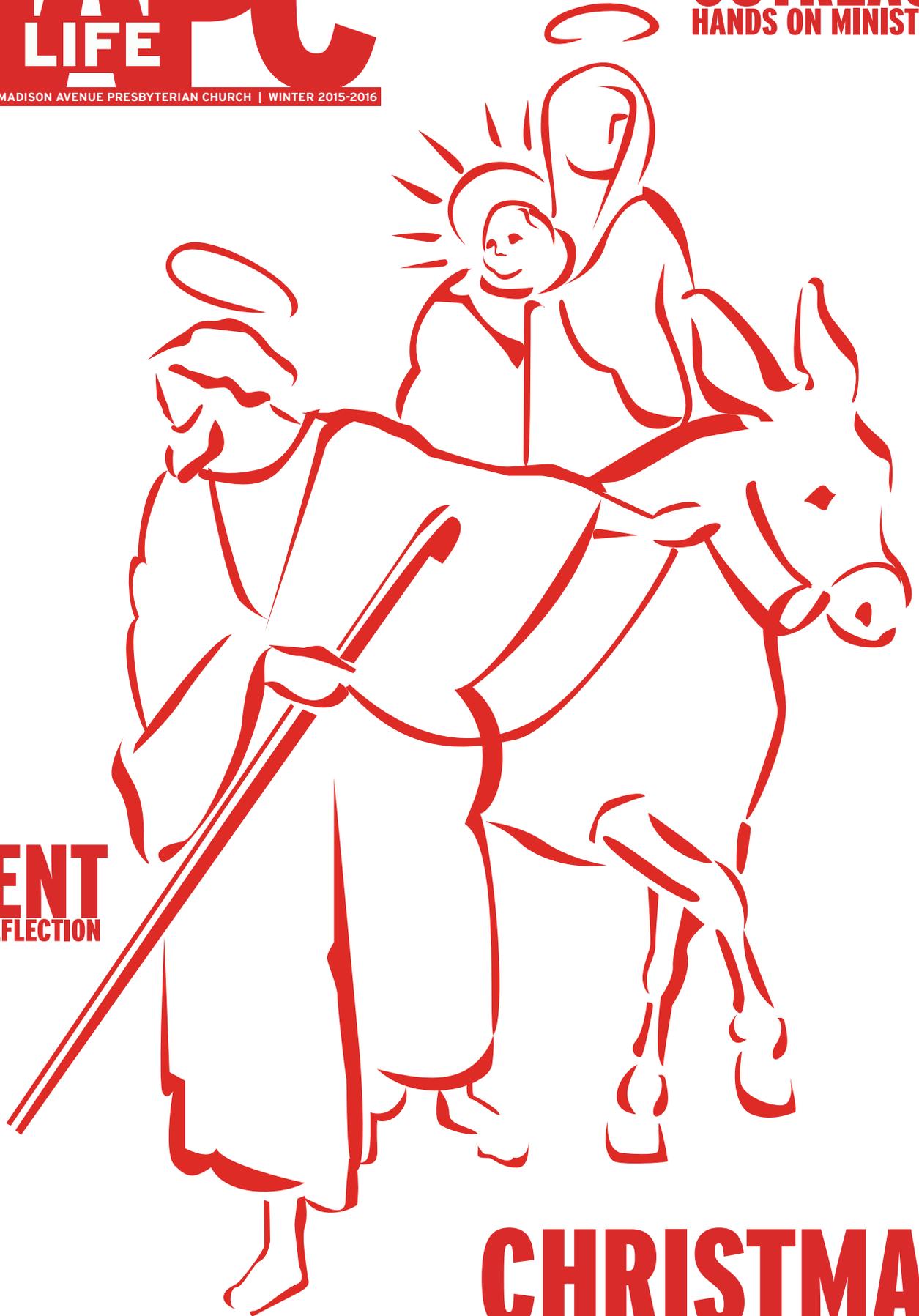


MAPC

LIFE

THE MAGAZINE OF MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | WINTER 2015-2016

LOCAL
OUTREACH
HANDS ON MINISTRIES



ADVENT
RETREAT & REFLECTION

CHRISTMAS
AT MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,



It has been an absolute delight to be here at MAPC. This is a church with a great reputation that is well deserved – its giving is generous, and it is committed to the social betterment of the community, to adult education, and to the arts. Its music programs are justly renowned. Most important of all, at the center of your (our!) life together is a deep commitment to worship, in which we meet to be fed by God. I am blessed to be able to work with the Session to lead this congregation during this transitional time as you prepare for and select a new installed pastor.

Of course, as I quickly discovered, there is another side to all this. Within a day and half of arriving my calendar was filled. But that is, I suppose, a good thing. Clearly, the church is not resting on its reputation but doing all the things that make this such a committed community of Christians.

Let me highlight just a few of the many things that are going on and that are featured in this issue of MAPC Life. The MAPC Day School has begun its year, and I am very pleased to be working with its new Director, Laura Graham. She is well known to the school, having served as a teacher there, and is doing many good things as its head. We had an all-church retreat at Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center, which was a wonderful community builder (and a good way for me to get to know people quickly) even if things were a bit

soggy. Andrew Henderson and Mary Huff are celebrating their tenth year with the church. As with all good musicians, that means doing even more themselves in order to celebrate. Andrew opened the St. Andrew Music Society season with a recital. Mary and the New York City Children's Chorus have just put out a new CD, "Simple Gifts." A photo of the cover is on page 16.

And, of course, because of the time of the year, it is also Stewardship season, and we continue the Mission Fund capital campaign. I urge your generous response to both in order that the church might be strengthened during this time of transition and not be caught just holding its breath.

I am going to take time frequently during these first few months to make people acquainted with what is involved in the transition process and keep them up to date as it proceeds. In outline the process is straightforward. First, the church prepares a Mission Study that tells in depth the mission of this church in this place – what it does well, what God is calling it to do. Understanding that, the church has a better sense of what sort of person it needs to lead it. Then, and only then, the Nominating Committee selects a Pastor Nominating Committee, which writes up the church's resumé (its Mission Information Form or MIF). This is filed with denominational headquarters and is viewable by everybody seeking a call; it is also matched to candidates. In addition, the PNC will ask for recommendations. They then read and read and read, and listen to sermons, and conduct interviews. Then, when they have selected a candidate, they bring that person to the congregation to be voted on.

Simple enough. But it is important to know that

this process takes on average about two years (we have already begun it, if that is any relief.) Why so long? Because in the Presbyterian Church, each church has the inalienable right of selecting its own pastor. It would go faster if somebody simply told us who the next pastor would be. But, because we have this right and because it is an immense responsibility, we want to get it right, and we want the next pastor to have the best possible chance of succeeding. The way that happens is by careful and diligent discernment.

That may sound frustrating. But it is simply another expression of what we understand the Christian life to be. We are to do many things, but always as a result of what we have discerned God calling us to do. So, we are always listening, always reading God's word, always praying, always hearing how the Spirit is speaking to us, often through the words of others. God does have someone in mind to lead this congregation. We simply need to have the faithfulness to let God get that person here in God's own time.

If we understand the process that way, it is a lot less frustrating; in fact, it can be tinged with great hope and a sense of promise. This can be a time to think and experiment, to come to know ourselves and our responsibilities better, to learn what is worth keeping and what new things are beckoning us. Above all, it is a time for the faithful to be involved, and not passive, not waiting to see what will happen. Use the time well, for using time well is a sign of God's grace.

Peace,

"WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?" AN ADVENT RETREAT DAY

Join Pastor Beverly Bartlett on Saturday, December 5 in the Parish Hall for this special Advent Retreat experience! The retreat will begin at 9 am and conclude by 3 pm.

What better way to prepare for the coming of the Christ child than by giving yourself the gift of a quiet day at the beginning of this Advent Season. Advent should be a time of mindful preparation—but for most of us it flies by in a flurry of activity as we prepare for Christmas and celebrate the season.

Come spend a day in quiet, reflecting on the stories of the beloved characters of Advent: John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph. How do their stories speak to us? How can they help us discover what we are waiting for? As the people of Israel longed for a Savior, what are our longings and expectations? How does God answer them?

Beverly will present reflections on the stories from scripture, we will have an opportunity to share our insights, spend periods of time in silent reflection and prayer, and walk a labyrinth. Lunch will be served and is included in the \$35 cost for the day. Dress is casual, and you may want to bring a journal or notebook and pen.

RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erao in the MAPC offices at lgp@mapc.com or 212-288-8920 x8485

MAPC

WINTER 2015

.COM

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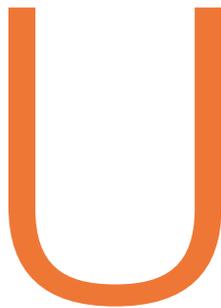
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ALL-CHURCH RETREAT AT HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CAMP OCTOBER 2 & 3, 2015



Undaunted by the suddenly damp and cold fall weather the first weekend in October, MAPC members and staff traveled to Holmes Camp for a time of relaxed fellowship and reflection on the future of the congregation. The main program on Saturday began with a time of worship gathered around the big stone fireplace at the rustic Westminster Lodge. Then Interim Pastor Eric O. Springsted and Members of the Mission Review Committee divided the adults into five groups, as the dozen children that had come went off for their own activities.

The groups engaged in Bible study that led into conversations about what brought each of us to MAPC and why we stay, what we love about the church, and our hopes and dreams for our future together. These conversations form the backbone of the Mission Review process and are critically important as we move forward in the pastoral search. By building consensus around who we are as a church, what we value, and what our vision is, we will be better able to identify who will be the right fit as our next pastor.

After lunch, the group enjoyed different activities. Some went for a hike, others went to tour the on-site organic farm and some simply stayed inside by the fire and got to know Eric better.

At the closing worship service, all agreed that the retreat left us with a deeper sense of community, and renewed energy and excitement about the ways in which we can grow as a church during this time of transition:

“I appreciated the opportunity to put names with faces and to share discussion and worship with members of all ages. Getting to know Holmes Camp and Conference Center was a big plus.” —Dick Iverson, Elder

“It was fun because all the kids got to play. I loved the fireplace because it was freezing outside. I liked looking at the water and the tree the beaver was eating.” —Greta Krueger Baier, age 7

“It was wonderful to be part of the different generations coming together and sharing our stories of faith. It is clear there is excitement about the future of MAPC, and I look forward to being part of this journey.”

—Lyn Krueger, Deacon

“We are a community of disciples traveling forward together in our faith and in support of one another. It is these elements that can provide calm, strength and encouragement during this time of change.”

—Susan Tonking, new member

“I liked the farm because we can’t see farms in New York City. When I saw the Mommy Pig snorting at her piglets I thought, ‘Wow, she is desperate to eat the apples.’ I hope that God keeps the farm growing!” —Kathryn Tonking, age 7

“I had never heard of Holmes before the retreat, so I really enjoyed learning about its history and programs. A special part of the day was simply learning that we have this beautiful, natural place as a resource!”

—Elder and Deacon Kristin Hohmann

“I thought the retreat was great. The camp is a very serene place. The setting seemed to help facilitate our discussions, which were very thoughtful and engaging. The kids also had a great time. Charlotte especially liked the visit to the farm. The best part for her was holding the chicken egg. James enjoyed practicing his reading and singing by following the lyrics and music in the hymnal while we all sang.”

—Elder Meme Peponis (and James and Charlotte, ages 6 and 5)

“I chose to go to the farm (during our free time in the afternoon). That took me by surprise, to find a new dimension of the Presbyterian Church in sustainable farming! The group I was in reviewed the strengths (of MAPC) that have been developed and sustained, and was very positive regarding direction and momentum. We got to know people we didn’t know before and enjoyed being able to speak our thoughts and engage each other without any judgment.” —Deacon and Elder Nancy Ost

“It was a wonderful experience for me being among so many members of the congregation of MAPC away from the Sunday service, having fun and at the same time discussing the future of our church and possible ways to make it better.” —Deacon Alicia Sheen

“Being able to meet Eric (Springsted) in such a beautiful place helped me feel as if Madison will move through this interim period with purpose and community, and gave me a lot of optimism for our future.”

—Kathy Reichardt, new member

“Breakfast at a table with Eric turned out to be such an interesting reflection on the possibilities of transition periods and Eric’s experience with them in different churches. —Elder and Deacon, Ruth Schroeder



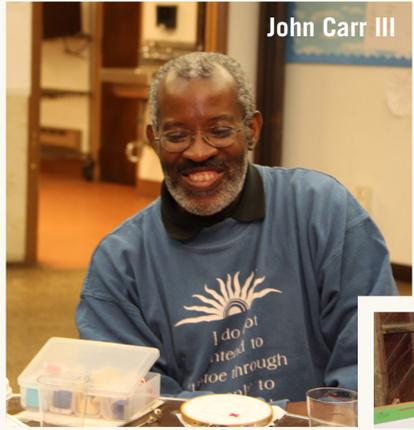
Beverly Bartlett and Lauren Logan



Westminster Lodge



Lou Reichardt and Eric Springsted



John Carr III



Chris De La Cruz and MAPC Kids



Alicia McDonald



Christian Henderson, Kathryn Tonking and Greta Baier



Laura and Kevin Brumit leading discussion



Don Wahlig



Amanda and Jasper De La Cruz



An evening game of cards



Sharon Boersma, Lyn Krueger and Kate Baier



Kathy Hoffman and Barbara Iverson leading a small group



James Peponis, Whit Burg and Barbara Iverson



Alicia Sheen



Eric Springsted

MISSION REVIEW UPDATE

T

he master carpenter's old saying is "measure twice, cut once." It is an appropriate way of describing what a Mission Study is. By carefully looking at what our present mission is, by looking at what we are called to do, and by looking at our history and present reality, we should know what sort of person we are seeking to be our next installed pastor before the Pastor Nominating Committee starts talking to candidates. That will help the focus of the PNC's task. It will also give the next installed pastor a very good sense of the church to which s/he has been called.

In order to get a good start on the process, the Mission Study Committee began its work in the late spring. At that point the task was to gather data, including the U.S. Congregational Life Survey which many of you took. Upon the arrival of our interim pastor, who has the task of advising the committee, a lot of the hands-on work began. One of the most important pieces of the study is a series of small group discussions in which members are asked to reflect on what brought them here in the first place and what excites them about staying. It is a very direct way to determine what our present mission really is. In a second session, they are then asked to reflect on what God is calling this church to do in this place. Through these discussions, we intend to involve the congregation itself in looking to the future, and to claim ownership of our mission.

The first of these sessions took place at the Church retreat at Holmes Camp on October 3. After that, several opportunities were given for members to participate in these discussions throughout the fall. With the input from these discussions, as well as discussions among the church leadership and all sorts of data, the committee is in the process of writing its report. The report is exactly that – a report. It is not to recommend any specific actions, although there is nothing barring the session from acting on its observations even now. It is to say who we are as a church, what we see our future to be, and the gifts we ourselves bring to realize that future.

When the report is finished, it needs to be approved by session and by the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of New York. Upon approval, we will then proceed directly to the selection of a Pastor Nominating Committee. Throughout this process, I encourage you to speak with me directly if you have any questions and I will be more than happy to discuss them with you. In the meantime, please hold the congregation and its leadership in your prayers as we seek God's will in determining the way forward.

- Eric Springsted

ADVENT REFLECTION

Eric Springsted

S

t. Augustine is one of the towering figures of the church, ancient and modern. Although you will get an argument from some about the matter, he is one who teaches with authority and not like the scribes and Pharisees, something that is evident if one actually reads his works. Well, it is evident most of the time. Yet, Augustine at the end of his life did not get to enjoy the fruits of his labors. He was engaged in some of the most difficult and most important controversies of his long life just then; he died as the barbarians were at the gates of Hippo Regius, the town where he had been bishop for over thirty years. In some of his late writings, his frustration and the temptation to despair are evident. He argued his whole life for truth and clarity, for the counsels and virtues and peace of the Gospel, and it just wasn't working out. At least it wasn't apparent that it was working out either for him or for his age.

It has always seemed to me that one needs to understand his arguments about predestination, a notorious doctrine that has bothered Presbyterians, at least ones of earlier generations, in the light of this situation. There may well be a logic that ended up driving the discussion that is probably best left alone. But it is clear when Augustine first started writing about it that, in the midst of things not working out, of things looking none too bright, he was affirming that, because God is gracious and because God is determined to save us, there is hope. There is always hope, and our failures will not defeat God's purpose.

Once upon a time I used to ask folks to appreciate Advent by putting themselves in the position of the Old Testament prophets who looked forward to the coming of Christ. Well, the fact is that Christ has come. We know that. We are in the position of waiting for the final fulfillment of God's promise which was made clear in Christ. We are in the position of waiting for all things to be made right.

As with Augustine, it often doesn't look like all things are going to be made right. Yet, during Advent, because Christ has come, we can be sure that God will fulfill his promises. We will not be frustrated with ourselves and our world forever. We will be made right, even if we have not done so well up to now.

So the message of Advent is hope. But it is also waiting and patience. As the prophet Jeremiah said (and in the midst of a disaster he endured): "The Lord is good to those who seek him, to those who wait for him. Yes, it is good to wait in patience for the Lord."

ADVENT

NURTURING FAITH

WITH FAMILIES OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS

W

hen our children are baptized, we as a church community make vows to teach and help them know all that Christ commands and to strengthen their family ties with the whole people of God.

To help fulfill these vows, the Christian Education Committee and the Board of Deacons have formed a new joint ministry aimed specifically at nurturing faith within families of infants and toddlers. The ministry emphasizes building relationships among church members and families as well as providing practical resources for parents.

Here's how it works: a Deacon and Christian Education Committee member are assigned to each family with a child two years or younger. Those leaders will, at key moments in the child's development (birth, 3 months, 6 months, and so on), send the family gifts such as a board book bible, a photo album featuring people at MAPC, or a parenting book on raising children in faith.

Accompanying each gift will be a letter introducing the family to specific ministries of the church and giving them suggestions for using the resources given.

This outreach is intentionally relational and pastoral – members reaching out to members at key transitional, and oftentimes stressful, stages in their lives. We hope that relationships build organically beyond the gifts and letters, but those gifts form the conversation starter.

In addition, this ministry is, at its core, about Christian formation and discipleship. The overall goal is to equip parents to nurture their children in the faith. Especially as the child gets older, Church School and Sunday worship are, of course, vitally important, but multiple studies suggest what many of us know instinctively – the greatest influence on whether a child retains their faith as they get older is the faith of the child's parents.

And we know that building habits of communicating that faith to children, as with any parenting habits, are developed very early. Our hope is that through this ministry, parents never feel alone in their calling to nurture the faith of their child.

The Christian Education Committee and the Board of Deacons have worked hard all summer getting the logistics together to make this happen. This is a significant endeavor involving coordinating names, addresses, birthdays, letters, etc., and it is a testament to our congregation's commitment to ministry with families and children that this endeavor has been largely the work of members rather than the pastoral staff. Elder Sharon Boersma and Deacon Laura Macdonald, among many others, have done the groundwork to bring this ministry to fruition.

Nurturing what God is doing in building the faith of our children is an essential task of the church. We hope this ministry serves as one element in fulfilling this duty. - Christopher De La Cruz, Sharon Boersma and Beverly Bartlett



HANDS ON OUTREACH



SHELTER DINNER: "FEED MY SHEEP"

Every Thursday night around 5:30 a line of up to 150 folks begins to form outside the 73rd Street doors to the MAPC Parish Hall. Many are unemployed or underemployed; some are homeless, others are escaping abusive relationships and just beginning to get back on their feet. They all have one thing in common: they are hungry and in need of a good hot meal in a safe and comfortable environment. MAPC kitchen staff prepare the meals and our volunteers serve and clean up. Coordinated by Elder Kathy Hoffman, volunteers range in age from youth, who serve along with their parents, to young adults to senior citizens.



MAPC & SAINT JAMES HOMELESS SHELTER MINISTRY

Every night of the year, MAPC members and friends from St. James Episcopal Church and elsewhere volunteer to host up to 12 homeless men in our basement shelter, a space our guests call "the Hilton of shelters". This ministry has expanded to include outside organizations. Interested in becoming a host? Contact Don Wahlig at 646-922-8475 or dbw@mapc.com. It's easier – and more rewarding – than you think!



MIDDLE + HIGH SCHOOLERS AT SHELTER DINNER

WHY DO YOU LIKE COMING TO SHELTER DINNER?

"It gives us the chance to form relationships with other members in our community." – Siobhan Kiernan, 11th Grade

"I like having the opportunity to meet people outside of our church and school community." – Bridget Patterson, 9th Grade

"Because we get to eat afterward." – Adeline Burg, 6th Grade

Middle and high schoolers serve at Shelter Dinner the first Thursday of every month during the school year. Contact Chris De La Cruz, Director of Christian Formation, at cdlc@mapc.com



20s/30s BIBLE STUDY MONTHLY VISIT TO SHELTER DINNER

The 20s/30s have begun to serve once a month at the Shelter Dinner. We've found that it's a way to take what is learned in the Bible studies and apply it to serving in Christ's name. Plus, we go out afterward for drinks!

This fall's Bible study focuses on salvation – how does Jesus save us? We all agree this is a central part of our faith, but we've found in our discussions that there's much to uncover beyond rote Sunday school answers.

Interested? 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month, 10th floor, Apt. 10C, for Bible study at 7:30pm. 3rd Sunday of the month is Shelter Dinner, 6pm. Contact Chris at cdlc@mapc.com.

ESL

Sunday afternoons, MAPC volunteers gather on the fifth floor to work with small groups of immigrants from countries all over the world who share a common desire to learn to speak English more fluently. Some have lived in New York City for several years, and some are here to work or study for a short time. All of them have found encouragement and fellowship at MAPC, and a few have even been inspired to attend services and concerts. Do you like meeting new people and learning about their native cultures? Then you would enjoy conversations with the students in our program. This is a wonderfully rewarding ministry!



LEAP

Do you enjoy working with at-risk elementary school age children, helping them learn to read and doing craft projects? Can you spare a couple of hours on a Saturday morning to work alongside other volunteers doing the same? LEAP is for you!

LEAP is a wonderful opportunity that enables adults and older teens to spend one-on-one time with at-risk children at the Booker T. Washington Learning Center in East Harlem. Participants develop meaningful relationships with the children, helping to strengthen their reading skills and engaging in fabulous art projects. Once a month activities also include puzzles and computer activities. New volunteers are needed and welcome!



CHRISTMAS ANGEL GIFT PROGRAM

Thanks to all who have taken gift tags at the Christmas Angel tables in the Narthex and Church House Lobby after worship. By purchasing a gift or two for the child described on your gift tag, you'll add joy to a child's Christmas at a time when they will deeply appreciate it. These gifts benefit children of incarcerated parents through the Church of Gethsemane and may represent the only Christmas gifts these children will receive. Gifts are all due at MAPC on Sunday, December 6. Thank you!



HANDS ON MINISTRIES

LOCAL OUTREACH GRANTS



NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY

New York Common Pantry works toward the reduction of hunger and food insecurity through an array of programs that function to establish long-term independence for those it serves. NYCP's whole-person approach starts with the provision of almost 3 million nutritious, fresh food pantry packages at their Choice Pantry and hearty balanced breakfast and dinner in the Hot Meals program. The organization also addresses the reasons for food insecurity with case management services through its Help 365 program, which assists Pantry visitors in gaining access to resources, and Project Dignity, which connects homeless visitors to resources. The third vital element of NYCP's whole-person approach is education offered through their Live Healthy! Program, which teaches children and adults about the importance of a nutritionally sound diet and active living and provides them with the skills necessary to make healthier choices for their families.



NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION FOR SHELTER

Founded in 1982 by religious leaders on Manhattan's Upper East Side including MAPC, the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter serves people who are chronically homeless, formerly homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Working under the premise that homelessness is the responsibility of the entire community, NCS offers an array of housing and comprehensive services, including counseling, substance abuse treatment, vocational and educational programs, and employment support. In addition, NCS conducts research to inform the development of policies and practices and enhances public awareness and understanding.



JAMES LENOX HOUSE

James Lenox House Association provides comfortable, secure and affordable housing for older adults age 55 and older in New York City through its two residences, James Lenox House and Carnegie East House. James Lenox House, with 99 apartments, meets a growing need in New York City for reasonably priced housing with quality social services enabling older adults to remain healthy and active in the community. At Carnegie East House, older adults who need assistance with daily living enjoy a caring environment that offers them the freedom of independent living and quality supportive services when they need them. Numerous MAPC members provide administrative leadership, but more are always welcome!



NEW LIFE OF NEW YORK CITY

New Life of New York City, through relationship-building and meaningful programs such as its learning center, arts and sports programs, and summer camps, aims to share faith and encourage at-risk urban teenagers to resist the many negative influences of their environment and make choices that will enable them to become mature and productive individuals. With support from MAPC and others, New Life brings hope to a generation who often feels hopeless.

SEARCH AND CARE

Search and Care seeks out older adults in the community who need help managing life's daily activities or accessing essential services in order to help them live with security and dignity in the manner they choose. Referrals come from health care providers, neighbors, faith-based organizations like MAPC, landlords and building management companies, area merchants (banks, pharmacies, grocery stores), or others. Search and Care provides professional and supportive services which include securing benefits and entitlements, housing, legal, financial and medical advocacy, homecare and transportation arrangements, bill-paying, budgeting and money management, emergency preparedness and home safety and companionship and socialization.



HEALTH ADVOCATES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

HAOP's Healthy Aging program provides a rich variety of courses and services to maximize quality of life for older adults. 13 weekly classes are held in eight locations six days a week, from East 29th Street to West 155th Street. The program promotes healthy aging through exercise to build balance, strength and flexibility. Through *Home Safety* assessments, it helps seniors remain at home safely. Our *Downsizing* initiative helps seniors manage an organized, clutter-free home. Access to our *Equipment Exchange Program* provides free walkers, wheel chairs and other needed equipment so program participants can manage an independent life style. A little well-planned help can extend the time a senior can remain at home.



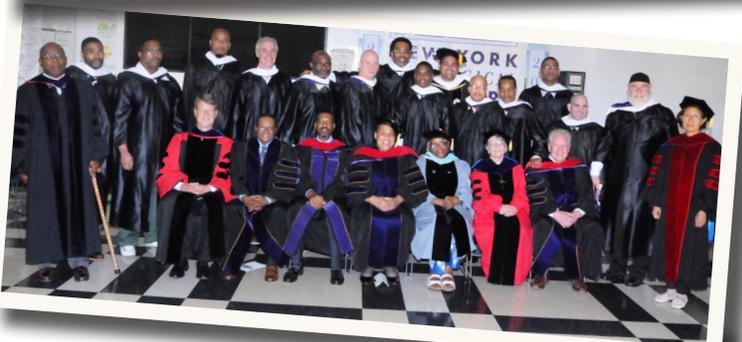
JAN HUS

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church worships God joyfully and follows faithfully Christ's call to practice love, hospitality, and justice, welcoming the stranger among us as Christ himself. Members, volunteers and staff feed the hungry, clothe the poor, and see all as sisters and brothers in Christ. Jan Hus homeless outreach programs provide a genuine welcome and a myriad of services including access to a food pantry, clothing center, dinner meals, office equipment, and general assessment services for referrals, including support for shelter, employment, medical care, and other needs to assist our guests in moving forward in their lives.



NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

New York Theological Seminary is a diverse and inclusive community of learning grounded in biblical witness and Christian tradition, with a historic urban focus. The Seminary prepares women and men for faith-based ministries in the city and throughout the world. Through its innovative Master of Professional Studies program, NYTS trains up to fifteen students who are currently incarcerated in New York State in the Seminary's accredited Master of Professional Studies (MPS) degree program offered inside the Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, New York. Recidivism rates for program graduates are less than 1%.



NEW AMSTERDAM BOYS AND GIRLS CHOIRS

In 2016, the New Amsterdam Boys and Girls Choirs (NABGC) will celebrate thirty years of providing choral music as a creative outlet for Harlem youth. Continuing to grow in size and quality of instruction, the New Amsterdam Boys and Girls Choirs seek to enrich the lives of children in the East Harlem community, using choral singing as a catalyst. Discipline, respect and academic success are expected as well as working harmoniously toward common goals.



PRESBYTERY PARTNERS

PRESBYTERIAN SENIOR SERVICES

PSS is a multi-service agency comprising six senior centers, two senior and intergenerational residences, Family and Kinship Caregiver Support Programs, the Young Adult Success Program (YASP) connecting kinship young adults with mentors and programs to empower their success, and Coming of Age NYC which helps New Yorkers 50+ define their next chapter.



PHIA PRESBYTERIAN HOPE IN ACTION

Formed in the weeks following Superstorm Sandy by Presbyterian congregations including MAPC, Presbyterian Hope in Action continues to support storm survivors in New York City. Working with an extensive network of disaster relief partners, PHIA provides hands-on volunteer opportunities for Presbyterians and others seeking to help those still struggling to rebuild their lives.



HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center is the outdoor Christian education and retreat facility of the Presbyteries of Hudson River, Long Island and New York City, representing nearly 260 congregations and 55,000 members in the metropolitan area. Camp Holmes transforms lives by giving youth and adults both structured and independent experiences of God's love and goodness in the beauty of divine creation.



PROJECT CONNECT CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE

Project Connect welcomes and supports former prisoners as they reenter society after release. This peer-led support group helps them connect with others, find employment and maintain good relationships. It is a ministry of Church of Gethsemane, a PCUSA congregation in Brooklyn that welcomes all in Christ's name.



MAPC DAY SCHOOL FROM THE DIRECTOR LAURA GRAHAM

The beginning of the school year always sparks change and growth. This fall is especially significant for the Day School.

I restructured the school administration to better serve the needs of our community. First, I appointed Adrienne Wing as Associate Director and Director of Exmissions. In this role, Adrienne is working with me on all aspects of the school's operations. She also dedicates significant time to guiding and supporting families as they navigate the ongoing school admissions process. Becky Simon now serves as Education Administrator, in addition to teaching our youngest children on the 4th floor. In this new role, Becky supports teachers in their daily work, helping to plan rich learning experiences, and assisting in their documentation process. Mike Zimmerman continues as Admissions Coordinator and is already busy organizing our three Open Houses for potential applicants. Barbara Moazzam continues to provide invaluable administrative support for us and offers a warm welcome to enrolled families and all who visit our school. I am grateful to have such a knowledgeable, dedicated and supportive team in place.

In addition, I worked with the church staff to improve our physical space this summer. The 8th floor offices were reconfigured to enable more organized, effective leadership. The new arrangement facilitates efficiency and creates a space for confidential conversation among teachers, parents and Adrienne. In addition, the walls throughout the school were given a new coat of paint in a clean shade of white. These new surfaces now make children's artwork and the related documentation a more visible focal point, better highlighting their artistic expression and individuality.

My hope is that the Day School continues to grow as a place where there are vibrant examples of children's learning and adult commitment that will dazzle our senses, invite curiosity and discovery, and, most importantly, foster strong, respectful relationships throughout our community.

CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE EVENTS

Senior Fellowship Lunch

Every few weeks MAPC Seniors gather in the Parish Hall after worship for a light lunch and conversation. Upcoming Senior Lunches will be held on November 29, January 10, February 28, and April 3. A \$10 donation is requested.

The Annual MAPC Cabaret is Friday, January 29!

Join us for an evening of feasting, fellowship and fine entertainment! Appetizers in the church house lobby at 6:30, followed by dinner at 7:30. Entertainment begins around 8:15. The cost for the evening is \$40.

Spiritual Growth and Faith Sharing Group

1st and 3rd Thursdays of the Month, 1 pm

This is an open group that gathers twice a month to reflect on a Biblical passage or other spiritual reading, sharing our faith journeys, listening for the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, and praying together. The group is facilitated by Beverly Bartlett and meets in the library of the James Lenox House from 1 to 2:30 pm.

MAPC Book Club

Third Tuesday of the Month, 4 pm in the Hood Library

All are welcome to join this vibrant group of book lovers for fellowship and discussion. The group chooses the next month's book at each meeting – also check the church email newsletter for upcoming titles. Upcoming dates are December 15, January 19, February 16, and March 15.

Monday Morning Moms Group

All MAPC moms (including all Day School moms!) are invited to join in the monthly Monday Morning Moms Group. The group meets at 9 am in the Phillips Lounge. After a short opening devotion, the conversation opens up to whatever is on your mind—the spiritual lives of our children, parenting issues, the ongoing struggle over school choices and decisions in NYC. Moms with children of all ages are welcome—those with infants and toddlers appreciate the wisdom of those who have already been through those stages! Moms with newborns are welcome to bring your children—and if you find yourself with no childcare that day, feel free to bring your toddler. Upcoming meeting dates are January 25 and February 22.

Hood Library

The Hood Library Fellowship encourages you to come browse the collection in this lending library which includes fiction, current events, biography, religion and spirituality. Check out books on Sunday mornings after the worship services when library staff are available or anytime on the honor system. You'll find a notebook on the desk for signing out your books. January 24 is Library Awareness Sunday!

**Contact Beverly Bartlett for more information
bab@mapc.com or 212-288-8920 x8481**



Matt & Edie Bryant



Lauren Rahaghi



Jennifer Sterlacci



Kathy Reichardt

NEW MEMBERS

MISSION FUND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN WORD-IN-ACTION DELIVERED BY JULIAN SCHROEDER OCTOBER 4, 2015

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irst, thank you to the 66 families and individuals in our congregation who have made a pledge to the MAPC Mission Fund. Together, we have committed over \$4.3 million toward our \$7.5 million goal. Together we have responded to God's light and God's truth (43rd Psalm).

We also ask the approximately 50 families that we have approached who have not made a decision prayerfully to consider your contribution to our effort. Every pledge counts. To make our goal, we need widespread support for the Mission Fund from everyone in the church and the Day School.

We need to raise \$7.5 million to fund over \$2.0 million of steeple repairs, repay debt from the earlier 921 Fund, fund government mandated infrastructure upgrades to the Church House, including Day School space, and as we have in every capital campaign, dedicate 10% for local and international mission. Those of you at the Holmes Retreat yesterday saw some of our mission grant in action; \$75,000 from the Mission Fund will be used for renovations to Don's Diner, a warm space for meals and recreation for young and old since the 1930s. The balance of our tithe will be used to support local mission efforts even closer to home.

This fall, members of the MAPC Mission Fund committee will contact additional families in our congregation as well as follow up with earlier contacts. For callers, the most difficult part of our work is to set up the meeting. The conversations are often quite wonderful, and speaking for myself, I have enjoyed meeting new members and renewing old friendships through the Mission Fund. If one of us calls, please meet us half way by returning the call or email. Thank you!

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STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

his has been a year of significant transitions for the MAPC family. Certainly, the most recent and most notable transition of all has been to welcome Eric as our interim Head of Staff. As Eric has reminded us, transitions can be great opportunities to plant the seeds of future growth and spiritual transformation.

Consecration Sunday on November 22nd was just such an opportunity. During worship services that day, most of us made our pledge commitments for 2016. If you have not made your pledge, I encourage you to do that as soon as possible so that we might plan accordingly for the coming year. But there is an even more important consideration as you determine your pledge.

As I remind every new members class, the goal of our financial stewardship is the Biblical standard of tithing, setting apart one tenth of our gross annual income for God's work that is done through this congregation. Those who are already tithing will tell you that the impact on their relationship with God is profound. It's a regular reminder that God comes first in our lives.

If you're not already tithing, let me suggest you consider increasing your pledge this year by an additional 1% of your income. What you can expect as you begin to live into this spiritual discipline is to marvel at the way God deepens your faith and molds us all into a stronger, more faithful community of Christ's disciples. - Don Wahlig with Greyson Clymer

THE MAPC LEGACY SOCIETY: A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Imagine giving a gift that lasts not for a day, or a season, or a year, but for hundreds of years. Individuals and families have given such gifts to Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church since 1899, when our endowment fund was first created. These and other gifts made long ago by individuals, families and foundations, continue to provide support for ministry and mission here at MAPC today. Because the principal of the endowment fund is never spent, investment returns have magnified the impact of these gifts.

Why an endowment?

The Session's long term goal is for the endowment to provide support for all MAPC building and property expenses, so that annual congregational giving can provide support for the church's other ministries and the staff who make them possible. Given the ever increasing expense of maintaining century-old buildings, this is a marvelous way of freeing annual budgets from the burden of maintaining buildings.

Who manages the endowment?

Session is responsible for the use of funds from the endowment. The Board of Trustees, at the Session's behest, is responsible for management of these funds. An independent investment company, overseen by the Trustees, invests the endowment following MAPC Investment Policy guidelines.

Why should I consider participating?

We are caretakers of the gifts God has given us and have a responsibility to pass on our gifts to those who will follow. The joy of knowing your gifts will bring others into the transforming presence of Jesus Christ in this place for years to come is yours for the asking.

How can I participate?

The best gifts are tailor-made to fit each donor's needs and giving intent. If giving a gift to the endowment is something you want to consider, talk with our pastors first. They can help you realize your giving legacy.

Ways to Participate:

Members and friends of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church may support the endowment through planned gifts, estate bequests and immediate gifts.

Planned Gifts

These are gifts that provide income for you or a beneficiary during your lifetimes and benefit the church thereafter, or provide yearly income to the church during your lifetime and, afterward, benefit your family or friends. Charitable gifts annuities and other planned gifts to benefit Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church may be established with the Presbyterian Foundation, or a financial firm of your choosing.

Bequests

You may specify a dollar amount or a percentage of your assets in your will. This is a wonderful opportunity to undertake a spiritual discipline of tithing; in this case, giving 10% or more of your lifetime assets.

Immediate Gifts

You may give a gift of cash (checks), appreciated securities, or property to MAPC's endowment to commemorate an important event in your life, or simply as an expression of thanks. Unrestricted endowment gifts are encouraged. They allow the church the flexibility to fund the most needed ministries of the time. If, however, you wish to designate a special ministry for your gift's support, your wishes will be scrupulously observed. - *Greyson Clymer*

NEW MEMBERS



Richard D'Avila with
Alyssa, Danny, Emma & Madeline



Christina Gross & Greg Ballard
with Lena



Susan Tonking
with Kathryn



Alex Hernandez

A WORD FROM OUR PARTNERS AT HARARE SYNOD CCAP

We join you in welcoming the new MAPC Head of staff, Eric Springsted and we surely look forward to the time that you shall introduce him to us in person. CCAP Synod of Harare says to Eric “Takulandirani” meaning we have welcomed you.

On behalf of CCAP Synod Leadership, we welcome Curtis Field (new Zimbabwe Partnership Committee chair) as ‘the new captain of the ship’ and we look forward to a wonderful working relationship as we serve God through this partnership. May God guide you during your tenure as the leader of ZPC.

It is with great joy that we smile as we see the establishment of the CCAP City Church, as it is gradually growing both numerically and structurally. We give thanks to God for leading us in this noble cause and giving us you, our very good friends in Christ and our Partners in the Gospel who helped us with an initial amount to kick-start the City Church Building project!

As I write this email, I am glancing at the journey we have walked together, as it is summarized and chronicled by the pictures on the wall of our Synod Office. In this partnership, we have come to learn and appreciate the translation of God’s love in a tangible way as we emulate our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God Bless us all as we continue to be his faithful and committed servants.

In his service,
Libias Boloma
General Secretary
CCAP Synod of Harare



The New York City Children’s Chorus announces the release of our first CD, SIMPLE GIFTS, on MSR Classics. The CD features American and British Arts songs of the early 20th Century with music of Aaron Copland, Benjamin Britten, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Jacob Niles, and Leonard Bernstein. CDs may be ordered by visiting the nycchildrenschorus.org website, by calling MAPC, or on Sundays from the Hood Library! We look forward to sharing our voices with you! - Mary Huff

SAINT ANDREW MUSIC SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, December 6 at 3 pm** *Music on Madison:* Students from Juilliard 415 Salons and Courts: Music of the French Baroque
- Sunday, December 13 at 4 pm** 11th Annual Carol Sing
Saint Andrew Chorale & NYC Children’s Chorus
- Sunday, January 31 at 3 pm** *Music on Madison:* “A Major” Tour de Force
Jorge Ávila, violin & Adrienne Kim, piano
- Sunday, February 21 at 3 pm** *Music on Madison:* Ieva Jokubaviciute, piano
Works by Mozart, Schumann, Debussy & Janacek
- Sunday, February 28 at 3 pm** *Music on Madison:* Music for Trumpet & Organ
Scott McIntosh, trumpet; Andrew Henderson, organ
- Sunday, March 20 at 3 pm** Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra
Bach: St. John Passion

ANDREW & MARY CELEBRATE 10 YEARS AT MAPC



On Sunday, October 25th, members of MAPC; colleagues, family and friends of Andrew Henderson and Mary Huff; members of the St. Andrew Chorale and parents of New York City Children's Chorus members gathered for a festive reception in the Parish Hall after the 11:15 am service to thank Andrew and Mary for their ten years of music ministry at MAPC.

We are truly blessed to have Mary and Andrew here. Not only do they offer their considerable musical skills and talents at the organ and in conducting both adult and children's choral programs, they bring a deep faith and a commitment to offering their gifts in the context of the church. They are dedicated to the ministry of MAPC, are valued colleagues on the pastoral staff team, and have enriched the lives of young and old, members and friends with their gifts. Thank you Andrew and Mary for your ten years of faithful service at MAPC! - Beverly Bartlett

GLOBAL MINISTRY FELLOWS ON THE MOVE!

After a week of orientation together in Kitwe, followed by a week in Harare co-teaching an indigenous counseling course for members of the CCAP Harare Synod, Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellows Andy Smothers and Tyler Orem are each heading separate ways. Nothing out of the ordinary – it's simply what the PTGMF program requires at this time of transition between incoming and outgoing fellows.

In Kitwe, Tyler has begun to acclimatize himself to African culture and life in Zambia, getting to know the ministry of TEEZ (Theological Education by Extension Zambia) and his co-workers there, including TEEZ Director Ackson Banda and Training Officer Hopkins Changwe. He is also becoming acquainted with his neighbors in the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation compound where he lives. He reports, "My greatest learning and reminder was that I have much to learn."

Meanwhile, after spending the last year in Zambia, Andy has begun the travel portion of his residency. His plans call for stays in Malawi, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Oman, Singapore, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates. He returns to MAPC in December and will interpret his experiences for us throughout the winter and spring.

We are grateful to Andy for overseeing the construction of the new duplex on the MEF campus where future GMFs will live alongside tenants of TEEZ whose rent payments will provide a more stable cash flow for the organization. Please keep both Andy and Tyler in your prayers. - Don Wahlig

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS

Christmas at MAPC



Sunday, December 13 at 4 pm

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

Sunday, December 20 at 10:10 am

Christmas Pageant
Featuring our young people telling
the story of the birth of Jesus.

December 24 at 5 pm

Christmas Eve – Family Service
A child-friendly, Family Service that includes a
Christmas Tableau and the singing of Carols.

December 24 at 10:30 pm (Prelude begins at 10:10)

Christmas Eve – Candlelight Communion Service
Saint-Saëns Oratorio de Noël, with strings & harp
The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted preaching

December 25 at 11:15 am

Christmas Day – Service of Lessons & Carols
Carols and Anthems Sung by the Choir of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Join us on Sunday, December 6, when, after each morning worship service, there will be an Alternative Christmas Gift Fair in the Church House Lobby! You'll be able to purchase a wool blanket for Church World Service to provide warmth to someone in need, and a pig, sheep or flock of chickens to a poor family in the developing world through the Heifer Project. You will also be able to purchase medicine, nurse training, clean water systems and other health-related items for people living in the developing world through Medical Benevolence Foundation, a mission partner of the PCUSA. You can also buy beautiful, socially responsible handmade crafts and jewelry from Eastern Africa through African Team Ministries. See you at this year's Alternative Giving Christmas Fair on December 6! – *Don Wahlig*

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

A Presbyterian tradition for over 75 years, the annual Christmas Joy Offering will be received at MAPC through Christmas Day and anytime online at www.mapc.com/giving. This Special Offering supports PCUSA Board of Pensions assistance programs and Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges.

Through the Assistance Programs of the Board of Pensions, the Christmas Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers, including pastors and others, by providing funds to help them through difficult financial times.

This Special Offering also helps support the PCUSA schools that provide racial ethnic education and leadership development through scholarships to deserving students, as well as help with basic operating costs. Please plan now for your Christmas Joy Offering! Gifts may be made by using the special offering envelopes in worship bulletins through Christmas Day, or anytime online at www.MAPC.com/giving, and selecting "Christmas Joy Offering" from the drop-down list. – *Don Wahlig*

UPCOMING MAPC EVENTS

November 29

Senior Fellowship Lunch

Parish Hall
1 pm

December 5

Advent Retreat Day

Dana Chapel and Parish Hall
3 pm

December 6

Alternative Christmas Gift Fair

Church House Lobby
10 am & 12:30 pm

December 13

On Advent

Dr. Eric Springsted
10:10 am

January 8

Church Family Night

Parish Hall
6 pm

January 10

Senior Fellowship Lunch

Parish Hall
1 pm

January 11

Moms' Night Out

7 pm

January 24

Library Awareness Sunday

January 29

MAPC Cabaret

Church House Lobby and Parish Hall
6:30 pm

January 31

Christianity and Tolerance

Dr. John Bowlin, Princeton Theological
Seminary Professor of Ethics
10:10 am

February 7

**Love's Endurance Through Church and
Political Conflict**

Dr. John Bowlin, Princeton Theological
Seminary Professor of Ethics
10:10 am

February 8

Men's Fellowship

Parish Hall
7 pm

February 10

Ash Wednesday Services

12 pm & 7 pm

February 21, 28

**The Mission of the Church in
a Post-Christendom America**

Dr. Darrell Guder, former Princeton
Theological Seminary Professor
of Missional Theology
10:10 am

February 26

Church Family Night

Parish Hall
6 pm

February 28

Senior Fellowship Lunch

Parish Hall
1 pm

February 29

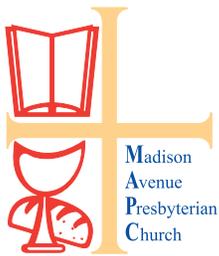
Moms' Night Out

7 pm

March 14

Women's Fellowship

6:30 pm



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

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1 PM

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church for Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 1 pm in the Parish Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers to the classes of 2019 for Session, Deacons and Trustees and the Members-at-large for the 2016 Congregational Nominating Committee. Reports will also be received from the Session, Deacons and Trustees, including a financial report on 2015. A vote will be taken on terms of call for 2016 for members of the pastoral staff.