



September 2010

Deacon of the Month
Don Rucknagel

Worship Hours return to 11:00 AM – Sunday, September 12!!!!



Upcoming Event: Conference on The Past

- Gordon DeVinney

In a little less than a month, the Coordinating Team (CT) of the Pathways to Purpose discernment process at Mount Auburn will be leading the church-wide Conference on the Past. We hope that you have made plans to attend this event on September 19th, immediately following the worship service, where there will be a light meal served. I have heard many of you wondering what this Conference on the Past is all about. Why are we doing this? What's the purpose? In preparation for this event, and to answer many of these questions, I am excerpting below an articleⁱ written by Dale A. Ziemer, who is a Senior Consultant with the Center for Parish Development, our guides in this 3 year discernment process. Our Conference on the Past is shaping up to be a terrific opportunity to rediscover Mount Auburn's foundation. Please plan to attend.

God's "glorious deeds" took place within the history of a particular people, told through stories oft repeated, passed on from generation to generation. God's glorious deeds became known in the narratives of past events, decisions, and historical processes, interpreted through the eyes of faith in the One who had formed them, knew them, kept them, and sent them. The community of faith knew itself, formed its attitudes, and understood what was expected of it by the activity of God not only in the present but in its past. In the long history of the people of God there is a dynamic relationship between past, present, and future. The past is a living past. It is to be told forward in the present to coming generations that they too might hear and believe the wonders that God has done. The wonders of God are revealed through the story – the history – of a people: first Israel, then the disciple community Jesus gathered around himself, and after his death around his memory and living presence. As the church continues to gather around his memory and living presence –its received tradition – it continues to embody the "sacred story." It is to continue as a living witness to God's wonderful deeds. But this is not to happen in abstract ways. Rather, the church cradles the sacred story within the context of its own real history, in the story of its actions, decisions, struggles, through the highs and the lows, successes and failures of its life as a particular people. "A church that cuts itself off from its tradition is a church that has severed itself from the very sources whereby it might be renewed."ⁱⁱ The church today – in its various groupings, congregations, and expressions – is the people through whom God acts in this way. Its history is the continuing story of God's presence and activity in the world. With so great an emphasis today on the new, the novel, and the fresh experience, the history and tradition of the community of faith often becomes trivialized.

Stories from a church's history reveal longstanding commitments and loyalties –an essential compass for determining future direction. As churches are confronted today with a changed and changing context for ministry, they are discovering that they must make changes. But what changes? What shall they let go of and what shall they hold fast to? No church can capably chart a new and more faithful course for the future unless it first discovers its past. Through an intentional process of remembering, sharing, and testing, a church can identify that which has been consistently most prized, is of enduring importance, and therefore must be carried forward. It can identify what is so much "old baggage" and must be left behind. In doing so, it is discerning the hand of God in its history, and identifying that which will contribute to the shaping of a new and faithful future.

The church's history is not a dead past, but consists of the strengths and weaknesses, the people, the stories, the decisions, the concerns that a church body carries from its previous experience. The history of a church body reveals a great deal of information not only about facts, events, and leaders from the past, but about how and why the church made the decisions it made. The church is influenced by its past experiences. Insight into its current circumstances can be gained by listening to the stories it tells about itself. It is therefore important to discover the major stages or phases in the church's development over time. It is important to understand the current impact of events that occurred in the past such as key decisions that were made, the acts or behavior of key leaders, the nature of past crises and how the church responded to them. All of these elements influence its current ways of thinking and patterns of behavior.

When churches take the time to build community through participation in thoughtful remembering and sharing they are able to write their next chapter more authentically. When they identify the circumstances of their founding, the significant experiences, critical turning points, and important "heroes," they are telling the "plot" from which the church's identity has developed. As a result a common view of the past is generated, common ground is discovered, and the church is better equipped to discern God's future for them.

Learning from our church's history involves more than recalling together the church's founding, its past experiences, turning points, and important people. Learning has to do with becoming a disciple community, and

learning from our history involves seeing and believing that the church – its past, present and future – exists in continuity with the biblical community of faith, called into existence by God, deriving its life and history solely from communion with God. Learning from our history then involves re-storying our lives communally and personally into the plot of the Greater Story. It involves recognizing that our truest history is told as a story of God’s faithfulness toward us for the sake of the world. In that story – our history – we see evidence of God’s breaking but also healing, sometimes judgment but always grace, sometimes silence yet constant presence. Learning from our history requires creating the “safe places to rehearse the art of storying and restorying our lives, thereby restoring the soul of the church.”ⁱⁱⁱ By telling the church’s narrative within the unfolding plot of the Greater Story, unhelpful patterns of the past and misplaced priorities and loyalties start to loosen their grip. Threads of the story line that indicate patterns of faithful life and ministry are affirmed and help to indicate how the story should be continued in the future.

¹ Dale A. Ziemer, “TOUCHSTONES: Learning from Our Own History”, *The Center Letter*, Volume 31, Number 3 March 2001, The Center for Parish Development.

¹ William Willimon, in M.B. Copenhaver, A.B. Robinson, and W.H. Willimon, *Good News in Exile: Three Pastors Offer a Hopeful Vision for the Church*, (Eerdmans: 1999) p.29.

¹ Kent Ira Groff, *The Soul of Tomorrow’s Church: Weaving Spiritual Practices in Ministry Together*, (Upper Room Books: 2000) p.90.



Grow with God in Encounters!

- Stephanie Marston

Encounters begins again **September 12th, from 9:45-10:45am**. There are sessions for ages 3 to 103. We’re continuing to build on the successes of the past few years. Together, we’ll explore topics that challenge us, and help us to further develop our faith.

Adult Encounters will begin with five sessions exploring Celtic Christianity. Children’s Encounters will utilize a new curriculum called Seasons of the Spirit that caters to multiple intelligences and explores many ways to help our children develop their faith. The Fingerprints classroom for ages 3 to 5 will help our youngest members to get off to a solid start in their own faith journey.

Here are just a few things people are saying about Encounters:

“The Encounters program is both intellectually stimulating and spiritually uplifting.” - Bill Muse

“When I attend Adult Encounters it brings values to light and how to make changes in your life. You’re more in tune. As a lead teacher, I have enjoyed watching the children sing and learn their songs. We’ve known these kids and have watched them grow up. It’s a great thing.” - Ruth Anne Van Loon

“The teachers are nice and the crafts are fun...” - Henry Lindeman

“Playing musical instruments and singing songs make me feel good. The art projects are fun and the teachers are very helpful.” - Ashley Stiller

“The teachers really support and help you. They help you learn many new things like the labyrinth. Mount Auburn and Encounters is an exciting, great thing to do.” - Claire Harrison

“It’s really fun having you guys as teachers and working with us.” - Teegan Ernst

“I like to color and read the Bible. I’m a really good artist and had fun making the butterfly puppet.” - Meredith Duke

See you at Encounters on Sundays, 9:45-10:45AM, September 12, 2010 through June 12, 2011.



MAPC Chapel Renovation

- Eric Burgmann

You may have noticed the pews were removed from the Chapel recently. Well, it was just the first step in a plan to renovate the space to make it more useful and multifunctional. The B&G committee has discussed for years a more flexible configuration for the space, but until we had a request from the meditation group there was never a program or defined use of the space to build a new design around. Now with a vision of what the chapel space can become – a quiet place for meditation that could also be used for small receptions, meetings, and displays – we’re moving forward. Providentially, at the time this new vision was being developed a member (who wishes to remain anonymous for now) was moved to provide funding. What a blessing that, when presented with a compelling vision, MAPC members always seem to respond to make it happen. The aesthetics committee is discussing the details of color, fabrics, lighting, et cetera, and we’ll soon have renderings to share. This project will be done at the same time as the conference room remodeling; both will start very soon. As always, if you wish to donate to this or any other of the capital campaign projects please contact Eric Burgmann or our treasurer, Lisa Foster.



From Your Treasurer

- Lisa Foster

“Try to remember the kind of September.....when life was slow and oh so mellow”

OFFERING ASSISTANTS - Thanks to the folks who have volunteered to be offering assistants. If you cannot cover your assigned Sunday, please arrange for a trade weeks with someone and advise Debbie.

9/5 - Lisa Butler	9/26 - Susan Ingmire
9/12 - Bonnie DeMoranville	10/3 - Margaret Standriff
9/19 - Barbara Feldmann	10/10 - Keith Syler

Our MAPC family has recently experienced the sad passing of 2 of our long time members in Fran Rosevear and Diane Hefley. Their families have graciously named MAPC as a designate for memorials. If you would like to remember and honor them in this manner - just mark a pew envelope or your check with their names - and those contributions will be held in our Memorial Fund for consideration of use. Our thoughts and prayers and well as grateful thanks go out to Ruth and Tom.

'08 - '11 Capital Campaign - We're still wrapping up and putting the finishing touches on the projects that are underway. Work will soon start on the conference room outside the office. A start on the Geier room will be held off to access the current available funds. We're in the home stretch and last 9 months of our 3 yr Capital Campaign. In 2010 and thru 8/22, - we have received \$ 45,145toward our project list (including pledges and non-pledge). Pledges are paid 66%. We will soon have a numbers update on the projects - but there are still more "on the list" ...just waiting on some funding. If you want to be part of this wonderful building update...Just mark your checks "Capital Campaign" or use the special envelopes in the pews.

There has been a special project for the chapel renovation that has come up in the past few months. An article about this project is elsewhere in this newsletter.

EOG (estimate of giving) contributions thru the middle of Aug are coming in at 60% paid. Thanks much!!

We are into the 2nd half of our operating year. If for any reason you need to revise your EOG (estimate of giving) in either direction - **or maybe even make one** - please contact me - as again - the Finance & Stewardship committee will be working with other committees to see if any 2010 budget adjustments might be necessary. The earlier we know changes - the easier to make or consider adjustments.

Want to set up Electronic Fund Transfer for monthly withdrawals of your EOG or Capital contributions to MAPC ??? - see Gloria Gillespie for information.

Our actual expenses to date thru July are several thousand dollars ahead to what we anticipated thru this point of the operating year. Of course - for those of you who like budgeting - we get "there" by some line items being "over" and some being "under". Your donation of time and talents go a long way to making this reality. Do you have skills and passions you could offer that may save "hiring a company"if so - let someone know! These gifts are an important part of Stewardship!

Phil Boucher Music Fund - in 2010, \$ 3,265 has been received. It takes approx \$3,500 to keep this program running every "school year". We will very soon be hearing the voice of our "new person". How exciting!! As I've written in the past - this fund honors one of MAPC's favorite and dearly missed brothers - Phil would have been 59 the end of this month. If you want to remember Phil in this special way - just mark your check or pew envelope "Phil Boucher Fund".

Servant Savior Communion set donations - as you may recall Pastor Susan's former church in Texas lost everything earlier this year in a devastating fire.....we are collecting donations to hopefully fund a special communion set to be sent to them from MAPC as they rebuild. To date we have collected \$ 770. If you want to contribute - mark your checks or pew envelopes - "Servant Savior."

Recycle - \$\$\$\$ from our aluminum can re-cycling - goes to help some of our extra commitment mission efforts. Please bring in your cans - stash them under the steps off the parking lot entrance and Robin Pendery will take them in for us. To date in 2010 - we have put \$ 29.50 in our Extra Commitment Mission designated fund - as well as relieved the landfills of these items.

First Sunday Loose Offering - the undesignated, loose monies collected on the first Sunday of each month also go to our extra mission efforts. Thru Aug. - loose offering totals - \$ 485.

The next meeting of the Finance & Stewardship Committee will be **Wed. Sept. 15, 7pm**, at the church. The committee could really use some more members as we start into our Stewardship Season. If you like this kind of work and want to "try out" a committee - come join us to maybe help just thru this very important time. It's another very important way to give to MAPC.



Open Stacks Book Club

- Nan Costello

Join us on **October 8th, 7:00 PM (location TBA)** as we discuss this fascinating book:

Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese, 2009 Knopf Publishing Group, 541 pp.

A sweeping, emotionally riveting first novel – an enthralling family saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and home.

Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon at a mission hospital in Addis Ababa. Orphaned by their mother's death in childbirth and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Yet it will be love, not politics – their passion for the same woman – that will tear them apart and force Marion, fresh out of medical school, to flee his homeland. He makes his way to America, finding refuge in his work as an intern at an underfunded, overcrowded New York City hospital. When the past catches up to him – nearly destroying him – Marion must entrust his life to the two men he thought he trusted least in the world: the surgeon father who abandoned him and the brother who betrayed him.



October Festival Choir

- Chris Miller

Looking Ahead...

Mark the date for the October Festival Choir Concert at MAPC, **October 10, 2010, 4:00 PM**. This year's October Festival Choir will feature our Mt. Auburn Brass Fellowship in a once-in-a-lifetime experience, that being: Hindemith's powerful masterwork of brass and chorus; *Apparebit repentina dies*.

Also included in the program will be the *Lux Aeterna* by Lauridsen and Mozart's *Regina Coeli*
