We will again welcome a Jazz Ensemble (keyboard, bass, drums, and vocalist) for Worship in the Round on Sunday, September 3. Vocalist extraordinaire Dawn Anthony, who was the vocalist for Jazz in the Round on May 28, will lead the congregation in singing in the absence of choir members and the music team, who will be on their annual retreat over Labor Day weekend. Worship will be at 10:00am in Heaton Hall followed by Sermon TalkBack. This will be the last worship service on the summer schedule.

Quick Guide to August Events

| Aug. 1-30 | Accepting Fall Connections Proposals | page 5 |
| Aug. 2-4  | Vacation Bible School | page 7 |
| Aug. 20   | Rev. LeDayne Polaski, Ex. Dir. BPFNA will guest preach |
| Aug. 20   | Interfaith Service | see above |
| Aug. 26   | Charlotte PRIDE Festival | see article above |
| Aug. 27   | Rev. Chrissy Tatum Williamson will preach |
| Aug. 27   | PRIDE Worship and PRIDE Parade | see article above |

Looking Ahead:

| Sep. 3    | Worship in the Round | see article to the left |
| Sep. 5    | Music Together Fall Session Starts | page 10 |
| Sep. 10   | Start-Up Sunday | page 9 |
| Sep. 13   | Children’s Choirs, Coffee Chat, and Awakenings Series Begin | pages 9 and 10 |

LGBTQ Pride is the positive stance against discrimination and violence toward people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning or queer. It seeks to promote self-affirmation, dignity, and equality while raising awareness about sexual diversity and gender variance. Pride, as opposed to shame and social stigma, is the predominant outlook that bolsters most LGBTQ rights movements throughout our country and throughout the world. Charlotte’s PRIDE festival includes diverse national, regional, and local entertainers, musicians, and bands. It also hosts numerous vendor booths, including art exhibitors, area non-profits, political candidates, retailers, food stands, and more!

As an act of faith and solidarity with all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, MPBC participates in Charlotte PRIDE each year. In the past, we’ve been involved in interfaith worship services, the parade, and the opening ceremonies, as well as having a booth to show that we are welcoming and affirming of all people – open to all and closed to none.

This year, as we prepare for Charlotte’s PRIDE Festival, there are a number of ways that you can get involved to support and stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ members and broader community.

For more information about PRIDE and our Church’s involvement in these events, please contact Ryan LaPrade, Chairman, Faith and Justice SLG.
Tactics, Tactics, and More Tactics!

By Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell

The staff has been hard at work during June and July developing tactics for the Jubilee Strategic Plan. Tactics suggested in the congregation’s Listening Circles were our jumping-off point. To complete this challenging objective, the staff participated in three robust day-long retreats to generate concepts and ideas for possible tactics. After each retreat, key members of the administrative, program, and senior staff worked together for countless hours revising those tactics to make them S.M.A.R.T. = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely.

In our work, many members of the staff stepped up to take on new leadership roles that enabled us to develop these tactics more efficiently and effectively. At this point the staff has developed over forty creative and exciting tactics filled with amazing new possibilities for our Church. If we can implement them in the next two to three years, they will not only help us achieve our strategic goals; they will transform our congregation in unbelievable ways that will be beneficial for our members and the wider community.

I am incredibly proud of all the hard work and extra hours our staff has dedicated to this extraordinary and important task. However, the work is not over yet. As I write this article, our staff is engaging in conversations with the chairs of each Ministry to fine tune and finalize each tactic, to determine the costs of each tactic, and to prepare the 2018 budget for their ministry area. When this work has been completed, we will have not only completed strategic plan, but a budget that prioritizes our strategic objectives as well.

The most important tactic that we have developed might be the one that sets boundaries on our work, thereby giving us the ability to implement all the other tactics without putting too much burden on the staff, lay leaders, and the budget.

Tactic #40 - Create a lay leadership/staff covenant at the 2017 Deacon retreat that prioritizes Sabbath/self-care (to reduce over-commitment of lay leaders, Deacons, and staff) and agrees on a “net zero” workload relating to the implementation of the strategic plan. Net zero means we eliminate a comparable current event, program, initiative, or task before adding any new one. (Deacons and Staff)

As you can see, the staff has already anticipated many of the challenges that we will face as a church, when implementing this new Strategic Plan. Yet, regardless of the challenges, we have been exhilarated by the work we have done together, we are energized by the tactics we have developed, and we are extremely hopeful about the future of this beloved congregation. This fall we will share the tactics with the Deacons and the congregation. Thank you for your support of our staff and of this strategic planning process. We have been called forever forward and we believe that the best is yet to come.

Charlotte PRIDE

(... continued from page 1)

Charlotte PRIDE Festival | S. Tryon Street
Saturday, August 26 | Noon–10:00pm
Sunday, August 27 | Noon–6:00pm
Come enjoy the food, fellowship, and entertainment as you browse art and vendor booths, discovering the diversity of Charlotte’s LGBTQ and ally communities.

Worship | MPBC Sanctuary
Sunday, August 27 | 10:00-11:00am
Worship with us on August 27th as we celebrate the diversity of God’s beautiful creation.

Charlotte PRIDE Parade
Sunday, August 27 | 1:00-3:00pm
You won’t want to miss this culminating event of Charlotte’s PRIDE festival! Join us at the parade as LGBTQ people and allies march in celebration and affirmation of sexual diversity and gender variance.

Congregational Joys and Concerns

(as of July 10, 2017)

DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:
• The family of former Life Deacon, Dr. George D. Page, on June 17 in Charlotte, NC.
• Mac Sasser on the death of his father, and Claire and Ben Sasser on the death of their grandfather, Charles Edward Sasser, on June 17 in Morganton, NC.
• Ron and Anne Knight on the death of his mother, and Kathryn and Maggie Knight on the death of their grandmother, Joyce W. Knight, on June 25 in Concord, NC.
• Anna Gallant on the death of her mother, and Amber and Abbey Gallant-Kegeris on the death of their grandmother, Laverne Gallant, on July 3 in Charlotte, NC.

BIRTHS — CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Andrew and Joelle Baysden on the birth of their daughter, and Marielle on the birth of her sister, Kitley Claire Baysden, on June 6 in Charlotte, NC.
• Carolyn and Lewis Gaskin on the birth of their grandson, Jack Miley Gaskin, on June 27 in Charlotte, NC.
• Valerie Delby and Stacey Lee on the birth of their son, and Genevieve Delby-Lee on the birth of her brother, Sutton Graham Delby-Lee, on July 2 in Charlotte, NC.
Community Life | 75th Anniversary

MPBC Newsletter August 2017

We Welcome Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman as Church Administrator

By Suzette Buchan, Chair - Church Administrator Search Group

Your Church Administrator Search Group is delighted to announce the Church’s call to the Reverend Leigh Anne Hagerman to become our Church Administrator at the retirement of Barry Metzger. After a national search, review of many candidates, and intense interviews with several, we found the best fit for our Church just down the street. Reverend Hagerman, an ordained Methodist minister, comes to us from Charlotte’s Providence United Methodist Church where she has served as its Executive Pastor/Administrator. Her duties at PUMC align with those she will have at MPBC. As you know, our Church Administrator is a critical position on our staff as this person directs many diverse functions in the life of the Church including financial matters, stewardship, endowment, events, Cornwell Center, facilities and grounds, operations, human resources, etc. We feel extremely fortunate to have found someone both qualified and experienced in these responsibilities.

Reverend Hagerman, who grew up in southwest Virginia, has outstanding educational qualifications including a BA from George Mason University, a Master of Public Administration from James Madison University, and a Master of Divinity from Emory University. Before going into ministry, her work experience included the Kansas State Division of the Budget, the Justice Department in Washington, DC, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, DC, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Her prior experience in ministry includes the 3000+ member New Covenant United Methodist Church, The Villages, Florida, where she served as Associate Director of Pastoral Care and as Director of Finance.

Also very important, in addition to her job skills and experiences, is Reverend Hagerman’s fit with our Church through her strong faith, her theological convictions reflected in our Church Covenant, her openness, her warmth, and her sense of humor. We are also fortunate to gain two additional new members, Reverend Hagerman’s children, Raegan, 10, is a rising 5th grader and Brady, 6, a rising 1st grader. Please join us in giving a big MPBC welcome to Leigh Anne and her family. She will begin work on August 1.

75th Anniversary Planning Task Force Update

By Bob Thomason

The 75th Anniversary Planning Task Force has been hard at work doing high-level planning for next year’s 75th Anniversary Jubilee celebration! We have collected great ideas from the congregation, staff, and the Deacons and narrowed them down to a list of six to seven events. This list is still a work in progress, but some of the events being considered include:

• a special Founders’ Day Worship Service featuring newly-commissioned music followed by a reception for our special guests (former ministers, staff, and “friends of MPBC”)
• guest speakers and preachers throughout the year
• an intergenerational weekend retreat
• a Jubilee variety show featuring our many talented Church members
• a summer “revival” week in partnership with another church
• a Saturday afternoon Food Truck Rodeo family event
• a Jubilee outreach project
• an environmentally-oriented project
• a 75th Anniversary Jubilee Cookbook

In addition to these events, we will also hold our 75th Anniversary Capital Campaign to raise much-needed funds for campus maintenance and outreach projects. Chris William is heading this group and they have already done the extensive groundwork necessary for a successful campaign, including the preparation of our messaging and marketing material. You will begin to hear about this effort early next year.

Finally, under Lynn Trenning’s leadership we are undertaking a major effort to capture Church member memories and collect our archives. We are planning an extensive series of video and audio interviews, versus a written update as we’ve done in the past. You will be hearing more about this in the weeks ahead. There will be a way for anyone who wants to share a Church memory or story to do so. Expect to see some of this material transcribed and displayed around the Church. Wherever you are in our Church, you will know it is our 75th Anniversary Jubilee!

I’ve asked for and received many Jubilee celebration ideas from you and while some preliminary decisions have been made, continue to send me your additional thoughts and ideas. And in the coming months, some of you will be asked to help plan the details of our events. I hope you’ll say “yes” if you receive the call. We all need to participate in this grand celebration.

I have spent the last several months rereading our Church histories and exploring the Church archives. We have so much to be proud of! At the same time, as Secretary of the Board of Deacons, I’ve had the pleasure of participating in the strategic planning process that has resulted in our 75th Anniversary Jubilee Strategic Plan. We have so much to look forward to! Next year will be truly exciting as we celebrate our storied history and prepare for an even better future.
Our Work is Just Beginning
As Together We Reimagine Our Church

By Carol Reid Fricke
Chair, Strategic Planning Council

On Pentecost Sunday, we gathered as a people on a journey of faith. As our hearts were set on fire by God’s Spirit, we felt a revitalized energy to answer God’s call to move forever forward in faith. The 75th Anniversary Jubilee Strategic Plan, enthusiastically adopted by our Congregation, is an ongoing journey calling us to deeper spirituality, deeper commitments to each other, and more purposeful ministry in the larger community. Below are comments offered at the June meeting by a few members of the Strategic Planning Council.

Through the Listening Circles, surveys, and research, you, the people of this Church, decided where we’re going, what territory we will cross. You, the people of this church, told us where to spend most of our time. You have set our sights on what we want to learn as we travel, how we need to change to have a successful journey, how we want to interact with those we encounter, what footprints we want to leave behind.

The best part of this plan is the part you can’t see . . . the “you and me” part, where we roll up our shirt sleeves, we get involved, and we start embodying the words on these pieces of paper . . . . – Debby Love

Goal 1: Continuously explore and deepen our faith in God, who frees and transforms us in heart, mind, and body.
• Worship and Faith Formation are the grounding that prepares us to stand and contribute. Worship, after all, sends us up and out to do something - something for the reconciling of the world – the world within us, the world around us. – Joan Hope
• We have long honored questioning, seeking, and critical thinking. Now we intentionally add transformation of hearts and bodies as well. Faith Formation in the next five years is intended to ground our hearts and bodies as well as our intellects. – Joan Hope

Goal 2: Build a dynamic, diverse church culture where we embrace and empower one another through wholehearted relationships.
• We’ve been doing all of these things on some level. What this goal says to me is that we're going to expand on what has been and build even stronger connections and relationships. We’re going to be intentional – even radical -- about embracing and engaging with and empowering each other as we walk our respective journeys of faith beside each other. – Gloria Gibson
• The second goal in this Strategic Plan is Connections on steroids! It takes that kind of energy and explodes it across all facets of the Church! . . . There’s a sense of warmth and caring, and a level of intimacy inherent in the word family. . . . And, I love the idea of gathering to listen to our stories. I hope this intentional sharing in each other’s lives and just plain being there for each other is something you long for as well. – Debby Love

Goal 3: Boldly practice the compassion and justice of Jesus by working with the poor, marginalized, and oppressed.
• As an action-oriented person, I pray we will be taking the lead on social justice issues. That when the community is in crisis, we are ready with solutions. That because we are focusing on one or two issues at a time, we can increase the impact. I pray we will be achieving it with the purposeful intent of breaking bread with those with whom we partner. I pray we are not just the voice or catalyst for change, but a part of the energy and motion as well. This deep knowing of the community we partner with and are committed to will be the foundation of our successes. – Mary Conlon

Goal 4: Cultivate our human, financial, and physical resources to grow and sustain a vibrant church.
• It will take money, people, and technology to grow and sustain a vibrant church. This goal includes telling our story well in every way and using every means that we can. In doing so, current members will be reminded of why this Church is an important part of their lives and prospective members will learn who we are, what we're doing, and what's at our core . . . . Growing our membership and returning our membership level to a number which more appropriately sustains our programs and administrative costs is a strategy that we must all commit to. Every member of our Church should be alert to those in our community who are seeking a church home and be willing to tell MPBC’s story. – Dick Cornwell
• Dick and I both grew up in this Church. That’s rare these days because most people don’t stay in one place all their lives, but you’re looking at two people who have. We’ve experienced first hand how important our Church can be in the life of families. This Church has nurtured us spiritually, emotionally and even intellectually. . . . from the cradle and, most likely, to the grave (or rather, the Columbarium). What other institution in a person’s life can have that sort of influence? I am who I am because of Myers Park Baptist Church and I consider being born into this Church one of the greatest blessings of my life. – Bob Thomason
• It is critical that in this day and age, when mainstream, high street churches are dying by the thousands, that our church not only survives but thrives. It is our duty to ensure that future generations can also receive the blessings that God offers through Myers Park Baptist Church. That’s why this goal of sustainability is so important. – Bob Thomason

On June 4, 2017, you, the people of our Church, accepted the challenge to build again on the foundation of our Founders: to use it not as a place to rest, but as a challenge to constantly push, stretch, and grow; a challenge to reach beyond complacency, whether that is through small moments of human interaction or grand attacks on worldly injustice. Myers Park Baptist has long been a place that is timeless yet very much of its time, often a step ahead, moving at the forefront, leading the way. As a great institution we continue to be visionary, not reactionary, and never content with where we stand. God guides our gaze always toward the stars that light the darkness, the horizon where new light beckons forever forward.

To watch a three-minute video describing our Goals and to read our Strategies, go to www.mpbconline.org/strategic-plan.
Financial Update

By Richard Harris
Chair, Ministry of Financial Resources

Congregational generosity is vital at MPBC. Not only does it fund programs designed to grow spirituality, but it also allows MPBC to maintain its historic facility. Without your generosity, programs suffer and routine maintenance must be deferred, leading to the risk of larger, more expensive issues. I highlight this to say thank you for your continued support of MPBC.

RECEIPTS:
Through May 2017, MPBC collected pledges of $636,342k vs. a budgeted amount of $716,867. Please keep in mind that MPBC budgeted a $50,000 “cushion” into receivables, which serves as a buffer against pledges that are not fulfilled. As we enter the second half of the fiscal year, it is important that pledges are fulfilled providing MPBC with a better view of its financial standing as it starts the 2018 budgetary process. If you have any questions regarding your pledge or would like a detailed statement of your giving to date, please contact Barry Metzger (bmetzger@myersparkbaptist.org).

Other giving highlights for the first five months of 2017:
• Rice Bowl is behind plan with $3.3k in receipts vs. budget of $5.3k
• Loose Plate is behind plan with $11.9k in receipts vs. budget of $18.2k
• 5-in-1 totaled $25k vs. budget of $25k

SPENDING:
Spending has been below budget of $859.1k at $831.5k. Our staff and lay leaders should be commended for keeping expenditures in check. Salaries and Benefits, the largest line item in the annual budget, was also below budget, but we should expect this to trend towards the break-even point by the end of the year.

BALANCE SHEET:
• MPBC carried $210.5k of undesignated cash on the balance sheet.
This covers average monthly expenditures by 1.28 months, or 39 days.
• MPBC carried $1.05MM of “designated cash” on the balance sheet. These funds have donor restrictions imposed upon them (e.g. 2017 pledges paid during 2016).
• MPBC does not carry debt at this time.

LOOKING FORWARD:
• Ministry of Financial Resources (MFR) is working with the Governance and Oversight SLG on streamlining MFR. This would involve MFR absorbing the roles and responsibilities of the Budget and Finance SLG. The reason is that the efforts are duplicative and redundant. Before the retirement of the Budget and Finance SLG occurs, the Governance and Oversight SLG will review the proposal at its July 18 meeting. Strategic Planning Council as well as the Board of Deacons will review any changes as they relate to the Ministry descriptions.
• With the assistance of senior staff, MFR will review the designated funds on the balance sheet. There are several instances where designated funds have been sitting dormant for many years. For example, there is a designated fund in Faith Formation totaling $611.93 with a designation for Boy Scouting Programs – MPBC has not had a connection with the Boy Scouts of America for many years. MFR would like to better understand the restrictive designations associated with these funds and determine if they can be deployed into Church programs/activities that are similar in nature to their initial designation. Of the $1.05MM of designated funds on the balance sheet, MFR and senior staff identified roughly $25,000 worth of funds to research further.

SUMMARY:
Congregational generosity is imperative to MPBC’s success. Expectations are that pledge receipts will catch up with budgeted numbers once we enter the fall and winter months.

DO YOU HAVE A GREAT IDEA FOR A SMALL GROUP?
We’re accepting proposals August 1-20 for groups beginning September 10 and ending by December 20, 2017.
To submit your idea, go to www.mpbconline.org/group-proposal-form/. If you have questions or would like to talk through your idea, contact Rev. Chrissy Williamson (cwilliamson@myersparkbaptist.org) or Ashley Hardy, Chair, Connections SLG (ashley.c.hardy@bankofamerica.com).
Awakening . . . What's Next!

By Chrissy Williamson

Last summer, we announced that Faith Formation programming was going to be centered around a theme of Awakening to Racial Injustice for the entire 2016-2017 Church year. God only knew what was in store for us as we embarked upon the journey.

The word “Awakening” reminds me of the disciples in the garden who fell asleep when Jesus needed them the most. He asked them to keep watch and stay awake, yet they fell asleep and left him vulnerable, alone, and subject to the authorities and the institutionalized powers of the Roman Empire. In the same way, we can often live our lives asleep in a sense - going about our business, participating blindly in the systems of power and privilege that keep us safe and make us feel secure financially, socially, physically, and spiritually. And yet the call of Jesus to all disciples is quite literally to stay awake.

Last (Church) year we awakened to many of the ways that racism and white privilege thrive in our society, leaving people of color vulnerable to structures and systems of oppression. Many of you felt called to wake up and do something about it and reached out to me and other ministers on staff to ask, “What are we going to do?”

Unfortunately, there is no simple answer.

First, get involved in advocacy; let your voice amplify the cries of the voiceless. Join with others who are working to create a more equitable city, state, country, and world, such as The Stan Greenspon Center at Queens University (stangreensponcenter.org), which will be focusing on racial justice this year. Join them to continue to learn and develop an advocacy program for racial justice. The NAACP (http://www.charlottenaacp.com) is also a great resource for joining an established advocacy network for people of color.

Second, get involved with an immediate-needs ministry. Remember that in Charlotte, race and socio-economic status go hand in hand. Volunteering with Freedom School, Florence Crittendon, Urban Ministries, etc. helps people in crisis. The Outreach Ministry at MPBC is connected with several agencies in town and could help you find a place to plug in that fits you.

Third, get connected and start building relationships! Over the course of the year, we – as a Church – worked to build a relationship with Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist Church. Our relationships blossomed during the Deep South Pilgrimage. If you went on the pilgrimage, consider calling one of your new friends from Mayfield and see how you might grow your friendship. If you were unable to attend the pilgrimage but want to make connections with Mayfield members, stay tuned, as there will be several opportunities for connection this year.

Fourth, spend significant time in personal discernment. The Church as a whole will be in discernment about what we (as a group) are doing about racial justice. The first initiative is building the partnership with Mayfield. The other critical work for each of us is discerning our personal call to action. We are all called to wake up and work for justice, but what that work looks like will be different for each of us. If you need pastoral care and support through this discernment process, don’t hesitate to reach out to one of your ministers. We are all here to support you on this journey of discovery and discernment.

At this point you may be wondering what’s next for the Awakening series. We’re moving from race to ethnicity. Beginning September 13, our monthly Wednesday evening sessions will return. This year we’ll be “Awakening” to immigration injustice in collaboration with Queens University and the Baptist Peace Fellowship, to design a series that helps us understand and wake up to the ways foreigners and strangers are received in our country, our city, and our churches.
Faith Formation

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

By Allen Davis

Summer Chill and Fall Moments

We are excited to begin Youth Group for the 2017-2018 church year. Our theme this year is “In the Moment.” We will focus on finding God in each moment of our lives. We extend a huge welcome to our rising 6th graders who will join us this fall. We are looking for people who are willing to share moments in which they have found God working in their lives. If you would like to share this with our youth through the building of relationships, please contact me at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org.

Our summer has been jam-packed with activities during the #MPBCSummerChill. This time of fellowship has given us a chance to kick back and enjoy the summer months together. We have gathered for ice cream, played four square, and had dinner together, among other activities. We will continue with #MPBCSummerChill throughout the month of August. Check our Instagram and Facebook pages for details.

In July we sent 18 youth and 4 chaperones to Greensboro, NC for Passport Camp. For 5 days the youth and chaperones bonded with each other as well as youth from around the country as they learned about God’s goodness and ways to seek God daily. The youth were able to choose courses to take during “Choice Time.” These courses were designed to assist youth with discerning the talents, passions, and avenues of service that God is calling them to exercise. We look forward to sharing their experiences in our September newsletter.

We are ecstatic to announce that the Youth Ministry was able to award $6,000 in scholarships through Scholarship Endowment funds. Anna Butler, James Emmanuel, Charlie Clarke, and Joseph Trenning were the recipients of this year’s scholarships. We are grateful for the chance to support our youth beyond the Youth Ministry.

It’s been a busy summer for the youth of MPBC. We look forward for the excitement to continue this fall.

—

By Carrie Veal

Children’s Ministry News

Why We Are Excited About VBS

Wednesday August 2 - Friday, August 4 | 9:00a – Noon

In the late winter of 2014 a group of parents and adults got together and decided to reinvent Vacation Bible School at MPBC. That first year they hoped to have 25 children. We had 50. Each year our mini-VBS has grown, not just in numbers, but in relationships.

This year over half of our participants are Through-The-Week School children and families, which goes to show how strong the bridge between our two ministries has grown. This is what it means to be super heroes to one another, being present and in relationship.

This promises to be a wonderful three days where we will learn, laugh, and discover the super powers of love, mercy and kindness we all have and can all give to one another.

This year we will collect toys and money for Levine Children’s Hospital to make those long-term stays a little more bearable for families and children. As always VBS is a wonderful time of being together. Thanks to all who made it possible this year!

—

Getting Ready for Fall:

Serving this September

In just a few weeks we will begin a new Church year. Our classrooms will be full of laughter and learning, and I hope you will be there too! Every week our children gather to learn the stories of our faith and you play a big role in that. By being present on Sunday mornings from 9:45–10:45, you are investing in our children’s faith journeys. Training, supplies, lessons and more are all provided. No need to reinvent the wheel! To learn more or to sign up, contact me at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org or 704.334.7232 x 118.

www.mpbconline.org
Freedom Summer, 2017 Edition

By Laura Handler

Many, MANY thanks to the 75+ volunteers who have served in some capacity to support Freedom School at Pinewood Elementary this summer, promoting the confidence, activism, and literacy skills of our community’s youth. While next month we hope to share scholars’ perspectives on the experience, below are the voices of MPBC members as they reflect on their outreach over the last six weeks:

I have always loved to read, so sitting with a child who is reading something he or she thinks is interesting is a joy to me. Thirty minutes of engagement in reading for fun gives me the chance to have one-on-one connection with one kid who for just a short time has an adult’s whole attention and caring.

– Jane Leighton Burts

I wish every day started as joyously as a morning at Harambee! I loved every minute of it.

– Lucy Chapman

I’ve loved getting help from the scholars this summer. Every other week, we show up with 160 bags of food from Second Harvest ready to go home with the scholars over the weekends. And each time, scholars in grades 6-8 come out willingly and cheerfully helping us unload the food, while we laugh and joke in the June and July heat. The Freedom School motto of “let’s pull together” really feels alive during these times.

– Tara Harris

Ellie, Whit, and I read during DEAR time, and when we left we couldn’t stop gushing about the children we worked with and when we could do it again!

– Lalla Dabbs

What fun to see through the playful, inquisitive, imaginative, striving eyes of a child as stories come to life and reading shifts from chore to adventure. How amazing/disconcerting/meaningful to have been on the Deep South Pilgrimage in May, absorbed stories of the Civil Rights Movement, and then to come back to discover that Freedom Schools were started during that era and my participation in a Freedom School in Charlotte, NC puts me in the stream of that long-term, persistent work to change the insidious legacies of racism. In the words of David Orr, "Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up."

– Joan Hope

The one-on-one relationship in DEAR reading, the group interaction on field trips, as well as the energy and excitement of this young group during Harambee, bring true joy to this volunteering experience.

– Dottie Burnside

My time with the students has been fun. I’ve been impressed with their reading skills!

– Barbara Mishoe

Walking into Pinewood Elementary, I am greeted with the familiar sights and smells of a school building. Inside, colorful pictures, awards and placards line the walls as I make my way to the Freedom School gathering spot. A few minutes later my reading buddy pops out of a classroom, smile glowing, book in hand. We spend some time reading her book, asking each other questions, and talking about fun things to do during the summer. Trips to Carowinds are her favorite. I leave to hurry back to a corporate building uptown to make my next meeting, hoping she had as much fun reading together as I did.

– Ashley Hardy

I took my 2 kids to read with scholars, alongside me. They loved it! The students soak up the one-on-one attention like sponges. As a volunteer, I always gain as much as I give, if not more.

– Holly Wood

Working with the kids at Pinewood as a reading buddy has been one of the easiest outreach activities I’ve ever done, yet also one of the most rewarding. All of my reading buddies have seemed to really enjoy and appreciate having someone take an interest in their reading development.

– Saxby Chaplin

Through Freedom School, I have been able to interact with kids from all around the Charlotte area and of different ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds than myself. During the DEAR readings, it’s so satisfying to see the face of a child light up when I read them their favorite book, or when I try to emphasize and act out dialogue from the book we’re reading. With the field trips, it was fun to not only ensure that the kids stayed safe, but as well to engage myself with the activities the kids were doing for that field trip (in my case it was ice skating and swimming at Ray’s Splash Planet). During the field day, it was fun to see the kids enjoy themselves in the potato sack race and cheer on their classmates and learn the important lesson of teamwork along with it.

– James Emmanuel, Jr.

Please stay tuned for more details of MPBC’s initiative to continue support of Pinewood Elementary throughout the school year! ■
ROOM IN THE INN:
Shampoo, Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes . . .

By Joe Aldrich
When we begin hosting our RITI guests in December, 2017, we will need to replenish our supplies of shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. As you travel this summer, consider bringing back toiletries from your hotel/motel rooms and donate them for Room In The Inn. Perhaps you have some of these items at home, or maybe you’ve seen sales in local stores. In whatever ways you can help our guests, your generosity and hospitality are appreciated. A collection box will be located by the Church Office elevator.

One of the most rewarding ways to serve our Church:
Become a Lay Reader!

By Peggy Seale
Lay Readers at MPBC are individuals who read the selected scripture during the worship service. Those who read are moved by scripture and like the experience of telling part of the biblical story. As you can tell from watching them, this is an enjoyable way for many to participate in the service.

Here’s how the readings are chosen:
Ben, or the preacher for the day, most often follows the scripture choices of the Revised Common Lectionary of the Protestant Church. This is a three-year cycle (Year A, B, and C) of usually four scriptures beginning with the liturgical season of Advent. For example, Year-A Gospel readings are from Matthew; Year-B, Mark; and Year-C, Luke. The Gospel of John is usually read during Easter and Lent, where appropriate. Within a three-year period, the principle behind the lectionary is that on Sundays, members should be able to hear the voice of each writer rather than readings being selected according to a theme.

However, since MPBC has a free pulpit, our preacher is given the freedom to choose other scriptures not from the lectionary or speak to the current social and political context of the day.

If you have questions about the process or would like to sign up now, please contact me directly (paseale@yahoo.com | home: 704.553.8545 | cell: 925.639.4080). If you decide to participate, we will train you and then contact you with available dates.

I look forward to our upcoming time together as Lay Readers.

A rocking good time was had by all at Worship in the Round on July 2 (the service is available on our website)

SAVE THE DATES FOR START -UP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
9:45a Faith Formation Classes
11:00a Worship
12:00a Barbeque Lunch
5:00p Youth Choir
6:00p Youth Fellowship

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
5:15p Children’s Choir
5:15p Coffee Chat
6:30p Awakening to Immigration Injustice
Chancel Choir Retreats to the Mountains

By Fran Morrison

Each Labor Day for the past 53 years, the Chancel Choir has spent Labor Day weekend retreating together in the mountains. Webster’s defines retreat as “a period of group withdrawal for prayer, meditation, study, or instruction under a director.” I think that sums up our weekend – except for the omission of recreational fun. Our choir retreat offers time to re-focus and re-engage, time for prayer, worship, meditation, rest, renewal, and family time - all while learning a lot of music that we will bring back for fall worship services. It is a sacrifice of time as well as a blessing for renewal and reconnection. Our theme this year will center around radical hospitality (within and outside), one of the Strategic Planning phrases. If you love singing choral music and would like to join this eclectic group of singers, please contact me at fmorrison@myersparkbaptist.org or call 704.334.7232 x 117.

Children’s Choirs Begin

Wednesday, September 13

By Charlotte Judge

Carol Choir (K-1st Grade) will meet from 5:15–6:15pm. Chapel Choir (2nd through 5th Grade) will meet from 5:15–6:30pm. We begin rehearsals with a snack at 5:10pm and then move through singing, movement, and instrument experiences. Each choir will lead in worship throughout the year. Registration for Children’s Choirs is available through myMPBC.

Coffee Chat for adults meets from 5:15–6:30pm in the Parlor.

Save the Date!

Make Music. You’ll Be Happier.

By Lucy Chapman

Did you know that all children are natural musicians? Music Together classes help children develop a foundation for life-long music-making, and the grown-ups that care for them are an essential part of the fun. Come shake eggs, sing about bunnies and frogs, and dance your cares away! Your little ones will love it, too. Our family-oriented, participatory classes are a wonderful place to make new friends and spend quality time with your child. Plus, you’ll fill your parenting tool belt with songs and activities to ease transitions and make your lives more musical! A recent study found that one-year-old babies who participate in interactive music classes with their parents smile more, communicate better, and show earlier and more sophisticated brain responses to music.

When you register for a weekly 45-minute Music Together class, you’ll receive award-winning music that you take home (2 CDs, a download code, and a songbook) to continue the experience and find ways to keep making music throughout the day, in the evenings, and on weekends.

Our community grows stronger through our shared joy of music. As a Church member, you receive a 50% discount (use code MPBC) on classes at the MPBC location. AND you can register for the Fall Session a week early on August 14 (use code PREF17). Please drop me a line with any questions at lucybelle22@gmail.com - I hope to sing with you soon! ~ Ms. Lucy
After School This Fall

Our mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that promotes cognitive and physical growth. Filled with exciting enrichments, art projects, and group physical activities, the After School Program and Preschool Club Program at The Cornwell Center is a beautiful place for your children to spend their afternoons. Our program teaches life skills and promotes a balanced atmosphere of learning and fun! Registration is NOW OPEN for Myers Park Baptist Through- the-Week School, Selwyn, Dilworth, Eastover, Waddell Language Academy, and Myers Park Traditional.

Preschool Clubs 12:30 – 2:30pm
For children ages 2.5-5
Preschool Clubs offer two hours of stimulating play and learning. If you are incorporated with our PMO Program or if your child attends Through- the- Week School, take advantage of our monthly clubs to give your child a special time of hands-on learning and action-packed fun.

After School 2:30-4:30pm
For children ages 4+ (must be 4 by August 31st)
Kids ages 4+ will join our traditional after school program starting at 2:30pm. For pricing and registration, please visit cornwellcenter.org/youthservices/. Contact Nicolette Agosto nagosto@cornwellcenter.org with questions.

Fitness
Looking for the current Group Exercise Schedule? You can always find the current offerings on the website at this address: cornwellcenter.org/schedule. Bookmark it for quick reference.

September 8-10: Yoga Teacher Training with The Center for Integrative Yoga Studies
This workshop will focus on Experiential Anatomy & Therapeutic Essentials of Yoga for the Lower Extremity. Early bird pricing is $350 until August 7, $400 after August 7. Yoga Alliance CUs available.

Art
The powerful piece from Levine Museum exhibit K(NO)W Peace will remain in our lobby until August 8. A companion piece is in the courtyard between the MPBC Sanctuary and the Education Building.

LiveWell Cornwall
PHOTO Connections
Wednesday, August 16 7–9PM with John Bambach cornwellcenter.org/photo/
Our August assignment is your choice of two subjects: "Reflections" or "Time Exposure." Email 1-2 photos to jbambach@cornwellcenter.org by noon on August 15.

All are welcome at our FREE meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. All levels of experience and equipment are invited, from the casual smartphone user to the serious practitioner with an SLR. This group emphasizes the basics of photography – composition, light, color, and subject. If you're new to our group, please visit facebook.com/PhotoSIG to see past galleries.

FLOURISH:
A pop-up experience for your soul
Wednesday, August 30th
10:30AM-12:00PM
Cornwell Conference Room
A free presentation about getting grounded in grace, learning to cultivate the divine in your daily life and blossoming! This interactive program is designed to engage participants through imagery, a meditative walk, and the idea of tending the soul garden.

Learn how to become more intentional about your soul's condition in this inspiring mini-workshop led by Lisa Cashion, a licensed counselor and chaplain, and Julie Marr, a writer trained in the ancient art of Spiritual Direction.

Register at cornwellcenter.org or at the Welcome Desk. Brought to you by the Learning Connection.
Ministers and Staff

The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell  
Senior Minister  
bboswell@myersparkbaptist.org | x 111

Frances L. Morrison  
Minister of Music  
fmorrison@myersparkbaptist.org | x 117

The Reverend Joseph D. Aldrich  
Associate Minister  
jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org | x 113

The Reverend Chrissy Tatum Williamson  
Minister of Faith Formation  
cwilliamson@myersparkbaptist.org | x 123

The Reverend Barry Z. Metzger  
Church Administrator  
bmetzger@myersparkbaptist.org | x 116

The Reverend Carrie Veal  
Minister of Children and Families  
cveal@myersparkbaptist.org | x 118

Dr. Matthew Manwarren  
Organist  
manwarren@myersparkbaptist.org

Charlotte Judge  
Associate Director of Music  
cjudge@myersparkbaptist.org | x 121

Allen Davis  
Interim Director of Youth Ministry  
adavis@myersparkbaptist.org | x 112

Jenny Yopp  
Director of The Cornwell Center  
jyopp@cornwellcenter.org | x 601

Belinda Geuss  
Director of Through-The-Week School  
bgeuss@myersparkbaptist.org | x 122

Miguel De La Torre
J21 Scholar

Save the Date
for a provocative weekend with
Rev. Dr. Miguel De La Torre,
scholar, activist, theologian, author

October 13-15

www.mpbconline.org/
jesus-21st-century