

AVENEWS

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

Exterior Renovation Work Begins!

by Hal Hiemstra, Chair, Trustees

After years of planning, renovation efforts on the exterior of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church started to become highly visible in early July. While considerable behind the scenes preparation, engineering, and materials selection had taken place over the last several months, the early July erection of eight stories of scaffolding provided the exciting visual cue that nearly \$1 million in exterior renovations is now fully underway.

Exterior renovations include deep cleaning of the masonry and limestone, grinding out, replacement and sealing of failing mortar joints, masonry pointing, gilding of the finial, crosses, clock faces, and wreaths on the clock tower and steeple, replacement and updating of all exterior lighting including new lighting focused on the steeple and back lighting of the sanctuary stained glass windows, new energy efficient clear glass exterior windows, refinishing of all exterior doors and woodwork, lead paint abatement, replacement of all ground level iron railings and various other structural improvements and building refurbishments.

Work is scheduled to be completed by early October. Particular care has been given to working around weddings which were held in June and are also scheduled for August and early October.

All of this work is being financed with a \$4 million low interest line of credit secured by the Trustees from BB&T Bank, which has a lending division focused on non-profits such as the church. While the line of credit facilitates our ability to proceed now, the line of credit must be paid back, and plans are underway to publicly launch a Capital Campaign in the coming months. Though the high profile campaign is still being finalized, potential campaign contributors excited by the progress to date (and the record breaking status of the stock market) are invited to become early participants in the “silent” portion of the campaign. Please contact David and Amy Gillies, Campaign co-chairs, Cathy Schultheis, Director of Planned Giving, Rev. Roger Gench or Rev. Linda Lader if you would like to hear more about ways to become an early contributor.

Rethinking Phase II and Phase III

In an effort to discern the level of support among the congregation for these renovation efforts, Trustees held a series of Listening

Sessions last summer. Overwhelmingly, the message received was to proceed as soon as possible with the exterior and HVAC replacement – but not to stop there. To refine the congregation’s vision behind that message, last fall a Ministry and Mission (M&M) Task Force took the next step to continue the dialog and identify programmatic and interior building renovations which would support that vision. M&M Task Force recommendations that included interior building renovations were identified as a third phase of the overall renovation effort. Unfortunately, for fiscal reasons, it didn’t appear as though we would be ready to proceed with Phase III for many years.

Trustees had expected (and announced) that Phase II replacement of the entire HVAC would also proceed this summer. After many months of engineering investigations, system design, and contract negotiations, costs for a total replacement of the existing system continued to escalate to the point that Trustees determined in late June that it was time to reconsider how to proceed with Phase II and Phase III.

Working with the engineering firm that conducted the comprehensive energy audit of our church, Trustees are now investigating whether the next part of our renovation efforts can be a hybrid of portions of Phase II and Phase III. For example, is there a cost effective way that the HVAC system on just the 5th floor can be replaced now, freeing enough funding to bring forward some of the most compelling Phase III programming and interior building renovation suggestions that would otherwise be pushed out far into the future? Or, can recommended improvements to the Park Level be brought forward sooner by rethinking the phasing of some of the HVAC replacement? By slicing the next phase of our renovation project in a horizontal rather than a vertical way, some floors will still need to function with the old HVAC system for now, but we may be able to accelerate the implementation of some of the visions fleshed out by the M&M Task Force.

Building on the work already completed in the Listening Sessions and by the M&M Task Force, Trustees expect to initiate another visioning conversation with the congregation early this fall, with the goal of having the hybrid Phase II/III plan defined by the end of 2014 and construction set for 2015.



An Urban Smile

by Rev. Alice Tewell

Greetings! In my first few weeks here at New York Ave, many of you have so kindly asked me, “How’s it going?” To respond, nothing less than a huge smile has overtaken my face.

I am so happy to be called as your new Associate Pastor, to get to know you, and to experience the many opportunities for ministry in downtown DC. While I have always



had a deep attraction to urban centers (including a concentration in urban studies in college), I have never had the opportunity to minister in such a diverse, energetic, and thriving urban center as downtown DC.

In my drive into the city on 14th street, I love marveling at the new construction, the people heading to their offices, and the flocks of tourists heading down to the Mall. On days when I take the bus and metro, I take the opportunity to people watch – people from all areas of life heading in to make their place in this busy metropolis. I use my time outside of the church to take in the urban scene and just to observe.

But it is the feeling of entering the church in the main reception area that is truly amazing. It is a feeling of welcome and respect that you, the members and friends of NYAPC, have built up, sustained, and grown.

Compared to a world out there where it feels as though someone is always on his or her way, headed for somewhere other than the place at the present, when I spend time in that reception area, it feels as though we have arrived.

For a moment, everyone enters through the same door, drinks from the same water jug put out as a measure of hospitality against the brutal summer heat, and can sit for a moment on those first pews enjoying the cool of the air conditioning.

There are different destinations within the building: a worship service, a church meeting, the McClendon Center, a call on a social worker, an application for the Benevolence Fund, an impromptu Lincoln tour, AA, or some spe-

cial rental use. I’m sure there are more.

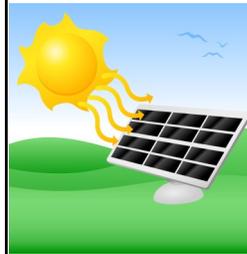
I want to commend you on the vitality of NYAPC. Your church is active. Your church is ministering to and among the many.

Thank you for accepting me and taking me into your church for what should be a blessed and exciting ministry. It is a wonderful place for a new spiritual home.

Blessings, Alice Tewell

P.S. Please email me, call, or text me! I would love to meet up in or around the church, in your home or wherever is best for you. I want to get to know you.

Will Solar Be In NYAPC Energy Future?



In May, the Cooperative Purchasing Alliance and the Community Power Network came together to create the Community Purchasing Alliance to issue a request for proposals on behalf of a group of 17 congregations and nonprofits interested in a group solar procurement.

NYAPC has joined this Alliance. NYAPC’s earlier energy audit had considered solar installation, but determined that we could not install it in a cost effective manner.

Now, as part of the Community Purchasing Alliance, the situation may be changing.

The Alliance has selected a winning bidder who is now surveying solar opportunities with each of the Alliance partners. NYAPC’s roof has been surveyed and Trustees are awaiting a proposal that would result in the placement (at the expense of the installer) of solar panels on a portion of NYAPC’s roof.

To take advantage of the zero cost installation, NYAPC would need to sign a contract to keep the panels in place and purchase the electricity produced by the panels for the duration of the contract period. The installer (who will receive significant federal and DC energy tax benefits) will assume all responsibility for maintaining and repairing the system. While the number of panels that could be installed on the roof is expected to produce less than ten percent of NYAPC’s electricity needs, Trustees are enthusiastically pursuing the opportunity as a reflection of our Congregation’s commitment to renewable energy sources and environmental stewardship.

Dear Members and Friends of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church,

The prophet Isaiah says: "See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me" (49:16). Truly that is how I feel as I prepare to depart from my position as Associate Pastor at NYAPC! There are dozens of memories and moments from my ministry at the church that are inscribed on my palms and that I will carry with me for a long time to come: making s'mores at the bonfire at the All Church Retreat, hiking Lookout Mountain at Montreat with the Confirmation Class, herding runaway sheep at the Christmas Pageants, exploring the roof and clock tower with excited children, listening to the prophetic witness of James Cone, John Lewis, and Taylor Branch, extending hospitality to tourists and visitors on Inauguration Day 2013, baptizing my first baby and breaking that first loaf, keeping watch at the bedside of those recovering from sickness and surgery, and praying with you in moments of unspeakable loss and overwhelming gratitude.



Katie with the new stole that was presented to her at her farewell service, together with Astrid Bringham. The stole was designed by Ann Harwell.

Alice Rose Tewell I pray that you will continue to sense that movement and find life abundant in this new chapter of leadership at the church. It has been a privilege to lead you through this period of transition. You all have engaged in much refining and reforming, especially in Christian Education. I have also been impressed with your willingness to dream, scheme, risk, and experiment in ministry over the last two years! I encourage you to keep on dreaming with Pastor Alice. With access to so many wonderful resources for adult education, dozens of children with energy and eagerness in attendance, a half dozen newly confirmed youth ready to serve, and a strong core of adult volunteers, the church is ripe for many new possibilities in Christian Education, Mission, Evangelism, Worship, and Social Justice! As I shared with the Session,

Truly you all have made an imprint on my spirit and are inscribed on my palms. I am leaving New York Avenue a different person and a better pastor. Thank you for being a part of the beginning of my ordained ministry and for being willing to share your lives and your faith stories with me. It has been a privilege to literally stand in the midst of this community of faith every Sunday and to lift our prayers to God together.

You may not realize this, but New York Avenue is also a great place to be a pastor's spouse, or so Sean tells me! Truly you all have welcomed him, and he has found friendship, faith, and joy at the church. Thank you for that unexpected gift to him and our family.

I hope during this interim period you have sensed, as I have, the Holy Spirit moving in and among you. As you prepare to welcome Rev.

AVENEWS

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

the possibilities only become richer and deeper as the various ministries and leaders of the church collaborate together.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Roger and Linda. They have been extraordinary colleagues! I am grateful to have been in ministry with them for they have truly lifted up the broken hearted, stood with the oppressed, and acted in love. It is remarkable to reflect on how God brought our unique gifts together in service to the church for this particular time. I also want to thank the church's custodial and administrative staff. They are the backbone of New York Avenue and I commend them for the ways they serve, most often behind the scenes. I have found true joy and fellowship with all of these colleagues.

Friends, I pray every Sunday in worship with the children, "Dear God, thank you for this day," and I now pray this prayer of gratitude as I leave NYAPC. Truly I do thank God for this day, this season, these last two years of ministry with The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. I pray each of you will experience this same gratitude, blessing, and joy in the journey ahead.

Grace & Peace, Katie

Montreat Conference Center
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DEACONS' CORNER:

Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition

by Kathy Doan (intro by Deacons)

The Deacons coordinate the outreach, social education and action ministries of NYAPC. Work includes outreach to the homeless, recovering alcoholics and drug abusers, tutorial programs for the city's youth, socialization for people with serious mental illness, outreach to people who are elderly, international missions, urban housing, and other cooperative inner-city missions with the Downtown Cluster of Congregations and Washington Interfaith Network. The Deacons also have responsibility for leading ushering at worship services.

Over this next year, we want to highlight in AveNews the organizations our church is supporting financially. Each spring, the Board of Deacons reviews requests for funding from about 15-20 organizations (city-wide and farther afield) and prayerfully deliberates on how best to support them. In 2014, we are supporting 12 organizations that are doing great work in the world!

One of the organizations funded by the Board of Deacons is the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition whose Executive Director, Kathy Doan, is a member of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. CAIR Coalition is the only non-profit organization in the Washington, DC area with a legal services program dedicated exclusively to assisting detained immigrants. CAIR Coalition serves both adults and children. The funding from the Board of Deacons is specifically for the support of CAIR Coalition's Detained Children's Program.

The Detained Children's Program serves unaccompanied immigrant children who have been detained at the border and transferred to the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement for placement in juvenile facilities across the United States, including those located in Maryland and Virginia. The program provides critically important legal services to unaccompanied immigrant children, including "Know Your Rights" presentations, individual consultations, direct representation, securing *pro bono* legal counsel, and assistance with post-release needs.

In the first six months of 2014, CAIR Coalition has provided direct assistance to over 500 children, more than double the number we served in the same period last year. By year's end we anticipate that we will have served more than 1000 children.

In response to the humanitarian crisis at the border, precipitated by an unprecedented number of children fleeing violence in Central America, CAIR Coalition's Detained Children's Program is poised to expand once again as more children from the border are relocated to facilities in Virginia and Maryland. CAIR Coalition currently works with immigrant children in five juvenile facilities in these two states, and this number is set to grow to 11 by the end of the year. CAIR Coalition also expects to start serving children as young as six years of age who have arrived in this country without a parent or adult caregiver.

According to government estimates, the number of unaccompanied immigrant children expected to arrive at the border by the end of the fiscal year will exceed 70,000. Many of these children, the majority of whom are from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, are being driven to find safety in the United States by escalating violence and unimaginable brutality on the part of gangs and drug cartels. According to a recent report by the United Nations Commission for Refugees, 58 percent of the 400 children the agency interviewed "had suffered, been threatened or feared serious harm" and merited international protection.

All children who arrive in the US without the appropriate visa are put into deportation proceedings and must appear in immigration court where they have no right to an attorney. There are no US laws that specifically prohibit unaccompanied minors from being sent back to their home countries. While unaccompanied immigrant children are potentially eligible for a variety of relief from deportation including asylum and special immigrant juvenile status (SIJS) for children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected, without legal counsel many of these children will end up with a deportation order instead.

This is why CAIR Coalition's Detained Children's program is so important. Without CAIR Coalition, the children being held in juvenile facilities in Virginia and Maryland would have no access to legal assistance. No one should have to appear in immigration court alone, much less a vulnerable child. Thanks to the support received from New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and our other funders, no child who is detained in Virginia or Maryland will stand before the immigration judge alone. CAIR Coalition will be at their side, defending their rights.

For more information about CAIR Coalition visit our website at: www.caircoalition.org. If you are an attorney and are interested in providing pro bono representation to a detained child, please visit our pro bono opportunities page at <http://www.caircoalition.org/how-to-help/pro-bono-opportunities/>



The Radcliffe Room has placed donation boxes in the lobbies of the Hilton Garden Inn, the Grand Hyatt and the Renaissance hotels in downtown D.C. so that their guests can donate Metro fare cards on their way out of town. We combine the cards into usable sums and give them to Radcliffe Room guests who need them to get to job interviews, new jobs and important appointments with probation officers, doctors etc. This program has been wildly successful, and we are seeking the congregation's help to expand to more hotels. If you'd like to help our friends break the cycle of poverty, it could be as easy as dropping by a hotel near your home or office a couple of times a week to collect the cards. If interested, please email theradcliffroom@gmail.com or see Doug Norwood or Elie Robins.

Diaconal Ministers: Who We Are and What We Do

You may have seen a group scurrying around after the Sunday service, whisking away the flower arrangements or straightening up after Communion. These are Diaconal Ministers - a group of 21, all ages, all genders!

Our roles are varied, but especially focused on those in our congregation who are unable to get to church anymore or just need a little attention every now and then. We reach out to this group with birthday cards, holiday cards and "keep in touch" cards and/or visits.

Every Sunday, the flowers in the Sanctuary are divided into six arrangements and shared with those in the congregation we choose to remember, whether it is their birthday week, a recent death in their family, birth of a baby, the anniversary of the death of a loved one, or just recognition of a happy event. Most often we deliver these arrangements to the recipients and stay for a short visit.

Once a month we are responsible for setting up for Communion, preparing the elements and setting the Communion table. (Session members serve Communion.)

We are also "on duty" to host receptions following memorial services at the church. Usually we provide coffee and cookies (homemade by our members) and, if the family wishes, the church kitchen (for a fee) will provide sandwiches, punch and coffee for large gatherings. We act as hosts/hostesses and servers as well as doing set-up and clean-up.

As with all Boards, there are committees that we rotate. To keep our Board connected to the many things going on in the life of our church, many Diaconal Ministers also serve on one of NYACP's church committees.

As you can tell, we are an active, busy group, but when we spread out these duties among the 21 members, it is easy to handle.

If you are interested in joining us to care for our congregation, we'd love to have you! Long-time members and new members of any age or gender are welcome. We look for new Board members each year and ask for a two-year commitment. Please contact us if you have any questions or are interested in joining us in January 2015.

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Rev. Dr. Uxmal Livio Diaz Rodriguez Visits NYACP by Marilyn Seiber

On Sunday, July 13, 2014, Rev. Livio Diaz visited NYACP. Rev. Diaz has been the translator *par excellence* for Rev. Roger Gench when he has preached at partner church First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana. Rev. Gench introduced Rev. Diaz at the worship service and presented him with a copy of NYACP's *Capital Witness*.



Rev. Diaz is an ordained Baptist minister who worships at First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana where he is a frequent guest preacher. He speaks fluent English and serves as a translator for groups visiting the Presbyteri-

an churches in Cuba. He received a law degree from the University of Havana and is also a practicing lawyer and founder of the Cuban Christian Lawyers Group. He recently earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Havana. It was the first successful defense of a religious dissertation in 50 years. He was born and raised in Guantanamo, Cuba outside the U.S. Guantanamo base where he played basketball with Marines, learned English, and received a scholarship to go to seminary.

Rev. Diaz is visiting Washington, D.C. at the invitation of Ravensworth Baptist Church that has a partnership with Rev. Diaz through his work with the Christian Women's Network. His wife, Midiam, is the general coordinator of the organization whose primary goal is to provide a prophetic voice for gender equity and justice in Cuban churches and communities.



Fritz and Ruth von Fleckenstein and Marsha Renwanz with the More Light Presbyterians at the Capital Pride Parade.

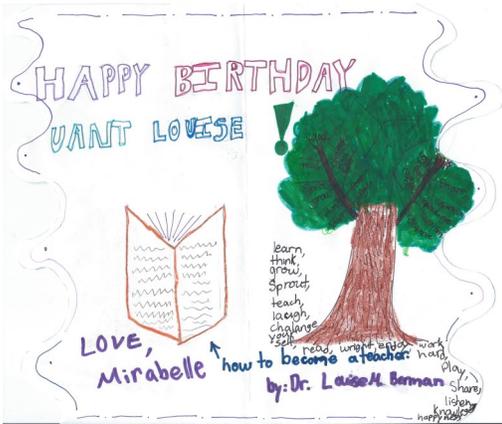
History Happens. . . at NYAPC

Louise M. Berman

by Edith Snyder

(As part of the NYAPC History Committee's "Bicentennial Interviews Project," Marilyn Seiber and Edith Snyder interview longtime NYAPC members for the archives files. Edie interviewed Louise M. Berman on July 13, 2014, for this project and for the article below.)

Louise Berman celebrated her 86th birthday this July. She received many expressions of congratulation on this milestone occasion. Of all of them, though, a handwritten and colored card from her 9-year-old great-niece, Mirabelle, perhaps means the most. The card wishing her Aunt Louise a happy birthday shows a book and a tree. The book is titled "how to become a teacher," and the tree's branches are labeled "learn, think, grow, sprout, teach, laugh, challenge yourself, read, wright, enjoy, work hard, play, share, listen, knowledge, happiness." In her gift to Louise, Mirabelle captures not only her aunt's life's work, but also her essence and the faith she has so clearly lived: the integration of heart and mind and that integration's critical importance to life-long learning and the leading of an ethical, purpose-driven life.



For Louise, a career spent teaching and writing about training educators, curriculum development, and research in education has constituted "a call," and the church and spiritual reflection have been the source of much of her thinking about

how best to apply theory to help people learn and create meaning throughout their lives. The Church—and for nearly 50 years The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYAPC)—"has really overlapped and informed my interests and ideas," says Louise.

The Call to Teach

Born in 1928 just ahead of the turbulent years of the Great Depression and World War II, Louise grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut and enjoyed summers in the "freeing" atmosphere of Ocean Grove, New Jersey. The oldest of four children, she was taught by her father, Jack, a lawyer, and her mother, Anne, who had been her father's secretary before having their family, how to manage in a world of want, "to learn through difficulty and to be vulnerable."

The Bermans were friends with the president of Wheaton College in Illinois who often visited the family. "We all thought we would

attend Wheaton one day," recalls Louise, and she did, graduating with a BA degree in English literature.

"On graduation day, the dean of the college asked me what I wanted to do," Louise remembers. "I replied that I didn't know. He urged me to go to graduate school because I 'liked people and loved to learn.'" A philosophy course at Wheaton had introduced Louise to John Dewey, the American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer, who worked and taught at Teachers College, Columbia University, which she decided she wanted to attend. However, "I knew there was little money and my two brothers and sister were coming along behind me."



Louise began work as a camp counselor during summers, and then became a half-time kindergarten teacher at a private school in New Jersey. "I told the school I didn't have the education to be a teacher, but that I was the eldest child in my family and had three siblings. That was sufficient." She received \$1,000 for the year and lived with her aunt and uncle in suburban New Jersey.

On her first day, Louise was greeted by crying children, frightened to leave home for school, and some equally frightened parents reluctant to let them go. "The curriculum from which I was to teach on that first day had the children do things like draw horizontal and vertical lines. It made no sense to me. Instead, I sat down at the piano and began to play. The children gathered around me, looking at me with obvious questions in their eyes: 'Who are you...and what will you do to me?'" Their questioning gaze made a lasting impression on Louise.

Louise worked her way through that first year, teaching a wide range of children from the very bright to a youngster with an IQ measured at 40. At the end of the year, the school asked her to be the principal. "This initial experience confirmed the profession for me." In the meantime, Louise had been admitted to the Teachers College at Columbia and finished half of her master's degree.

She turned down the position of principal, electing instead to return to Connecticut and a public school in East Hartford with a diverse student population and then a laboratory school in New Britain that was affiliated with one of the teachers colleges in the Connecticut college system. In these posts, she gathered preliminary ideas about individualized instruction. She attended Columbia during the summers. Her career took off.

Louise was invited to chair the curriculum committee of the New Britain teachers college and its three laboratory schools. The committee consisted of about 50 people, many of whom were professors. "I frequently found I did not know what I was doing," comments Louise, "and I turned, again and again, to Columbia." She was referred to Alice Miel, an American educator and professor at the Teachers College, who took Louise on as a student and made her a co-teacher, helping her earn her doctorate in curriculum and teaching.

By the time she retired 22 years ago, Louise was professor emerita, College of Education at the University of Maryland in College Park. She also had served the university as director of the Center for Young Children, a research facility, and as acting department chair and associate dean of the College of Education. In these roles, she advised doctoral students in positions of educational leadership.

Concurrent with her long tenure at Maryland, Louise worked with Antioch College's Washington Internship Program, the University of Puerto Rico, the University of British Columbia, the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, and at an educational institution in newly independent Lithuania where she helped establish democratic schools. Prior to Maryland, Louise served as associate secretary responsible for program for the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) based in Washington, DC, and she helped found the World Council for Curriculum Instruction.

The Call to Write

Her first academic role, however, was as assistant and associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. During this period, Louise helped plan a program for returning Peace Corps volunteers wanting to teach, and she spent some six months living and working in northeast Brazil, "where teachers with no more than a second-grade education themselves earned about \$1 a month." It was also at Wisconsin that Louise, who has always kept a journal, began to write professionally about her emerging theories of education. "I call myself a teacher, but my teaching was always informed by my students and what I was concurrently writing."

Over the years, Louise has authored or co-authored research projects, journal articles, and books with such titles as *Personalized Supervision—Sources & Insights* (1966; with Mary Lou Utery), *The Humanities and the Curriculum* (1967), *Curriculum: Teaching the What, How, and Why of Living* (1977; with Jessie A. Roderick), *Educating for World Cooperation* (1983; with Alice Miel), and *Toward Curriculum for Being: Voices of Educators* (1991; with Francine H. Hultgren, Diane Lee, Mary S. Rivkin, and Jessie A. Roderick). Her "bestselling book," however, is *New Priorities in the Curriculum*, which Louise began when she was teaching in Wisconsin.

Published in 1968 and dedicated to her parents, *New Priorities* continues to express the core of Louise's beliefs about education. Casting the ideas within a framework of what teachers and their

leaders might know and do, she addressed interconnecting priorities in a classroom setting:

Perceiving—the stimulus for acting;

Communicating—sharing personal meaning—is more important than facts we don't care about;

Loving—and its essential component of co-response if it is to be real;

Knowing—understanding the metamorphosis of ideas;

Decision making—focusing from an early age on our choices, why we make them, and how they went;

Patterning—organizing to make sense of human experience;

Creating—reaching for the new, the unprecedented; and

Valuing—essential to becoming an ethical person.

Church Life

Louise grew up in churches "of a conservative, fundamentalist nature." However, her questioning mind led her to the newly forming Westminster Church in West Hartford and later to the Immanuel Presbyterian Church when she lived and worked in Milwaukee and where she served as a deacon. When she moved to Washington to work for ASCD, "I roamed around looking for a church" and was attracted to New York Avenue by Rev. George Docherty's preaching and the church's robust music program.

Joining NYAPC in 1967, Louise almost immediately became involved in the canvass of the neighborhood around the church that took place at that time under the direction of Thelma Odom, a mission worker on the church staff from 1961 to 1971, and NYAPC Associate Pastor Rev. Jack McClendon.

Louise then served as an elder on the NYAPC Session for several terms between 1977 and 2009. She has participated in several pastor nominating committees, including the PNC that called Rev. Rob Craig to the church. Rev. Craig emphasized the training of seminarians, and Louise worked with him on this initiative, mentoring several seminarians, including Rev. Tara Spuhler-McCabe. Simultaneously, she served on the boards of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School in Washington, DC.

Louise has also routinely been involved in the church's Christian Education program. She recently retired from the board of NYAPC's McClendon Scholar-in-Residence (MSIR) program in an effort to make way for a younger person.

A faithful participant in Rev. Roger Gench's thoughtful Thursday morning meditation/book group, Louise enjoys "the free flowing discussions we have there." She desires more opportunities to get to know people in the church across generations and suggests that the leadership and staff try bringing people together around professions as one way to explore and develop connections within the congregation.

Throughout her time at NYAPC, the church has influenced Louise's professional work and writing. She highlights her contributions to *Being Called to Care*, a book of dissertations by

(continued from page 7)

nurse educators published in 1994. Louise wrote the opening chapter titled "What Does It Mean to Be Called to Care?" in which she refers to Biblical scripture and quotes Jesus in highlighting the themes of vulnerability, authenticity, and structure necessary to the call to become a nurse. These themes are the themes of Christ, of the church, and of Louise's faith.

"What are we called to be and do?" Louise asks, and answers, "We are called to live in gratitude. We are called to live with this question: Who is this God who is both present and mystery? We are called: To be vulnerable—that core of all emotions that involves uncertainty, risk, and exposure. To acknowledge our woundedness. To see new possibilities. To act with compassion and creativity. And to use language to create a more just and merciful world."

Fearless Generosity

by Catherine Schultheis, Director, Planned Giving & Special Gifts

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:29-21, NSRV

God's gift of imagination is a wondrous thing. We have been blessed in countless ways because of the creativity of the human mind and energy of the human spirit. Sometimes, however, our imagination can just as easily evoke fears that impede our spiritual growth as Christians. Throughout the Bible we find examples of fearlessness in living the Christian life, grounded in God's abundant grace, majestic power and overflowing love that is so wide, so long, so deep and so high that it surpasses our comprehension.

When I experience worship and fellowship elsewhere, there is a "tugging" at my heart that turns my thoughts to The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and my experiences here. It is my experiences at NYAPC that have increased my understanding of the many ways to give that are available to us and that provide ideas for persons from all generations to become more generous givers and faithful stewards. At NYAPC we are encouraged to learn and grow in faith *together*, to become *fearless* generous givers.

The measure of our stewardship includes how we live (our relationship to creation), how we serve (our care of those in need), how we sow (our willingness to respond to God's call), and how we give (how we manage the blessings that God has given us). The power of God is within us and is our resource to dispel our fears and "accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine", knowing that the reason for all that we do is to honor and glorify God.

Exciting things are happening at NYA--do not be afraid to stretch and reach out to each other for it is our gift to be able to provide for future generations by being fearless in our generosity.

Triangle Park Committee Meets with National Park Service

by Marilyn Seiber

On May 12, 2014, Triangle Park Committee members Barry Tindall and Marilyn Seiber met with two National Park Service representatives responsible for upkeep and maintenance of the small national park, Reservation 172, in front of the church. NPS Supervisor for Grounds Maintenance, Martha Ellis, and Maintenance Worker Supervisor for National Mall and Memorial Parks, Thomas Harvey, were briefed by Barry and Marilyn on continuing challenges concerning the park. Both Ellis and Harvey were receptive to our concerns and encouraging about taking steps to address these issues.

Focusing on the rodent problem, Ellis agreed that NPS could not separate the NYAPC plant beds from the park in terms of rodent control. She will contact the NPS rodent control person and ask that they treat the area with the rodent poison used by the NPS. NPS concurred that the park should be used by the public in general and this requires keeping up on bench repair and power washing (which includes black iron fencing), as well as frequent trash pick-up beyond the daily removal as needed. NPS examined the trees and shrubbery in general and agreed that trees and bushes need pruning. Ellis observed that more staff have been hired and now that the "recession budget issues" have improved, there will be more regular and frequent maintenance. This would occur beyond the requested clean-up for events such as the Easter Sunrise Service. Ellis was forthcoming and enthusiastic, and supported NYAPC efforts and commitment to work with NPS to maintain the park. We invited Harvey, who is new to his position, for a tour of NYAPC and he was enthusiastic to accept the offer when his time allows.

The Triangle Park Committee convened on May 18 to review the results of the meeting with NPS and consider next steps. Building Maintenance Engineer, Lamont Brown, joined the Committee briefly to discuss the rodent problems. He reported that past experience at another church showed that paving over areas near the church helped discourage rodents from entering the building. The Committee agreed to connect with NPS again to encourage its action to control the rodent population. The Committee agreed to further touch base with Trustees to discuss including tree and lighting improvements during the building renovations. The Committee continues to search for increased ways for the congregation and public to use the park beyond "Coffee in the Park," and hopes to bring music to the Park. NPS's Ellis suggested contacting school music programs and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts to use their talent and resources for concerts.

All-Church Retreat Coming

Fall will be here before we know it, so now is the time to put the 2014 All-Church Retreat on your calendar: Saturday, Nov. 15 - Sunday Nov. 16 at Meadowkirk in Loudon County, Va. Join us for fellowship, faithful sharing, and intergenerational fun for all ages. Questions? Contact Karen Dunlap, shakescene@aol.com or Meg House, meghouse8@gmail.com

NYAPC Sends Letter of Support to Iraq Presbyterian Churches

by Marilyn Seiber

At the initiative of NYAPC's Peace and Justice Committee, The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church sent a letter of concern and prayers to the pastors and congregations of the three remaining Presbyterian Churches in Iraq. NYA's Board of Deacons had recently donated \$1,000 to the PC(USA) Iraq Partnership Network, and also signed the letter. The churches are in Kirkuk in the north, Baghdad, and Basrah in the south. NYAPC has had a relationship with the churches in Baghdad and Basrah as a result of Elders from those churches visiting through the PC(USA) International Peacemaking Program. The Peace and Justice Committee has supported the ministries of these churches through its annual Alternative Christmas Gifts program, and has helped the Baghdad church with flood repairs. Recent reports of Islamic rebels taking over the city of Mosul in the north (where a Presbyterian church closed several years ago due to attacks) has raised concerns for the safety of other Christians in Iraqi cities. The letter from NYAPC is to let these churches know that they are not forgotten and we are praying for them.

The text of the letter is as follows:

"Your brothers and sisters at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. want you to know how distressed and concerned we are about the news of renewed fighting and the overtaking of Mosul and other cities in northern and west-central Iraq by extremist forces. We pray for the safety of you and your congregations, indeed all Christians and Iraqis who only want peace and security in their daily lives. We want to assure you that you are not forgotten, that we pray with you and for you, and we ask God to hold you in His arms and keep you in His care. May God bless you and give you courage and peace in this difficult time. Your brothers and sisters in Christ."



Marsha Renwanz with Joelle Novey, Director of Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, at the protest against the proposed Cove Point, MD, Fracked-Gas Export Facility.

NYAPC Participates in Presbytery's "Open Space" on Mission

by Marilyn Seiber



On May 20, 2014, the National Capital Presbytery meeting focused on overseas mission in its "open space" time an hour before the start of the meeting. Churches were asked to display their mission activities. NYAPC did so with three presentations on the Kenya Orphan program, the Cuba Partners program, and our relationship with the Presbyterian Churches in Baghdad and Basrah, Iraq. The Presbytery also presented a "running video" that featured several NYAers: Beth Braxton, Jim Turner, Molly Lauer, Marilyn Seiber, and Fritz von Fleckenstein. It also included photos of our mission activities. In addition, Hunter Farrell, head of PC (USA) World Missions, joined the meeting and gave a presentation.



Walking the *Camino de Santiago de Compostela* by Karen Milam

Hello church family!

First of all I want to thank you for your love and support on this wonderful journey. It meant so much to me to receive your emails of support and know that people were praying for me and my dad as we walked 775 kilometers across the beautiful country of Spain and a bit of France on El Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

There are three Christian pilgrimages: to Rome, to Jerusalem, and to Santiago, where it is rumored that the remains of St. James are buried. My dad, Dave Milam, a pastor for St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery, started his sabbatical in May as I was finishing up my master's degree. We left the day after graduation on May 26th on a flight to Madrid. We traveled for about a day to St. Jean Pied Du Port, France, to start our trek.



The first day we walked only 8 kilometers to Orrison, a famous hostel in France. There we met our first group of international friends from Ireland, Australia, Brazil, Germany, France, etc. The next day we crossed over the giant mountain, on the only day of no rain in a week. The views were amazing. We stayed in a hostel that had over 100 beds in Roncesvalles. Wine with our new friends in the afternoon and dinner with a couple from Denmark and a man from Argentina.



Navarra, where Ernest Hemingway spent so much time, is so beautiful it is almost overwhelming. A documentary says that walking El Camino is like walking through a postcard every day. And it is so true! The red poppies among the deep yellows of the fields and the contrasting greens on the mountains behind them are like Monet's paintings.

Early in the trip we had a long day of walking 40 kilometers (24 miles). We arrived in Villava extremely tired. Our fellow hostel guests told us, *Es imposible! No lo creo!* We walked a bit too far for our health, but had a lovely dinner of chicken in almond sauce, vegetables, butternut squash soup, and *arroz con leche*. Lots of sleep and we woke up the next day ready for more walking.



We attended Mass as much as possible. We received a pilgrims' blessing at the end of most services. One night we were called forward by the priest. He asked each of us where we were from and greeted everyone in their native language. Then gave us each a

blessing. He gave Dad a big hug, which of course brought me to tears - maybe because I was tired - but he then turned and gave me a big hug. It was very touching.

Week 2 brought us into the *mesita*, flat farm lands. We walked through what seemed like Kansas over the next few days, long stretches without towns, water or food. This is the Camino of the mind (*del mente*) where people have nothing else to distract them other than their own thoughts and ponderings. It is often considered boring, but I fell in love with the waving fields of grain and bright blue skies with scattered clouds.

Dad and I followed, under Roger's guidance, the St. Ignatius meditations. We would read the Bible passages every day and discuss them or meditate on them as much as we could, given how tired we were. It was wonderful to have a theme to the day like, Wonder of God, or Grace, and to read Bible verses that matched that theme. How awesome to have the words of Jesus' love for us greet us every day and remind us of His Awesomeness. It was truly a gift to have God's presence with us.



Out of the *mesita*, we entered mountains again, and the big city of Leon. We had a rest day in Leon where we visited the beautiful cathedral. We also went to the Museo de Leon which described northern Spain from the Roman period (when Leon was a major military base) through the present. Since two days before we had walked on the Roman Road, which Emperor Augustus walked on, it was very enlightening to read about the history of this place.

It was great fun to be in Leon. Since we met so many people on El Camino, we actually know many people there. It seems every street we walked on we would recognize someone and wave, say hello, tell some tales. Sergio from Italy joined us for dinner, we had beers with Chris and Barney from the States, said hi to our Swedish friends. Our Spanish friend, Faith, helped get some anti-itch ointment at the *farmacia*, and eventually we watched the World Cup with our American friends, Matt and Zach.

Tyler (my fiancé) and my mom came by train to Sarria (100 kilometers from Santiago where they can still receive the credential of the Camino). What a wonderful moment to see them come off the train. My heart was filled with absolute joy! We introduced them to the Camino way of life. Sleeping with 15 other people, including all their snoring; carrying everything you own on your back through the day; the magical scenery as you walk for hours through a sculptured landscape; and, for Tyler, the meats of Spain! Tyler had his plate of different Spanish meats (*chorizos*, *Jamon serrano*, etc.) and then a Galician specialty of *Churrasco* (barbequed meat). Finally, the incredible homemade *arroz con leche* to finish off a super filling meal.

We arrived in Santiago on Thursday June 26. We slept in the Galician government-run *alberque* the night before, getting up at 5:25 am so we could reach Santiago in time. We had about 20 kilometers to walk to the city center. There were hordes of people walking into the city, most of them Spanish! It is great that the Spanish are so supportive of the Camino, I think partly because they themselves have done some portion of the walk. Dad and Tyler passed a group of about 20 Spanish high school students who started to sing, "Born in the USA!" and said, "The boss! The boss!"

We came to the cathedral for the pilgrim mass at noon. We had mass with hundreds of people. The atmosphere was super inside the church! At the end of service they swung the *botafumeiro* (giant censer); it was awesome! We ran to the back as they finished the service so that we could get in line to hug the Saint James statue in the altar.



In the cathedral we saw Martina and Tiago, two of our American/Brazilian friends. It was so joyful to see more and more of

our friends throughout the day. Before we left the cathedral we stopped at the front with the imprint of the hand of millions of pilgrims. Now you cannot put your hand on it. We left to get some food and saw our Australian friend, Steven, and our Spanish friend, Contidad. While standing in line for our Compostela we ran into Sergio, from Italy, and Ans and Jan, our good friends from Holland (who walked from their home almost 100 days). Our two other American friends, Chris and Miriam, came to see us in line and others we had met along The Way. We waited an hour and a half to get our Compostela plus Dad and I each bought one that marks our distance walked - 775 kilometers (465 miles).

I loved life on the Camino. It was truly amazing. With the simple act of walking all day, meeting people along the way (always with a positive greeting of *Buen Camino!*), not knowing where you will sleep, accepting the kindness and grace of *hospitaleros* (hostel workers), eating dinner at a big table with people from all over the world - what a life! Thanks for letting me share this wonderful experience with you!

Presbytery's Cuba Network Gives T-Shirts to First Havana

by Marilyn Seiber

The newly-formed National Capital Presbytery Cuba Partners Network received the first Global Mission Network grant, \$1,000, to provide 163 baseball and tai chi t-shirts to the First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana. During NYAPC's visit to First Havana in February this year, in which Leesburg Presbyterian participated, Rev. Héctor Méndez mentioned that t-shirts were now very difficult to purchase in Cuba, and the church needed more t-shirts for the four baseball teams and for



the growing number of tai chi participants in church classes. NYAPC had previously provided baseball t-shirts in 2010.

This project is the first joint effort of the

Presbytery's Cuba Network that was organized by NYAPC under the auspices of NCP's Global Mission Network. Member churches of the Cuba Network include NYAPC, Church of the Pilgrims PC, Leesburg PC, Vienna PC, NCP Presbyterian Women, and two members of Christ Presbyterian Church (Fairfax).

Two boxes of t-shirts were shipped to Winnetka Presbyterian Church near Chicago, whose 21-member delegation going to First Havana on July 25, 2014 will deliver the shirts for us. Winnetka PC is part of the PCUSA Cuba Partners Network. How wonderful to have Networks!!

TRANSITIONS

Marriages:

Nneka Obiako and Diepriye Lawson, June 7
Jessica Phillips and Stephen Wanczyk, June 7
Sara Haynes and David Warren, June 28

Births:

Ryan Samuel McFerran, June 10
Nethumi Kariyapperuma, June 11
Lila Frances Ashworth, July 1
William Blair Stanek, July 16

Baptisms

William Rice Campbell, March 23
Charlotte Drake Olson, May 11
Harley Ann Fulton, July 13

Deaths:

David Huff, April 30
Gladys Rigsby, May 12
Reuben Cook, May 12
Jane Ekonen, May 21
Mary Prothro, June 16
Marjorie Spencer Bartlett, June 23

Sing Praises!

Thinking of joining the choir? Choir starts up again with rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 4, at 7:15 p.m., and singing in worship on Sunday, Sept. 7. Plans for the coming year include a range of repertoire from gospel to classical to world music plus the possibility of working with other area choirs on a major work.

Love to sing, but can't make Thursday rehearsals? Watch for announcements for Festival Choir Sundays – when you can come for the 10:15 rehearsal to sing some fun and easy-to-learn music at 11 a.m. worship.

As always, if you have any questions, please let Director Stan Engebretson know, contact Meg House at meghouse8@gmail.com, or ask any member of the choir.



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