**Alternative Worship Services:**

*August 23, 30 and September 12*

By Robin Coira

In last month’s newsletter there was an article by Debbie Moore Clark, Chair of the Ministry of Worship and Music, outlining the results of the Alternative Worship Task Force. There were several recommendations that emerged from this fine piece of work. Of significant importance was the recommendation that the church staff along with lay leaders plan and offer three different styles of alternative worship during the summer months. Based upon this request by those who completed the worship survey, I am pleased to announce that plans are underway to make this happen.

Here are the plans thus far. We will offer a **Contemplative Service on Sunday, August 23 in Heaton Hall at 10:00.** This will be the only worship service offered that day. Rabbi Judy Schindler will preach. Following worship we will remain in Heaton Hall and have a brief time for evaluating the service. TalkBack will begin following the evaluation. Contemplative Worship is a worship style in which we quiet ourselves in order to open ourselves to the mystery of God within.

On Sunday, August 30 we will offer an **Upbeat Alternative Service in Heaton Hall at 10:00.** This will be the only worship service offered that day. Rabbi Judy Schindler will be our guest preacher. Following worship, we will have time for an evaluation of the service and then TalkBack will begin. Upbeat Alternative Worship is an interactive, contemporary style of worship. Ours will be patterned after the alternative worship service at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

**Saturday, September 12 we will offer...**

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**VBS - Continuing the Tradition**

By Carrie Veal

Like so many church-going children who grew up in the 1980s, Vacation Bible School was a part of my summer. My sister and I would attend VBS at our Church, then later in the summer we would go to my grandmother’s church for a second week. My last year as a VBS participant was the summer before 7th grade. VBS was always so much fun. I learned from adults who I may not have been around at other times in the church year. I was able to spend a week with my friends, deepening those friendships, some of which continue today. And when I look at my own faith journey, I know that VBS played a role in shaping me and later in my call into full time ministry.

Over the years Vacation Bible School has changed. The snacks have become more elaborate, the songs more original, and themes range from the beach to outer space. But the core of VBS is the same: to create a time and space for children’s faith to be formed, for adults to serve the littlest ones among us, and for community to be built among everyone who participates.

We will continue this long time Vacation Bible School tradition this August. Our theme this year is “Have U Herd?” Together we will learn how Jesus loves, comforts and provides for us. Our children will...Continued on page 7

**Toxic Stress**

By Cheri Lindblom

My stress is nothing compared to what children and adults who live in poverty, or financially insecure environments face day to day. For children living in poverty, the ability to succeed can be hindered by stress from their home life. Neglect, abuse, exposure to violence, and lack of food are triggers causing toxic stress - the inability of the body to calm down and go back to baseline. For many of our neighbors, triggers include:

- Hunger - no dinner, no breakfast, or having to stand in line to receive dinner at the Soup Kitchen. The embarrassment of free and reduced lunch
- Housing - living in a shelter, crowded housing, poor neighborhood sanitation and maintenance, residential turnover
- Family Discord - the net of abuse is not just physical

Just imagine yourself as a nine-year-old child - sharing a one-room apartment with...Continued on page 8
The Psalmist tells us to “Make a joyful noise to the Lord” and that is exactly what Jonathan Crutchfield has helped us do for the last 9 years! It will be hard to say goodbye to our Minister of Music, colleague and friend. Jonathan is joining the staff of Morningside Presbyterian Church in Atlanta on September 1. We wish him well in his new ministry and give thanks for the many ways he has touched our lives during his time at Myers Park. A reception for Jonathan will be held following worship on August 2. I hope you will join us as we celebrate his ministry with us and as we offer our blessings for his new calling.

Here is the process we will follow for the Minister of Music search. A small group has already been convened to help find an Interim Minister of Music. This group includes: Janice Bradner, Jane Huddle, Greg Mayer and Barbara Mishoe. Next month, the Deacon Chair Advisory Council will meet to select the chair of the Minister of Music search group. The appointed chair will then join with the Ministry of Leadership to select the other members of the search team. Stay tuned for further updates.

Our Summer Schedule is off to a great start! Summertime Breakfast is a huge hit, worship attendance has been higher than normal and TalkBack has been lively. Below is the preaching schedule for July. Please join us.

July 5: Please see Jonathan’s article on page 9. Instead of a sermon, we will have a musical presentation of Benjamin Britten’s “Divine Hymns” with soloists, Todd Geer and Amy Morris. Please note: there will be no Summertime Breakfast, childcare or Talkback on July 5th.

July 12: The Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard will preach (Rice Bowl will be received)
July 19: The Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard will preach
July 26: The Rev. LeDayne Polaski will preach. LeDayne served as our Youth Minister many years ago. She is currently the Executive Director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship NA.

As we live through these hot summer days, don’t forget to volunteer for Freedom School. This all-church outreach project continues through July 29th. You can register online through the church website. Also, don’t forget to contribute to the Cereal in the City. You can bring boxes of cereal to the Church or send a check. Both of these are important and worthy endeavors. Let’s join together to make a difference for the children in Charlotte who need our help.

Milestones
(as of June 15, 2015)

DEATHS/LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:
• The family of Marvin D. Gobble, Sr. on his death April 18, 2015 in Greensboro, NC.
• David and Dorcas Zeeso on the death of their son, Nick Zeeso, on May 24, 2015 in Charlotte, NC.
• Barbara Linney and her family on the death of her mother, Ruby Johnson, on May 19, 2015 in Charlotte, NC.
• Ellen Denny Gallant and her family on the death of her daughter, Carol Gallant, on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, in Charlotte, NC.
• George Morrow and his family on the death of his daughter, Sandra Morrow DeAngelo, on June 6, 2015, in Millsboro, DE.
• The family of Frances Byers on her death, June 15, 2015, in Charlotte, NC.

July Loose Plate Offering Recipient

By Cheri Lindblom
The Loose Plate Missions Offering for July will benefit Family Promise (Charlotte Family Housing). The mission of Charlotte Family Housing is to empower homeless families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through shelter, housing, support services and advocacy.

Alternative Worship Services

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for a Taizé Service in the Chancel of the Sanctuary. Taizé is an ecumenical sung and silent participatory prayer service designed to achieve a contemplative state through music, song and silence. Following worship there will be a time to discuss and evaluate this service.

There are 3 teams of staff and lay leaders working to create and provide these services. It is hoped that by experiencing these different styles of worship, we can make some decision about the future direction of alternative worship at Myers Park Baptist Church.

I am grateful for the Alternative Worship Task Force for their significant work that has gotten us this far. Under the capable leadership of Debbie Moore Clark, the other members include: John Byers, Pattie Butler, Mark Larson, Sarah Reeves, Jinny Sullivan, Justin Williamson, Laurie Winston and Jonathan Crutchfield.

Look for more information in your August newsletter. But in the meantime, mark your calendars for these three very special worship services.

Deacon of the Week

June 28 - July 4: Charley Faulkenberry, 704.562.3100 cp.carolp@gmail.com
July 5-11: Carol Pearsall, 803.547.0467, LCF120@comporium.net
July 12-18: Nancy Culp, 704.222.6902, necbus@yahoo.com
July 19-25: Scott Crowder, 704.222.6902, scott.crowder@nbc.com
July 26 - August 1: Tillie Tice, 803.547.0467, tillie@carolina.rr.com
Community Life

Senior Minister Search Group Continuing Work Through the Summer

“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.”

~ Jeremiah 17:7-8

By Skip Gribble, Chair

In farming and in baseball, spring is the season of hope – it is a time of not knowing what you have, but of sowing your greatest hopes and dreams. Summer is a season of hard work – it’s a time of beginning to see what you have, and working hard to bring it to yield. So it is with your Senior Minister Search Group.

While all of us have planned time to travel, to spend time with family and to indulge in summertime adventures, we also are continuing our work schedule in our search. We continue to meet weekly – sometimes more – and to read, listen to and spend time with our candidates.

We have been in conversation with some of those candidates for quite a while now, without reaching consensus on a call or discerning God’s will for the future leadership of our Church. I am very encouraged, though, to report that we have a few exciting new candidates as well. While it seemed last winter as though the time for new individuals to engage with us was past, during the spring we welcomed several highly qualified new candidates – some reached out to us, and some responded favorably to our inquiries. And so, we have unexpected opportunity – that happens in farming and baseball too!

This is a very good group of people. It’s also a diverse group of people – we have almost equal numbers of men and women; we have ministers from a wide variety of denominational backgrounds; and we have candidates from different regions of the country. They are all good people, doing important work in their congregations and in the world.

We are hopeful – though, of course, not certain – that we will discern a call for one of them to walk here with us at Myers Park Baptist. As Jeremiah exhorts, we are trusting in the Lord, spreading our roots by the river, and hoping to yield fruit. Perhaps, when the season turns to harvest.

By Martha Odon

The Ministry of Human Resources

Staff Spotlight:

Laura Geer

If you already know Laura Geer, you know she is a special person. But no matter how precious you think Laura is, her Dad had you beat. She reports that her late father -- with three sons already and desperate for a daughter -- required all hospital visitors to wear masks while viewing newborn Laura. She survived the hospital visits and was raised in Charlotte.

One day she and another 16-year-old named Todd Geer met on a blind date. And the rest is history: Laura and Todd have been together ever since. Rev. Gene Owens married them in 1986, and Todd’s professional music education and career then took them to New York State. Laura was away from Charlotte for 23 years. She gained expertise working for law firms in the real estate area, but eventually her interest in the arts pulled her in a different direction.

After more than two decades, Laura felt the pull to return home. In 2009, she and Todd returned to Charlotte. The recession was in full swing. It was a time to regroup and start fresh. Laura was pleased to join the MPBC staff as Communications Director in 2010. Talking about her work creates a very good vibe right away – Laura loves her job, her co-workers, and the church environment. Laura says it’s a joy to come to work each day. Thanks to her goal-oriented nature, the constant deadlines don’t get her down. She enjoys the feeling of accomplishment when marking things off her list.

These days, Laura and Todd share a house with her mother and an handsome Maltese named Tubby. If you think your dog is cute, just wait until you see a picture of Tubby. When she is away from work, Laura enjoys fitness, travel, reading, and making great memories with her three godchildren - Jenny, Kristen, and Tony Zanghi. She recalls their summers shared in New York State, years ago, and she looks forward to their upcoming beach trip together.

Family Dedications

June 14, 2015

Mary Ann and Christian Ciciarelli, along with Lee, bringing Evelyn Ann Ciciarelli.

John Cochran and Ashley Doar, bringing William Barrett Doar Cochran and Evan Arthur Doar Cochran.

Lore and Brandon Scott, bringing Marin Walter Scott.
Board of Deacons News and Notes, Summer 2015

By Todd Rubenson, Chair of the Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons held our last meeting of the 2014-2015 church program year on June 8, before breaking for the summer. At this meeting, the deacons covered our regular agenda items, including remarks from the Chair and the Executive Minister, and approval of the “consent agenda,” which includes minutes from the last meeting, reports from all the ministries and any operational decisions the deacons need to approve.

In my report, because we had so many first-time Deacons with us (9!), I thanked the Deacons for their leadership of the Church, reminding us all that it is a rare and precious thing for a church to be led by its members, not its professional staff. I shared my view that too many church congregations are held captive to the rule of their institutions and clergy, and that our Baptist heritage of independence and lay leadership is a great spiritual gift to us all.

In her report, Robin expressed sadness over Jonathan Crutchfield’s resignation, and explained the process for the formation of the interim search group as well as the Minister of Music search group. She closed her report by reviewing the summer preaching schedule and sharing pastoral concerns of the church.

We also heard a report from Chris Skardon on plans for this fall’s Stewardship Campaign – Chris and Lydia and their team will begin communicating about that later in the summer. We addressed two other important topics, on which I offer brief notes below. Please let me know if you have thoughts or questions. I can be reached at jtr@toddrubenson.com.

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for September 14, and I’ll continue to provide reports on major topics from the Deacons’ meetings throughout the year.

Church Membership and Baptism

The Deacons continued a discussion begun in the spring about church policy on membership and baptism. Robin reviewed with us two documents on the subject from our history – a statement on the reception and baptism of members from The Commission of 40 from 1960; and a letter to the congregation from Bob Bryant, Chair of the Board of Deacons, in 1968.

We considered questions such as: Does the Church have a view – or should it – as to whether a member should be baptized before or after becoming a member, or at all? Should we have any requirements for membership beyond a simple, expressed desire of a person to join? Should we continue to have a different process and expectations for youth in the 8th grade Discipleship Class than for adults who join the Church?

The Deacons will continue to explore these questions in the fall, and will work with the Strategic Planning Council to develop new policies, which we will then present to the full congregation for discussion, review and approval.

Deacon Chair Advisory Council (DCAC) Election

The Church created the DCAC as part of our new governance model several years ago. It is a small group of trusted lay leaders whose role is to come together as needed to find solutions to urgent, sensitive issues that arise from time to time in the Church. The rationale for creating the group was to provide a consistent, recognized and transparent process for handling controversial issues.

The seven members of the DCAC for the 2015-2016 church year are:
- Chair, Board of Deacons (Todd Rubenson)
- Chair Elect, Board of Deacons (Janet Miller)
- Past Chair, Board of Deacons (Barbara Linney)
- Chair, Strategic Planning Council (Carol Reid)
- Three active Deacons who are elected annually by the Board of Deacons. At the June 8 meeting, the Deacons elected Dale Allison, Susan Salvin and Bob Thomason, and all three agreed to serve in these roles.

Librarians’ Corner

The library folks are rearranging some areas to create space to accommodate new books. We are ordering new books and making available older books that you might have missed. We are making space for books members might want to donate as they are doing spring cleaning or downsizing.

MPBC has a beautiful library, and though it is small, we try to keep as many updated biographies, memoirs, novels and books by theologians who speak at our church as our budget allows. The library is a warm and welcoming place to sit and read. We hope when we have made these changes you will go through the stacks and notice our displays.

Librarians’ Book Reviews:

• Killing Jesus by Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugard – While many may not enjoy Bill O’Reilly’s politics, you will give him a big hand for this interesting take on the crucifixion of Jesus. One gets a riveting sense of why a really great man became God to his followers. O’Reilly and Dugard bring into view all of the historical figures of his time.

Though O’Reilly is a bit disingenuous when he writes in his forward, “this is not a religious book,” he does have interesting notes on the history of the men and mores of the period.

• Still Alice by Lisa Genova – Alice Howland is a cognitive psychology professor at Harvard with a successful husband and three grown children. After becoming increasingly forgetful, she gets the dreadful diagnosis that changes her whole life and the lives of those who love her.

This is a touching, sympathetic and heartbreaking portrayal which gives us an understanding of the devastating disease of early onset Alzheimers.

• Extra Ordinary by Miriam Spitzer Franklin – This is a delightful book of fiction based on the life of one of our own – Anna Burkhead – written by her aunt. Anna lived among us for 21 years. Miriam says that Anna taught her to view the world in a different way. The book is suggested for ages 8 to 12.

Pansy often backed out of things her friend, Anna, wanted to do, including...Continued on page 5
...Continued from page 4 attending a “sleep away camp” where Anna contracted meningitis and became disabled. When Pansy learns that surgery might restore Anna to her old self, she becomes an extraordinary friend in time for Anna’s return.

The book is about friendship, people with disabilities and self-realization.

*Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson – This is a work of non-fiction that reads like an exciting mystery with lots of political intrigue. The people on board the Lusitania and the men on the German submarine that sank the ship become real personalities that you care about. The skill of the author draws you into the lives and times of this disaster:

There are many questions: Why did the passengers choose to ignore warnings by the German Embassy in Washington? A notice had been in the shipping news of the New York newspapers cautioning folks that “vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or any of her allies, are liable to destruction or any of her allies, are liable to destruction and travelers on such ships do so at their own risk.”

Why did the Royal Navy not show up to escort the ship through the “war zone waters” as they promised?

This is an exciting story for any reader and for history lovers in particular.

**EarthKeepers Recreating Our Future**

By Sonya Dyer and Mary Lou Buck

Kate Green, who has served as our energetic, faithful, and enabling visionary and leader for over five years, will be stepping down from that position. Kate says it’s a good decision for her at this time, that she will always be an EarthKeeper and is very proud of what we’ve accomplished together. She’s certain that EarthKeepers’ vision will continue to lead Charlotte’s faith community forward in caring for creation.

EarthKeepers are exploring new and fresh ways to continue our calling to Creation Care at Myers Park Baptist and in Charlotte. Taking a break for the summer, we will meet again Thursday, August 6 at 10:30 am. Come if you are interested in joining us on our journey.

Watch for more news in September!

**my MPBC: Register For Connections and Events**

By Jane Huddles, Chair, Technology SLG

Event Registrations and Fall Connections Group sign-ups are moving to *myMPBC!* Don’t forget to create your *myMPBC* ID and password to make the sign-up process much easier. Go to the church website and click on *myMPBC* in the top right hand corner. Then follow the instructions on the *myMPBC* page to set up your ID and password.

If you have any questions about these features, please contact me, Jane Huddle, at jhuddle1@carolina.rr.com or by phone at 704.641.0481.

**Jesus in the 21st Century Lecture Series**

**Paul: the Appalling or Appealing Apostle?**

A Weekend with John Dominic Crossan

October 16-18, 2015

Registration Opens August 1

By Chrissy Williamson

The New Testament scholar returns to MPBC after more than a decade to lead us in an exciting conversation on the controversial apostle, Paul. Crossan has written several books that give insight to Paul’s context and ministry. Of those, he has suggested the following topics to us as we prepare for our weekend together this fall: The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary behind the Church’s Conservative Icon (with Marcus Borg, 2009), In Search of Paul: How Jesus’ Apostle Opposed Rome’s Empire with God’s Kingdom (with Jonathan Reed, 2004).

The October weekend will focus on Paul and the justice of God. The schedule is as follows:

**Friday, October 16, 7:00-8:30pm**

*Rome and the World of Paul*

Public lecture, book signing to follow

**Saturday, October 17, 9:00-11:30am**

*Luke and the Life of Paul - Justice and the God of Paul*

*This workshop requires registration and costs $45

**Sunday, October 18, 9:45am-noon**

*Adult Forum, 9:45–10:45*:

Equality and the Legacy of Paul

*Sermon in Worship, 11:00–noon: Justice and Love*

Registration opens August 1 at www.mpbconline.org. You may also register by calling Anne Clarke at 704.334.7232 x.15.

**Pictorial Directory Update**

By Mariah Currin

Many thanks to all who came out to be photographed for the new church directory. In the next couple of weeks, we will receive our first proof book. Several on staff will offer corrections and edits; we will send it back and receive at least one more proof before we give our final okay and it goes to print.

Toward the end of the summer, please be on the lookout for announcements about picking yours up.

Again, our thanks!
As a kick-off to exploring that theme, let’s share our stories of God’s grace and love experienced through Christ and community. If you are willing to share your story of grace and love, contact me so we can begin to explore your experience.

As we continue to delve into the world of websites, technology and social media, I am reminded of just how important storytelling really is. Creating a good video catalogue of our stories is one way that we can begin to share a little bit about who we are online. How many people may google “John Dominic Crossan” and stumble upon his video posted on our Church website? How many church members who are sitting on the fence about whether or not they should serve may see your story online and decide that they want to serve alongside you? If you post a video on your social media page, how many of your friends may hear a story of grace and love from someone at our Church? And how many of those friends may decide to visit our Church because it’s just what they’ve been longing for, a place to grow spiritually, worship authentically, and experience God’s love and grace in community?

How can you help?
Consider being a camera volunteer. Or, consider sharing your story on camera.

What’s required?
For camera volunteers, we ask that you meet with John Bambach to learn the basics about the cameras we will be using to capture these interviews. John and I are working to make sure that camera use is easy enough that I can do it, which means any of you can too! No expertise required.

For story sharers, think about your faith journey and how MPBC has been a part of it. Consider how you may want to tell that story to others at your Church. Have you been shaped by Connections Small Groups, Bible Workbench, worship, fellowship, or service opportunities? Have you experienced God’s grace and love in the relationships you’ve made here? Think about your story. It matters. Why not tell it? ■

Senior Spotlight

EMMA HAWKINS

By Chris Hughes

Our last Senior Spotlight also happens to be our newest Senior at Myers Park Baptist Church. Emma Hawkins was baptized by Chrissy Williamson on June 14th in the company of friends and family and is now a brand new member of the Church.

Emma began visiting the Church about six months ago after talking with her close friend, Marissa Jennings, an MPBC Youth alum who is currently attending Clemson University. She says that one of the things she liked about MPBC was the feeling of welcome. “I thought everyone was very welcoming and open and accepting,” She said, “When people say, ‘The peace of God be with you,’ I really felt welcome.”

After visiting with the youth group for a few weeks, Emma talked with some of the ministry staff about being baptized and joining the Church. Her motivation for joining the Church through baptism stems from an active desire to seek God. “I liked the sense of God I felt [here]. I wanted to be a bigger part of it instead of just an observer,” she recalls.

Emma has now graduated from Myers Park High School, where she had been a member of the National Honor Society and was enrolled in the IB program. She also played rec league soccer at the school. “We named ourselves the Wildcats so we could do the cheer from High School Musical,” Emma says.

She enjoys hiking, kayaking, swimming, and taking her Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Nessie, to the dog park.

In the fall, she will attend Clemson University. “I was dead set on Chapel Hill,” she says, but then she made a visit to Clemson. “I felt like I really fit there,” and so Emma will become a Clemson Tiger. She is very excited about the opportunity to meet new people and go to football games. Most of all, she is excited about having a little more freedom!

She will also try out two faith-based groups on campus, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Navigators.

Emma is planning on being pre-med, with the aim of becoming an orthopedic surgeon. She has always had a fascination with medicine and surgery: “It’s really interesting how anatomically the muscles and the tendons move the body.”

Favorites:
• Food: Steak
• Hobby: Soccer
• Soccer Team: U.S. Women’s National Team, Chelsea, and Barcelona
• Ice Cream Flavor: Mint Chocolate Chip

While we have only known her a short time, we are very glad to have Emma in our community of faith and glad she has found a place where she feels God’s presence. We wish the best of luck to her and to all of our incredible seniors heading off to college in the fall. ■
Looking Ahead:
Planting Seeds for Fall Sunday School Program

By Carrie Veal

The hallways of God’s Garden are a little quieter on Sundays over the summer. But that doesn’t mean things aren’t happening. I have already started working on fall plans for all children ages preschool through fifth grade.

Would you take some time over the summer to think about how you can play a role in the faith formation of our children? Your time commitment is small, but your impact is big. All lessons and supplies will be provided for you. And you can serve where you are most comfortable. Want to learn more? Contact me and let’s chat (704.334.7232 x18 or cveal@mpbconline.org).

Children’s Ministry
Vacation Bible School

...Continued from page 1 participate in a Bible story time, crafts, recreation, music and more. This year they will also have a hands on outreach moment each day, learning about ministries and organizations that are partners of our church.

Everyone can be a part of what happens on our campus August 5-7. Whether you can come for all three days or just one hour, your presence is wanted and needed. There are so many ways to be involved. Register your children, grandchildren or yourself as a volunteer today at www.mpbconline.org. “Have U Herd?” that you can make a difference?

Cultivating Your Generosity

By Richard J. Harris, Chair, Budget and Finance SLG

On Senior Sunday, Rev. Chris Hughes preached a wonderful sermon titled “Planting Sequoias,” which is based upon Psalm 1. He charged us to “...get your hands dirty. Go out into the world and love it for all that it is. Plant sequoias – those tiny little seeds that burst into trees hundreds of feet tall and live for thousands of years. Then watch for the next few decades, not ever expecting that you’ll be around to see the final results.”

Chris’ sermon made me think about the coming budgetary season and MPBC’s attempt to sow seeds that will burst into sequoias hundreds of feet tall. Surprising to most congregants, the budgetary season starts well before the annual Stewardship campaign. On May 13th, Strategic Planning Council kicked off the budgetary process meeting with Ministry leaders to discuss the 2016 budget and the budgetary approval process. By mid-July each ministry will supply a proposed budget to Strategic Planning Council. Strategic Planning Council...Continued on page 8
Summer Outreach Opportunity at Elizabeth House - July 19-23

By Cindy Clemens

Here's the perfect outreach opportunity for the person seeking privacy, high speed internet and a break from their family. No – we’re not targeting teenagers! But there may be some parents of teenagers who are interested in this proposition.

Outreach Details:
We need overnight hosts and chefs to serve at Elizabeth House, one of three residences operated by Charlotte Family Housing (formerly “Family Promise”). MPBC volunteers spend one night Sunday through Thursday or provide dinner Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday.

Background:
Newly homeless families live temporarily at Elizabeth House – with their own bedroom, private storage cubby and personal kitchen supplies. During the day, children go to school or childcare while parents work or attend special training.

What's needed?
1. Volunteers prepare and serve dinner to Elizabeth House families on Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday. This is typically an entrée, vegetable, salad and dessert. Most volunteers enjoy staying for dinner and getting to know the families at Elizabeth House.
2. One individual is needed to stay each night, serving as overnight host on Sunday through Thursday. A private bedroom and bathroom is assigned to the overnight host. Children are in their rooms by 8:00pm and adults typically head to their rooms by 9:00pm. The on-site coordinator is back by 7:00am the following morning.

How to volunteer?
Cheri Lindblom has created an online sign-up method that can be accessed from the Church website (www.mpbconline.org) or you can email me (cclemens@charlottenc.gov) to volunteer.

Please consider volunteering for this important outreach opportunity. Breaking bread with new friends in the community is revitalizing. And a night away from home might be just what you need. #Peaceandquiet!

Toxic Stress

...Continued from page 1

five other family members. Your parents work two jobs, and you are left to take care of your younger sibling. There is no air conditioning; it's hot and the windows barely open. Sleep is elusive, if it exists at all.

For some of our scholars at Freedom School and children living in Elizabeth House, this is reality. Poverty at home can make children unable to concentrate and react appropriately.

As a community of faith, we are called to provide support and care for all of our neighbors. We attempt to do so with our Freedom School at Pinewood, Family Promise, and Cereal for the City.

Keep in mind that we need to align our expectations with their reality. In other words, our FS scholars may not be as focused as we would expect -- they may respond and react impulsively. The parents and children at Elizabeth House may have different family dynamics. Our goal is to provide support, not to fix or judge. I know I do the fixing/judging dynamics. Our goal is to provide support, not to fix or judge. I know I do the fixing/judging thing all the time. Stay calm if a child does not respond as expected. Think about all the experiences they may have had before walking in the door. Your presence is what matters. Knowing that someone cares enough to give 30 minutes, an hour, or an afternoon can make a difference in their day.

I need to be grateful for the "stress" in my life, bearing in mind that it is a privilege to have that type of stress.

Here are ways you can help to de-stress the lives of our neighbors:
• FREEDOM SCHOOL continues through the end of July and we always need you!
• FAMILY PROMISE runs from July 19-23 (see details in the article above.)
• CEREAL FOR THE CITY - We need lots of cereal!
for the voice of God was used for the same purpose even by the great J. S. Bach, and his use of the key of A-major is used to depict Abraham’s determination to obey.

Join us the 5th of July for a very special interpretation of scripture and sermon sung and acted by two of MPBC’s singers. ■

Charlotte Chapter of American Guild of Organists to Hold Regional Convention

By Matthew Manwarren

The city of Charlotte will host the Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists, July 1-4. The convention theme, entitled "French Connections," will feature world-renowned organists traveling from as far as the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris. Michael Barone, host of NPR’s "Pipedreams," will also conduct live interviews at several events, to be aired on his broadcast. Our own Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ will be featured at one of the evening concerts, and MPBC will host some of the convention events. Several of the concerts will be open to the public.

Tickets are available for $10 per person through www.CarolinaTix.com or for $15 when purchased at the door. The following is a list of events available to the public:

- Wednesday, July 1, 8:00pm: Olivier Latry (organist, Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris), Byrnes Auditorium, Winthrop University
- Thursday, July 2, 3:00pm: Atlanta Sacred Chorale (Eric Nelson, conductor), First United Methodist Church Glasgow
- Thursday, July 2, 8:00pm: Jack Mitchener (Professor of Organ, Mercer University), Myers Park Baptist Church
- Friday, July 3, 9:00am: Renee-Anne Lourrette (Professor of Organ, Rutgers University), Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
- Friday, July 3, 8:00pm: Stephen Tharp (International Concert Organist), Covenant Presbyterian Church

The sermon text for the day will come from Genesis 22:1-18 — the command to sacrifice of Isaac. God tested Abraham’s faith by telling him to kill his son, Isaac as a sacrifice to God. Christian theologians suggest that this story actually foreshadows the sacrifice of Jesus by God in order for humanity to continue in relationship with God. In the story, Abraham represents God while Isaac represents Jesus. Great similarities exist in the two events. Both Jesus and Isaac are willing to lay down their lives in order that God’s will is accomplished in the world. It also is striking that both Isaac and Jesus are required to carry the wood for their own sacrifice up a mountain.

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) set this powerful text for a tenor voice, who represents Abraham, and an alto voice, who represents Isaac. The two together form the voice of God. Britten wrote a series of five Canticles between 1947 and 1974 and entitled the series, "Divine Hymns." Canticle II, Op. 51, the story about Abraham and Isaac, was written in 1952. Britten found the text in A.W. Pollard’s edition of "English Miracle Plays." Britten freely admits to using Henry Purcell’s “Divine Hymns” as his template. His use of the key of E-flat major

Ministry of Worship and Music

Textile Liturgical Arts Project: Nativity Costumes

By Deborah Moore Clark
Chair, Ministry of Worship and Music

Art used within the worship space in acts of worship distinguishes the Liturgical Arts from other art forms. The Liturgical Arts encompass many genres, one of which is art using textiles. A beautiful example of textile liturgical art is nativity costuming, which for years has added beauty, pageantry and drama to worship at Myers Park Baptist. Nativity costuming is used annually in worship through the Children’s Christmas Pageant, Christmas Eve Tableau and on Epiphany Sunday with the regal procession of the magi. Our nativity costuming is in dire need, with some pieces needing renovation and others requiring replacement. The Ministry of Worship and Music is taking on this project with its goal to have all costumes in good order by Advent. Volunteers with excellent sewing skills are needed! To volunteer, please contact Jill Kinney Weaver at 704.619.2078 or jillkinney@bellsouth.com or me at 704.544.8015 or TopiaryDMC@ carolina.rr.com. ■

Love the Mountains?

By Fran Morrison

The Chancel Choir will have their 51st annual choir retreat over Labor Day weekend, September 4-7 at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, NC.

The weekend is a tradition of learning music for the fall, lots of laughter, time for relaxation and genuine fellowship. It is the easiest and best time to join this friendly and inclusive group of singers. Will you consider joining us? Contact me at 704.334.7232 x17 or fmorrison@mpbconline.org for more information. ■
The joy of family music is at the core of Music Together. Singing, moving, chanting, listening, observing or exploring with your children teaches them that all kinds of music can be fun and joyful.

While all the fun is happening, your children are learning that they can be musical, they can sing in tune, and they can move with the beat. What a great gift to give to them! And what a great gift to give the two of you together!

**New class offerings for the fall:**
Mixed-aged family classes (ages birth through Transitional Kindergarten) for **MPBC members** will be offered on Mondays beginning September 21.

- Monday class from 4:00-4:45pm
- Monday class from 5:15-6:00pm

- More information is available online.
- Registration is required and will open August 1.
- Classes will be filled on a first come, first served basis.
- A small tuition fee is charged.
Aquathon?
It sounds like a superhero out of DC comics. It’s a tongue-twister with that “L” in the middle. It’s not likely a word we’ve heard before but one we’ll hear more now.

This year our annual Community Festival features a wonderful new centerpiece event: our first Splash & Dash Aquathon, a wildly fun, fast-growing sport that combines swimming and running.

This first of what’s to become an annual event will introduce our community to a new, multi-sport athletic challenge.

Just want to run? Register for just the 5k event. Awards and refreshments will follow as part of The Cornwell Center’s annual Community Festival. As always, it’ll be a family-friendly event with lots of activities and entertainment for the entire Charlotte community. Save the date.

We can use volunteers for both pre-event tasks and event-day help. Contact Jenny Yopp with your interest.

- Splash & Dash Aquathon and 5k Saturday, Sept 12, 2015 Online registration begins July 1st!

Children and Youth
Summer Camps continue through Aug. 21. Here are a few examples. For times and descriptive details, click the REGISTER link on our home page:

July 06-10  
Tiny Tots Basketball (3-5 yrs.)  
Co-Ed Basketball Camp (6-11 yrs.)  
Cornwell Studio Clay Play II (3-5 yrs.)  
Cornwell Studio Abstract Paint (6-11)  
Princess Dance Camp (2-5 yrs.)  
Cocinando Cooking (3-10 yrs.)

July 13-17  
Tiny Tots Sports Camp II (3-5 yrs.)  
Cornwell Studio Clay Kids II (6-11 yrs.)  
Cornwell Studio Landscape Paint (6-11)  
Daisy Dance Camp II (2-5 yrs.)  
Tiempos Medievales (3-10, or 6-11 yrs.)  
Hands-on Robotics (5-8 yrs.)  
Dinosaur Discovery (5-8 yrs.)  
Hands-on Robotics (5-8 yrs.)

July 20-24  
Tiny Tots Basketball II (3-5 yrs.)  
Co-Ed Basketball Camp II (6-11 yrs.)  
Cornwell Studio Clay Play III (3-5 yrs.)  
Community Art Project (6-11 yrs.)  
Princess Dance Camp II (2-5 yrs.)  
Pasaporte a la Diversion (3-10 yrs.)  
The Minecraft Adventure (6-8 yrs.)  
Zu3D Fun with Animation (6-8 yrs.)  
Awesome Asana! Yoga for Girls (6-8 yrs.)

July 27-31  
Tiny Tots Soccer (3-5 yrs.)  
Tiny Tots T-Ball (3-5 yrs.)  
Cornwell Studio Clay Play IV (3-5 yrs.)  
Cornwell Studio Clay Kids III (6-11 yrs.)  
Daisy Dance Camp III (2-5 yrs.)  
Cocinando Cooking (3-10 yrs.)

Art & Design
Here’s one for youth, 10-13 yrs, to discover new techniques ranging from the potter’s wheel to mixed media on wood and canvas. Instructor: Greg Scott.

- Summer Art Focus - Garden Inspiration June 24 - Aug.19, 3 - 5p (Weds)

Basic wheel and other studio techniques create pots and vessels from cylinder and bowl forms. Self-directed with guidance from instructor Greg Scott.

- Beginning and Open Wheel June 29, July 6, 20, 27, August 10, 17 6:30-8:30p (Mon’s)

Learning, Technology, etc.
Our next few monthly assignments can be found on our “Photo Connections” Facebook page, www.facebook.com/PhotoSIG, where you can also view our galleries and share your thoughts. Our next meeting will be 7pm, July 15 and you’re invited.

- PHOTO Connections w/John Bambach Third Wednesdays, 7-9p

Addendum
As we celebrate our nation’s birth we also celebrate the birth of Carson Vaughn Klitzsch to Lauren and Steve. Carson made his entrance on June 1, at 10:54am... all 9 pounds, 4 ounces, and 21 inches of him.

Summer Hours
Mon-Thu, 5:30a-8p, Fri, 5:30a-5p Sat, 7:30a-4p, Sun, 11a-4p
MEET OUR FREEDOM SCHOOL STAFF

Level 1 (K-2nd): College Interns, Katie and Abi

Level 2 (3rd-5th): Chloe and Allen

Level 3 (Middle School): Nakisha

Books! Books! Books!
We delivered our first supply of books.
Thanks to Sophie, Blaine, CJ, Lucy, Sarah and Ally for helping sort, deliver and setup the classrooms.
The Book Drive continues throughout July.

I can make a difference in my country

Freedom School Partners

Hakuna Matata (we love you)

Site Coordinator, Madison Sampson

The Rev. Mr. Joseph D. Aldrich,
Associate Minister

Sharon Bremer,
Director of Stewardship

The Rev. Ms. Robin Paterson Coira,
Executive Minister

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan E. Crutchfield,
Minister of Music

Mariah B. Currin,
Director of New Member Ministry

Belinda Geuss,
Director of Through-The-Week School

Dr. Matthew Manwarren,
Organist

The Rev. Mr. Chris Hughes,
Minister of Youth

Cheri Lindblom,
Director of Outreach

The Rev. Mr. Barry Z. Metzger,
Church Administrator

Frances L. Morrison,
Associate Minister of Music

Deborah A. Steiner,
Music Associate for Children

The Rev. Ms. Carrie Veal,
Minister of Children

The Rev. Ms. Chrissy Tatum Williamson,
Minister of Faith Formation

Jenny Yopp,
Director of The Cornwell Center

DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST 2015 ISSUE IS
4:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 15.
Max 450 words, subject to editing for space. Please email all submissions to the MPBC Communications Director, Laura Geer, at lgeer@mpbconline.org.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED