

AVENEWS

Newsletter of THE NEW YORK AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Washington, DC

Greetings from Katie

Greetings to all of you! Let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Katie Cashwell and I am the new Interim Associate Pastor of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. My ministry at the church began in early July. I have met many of you over the course of the summer, but there are still plenty of new names and faces for me to meet and learn. I am thrilled to be a part of the NYAPC community for the next year. I will be overseeing the areas of nurture and Christian Education. I am very excited for all that is in store for us together in the coming year.

This summer I have been getting oriented to the education programs at the church, planning curriculum, meeting with Church School teachers, and working with the Christian Education Cluster to insure the start of a wonderful school year for the children and youth of the church. I have also loved leading worship this summer and I have had the opportunity to preach on three different occasions. Worship is at the core of our Christian faith, and I have looked forward each week this summer to gathering in our sanctuary. It has been the best part of the start of my time here.

So now for a little bit about me: I am a 2011 graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA and a 2005 graduate of Davidson College. I originally hail from North Carolina and love the state's bluegrass, barbeque, and beaches. I enjoy yoga, being outside whenever possible, Anne LaMott books, and cooking with friends. I live in Annapolis (the commute has been manageable so far!) and I am engaged to be married to my fiancé, Sean Eggleston, on November 3 there. So wedding planning is a big part of my life right now! Sean is an engineer for the Public Works Department of Talbot County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Sean and I are both so very pleased to be a part of this community of faith. I will also be completing the process towards becoming an ordained PCUSA pastor during my interim work at NYAPC.

Interim ministry is a beautiful and complicated part of the church. You all are saying goodbye to one pastor and hello to another. There is joy and sadness mixed together. It is a time of transition for everyone. I pray that our time together will be Spirit-filled. I hope that we will sense God's presence in the newness and be open to the new places God is leading us to. I think a successful interim period will be one in which we all learn from each other, grow new relationships, honor our history, and become creative with our future.



Many of you I have met and many of you I have not yet met. Please introduce yourself to me the next time you are in church (or reintroduce yourself — I am still learning names!). I am looking forward to building relationships with your families, nurturing your children, and being a part of the life of the church. I am always interested in sharing a meal and fellowship, so if you have the time and interest, I'd love to get together during the week. Just give me a call!

I look forward to being in ministry with all of you! The Book of Proverbs speaks of a woman who, "laughs at the time to come." My natural inclinations toward playfulness and laughter allow me to say to you all that I do indeed delight at the time that is to come at NYAPC.

May God's blessing be abundantly yours in the coming days ahead.

In Peace,

Katie Cashwell

Choral Workshop September 15

Do you love to sing? Here's a chance to spend a morning with amateur and professional singers, learning vocal technique, working on blending, and singing some favorite anthems and hymns. Come to the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church Choral Workshop, Saturday, Sept. 15, from 9:30 to 12:00 in the Sanctuary.

Dr. Stanley Engebretson will lead the workshop, beginning with warm ups and leading us in how to make our voices sound their best when singing in a group. We'll sing some anthems and hymns, and also begin learning Haydn's Theresa Mass, which the choir will be working on this fall.

All are welcome! Come early for coffee and donuts, and join us in a lunch outing after the workshop. No RSVP required, but if you have any questions, contact Meg House at meg.house@verizon.net.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE??

by Eleanor Robins

[A Commitment of the Presbyterian Church](#)

The Presbyterian Church's commitment to Justice is core to its identity and understanding as followers of Jesus Christ. Beginning with the ancient texts of faith, God's people have given both voice and witness to prophet Micah's calling to do justice, love, kindness, and walk humbly with God.

- Sara Lisherness, Director, PCUSA
Compassion, Peace & Justice Ministry

If a gold medal were awarded to world's biggest jailer, the United States would be the winner. The United States incarcerates a higher share of its population than any other country in the world. There are currently 2.3 million Americans incarcerated at the cost of \$68 billion dollars every year to taxpayers. Another 5 million are on probation or parole. That amounts to one in every thirty-one adults in the United States in jail or on supervised release. The United States has 5% of the world's population yet possesses 25% of the world's prison population. There are four times as many mentally ill people in prison as there are in mental hospitals. Post-incarceration re-entry programs are haphazard and often nonexistent, making it extremely difficult for ex-offenders to become full contributing members of society.

Governors of financially strapped states are considering selling state-owned prisons to private corporations as a way to increase revenue and rid the state of the cost of incarcerating its prison population. Sadly, many states have already adopted this questionable approach. In July the 220th General Assembly voted to affirm the commitment of PC(USA)'s statement opposing private prisons by discouraging future investment in the private prison industry through corporate practices and congregational outreach and education. The resolution from the Hudson River Presbytery "encourages the General Mission Council to prevent future investment and, as it deems appropriate, encourage individual Presbyterians and congregations to divest of holding in said companies." The [Resolution calling for the Abolition of For-Profit Prisons](#) was approved by the 215th General Assembly in 2003. In the document the Assembly said:

The question of whether human beings should be incarcerated, of how they should be treated while in prison, of when they will be released, cannot be answered by whether or not these steps will create a profit for a corporation. In a humane society, in a democratic society, there are some things that can never be for sale even and especially when they involve 'one of the least of these followers of mine.'

In the United States Senate, The National Criminal Justice Commission Act failed to pass by three votes, after a filibuster. Senator Jim Webb said in his speech [The National Criminal Justice Commission Act and Partisanship](#), "this was a common sense piece of legislation that would have created a national commission designed to bring together some of the best minds in America to examine our broken and frequently dysfunctional criminal justice system, and how to make recommendations as to how we can make it more effective, more fair, and more cost effective."

The Adult Christian Education series *Criminal Justice??* offers an opportunity to learn about "the national disgrace that now comprises our criminal justice system" (Senator Jim Webb) from the executive directors of premier criminal justice organizations and leading legal experts.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE??

(Click on names for detailed information about a speaker and his or her organization)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| September 9 | The Sentencing Project
<u>Marc Mauer</u> , Executive Director |
| September 16 | Solitary Confinement
<u>Rev. Richard Killmer</u> , Executive Director
The National Religious Campaign to End Torture |
| October 7 | Prosecutorial Power & Racism in the Criminal Justice System
<u>Angela J. Davis</u> , Professor of Law
Washington School of Law American University |
| October 14 | Private Prisons
<u>Tracy Velazquez</u> , Executive Director
The Justice Policy Institute |
| October 21 | When Stopped by Police
<u>Tim Lynch</u> , Director Criminal Project
The Cato Institute |
| October 28 | Barriers to Social Re-entry for Ex-offenders and Collateral Consequences
<u>Margaret Love</u> , Attorney at Law
National Assn. of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Task Force on Restoration of Rights and Status After Conviction |

Renovated Lincoln Chapel Reopens September 9

by Ann Davie

The Lincoln Chapel will first be in use on Sunday, September 9, when Faith Temple returns to this renovated space for its weekly worship service. Occasions of remembrance will also be planned this fall for eight NYAPC members or friends of the congregation.

Judith McGovern will take reservations for use of the chapel for classes, prayer meetings, weddings, memorial services, and like purposes as she does for other spaces in the church.

The columbarium is one function of this wonderfully flexible worship space. It will be managed by a subcommittee of the Session, which has inherited and refined the operational manual and procedures so capably developed by the committee led by Cindy Dickinson, Janet Wessling, Joe Thierry, and many others. The present Columbarium Committee now includes representatives of the congregation, the Boards, and the pastors: John Schultheis, Kay Meek, Eleanor Pratt, Lenora Thierry, Dan Stokes, Jay Davenport, Jim Davidson, Cecelia Porter, Chuck West, and Rev. Ann Davie, Chair.

This committee has the authority to execute agreements for reserving niches or plaques on the memorial tablets. It will arrange for the engraving of the nameplates for the niches and tablet plaques. The committee will manage supplies and keep records, making at least yearly reports to the Session regarding financial, administrative, and legal matters. It will also make periodic reports to the Diaconal Ministers on pastoral care issues, and work with that board and pastors and families regarding memorial services to be held in the chapel. When necessary, the committee may make recommendations to the Trustees of the church for needed changes to maintain the worshipful atmosphere of the chapel and its various functions, including the columbarium.

As families need assistance after a death or decide to make plans ahead as a number of people have, the Columbarium Committee will be assisted by office staff to suit each need. The idea is that one reserves or purchases the *use* of the niche space (rather than owning it), and there are careful procedures to ensure that the chapel remains worshipful and contemplative (for example, food will not be allowed, and any rearrangement of furniture must be approved).

Judith McGovern, Ann Davie, or any member of the committee listed above may be contacted to receive a copy of the operating rules of the columbarium, as well as agreement forms for reserving a niche or placing a name on the memorial tablets. Judith can be reached at judith.mcgovern@nyapc.org and Ann at ardavie@verizon.net.

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The Newsletter of
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Frances Taylor Gench, J. Riley McDonald,
Judith E. Michaels, Glenn Myers

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
welcomes all people
into community, worship, service
and leadership.

Bon Voyage, Kitty!

After 10 years of directing all things financial at NYAPC, Kitty Smith has announced her retirement. She will leave her position as church financial officer effective September 9 to move with her fiancé, Pete Afanasenko, to Wilmington, NC, and their new home in Brookside Gardens near Wrightsville Beach. Kitty and Pete are relocating near her sister, who has a home in Wilmington. The couple looks forward to walks on the beach, visiting historical sites in their new state, and relaxing. They also want the congregation to know that they will be married at NYAPC on Friday, December 28, a special event in their lives to which all are invited. "I am going to miss this church more than words can express," says Kitty. "I am so proud of being a part of this inclusive and justice-seeking community." And we will miss Kitty!

A search is underway for a new CFO for the church. A job announcement is available on the NYAPC website at <http://www.nyapc.org/positions-available>. If you know of anyone who would be a good fit (or who has friends or colleagues who might be interested), please pass along the link, and also share with friends on Facebook or whatever social media outlets you use. Please direct any questions about this search to Miriam Dewhurst (miriam.dewhurst@gmail.com), Courtney Spearman (courtneyspearman@gmail.com), or Edith Snyder (edithholmes@aol.com).

Trustees Update: Renovated Chapel, Energy Audit, and Deferred Maintenance

by Edith Snyder

The Board of Trustees has been engaged in a number of efforts throughout the summer that will come to fruition this month and in the course of the fall and early winter. In particular, the Trustees have completed the renovation of the Lincoln Chapel and the creation of the columbarium. They are also in the process of selecting a contractor to perform an energy audit of the church, and building and crafting a plan to address deferred maintenance of the facility—both inside and out.

Lincoln Chapel and Columbarium: More than seven years in the making, the renovation of the Lincoln Chapel, including a new columbarium, is now complete. The chapel opened for use on September 9. In addition to serving as a refreshed and flexible worship space and as a place to remember NYAPC's community of saints, the Trustees are pleased to report that a bride and her fiancé have already reserved the chapel for their wedding next spring. For members who remember the chapel as a special place for weddings some years ago, this is a particularly happy follow up to the renovation.

The comprehensive restoration of the chapel includes new electrical work and lighting, plastering, paint, carpet, and exterior doors. The chancel furniture has been refinished and reinstalled in the chapel, and special fabric artwork will be designed for the center space between the chancel's two Tiffany stained glass windows. Chairs have replaced pews; the chapel comfortably seats 50 people.

Located along the sides of the chapel perpendicular to the chancel, the columbarium consists of niches in cherry wood with brass plaques and memorial tablets, also in brass and wood. There are a total of 288 niches, and each niche holds up to two urns. Each memorial tablet has 104 spaces for a total of 416 spaces. The four memorial tablets hold solid brass plaques, each of which will be engraved with the name and dates of one church member or a friend of the congregation who has been buried or whose ashes have been scattered elsewhere. Each tablet is framed in wood and has a granite shelf designed to hold a flower vase and an accompanying card, naming the person being remembered with the flowers.

Rev. Roger Gench first asked the Trustees and Session to look into possibilities for a columbarium in the spring of 2005, and it was Roger's vision to meet this need of the congregation that provided inspiration in the years that followed. Particular thanks are owed to Tara Spuhler McCabe and Mark Jennings, NYAPC's previous pastors, for their guidance in how the space might be designed and used. The original committee consisting of Cindy Dickinson from Trustees, Stacey Gagosian from Session, Sandy Brake from Deaconesses, Fritz von Fleckenstein from Deacons, Chuck West from the congregation, and Jack Mathison as pastoral advisor met for many months and reported to both Trustees and the Session, who approved each major decision. This group identified possible locations for the

columbarium, researched best practices from other Presbyterian churches, and developed policies and procedures.

Several previous chairpersons of the Board of Trustees have actively supported the project, including Richard Blabey and Norm Thompson. But it was Janet Wessling, chair for five years, who kept the chapel renovation and construction of the columbarium a priority.

Ultimately, Joe Thierry and Cindy Dickinson served as project managers and acted as general contractors for the chapel renovation, which began in June. Together, they managed more than a dozen subcontractors and additional vendors, saving the church substantial costs. They had superb assistance from all church staff, but especially from Judith McGovern, Kitty Smith, and Lamont Wood. Hal Hiemstra, current chair of the Board of Trustees, also provided many hours of guidance and direct support in negotiating with contractors and making sure that the project remained on track. Janet kindly continued to do the same and proved a great support to Cindy and Joe.

The Trustees also thank and credit architect John Cole of Cole and Denny Inc., Alexandria, VA, and the columbarium's cabinet maker, Danny Mulvena, and his colleague, Stephen Bailey, of Old Town Woodworking, Warrenton, VA. Without their patience and guidance over many years and the excellence of their work, this project would not have led to such an appropriate outcome for the church.

Finally, the congregation is fortunate to have Ann Davie lead the committee that will continue to implement and manage the columbarium and set guidelines for the use of the chapel.

Energy Audit: This spring, the Board began to tackle the church's pressing need for a comprehensive energy audit. The Trustees requested, the Funds Development Cluster recommended, and the Session approved, that the cost of the audit be covered by a portion of the funds from Jeannette Cohen's generous bequest to the church.

A group of Trustees, led by Michele Holland with Trustees President Hal Hiemstra and other subject matter experts in the church, then drafted and on June 25 issued a request for proposals to eight firms. In response, the church received three proposals to consider. In addition, Groundswell and the District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility (DC SEU) expressed interest in supporting NYAPC's efforts with personnel resources (to review proposals and potentially the results of the audit) and financial aid (perhaps not only with construction costs, but also with the cost of the audit itself). Groundswell is a nonprofit that uses a partnerships-driven approach to organize institutions and individuals to complete sustainability projects together, helping participants save money while generating social benefits across their communities. DC SEU strives to help District households, businesses, and institutions save energy and money through energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

Continued on Page 6

History Happens.....at NYAPC

As part of the NYAPC History Committee's "Bicentennial Interviews Project," Marilyn Seiber and Edith Snyder interview long-time NYAPC members for the Archives files. They interviewed Phil and Helen Hanna on August 12, 2012 for this project and for the article below.

Phil and Helen Hanna Remember.....

by Marilyn Seiber and Edith Snyder



As they approach 60 years as part of the congregation of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYAPC), G. Phillips and Helen P. Hanna are impressed by how much has changed and yet how much has remained constant at the church that has been and continues to be central to their lives.

The Hannas each arrived in Washington, DC about the same time in the early 1950s, and both came for jobs. Helen grew up in Connecticut, but joined her parents for the final year of a three-year tour when her father was working with the US Army in Japan. When she and her parents returned to the United States, Helen attended Katherine Gibbs secretarial school in Boston while her parents went to Washington, DC. Upon graduation, she obtained a job at the CIA in the nation's capital.

Helen's mother actually discovered NYAPC before Helen did. Helen's maternal grandfather was a Presbyterian minister in New York City, so her mother looked for a Presbyterian Church in the District of Columbia. She first came to NYAPC in 1952 and after hearing Rev. Dr. George Docherty, said "Well, he can't be that good every Sunday," and kept returning to discover that he was. Helen's mother noticed that the NYAPC choir was quite large, with more than 100 voices in the morning service and between 30 and 40 in the evening service, and had many young adults. She urged Helen to join the church as a good place to "meet nice young people." Helen began attending the morning choir and the Young Adult Group, and it did indeed become her social life.

Meantime, Phil graduated from Princeton University with a master's degree in politics. Deciding not to go on for his doctorate, he took and passed the federal government's Junior Management Assistant exam. One of the oral examiners was head of personnel for the Bureau of the Budget, and when Phil came down to Washington to look for a job in various agencies, he offered him a position. Phil arrived in Washington, DC in 1954 to work at the Bureau. His roommate, who sang in NYAPC's evening choir, urged Phil to join, too. In short order, Phil was also recruited by Alice Watson to teach the junior high Sunday school class, which he taught for several years, with Margaret Corman and Robbie

Lentz. At that time, there were so many students that the church had separate classes for 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Phil taught the 8th grade. In recent years, he taught the senior high, but the class will not continue this fall because there are too few high school students.

Helen and Phil did not meet in the choir, but rather in Young Adults, a large group and very active, just as the Young Adults are today. Then as now, these young members would go out to eat together—in the 1950s the favorite spot was the Hot Shoppe—after the morning worship service or following the evening service. Helen and Phil were married on October 4, 1958 by Rev. Docherty. Such was Docherty's presence, jokes Helen, that she and Phil knew their marriage would last because he had performed the ceremony. Shortly after, that Young Adult group faded away, and Rev. Jack McClendon, trying to restore it, asked Helen what happened to all the Young Adults, and she responded, "Well, we all married each other!" Phil thinks that he and Helen, her sister Ginge Peddle, Jay Davenport, Dave Brown and Bob Osborn are the only members of that Young Adult group who still attend NYAPC.

Both Phil and Helen have been very active in the life of NYAPC. In addition to choir and Sunday school, both have served as Deacons—Phil from 1960 to 1962, and Helen for several three-year terms between 1978 and 1993. Phil was also a member of the Session from 1965 to 1969, and of the Board of Trustees for multiple terms between 1974 and 2000, where he served as both treasurer and president. He fondly remembers working closely with Jim Patton, the church's long time financial secretary. Following his retirement from government service in 1987, Phil also acted as church financial officer from July to September when the staff member in that role suddenly left and before the new financial officer was hired. Today Phil is a member of the Planned Giving Committee where he compiles the annual "Legacies of the Saints" brochure and helped found NYAPC's new Birthday Fund. He is a tireless advocate for building the church's endowment to ensure its future. In addition to her years on the Board of Deacons, Helen has also served on the Board of Diaconesses—now Diaconal Ministers—from 2000 to 2003. The Hannas raised their children in the church, and their daughter, Meg, her husband, Doug House, and their children have been very involved in the life of NYAPC.

Among the Hannas' most vivid memories is the sermon Rev. Docherty preached on why he was joining the civil rights

Continued on Page 6

Phil and Helen Hanna Remember continued

movement. Phil recalls Docherty saying, "Some of you aren't going to like this, and if not, you're welcome to leave the church." Some members did leave, but many others heard and responded to their minister's call to witness. Among them was Margaret Corman who accompanied her junior high class in the church balcony that day. "You just heard an historic sermon," she told the young people as the worship service ended. Dr. Docherty and Rev. Jack McClendon went to march in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, along with Mrs. Mary (Jerry) Shirlaw Docherty and Assistant Pastor Robert Ira Long III. The Hannas remember Bob Long noting that it was especially courageous of Rev. McClendon to go to Selma because he was from Alabama and risked alienating his family there.

Phil and Helen recall another powerful and painful memory from Rev. Edmund S. P. Jones' pastorate at NYAPC. Rev. Jones proved to be a polarizing figure at the church in the mid-1980s. Members took sides either in support of or opposition to him, and eventually a number of people left the church when Rev. Jones stepped down from the pulpit in 1987. A Trustee at the time, Phil chaired the Long-Range Planning Committee working to come up with an approach that would keep the church together. He found this period in the life of the church "particularly difficult to navigate." While distributed, the final report from the long-range planning effort was never acted upon.

Phil and Helen continue to "write their stories" at NYAPC through teaching Sunday school and singing in the choir, advocating a strong financial foundation for the church and remembering those who have remembered the church through their planned gifts. They are thrilled to see a Young Adults group thriving once again and wish them as much fulfillment in their lives with the church as the Hannas and their family have experienced.

Trustees continued

Trustees Hiemstra, Holland, and Edith Snyder, along with church members Hal Davis, Bob Doan, and Jim Spearman and Felipe Witchger of Groundswell, met with the final two bidders on August 20 and expect to award a contract in September. The timeline calls for three levels of audit, which the Board anticipates by spring 2013 will lead to a detailed roadmap for how best to address the centerpiece of NYAPC's energy infrastructure—its aged heating and air-conditioning system.

Deferred Maintenance: The Trustees are currently completing exterior and interior building maintenance assessments. The Board expects to present to the church's Funds Development Cluster a comprehensive plan and request for funding to move forward on several of these deferred maintenance items. Among the most immediate needs are refinishing and protecting NYAPC's exterior doors.

Talking about Money Summer 2012 Listening Sessions

by Meg House

On three Sundays in July, members gathered for small group listening sessions to discuss the following questions:

- When have you experienced abundance in the midst of scarcity?
- How have church, family and culture influenced how you think about money?
- What moves you to give of yourself, your time, your resources? How are church and charity different?

Groups met for about an hour after worship, simply to hear each other's responses to these questions.

Sharing, Family, Connections, Results

Several themes run through notes from the sessions. Most experiences of abundance came through sharing with others, through either accepting or offering hospitality, especially with those who have little.

Families were the big influencers in how participants thought about money and how they made their giving decisions. Many also listed connections and relationships as important factors in their decisions to give to an organization. In addition, several said that seeing tangible results of their gifts was a powerful motivator.

You Have to be Asked

Neither culture nor church was mentioned as having a big influence over how participants thought about money. Several noted that the church seldom talks about money at all, but added that when it does, it can have a powerful impact.

Some participants remembered times when someone in the church shared thoughts about giving and how powerfully that affected their own giving decisions. Others also talked about the importance of being asked, for either money or volunteer help.

Discussion points also included how important pledging participation is, no matter whether the amount given is small or large. Several also noted that NYAPC's confidentiality policy, which allowed only the chief financial officer to know what members give to the church, could stifle the stewardship process. (The Session adopted a new confidentiality policy on August 14. See the story on page 9.)

Overall, participants enjoyed the chance to discuss and connect. Nurture Committee plans to sponsor listening sessions again next summer. Have an idea for a question to be discussed? Let co-chairs Meg House (meg.house@verizon.net) and Cathy Schultheis (ceks2601@yahoo.com) know!

Rev. Francisco Marrero Visits NYAPC

by Marilyn J. Seiber



Rev. Francisco Marrero visited NYAPC, July 7-11, following his participation at the PC(USA) General Assembly in Pittsburgh. National Capital Presbytery's General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn, drove him from the GA to Washington, D.C. Rev. Marrero is the General Secretary of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba, and is also Dean of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba. Rev. Marrero began a busy visit with us by leading an Adult Christian Education class on "The Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba: Challenges and the Future Ahead." During the worship service, he gave greetings from the Church in Cuba, and was presented a copy of *Capital Witness* for the seminary library by NYAPC History Committee Chair Wilson Golden.

Rev. Marrero then joined one of the summer "Listening Sessions," and was then joined by Rev. Gench and other church members for lunch at Cuba Libre Restaurant and a tour



of Ford's Theater. On Monday, Beth DuMez and Sonia Wall took Rev. Marrero on tours of the National Cathedral and Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. On Tuesday, he met Rev.

Roger Gench on Capitol Hill for breakfast and later led a roundtable discussion organized by the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, the Latin America Working Group, and the Washington Office on Latin America. During his visit he was able to tour the Washington monuments by night and attend a performance at the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts before leaving for Baltimore.

"Cuba Coffee in the Park"

by Marilyn J. Seiber

The Triangle Park and Cuba Partners Committees teamed up this summer to host a joint "Cuba Coffee in the Park" on July 1 after the worship service. Park Committee members had given the park its "summer attention" in hopes that NYAPC members and visitors would stop by to see the summer plantings and how "our" park – actually part of the National Park Service – is doing. Unfortunately, the weather was expected to hit close to 100 degrees that day, so the committees moved the "Cuba Coffee" into the



coolness of the Entryway. Fresh tropical fruit, breads and treats, and a Cuban "Tres Leches" cake were featured, along with Cuban music and displays of books on Cuba and Cuban crafts. A short "video" of the Spring 2012 NYAPC visit to Cuba was also shown to encourage interest in our next trip in April 2013. The committees hope to try another joint coffee hour in the fall when weather is cooler and we can appreciate fall weather in the park.

Births:

July 7 – Fiona Caroline McIver (Jennifer and Russ McIver)
July 25 – Brigitta Barbara Rehling (Bethany and Christopher Rehling)

Marriages:

June 9 – Kineta Sealey and Karanja Slaughter
July 20 – Virginia Douglas and Stephen Acuna
August 25 – Gloria Kessler and Paul Newman

Baptisms:

July 22 – William Alexander Petty (William Howard Petty and Patricia Weinert Petty)
August 19 – Frederick Elliott Hoffman (Karl Stephen Hoffman and Sarah Elliott Barclay Hoffman)

Deaths:

May 11 – Ray Ellis
June 3 – Wilbert (Doug) Spruill
June – David Wooden's paternal grandmother
June – Jeni Stafford (Suzi Stoll's mother)
June 27 – Doris Mills (Karen Mills' aunt)
June 7 – Carol Parker
June 17 – Ruth Lineberger
August 4 – Margaret Corman

Mettelee Breckenridge's Gifts to the Glory of God by Catherine Schultheis

Mettelee Breckenridge loved The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. She became a member when she moved from Union, Missouri to the Washington, D.C. area just before World War II. She moved back to Union upon her retirement to care for her mother and attended the First Presbyterian Church there. She returned to the Washington area after her mother's death and resumed her relationship with NYAPC as a friend.

Legacy Gifts to Our Church

Mettelee gave a substantial gift to the Building Connections Capital Campaign for the new organ and sanctuary renovation. The Consecration and Rededication Service program stated, "...we express our appreciation to Mettelee Breckenridge, a longtime friend of The NYAPC. Her significant gift at a critical time lifted our spirits and helped us move forward to accomplish our campaign goals." Although not a member at the time, Mettelee became interested in the Capital Campaign through regular mailings and many good friends from NYAPC. When she gave her generous gift to the Capital Campaign, she also gave a comparable gift to the First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri.

Mettelee supported the ministries of NYAPC in life and in death and she included NYAPC in her will with a bequest of \$500,000, received in March 2012. Upon recommendation of the Funds Development Cluster, the Session approved the distribution of Mettelee's undesigned bequest to unrestricted endowment to retire the outstanding balance of the Capital Campaign debt and to increase the overall endowment fund of the church.

Remembering Mettelee

Mettelee was an education graduate of the University of Missouri. She worked for the Department of the Army for 35 years as a hiring and personnel management specialist and also was on the staff of General William Westmoreland. Her affiliation with NYAPC was a result of friendships with other young women who were already members. She became active in the Women's Association and Presbyterian Women and was a member of the Edgington Class and then the Goodpasture Class.

Mettelee was a fan of several soap operas during her retirement. Friends who missed an episode counted on her to provide them with colorful written reviews. She kept up to date with the rich and famous and entertained her family and friends with stories about almost any celebrity. She especially enjoyed sharing lunch on Sundays with Vernona and Alan Turnbull, and spending the afternoon playing card games. She enjoyed travelling and kept an interesting scrapbook of her journeys.

Power of Christian Friendship and Fellowship

Mettelee was a friend to many members of NYAPC, especially to those in the Goodpasture Class and the Board of Deaconesses (now Diaconal Ministers). She often spoke about Gil and Beulah Anderson, Bob and Betty Osborn, Yomi Faniyi, Wilma McKee, Libby McNaul, Gloria Forbes, Charlotte Smith, Mary Anne Davis, Lenora Thierry, Wilson and Kris Golden and the NYAPC ministers, among others.

Although often unable to attend worship services upon her return to this area, she faithfully participated in the Goodpasture Class in absentia. Gil Anderson and Bob Osborn mailed her the class lesson plans each week--or delivered them in person--and then discussed them and shared class information with her. Yomi Faniyi frequently delivered flowers from morning worship and Goodpasture Class information. The class brought her a Christmas poinsettia each year. Her NYAPC friends kept in touch: they called her, they wrote to her and they visited her. Her family and friends attest to her appreciation these contacts.

We are grateful to Mettelee Breckenridge for sharing her life and gifts with us. Her legacy will live on in our beautiful sanctuary and the glorious music of our new organ. We are also grateful to the NYAPC saints, those with us now and those who have gone on, who faithfully shared their love, concern and faith with her.

Belize Mission Trip

by Karen Milam

The St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, a sister church in the National Capital Presbytery, invited me to join them on a youth mission trip to Belize this summer, with one day's notice. A group of 16 youth and 6 adults scheduled a 10-day mission to Progresso, Belize around the Fourth of July. When one of the youth could not make it, I was offered the spot. With God's wisdom and strength, I accepted! We travelled to Belize City, Belize, where Experience Mission (the organizer of the trip) met us in a school bus. Only one tire exploded as we travelled north to Progresso.

We arrived at a half-built church, beside the pastor's house. Behind the back alley, a large, empty house provided space where we would all sleep on the floor for the next week. We stayed in this community: playing with neighborhood children, learning people's stories and enjoying fellowship during meals. Many men and women from the evangelical church community of Belize came to help with the church as well. Most of them only spoke Spanish, so it was a blessing for me to be there, as one of the three of us that spoke Spanish. The families would gather in their smaller chapel for a two-three hour service each night. We attended some of the services and enjoyed the many testimonies of faith and music.

To build the new, bigger church, we helped lay the cement floor and added a top layer of cement to the walls so that they were uniformly bound at the top, anticipating a roof. We built scaffolding out of skinny, but strong, tree trunks with two to three nails on each connection. Talk about having faith when walking on this structure! We hand mixed cement with shovels and passed it in buckets over our heads to pour into the trough on top of the walls. Our other major activity was a week-long Vacation Bible School. We read Old Testament stories with the children, sang songs, and had fun playing together. The last day we invited children from the village to a large carnival. Balloon hats, field games, and colorful pictures engaged over 60 children that afternoon. Many of the youth on the trip had never been outside of the country, some had never been on a plane. This was a wonderful experience, which I know will continue to strengthen and challenge their faith, as it continues to do for me.

Establishment of an NYAPC Policy on Confidentiality of Giving

by Jim Spearman, with Funds Development Cluster members

Starting three years ago with the effort to create and maintain a *Financial Policies and Procedures Manual*, the Funds Development Cluster has been working on a series of initiatives to enable greater financial transparency and responsibility in our church. These changes are intended to increase the financial knowledge of each member of the congregation and staff who have particular financial duties as part of their designated roles in the life of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYAPC).

The latest of these initiatives is a policy on the confidentiality of annual stewardship pledges and anonymous gifts. The Cluster has discussed this concept for more than a year, and in August the Session approved the new policy. We believe this new NYAPC policy is both important and timely for several reasons.

Up to now, the church has not had an official policy on the confidentiality of gifts. The practice was that only the Church Financial Officer, Kitty Smith, knew the amounts of individual pledges and the identity of givers of anonymous gifts. She recorded pledge amounts and was the primary point of contact for any anonymous gift. The church also has paid auditors and utilizes volunteer counters who may become aware of individual gifts, specifically or generally. These people are trustworthy and trusted by NYAPC to perform their responsibilities, and that includes maintaining the confidentiality of individual gifts. Kitty's retirement in September 2012, after more than 10 years of service, gives the church the opportunity to think differently about this issue.

In addition to Kitty's departure, the fact that the fundraising activities of the church are entirely blind to which individual members and friends of the church are major donors is problematic. It is essential that the church's fundraising activities consist of both a broad message to all members and friends as well as a focused message to particular individual donor groups, including, for example, young adults, older members, new parents, new members, friends who have never joined but give regularly, and, yes, minor and major donors. To be able to do that effectively, a few people in fundraising leadership roles need to know who is donating money to the church.

One of the biggest concerns within the Cluster was whether this policy would result in different treatment of individuals based on their level of financial giving. Rev. Gench has clearly stated that pastoral staff will not divert attention to a particular member just because that person gives money to the church.

The policy approved by the Session on August 14 contains the following text regarding who--in addition to the Church Financial Officer--will have access to the amounts of individual pledges and donations:

The amounts of individual pledges and anonymous gifts will be made known only to those who need to know such information. These people are the Senior Pastor, the Church Financial Officer, the Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts, the chair of the Funds Development Cluster, and the chair of the Annual Steward-

ship Committee. The church's Auditors may also be aware of these amounts during the course of their work. Additional people will be provided this information only upon approval of the Session.

The individuals in these roles are trustworthy and are trusted by the church. They are expected to follow this policy and maintain the information they are given with discretion. Pledge and confidential gift information is instrumental in the planning and execution of the church's institutional life. Without this information, these people cannot do their jobs effectively.

Any member or friend with questions about the new policy is invited to contact anyone on the Funds Development Cluster. The 2012 Funds Development Cluster members are: Carol Shannon, Courtney Spearman, Edie Snyder, Evelyn Ying, Jenean McKay, Jim Spearman, John Courson, John Quinn, John Schultheis, Kitty Smith, Miriam Dewhurst, Rachel Browning, Rev. Roger Gench, Steve Dewhurst, and Susan Hesser.

Capital Pride Parade

by Karen Milam

The crowds shouted as we moved through the PRIDE parade:

"Please throw me a flower."

"Over here. Toss me one."

The Peace and Justice Committee was able to recruit some lively, excited young adults to march with the More Light Presbyterians in the DC annual PRIDE parade this year. The More Light Presbyterian mission is: Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality. The mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Whitney Guy McCulley, Stephanie Simpson, and Karen Milam represented New York Avenue Church with a group of More Light Presbyterians. We met at the Church of the Pilgrims to prep our pink carnations with a sticker describing who we are as a group. Once we had finished, we walked our way among the great floats and costumes, back to our truck that would drive us in the well-organized parade. Attendees were kept entertained as the parade moved swiftly along its one-mile length through Dupont. We could really feel the positive energy as we rode past. People cheered for our representation and, of course, to receive one of the hundreds of pink carnations we tossed from the truck. Some people even traded their beads for a pink carnation; our flowers were in high demand! Stephanie was able to grab a rainbow flag and wave it over the cheering crowd. "My arms hurt, but with all of the cheers I just couldn't put it down!" she exclaimed at the end of our trek. The people were greatly receptive to our presence in the parade. Our faces hurt from smiling so much.

Charitable Bequests: One Generation Praising God’s Works to Another

by Evelyn Ying

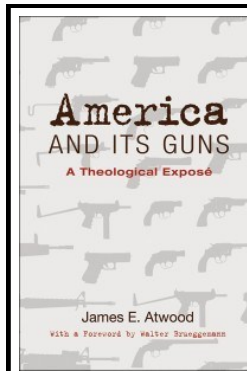
Every Sunday, we enjoy the beauty of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and the opportunity to worship God with glorious music and inspired preaching. During the week, NYAPC reaches out to the community and worldwide to promote peace and justice. Previous generations have bequeathed us this legacy through planning with an eye towards ensuring NYAPC’s vitality in the future. Members and friends, such as Mettelee Breckenridge, are making a difference today through the estate gift plans they put into place years ago.

The most widely used way of making a charitable planned gift is bequest in a will. Bequests are attractive to those who wish to retain control of assets to ensure that they have enough money during their lifetimes and would like to give to the church after they are gone. Bequests can also reduce estate taxes. They can take the form of a dollar amount, a percentage, or a residual of an estate determined after other bequests have been made to heirs. For many, a bequest is an ideal way to respond to God’s grace in their life and the ultimate gift of supporting the church they have loved for many years.

If you do not already have a will, consider doing one: making decisions about your estate now can relieve stress on your loved ones after you are gone. If you do have a will, you might consider reviewing or amending it under a variety of circumstances, including: family changes such as birth, marriage, divorce, death; children grown or independent; a move to another state; death of a named guardian, executor unable to serve; acquisition of real estate or assets in

another state; change in financial situation or health; change in tax law; change in charitable interests; or simply lapse of time as it is always good to review your will at least once every three to five years. Contact an attorney to ensure that your intentions are properly formalized.

Bequests from those who have gone before us are one of many reasons NYAPC is so vital today. For more information on charitable estate planning or ways to make a legacy gift to NYAPC, contact Evelyn Ying, Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts, at 301-495-5912 or eying@nyapc.org, or visit the church website at <http://www.nyapc.org/planned-giving>.



John Mathison has informed us of this new book by James E. Atwood entitled *America and Its Guns: a Theological Exposé*. Atwood is Pastor Emeritus of the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Arlington, Virginia, from which he retired in 1999 and presently the Chairperson of Heeding God’s Call of Greater Washington, a faith-based ecumenical movement that encourages gun shops to adopt a code of conduct that deters illegal purchasing and the trafficking of handguns.



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