

FAPC – A Resource Church

By Jean Erish

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is unique in many ways. One thing in particular stands out: we are one of just a handful among the 98 churches in the New York City Presbytery that has created a Ministerial Candidates Committee! Its role is specifically to nurture members of our congregation who are in theological seminary and under our care.

This Session committee works under the guidance of the Rev. Randy Weber. We have the rewarding task of considering the applications of members who have sensed a call to be Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and endorsing their request as appropriate. At present, we have seven seminarians under our care: graduates Marianne Farrin, Cheni Khonje and Ariane Arpels-Josiah, who have been certified or are awaiting certification to seek a call and Tom Harley, Laura Weber, Caroline Anderson and Marcia Lewis, who are in the early stages of seminary life. “Under our care” means that we give our seminarians spiritual support and guidance, as well assistance buying books as they make their way through seminary. Although some graduates choose to be called to church service, there

are many different arenas they can be drawn to: prison ministry, military or health care chaplaincy, mission work, education, youth ministry, etc.

Past graduates are scattered all over the country: Ron Davids,

Washington State; Donald Mossa, Kristin Granberg and Hui Chen, New Jersey; Scott Huie, Georgia; Ron Zargarian, Indiana; Richard Sheffield, Washington D.C.; Mary Speers, Rebecca Segers and Alyce Rudden, New York; Gordon McClellan, Kansas; and Cress Darwin, South Carolina.

We feel privileged to help pave the way for our seminary graduates to serve Jesus Christ beyond the walls of Fifth Avenue. V



Union-PSCE Seminary student Tom Harley recently returned to FAPC to help out the 2008 pledge drive.