.

I am so grateful for everyone here – staff and members alike – for welcoming me, Max, Arden and Clarissa into this community, for empowering me to do God's work among you, and for sharing the joy of learning about God together. Please support your new Director of Christian Formation, Chris De La Cruz, and Christian Education Committee Elders Sharon Boersma, Kristin Hohmann, and Bill Hinrichs, as they lead Christian Education ministries during this interim period. God has provided MAPC with many gifts and capable leadership, and I know you all will continue to thrive in the years ahead!

A NOTE FROM NEW DAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR LAURA GRAHAM



I am filled with joy and gratitude as I enter my new role as Director of the Day School. My goal as Director is to provide children with a rich, aesthetically stimulating environment where they feel safe and confident to explore, to initiate learning, and to express themselves through a variety of disciplines. Furthermore, I hope to extend this learning to all the 'grown-ups' who participate in this school experience with us. I have always valued myself as an educator who must be sensitive yet dynamic in my intentions and practice. As a truly empathetic and reflective practitioner as well as a lifelong learner, I embrace this moment in time to grow and to challenge myself just as we ask each child to do in school every day.

My passion for early childhood development really began when I was a young girl, babysitting for neighborhood children and for my younger cousins. I had many influential role models, but my first and greatest mentor was my grandmother, an early childhood teacher herself. Her patience, sense of humor and steadiness stand out in my mind when I think of her. By the time I reached college, I was determined to study in the field of early childhood education. My fieldwork in Hartford, CT schools, both public and private, strengthened my core beliefs in the quality of education of young children today.

I believe children are born into this world with all of the capabilities they need to be adept at learning. The essence of early childhood education is the creation of an environment where children are encouraged to discover their individual talents, where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true selves. My beliefs in education are rooted in a progressive approach, which begins by attending to the development of the whole child.

An early childhood learning environment must be thoughtfully constructed so that children and adults from a variety of cultural backgrounds will feel welcomed and accepted. I seek to form close relationships with each child and family. It is important for children to feel a part of a community. They learn best when they observe and model one another within a caring and compassionate community. Children retain meaningful information when they are encouraged to spend more time exploring freely and thinking about ideas, rather than memorizing facts and skills. The promotion of open-ended exploration with various materials initiates a child's desire to question and construct knowledge on his or her own and helps to strengthen one's abilities to problem solve. I believe in committing to diversity and learning about others' traditions, similarities, and differences. I strongly feel the education of a young child begins in the home and that a child's first school must be an extension of the learning that has already begun. A quality early childhood education program is achieved not only by highly skilled, supported, and motivated teachers and a depth of exploratory experiences provided for children, but equally by high levels of parent participation. At The Day School, we need to embrace these dedicated partnerships with families.

We live in a fast-paced society and I will continue to acknowledge the current demands on parenthood as the need for high quality care for our children persists. Creativity is a natural part of every growing child, and children approach life with a playful spirit. Children are learning something new all of the time and I intend to keep the spirit of creativity and playful learning in the heart of my work as Director of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School.

Adult Education

During the 2014-2015 year, our Adult Ed groups at 10:10 am on Sundays saw an eclectic mix of member-led classes like Nancy DeBono's exposition of ancient Israel, occasional guest speakers like Princeton Theological Seminary Professor Shane Berg on how texts became Scripture, pastor-led classes on prayer and spirituality, and lectionary Bible studies.

Our mid-week bible studies continued to gather and nurture community and spiritual formation. The Men's Bible Study cherished its last year with Fred leading, sharing drinks and gleaning as much wisdom from Fred as possible.

This coming year, the Christian Education Committee and new Director of Christian Formation, Christopher De La Cruz, are aiming to strengthen our Adult Education at MAPC, both in our Adult Ed at 10:10 and in our Mid-Week Bible Studies. We wish to form these programs to equip and inspire our members to live as disciples of Christ in the world. See upcoming Pastor's Newsletters for further information about Adult CE programs.

For more information
on any of these
ministries, contact
Chris De La Cruz
Director of
Christian Formation
(212) 228-8920 x8480
cdlc@mapc.com

Children and Family Ministries

During baptism the MAPC community joins parents in promising to raise our children in the knowledge and love of God. We honor these promises by offering ministries that enable our young people to participate fully in the life of our church and that support parents as they nurture their children physically, socially and spiritually.

UPDATES: At **Church School** for the past two years our co-lead leaders Sharon Boersma and Barbara Iverson have done a terrific job recruiting and working with a large group of teachers – all lay members – to nurture our preschool and elementary school kids in their faith.

Our **Kids' Club** afterschool program has continued to foster strong relationships between our pastors, who teach Bible studies, and the kids. Mary Huff and Andrew Henderson also have fostered a deeper sense of reverence and awe in the children, by helping them connect the music of the MAPC Children's Choir with the beauty of our Creator God.

We are moving **Wee Kids**, our afterschool ministry for preschoolers, back to Wednesdays for families already at Kids' Club. We are also continuing to discern more ways we as a church can support parents in raising a child in their faith from early childhood, including a parent group discussion on faith and children, deacons offering support to new parents, and Beverly Bartlett continuing our **Monday Morning Moms** group.

If you are a family with children, please look at all of our offerings this year and talk with Chris to learn more. You and your family will be glad you did!

Middle & High School Ministries

We as a church are two years into a renewed commitment to building our middle and high school ministries, with the conviction that reaching and involving our teenagers in the life of MAPC is essential to our mission.

Overseeing these new ministries, I have seen young people grow in their faith, serve the underprivileged, and pursue Christ more and more in their daily lives.

I think of the parent who recently told me she has seen a 180 degree difference in her teenage son's faith life. He is now eager to participate in every church ministry and youth group and happy to come to worship every Sunday in a way he never did two years ago.

Or the ninth-grader who proclaimed in her Youth Sunday sermon that she sees God every time she serves alongside other Middle & High Schoolers at Shelter Dinner group, both in her peers serving and in the people being served.

Or the many Iowa high schoolers who came to Queens in the summer of 2014 to help us serve people still affected by Hurricane Sandy, and with whom our youth are now connected in even deeper mission partnership and Christian friendship after we were together in Iowa this past summer.

Or the adult leader who grew up in MAPC having Don and Beth Wahlig as leaders, and who is now playing basketball and hanging out with high schoolers at youth groups and events.

There are more stories like this. God is at work through the wonderful people in our community, equipping our young people for their life of discipleship!

And yet there's much more we can do.

This year, let's build on what we've accomplished! Let's make young people feel welcome in every aspect of the life of the church. It's as simple as saying hello and engaging our young people in conversation at Coffee Hour. Let's think about creative ways young people can be involved in leading worship more than once a year. Let's think about people who might be suited to work more closely with young people in our youth groups.

We can do it together, by the grace of God. - *Christopher De La Cruz*



MAPC MISSION FUND

MAPC
MISSION FUND
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HOLMES CAMP
RENOVATION

At its June meeting, Session approved the request of the Mission Tithe sub-committee of the ongoing Mission Fund Capital Campaign to provide \$75,000 to our Presbytery partner Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in support of their renovation of an important dining hall and program space known as “Don’s Diner.”

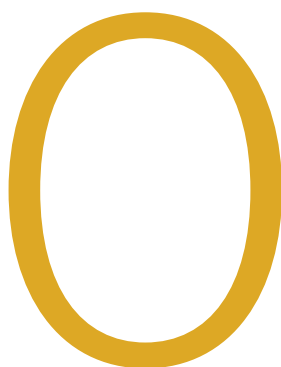
Generations of campers have used Don’s Diner for both meals and activities since it was built in the 1930’s. Currently, younger overnight and day campers enjoy meals each day in Don’s Diner during the summer months. There is a joyous atmosphere fueled by great food, lots of excited announcements and joyous songs. The kitchen is used most days for group baking activities. Cookies, brownies and pizza are constructed from scratch and consumed with great delight.

In addition to Holmes programs, this facility is used by an academic enrichment camp, Rural and Migrant Ministry Camp and immigrant faith groups enjoying fellowship and food of their own tradition.

Work to be done includes the following: Construction of a two-layer floor, installation of a new metal roofing system to provide durable waterproofing, and replacement of windows to provide better ventilation on warm days and better insulation on cool days. Lighting and ventilation will also be improved and restrooms will be reconfigured and moved to provide for better facilities and improved traffic flow in the dining room.

Camp Director Rev. Peter Surgenor says, “We are grateful for our partnership with MAPC. Your support makes it possible for Holmes Camp to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through instruction, outreach, personal growth and recreation, a Christ-centered witness to the issues of conservation, ecology, peace, and justice. We provide a place set apart in the midst of the most urbanized region of the world for Christian nurture, witness, outreach and mission through the building of inclusive, healing and reconciling communities in the Center’s retreats, conferences and camping programs. Thank you!” - *Donald Wahlig*

MAPC
MISSION FUND
UPDATE



Over the years we have accomplished a great deal to strengthen MAPC, its facilities and our Day School. It began in 2006 with The 921 Fund, a campaign designed to provide resources to completely restore and improve the infrastructure of the Church House. That campaign accomplished much, but was cut short by the economic crisis of 2008. Still, the vertical infrastructure of the building was replaced, the sub-basement and basement were totally reconfigured, crumbling soil pipes were replaced, two 10th floor apartments were reconfigured into three modern units, and the fire suppression system was installed on those floors. The 921 Fund also provided new weather-proof windows throughout the building, a number of new bathrooms on the east stairwell and upgrades to the elevators. The conversion of the heating system from steam heat to circulating hot water, which enabled each room to have its own thermostat, was begun.

In 2012, the church had to respond to the deterioration of the Church Tower which was crumbling and becoming a deadly hazard to passersby. The restoration of the Church Tower took place throughout 2013 and was completed in 2014.

Following the crumbling of the tower, we began a \$7,500,000 capital campaign to address the cost of repairing and restoring the tower along with several other mandatory upgrades to the Church House that must be completed in a few short years. This campaign, called “The MAPC Mission Fund: Grounded in Faith, Embracing the Future”, also raised funds to repay the 921 Fund construction loan and allocate 10% of monies raised to mission partnerships of the church (see article to left). Through funds raised by the campaign, we have now paid back the construction loan from the 921 Fund as well as the loan to restore the Church Tower. What remains is the completion of the upgraded fire suppression system by installing sprinklers, replacing the HVAC systems on several floors and making improvements to the Day School space. These improvements will not only bring the Church House up to New York City building and fire code requirements, but will ensure the very safest and most conducive educational and work environment possible for the children of the Day School, teachers and staff as well as the many other members of the church and wider community who use the facilities.

As of this writing we have raised over \$4.2 million and have received generous leadership gifts from several church members. In this final phase of the campaign, members of the campaign committee will reach out to every member of the congregation to invite them to participate. Please give their request prayerful consideration as it is the responsibility of us all to preserve our building, ministry and mission for generations to come. - *Donald Wahlig*

WORD IN ACTION

MAPC MISSION FUND JULIAN SCHROEDER SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Don Wahlig recently preached an excellent sermon from Paul's Letter to the Romans, in which he asked each of us, whatever our differences on different issues, to remain united in our commitment to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. I would like to add to Don's thoughts that I think Paul also asks us to act as a community in helping one another. One of the important initiatives of this church now is the MAPC Mission Fund, and, on behalf of the leadership of our church, we are asking all to contribute to this important community effort.

As you know, Fred was leading this effort. Now, with Don Wahlig as advisor, I will be acting as Chair of the MAPC Mission Fund as we continue to reach out to the MAPC and Day School communities.

The MAPC. Mission Fund is charged to raise \$7.5 million to fund over \$2.0 million in steeple repairs, repay debt from the earlier 921 Fund, pay for government mandated infrastructure repairs to the Parish Hall, and make improvements to the Day School space. As we have in every capital campaign, 10% of the funds received are dedicated to local and international mission.

To date, 45 pledges totaling over \$4.1 million have been received. Over half of these pledges have already been funded. We on the Committee are reaching out to every member of this congregation. We will continue to talk with members over the summer. This campaign is important, not only, to maintain our church's infrastructure, but also to provide the strongest base possible to call a new senior pastor. We are asking everyone to participate.

To speak honestly, the most difficult part of being a caller is to set up the meeting. Once set up, the conversations with members of our congregation are often quite wonderful. If one of us requests to talk with you, please take the call or return it. I think this is one way Paul would feel we can support one another. We ask everyone to prayerfully consider what they can contribute to this community effort, but even more important than the amount received is the number of people who contribute. It will take time to contact each member of our congregation, but we would very much like to be able to tell Fred next year about this time that every member of MAPC has supported the Mission Fund.

Thank you for your consideration.

PARTNERSHIP FUNDING APPROVED BY SESSION

Local Partners

- Health Advocates for Older People - \$3,000
- James Lenox House - \$3,000
- Jan Hus Presbyterian Homeless Outreach & Advocacy - \$7,500
- Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter - \$3,000
- New Amsterdam Boys and Girls Choirs - \$3,250
- New Life of New York City - \$3,250
- New York Common Pantry - \$5,000
- Search and Care - \$4,000
- New York Theological Seminary - \$3,000

Presbytery Partners

- Church of Gethsemane - \$10,000
- Presbyterian Hope in Action - \$16,000
- Holmes Camp - \$75,000 *
- Presbyterian Senior Services - \$7,500

Denominational Partners

- \$13,500 to the General Assembly PC(USA)
- 25% of the Peacemaking offering to PCUSA's partner churches in Iraq

International Partners

- Synod of Harare CCAP - \$50,000 for construction of Church *
- TEEZ/GMF
 - \$80,000 for a duplex for GMF housing and rental income *
 - \$40,000 for the purchase of a new truck *
- Justo Mwale Theological University - \$5,500 Scholarship

* Please note, asterisked items are funded by the Mission Tithe portion of the ongoing MAPC Mission Fund Capital Campaign



WELCOME NEW ELDERS & DEACONS!

On Sunday, May 31, 2015, we ordained and/or installed six elders to serve on the Session in the class of 2018 and ten Deacons to serve on the Board of Deacons in the class of 2018. During their ordination and installation service, they promised to faithfully serve Jesus Christ and this church. In turn, the congregation promised to accept their leadership, to encourage them and respect their decisions.

The Elders are:

- For a Second Three-Year Term, Sharon Boersma.
- For a First Three-Year Term, Laura Brumit, Curtis Field, Edmund Herrold, Barbara Iverson and Jeffrey Miller.

The Deacons are:

- For a second three-year term, Penelope Gemma.
- For a first three-year term, Susan Anderson, John Carr, Karen Jolis, Patricia Jones, Joyce Kadzakumanja, Lyn Krueger, Patricia O'Connell, Cesar Rochéz, and Alicia Sheen.

ZIMBABWE WORD IN ACTION

DOROTHY KLEINERT
SUNDAY, APRIL 12

“Z

ikomo!”

What a lovely word! It infers greeting, pardon and friendship. Edward and I had the great fortune to be part of the MAPC delegation to Zimbabwe last month, along with Kathy Hoffman, Don and Fred. I am happy to report that the MAPC/CCAP partnership is blossoming and maturing. We bore witness to the benefits of this partnership with the superstructure of the new city church emerging in the heart of Harare, sharing in the exuberance of its first service and witnessing the congregation's deep feelings toward Fred in believing in them. We saw how the Abusas have instituted time management techniques and group teaching into their congregations, such as when Abusa Galanti requested that each bible study group report on their discussion. During our 7 full days there, we had the opportunity to visit the school, Rock Haven Center, 4 church congregations and a prayer house. We covered hundreds of kilometers starting in Harare and made a big circle east to Mutare in the eastern Highlands and southwest to Gweru (Great Zimbabwe) and back up to Harare. We had the opportunity to lead 2 Bible Studies, which for me was an invaluable experience. It was enlightening to hear and discuss different interpretations of the same passage. The discussion was genuine and enlightening. Wow, it was a special trip, personally and spiritually! I think one would find it a rewarding reciprocal visit. Although our Sunday services are different, the common thread is the meaning of scripture and belief in Jesus Christ.

M MAPC DELEGATION TO ZIMBABWE IN MARCH

MAPC members Kathy Hoffman and Edward and Dorothy Kleinert joined Fred Anderson and Don Wahlig in traveling to visit MAPC's partners at the Synod of Harare for a wonderful time of faith building, celebration and discovery. The team arrived in Harare to a warm greeting from Abusas Pattison Chirongo, Libias Boloma, Alexander Malemelo and Tenson Zefa. The delegation was delighted to see the progress being made in the construction of the new Harare City church on a lot adjacent to the Synod headquarters in downtown Harare. With financial support from the mission tithe portion of the ongoing MAPC Mission Fund Capital Campaign, the steel girders and roof were complete and the concrete floor had been partially poured. The church will hold 600 worshippers and, when complete, is expected to become the largest single congregation among the 24 congregations in the synod.

After touring the Nyabira primary school on Saturday (where a new block of classrooms had been built), the group went to Rock Haven Center where Barbara Silo, wife of CCAP Elder Aubrey Silo, is overseeing improvements, including construction of a new secondary school for the growing community around the center. The group also saw how the seedling trees planted by the MAPC youth delegation along the Rock Haven entrance road 2 years ago have grown into young trees! Back at Mufakose, the delegation led Bible study with Pattison's congregation, a first for Dorothy and Edward, and a very eye-opening experience.

Sunday worship in the new Harare City Church was moving for the 400-plus worshippers from all the synod's congregations who gathered to worship and recognize Fred Anderson's retirement. Much to the delegation's surprise and glee, a huge banner hung at the front of the sanctuary with Fred and Questa's picture! It was a joyous occasion, complete with fund-raising for continued construction of the sanctuary.

Then the road trip began! Traveling with Abusas Chirongo and Boloma, the delegation visited the Mutare congregation in the eastern Highlands where they gave MAPC greetings to Abusa Aston Galanti and his wife, and met their newborn twins, Wealth and Wonderful! The group thoroughly enjoyed Bible Study with Aston's congregation and the performance by the church choir.

After a long ride in the synod van, the group arrived at Great Zimbabwe, a UNESCO World Heritage site from which the country takes its name. Touring the beautiful and extensive stone city, the group got a great appreciation for this cradle of the kingdom that ruled this portion of Africa 500 years ago.

A sunset cruise on Lake Mutirikwe was a wonderful way to wind up this stay near Masvingo.

After visiting a small CCAP prayer house of the Gweru congregation, the group gathered at the main congregation for Bible Study and then the long drive back to Harare and the Bronte Hotel. The group concluded their stay with a trip to a drive-through lion park and snake farm--pulse-quickenings experiences to be sure!

MAPC will welcome a delegation from Harare Synod in April, 2016. Want to host one of our visitors? Contact ZPC chair Curtis Field! - *Donald Wahlig*

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ZAMBIA TRIP NOTES FROM FRED AND DON

Prior to joining the main delegation in Harare, Don and Fred visited current Global Ministry Fellow Andy Smothers in Kitwe, Zambia for two days of discussion with new TEEZ Director, Abusa Ackson Banda. Andy and Ackson showed them the construction of the new duplex, which will be completed later this summer in time for new GMF Tyler Orem to enjoy this brand new dwelling, which will also provide a much-needed revenue stream for TEEZ. Don and Fred also had a chance to say hello to former TEEZ Director Kangwa Mabuluki and new training director, Abusa Hopkins Changwe, and they even had dinner with the Lund family, who have befriended and hosted previous MAPC GMFs. - *Dr. Fred Anderson & Donald Wahlig*

Chris Rowan



Lila Potter



Alex Hernandez



YOUTH

Congratulations

Chris De La Cruz
MAPC's New

Director of Christian
Formation

YOUTH SUNDAY & CONFIRMATION CLASS 2015

Once a year, the youth of MAPC help lead our congregation in worship. This year, we had a wide cross-section of our young people leading elements of our worship service, some of which were written by the middle and high schoolers themselves.

Our four Confirmands also preached, each on a reading from the lectionary. They were so good that the pastoral staff commented that it was among the very best Youth Sundays of which they had been a part!

This year's Confirmands are an inquisitive and faithful group and they provided many fruitful and deep conversations. During Confirmation classes they did not shy away from big questions like "How do we reconcile faith and science?" among many others. Most importantly, their participation in Confirmation was a natural extension of their commitment to the church community and our life of faith. It was clear that, for them, confirmation was the beginning of the next phase of their faith journey in our church community. - *Christopher De La Cruz*



Mac Dye, Austin Hoogkamp, Bridget Patterson, Arthur Potter

Starting in June, Christopher De La Cruz took on a new role as Director of Christian Formation, overseeing the education and discipleship ministries at MAPC. In addition to keeping his current youth ministry duties, Chris will now be responsible for adult education and adult Bible studies, as well as our children and family ministries.

Chris started working at MAPC in 2013 to lead the church in creating new middle and high school ministries from scratch. Under his oversight and with the service of many faithful members, MAPC now has youth groups serving the hungry at MAPC's Shelter Dinner food program regularly, Bible study and fellowship groups, a Sunday Youth Worship for junior high students, a youth leadership ministry assisting with our Wednesday Kids Club program, a rejuvenated Youth Sunday, and seasonal Pizza & Game nights.

Chris also initiated 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. Chris still maintains a hands-on approach to our middle and high school ministries, in order to build on the foundation that has been set.

The consolidation of these responsibilities within one portfolio, reflected in Chris's new title, emphasizes the formational aspect of our CE ministries. This means that, through our programs, God forms the head, the heart and our whole life for following Christ. There is no false dichotomy between rigorous intellectual engagement with our tradition and a strong, genuine faith. Chris promises to build from and strengthen the strong tradition of Christian Education at MAPC, striving to equip and inspire people in being disciples of Jesus Christ.

There were big changes all around, with Chris and Amanda welcoming their new son, Jasper, in May. Big sister Amelia has been busy helping hold the baby bottle and playing with him! - *Donald Wahlig*

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Urban New Yorkers and Rural Iowans: Serving Together as One Body of Christ



The youth mission team getting ready for a hayride at a farm



Alex Hernandez starts up a tractor

Y

oung people taking time out of school vacation to serve the underprivileged. Metropolitan coast-dwellers and corn-field Midwesterners forming lasting relationships. Partnership between Presbyterian congregations of different sizes, ideological backgrounds, and locations. Experimenting with different ideas of what a mission trip can be. Youth ministry and outreach within the country thriving at MAPC.

Just a few of the tangible successes we can report from this year's Youth Mission Trip to Iowa.

Last year, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church invited young people from two Iowa churches to help rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Sandy in Queens and Brooklyn. Through our partner Presbyterian Hope in Action, MAPC and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church youth served alongside young people from FPC Spirit Lake and FPC Lake Park in Iowa, coming halfway across the country in our continuing time of need.

This year, MAPC decided to continue the partnership and send a group of seven youth and five adults to Iowa to work with those same congregations in serving the rural poor. Another Iowa congregation, FPC Estherville, joined us, as well.

We traveled to various spots in the Midwest, including Spencer and Lake Park, IA, Sioux Falls, SD, and Wilmington, MN, working with local Christian non-profits doing good work serving the homeless and underprivileged. We experienced first-hand how poverty looks both very similar and very different from New York, most notably the larger Native American constituency and the rural white poor.

In addition, we had youth from two very different contexts come together, quickly forming meaningful and lasting relationships through service, through team building activities, and through spiritual formation and worship together. Students repeatedly said when it was over, "I made so many good friends," both with Iowa youth and with each other.

Our hope is, too, that students and adults become inspired to continue to serve in New York when they come back.

This partnership between our churches is a tangible sign of the unity of the Church with urban New Yorkers and rural Iowans serving together as the one body of Christ.

It is also the product of MAPC's investment in our youth ministry. One ninth grader, when the mission trip was finished, said, "I am so glad I am going to this church." Think about that statement in relation to where our church was even two years ago with our young people.

That alone is reason enough to consider continuing this valuable partnership. Details need to be refined, but our hope is to propose continuing this partnership, perhaps with back-and-forth trips to New York and Iowa, figuring out deeper ways to learn from each other's contexts while strengthening each other's outreach and youth ministries.

Make sure to check out the Youth Mission Trip to Iowa presentation this Fall during the 10:10 am Adult Ed Hour. Follow the Pastor's Letter or check out mapc.com to learn when an exact time is scheduled. - *Christopher De La Cruz*



New York and Iowa youth get ready for the week



Don Wahlig gets excited about mission work



Service at a congregant's home



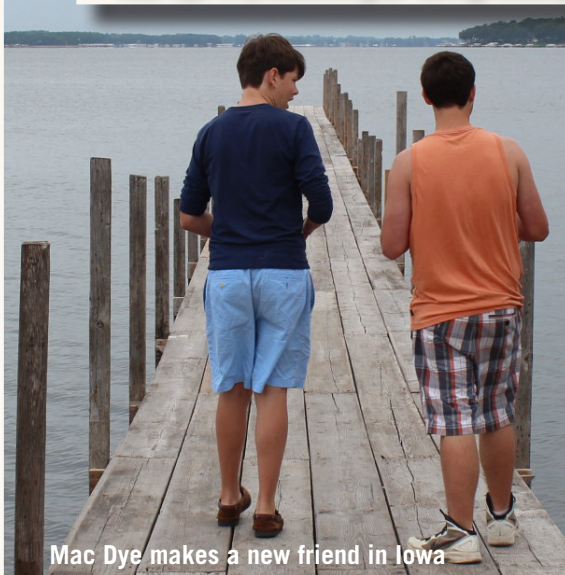
Weeding at a community garden



Mac Dye in protective gear during cleanup



Serving at an Iowa congregant's house



Mac Dye makes a new friend in Iowa



Chris De La Cruz reflects

TYLER OREM

NEW PHILLIPS TALBOT GLOBAL MINISTRY FELLOW IN ZAMBIA!



One of the newest faces at MAPC is Tyler Orem, the 9th Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow. Tyler grew up on a farm outside Shelbyville, Indiana, and was raised in the First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville. After receiving a B.A. in Classics and Theology from the University of

Notre Dame, he served as a Young Adult Volunteer with the PCUSA in Manganam, Kerala, India, where he ministered to the poor and the elderly.

Discerning a dual call to ministry and social work, Tyler simultaneously pursued the Master of Divinity degree at McCormick Theological Seminary and the Master of Social Work degree at the University of Chicago. After earning the MSW degree in June 2014, he became a licensed clinical social worker this spring. In May, 2015, Tyler was admitted to the MDiv degree with honors, and was awarded the prize for the student with the highest academic achievement.

The PTGMF Committee was impressed with Tyler's deep and authentic faith, personal warmth, obvious intelligence and global perspective and experience.

Tyler started at TEEZ September 1, where he is getting oriented with current GMF Andy Smothers. You can keep up with Tyler's experience by reading his blog TEEZing Out The Roots at www.mapc.com/outreach/blog. His email address is two@mapc.com.

Tyler: "After three months of getting to know the ministries of MAPC and the urban realities of NYC, I am now getting to know the ministries of TEEZ in this context of Zambia. I'm excited to see what experiences God has in store for me and those I serve here and to share them with you. Thank you for your continued prayers for me and TEEZ."

- Donald Wahlig

"LEAP" WORD-IN-ACTION

BETH WAHLIG
SUNDAY, MARCH 1 2015

I am here to speak about the LEAP program which happens every Saturday morning from 10 am to 12 noon at the Church of the Resurrection on East 103rd Street in East Harlem. LEAP stands for Learning Enrichment & Arts Program and is one of the hands-on local ministries that MAPC sponsors. The program is designed to provide a truly unique learning experience for at-risk, economically disadvantaged kids in one of the poorer neighborhoods of NYC.

For one hour, we read with the kids to improve their reading skills and help them learn new words. During the second hour, we work on an art project where the kids learn to be creative and imaginative. I became a volunteer three years ago. At first, I did not know what to expect but as I started coming faithfully each Saturday, I started to bond with the kids as I read books to them.

The LEAP program gives these kids, many who live in public housing, the chance to improve their education and to form relationships with adults and teens who truly care about them as people. These kids open up to us in many ways. Some tell us of not being able to eat as much that week, of their cousins getting evicted from their apartment and moving into a shelter, or of not getting any gifts for Christmas because grandma needed surgery. They also tell us how much they love their moms, dads and brothers and sisters and how they are doing in school.

Recently, one of the boys was complaining about having to read a book that was a bit challenging for him. I knew that he could read many of the words and he was just a bit scared. I told him that learning new words was one of the gifts of life and that even I had to learn new words every day. I said the more he reads, the better he will do in his class and then he will go to high school and then maybe college and then get a good job. He looked straight at me and said, "Yes, and then I can help my mom with all the bills." Wow! I was blown away by the fact that his love for his mom was so pure and real. As a volunteer in LEAP, I have learned a tremendous amount from the kids to whom I read and every Saturday I walk away with a feeling that I have made a difference in making their lives a little better.

This has been a transition year for the program and we truly need some new volunteers from this church to step forward and come join us on Saturday morning. Please consider giving of your time to help a young child to learn the joy of reading. This is your opportunity to follow the teachings of Jesus, of loving your neighbors. Thank you.

Emma Wahlig and Anne Donovan with kids from LEAP



Trip to Ellis Island to learn about early immigration



REVIVAL OF THE MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN GROUP

For several years, a group of mothers met weekly on Monday mornings for fellowship and support. Last year this group took a break, since we did not have enough people who were regularly available at that time. Several people have expressed interest in starting the group again, but on a monthly rather than weekly basis. We are renaming the group “Monday Morning Moms”, and we will meet on the third Monday of the month (unless that is a holiday), beginning at 9 am in the Phillips Lounge. We will finish by 10:30, but if you have to come late or leave early, please feel free to do so. This group has been a valuable source of community and support for MAPC moms, and we encourage you to come enjoy a relaxed time of conversation. We will start with a short devotion and encourage you to bring whatever topics/issues you would like to discuss. The fall dates for Monday Morning Moms are September 21, October 19, and November 16. Bring your cup of coffee, and your baby, if you need to! We do not have childcare available at this time, but new moms are welcome to bring your infants, and if you do not have childcare for your toddler, you may bring him or her as well.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND FAITH SHARING GROUP

We have a small but steady group of seniors who meet for Group Spiritual Direction on the first and third Thursday of the month, from 1 to 2:30 pm in the Library at James Lenox House (right around the corner from MAPC on 73rd Street). Group Spiritual Direction takes many forms. For this group, the facilitator, Beverly Bartlett, brings a passage of scripture or other spiritual reading which we reflect on silently for several minutes, then share our reflections with one another, practicing deep listening before we open the group up to a more general discussion. In Group Spiritual Direction we gather together to listen for God’s Spirit together—with and on behalf of one another. This group focuses on spiritual growth and experience in what Carl Jung called “the afternoon of life.” Our older years are often a very rich time for deepening our relationship with God, and at this point in our lives we have a wealth of spiritual experiences and insight to share with one another. This group includes both MAPC members and residents of James Lenox House who belong to other churches. The first meeting of the fall will be Thursday, September 17. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Beverly Bartlett at 212-288-8920, or via email, bab@mapc.com

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP—OKTOBERFEST!

MAPC men, mark your calendars for what has become an annual event—Oktoberfest on October 19 at 7 pm on the Roof Garden. If it’s too cold or rainy, we’ll be in the Parish Hall. Come enjoy traditional Oktobfest fare and fellowship.

ANNUAL WOMEN’S BRUNCH

The annual MAPC Women’s Brunch will be held on Saturday, October 24, from 10 am to Noon. This popular event is for women of all ages. Each year we invite four women of our church to share their stories—significant events, people, and faith experiences that have shaped who they are. Come enjoy this rich time of fellowship.

THE HOOD LIBRARY FELLOWSHIP’S ANNUAL BOOK SALE

will be held on Sunday, November 15 — just in time to gather your winter reading, or even find some Christmas gifts for the book lovers on your list. You will find tables of books arranged in the Church House Lobby all morning, ready for you to browse and purchase as you enjoy your cup of coffee or tea and cookie and compare book notes with your MAPC friends.

Please watch the weekly Pastoral Staff Newsletter, the announcements insert in the weekly order of worship, and the website calendar for other Congregational Nurture Events throughout the fall, such as Moms’ Nights Out, MAPC On the Town events, Senior Fellowship Lunches, the MAPC Book Club, and 20s/30s Bible Study dates. You can find a link to the Pastoral Staff Newsletter, and subscribe to it, on the church’s homepage: www.mapc.com. - Beverly Bartlett



LINDSAY POPPER, 2015 DAVID H.C. READ PREACHER/SCHOLAR AWARD WINNER

The 2015 winner of the \$20,000 David H.C. Read Preacher/Scholar Award is Lindsay Popper. Lindsay received a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology in May and will be ordained in the American Baptist Church of Massachusetts. This annual award is given in honor of Dr. David H.C. Read (1910-2001), an internationally renowned preacher, scholar, author and ecumenist, who retired in 1989 after serving 34 years as Senior Pastor at MAPC. It 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 who is committed to parish ministry.

Ms. Popper was selected from 26 candidates recommended by 15 theological schools. The other finalists, each of whom receives a \$1,000 award, were Emily Brewer and Samantha Gonzalez-Block, both recommended by Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY. - Beverly Bartlett

Ms. Popper will preach at both worship services at MAPC on September 20, 2015

NYCCC gathers outside the Salzburg Dom (Mozart's church) after their concert



Choristers re-enact Do-Re-Mi from "The Sound of Music" at Mirabell Palace



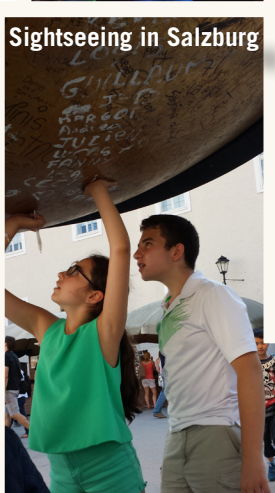
Sunday Mass at the Votivkirche



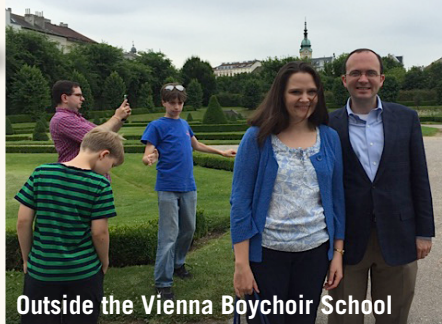
Informal Concert and Tour at Klosterneuburg



Sightseeing in Salzburg



Outside the Vienna Boychoir School



Sightseeing at Melk Abbey



NYCCC in Salzburg's Residenzplatz



Elizabeth, Amber and Hannah survey the Danube River Valley



NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S CHORUS: A TOUR TO AUSTRIA!

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eventy-eight choristers, chaperones and staff have returned from a marvelous 8-day tour to Vienna and Salzburg, June 25 – July 3. The choir's performances included singing for Sunday mass at Vienna's massive Votivkirche; at the Odeion Kulturforum in Salzburg, which also included a rehearsal and collaboration with the students of the Rudolf Steiner School (and their director, a faculty member at the Mozarteum); at a midday performance at the Salzburg Dom, where Mozart was baptized and served as Music Director; and at a concert at the new community arts center in Anif, a suburb of Salzburg that was also the longtime home of the renowned conductors Herbert Van Karajan and Ricardo Muti. The current Director of Music at the Salzburg Dom, Janos Czifra, who attended the NYCCC concert, praised the choir and relayed that the performance was "of the highest art"! What a great review! Also, a favorite musical highlight was an impromptu performance and choreographed re-enactment in the Mirabell Gardens of the song "Do-Re-Mi", as featured in the movie, "The Sound of Music", much to the choristers' and many tourists' delight.

Additional tour highlights included tours of Vienna's Schönbrunn Palace, attending an evening performance in the Marionette Theatre at Schönbrunn Palace of Mozart's opera "Die Zauberflöte"; a tour of Klosterneuberg Abbey & sausage feast arranged by the Austrian Consulate General (just south of MAPC on 69th Street); visits to the Mozarthaus where Mozart lived from 1784-1787 and where he composed "Le nozze di Figaro"; a tour of the amazing interactive sound & music museum "Haus der Musik," where choristers could take their turn conducting the Vienna Philharmonic in an interactive exhibit; a visit to the Prater Amusement Park with its giant Ferris wheel and live carousel; a Vienna Boys Choir concert at their new state of the art concert hall, the MuTh, and a rare private tour of the Palace Augarten, the home of the Vienna Boys' Choir (with whom we also visited and ate lunch in their cafeteria!); a visit to Melk Abbey with an impromptu performance in its stunning Baroque chapel; a fun tour of the massive salt mines in Hallein including donning miner's gear and sliding down chutes three-stories high; and a boat tour on the Königssee and flugelhorn demonstration of the famous Königssee-Echo on a mountain lake near our hotel in the Bavarian Alps at Berchtesgaden, Germany.

Fundraising efforts over three seasons made this trip possible for choristers who exhibited financial need. These choristers are given a life-changing, international, and affordable musical experience. All NYCCC choristers were given a 30% scholarship for the cost of the trip through the multi-year efforts of the Fundraising Task Force, a sub-committee of the NYCCC Committee. Many thanks to members of the Fundraising Task Force (Leslie Nilsson, chair) and members of the NYCCC Committee (David Carleton, chair; Sharon Boersma, vice-chair) for their vision and hard work in realizing such a monumental experience for our choristers! - *Mary Huff*



The NYCCC rehearses at the Votivkirche (Votive Church) in Vienna before their Sunday morning Mass on June 28, 2015



The NYCCC recorded their first CD over Memorial Day Weekend, 2015, over three nights until late in the evening to avoid the noise of Manhattan. The CD, "Simple Gifts", will be released by MSR Classics in November, 2015, at MAPC, on Amazon and iTunes.

SAINT ANDREW MUSIC SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 4 at 3 pm

Music on Madison: Andrew Henderson, organ
10th Anniversary Recital

Sunday, October 18 at 3 pm

Music on Madison: Students from Mannes College
Works by Corelli, Telemann, Rachmaninoff, Ravel & Barber

Sunday, November 15 at 3 pm

Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra
Fauré: Requiem; works by Howard Hanson & Chris DeBlasio

Sunday, December 6 at 3 pm

Music on Madison: Students from Juilliard415
From Salons and Courts: Music of the French Baroque

Sunday, December 13 at 4 pm

11th Annual Carol Sing
Saint Andrew Chorale & New York City Children's Chorus



CELEBRATING ANDREW AND MARY'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY AT MAPC!

Well, that decade sure flew by! This year marks the 10th anniversary of Dr. Andrew E. Henderson as our Director of Music and Organist and Mary Huff as our Associate Director of Music. We will celebrate both these anniversaries in October. As part of this celebration, Andrew will give a 10th anniversary organ recital in our Music on Madison series on Sunday, October 4th at 3 pm, and on Sunday, October 25th, we will have a festive reception in their honor in the Parish Hall after the 11:15 am worship service.

We have been truly blessed by Andrew's extraordinary talent and skill as an organist and choral director, and Mary's equally extraordinary gifts as one of the leading children's choral directors in our country. They have enriched our worship and musical lives for a decade now and are valuable members of the pastoral staff. Please take time this fall to congratulate Andrew and Mary and thank them for their ten years of ministry at MAPC! - *Beverly Bartlett*

UPCOMING MAPC EVENTS

September 13

Preschool Worship Begins

9am Worship Service

Youth Worship Begins

Both Worship Services

Church School, Youth Hour, Adult Education Begin

10:10 am

ESL Resumes

1 pm

September 16

Kids Club & Wee Kids Begin

4 pm

September 19

Families with Young Children

10 am

September 20

David H.C. Read Scholar Award Preacher

Both Worship Services

September 21

Monday Morning Moms' Group

9 am

September 25

Church Family Night

6 pm

September 27

High School Lunch Starts

1 pm

October 1

MS & HS at Shelter Dinner

6 pm

October 3

Congregation-wide Retreat at Camp Holmes

October 5

Moms' Night Out

7 pm

October 17

Families with Young Children

10 am

October 17

LEAP Resumes

10 am

October 19

Monday Morning Moms' Group

9 am

Men's Fellowship Oktoberfest

7 pm

October 23

Pizza and Game Night

6 pm

October 24

Annual Women's Brunch

10 am

October 25

Henderson and Huff 10th Anniversary Reception

12:30 pm

October 30

Halloween Church Family Night

6 pm

November 5

MS & HS at Shelter Dinner

6 pm

November 9

Moms' Night Out

7 pm

November 15

Annual Hood Library Book Sale

10 am to 1:30 pm

November 16

Officers' Stewardship Dinner

November 21

Families with Young Children

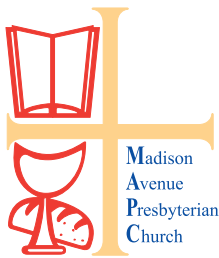
10 am

November 22

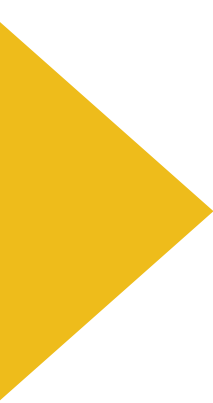
Stewardship Dedication Sunday and Brunches

December 6

Alternative Gift Fair



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



CONGREGATION-WIDE RETREAT
AT HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CAMP
IN HOLMES, NEW YORK | OCTOBER 3, 2015

Meet Our New Interim Pastor

Spend Time With
The MAPC Church Family

Continue Conversation On
Who We Are As A Church
And Where We Are Going

Opportunities For Hiking,
Archery, Boating, &
Relaxing In Nature

RSVP to Maria Soto
212-288-8920 X8479
or MTS@MAPC.COM