

# AVENEWS

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

## WIN Helps NYAPC Buy Electricity with Eleven Other Institutions to Save Money and Build a Healthier DC Community

by Felipe Witchger and Fritz von Fleckenstein

In early 2011, Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) and The DC Project organized eleven faith-based institutions and one non-profit youth organization to buy electricity together. Individually, the institutions would have spent more than half a million dollars on the upcoming year's electricity. However, by buying together they were able to lock in a rate that will save the 12 institutions \$97,000 over the course of the upcoming year.

The project began when Martin Trimble (from WIN) became aware of the high costs of energy bills for member faith institutions and connected the group with Felipe Witchger (from The DC Project) and Jill Barker (from Betts & Holt, LLP) who had expertise in energy. After six weeks of research, collecting electricity bills, and conference calls discussing the opportunity, the group issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to various alternative electricity suppliers.

In response to the RFP, six suppliers competitively bid for the opportunity to supply the 12 institutions electricity. The winning supplier offered all the churches meaningful savings in their electricity bills and in addition to the savings gave Washington Interfaith Network a \$9,500 donation to support organizing.

### Cleaner Energy

With the help of The DC Project, the large majority of the participating institutions, including NYAPC, also chose to invest in renewable energy by paying a slightly higher rate for their electricity. Because these institutions were part of the group purchase, they were nonetheless able to save money on their electricity bills despite opting for renewable energy. Collectively, the group created more than a megawatt (roughly equivalent to 800 homes) of demand for wind-powered electricity. By creating this clean energy demand, the group is decreasing the need for asthma-inducing fossil fuel power

plants and helping to create a healthier DC community.

### NYAPC Savings

NYAPC's current 100% Wind Power contract runs through September, so our new 100% Wind Power contract is from October through April, to keep us synchronized with the rest of the institutions. The savings, compared to our current contract in the current budget year is \$5,582. For the length of the contract, savings are \$10,937, while for a complete year they would be \$23,680.

Since energy prices have fallen since we signed our original 3-year contract in 2008, some savings would have been achieved no matter what we did, but our new rate of 8.452 cents per KWH still compares favorably to Pepco's 2011 rate of 9.6 cents per KWH (with no Wind Power credits). All of these prices are for

generation and transmission. Pepco still handles local distribution as with all contracts, and continues to charge for this service.

WIN intends to organize another group purchase of electricity in early 2012, which will include more institutions and provide even more savings. NYAPC is also participating in conversations with other institutions about ways in which we all can cooperate in other sorts of purchasing. Greater Washington Light and Power, to which NYAPC belongs, is also participating in these discussions and helping to keep us focused on the environmental impact of what we do.

For more information, write to:

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## NYAPC Joins in Anacostia Cleanup Day

by Karen Milam

The mission of the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) is to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities by cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage. With 17 members, NYAPC was able to join AWS in their mission by attending the Anacostia Watershed River Earth Day Clean-up on Saturday, April 9. Everyone was very happy to participate, and some of the young adults even discussed NYAPC's participation in similar events once every few months.

The weather was cloudy and cold, but everyone came fully prepared in their cold-weather attire. Fritz von Fleckenstein held down the fort at the NYAPC Peace and Justice sign,

making sure to greet members and serve as our resident photographer. Some NYAPC members stayed near the entrance of Bladensburg Waterfront Park to pick up trash, and many of us were taken downriver to a marshy area on a pontoon

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## From the Pastor ...

### **Building Our Beloved Community** **A Summer Listening Campaign**

by Rev. Roger J. Gench

The Session of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church has agreed that it is a good idea to check the pulse of the congregation. To this end, several of us have been engaged in "relational meetings" with congregants over the past year. We've learned a lot from these conversations.

Now we want to widen the scope of these meetings by engaging a "listening campaign" in the summer months. Beginning on June 19, and continuing on June 26, July 10, 17, and 24, we will hold small group sessions for 45 minutes each after the 10 am services.

#### Five Key Questions

During each successive session, we will seek answers to five key questions: What is church for you and why?; What is your deep desire for The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church?; What are you concerned about in the life of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church?; What is your deep desire for the larger community around us?; What are your concerns for the larger community around us? There will be a facilitator and note-taker for each group, and we hope and trust that the ideas, concerns, desires that are expressed in these discussions will inform us about the future of the church.

I also plan to preach on these questions, and I hope to use some of what we learn in the group meetings in my sermons.

We promise to conclude each of these five sessions by 12 noon, so you will be free to go to lunch with family or friends. Please plan to come and participate in what I believe will be an important series of conversations about our beloved community.

#### Summer Listening Sessions

Please join us after the 10 am summer services to gather in small groups to discuss our responses to the following questions.

**June 19:** What is church for you and why?

**June 26:** What is your deep desire for The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church?

**July 10:** What are you concerned about in the life of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church?

**July 17:** What is your deep desire for the larger community around us?

**July 24:** What are your concerns for the larger community around us?

## NYAPC Pictorial Directory to go Online

by Carrie Schenkel

We're working with Lifetouch Photography to develop an online membership directory that will be accessible through the new NYAPC website.

An online directory will help members get to know each other better and provide another way for members to interact outside of the church on Sunday mornings. Members will be able to share information about themselves, their membership on church boards and committees and their lives outside the church.

Because we know that information security is important, the online directory will be password-protected and accessible only to members. As always, it is possible to opt-out, either from the print or the online directory.

Once an online provider is chosen, we will provide more extensive information on how to participate or how to opt out if you choose not to. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Carrie Schenkel, [carrie.schenkel@gmail.com](mailto:carrie.schenkel@gmail.com).

## Third Annual Ice Cream Social

by Molly Wagner

The choir will sponsor the Third Annual Ice Cream Social on June 5 at 11:00 am, in the Radcliffe Room.

As in past years, the choir will provide sandwiches and all necessary ingredients for you to build your personal ice cream confection, along with entertainment.

The theme this year will be "love." But listen carefully - all love songs are not what they seem!



Art provided by preschool Sunday School Class.

There will also be a silent auction to benefit the choir fund.

Like all great expressions of love and hospitality, ice cream, light lunch and entertainment are complimentary. Join us!

#### What We're Reading

At the last Session meeting, Roger suggested we share what we're reading right now. Here's what some small groups and others are reading. If you have a great book you want to share, let the *AveNews* editors know!

*Stumbling on Happiness*, by Daniel Gilbert

*Amazing Grace*, by Kathleen Norris

*Back to the Well*, by Frances Taylor Gench

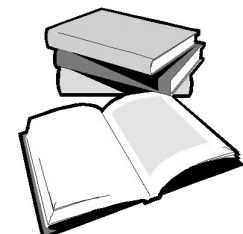
*The Hunger Games* trilogy, by Suzanne Collins

*Lying Awake*, by Mark Salzman

*Girl in Translation*, by Jean Kwok

*Callings*, by Gregg Levoy

There are many small groups and bible studies in the church. If you want to join one or form one, please contact Pastor Tara Spuhler McCabe.



## Herz 1986 Harpsichord Comes to NYAPC

by Marilyn J. Seiber

A beautifully rebuilt Herz 1986 harpsichord has arrived at NYAPC to replace the ailing and unplayable harpsichord of years' past. Music Director Dr. Stan Engebretson located the harpsichord at Hubbard Harpsichords in Boston with the assistance of Doug Major, former organist at the National Cathedral and now of Marblehead, Mass.

This 18th Century-style double-manual harpsichord was built in Cambridge in 1986 by Eric Herz, one of three renowned harpsichord makers (Dowd and Hubbard being the other two) during the 'golden age' of harpsichord builders. According to Dr. Engebretson, this harpsichord is similar to the one personally owned by Bill Neil, organist at National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., so the quality and style of this instrument was well known to him.

The instrument has been fully restored inside, and according to Hubbard Harpsichords, "Eric Herz spared no pains with the décor of this instrument—fine touches abound." It is veneered in the typical 18th-Century English panel inlay (maple-ebony-satinwood) with a cross-banding scheme of mahogany. The keywell is veneered with mahogany panels, inlay of holly-ebony, and rosewood cross-banding. The harpsichord sits on a mahogany stand "whose legs are discreetly ornamented with garters and boots." The instrument is finished in a clear lacquer rubbed to a reduced gloss. Hubbard Harpsichords reports that "acoustically, the instrument dates from Eric's most mature and thoughtful period ... and is expected to perform well in any venue."

After our "new" harpsichord takes a month or so to settle in and become acclimated to the NYAPC sanctuary, we can begin hearing the beautiful music of this instrument and enjoy its sounds into the future.



Dr. Stan Engebretson with NYAPC's new-to-us harpsichord, which arrived in the sanctuary this spring.

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The Newsletter of  
The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

## Transitions

### Births

Xavier Mateo McKee-Wieseler, April 5  
William Allan Tindall, April 21  
William Alexander Petty, April 28

### Baptisms

David Scott Dewhurst, March 6

### Deaths

Gloria Allender, February 13  
Susan Crosland (aunt of Susan Bainbridge), Feb 24  
Rev. Joel Dopico's father (Cuba), February 16  
Mariana Isla Alegre (Cuba), February 2011  
Margaret Christensen (aunt of Jenean McKay), March 10  
Rev. Omar Maren Turcaz (Cuba), March 20

### History Happens ... at NYAPC

## Jay Davenport Remembers....

*Jay Davenport was interviewed in April 2011 by Marilyn Seiber as part of the Bicentennial Interviews project of the NYAPC History Committee. The following is an excerpt from this interview.*

Jay Davenport came to Washington, D.C. in Fall 1954 to work for the Atomic Energy Commission and searched for a church. He found The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church but had not always been a Presbyterian.

He grew up in Iowa and was raised a Methodist, but that changed when he was stationed with the Army in Huntsville, Ala. He attended a Methodist church in Huntsville but found it “cold, stiff, formal, and very Southern.” His attendance changed when a Presbyterian minister, Rev. Henry Wade, visited the barracks and welcomed the military, inviting them to church and to join the choir. Jay tried the church and thought it was a diverse congregation with a welcoming fellowship.

### Finding NYAPC

After 18 months in Huntsville, his army group was leaving and Jay said goodbye to Rev. Wade, who told him to “shop around” for churches in D.C., including Foundry Methodist, Mount Vernon, and NYAPC. Wade told Jay he should hear Rev. George Docherty who had a fine reputation in the Reformed tradition—and attend at least once. Jay attended several times and joined in February 1955.

Jay attended Adult Christian Education classes and said there was a strong, active Young Adults Group. Rev. Jack McClendon came to NYAPC soon after Jay and revitalized the tutoring program around 1957.

Among the things about NYAPC that stand out, Jay remembers the inspiring preaching of Dr. Docherty that brought a balance of inspirational and practical needs. Second was the witnessing of fellowship in the community, that NYAPC was not an inward-looking church. The teaching in the Adult Christian Education classes was always strong, and the music program was a plus, though Jay was not involved in it.

### Civil Rights Era

The Civil Rights era was an important time for NYAPC, and Young Adults were

active in this, especially as NYAPC was the headquarters for the Poor People’s Campaign in 1968. Many volunteers were needed to keep the church open because people were coming from all over the country.

This period was also a difficult time for the church because some people thought the church should not be involved, although Rev. George and Mary Docherty were involved as strong advocates. At the same time, Jay was a Deacon serving for three and six years, and so worked with Rev. Jack McClendon on inner city issues, particularly on gaining representation and voice for people in the city when they could not elect a Mayor.

### Vietnam

During the Vietnam era, Jay remembers when Secretary of Defense McNamara came to the early service to hear Rev. Docherty, who voiced opposition to U.S. involvement. Secretary McNamara was a Presbyterian elder from Ann Arbor, Mich., and McNamara and Docherty met from time to time.

During the period of the Vietnam war, Jay served on the NYAPC Session for three and six years and went off the Session in the early 1990s. During that time, the Session was concerned with local church issues, especially membership and changing demographics of the city with people moving to the suburbs. The nature of the District changed and there were no longer a lot of surrounding apartments and young people as there had been in earlier years.

### International Travel

Jay’s profession had him traveling internationally for many years, and so he was not always available to be active in NYAPC programs. In addition, he was less involved in the late 1980s to 1994 when his mother died. Traveling began in the late 1950s when the Atomic Energy Commission loaned him to the Organization of American States for the Atoms for Peace Program. He then moved to the National Science Foundation with an educational focus to strengthen basic sciences and spent time in Costa Rica, Nica-

ragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

Jay then worked for the National Academy of Sciences and worked on the Egypt program from 1977-1994. In 11 years he went to Cairo 26 times encouraging applied research at the National Research Centre and exchanging professionals in the field of engineering. He learned “crisis Arabic.”

### Retirement

Since Jay’s retirement in 1994, he has enjoyed involvement with people and served as a driver for Meals on Wheels for 12 years. He also volunteered at Ingleside for chapel services when Rev. Ann Davie was there and for 13 years brought people from the health center to services. From 1997-2001, as a result of “being angry with the religious right telling us how to interpret the Bible,” Jay enrolled in Bible courses at Wesley Seminary on the Old and New Testaments and spent one year studying Judaism and Isaiah.

On the future of NYAPC, Jay believes that the congregation has always been committed to being in the city and has been identified with issues and problems of the city. NYAPC has been a church that builds on its history and tradition, and seeks to interpret scripture as it applies to the city. He is glad that the congregation is committed to witness and service in the city—not just the community around us, but also members and friends of the congregation and where Jay sees himself serving as he gets older.

### Do You Receive the Care/Prayer List?

Each Friday, the church office sends out a notice about congregational prayer concerns and joys. This email-based list also receives special announcements from time to time. If you do not receive this list and would like to, contact Judith McGovern in the office, (202) 393-3700, [judith.mcGovern@nyapc.org](mailto:judith.mcGovern@nyapc.org). Our wonderful office volunteers also mail paper copies on request.

## An Easter Message from Iraq

by Elder Yousif Al-Saka Chairman,  
Presbyterian Church of Baghdad

Elder Yousif Al-Saka visited NYAPC in November 2008 and July 2010. PC(USA) asked him to send an Easter message to U.S. Presbyterian Churches.

**"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." (1 Corinthians 15-14)**



Yes Christ is risen, then our preaching is blessed and our faith is true.

With joy and happiness the Christian world celebrate these days the resurrection of Christ from the dead. This resurrection gave us new life and bestowed upon us a complete victory over death.

**"I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11-25).**

**In this resurrection Jesus conquered death and broke the sting of the grave. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15-55).**

In this resurrection we were given courage to proclaim our faith with pride and confidence, It planted in us hope and gave us joy in the eternal life. It taught us that love will never fail and that God is love without boundaries.

While we, Iraqi Christians, share with the rest of the world in welcoming this blessed occasion, as everyone else, with joy praising and glorifying the sacrosanct name of the Father.

We Iraqi Christians rejoice in the resurrection of Christ as other believers around the world do; we rejoice the victory over the deadly sin. But, our joy is somehow different from the joy of others, it's a joy blotted by things emanating from the sorrows of the land. However, it's not like the sorrow of those who have no hope.

**"... that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." (1 Thessalonians 4-13).**

There are pains that squeeze our human hearts for the departing caravans of Mar-

tyrs from our sons and daughters who have departed from us to their home in heaven as a result of the very difficult security situation that our country is passing through.

The Martyrs who had clung to the soil of their land, until their chests received the death fired by the hands of the killers, the terrorists; so that their bodies will return back and be encompassed by the soil of their homeland, which they loved.

Our joy is blotted by the sorrow for the Martyrs of the massacre that took place at the Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad, where scores of worshipers were slaughtered inside the church. And which was rightly considered the drama of our era.

Yes, we may encounter death in its different forms every day, but we say with full faith: We are not afraid of death; we believe that the resurrection of Christ made death a way to elevate to the heavenly glories under the umbrella of the Almighty Father. Blessed are those who are chosen by the Lord to be Martyrs for the glory of His name.

In this holy occasion, the occasion of the resurrection of Christ from the dead, we raise our prayers to the Lord to protect the church of Iraq and the believers, the sons and daughters, of the church of Iraq, to build a wall around them to protect them from all evil and to strengthen their faith in order to spread His word so that peace and stability may prevail in the Land of Peace, and its people may live in prosperity and tranquility under His umbrella and may Iraq enjoys His perpetual peace.

We beg the Lord who has risen from the dead for the sake of all peoples of the world, so that peace may prevail on earth in these difficult times and for all nations to live with reciprocal respect among them and continuous love among all.

Thanks to the Father for the glory that descended from heaven and flooded the earth, which renewed faith in us and bestowed upon us eternal life. Thanks to the Father for the resurrection that gave us heavenly joy no one can remove from us.

**"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." (1 Corinthians 15-20)**

**Hallelujah - Amen**

## Anacostia Cleanup

(continued from p. 1)

boat. (Unfortunately Dale and Clark Orzalli did not catch the boat ride back, but we caught them in high spirits after their walk back for a last minute picture!) We were given plastic gloves to prevent contact with the water, gardening gloves for grabbing trash, bags (both trash and recycling), and plenty of trash to clean-up! Stephanie Rennane wore bright yellow rain boots in contrast to the cloudy day, proving useful as she carefully crept into the marsh waters for styrofoam cups and wrappers.

There was SO MUCH trash, likely a byproduct of the rain the Friday before (storm water overflows are usually released into the river after a rain event). I estimated a 3-4 bag per person clean-up (with Phil Telfayan and other individuals certainly bringing up our average); maybe 60 bags total for NYAPC's contribution.

We saw other kayakers and canoers enjoying the river during the boat ride to our stop. The park ranger even pointed out some diving ducks along the way. After depositing our trash bags we were able to enjoy a celebration of the event including food, live music, and local vendors passing out free goodies. Sunday school member Astrid enjoyed her new flower she picked up from a vendor and the Douglas family enjoyed some food along with the young adults.

Thank you to everyone who participated; the event was a great success! For more information please visit the Anacostia Watershed Society website and/or talk to Karen Milam ([karenmichelle.m@gmail.com](mailto:karenmichelle.m@gmail.com)) or Mary Nell Clark.



## Historic First Havana

by Marilyn J. Seiber

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and its partner First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana share many common characteristics—e.g., urban ministries, outreach, activist programs in their nations' capitals—but it is their rich histories that tell a fascinating story.

First Havana's history is one of significance for the Presbyterian Church in Cuba and for Havana and Cuba itself. The Presbyterian Church in Cuba was founded in 1890 but its functioning was interrupted in 1895 during the political-economic conditions of the Cuban war for independence against Spain and when the first Cuban Presbyterian pastor, Rev. Evaristo Collazo, joined the army.

The Cuban Presbyterian Church reorganized in 1900, and the First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana was established with the pastoral leadership of Rev. J. Milton Greene on Dec. 8, 1901. First Havana became the first Protestant church built in Havana with the cornerstone of its sanctuary laid in January 1906. With a school, outstanding pastors, and excellent organization, First Havana came to be characterized as the center of Cuban protestant churches.



When First Havana was established in Central Havana three blocks behind the Capitol, the neighborhood was a thriving commercial area, and in fact the church was four blocks from the most important commercial street in Havana. Salud Street was known for its furniture stores and fashions from Rome and New York City. First Havana was also blocks from "China Town" and organized a Chinese Presbyterian Church in space attached to First Havana's building (which now houses First Havana's library). The First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana has been designated by the Cuban Government as an historic site.

### Meeting with Castro

In 1990, Rev. Héctor Méndez was among the clergy who met with President

Fidel Castro to discuss religious freedom in Cuba and the discrimination imposed against Christians in schools and employment. President Castro agreed with their concerns, and the climate for worship and religious tolerance improved.

### Other Historical Notes:

- Mother's Day in Cuba was organized by First Havana with two other churches on May 9, 1920.

- The Cuban Council of Churches was organized at First Havana on May 28, 1941.

- First Havana was a one-night sanctuary for a pre-revolutionary U.S. journalist who then went to the Sierra Maestra with Fidel Castro. The photo that often appears in the upper front corner of the Cuban newspaper Granma was taken by this journalist.

- The constitution of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba was written at First Havana in January 1967, and the constitution of the National Synod in 1997. (The Cuban Presbyterian Church was previously part of the New Jersey Presbytery.) The offices of the National Synod are at First Havana.

- The celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Cuba was celebrated at First Havana in 1990.

- First Havana established the first telephone "hot line"—its "Friendly Telephone"—with a psychologist and psychiatrist on staff to help those in need with drug, social, family problems, etc., and became the model for the Cuban Government's similar programs that followed.

- First Havana's library offers the first religious library and religious video/cd library available free to the public in Havana.

The First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana truly is a "Light in the City" and has a history of leadership and outreach in its mission to the city and the country.

## Capital Pride Parade, Festival Coming

by Fritz von Fleckenstein



"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)."

NYAPC states proudly that it is "an inclusive and justice-seeking church," which explains why our church joined More Light Presbyterians (and the local chapter, Open Doors/More Light) more than 10 years ago. Each year, Open Doors/More Light helps to sponsor the Capital Pride Parade, and marches in the parade, and NYAPC marches with them.

Each year, however, the NYAPC delegation actually carrying our banner is rather small, even though many NYAPC people can be found in the crowds along the route. Last year, it was only three people – Chess Campbell and Ruth and Fritz von Fleckenstein.

Ruth and Fritz will not be able to attend this year, so we are asking everyone who wants to attend the parade to please join the official delegation. It is a really wonderful experience. As a marcher from another church remarked, "it's the only time you can get cheered just for being a Presbyterian!"

This year, the Capital Pride Parade will take place on Saturday, June 11, 2011. More Light Presbyterian churches will meet at Church of the Pilgrims at 5:30 pm to prepare for the parade. If you are late and no one is there, head south to the area where the religious groups are forming up for the parade and look for the More Light banners. Often, T-shirts are handed out at that time, but we also have a supply of T-shirts from previous years which we can provide to you.

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### Earth Day in the Park

by Marilyn J. Seiber

NYAPC celebrated Earth Day 2011 in our triangle park on Palm Sunday with coffee, cookies, muffins, fruit, and a Cuban Tres Leches cake.

The NYA Triangle Park Working Group—Beth DuMez, Robert Doan, Marilyn Seiber, Courtney and Jim Spearman, Barry Tindall—sponsored the Earth Day observation. They provided “Just Coffee” for the occasion as well as “earth friendly” plates, napkins, and forks.

Following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, the park filled with Palm Sunday worshippers enjoying the beautiful spring weather and social time.



### Community Club

## Getting over the Last Hump: Upperclassman Scholarships

by Paul Dornan

In 2008, the Core Council of Community Club established the Upperclassman Scholarships to help former students in the Community Club program as they completed their college careers. The scholarships are open to any college student who graduated from Community Club, has completed at least 70 college credits and has maintained at least a 2.0 grade point average in his/her institution of higher education.

The scholarship responds to a reality of college financial aid: that colleges tend to reduce and withdraw aid from upperclassmen as they focus aid attention on incoming freshmen. As a result, college juniors and seniors must identify new sources of aid or assume additional student debt as they move on to graduate degrees or out to the working world.

### Over \$12,000 So Far

The Upperclassman Scholarships are intended to alleviate some of that burden of debt and the anxiety that accompanies it. The Upperclassman Scholarships do not replace the regular Community Club College Scholarships but are intended to supplement them. So far, more than \$12,000 has been awarded to worthy students.

Thirteen of our college students have received Upperclassman Scholarships in the last three years. Already six of those students have graduated, two from North Carolina A&T, and one each from Temple, North Carolina Wesleyan, Princeton and the University of Pittsburgh. One is currently employed by the Defense Department. Another is working in a medical office while preparing to apply to med school. Yet another is studying for a paralegal certificate at GW and plans to apply to law school in future. The three others are working in the area as they consider the professional or career paths they will follow.

Another six expect to graduate this May from Temple, Bennett, Trinity [Washington], Tuskegee, Grinnell and Virginia State. Their grade point averages for the Fall Term 2010 ranged from 2.5 to 4.0, and their majors span the academic waterfront from pharmacy and biology

through psychology, business, economics and criminal justice. The final recipient plans to complete her B.A. at the University of Maryland this December with a degree in history.

### Finishing in Four

The Upperclassman Scholarship requires applicant to maintain at least 12 credits per term in the year for which you are requesting assistance. That requirement speaks to a reality for our Community Club students; lower income students do not have the luxury of dawdling through their college years. Schools are just too expensive, and the statistics seem to suggest that, if you can't complete your schooling within four to five years, then you are simply not going to finish it. And, based on the recent record of our students, most of them are completing school within four years.

The Upperclassman Scholarships are the result of gifts given in memory of my son, Andrew, and of Bruce Davie. Those two men blessed the New York Avenue Church community and their families beyond all telling. We intend to keep the Upperclassman Scholarships going well into the future.

### Filling the Gap

As students articulate why they are requesting funding, accounts of parents holding down multiple jobs, of younger siblings waiting for their chance for higher education, of the challenges of squaring ambitions of graduate study with family finances, all suggest the value of filling the gap between the costs of higher education and the wherewithal of our Community Club students. The students' expressions of gratitude bear witness to the impact of even modest amounts of assistance at the right time.

You are invited to attend the Community Club Awards Ceremony on the evening of Thursday, May 26, in the New York Avenue sanctuary. There, among many other celebrations, will be the announcement of the awardees of the Upperclassman Scholarships for 2011. You will be inspired!

**GOODPASTURE!****Faith, Scripture, History, Tradition, Good Teaching***It's all there, and still here, in the oldest continuing Sunday School class in NYA history**by Mary Krug*

The Goodpasture Class, which still meets every Sunday, year-round, at 10 in the Lincoln Chapel where it has gathered since 1925, did not always carry the name that sounds as if it could have been lifted from the Psalms.

According to Frank Edgington's *History of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church*, the class began in 1896 as a Sunday School class led by Mrs. Wallace Radcliffe, wife of the then-pastor, who met with five teenage girls, first in the balcony and then in Dr. Radcliffe's study. The girls grew up and the class grew larger, reaching its peak at 165 members during World War I, and declining by half at war's end.

The class split by age, but was still a women's class, in 1924, when Mrs. C.O.

Goodpasture (married women in Mr. Edgington's book were always identified by their husbands' names) took over the teaching of the older group and led it for more than three decades. She was

so beloved by her pupils that they named the class after her, but she was not its only teacher. The class name might have sounded less biblical had it been named for one of its other teachers, identified only as Mrs. Viles!

**Service and Study**

The Goodpasture Class reflected NYA's tradition of service as well as study, contributing to home and foreign missions, filling and distributing Christmas baskets for the needy, assisting poor mothers, and leading worship in the House of Detention and City Jail. Their ministries were supported not just by Sunday School collections, but by printing and selling copies of the sermons of Dr. Sizoo and Peter Marshall.

"The business and social affairs of the class have been related [in his book], but

the most important of its functions [was] that of making the Bible clearer and more familiar to each member and encouraging each one to study it more diligently not only in class but also at home," Mr. Edgington wrote.

That function continues to this day. At some point, which no one seems to remember, it became coeducational and smaller in size, but its purpose and approach remain the same.

**Refreshing the Spirit**

"Every Sunday morning the class meets to refresh the spirit embedded in the Old and New Testament Bible," says Bob Osborn, one of its devoted teachers, who in recent years have included Gil Anderson, Blonnie Thompson, Sam Iftikhar and

Enoch and Yomi Faniyi, and now is mostly Bob and Yomi.

"Today each lesson is based on 'The Present Word' (P.W.) curriculum published by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The day's scripture is read in unison by

those present, and the teacher has the freedom to present the lesson as he or she interprets it," Bob explains.

"The P.W. suggests discussion questions and provides a leader's guide on ways to develop the lesson. Our aim is to make 'the old, old story' stay alive in our minds in terms of our modern world. The class is inclusive of all regardless of age, gender, race, or ethnic background. Sometimes different points of view are discussed -- always in a caring manner. The class ends with all members forming a circle, and one member offers a closing prayer, then the Lord's Prayer, sending all off with a refreshed feeling of being in our Christian family."

Bob himself sees his teaching serving two main purposes, fulfilling a farewell promise to Gil Anderson, who deeply loved the class and in the last days of his

life charged Bob to "keep the Goodpasture class going." The second motivation for leading the scripture lessons, he says, is "not so much for learning something new -- the stories and passages are usually by this time familiar ones—but for making sure that they are not forgotten."

**New Members**

The class would welcome new members, and invites anyone interested in doing so to take a turn at teaching.

"Those of us still 'ongoing' invite you to come to the Good Pasture and feast on the word, sharing it with others and keeping it alive," he declares.

**PW Bible Study****NYAPC Hosts 15th Street Presbyterian***by Marilyn J. Seiber*

In what is becoming a tradition, Presbyterian Women of NYAPC hosted on April 9 the Presbyterian Women of 15th Street Presbyterian Church for our third joint Bible study. Twenty-five women gathered to study the next installment of Revelation, the Bible study topic of PC(USA)'s "Horizons" annual study guide.

Women from both churches served as table leaders to guide the discussions, then representatives from each table reported to the group the main discussion ideas they had covered. NYA Presbyterian Women provided a hot breakfast. The two churches alternate hosting in the fall and spring, and we have discussed participating in other activities together.





## Lifetime Income *and* a Legacy Gift?

*by Evelyn Ying*

Giving is a wonderful expression of faith, but financial concerns can often hinder one's desire to contribute. For those who want to make a legacy gift but also desire fixed income payments, a charitable gift annuity may be a good solution.

The charitable gift annuity program through the Presbyterian Foundation allows you to receive lifetime income and may also provide immediate financial support to NYAPC. This program may allow you the joy of witnessing the impact of your gift on the church's missions, while also providing you with an attractive annual payment.

A charitable gift annuity through the Presbyterian Foundation is a contract between you and the Foundation. With a gift of \$10,000 or more:

- The Foundation will provide annual income to one or two persons for life. Payments will not decrease or vary.

- You may receive favorable tax treatment of the gift annuity payment; part of each annuity payment may be income tax-free.
- You may be able to claim a portion of the gift as a charitable contribution.
- You may designate your gift to NYAPC or the mission you select.

Current charitable gift annuity rates range from 5.5% for someone age 65 to 9.5% for someone age 90+. The minimum age is 55. For younger donors who may want to receive income at a later date, such as retirement, deferred gifts are possible.

A confidential illustration of how this charitable instrument might work for you can be provided. Please contact Evelyn Ying, Director of Planned Giving at [eying@nyapc.org](mailto:eying@nyapc.org) or 301-495-5912, as a confidential resource for this or other legacy gift opportunities.

### In Appreciation

We gratefully acknowledge a legacy gift from Marjorie Foster, a beloved long-time member who died in October 2010. Her gift was the result of a charitable gift annuity she had established through the Presbyterian Foundation years ago. Marge had specified that following her death, the remaining beneficial interest of this annuity be given to NYAPC to be used for the choir; the church received this gift in January 2011.

Marge was an active and devoted member of NYAPC and long-time supporter of the music program and other ministries of our church. In addition to her legacy gift to the choir, Marge included NYAPC in her will, as the church has been informed of a potential inheritance under her estate. With her charitable gift and estate plans, Marge's legacy and generous support of the church she loved will continue for years to come.

We are so deeply grateful to Marge and all those who have shared a portion of the abundance given by God to provide for the future work and mission of our church!

## Update on Kenya

*by Kirsten Kingdon*

Thanks to all of you who supported the OVC program in Njoro, Kenya as part of your Christmas giving. The total contributed was \$2,968 from about 80 individuals and families. This makes a huge difference to the program, both fiscally and as a testament to the personal nature of the partnership we have with the children, those leading the program and our sister congregation in Njoro, Kenya.

We hope to further develop the personal relationships that make up the partnership in a couple of ways:

First, we want to bring some leaders of the program here in September. NYAPC's Peace & Justice Committee has pledged money toward a trip, and we have submitted a grant request to the National Capital Presbytery Peacemaking Team. Contingent on funds, we hope to bring Jeremiah Nduyu, who designed and launched the program in 2007, and Francis Muchemi, current program leader. We also would like to bring Monicah Nyambura, head teacher, who has been with the program from the beginning.

Second, Pastor Tara Spuhler McCabe and I hope to lead a trip to Njoro in

August 2012. If we are able to bring some leaders here this fall, we will spend time planning and preparing for this trip. We'd love to have an intergenerational group; both leaders and children in Kenya dearly hope to welcome some children, as well as adults. Fritz and I can testify to the excitement of the children and the warmth of their welcome.

### Five New Children

There are five new children in the program. They're selected on the basis of need and look like they have integrated into the program well. Their names are Lukas Ngacha and Daniel Ndegwa, 3rd graders born in 2000; Stephen Mwangi, a 2nd grader born in 2003; Branton Ngige a 1st grader born in 2004; and Samuel Gatukui, born in 2005. Look for their pictures on the bulletin board soon.

Work has begun on the chicken project, with obtaining supplies and building pens. The project comes out the work of Jeremiah and Fritz during our 2010 trip and

could become a model for other areas. Income generation is a tremendous need for these foster families, many of whom are old and poor. Once the chickens arrive, they will be able to improve their nutrition and gain much-needed money for the basic necessities of life.

Finally, three children who were studying for High School entrance exams in 2010 have now entered high school. Ken Mwaura is attending Njoro Day Secondary School, Samuel Njoroge is attending Ufanisi Secondary School and Joseph Maina is attending A.I.C. Secondary School. A fourth student, Purity Kanduka, decided

to repeat Std. 8 and try again this year. This is a wonderful achievement in Kenya, where many people are not able to go on to high school.

If any of you have any questions, please contact Fritz or me. Thank you again for all your support, without which this project could never have been launched and could not continue.



## Capital Pride

*Continued from p. 6*

Please let Karen Milam ([karenmichelle.m@gmail.com](mailto:karenmichelle.m@gmail.com)) know that you are coming -- she will be bringing the T-shirts and our new NYAPC Peace and Justice banner.

Other important dates are:

Sunday, June 5, 2011 -- More Light Sunday

Sunday, June 12, 2011 from 11 am to 6 pm – Capital Pride Festival in front of the Capitol (visit the More Light booth.)

### Dates to Remember ...

**May 29** - We begin one service at 10:00 am for the summer.

**June 5** - Come to the Ice Cream Social in the Radcliffe Room for sandwiches, ice cream and entertainment from the choir!

**June 19 - July 24** - Summer Listening Sessions after the 10 am service. (See article, in this issue p. 2.)

**July 24** - Annual Summer Potluck Lunch

**September 11** - We return to two services for the fall.

