

# *The Pastoral Staff Letter*

## **Sunday Worship January 7, 2018 Baptism of the Lord**



**Madison  
Avenue  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Issue #12**

**January 5, 2018**

**To Check out the  
Church's Calendar:**

Go to the website at  
[http://www.mapc.com/  
calendar/calendar/](http://www.mapc.com/calendar/calendar/)

**MAPC is on Facebook!**

*See you in church!  
The Pastoral Staff*

### **Worship Schedule 9 am & 11:15 am**

**Infant Nursery—4th Fl. Phillips Building, 8:30 am—1 pm  
Toddler Nursery—4th Fl. Church House, 8:30 am—1 pm**

This Sunday, The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Springsted is preaching. His sermon entitled ***“Opening the Heavens”*** will be based on the texts: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; and Mark 1:4-11. This being the first Sunday of the month, prayers for Healing & Wholeness will be offered during communion. Preview the latest Sunday bulletin, or listen to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays on MAPC's website.

**Children's Worship, 9:15 am & 11:30 am, Phillips Lounge**

**Youth Worship, 9:15 am & 11:30 am, Dana Chapel**

**Fellowship Hour, 10 am, Parish Hall**

**Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge**

**Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor**

**Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room**

**Farewell to Andy Smothers Reception, 12:30 pm, Lobby**

**Confirmation Class, 1 pm, Youth Lounge**

**Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space**

### **Inside this issue:**

*What's Happening on* 2  
*Sunday*

*Other Events and* 2 &  
*Announcements* 3

*Christian Education* 4 &  
*at MAPC* 5

*Bible Study Groups* 5

*Hands-on Ministries* 6

# This Sunday

Andy Smothers to Bahrain—Join Us for the Farewell Fellowship Hour this Sunday, 12:30 pm in the Church House Lobby



The Rev. Andy Smothers has accepted a call to serve as a Mission Worker with the Reformed Church in America, serving the National Evangelical Church of Bahrain. Andy has been with MAPC since June, 2014, first as a Global Ministry Fellow, and then for the last two years as Interim Associate Minister for Evangelism and Outreach. We congratulate Andy on this call, and thank him for his service to this church. Andy's last day with us was Sunday, December 31, when he preached and led worship. This Sunday, January 7, at a reception following the 11:15 service, we will celebrate his ministry here. Please join us in saying thank you to him and his service to MAPC.

## Other Events & Announcements

### January Congregational Nurture Events:

It may be cold, but there are several Congregational Nurture events coming up in January that are warming to body and soul:

#### Monday, January 8, 7 pm—Moms' Night Out at an UES Restaurant

MAPC Moms—please let Beverly Bartlett know ASAP if you can attend the Moms Night Out this coming Monday, so she can make a reservation! Email her at [bab@mapc.com](mailto:bab@mapc.com).



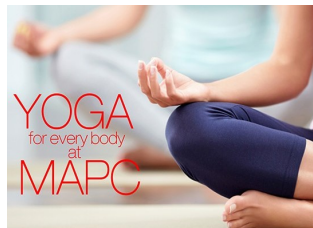
**MOMS  
NIGHT  
OUT**

MONDAY, JAN 8TH

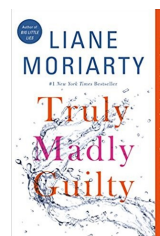
#### Friday, January 12, Yoga for Every Body, 9 am on the Fifth Floor

Come start the New Year with an hour of yoga! This class is for everyone—regardless of age, shape, experience or level of fitness. We have a few mats availa-

ble, but please bring your own if you have one. We ask for a \$20 donation to help pay the instructor.



**Tuesday, January 16, 4 pm—the MAPC Book Club** starts up again, meeting in the Hood Library. The book under discussion for January is *Truly, Madly, Guilty* by Liane Moriarty.



**Friday, January 19, 6 pm—Church Family Night in the Parish Hall**  
Come enjoy the warmth of good food and fellowship on a cold winter's night. We'll have dinner, a craft, a movie and open gym. Suggested donation is \$20 for adults, and a donation of your choice for children under 12. RSVP to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, [wlds@mapc.com](mailto:wlds@mapc.com).



**Friday, January 26, 6 to 9 pm—Friday Night Fire-side Jazz**

We had so much fun at our

first Friday Night Fireside Jazz event last winter that we are doing it again! The Congregational Nurture Committee invites you to come enjoy an extended cocktail hour with jazz in the Church House Lobby, beginning at 6 pm. If you came last year, you will remember that the food, music, fellowship and overall vibe were fabulous! The suggested donation for the evening is \$40 per person. Where else can you enjoy an evening of beverages, delicious food, engaging conversation and good music in NYC for \$40?

We will offer childcare on the 5th floor, and ask parents to contribute \$15 per child for the evening. Come enjoy a fun evening of fellowship with the MAPC community! RSVP [online](#), or to Wendy De Los Santos in the church offices, [wdds@mapc.com](mailto:wdds@mapc.com), or sign up in the Church House Lobby after Sunday worship services in January.



### **Sunday, January 28, 1 pm, Library Awareness Sunday Author Luncheon**

*(Please note this is a change from the original date published in MAPC Life. The Senior Fellowship Lunch scheduled for this Sunday will join this event.)*

## Highlights of the November Session Meeting

The Session met in regular meeting on November 28, 2017. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Update on Harare City Church—New Photos!

Those who watch news related to Zimbabwe are likely aware of the rapid changes that have happened in the last three weeks, as the military took control of the country, long-time President Mugabe resigned, and a new president has been installed. We have continued to be in contact with our partners there; though, they have not shared very extensively regarding the events—perhaps due to security and safety concerns. Please continue in prayer for our partners in Zimbabwe.

In the midst of these significant events, the synod has continued

work on City Church in Harare. We are including a few photos on the status of the church received December 5. They have made significant progress on brickwork and installing window and door frames. Many will remember that MAPC funded the superstructure for the building.



# Christian Education at MAPC

## Volunteers Needed in 2018 for Children's Worship

Children's Worship is in need of your help! If you can help assist in Children's Worship in the New Year, please sign up for the 9 am worship service, or the 11:15 am worship service here. This ministry is a success thanks to your willingness to volunteer.

If you have questions or need assistance signing up, please contact Christina Cosby at (212) 288-8920 x8480, or by email at [cac@mapc.com](mailto:cac@mapc.com).

## Children and Family Ministries

### Children's Worship

*Children's worship takes place during both Sunday services (9 am and 11:15 am), and is an interactive worship service designed specifically for children 3rd grade and under.*

### Youth Worship

*Youth worship occurs during both Sunday Services (9 am and 11:15 am). All children 4th grade and up are invited to attend.*

### Kids Club

*Wednesday afternoons from 3:45-6 pm*

Kids Club starts back this Wednesday! We look forward to seeing everyone as we learn about Epiphany!

### Church School

*10:10 am on the 5th Floor*

Church school is back to normal schedule this week. Come ready to sing hymns, engage in a story and activity! We look forward to seeing you!



## Middle and High School Ministries

### T(w)een Club

*Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm*

T(w)een Club picks back up this coming Wednesday, as we engage in choir, Bible Study, worship and dinner. We hope that you are enjoying the New Year!

thoughts.



### Sunday Youth Hour

*Sunday Morning at 10:10 am*

Youth Hour for 2018 picks up this Sunday as we decide what we would like to study for the coming months! Come ready to share ideas and

### Pizza and Game Night

Our next Pizza and Game Night is on January 12, come ready to eat pizza, play games, and share about your Christmas vacation.

### James Lenox House

James Lenox House is a residential community for seniors 55 years of age and older. Each month we help with technology needs, reading mail, and engage in intergenerational community. Our next service date is January 22, we hope that you can make it!





*Please stay tuned for more Fall service opportunities coming up, or go to the [MAPC website](http://www.mapc.com/christian-ed/adultclasses/) for a complete list or click here to find an [easy-to-print](#) calendar.*

## Bible Studies at MAPC

Looking for a place to read Scripture together and get to know people at MAPC? Come to one of our Bible Studies; newcomers are always welcome! For more information, go to <http://www.mapc.com/christian-ed/adultclasses/>.

### **Reading Through the Bible:**

*12:30 pm-1:30 pm, Phillips Lounge*

On January 10th, we will pick up with Psalm 59.

### **20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting is Thursday, January 11, 2018)**

*5:30-8 pm, in the Youth Lounge*

If you are in your twenties or thirties, join us for a time of fellowship, food and discussion.

### **Women's Bible Study: (Meets This Monday, January 8, 2018)**

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

Please note that in 2018 we will return to our normal schedule of meeting on the second and fourth Mondays of the month! We will continue our study of Paul's letters. Come join us for an enriching conversation as we finish reading Colossians!

### **Men's Bible Study:**

The Men's Bible Study is currently on hiatus.

## Stay Connected to Worship at MAPC

*Did you know* that even if you're away or unable to make it to church that you can listen to Sunday worship services at MAPC? Sermons and service highlights (including scripture

lessons, hymns and anthems) are uploaded afterwards, and are permanently accessible. They can be downloaded to your electronic device or listened to directly on MAPC's website: [peruse](#) this val-

uable online resource today! Once ready for print, our Sunday bulletins are also uploaded to our website on Thursday afternoons and are made permanently available for download.

## Thank You for Filling the New York Common Pantry Grocery Carts

The New York Common Pantry, the city's largest private food pantry and long-time MAPC Outreach partner, is asking for your continued support: canned or dried beans, canned chicken/salmon/tuna, rice, dried pasta, fresh or canned vegetables, and peanut butter. Please—no glass containers. You can drop off items in the grocery carts in the Church House Lobby or the Sanctuary Narthex, or you could even order groceries to be delivered through one of your grocers. (8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10029, Phone: 917-720-9700). Thank you for taking seriously Christ's command to "feed my sheep!"

## Flowers for the Sanctuary

Is there someone you would like to honor or remember through a gift of flowers for Sunday worship? If so, please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo at [lgp@mapc.com](mailto:lgp@mapc.com) or 212-288-8920. The cost for Sunday flowers is \$110.

## Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

921 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10021  
Phone: 212-288-8920  
Fax: 212-249-1466

**We're on the  
web  
[www.mapc.com](http://www.mapc.com)**

### Clothing Donations Needed for Women and Men

The Homeless Outreach Program at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, one of MAPC's long-term outreach partners, continues to see a dramatic increase of homeless persons seeking assistance. Both casual and business clothing for men and women, as well as new undergarments, are among their most urgent needs. If you have clothing items in clean and neat condition, we encourage you to take them to the Jan Hus Clothes Pantry at 351 East 74th Street at 1st Avenue. The clothes pantry is available to take donations Monday through Saturday from 8 am-8pm and on Sunday from 9 am-3:30 pm. NOTE: Please bring all clothing to Jan Hus **directly**—clothing may no longer be left in the coatroom off of the MAPC Church House Lobby.

## Hands-on Ministries

### Ways to get involved at MAPC with hands and hearts!

*"Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." The following opportunities to participate in hands-on ministries are provided by the Outreach Committee. If you are interested in exploring any of these opportunities, e-mail Andy Smothers at [ads@mapc.com](mailto:ads@mapc.com). Let's put our faith into action!*

### The Thursday Open Table Needs YOU!

Can you spare 2 hours on a Thursday evening from 6-8 pm? If so, then you can help feed 120 hungry neighbors a hot meal, offering them Christian hospitality. Please contact Kathy Hoffman at

[kfhoffman@earthlink.net](mailto:kfhoffman@earthlink.net) to volunteer for this opportunity (formerly known as Shelter Dinner)

### Host at the Shelter

Hosts are needed for the Shelter! The Shelter is comfortable and the experience of helping these men get their lives back on track is one that will change your heart. Two shifts are offered each evening. Early evening hosts volunteer from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm; overnight hosts volunteer from 8:30 pm to 7 am. Contact Andy Smothers at [ads@mapc.com](mailto:ads@mapc.com) for more information.

### Search and Care

Can you spend an afternoon with

an elderly person on the Upper Eastside to walk their pet, go with them to a doctor's appointment, help them shop, balance their checkbook or even just offer them the gift of companionship? If so, contact Robin Strashun at [SandC@searchandcare.org](mailto:SandC@searchandcare.org).

### New York Common Pantry

The New York Common Pantry offers opportunities for volunteers to help pack and distribute food to the working poor on Saturday mornings and other times each week. MAPC has supported this very well-organized and effective organization since its inception 30 years ago. This is a wonderful way to follow Christ's command to "feed my sheep!"