

Susan Sparks, Senior Pastor

Susan has had a rather unpredictable career track. Originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, Susan received a BA from the University of North Carolina where she was President of her class. She then earned a Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University and began a career as a trial lawyer. After ten years, she left the practice and spent two years traveling around the world, including volunteering with Mother Teresa's mission in Calcutta, climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro and training as a wilderness guide and fly-fisherwoman in Alaska and the desert southwest. Upon returning home, she completed seminary at Union Theological in New York City while moonlighting as a standup comedian. Unfortunately, even with honors in seminary, Susan's limited hair height destroyed her hopes of becoming a TV evangelist. She found her way to MABC. and was called as the first woman Senior Pastor in its 160 year history. Susan has been featured in everything from the New York Times and ABC News to being a regular guest with country music star Naomi Judd on Hallmark Channel's "Naomi's New Morning." If you are totally bored and looking to surf further, check out www.susansparks.com.

Paul N. Stephan, Minister of Music, Producer

Paul Stephan is a graduate of Ithaca College, the University of Utah, and the BMI – Lehman Engle Musical Theater Workshop. He directed productions of *La Cenerentola*, *La Clemenza di Tito*, and *La Scala di Seta*; musical direction includes *Free to Be You and Me*, *Godspell*, *Brigadoon*, *Stop the World I Want to Get Off*, and the New York premiere of *Heroes*. He served as artistic director for Cooper OperaWorks and wrote English performing translations for several productions, including *Le Astuzie Femminili* (The Crafty Women) by Cimarosa, and *Il Mondo della Luna* (The Man in the Moon) by Haydn. His choral setting of the 23rd Psalm was sung at the anniversary services sponsored by the New York Annual Conference of the UMC remembering 9/11, and he recently received a Bisto award for his collaboration on *Three Tenors... In Search of an Act*. He works as a freelance musician and teacher in New York City and his first CD, *Sue & Edd's Fabulous Christmas*, was released in 2007. For more info see <http://www.pstephan.com/>.

Welcome to the historic Madison Avenue Baptist Church, ministering to midtown for over 160 years.

MABC is a church where people speak to you in the morning, a place of worship that honors everyone, and a community of faith that follows a gospel of joy and laughter, not judgment and fear. In short, it's not the "Baptist Church" everyone expects.

MABC:

- We believe in a creative spirit - so we hosted the first performance of Jesus Christ Superstar in 1971.
- We believe in a joyous spirit - so we called a minister who was also a standup comedian as our Senior Pastor.
- We believe in a giving spirit - so we offer meals to the elderly, a homeless shelter on weekends, weekly children's music programs, AA meetings, and other community ministries.
- Most importantly, we believe in an inclusive spirit where all are welcomed. With us you'll find a warm smile, a friendly handshake, and perhaps a home.

Come check us out. We'll be looking for ya!

Services:

Sunday Morning at 11:00

A very special thanks to the staff and members of Madison Avenue Baptist Church for their help and support of this series.

Madison Avenue Baptist Church
presents



Trios

A monthly vocal concert series

November 18th, 2009

Journeys

Marissa Rosen, Doug Shapiro, Jennifer Wren



MABC resident bass Doug Shapiro joins music theatre forces with Jennifer Wren and Marissa Rosen to sing songs of their

favorite composers and lyricists with whom they've worked over the years. MABC Minister of Music, Paul Stephan is music director for the show. Come join them as this delightful trio leads you on a musical journey.

December 16th, 2009

Sue & Edd's FABULOUS Christmas Show

Sue Matsuki & Edd Clark,
with music director Paul N. Stephan



Sue Matsuki and Edd Clark return to MABC to kick off the holiday season with their charming salute to Christmas, and the

holiday season. Filling out the trio is music director, Paul Stephan. The show is new this year, and they're excited to bring new arrangements of old favorites, to introduce new songs that are destined to become Christmas classics, and to bring a surprise or two along the way.

January 20th, 2010

Three Living Composers

Christopher Preston Thompson



MABC resident tenor, Christopher Preston Thompson creates a trio with the music of three contemporary American composers. The concert includes Richard Pearson Thomas' song cycle "Far Off", Kurt Leland's "Four Songs of David", and Richard Rice's "Songs of Edmund Waller".

February 17th, 2010

The American Songbook

Brian Long with guest artists



Spend an enchanted evening with baritone Brian Long ("Our Sinatra", MABC choir baritone) and friends. This talented trio will pay tribute to early American music and to the Great American Songbook. Join them on this musical journey from Colonial times to the Jazz Age.

March 17th, 2010

The Woman's Voice

Alexandra de Suze with guest artists



Alexandra de Suze, MABC resident mezzo, is joined by friends to celebrate Women's History Month. This trio will celebrate the accomplishments of women composers in a night of both classical and contemporary music.

April 21th, 2010

Love Triangles

Helen Lysons with guest artists



MABC resident soprano, Helon Lysons brings Love Triangles: works from opera arias and ensembles, and art songs that involve love or relationship triangles. The concert features the sumptuous trio of them all, the final trio from Der Rosenkavalier.

May 19th, 2010

Passage

Andy Redeker, Johathon Moon, and Randy Glass with musical director Phil Hall



The inspirational vocal trio known as PASSAGE (Andy Redeker [MABC resident baritone, Randy Glass and Jonathon Moon) are bringing their harmonies to MABC. Under the musical direction of Phil Hall, PASSAGE invites you to an uplifting evening of songs from their album "...for the journey". This is the first time this group's founding members have performed together in 8 years.

June 16th, 2010

Facets of Love

Karen Rich with accompanist Christopher Fecteau

Soprano soloist, Karen Rich explores 3 facets of love through the music of Samuel Barber, powerful poems of Elizabeth Barrett Browning set to music by Valerie Sallbach, and the deep spirituality of nature as set to music by Carlyle Floyd.

At Madison Avenue Baptist Church (MABC) music is an integral part of our worship, a proud tradition for over 160 years. In fact, we hosted the first US performance of Jesus Christ Superstar in our sanctuary in 1971!

In keeping with this tradition, MABC is proud to present a new concert series; TRIOS. The concerts will be presented on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, starting November 18th, 2009 and finishing with a concert on June 16th 2010. Each concert features a member of the MABC's Chancel choir in a concert based on the trio theme.

The concerts span a wide range of music, from vocal trios to trios of composers, from classical to musical theater, from light hearted to deeply spiritual.

Trios is a celebration of vocal music. Please join the celebration!

Concert Schedule:

November, 2009- June 2010
Third Wednesday of the month
7:00 p.m.

Madison Avenue Baptist Church
Madison Avenue between 30th and 31st Sts.
(212) 685-1377
www.mabcnyc.org