The Pastoral Staff Letter

A Note From Jenny

Dear Friends,

When you think of your faith, who has influenced you? I imagine many of you might name David H.C. Read, Fred Anderson, John Weaver, Beverly Bartlett, Andrew Henderson...and likely some of the men and women with whom you share a pew each Sunday. Who else comes to mind?

One of the first people I think of is a woman named Jennifer Kreft. She served as the Pastoral Minister at my high school back in Michigan. She fascinated me as a person, mainly because it was easy to see how her faith influenced the decisions she made every day of her life. I had never known anyone like her before and I remember asking her all sorts of questions. She was endlessly patient with me and encouraged me to attend school retreats and worship services. She was honest about what she believed and about what she struggled to believe. I remember thinking, "I want to be like her when I am older." Perhaps more than any other individual, she is responsible for teaching me that faith is a verb more than it is a noun—it is something we pursue, and sometimes, even, something that pursues us.

It is my hope and my prayer that you have people in your lives who have made faith real to you. If you do, say a prayer of thanksgiving for them today. I am doing the same. These are the people who have helped us become who we are.

Peace,

Jenny

Sunday Worship—23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time September 9, 2018

Worship Schedule 9 am & 11:15 am Nursery—4th Fl. Phillips Building, 8:30 am—2:30 pm

This Sunday Rev. Jenny McDevitt will be preaching her sermon entitled *The Syrophoenician Woman: We Need Outsiders* which will be based on the lectionary texts: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10, 14-17 and Mark 7:24-37. Preview the latest Sunday <u>bulletin</u>, or <u>listen</u> to sermons and service highlights from previous Sundays on MAPC's website.

Quartet Rehearsal, 8:40 am, Choir Room

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, Church House Lobby

Church School, 10:10 am, 5th Floor

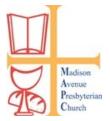
Adult Education, 10:10 am, Parish Hall (see details inside)

Youth Hour, 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

Church Choir Rehearsal, 10:20 am, Choir Room

Congregational Picnic in Central Park, 12:45 pm, Offsite

Overnight Shelter, 6:30 pm, Shelter Space



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Issue #43

September 6, 2018

To Check out the Church's Calendar:

Go to the website at

<u>http://www.mapc.com/</u> <u>calendar/calendar/</u>

MAPC is on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>!

See you in church! The Pastoral Staff

Inside this issue:

A Note From Jenny	<u>1</u>
This Sunday	<u>2</u>
Other Events and Announcements	<u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u>
This Week at MAPC	<u>8</u>
Fall Dates For Your Calendars	<u>9</u>
Christian Education at MAPC	<u>10</u> <u>&</u> <u>11</u>
Bible Study Groups	<u>11</u>
Hands-on Ministries	<u>12</u>

This Sunday

Adult Education: Faces of Our Faith, 10:10 am, Parish Hall



We cannot read about Sarah without reading about Hagar and vice versa. These two intriguing women experienced very different lives, yet shared a similar faith. Join MAPC's new Pastoral Resident, Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman, to dive deeper into the Hebrew text in order to learn more about the faces of our faith!

Youth Worship Begins, 9 am and 11:15 am

We are excited to welcome our youth back, as we worship together in an interactive way! This Sunday we will begin our time together during the Lesson for Young Christians as we meet our new seminary interns who will lead us in worship and lessons this academic year. From there, youth in grades 4-7 are invited to join Christina Cosby in the Dana Chapel for a time of worship as they take part in leading the worship service.

Church School, 5th Floor at 10:10 am

Come kick off the year as we learn about creation. We will meet Chesna and Audrey (our new seminary interns), sing songs together, and start a new year of learning about God's stories beginning with Genesis. Our Church School teachers are eagerly waiting to welcome your family back to MAPC's church school this Sunday. To sign up or get more information, please reach out to Christina Cosby at <u>cac@mapc.com</u>.

Blessing of the Backpacks (and other bags)

Ready or not, a new academic year has already begun. Students, bring your backpacks or bookbags to worship (yes, to worship!) on September 9 to receive a special blessing and a small gift during the Children's Lesson. Adults, if you wish to participate too, bring whatever bag accompanies you throughout your day. Let's begin the year remembering that God is with us wherever we go and whatever we do. (Tip: bring your backpacks to be blessed, and you can fill them up with anything you need for the picnic later that day!



Congregational Picnic in the Park



Let's celebrate the start of a new program year with a picnic in Central Park! We'll depart from the church at 12:45 and walk to the South side of the 72nd Street entrance to Central Park. Sandwiches, salad, and chips will be provided; please bring some dessert to share. If you're able, bring blankets or whatever you wish to sit on. We'll have some chairs available for those who need them. Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon in the park with MAPC. Meet Rebecca, our pastoral resident, and meet Chesna and Audrey, our seminary interns. Play a few silly games with Jenny or just chat with a friend. This is a great and non-threatening event to invite some friends to join you! You can still RSVP to Lissette Perez-Erazo at <u>lgp@mapc.com</u>; it's helpful to have an idea of how many will attend. (In the event of rain or extreme heat, we'll gather in the Parish Hall.)

Other Events & Announcements

Welcome Our 2018-2019 Seminary Interns

Come this Sunday to welcome them as we worship God together and get to know one another better during our Picnic in the Park.

Chesna Hinkley enjoys exploring ways that her passion for academics feeds her faith, alongside the life of a congregation.



Audrey Webber creatively engages scripture and is passionate about finding ways to make sure everyone feels welcomed and included in worship, by creating innovative worship experiences.

This Sunday we are excited to welcome our 2018-2019 seminary interns from Princeton Theological Seminary. Chesna Hinkley and Audrey Webber will join our pastoral staff, as they further explore their call to ministry and embark on their final year of seminary. Chesna and Audrey will lead us in worship, inspire us through adult education, and be active in the faith formation of our children. Their main responsibilities will be Sunday morning worship, Children's Worship, teaching during the 10:10 Christian Education Hour, and being active with our Kids Club program on Wednesday afternoons. They are eager to join us this Sunday and we are thrilled to welcome them into the life and ministry of MAPC!

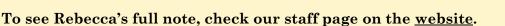
A Note From Rebecca

... What an honor it is to finally be with you! And let me tell you, I am overjoyed to call this place and all of you my home.

I grew up in the small town of Valdese, North Carolina, where I was baptized and raised in Waldensian Presbyterian Church like my father, grandmother, and great grandfather....Your pastoral residency provides the space to learn, grow, and continue the journey of discernment. I often say, "I am walking and willing." And, as your first pastoral resident, I have never been more thrilled to walk with you and more willing to love you! So, for the next three years, will you walk with me on this journey through my humble learning moments and, frankly, willing to follow the Spirit, wherever she may take us? I sure am! I look forward to listening to your holy stories, embracing all those in need, and opening my heart to this church and God's urban ministry!

With Love and Peace,

Lebecca Idalman





Learn More About MAPC's Shelter



According to the Coalition for the Homeless census, nearly 64,000 men, women, and children slept in a NYC shelter each night by the end of 2017. No doubt, an overwhelming number that tears at our hearts. Thankfully, MAPC is highly aware and active in providing a shelter for about 12 men caught in the brutal system of poverty. Therefore, all of you are invited to learn more about MAPC's nightly shelter at the Outreach Committee's Shelter Open House on Sunday, September 16th at 1:00–3:00 p.m. Come and educate yourself on the ins and outs of the shelter and homelessness. You attending will not automatically volunteer you, but it will give you an opportunity to know more about the city we live in and people we share it with. Please send any and all questions to Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com or Christina Cosby at <u>cac@mapc.com</u>. Come learn with us!

Wee Kids and Kids Club, September 12, Church House

Kids and families, join us on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm for Kids Club! This year is going to be better than ever! Bible Study, Choir, Recreation and Dinner all begin on September 12th. To register visit our website or contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.



New Youth Service Group for High School Students-MAPC Serves



The Christian Education Committee at MAPC is excited to offer you a program tailored to serving the vulnerable across our City. This year, we will share in service and fellowship as we meet the needs of three communities: the elderly, the homeless, and children. Each month, we will offer three service opportunities that reach these three populations! We look forward to having you join us in service! Stay tuned for more details coming on September 13!

We hope you will help us reach our goal of 300 service hours this year!

To sign up, check out the MAPC Serves tap on our website: <u>http://mapc.com/education/youth-ministries/</u>. If you would like more information, please reach out to Christina Cosby by email at cac@mapc.com or by calling 212-288-8920.

T(w)een Club: Middle School Mid-Week Youth Group, September 12, Church House

Middle Schoolers, we're trying something new just for you! Join us for T(w)een Club Wednesday evenings from 5-7 pm. We'll share dinner and study the Bible with Rev. Jenny McDevitt (bring all your tough questions—she's ready for you!) Mary Huff is directing a youth choir that won't be the same without you, so bring your joyful singing voice. We'll mix in some games, crafts, service options, and other activities from time to time, too. Haven't joined us on Wednesday nights before? This is the perfect chance to change that. (Want to come by right after school? That's okay, too. There will be study-hall space and snacks available for you. To register, contact Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com or visit our <u>website</u>.



Church Family Night, Friday, September 14, 6 pm in the Parish Hall



Families enjoying Church Family Night.

Yes, it's already time for Church Family Night! Come have dinner, come enjoy a craft activity, a movie (with popcorn), and play in the gym or on the Roof Garden. It's a great time to catch up with church friends you haven't seen over the summer or meet some new ones! You do not need to have children at home to come to Church Family Night—it is for the whole church family (however, you do need to be comfortable with some noisy kinetic energy!). Suggested donation for the evening is \$20 for adults, and a contribution of your choice for children under 12. Chef Jim needs to know how many to cook for, so please let Lissette Perez-Erazo know if you are coming, <u>lgp@mapc.com</u>.

Installation Service for Jenny McDevitt

On September 23, at 3 pm, Rev. Jenny McDevitt will be installed as our Senior Pastor. Join the Presbytery of New York City for worship and a celebratory reception to follow. Rev. Tom Are, Jr., Senior Pastor of Village Presbyterian Church (Jenny's previous congregation) will preach.



Singing at MAPC



Are you interested in singing with the **Church Choir**, or our choral society, the **Saint Andrew Chorale**? The Church Choir sings anthems and provides musical leadership for our 11:15 am services and special liturgies from September through May. The Saint Andrew Chorale sings concerts as a part of the Saint Andrew Music Society concert season, often joined by orchestras and accompanied by professional instrumentalists. Rehearsals for both the Church Choir and Saint Andrew Chorale resume today, **Thursday, September 6**. If you are interested, visit the Choirs page on our website, or contact Andrew Henderson: <u>aeh@mapc.com</u>, or 212-288-8920.

Saint Andrew Music Society: Announcing Our 54th Season



The Saint Andrew Music Society's 54th Season brochure has been sent off to the printers! While we await receiving the mailing, you can peruse all fifteen concerts taking place this season on our <u>website</u>, ranging from performances by our very own choral society—the Saint Andrew Chorale & Orchestra; MAPC's community children's chorus program—the New York City Children's Chorus; students from The Juilliard School, Mannes College, and the Manhattan School of Music; and a host of recitals featuring vocalists and chamber ensembles.

Dinner with Mayada, Monday Evening, October 15 at 6 pm



The Congregational Nurture Committee is delighted to host our third annual Dinner with Mayada. Mayada Anjari is a refugee from Syria, who, along with her family, has resettled in Jersey City with the help of Rutgers Presbyterian Church. Mayada is a wonderful cook, and Dinners with Mayada support her family as they establish their lives in the United States. The cookbook we have been waiting for will be available at this dinner! We got an advance copy in the mail, and it is stunning! *Food and* Wine lists it as one of the best cookbooks coming out this fall: <u>https://www.foodandwine.com/news/fall-cookbooks</u>. The book is \$24.95, and Mayada will happily sign copies. You can preview it here: <u>https://www.breadandsaltbetweenus.org/</u>

The cost of dinner is \$40 for adults, and \$20 for children under 12. Since this is a benefit dinner, we encourage you to pay the full price, if possible. If the full \$40 is not possible for you, please pay what you can, and the committee will subsidize the rest. The event is BYOB, and we encourage you to bring a bottle of wine to share—we also encourage you to invite friends! You can reserve your seat and pay for dinner <u>here</u>. You can pay for both the dinner and the number of books you want at the same time. When you reserve, please let us know if you would like a book, so we will know how many to have on hand. RSVP through the MAPC website, or by emailing Lissette Perez-Erazo in the church offices, <u>lgp@mapc.com</u>, or by signing up during fellowship hour in the weeks prior to October 15.

All-Church Retreat September 28-29 at Holmes Camp and Conference Center



Sign up now for the All-Church Retreat, September 28-29, at Holmes Camp and Conference Center!

There are two options:

- 1. You may come up on Friday evening (with sleeping bag and towels) and enjoy dinner and a relaxed evening of fellowship and breakfast the next morning before the rest of the folks arrive, or
- 2. Come for the day on Saturday.

The evening meal on Friday begins at 7, and we'll enjoy games, conversation and evening prayer afterwards. We will plan on starting the program around 9:30 am on Saturday, depending on when the bus arrives.

The cost for those coming overnight is \$90 (includes lodging, three meals, and day use fee on Saturday).

The cost for those coming up on Saturday is \$30 (includes morning coffee and snacks, lunch and day use fee).

The cost of transportation is additional!! We have reserved a bus for those coming for the day on Saturday. The bus will leave MAPC at 7:45 am and depart Holmes to return to NYC at 4 pm. The roundtrip cost for the bus is \$50.

For those coming up on Friday evening, we will arrange carpooling, or you may take Metro North and someone will pick you up from the Southeast Station.

We will have a separate children's program on Saturday morning, while the adults share in discussion, then everyone will enjoy lunch together and afternoon activities of their choice: hiking, visiting the farm, sitting on the porch, or playing games.

If you have questions, please contact Lissette Perez-Erazo at lgp@mapc.com

You may sign up during coffee hour after worship on upcoming Sundays, or by contacting Lissette, or through Sign Up Genius: <u>www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F44A5AF2DA1FE3-holmes</u>. You can make payments online <u>here</u>.

Look What's Happening at MAPC This Week!

Monday, September 10		
6:00 pm	Zimbabwe Partnership Committee	Library
6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study	Phillips Lounge
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
0.00 pm	o vernight shelter	
Tuesday, September 11		
6:30 pm	Personnel Committee	Pastor's Study
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Christian Education Committee	Youth Lounge
7:00 pm	Outreach Committee	Library
Wednesday, September 12		
12:30 pm	Reading Through the Bible	Phillips Lounge
$3{:}45~{ m pm}$	Kids Club	PH, PL, Gym, 5th Floor
$3{:}45~{ m pm}$	Wee Kids	4th Floor
4:00 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
5:00 pm	T(w)een Club	Youth Lounge
6:00 pm	Cocaine Anonymous	5th Floor
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Thursday, September 13		
6:00 pm	20s/30s Bible Study	Youth Lounge
6:30 pm	Thursday Open Table	Parish Hall
6:30 pm	Recovery Group	Library
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
7:00 pm	Saint Andrew Chorale Rehearsal	5th Floor
8:30 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Friday, September 14		
6:00 pm	Church Family Night	Parish Hall, Roof Garden, Gym
6:30 pm	Overnight Shelter	Shelter Space
Saturday, September 15		
· · ·	No Events Scheduled	

Fall Dates for Your Calendars

Sunday, September 9 (after 11:15 am Worship)—Church Picnic in Central Park Friday, September 14 (6 pm)—Church Family Night, Parish Hall Sunday, September 16 (1 pm)—Shelter Orientation, Basement Shelter Sunday, September 23 (3 pm)—Jenny McDevitt's Installation Service Fri-Sat, Sept. 28-29—All Church Retreat at Holmes Presbyterian Camp Monday, October 1 (7 pm)—Moms Night Out, Offsite (TBD) Sunday, October 7 (1 pm)—Senior Fellowship Lunch, Parish Hall Wednesday, October 10—Blessing of the Animals Monday, October 15 (6 pm)—Dinner with Mayada Saturday, October 20 (10 am)—Annual Women's Brunch Friday, October 26 (6 pm)—Annual Church Family Night Halloween Bash! Monday, October 29 (7 pm)—Faith & Fermentation Sunday, November 4 (1 pm)—Senior Fellowship Lunch, Parish Hall Sunday, November 11-Hood Library Fellowship Annual Book Sale Sunday, November 18—Stewardship Dedication Sunday Sunday, November 30 (6 pm)—Church Family Night, Parish Hall Saturday, December 1 (9 am to 3 pm)—Advent Retreat/Quiet Day Sunday, December 9 (1 pm)—Senior Fellowship Lunch, Parish Hall Sunday, December 16 (4 pm)—Annual Carol Sing, Sanctuary Please feel welcome to join us for our events!

Christian Education at MAPC

Volunteer this Fall with Children's Worship & Youth Worship



Are you passionate about worship at MAPC? Worship is a time that we share a set liturgy as a way to reconnect with God and one another. Moreover, worship teaches us valuable patterns that we use across many areas in our lives. Each Sunday, we share the importance of this liturgy and pattern of life with our younger generation as we worship in an interactive way. This valuable time for our families is made possible by your help! Sign-up and come experience worship in a new way!

If you have further questions or want to learn more, please feel free to reach out to Christina Cosby at <u>cac@mapc.com</u> or by calling 212-288-8920.

Children and Family Ministries

Children's Worship

Children's Worship takes place during both worship services at 9 am and 11:15 am. This is an interactive worship service designed specifically for children 3rd grade and under.

Church School Sunday Mornings at 10:10 am, 5th Floor

Our Church School teachers are eagerly waiting to welcome your family back to MAPC's Church School this Fall. Join us as we share in a joint opening time and engage the Bible in our peer groups. We look forward to learning and exploring God's Word together this year! To sign up or get more information, please out to Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

Kids Club See <u>page 4</u> on signing up. We will begin our year together on September 12!



Middle and High School Ministries

Youth Worship begins on September 9 and runs through May!

Sunday Youth Hour, September 9 at 10:10 am, Youth Lounge

Who are the people you look up to? How do they show love to-

ward God and others in an inspirational way? Join us on Sunday Mornings as we discover *Faces of Our Faith!* We will use popular movie clips, characters from books, and people we personally know to explore how they live into their faith and how God calls us to do the same! Middle and High Schoolers are invited to join Christina on Sunday morning at 10:10 am beginning September 9.

T(w)een Club

See <u>page 5</u> on how to sign up! Join the fun as we learn, play, sing and eat together beginning on September 12.

Issue #43

Pizza and Game Night, September 21, from 6-8 pm, Church House Join your church friends as we embark on another year of

www.mapc.com/christian-ed/adultclasses/.

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://

Reading Through the Bible:

Wednesdays, 12:30 pm-1:30 pm, Phillips Lounge Reading Through the Bible picks up in Proverbs on September 12.

20s/30s Group: (Next Meeting is Thursday, September 13)

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 pm, Apt. #10C

Across culture and time, food and wine have been enjoyed by many. This is no different throughout Scripture. This fall we are going to look at the importance of table fellowship and the production of wine in scripture as we begin a new year. Come, as we sample food, wine, and nonalcoholic beverages from different regions around the world and discover their Biblical roots.

Women's Bible Study: (Next Meeting is Monday, September 10)

2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30 pm, Library

The minor prophets, who are they? What do they have to say to us today? These are the same questions we asked as we wondered what to study next. Come learn with us as we begin this new study! Joel has already surprised us as he values the rituals of worship.

Join us at 6:30 pm every other Monday or come early with a bit to eat as we enjoy fellowship with one another. We cannot wait to see you there!

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 di-

rectly on MAPC's website: peruse this valuable online resource today! Once ready for print, our Sunday bulletins are also uploaded to our website on Thursday afternoons and are

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.

adventure Amazing Race style! Come join the games as we have some friendly compaction while sharing food

and fellowship. To RSVP, email Christina Cosby at cac@mapc.com.

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

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 <u>lgp@mapc.com</u> or 212-288-8920. The cost for Sunday flowers is \$110.

Give Some Love to the New York Common Pantry Grocery Carts

Far too often, a basic human necessity like food is expensive and scarce, especially in New York City. The New York Common Pantry works each year to reduce stress in people's lives by providing a pantry to those in need. The pantry continues to ask for your help! **They need canned or dried beans, canned chicken/salmon/tuna, rice, dried pasta, fresh or canned vegetables, and peanut butter.** We simply ask for no glass containers! You may drop your items off in the provided grocery carts found in the Church House Lobby or the Sanctuary Narthex. Or, since we are busy people in a busy city, you may also order groceries to be delivered to the New York Common Pantry (8 East 109th Street, New York, NY, 10029, Phone: 917-720-9700) by one of your grocers. Know that any items you give will not only impact a family, but also a child's life. And we are most thankful for that!

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 Christina Cosby at <u>cac@mapc.com</u>. 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 <u>kfhoffman@earthlink.net</u> 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 Christina Cosby at <u>cac@mapc.com</u> 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.

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!"