

MAPC

LIFE

THE MAGAZINE OF MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | SUMMER 2016

**DAVID H.C.
READ** PREACHER/
SCHOLAR AWARD
WINNER

**CONFIRMATION
AND YOUTH
SUNDAY**



**THE NEXT STEP:
PASTOR
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE
ELECTED**

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

Throughout Lent and all the preparations for Easter, I kept thinking that things would slow down after Easter.

How naive! And that after more than thirty years at this! It is always busy after Easter.

Let me count the ways: Beginning with Easter time, we have had a wonderful performance of Bach's The Passion according

to St. John and an enthusiastically received Missa Luba, a Congolese mass from the 1970s that was integrated into morning worship. There was the New York City Children's Chorus spring concert and the annual Library Literary Luncheon, in events aesthetic. For fellowship, a large group gathered at the Manse to sample wines and specially paired hors d'oeuvres, and there was the Day School's annual Benefit. The final David H.C. Read Preacher/Scholar was named, and we trained, ordained and installed a new set of officers and confirmed three wonderful confirmands. This current edition of MAPC Life details all of these things with pictures to remind you of the events, or to let you know what happened.

I would like to dwell a bit on one set of events, though, and to project forward from them. In March the Mission Study Committee completed their report, which was approved by both the session

and, then, the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of New York City. This was presented to the congregation and discussed after the services on May 1. Then, we elected a Pastor Nominating Committee on May 15. That is history. Let me say something about the future.

Now that the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been elected, their schedule will involve the following tasks. They will be trained to the job and then will proceed to take time to write the church's Mission Information Form (MIF), which is basically the church's resume. This document is very much based on the discernments of the Mission Review study. Writing the MIF is also an important exercise for the PNC, as the members in writing it will be coming together in a common, shared understanding of the sort of person who should be called to be the next pastor. It lets them become a working community fitted to that task. When this document is approved, it will be posted by PC(USA) and used to attract Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from candidates. The committee will usually also contact seminaries, church leaders and others to suggest likely candidates. Then their work really begins. They will read PIFs, and there will be a lot of them. They will be doing a lot of reading. They will listen to sermons, a lot of sermons. Then, they will compare notes and winnow the field to several candidates and start conducting initial interviews, usually electronically. Then, they will start visiting candidates in their home churches, and do more interviewing.

Finally, when everybody starts thinking that this group has been awfully quiet, they will announce their candidate who will come to preach at MAPC and to be voted on at a congregational meeting.

There is a lot more to what they have to do, but it is largely invisible. There is rarely anything to report in the middle of the process, for reasons of confidentiality, and because a committee should never start dealing in half-baked loaves. They will be urged to give reports, but they will largely consist of saying that they are interviewing. But, it will happen. The timing can never be accurately predicted but it is something like a year, more or less, after their being elected. If there is any deviance it will probably be on the "more" side.

This is a process of discernment and it takes a lot of patience on everybody's part. The motto of all PNCs ought to be the verse from Lamentations: "It is good to wait in patience for the Lord." Trust that God does have somebody for this congregation; be patient. Pray for the patience of the committee and that they be imaginative. Bad choices are almost always made as a result of weariness or anxiety. And don't only pray for them; put yourselves into the ongoing life of this church, and show that there is nothing to be anxious about.

Have a blessed summer,
and let me remind you that we
are open all year 'round,



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

On Sunday, May 15, 2016, at a called congregational meeting, the MAPC congregation elected the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The Congregational Nominating Committee worked over the previous month to assemble the slate of nominees—praying for the Holy Spirit to help in the discernment process and working to find a group that reflected the wide spectrum of the membership: age, involvement in MAPC life and ministry, family status, both long-term and more recent members, male and female, and racial/ethnic diversity. The members of the PNC are: Susan Anderson, David Carleton, Nickie Christin, Kristin Hohmann, Meg Connor Johnson, Edward Kleinert, Roy Lennox, Laura Macdonald, Kunbi Oni, and Julian Schroeder. - *Beverly Bartlett*

MAPC

SUMMER 2016

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On the cover: Newly-elected officers are ordained and installed in worship on May 29

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20S/30S BIBLE STUDY EXPLORES: WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT JESUS SAVES US?

Christopher De La Cruz

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hroughout the year, director of Christian Formation Chris De La Cruz led our small, loyal group of 20s/30ers in a series exploring the basic question – “What does it mean that Jesus saves us?”

Gathered in the De La Cruz 10th floor apartment, we all quickly realized that, although most of us have known since elementary age Sunday School that Jesus saves us, trying to actually understand what this means as adults is much harder – and much more enlightening – than we all initially thought. Session by session, we explored questions like:

What are we saved from? What does the Old Testament have to do with salvation? Why did the God of the universe have to become a baby? What actually happened on the cross?

We used post-it notes to write down our initial responses and posted them all on a table to see. Then we let Scripture and tradition speak to the question. Finally, we took another post-it note and wrote down one practical takeaway from the discussion, sharing with the group if we wished. For example, after talking about the Incarnation, some people shared that “God—with-us” meant that they wanted to be with people in their joys and suffering, as part of their daily Christian living, thinking of specific people they felt they needed to comfort.

The study was robust and lively – and not just because of the wine!

If you're a 20s/30s type and you're interested in joining our sessions, let Chris know – cdlc@mapc.com.

SIGN UP FOR KIDS' CLUB 2016-2017!



If you're looking for an afterschool program for your child with a quality encounter with Scripture, a top-notch choir program that incorporates spirituality with the arts, and community for your child and your family, please consider signing up for Kids' Club!

From 4 pm to 5:30 pm on Wednesdays, Children from Kindergarten through 5th grade have a Bible study with one of our pastors, providing a weekly opportunity for our clergy to connect with the children. MAPC's Children's Choir program is under the direction and leadership of Mary Huff, our Associate Director of Music, and Dr. Andrew Henderson, the Director of Music at MAPC, who conduct, accompany, and teach our children's choirs.

Younger elementary school children also have a time of recreation either on the Roof Garden or in our gym. At the end of the afternoon, all are invited to our family dinner at 5:30 pm—parents, caregivers, children and staff.

Preschoolers can be a part of our Wee Kids program during Kids' Club—an abbreviated version of Kids' Club with Bible stories, art, music, movement, and games.

Middle and high schoolers help out as Kids' Club Youth Leaders and sing with the children's choir.

During the course of the year, the choirs with older students regularly sing at MAPC Sunday morning services, approximately once per month, October through May. The Children's Choir also enjoys caroling at the James Lenox House and performs at the Annual Christmas Carol Sing in December.

Summer is just starting, but it's already the perfect time to sign up for Kids' Club! Head to mapc.com/education/children and click on the registration form today.

- Christopher De La Cruz

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2015-2016

YOUTH SUNDAY



It was a privilege teaching this year's confirmation class. Our three confirmands, Colin Kleinert, Stephen Macdonald, and Lauren Rooney, all eighth-graders, have been students I've gotten to know in the three years I have worked at MAPC. All three have been involved in many of our student ministries.

These students truly see their confirmation as reaffirming baptismal vows made on their behalf and integrating them into the life of the church. After the confirmands met with Session to be officially voted upon as members, we walked outside and one of the students said out loud, with a fist pump, "Wow, I feel so good right now – Yes! I'm a church member!" Another student said, "Yeah I really feel like I want to get more involved, like do more service stuff and even be a part of committees."

Being excited about membership and committee participation - what more could you ask for?

As for the classes themselves, I completely changed and revamped the curriculum, using a video resource created by people in the PCUSA as well as other resources. Here's how it works:

- A student watches a video on an important concept (i.e. Providence, God's Sovereignty) with their parent or another adult figure. The student and the adult fill out a worksheet to bring to class.
- We start off every class with students praying for one another. It's awkward at first, but students get more comfortable. The point is that faith isn't simply a relaying of information; it's an encounter with the living God, and it's amazing how people encounter God when they pray for each other.
- Then, we dive into the concepts of the video, assuming everyone already watched it. The worksheet they filled out includes possible questions they want to talk about in class. The whole idea is a "Flipping the Classroom" of sorts – the content is watched at home, the "homework" of diving deeper into the material is done in class.
- We jump around a Study Catechism created by the PCUSA, Scripture, and the Book of Confessions to dive deeper into the issues.
- They get their homework back from last time with comments, and go home.

While aspects of the curriculum need to be re-evaluated (both the students and I agree that the videos were "on and off" and all "kinda corny"), this curriculum format worked out well.

When you see these young people in church and at various activities, please welcome them to the ministry of the church at MAPC! - *Christopher De La Cruz*



FROM THE MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

LAURA GRAHAM



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here is something very important about the first of anything. Firsts are always special. It is an exhilarating feeling the first time you learn to ride a bicycle, realize you have a good friend or send your child off for their first day of school. This first year as Director will always be unforgettable for me, in the most pleasing ways possible.

At the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School we are always mindful about creating a sense of comfort and connectedness for the children at school. We also intend for families to feel that they belong to our community. The importance of rituals and the anticipation of what is coming next help children find comfort and familiarity within the school environment. Our best known traditions are our holiday celebrations, but our traditions have a deeper significance to our lives and well-being. They bring our community together by sharing food, singing songs and listening to stories about each other's traditions, and they help develop our own culture within the Day School community. Our school events give families an opportunity to share a piece of themselves, take part in the life of the school, build relationships with other parents, and deepen their own bond and connection to the school.

Spring provides many opportunities for this community building. Parents led our celebration of the Persian New Year, Norouz. They arranged a *Haft Seen* ("seven dishes" or "seven S's") table with items that symbolize spring, for all families and children to view. They staged a joyful puppet show with handmade puppets created by our art specialist, Julia Bosch, and Day School parents and children.

The Day School gathered together in the Sanctuary for our

celebration of Easter. Beverly Bartlett and Chris De La Cruz read the story of Easter with us as we sang songs of praise and new beginnings.

A Day School family led us through the story of Passover and described their personal family tradition.

Our Moroccan-themed Spring Benefit brought us all to an Oasis of extraordinary vision and opulent festivities that signified a successful school year and raised funds to ensure the school's future.

To quote from a documentary that honored the artistry and work of illustrator, animator and film producer Hayao Miyazaki, "When you have passion for your work you give it everything you have. Everything."

I believe this is very true of the people I am lucky enough to work with. We do this work because of the children, but not just for the children. We love this work. We love the noise and the quiet, the tears and the laughter and especially the times we see the world through the eyes of the children. They are fearless and brave, clever and thoughtful. We watch them grow and blossom over time. We feel so proud to know we had a part in that which makes each child a little more confident and a lot more knowing of the world around them; all the little things that are the essence of childhood.

Nothing about this school could happen without the help of many people. I couldn't accomplish all that I do without so many creative, supportive and truly wonderful people. I am grateful to everyone who is a part of this community and look forward to all the possibilities in the next school year.

2016 SUMMER BUILDING PROJECTS & THE MISSION FUND



Above Day School events from top to bottom:
Spring Benefit, Norouz, Passover, Easter

In truly northern climes, it is often joked that there are two seasons: winter and road repair. The church bears some similarities to this sort of seasonality, as the summer months are the times that many projects on the property get done, and there are a lot of them that will be keeping us busy.

Currently, there are a number of projects slated for this summer. The exterior wall of the Dana Chapel and parts of the Phillips building will be repointed. The southeast corner of the Church House parapet needs repair, as was revealed by a City inspection, and the metal stairs to the Parish Hall from the 73rd Street exit need repairing and repainting. In addition, we have already installed many new cameras in the elevator lobbies for security purposes, as required by the City, and will be working on the emergency lighting also required by the City for the Sanctuary.

The biggest project, though, is one that will take place in future summers but which is extensive enough to require a great deal of planning this summer. This is the project of installing the sprinkler systems that are required by City code to be in place by July 1, 2019. This work will be done over the summers of 2017 and 2018, as we currently envision things.

Much of the work on the sprinkler systems involves the Day School areas. These areas will also have work done on offices and on heating and air conditioning as the architect believes that new systems for fresh air will also be required. It is currently estimated that the costs for this forthcoming project, as a whole, will be about three million dollars; about half of that is for the work that will be done on Day School areas.

The funding for this project is intended to come from the current MAPC Mission Fund Campaign. To date, over 4.6 million dollars out of a 7.5 million dollar goal has been raised for this campaign, which also includes paying for already completed repairs on the steeple. As such, a significant portion will be for the Day School; Day School parents are especially being urged to contribute. Currently, all new contributions up to a total of 700,000 dollars will be matched by two donors who are offering a challenge grant. Meeting the goal and making sure that the campaign succeeds is, in fact, money saved, as the work is not optional and would otherwise require borrowing to finish it, or raising the building allocation for the Day School. Plans are therefore currently being made to help present the project to the Day School parents in coming months, as well as to the congregation as we look forward to this large and important project. - *Eric Springsted*

MUSIC AT MAPC



SAMS

On Palm Sunday afternoon, March 20, the Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra performed Bach's St. John Passion for an audience of approximately 400, featuring the dramatic singing of our octet tenor Marc Molomot in the role of the Evangelist, and also featuring soloists Eliza Bagg, Helen Karloski, Tommy Wazelle and Rod Gomez. The major concert events for next season have been announced: please visit www.mapc.com and click on the link to save the dates!

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NYCCC

In the above photograph, several of the graduating seniors of the NYC Children's Chorus express a range of emotions as Mary Huff, Artistic Director, recognizes their commitment to singing during the NYCCC Spring Concert on April 17, 2016, at MAPC. Together, the seven seniors have sung for a grand total of 55 years

BLESSINGS ON OUR SEMINARY INTERNS!

This past year, our congregation was grateful to have the opportunity to host the first Seminary interns at MAPC in years. Christina Cosby and David Kling, both from Princeton Theological Seminary, were hardworking students who fit well with our community and served us in many different ways.

Christina and David were both gifted in working with children. They provided valuable leadership with Children's Worship, Kids' Club, and Youth Hour with our middle schoolers during the Sunday Christian Education hour. David was able to attend our October retreat and instantly established a good rapport with many of our young people.

Christina led a noteworthy adult education class, "And God Said It Was Good: On Being Faithful While Living with a Disability." Christina, who is legally blind and deals with a rare chronic illness, explored how scripture and theology have shaped her experience and enabled her to remain faithful to God's call through limitations and chronic pain. During Q&A time, multiple people talked about how inspiring her testimony was, as well as how they understood God better through her class.

It was important for our ruling elders and pastors at MAPC to give our seminary interns a true experience of what ministry leadership would look like – and not just busy work. To that end, David and Christina regularly participated in Scripture reading and liturgy, and had opportunities to preach.

As of this writing, David, ending his last year at PTS, is interviewing with multiple churches to be an Associate Pastor.

Christina, completing her second of three years, will have a unique field education experience leading the Church of the Covenant in Lynchburg, VA for the summer, while the pastor is away.

We have already selected our two Seminary interns for 2016-2017, whom you will hear more about in the months to come! - *Eric Springsted and Chris De La Cruz*



CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE EVENTS



WINE AND FOOD TASTING AT THE MANSE

Once again we had a wonderful evening of fellowship, enjoying delicious wines and food at the Manse on April 8. This biennial event is always well-attended and much enjoyed. Many thanks to Eric and Brenda Springsted for letting their home be invaded by more than 40 people, and to the members of the Congregational Nurture Committee and friends who organized, researched and chose wines, and cooked delicious food!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENING

MAPC women enjoy conversation at the Women's Fellowship Evening on March 14th.

HOOD LIBRARY FELLOWSHIP

The Hood Library Fellowship hosted their annual Literary Luncheon on Sunday, April 24. More than 40 people enjoyed a delicious meal, table fellowship and a program of readings on the theme "Transitions"—an appropriate subject during this time of transition for our church. The Library Fellowship is already at work thinking about next year's theme.

MISSION REVIEW UPDATE



Even before Fred Anderson officially retired from MAPC last May, a committee had been formed to prepare the Mission Review, which is a necessary first step towards installing a new pastor. The committee has worked diligently, even as a number of its members have moved out of the area. It finished its report in March, and at that month's Session meeting, the report was approved after a lively discussion. It was subsequently approved by the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of New York City.

On May 1, the committee presented the report to the congregation-at-large at a luncheon following worship, and entertained questions and discussion about it. They had grouped their findings under five headings: Worship; Outreach; Community; Families and Youth; and the Value of Scripture in our life together.

It was clear that a lot is right with our mission. Worship and music are truly important to everybody in this congregation, as is the emphasis on outreach. Two items were particular foci of the discussion. First was a concern for how we might bring in new members. A number of helpful suggestions were voiced. In the end, however, what was clear is that personal contact and repeated personal contact is crucial for adding new members, and that this is the responsibility of everybody in the congregation. Also discussed was the constant need to keep integrating new members into the active life of the church and to bring younger members into leadership positions.

With the conclusion of the Mission Review stage, we then moved to the election of a Pastor Nominating Committee. Details of the PNC's coming work can be found in Dr. Springsted's letter at the front of this issue of MAPC Life. - *Eric Springsted*

David H. C. Read Preacher/Scholar Chosen



The 2016 Winner of the \$20,000 David H. C. Read Preacher/Scholar Award is Jessica Christy, who will receive a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City this May.

Ms. Christy is a native of Plymouth, Minnesota, and a 2013 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Princeton University, where she was active in religious life and served as a Chapel Deacon. While at Union Seminary, she served an internship at Advent Lutheran Church and, during this last year, was Advent's Director of Christian Education. Her submitted sermons were an Advent sermon on Isaiah 40:1-11 titled "Unrestricted Access," and a sermon for the week after Easter on John 20:19-31, titled "We Who Have Not Seen."

She is a candidate for ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As part of her vocational journey, however, she will be taking a "gap" year before continuing a required year in a Lutheran seminary. During that time, she hopes, through church service, to discern further what direction her call will take her. It is her long-term goal, though, she says, "to join the ranks of those who work to bridge the too-often disparate worlds of the academy and the church."

Jessica will preach at MAPC on Sunday, September 25, 2016. Congratulations to Jessica and to the other three finalists, who will receive \$1,000 each: Kathy Fay Lee-Cornell of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, TX; Lisa Marie Schrott of Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA; and Marissa Tweed of Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago. — Eric Springsted

Critical Time for Hands-On Outreach at MAPC



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church has a rich history of providing hands-on ministry to the poor, to immigrants, and to others in the Upper East Side; however, we find two programs in critical need of volunteers.

Henry Sloane Coffin, former pastor at MAPC, was instrumental in this focus on outreach. Previously involved in urban ministry in the Bronx, Coffin agreed to come to MAPC if the congregation welcomed immigrants who lived east of the railroad tracks (now Park Avenue) into its worship and membership. Eastern Europeans (largely Czech) had settled in the Upper East Side and were concentrated east of Third Avenue. Many were single women and were struggling with language, employment and education. Coffin believed MAPC was called to serve people such as these and went door-to-door to encourage immigrants to attend the church. He further sent a wagon to collect children for Sunday School. In his tenure, pew rents, common in that time, were eliminated so that immigrants could worship with the congregation. He set up classes to teach women to sew and men to be butlers, and MAPC was suddenly running out of space.

Today, part of Coffin's legacy remains in the congregation's outreach. Our Outreach Committee oversees distribution of funds to approximately nine community organizations meeting the needs of the homeless, the food-insecure, at-risk children, prisoners, and the aged. The congregation gives money to assist with disaster recovery after Hurricane Sandy and occasionally hosts work teams.

The congregation feeds 80-150 individuals who are food-insecure each Thursday night. It hosts twelve homeless men every night of the week and throughout the year. Finally, it has provided volunteers to read to and complete art projects with at-risk children in East Harlem through the Learning, Education and Arts Program (LEAP).

Unfortunately, some of our hands-on ministries are short of the volunteers necessary to continue. Our shelter has had to close some nights due to a lack of overnight volunteers. We're currently contemplating whether we will need to transition back to a 5-night a week program during a time when the number of homeless is reportedly up. Our LEAP program is without a coordinator and continues with 1-2 active volunteers. Without a willing coordinator and an increase of volunteers, this critical program to help at-risk youth may be discontinued.

If you would be willing to volunteer in either of these programs and continue Coffin's legacy to serve people such as these, please contact Andy Smothers at ads@mapc.com. - Andrew Smothers

Princeton Seminar Room Dedication

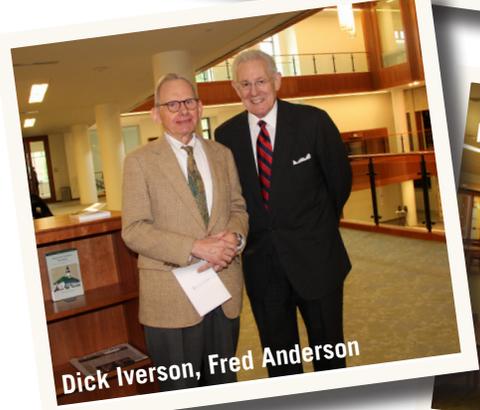
On May 18, 20 MAPC members and staff traveled to Princeton for the dedication of the MAPC Seminar Room in the new Princeton Theological Seminary Library. Dedicating this room was the wish of Pastor Emeritus Fred R. Anderson in lieu of a purse that is the customary retirement gift. The congregation, former pastoral staff, field education students, interns and Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellows responded generously to this request. The dedication was indeed a joyous occasion!



The MAPC Seminar Room



Josie McFadden and Joan Danziger



Dick Iverson, Fred Anderson



Deborah McKinley, Anne Stewart, Marty Scotzin and Judy Prince



Lauren Logan, Nancy Hauber, Questa Anderson



Fred R. Anderson speaking at the MAPC Seminar Room dedication

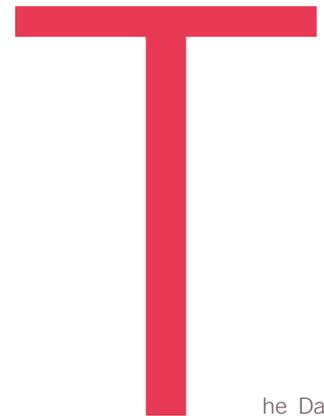


Pat Jones, Joan Danziger



Joanna Storrar, Roy Lennox and Fred Anderson

David H. C. Read Preacher/Scholar Award



The David H.C. Read Preacher/Scholar Award was established in 1990 to honor Dr. Read upon his retirement as MAPC's Senior Minister from 1956 - 1989. The Award is given 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.

Candidates nominated by their seminaries are evaluated by a committee of MAPC members based on their academic records, recommendations by professors, exegetical work, and recordings and manuscripts of two sermons (one based on an Old Testament text; one on a New Testament text), both of which have been preached before congregations. The committee selects four finalists for evaluation by an ecumenical group of pastors from NYC churches who choose the award winner.

By design, the amount of the award is generous and was not intended to extend into perpetuity. As the fund is exhausted, this is the final year of the award. MAPC is grateful to all who helped establish the initial fund for the award, which lasted far longer than expected! We are confident that Dr. Read would have been pleased with this legacy. – Eric Springsted



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
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ANNUAL ROOF GARDEN PARTY MONDAY, JULY 18, 7 PM

Come enjoy an evening on the Roof Garden, where there is often a cooling breeze, even on the hottest of evenings! We'll have a relaxed evening of fellowship and good food, including appetizers prepared by our own Congregational Nurture Committee members. This is a chance for the grownups of the church to enjoy this beautiful space that is usually reserved for our children.

**RSVP to Maria Soto in the Church Offices
mts@Mapc.Com or 212-288-8920 x8479**