

# AVENEWS

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

## Rev. Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite Welcomed As Next McClendon Scholar-In-Residence



The McClendon Scholar-in-Residence Program is pleased to announce that our 6th Scholar in Residence, Rev. Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, will be at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church the weekend of September 16 to 18. The theme of her lecture series is “Toward a Just Peace in a Wired World”

Dr. Thistlethwaite, an ordained United Church of Christ minister, is currently a professor at Chicago Theological Seminary, and also serves as a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. Between 1998 and 2008, she served as president of Chicago Theological Seminary.

Dr. Thistlethwaite’s main academic focus is practical theology, the study of how our understanding of God and God’s relationship to the world relate to such areas as the human genome project, the changing role of media, national security and interfaith discourse. She has concentrated much of her attention during her tenure at the Center for American Progress on the place where the revolution in internet communication, national security, American self-perceptions and interfaith discourse meet.

Dr. Thistlethwaite’s weekend at NYA will offer us the opportunity to hear and respond to what she has learned and the progression of her current research on just peacemaking as an alternative to such Christian-based responses as just war, pacifism and crusade.

In addition, Mohamed Elsanousi of the Islamic Society of North America will lead the Sunday church school class that weekend, in particular, telling about some of the efforts currently going on to bring peoples

of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths together both in the U.S. and in the Mideast. Additional details about Dr. Thistlethwaite’s time with us have been sent to all Washington Area members of the New York Avenue congregation; in addition, you can refer to the NYAPC website @nyapc.org for updated information. Please set aside the weekend of September 16 to 18 for this special occasion!

## NYAPC Completes Its First Listening Campaign

By Meg House

Community, intergenerational connections, the sound system, and our missions to the homeless and the children of the District of Columbia were some of the most mentioned issues that came up in the recent series of listening sessions held during five Sundays in June and July. On each of these Sundays, 35 to 40 people divided into small groups to discuss one of five questions:

- ◆ What is church to you and why?
- ◆ What is your deep desire for NYAPC?
- ◆ What are your concerns for NYAPC?
- ◆ What is your deep desire for the community around us?
- ◆ What are your concerns for the community around us?

The listening sessions grew out of the series of “one-to-one” meetings that Session members conducted with close to 100 people over the last year, and both grow out of community organizing principles developed by the Industrial Areas Foundation (Washington Interfaith Network here in the District), of which NYAPC is a member.

Comments relating to the question “What is Church for you and Why?” centered around

(see page 2)

## Listening Sessions (from page 1)

community and challenge – that the church is both a warm, welcoming place for a diverse group and also a place that challenges us both in our spiritual growth and in how we act in the world.

### Deep Desires and Concerns

Responses to the question regarding our deep desires for NYAPC included our finances and deficit and how we can bridge differences between each other and the community around us. Several also made comments about having vibrant programs for children and young adults, and a desire for ways for us to get to know each other better.

Several issues appeared both as things we do well as a church and as issues we are concerned about: intergenerational connections, our mission, and how welcoming we are to newcomers. Concerns also included problems with our sanctuary's sound system and how we can better communicate and facilitate volunteering and involvement. Several people also wondered how we could better coordinate our various ministries.

### The Community Around Us

When discussing desires and concerns for the community around us, comments ranged from reaching out to the children in the district to paying attention to the elderly and homebound.

We also discussed coordinating homeless and feeding programs with other churches, how we might reach out to the Federal and District governments, international mission, and how the church can guide us and others in our work in the world.

### Next Steps ...

Notes from each of the sessions were forwarded to Rev. Gench, and he will share them with the Session and other boards of the church. In addition, at least a few members have asked that we hold at least one set of listening sessions every year, noting that the opportunity to gather and discuss issues in a small group was valuable as an end unto itself. Stay tuned!

If you have any questions about the Listening Sessions or the One-to-One Meetings, please contact Rev. Roger Gench or Karl Hoffman.

## THE POWER OF LEGACY GIVING !

*“As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”*

I Peter 4:10.

Have you considered including NYAPC in your will, trust, or other charitable estate plan? If you are age 70-1/2 or older, have you considered making an IRA charitable gift directly to the church by the end of this year? Have you considered naming NYAPC as a beneficiary to your retirement account or life insurance policy? Have you considered establishing a charitable gift annuity that would provide lifetime fixed income payments to you and a legacy gift to NYAPC? With your legacy gift, you can help sustain and grow the ministries of our church into the future.

Contact Evelyn Ying, Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts, at [eying@nyapc.org](mailto:eying@nyapc.org) or 301-495-5912, for more information on these planned giving possibilities, or to let NYAPC know that you already have a legacy gift in place. Thank you!

## NYAPC Hosts Lincoln Seminar

On Saturday, July 9, 2011, NYAPC hosted a seminar, “**And the War Came,**” on President Lincoln’s early Civil War decisions. Held in the Lincoln Chapel, Lincoln scholar Dr. John Elliff and Lincoln Group president Burrus Carnahan at NYAPC gave a fascinating exposition of President Lincoln’s Message to a Special Session of Congress on July 4, 1861.

With the April 12-13 bombardment and surrender of Ft. Sumter and the nation’s war fever presaging the disastrous Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) less than three weeks away, Lincoln called the Congress to hear a message that laid a marker for much of the remainder of the Civil War.

This presentation was the latest in the series on the Lincoln Presidency sponsored jointly by the NYAPC History Committee and the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia In commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the Lincoln Presidency.

## *A community with a History ... and a Future*

*By Jessica Cook, Seminary Intern*

On a Sunday in mid-May, before I began my internship at New York Avenue, I was visiting with another member of my church in Richmond and she asked about my summer plans. When I told her that I was planning on interning in DC, at New York Avenue, her eyes lit up with recognition.

“That’s Peter Marshall’s church, isn’t it?” She asked.

“Yes. Yes, it is.” I replied.

I have to confess, though, that at the time I had no idea who Peter Marshall was. I knew he was a former pastor of NYA, and I knew that Peter Marshall Hall was on the fifth floor and hosted a couple of the church’s ministries. But, I didn’t really know much beyond that.

I’ve since done a bit of homework, and even sat down to watch “A Man called Peter” a few weeks ago. While watching, I caught myself wondering for a moment if it was merely the fact that a movie had been made about Reverend Marshall that made him so well-known. In thinking about it, though, I realized that, while the movie and book certainly helped solidify his place in history, his legacy was built more on the way he was able to bring people into the church. His ministry was effective because he made the church relevant to a new flock, and because he opened the doors to those in the city who needed a place to be nourished. Put simply, the church became relevant and accessible because it was a place where the hungry could be fed, the tired could sleep, and the weary could pray. His and the congregation’s faith was put into action in very simple, tactile ways.

In thinking about Peter Marshall, and about New York Avenue and all of its history, I am reminded of Hebrews, and the image of the cloud of witnesses. I think about the Holy Spirit that binds us to those who have come before; and that it is this spirit of God that empowers us, just as it empowered them, to live into our faith and “run the race that is set before us” (Heb 12:1). New York Avenue’s cloud of witnesses can be seen in its history, in stories of pastors and members who have hosted presidents, protestors, visitors, and the homeless alike.

On the banner outside New York Avenue are the words of Micah 6:8: “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly

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Jessica Cook, Seminary Intern, Summer 2011

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

with your God?” This passage is in many ways the string that binds together the cloud of witnesses at NYA. The richness of diversity in the congregation’s history is held together by a string of members and pastors who have responded to the call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Because times and circumstances change, this call hasn’t always looked the same. Just as during Peter Marshall’s tenure, the church was opened to those who supported or were going to fight in World War II, just a short time later, so too were the same doors opened for those protesting the war in Vietnam.

It is the rich and diverse history that draws many people to New York Avenue; many come because they know of one story or another. They stay and become members, however, because they find in the church a home, and are drawn to be a part of the ministries of the church. There is something different at NYA, something that is not found in the (see page 6)

## Meadowkirk: Not Just for Retreats

By Kirsten Kingdon

Many of us NYAPC members have been out to Meadowkirk for retreats, and have been blessed by its many charms. From August 17 – August 21, our family experienced the pleasures of Meadowkirk from an entirely different perspective.

As is no doubt true of other families, our family is a diverse group of individuals and families. Some are religious; some not. But all of us enjoy family times together – especially where there are lots of choices for activities. And all of us enjoyed using the historic stone barn for a hymn sing regardless of our religious convictions.



Stone house/barn, built early 1800s.

Our experience here exceeded my expectations. For years I have mentally tried out various possible locales for a family reunion and none of them have seemed adequate. In contrast Meadowkirk provided everything I could possibly have wished for: a rural location with scenic views and great locations for enjoying both morning and evening views in rocking chairs, coffee cup in hand on the porch off the dining room, three tasty, nutritious meals a day with nothing for me to do but enjoy them, activities on-site ranging from the challenges and thrills of high ropes to a magnificently kid and adult-friendly swimming pool, hiking trails, a volleyball court, room for our son to teach the basics of cricket to our 3-year-old grandson, as well as to his cousins, lots of cozy conversation nooks, even more appealing places for games ranging from Boggle to Blue Moon City, including the gracious library, dining room, breakfast nook and meeting space



Manor House, circa 1901

off the Manor House.

The staff was wonderful; they anticipated our needs even before we did. This was exemplified by the time the cooks brought out a yummy grilled cheese sandwich to our 3-year-old grandson even before he or his parents asked for it once they knew that was the only thing he would really enjoy for lunch.

And the location is superb! It is close to Dulles International Airport, museums, kayaking and horse-back riding venues, hiking trails, quaint historic towns, homes and shops, excellent restaurants and, for those not from the area, trips into DC. I was delighted to let folks arrange various expeditions depending on their interests.

Meadowkirk is a fabulous resource. It is a beautiful, historic piece of property an hour away from DC set in lovely countryside. It has been beautifully enhanced with air-conditioned accommodations, which enhance the historic structures. The Presbytery voted recently to put this magnificent property up for sale. The more we use it, the more likely it is to remain available to us as a retreat and family events center. I know that all 30 of our family members came away from our four days there with memories that we will treasure all our lives.



The Cottages at Meadowkirk

## History Happens ... AT NYAPC

By Marilyn J. Seiber

### Remembering Sills Bunn ...



*As part of the NYAPC History Committee's on-going History Project interviewing NYA members, Miriam Dewhurst and Marilyn Seiber met with Sills Bunn on May 23, 2011 to record his memories and experiences as a member of NYA. Sills died unexpectedly on August 4, 2011.*

Sills Bunn came to The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in 1960 because his mother said, "If you don't like the Methodist Church, why not go to NYA?" And he did! He was sold on NYA because of the Rev. Dr. George Docherty. Sills said that he was "highly impressed" with Dr. Docherty and that "Docherty made the difference."

Sills grew up in Nashville, North Carolina, and attended Dickinson College. He said he "fell in love with the Presbyterian Church" when he attended Dickinson. He also had heard Dr. Docherty preach at spring meetings at Dickinson. Sills met his wife, Amoret, in Richmond, and Amoret was Presbyterian. They married in 1963 in her hometown, Lewisburg, West Virginia. Sills had moved to Washington, D.C. in 1959 and worked for the U.S. Department of Education for 25 years.

When Sills first came to NYA, Bob Osborn was the first person he met—"Bob welcomed me into the church." Sills was part of the young adults social group and later with Amoret was active in a church couples group called the Mariners. He attended the Adult Christian Education classes for a while, and later was active in every church group but the Session. He was a Deacon many times, for over 14 years. He was an usher "for as long as I could stand up." During his years at NYA, he "interacted" with Rev. Jack McClendon and his ministries. Sills remembers Dr. Docherty's comment, "I'm looking for another cause" after the civil rights movement, and turned to the Poor People's Campaign in 1968. There was some involvement with "store-front churches," and Sills attended

one several times, but then stopped. Sills also remembers that NYA attendance and membership began falling off during Dr. Docherty's time and dropped below 1,000.

Sills also marveled at how "things come together." He remembers visiting Cuba for three days in 1950 with his father. Sills was 20 years old, and the tour to Cuba was his first trip outside the United States. He said he had no idea NYAPC would have a Cuba Partners Program and have a partner church in Havana.

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## NYAPC Deacons Support Worthy Missions

Every year, the Deacons distribute funds to support local, national, and international organizations that provide services which align with the NYAPC's mission and activities. The funds come in part from NYAPC's annual budget and in part from the Deacon's own funds. This report is the first in a series that highlights the good and vital work these organizations do.

- ◆ **Colombia Accompaniment Program - PC(USA)**  
International - South America  
Homeless - Refugees  
Peacemaking - Human Rights

Volunteers trained by this PC(USA) program travel in pairs in Colombia to accompany human rights workers who are serving communities of displaced persons. Violence or threats by drug cartels or other criminals have displaced typically rural populations to refugee camps around most metropolitan areas. The displaced persons need assistance in basic sustenance, education and the development of skills for employment. The volunteers act as a "nonviolent presence of Christian support and solidarity" and are credited with the avoidance of violence and intimidation toward local human rights workers from the Colombia Presbyterian Church. Approximately 100 persons have been trained and about 75 have served in Colombia. NYAPC has supported this mission for more than five years.

<http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/colombia/accompaniment>

- ◆ **Partners for Kids In Care**  
Local – Washington DC  
Children — Material Goods (continued on page 9)

## Njoro Orphans Program Visitors Coming in October

By Fritz von Fleckenstein

**Jeremiah Nduyu**, the designer of the Njoro Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program in Kenya will be coming to Washington in October to visit NYAPC and other Presbyterian churches in the DC Area. We hope that he will be accompanied by **Francis Muchemi**, the chairman of the OVC Committee and director of the program, and **Monicah Nyambura**, the head teacher in the program, as we are still hopeful that we can obtain visas for them. P.C.E.A. Njoro congregation has been our Kenya Partner since 2003, and the Deacons have been particularly generous in funding this program, together with our Alternative Christmas Store, the NCP Global Mission Group and other NCP churches.

While they are here, the visitors will spend one Sunday at NYAPC, participating in the worship service and other activities. They will visit the Community Club, which is the program that most resembles what they are doing in Kenya, and talk with students, tutors and organizers. They will also meet with the Deacons, and help in the planning of NYAPC's 2012 trip to Kenya. They will also visit Old Presbyterian



Florence, Kirsten Kingdon, Monicah Nyambura

Meeting House and Westminster PC in Alexandria, and Trinity PC in Bethesda for worship services and other activities. Members of Westminster joined Kirsten Kingdon and me in our trip to Njoro in February 2010 on their way to Moi's Bridge, where they



Jeremiah Nduyu, Kirsten Kingdon, Francis Muchemi

are supporting another orphan program. Finally, they will meet with the NCP Global Mission Group and Kenya Network to discuss their work, and help brainstorm with the NCP churches supporting three orphan programs in Kenya: Kibwezi, Njoro and Moi's Bridge.

Of course, they will do some sight-seeing, and perhaps visit the White House and also Congressman Jim Moran, who has been very supportive of our efforts to get visas for Francis and Monicah. Since Jeremiah and Francis are both farmers, we hope to arrange visits to the University of Maryland Experimental Farm, as well as the Botanical Gardens, the Arboretum and Amazonia at the National Zoo, as well as a look at some People's Gardens and School Gardens. We hope to also visit the garden that Michelle Obama organized at the White House.

If you are interested in helping to plan their visit, please let me ([fritz@alumni.reed.edu](mailto:fritz@alumni.reed.edu)) or Kirsten Kingdon ([kkingdon@starpower.net](mailto:kkingdon@starpower.net)) know.

**Jessica Cook**, from page 3

number of churches so many members pass on their way into the center of the city every week. Just as members and pastors in the past have come and been drawn into the life of the congregation, new members join and are inspired to be a part of a community that is attempting to live out their faith in the world around them. This faith is often lived out by simply opening the doors in a city to those who are in need, and in working together to help (see Jessica Cook page 10)

## Celebrating NYAPC Staff !

Did you know that New York Avenue has more than 24 full and part time staff? These dedicated people support the church in myriad ways, providing valuable service and support for church members and building users, on Sundays and throughout the week. Following is a brief introduction to the staff and all the wonderful work they do to help make NYAPC the vital organization that it is today.

### *Pastoral Staff*

Rev. Roger Gench, Rev. Tara Spuhler-McCabe

These leaders of the church are in some ways the most visible staff members at NYAPC. They lead worship, provide pastoral care, participate in committee meetings, provide policy leadership, and engage in activities in the Presbytery and the community at large. With almost 20 years of combined service at NYA the pastoral staff put a public face on the church, addressing the needs of members and the broader community alike.

### *Music Ministry*

Stan Engebretson, Whitney Guy McColley, Dominick Izzo, Manual Melendez, Nathan Moon, Chantel Pomerville

NYAPC has a long history of beautiful, spiritual and thought-provoking music, which is a centerpiece of Sunday worship services and at special events throughout the year. Under Stan's leadership and with support from the choral associates and volunteer choir, this musical tradition and important aspect of the church's mission continues through the organ (our current beautiful instrument was installed in 2009), piano, numerous guest musicians on different instruments, and of course through the human voice.

### *Office and Administration*

Kitty Smith, Judith McGovern, Tiffany Dougall, Nicki Gill

The office and administration staff makes it possible for the church to run efficiently and the bills to be paid on time. They work with building tenants, manage the Church's business accounts both internally and externally, prepare for worship and weeknight meetings, and support the diverse and wide ranging needs of the church's many committees and groups. They interact with a remarkably broad and diverse group of people throughout the day.

### *Building Support*

Lamont Brown, David Smoot, Larry Pittman, Mary Newman, Evelyn McMillan, Sherry Brown

These men and women are instrumental in keeping



Lamont Brown and Mary Newman

the building open, secure, and comfortable. They manage the building's sometimes cantankerous systems, keep it clean, set up and break down for all the different

groups who use the building on a given day, cook and cater, and manage the front desk. The building support staff literally keep the doors open and the lights on!

### *Nursery Day Care*

Kamane Wickremeratne, Wasanthi Ranawaka, Nishadi Kariyapperuma, Samudra P. Mendis, Kanthi Kariyapperuma, Danadaree R. Rajapakshe

The nursery staff fills the important role of tending to NYAPC's

growing group of babies and toddlers. Kamane, who has been with the church for 17 years, has recruited the whole team (who are all from Sri



Wasanthi, Nishadi and Kamane (left to right)

Lanka, her own home nation). She says, "It is a blessing to have the opportunity to take care of these young children and to see them grow in a healthy and a secure environment. It is my goal to see that their physical, intellectual, creative, and social skills are enriched from very early childhood so that they may grow to be god loving, compassionate, and exemplary members of the society."

The church would not be able to function without each of these vital positions being filled by thoughtful and dedicated staff. Please thank each of them the next time you are in the church!

## CUBA CORNER

By Marilyn J. Seiber and Sonia Wall

### Cuba Consultation 2011 includes NYAPC

The annual Cuba Consultation co-sponsored by the Latin America Working Group and the Washington Office of Latin America was held on June 16 on Capitol Hill. The Consultation addressed the issues of the new regulations and guidelines for traveling to Cuba; the human cost to Cuban and Cuban-American families of the U.S. embargo; a report on President Carter's recent trip to Cuba; and possibilities in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress for legal changes in the U.S. relationship with Cuba.

Marilyn Seiber participated on a panel on "The Mechanics of Traveling to Cuba" explaining NYAPC's legal experiences in the process of traveling to Cuba on a religious license and offering tips to license applicants who will be requesting travel under the new guidelines. Others on the panel were representatives from Marazul Travel, Transeair Travel, and the Fund for Reconciliation and Development.

The Consultation concluded with brainstorming and planning new initiatives related to travel to Cuba and lifting the embargo. LAWG and WOLA distributed their new book, *The Human Cost: Cubans and Cuban Americans talk about their lives and the U.S. embargo*. Copies are available upon request.

### NYAPC Invited to Attend 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Matanzas Seminary

On July 1, Dr. Reinerio Arce Valentin, Rector of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba (and who visited NYAPC in June 2005), invited "friends and colleagues" of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church to participate in a Theological Conference at the seminary on October 3 and 4 in commemoration of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the seminary's founding on October 1. The Conference will discuss the work of the seminary and its relationship to the mission of the Church in Cuba. The invitation invites friends and colleagues "who have accompanied us throughout all of these years in the work and service of theological education in Cuba, and to pay tribute to all whose work and dedication have supported our institution."

**Know Your Partner Church in Havana: Meet the Pastor!**

Rev. Héctor Méndez has been pastor of the First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana since 1991. During the more than 45 years since his ordination, he has worked in many ecumenical and missionary endeavors in addition to his pastoral duties. In 1990 he was among a group of Protestant leaders who attended a meeting with Fidel Castro to express their concern with the continuing discrimination they felt from the government, after which restrictions were gradually lifted, first on religious activities and later to permit churches to offer social services. Rev. Méndez has been influential in church life in Cuba and occupied many positions of importance, among them Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, head of the YMCA, and faculty member at Matanzas Seminary.

Rev. Méndez has preached two times at New York Avenue--October 1998 and May 2007. He and his wife Oneida Padilla have two daughters, Oneidita and Suecia, both of whom live in Miami.



### Music Director Sandra Santos Weds at First Havana



Sandra Santos, Music Director of First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana, was wed to Oscar D. Cañizares at an evening service on Sunday, July 3. Sandra's grandfather, Rev. Orestes Gonzalez, and Dean of the seminary in Matanzas, Rev. Francisco Marrero, officiated at the ceremony. (Rev. Hector Mendez was in the United States at the time.) Sandra's husband is also a musician. Sandra visited NYAPC with two First Havana Elders in October 2010 and conducted the NYA choir on World Communion Sunday.

### First Havana's Youth Program to Celebrate First Anniversary

First Havana's Music Director, Sandra Santos, just wrote to tell us about the first anniversary of the youth program "One More for Christ," an evangelizing program to draw in more youth/young adults to the

(See Cuba Corner page 9)



### New! 2nd Service Coffee “Over the Coffee Cups”

Many of us miss Mary Anne Davis' column giving news of the congregation, and in this summer's listening sessions, many of us mentioned wanting more chances to get to know one another. So join us this fall for a trial run at a coffee hour after the second service. We'll serve coffee and a few snacks in the Narthex beginning Sunday, Sept. 11. Invite a friend ... or someone you'd like to know better ... and have a cup and a chat after worship!

BCNU!

Cathy Schultheis  
Anne Laroche  
on behalf of the Nurture Committee

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### Deacons Mission Support (from page 5)

Partners for Kids in Care is dedicated to improving the lives of children in foster care by providing private resources to assist families served by the DC Child and Family Services Agency, and to increase awareness about child welfare issues. The program is staffed by a single full-time employee, Beatrice Williar, who runs 16 programs in the quasi-non-profit. These include Project Prom, which provides formalwear for kids to wear to the prom; an annual Teen Fashion Show; various drives for toys, food, clothes and school supplies; a mentoring program; a life-skills program so kids will be ready when they age out of foster care; and more. This is the first year NYAPC has supported this organization.

- ◆ **Damien Ministries**  
Local – Washington DC  
Adults and Teens with HIV  
Spiritual Retreats

Damien Ministries is a DC non-profit that provides support for people living with HIV/AIDS, many of whom are shunned by family or church. It was founded in 1987 by a priest who had AIDS and was asked to leave the church. The organization provides food through a food bank to 1400 people annually (DC and region), transitional housing, case management for 300 people including medical care and nutrition counseling and other types of support, and spiritual retreats. This is the first year NYAPC has supported this organization. <http://www.damienministries.org>

### Cuba Corner (from page 8)

church. Sandra organizes the Saturday evening services, all conducted by young adults. Youth and young adults are encouraged to bring a friend to the evening worship service, hence the name, “One More for Christ.” She also reports that they are going to record another CD in the next few months, and she remembers fondly, her visit with us almost a year ago.

Here is a portion of Sandra’s note:

*“At church we have been working a lot in the last weeks. I am preparing a first anniversary service of our youth ministry “One more for Christ”. This is an evangelizing service that we have every month and we prepare a service where we preach, we sing and our goal is to invite a new friend to each service, that’s why we call it “Uno mas para Cristo”. Do you remember about it? Because of this ministry we have now new youth members and we are very happy with these results.*

*An important part of this work is the music, we use piano, guitar, bass, trombone, Cuban percussion and voices, as you know I am a professional musician as my husband too. We are practicing to record a CD in the next months and we are very excited about that!”*

### Spring 2012 Trip to Cuba

NYAPC’s next visit with partner church First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana will be **March 27-April 2, 2012**. Rev. Héctor Méndez has invited us to be with First Havana on **Palm Sunday, April 1**. Already seven people have said they intend to accompany the group. Everyone is welcome! There will be an orientation meeting in the early part of the year. Cost is approximately \$1500 but could be less if direct flights to Havana are instituted by then. If you have questions, contact Marilyn Seiber, 703-893-1559 or [mjs1wan2@bellatlantic.net](mailto:mjs1wan2@bellatlantic.net).

### PC(USA) Cuba Partners Network to Meet in Chicago

The next PC(USA) Cuba Partners Network will meet in Chicago on November 16-19. Participants will stay at the Cenacle Retreat and meals are included in the low cost. Presbyterian partners from the U.S. will join with three Cuban guests, including Rev. Daniel Izquierdo, current and past Moderator who visited and preached at NYAPC in October 2008, will attend. If you wish to attend, contact Marilyn Seiber.

**Jessica Cook** (from page 6)

fulfill those needs.

As I stepped into New York Avenue this summer as a guest, I felt this cloud envelop me. I have been grateful for the thoughts and cards around the death of my father; and for the encouragement and kind words from so many of you in the congregation as I worked to get more comfortable leading worship. I am thankful that I have had the opportunity to be a part of the community at New York Avenue, if only for a while, and that so many of you have done so much to make me feel welcome. Peace to you all. --Jessica

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**Transitions****Births**

- ◆ Pierce Robert Anderson, May 4
- ◆ Henry Isaac Lochhaas, June 4
- ◆ Naomi Grace West, June 12
- ◆ William Wynn Ashworth, June 13
- ◆ Cosette Grace Gabris, granddaughter of Hal and Bonnie Davis, July 28
- ◆ Andrew Raymond Weiss, July 30
- ◆ Jackson Barnes Noellert, grandson of Marilyn Seiber, August 21

**Baptisms****Baptisms**

Noritza Ruth Gagosian (born November 5, 2010), May 8

**Marriages****Members:**

Elizabeth Haverkamp and Auden Kaehler, August 6

**Deaths**

- ◆ Father of Adlai Amor, April 30
- ◆ Adele Bauer Thompson, mother of Barbara Dornan, May 20
- ◆ Bill Wagner, Father of Kriss Wagner, before June 3
- ◆ Diane Damico, mother of Rev. Noelle Damico, May 22
- ◆ Mary T. Genuchi, former choir member, before June 3
- ◆ Dennis Foster, brother-in-law of Stephen Dewhurst, June 6
- ◆ Nell Hiemstra, mother of Hal Hiemstra, June 17
- ◆ Byron ("Biff") Cook, father of Courtney Spearman and Jessica Cook, June 22
- ◆ Frank Van Der Linden, June 23
- ◆ Brother of Douglas Porter, before July 1
- ◆ Sills Bunn, August 4
- ◆ George Crawford Miller, raised in the NYAPC, before Aug 12
- ◆ Jill Norwood's mother, before Aug 19

