

January—March

Volume 3, Issue 2



MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS FOR ADULTS

PURSuing DISCIPLESHIP

By Millie A. Shin, Director of Christian Education & Discipleship

Although we often use the language of belief to describe what unites us as Christians, a more accurate and helpful perspective comes from the concept of *discipleship*. As disciples of Christ and members of this church community, we not only know and believe in the God revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ, but we live out our lives in active response to the grace that has been poured out to us. We have been commanded by Christ himself to bear witness to the gospel to those among us and beyond. We worship together, share one another's burdens, and rejoice and celebrate together the miracle of Christ's transforming presence in our lives.

In this context, Christian Education is not just about conveying information about God and our religious practices. Instead, the knowledge conveyed are tools for us to understand and interpret God's specific call on our lives. Regardless of our chosen vocation, God has called us to serve and love others—and for us, this is not a burden but a real source of joy and pleasure, and the truest, fullest expression of the Christian life.

Therefore, we have adopted a new mission statement for Christian Education at MAPC:

“The mission of Christian Education at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church is to inspire and equip people to live as disciples of Christ as we grow in faith, service and leadership through the study and teaching of the Bible and our Christian tradition.”

Although the wording of this statement may be new, it is, ultimately, not a new concept for us. We have always believed that those who participate in our Christian Education classes should find support and encouragement for their discipleship to Christ and be led to share in the ministry of our church. Through studies of the Bible and theology, the witness of the saints, teachings on spiritual practices, and reports on the ongoing work of our church, we hope that you will find your awareness of the presence of Christ in your own life be strengthened, so that you may discern where God is leading you.

Finally, while this brochure details our Sunday 10 am offerings which are open to everyone, we are exploring Adult Education in different contexts targeted to specific groups. Already we have had events like a New Members' Class for those who have recently joined the church, and some have expressed interest or have already formed small groups that meet outside the church for Bible study and fellowship. If you are interested in having some new Adult Ed options or have ideas, please feel free to speak with me. I can be reached by phone at 212-288-8920 x235 or mat@mapc.com.

All of our classes are on Sundays during our Christian Education Hour at 10am, either in the Dana Chapel, or downstairs in the Parish Hall (unless noted otherwise). Signs will be posted in the Church House bulletin board directing visitors each Sunday.

HAS THIS CHANGED YOU, BOB? Zigzagging Zambia and Beyond – Unpacked

January 3 and 10

The Rev. Robert C. Louer

MAPC’s 2008-2010 Global Ministry Fellow, Bob Louer, has just returned from fourteen months living and working in Zambia and traversing parts of the African and Asian global South. During this two-week class, Bob will try to unpack his experiences for the MAPC family. He will frame his interpretation using some of the most interesting of the stories and profiles of life he collected in the global South. They range from the humorous to the heartrending, the mundane to the shocking, from tales of desperation to hope. He will paint a picture of his daily life and work as well as that of the Church and those he encountered, including people of other faiths. Bob will share how what he experienced is shaping him and his vision of the Church.



*Bob would love to hear what interests the MAPC family. E-mail him your questions or thoughts by **Monday, December 28** and he'll do his best to address them in his presentation (rcl@mapc.com).*

ONGOING STUDY & PRAYER GROUPS

Monday Night Women's Bible Study	Parents' Prayer Group	Mothers of Young Children
<p>2nd and 4th Mondays 6 pm</p> <p>The Women's Bible Class at MAPC is an inspiring and enriching experience where we grow together in faith and fellowship. We all bring a snack and socialize at 6 pm in the Phillips Lounge, then begin our study at 6:30 pm. Our program entails opening with prayer, Bible study and discussion; then ask for individual prayers and end with a closing prayer. We all would heartily welcome new members to our group. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Virginia De Bono, our facilitator, at (212) 750-1383.</p>	<p>Wednesdays (twice per month) 8:00—8:30 am</p> <p>The Parents Prayer Group welcomes all parents of teenagers and young adults. They meet twice a month, usually on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, from 8 to 8:30 am to reflect on a passage of Scripture, share prayer concerns and pray together. Current participants have found this group to be a valuable source of support as they parent their children through the challenges of the teen years and young adulthood. The group starts promptly at 8 and respects the ending time of 8:30 so members can leave for work.</p> <p>The first meeting of the new year is Wednesday, January 13.</p>	<p>Thursdays 9:30—10:30 am</p> <p>The support and prayer group for Mothers of Young Children meets weekly on Thursday mornings in the Phillips Lounge (1st floor, behind the sanctuary). All mothers with young children are invited to this time of fellowship, conversation, and prayer. Coffee and tea will be available in the Phillips Lounge beginning at 9 am, and the group will officially begin at 9:30. We use Kathleen Bostrom's book <i>Finding Calm in the Chaos</i> to begin our time together. Copies of the book are available at the meetings for \$12. If you have questions about the group, please contact Beverly Bartlett at 212-288-8920 or bab@mapc.com.</p>

Zimbabwe Partnership Update

MAPC'S ZIMBABWE PARTNERSHIP: Help Us Take the Next Step

January 24, 31 and February 7

The Zimbabwe Partnership Exploration Committee

Come and celebrate with the MAPC delegation who traveled to Zimbabwe in November as they share photos, videos and stories of their eventful trip to Harare. The congregation is invited to offer their input in these sessions as we eagerly anticipate a return visit from our Zimbabwean hosts in late February / early March during which we will formalize our partnership with the overall goal of strengthening our respective ministry and discipleship. Please come and let your voice be heard!



HOSEA: God's Love or Domestic Abuse?

February 21, 28 and March 7

Ms. Starr Tomczak

How do we make sense of the Bible when we come across highly disturbing passages? The book of Hosea is famous for its use of the marriage metaphor to emphasize God's love for us. However, feminist readings of the book criticize the way God punishes Israel as God's adulterous wife and even the way God's seduction of Israel leads to marital bliss. This is a pattern that is disturbingly similar to what has been observed in cases of domestic violence, which is often characterized by periods of bliss followed by periods of abuse. To understand Hosea, we will use rules of biblical interpretation from the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

MONASTICISM: From the Cell to the City

March 14, 21 and 28

The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett & The Rev. Donald B. Wahlig

In a continuation of the themes explored in Beverly Bartlett's class this past fall, *Springs in the Desert*, this current class examines the relevance of monastic practices for today: What do the monastics from the 5th century onward have to teach 21st century Protestants like us? In 3 weekly sessions, we will explore how the monastic practices of obedience, prayer, contemplation, study, community living, discipleship and social action speak directly to us, strengthening our lives of faith.

As part of MAPC's mission, all of our Educational Ministries are offered to visitors and members without charge. Join us for these opportunities for enrichment, fellowship and growth in Christian faith. For information, contact Millie A. Tourtelot, Director of Christian Education & Discipleship at 212-288-8920 x 235 or mat@mapc.com.



MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Fred R. Anderson, *Pastor*
 The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett, *Associate Pastor*
 Dr. Andrew E. Henderson, *Director of Music and Organist*
 Mary W. Huff, *Associate Director of Music*
 The Rev. Robert C. Louer, III, *Parish Associate for Global Ministry*
 The Rev. Brent A. Raska, *Parish Associate for Global Ministry*
 The Rev. Erin R. Raska, *Parish Associate for Global Ministry*
 Millie A. Tourtelot, *Director of Christian Education & Discipleship*
 The Rev. Donald B. Wahlig, *Associate Pastor*

Adult Christian Education Overview <i>Classes are Sundays at 10 am unless otherwise noted.</i>			
January	3	Has This Changed You, Bob? The Rev. Robert Louer	Ongoing Classes Monday Night Women's Bible Study 2nd and 4th Mondays 6 pm Year-Round Parents' Prayer Group Wednesdays (twice per month) 8—8:30 am Mothers of Young Children Thursdays 9:30—10:30 am
	10		
	17	Lectionary Bible Study	
	24	ZPEC	
	31		
February	7	Hosea Ms. Starr Tomczak	
	14		Lectionary Bible Study
	21		
	28		
March	7	Monasticism The Rev. Beverly Bartlett and the Rev. Donald Wahlig	
	14		
	21		
	28		
April	4	Easter: No Classes	