Superheroes Unite!
Mini-Vacation Bible School
Wednesday - Friday | August 2 – 4
9:00a – Noon

By Carrie Veal
One of my favorite questions to ask children or adults is "If you could have any superpower, what would it be?" The answers are a fun way to get to know someone.

This August, we will have the chance to show off our superpowers of radical hospitality, generous love, and powerful presence as we again welcome children ages three – fifth grade. Some we will know; many we will not. All of them will bring laughter and joy, and you will not want to miss a minute of it.

Vacation Bible School is more than just a long-standing Church tradition. It's different. It’s a unique opportunity to welcome the youngest in our community onto our campus. It’s an opportunity to show their families why MPBC is different. And it’s an opportunity to meet people you may never know otherwise.

VBS offers you a chance to serve in ways that are simple, yet impactful. Whether you choose to donate supplies, prepare snacks, or shepherd children, we have a place for everyone. Your time and talents are needed and wanted this year for our Mini-VBS.

Please consider how you might be a part of VBS 2017. You can sign up to volunteer on the Church’s website. For more information, feel free to contact me at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org or 704.334.7232 x 118.

Quick Guide to July Events

July 2  Worship in the Round with Randy Franklin and The Sardines | see article above
July 2  Royal School of Church Music Evensong Service | page 10
July 4  Independence Day Holiday Closings | page 5
July 9  Rev. J. Dana Trent will be our Guest Preacher | page 2 and back cover
July 15-18 Children’s Ministry Passport Camp | page 8
July 16-21 Youth Ministry Passport Camp | page 7
July 23  Rev. Chrissy Williamson will preach | page 2 and back cover
July 30  Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard will be our Guest Preacher | page 2 and back cover
In the month of July, we are excited to welcome back some of our congregation’s favorite preachers as well as a very special guest preacher who will visit our Church and preach for the first time. On July 23, the Rev. Chrissy Williamson, our Minister of Faith Formation, will be our guest preacher, and on July 30, we will welcome back the Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard, Professor of Baptist Studies and Church History at Wake Forest Divinity School. Before we hear from Rev. Williamson and Dr. Leonard, we will host my good friend and colleague the Rev. J. Dana Trent. Rev. Trent is an award-winning author, speaker, minister, and teacher. She is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and adjunct faculty member at Wake Technical Community College, where she teaches World Religions. Her debut book, Saffron Cross: The Unlikely Story of How a Christian Minister Married a Hindu Monk (Fresh Air Books, 2013) chronicles her interfaith marriage to her husband Fred. Her second book, For Sabbath’s Sake: Embracing Your Need for Rest, Worship, and Community, will be released October 1, 2017 by Upper Room Books. Rev. Trent’s work has appeared on Time.com, The Christian Century, The Huffington Post, Patheos, and Sojourners. She blogs at jdanatrent.com. Dana brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in interfaith dialogue as well as spiritual and theological expertise in the areas of Sabbath, rest, and self-care. I hope you will join me in welcoming and offering hospitality to all our guest preachers as they grace the Free Pulpit and engage us in TalkBack this July.

During the search process that called me to Myers Park Baptist as the Senior Minister back in 2015, the Search Team and I engaged in robust dialogue about the importance of self-care and professional development. Throughout the course of my ministry, I have participated in a variety of five-day retreats offered by of the Academy for Spiritual Formation. The Academy for Spiritual Formation is a ministry of the Upper Room that offers retreats for guided spiritual development. Their retreats have helped to provide me with rest and rejuvenation as well as time and space to reconnect with God, my inner self, and the world. The rhythm of the retreats includes worship, community, study, and silence, repeated each day over the course of five days. Scholars come in from around the country to teach and an experienced group of ecumenical clergy lead worship for the community.

The Academy offers not only stand-alone five-day retreats, but a longer process that includes eight five-day retreats with the same cohort of pilgrims over a two-year period. In my conversations with the Search Team about self-care and professional development, we agreed that the two-year Academy would be beneficial to me and the Church and we made a covenant together for my participation in the process. My first week in this two-year process of spiritual formation begins this summer on July 23.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation and the Saint Paul School of Theology have recently partnered together to offer a Doctorate degree in Prophetic Witness and Service with an emphasis in Spiritual Formation beginning in the Fall of 2017. This is the first time any seminary has worked with the Academy for Spiritual Formation to co-develop an advanced degree. Due to my involvement in the two-year Academy, I was invited to pursue the Doctoral degree as well and was recently accepted into the program.

This new Doctor of Ministry program weaves together the spiritual renewal and grounding of the two-year Academy for Spiritual Formation with Doctoral level coursework in theology accompanied by peer learning and deep faculty engagement. It is a unique program that has never been offered before whose goal is to focus the spiritual formation of pastoral leaders, both for their own lives and for their ministry in the church and the world. Through study, experiential formation within disciplined community, and a final praxis thesis, the students who participate will be able to align a deeper sense of God’s presence in their own lives with their work in ministry.

I am tremendously excited to begin this new journey of spiritual formation, education, self-care, and professional development. I am extremely grateful to the Senior Minister Search Team and to the Church. Thank you for supporting my participation. Please pray for me as I begin this process of transformation.
CONGREGATIONAL JOYS AND CONCERNS
(as of June 15, 2017)

DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:
• Van and Jennifer Parker on the death of his mother, Sue Parker Keeter, on May 18 in Charlotte, NC.
• Edward Bultman and John Bultmann on the death of their mother, Anita Bultmann Tritt, on May 24 in Charlotte, N.C.
• Collin and Chrissy Brown on the death of his mother, Sandra Brown, on May 26 in Lake Wylie, SC.
• Van Wilson and Robin Johnston on the death of her grandfather, Jessie and Ben Wilson on the death of their great-grandfather, N.A. Jacobs, on May 20 in Gainesville, GA.
• Todd and Lisa Rubenson on the death of her father, Blaine and Sophie Rubenson on the death of their grandfather, Warren Rae Dempsey, III, on June 1 in Aiken, SC.
• Pat McCoy and Cindy Adcock on the death of her father, Jesse Franklin Adcock, on June 2 in Emory, Texas.
• Leeda Currin on the death of her husband, Mariah Currin and Cissy Currin on the death of their father, Kevin Brewton on the death of his father-in-law, and Ashley and Spencer Hurteau and Jackson and Audrey James Currin on the death of their grandfather, George Spencer Currin, on June 6 in Charlotte, NC.
• Susan Hewitt on the death of her mother, Jeanne Wall Cole, on June 7 in Cliffside, NC.

BIRTHS — CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Ben and Sarah Pryor on the birth of their twins, and Bob and Melinda Pryor on the birth of their granddaughter, Emory Louise Pryor, and grandson, Henry Richard Pryor, on May 16 in Charlotte, NC.
• 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.
• Louis and Milly Asbury on the birth of their daughter, and Wesley Foard Asbury on the birth of his sister, Adair Howell Asbury, on June 9 in Charlotte, NC.

WEDDINGS — CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Doug Driggers and Chad Lang on their wedding on June 17 at Myers Park Baptist Church.

Church Administrator Search Update

By Suzette Buchan, Chair
Church Administrator Search Group

Your search group is going through the many steps of a search process to replace our beloved, retiring Church Administrator, Barry Metzger. With a job description updated, we posted the position on our Church website as well as other external sites. From these postings, we had many responses to sort through. At the same time, we asked leaders in the church world who know MPBC for referrals. We followed up with each of these referrals. We learned during this beginning stage how highly regarded our Church and our senior minister are.

After careful evaluation, a small group of candidates was chosen for a telephone interview with the search group to validate their personal and work skills compared with the skills required for the position. From those phone interviews, we are in the process of selecting a few qualified candidates to come in for face-to-face interviews with us.

Our goal is to have the position filled in July. Your search group has worked hard and thoughtfully throughout the last few months. We agreed in the beginning to make this a fun experience and it has been, thanks to these fellow search members - Robert Barfield, Ben Boswell, Mack Clark, Jane Huddle, and Mike Maltarich.

SummerTIME for Breakfast at Church

By Carol Pearsall

Who can tell us how long we have been having Patio Breakfast - now known as Summertime Breakfast? This has been a meaningful tradition at our Church for many, many years.

Each Sunday morning throughout June and July (except for July 2) from 9:00-9:45am before summer worship begins, we all have an opportunity to break bread and share fellowship.

Please join us each Sunday through July for these meaningful experiences that could offer us all new relationships resulting in years of caring and sharing love with one another. All ages are encouraged to come and get to know each other.
Celebrating the Jubilee Strategic Plan

By Carol Reid Fricke
Chair, Strategic Planning Council

On June 4 you said, “Yes” to your Jubilee Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies, created from your Listening Circles comments as well as from significant research and prayerful discussion. To watch a three-minute video describing the Goals and to read our Strategies, go to www.mpbconline.org. When completed with action steps this fall, this Jubilee Strategic Plan will lay the groundwork for a year-long celebration of the 75th Anniversary of MPBC.

Are you wondering why we use the word jubilee? It comes from Isaiah 61:1-2, which was quoted by Jesus in Luke 4:16-21.

Scripture refers to a Year of Jubilee: a year of proclaiming liberation, dedication to economic justice, seeking right relationships, and accepting God’s freedom and new life. During the Year of Jubilee, the people of God were called to dedicate themselves to economic justice and solemn reflection on God’s provision. Land was to be returned to those from whom it had been taken for unpaid debts, those in bondage were to be released, families were to be reunited, and all were to keep the year holy as the Sabbath. It is to this Jubilee that Jesus referred when he read from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue of his hometown of Nazareth.

Next January we will begin to celebrate our own Jubilee Year, the 75th anniversary of our founding. How better to begin than by adopting a plan that celebrates our acceptance of God’s offer of freedom and entry into new life?

Below is a listing of scriptural references from the Jubilee Strategic Plan Biblical Framework developed by Ben Boswell and the Strategic Planning Council. The full document, including connections with the plan and references to our Church Covenant, is available on the Church website and in the Church office.

GOAL 1: Continuously explore and deepen our faith in God, who frees and transforms us in heart, mind, and body.
Romans 12:1-8 and Psalm 111:10

GOAL 2: Build a dynamic, diverse church culture where we embrace and empower one another through wholehearted relationships.
Ephesians 4:1-6; 11-16 and Ruth 1:16

GOAL 3: Boldly practice the compassion and justice of Jesus by working with the poor, marginalized, and oppressed.
Luke 4:16-21 and Micah 6:8

GOAL 4: Cultivate our human, financial, and physical resources to grow and sustain a vibrant Church.
2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and Proverbs 3:9-10

Can You Hear Me NOW?

By John Bambach
jbambach@cornwellcenter.org

We hear a lot about what you hear and don’t hear in services and other events, and we’re always glad for your feedback (so to speak). It’s your experience that often tells us where we need to improve.

We recently gave our congregational blessing to a strategic plan, the result of extensive conversations within our Church community. Technology figures prominently within this new framework and much of it will be focused on making it easier for everyone to hear well. Being able to hear well is equally important whether you’re joining us in person, in real-time, or online on your own time.

Yes, you can watch videos of past services and listen to audio podcasts of sermons and many special events.

During some recent technology interviews conducted by the Technology Planning SLG, we learned that hearing in the Sanctuary can be a challenge for some. While we are making plans for improvements, we also want you to know that there is some help available now.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex each Sunday: small, portable receivers with ear buds, worn much as you would with an iPod. They get their sound directly from the microphones used in the Sanctuary during services and they can make speech a lot more intelligible. While you’re in the Narthex, ask a greeter for one if you think you could use the help.

While these work well for many, an even better solution for those of you with hearing aids would be something that sends sounds directly to the hearing aid that’s already been tailored to your needs.

Enter the neck loop. It broadcasts clear sounds directly to your hearing aid, and it simply plugs into our existing receivers in place of the ear buds. It’s just a loop of thin cable that slips over your head, without messing up your hair or interfering with clothing.

Before you can use it, speak with your audiologist and find out...
• if you have the T-coil in your device (most do)
• if it activates automatically, or if you need to activate it with a special program setting
• how to access any needed setting.

Then, next time you’re at services, ask one of the greeters in the Narthex where they’re located and how to use them. If you remember transistor radios, these are easier.

Let us know how you like them. We’ll be glad to hear from you ... and you from us.
2017 Year-To-Date Budget Overview

By Richard Harris
Chair, Ministry of Financial Resources

In January, the congregation approved an aggressive budget of $2.1MM, which is primarily funded with $1.8MM of pledges. This is a lofty goal and MPBC would like to thank everyone again for their generosity.

RECEIPTS:
Through April MPBC collected pledges of $520k vs. a budgeted amount of $532k. Please keep in mind that giving can fluctuate throughout the year for houses of worship – MPBC is no different. This requires MPBC to build a “cushion” into the budgeted receivables. The cushion also serves as a buffer against pledges that are not fulfilled during the year.

Other Giving Highlights for the First Four Months:
• Rice Bowl is behind plan with $2.9k in receipts vs. budget of $4.95k
• Loose Plate is behind plan with $10.29k in receipts vs. budget of $14.14k
• 5-in-1 totaled $196 vs. budget of $25k – Please remember that a 5-in-1 push occurred in May. You can expect to see this figure trend quickly towards the $25k budgeted figure once the May financials are released.

SPENDING:
Spending has been below budget of $695.1k at $660.9k. A hearty thank you should be given to our staff for the diligence they have exhibited towards expenses. Salaries and Benefits spending was also below budget, but we should expect this to trend towards breakeven by the end of the year.

BALANCE SHEET:
MPBC carried $206.7k of undesignated cash on balance sheet. This covers average monthly expenditures by 1.27 months, or 39 days.

ENDOWMENT GRANTS:
On May 24, the Endowment SLG approved the following requests:
• $7.2k to the Ministry of Faith Formation for J21 speaker (Rev. Dr. Miguel De La Torre)
• $14.2k to Ministry of Facilities Management (formerly known as Property and Grounds) for repairs and improvements

LOOKING FORWARD:
• Ministry of Facilities Management determined that the elevator near Heaton Hall is in disrepair and needs replacement. Additionally, the Church bus is also in disrepair needing replacement. Ministry of Financial Resources and Ministry of Facilities Management discussed all options and received multiple quotes. The estimated costs for both projects would run roughly $150k, assuming no unforeseen work is needed to bring the elevator up to code. The Board of Deacons was brought up to speed as these expenditures are outside of the approved budget. Said differently, there may be the need for MPBC to utilize its revolving line of credit to pay for the projects. After a robust discussion with the Board of Deacons, one family was willing to cover the bulk of the costs with other families participating in smaller increments. Additionally, the Cornwell Center committed to providing capital for the new bus. We cannot thank those enough, who gave to these projects, as we will not need to utilize debt to finance these projects.
• Ministry of Financial Resources and Ministry of Outreach met with Revs. Boswell and Aldrich. The discussion was how the Ministry of Outreach would budget going forward under the new Strategic Plan. It was agreed that starting with the 2018 Operating Budget, Rice Bowl and Loose Plate offering would no longer be pass-through line items but rather incorporated into the Operating Budget. It is anticipated that this change will simplify how MPBC budgets dollars for Ministry of Outreach. It should be noted that 5-in-1 will remain under the previous regime (direct pass through) for the time being.
• MPBC’s line of credit of $300k at Wells Fargo was up for renewal. MPBC shopped other financial institutions and decided upon a $400k line of credit through BB&T. The term is 24-months with an interest rate of Prime+0%. There is a balloon payment component at maturity. The origination fee was $400. A similar facility with other institutions carried origination fees in excess of $1,000. MPBC has no plans to utilize the line of credit except in extreme emergencies.

SUMMARY: While MPBC waits for pledge receipts to catch up with our budgeted numbers, the Ministry of Financial Resources considers MPBC to be financially strong.

Independence Day Holiday Closings

The Church Office and The Cornwell Center will be closed on Tuesday, July 4
On the Way to Memphis: Reflection from the Pilgrimage

By Chrissy Williamson

We spent the entire pilgrimage on the way to Memphis. Pilgrimage is about intention and so as we set out, taking the long way to Memphis, I made my intention about understanding. Not just regular understanding but a real, deeper, and perhaps bodily understanding of what it truly costs to pursue the dream of shalom, the dream of peace, the dream of wholeness for all.

Our first stop was Atlanta. Many of us sat at a counter with head-phones on for a minute and a half. An audible crowd gathers around, shouts begin, our chairs shake and the table vibrates giving the sensation that those around me are being roughed up. There’s name calling, threats . . . it’s tough to sit still even for 90 seconds. How did people “sittin’” for so long?

Then came Lowndes County and Selma. We heard from two young women about the history of voting rights for people of color in Alabama. We watched a video with comments from people who were involved in that movement. We learned the stories of many who were denied access, who were threatened, and who even lost their lives to have the right to participate fully in our democracy.

We gathered at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, remembering the story of bloody Sunday, with images of the crowd who walked in 1965. As we reached the crest of the bridge I could see that “sea of blue” survivors had spoken about in the film. I could smell the tear gas, I could feel the fear and the courage all at the same time. How did we let things get to this point, where authorities would rather kill than allow someone else to vote? Where people of color were willing to suffer even unto death, so that their friends, families, and children could have a better life?

In Montgomery I stood in the living room where Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King held their baby girl. Not 10 feet away was the place where the bomb detonated on their front porch while Coretta and baby girl Yolanda were inside the house. I heard about the calls, 30 and 40 threats per day. I felt in my gut that motherly call to protect my own and I knew that Coretta felt the same way, standing in this same room. Yet somehow, some way, she stayed, knowing that God had created and called her to be a part of this movement.

In Birmingham, 53 pilgrims made our way to the Sanctuary of 16th Street Baptist Church where four girls were killed after a bomb went off one Sunday morning. The church was a symbol of the movement and a hub for organizers, but these girls were not a threat, they had simply come to church on a Sunday, much like you and I on any Sunday. They were waiting to hear a sermon that was to be called “A Love that Forgives.”

With all of this in mind and recent memory, we arrived in Memphis late in the evening. From my bus window, it looked like any other town, but it felt like walking into Jerusalem. I knew in my gut that if I were to look out the windshield to see what was on the horizon, I would see nothing except darkness and the cross.

That feeling stayed with me the whole time we were in Memphis. I felt it when I was looking at the balcony, standing in room 306, looking at the pictures from King’s last moments. It lingered as I placed my feet where James Earl Ray stood as he fired the fatal shot.

The verse from Genesis posted in the museum haunted my mind and body as I stood in those infamous and sacred spots: “…Let us kill him and see what becomes of his dream…” (Genesis 37:20)

Having set my eyes on these sites, having put my feet on that ground, having felt my hands on the shaking counter . . .

Breathing the humid air, smelling the smell of the churches - that smell that is like every other church, even our own . . .

I ask myself, am I - are we - willing to follow the Jesus of the cross so far that we begin to experience some risk? Are we willing to chase after the dream in such bold ways that we might be seen as part of the problem? And if we did all of that, and experienced some bumps in the road . . . would we persevere?

What will become of the dream?

For more blog posts and pictures from the pilgrimage, visit www.awakeningshalom.com.

Dr. Miguel De La Torre
October 13-15, 2017

By Chrissy Williamson

Miguel is our 2017 scholar for the annual Jesus the Christ in the 21st Century lecture series. He is the first J21 scholar who is a liberation theologian, writing and practicing theology for and alongside people who are outcast or marginalized in our society.

To get to know Miguel a little better, sign up for “Theology Upstream,” a podcast-based connections group facilitated by Chrissy Williamson and Ben Boswell, beginning July 1. The podcast will cover content from Miguel’s book, Liberation Theology for Armchair Theologians, and will serve as an introduction to liberation thought. If you’re unfamiliar with podcasts, you can still join the group and listen to the conversations online at www.mpbconline.org.

By signing up for the small group (Theology Upstream), you’ll be included in regular email conversations about the book. Books may be purchased online or by calling the Church Office.

To order Liberation Theology for Armchair Theologians or to register for Theology Upstream, contact Anne Clarke at 704.334.7232 x 115.

Questions about the small group or the J21 weekend? Contact me at cwilliamson@myersparkbaptist.org.

To learn more from Miguel, check out his blog at https://ourlucha.wordpress.com.
Humbled, Changed, and Wanting More

By Fran Morrison

For days, the words of “We Shall Overcome” continued to run through my conscience. I would awake at night and the words would come forth. The tune would find its way into my brain as I went about my day. As I drove around, I felt the visual and deep visceral memory of standing in a circle, holding hands with new friends, with our white and black voices singing in unison those empowering words at 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. I will never, ever forget that experience.

Another deeply moving experience was walking the Edmund Pettus Bridge hand in hand with a Mayfield Baptist member, singing and praying together. I knew I would never come close to the courage, commitment, and faith of those who walked that bridge in 1963. We saw and heard them through pictures, films, voices, and words at each museum and memorial site while learning how so many put their lives on the line.

Now, several weeks removed from the trip, I find that I am looking through a different lens when I have opportunities to interact, engage, or even just casually pass by my brothers and sisters of color. I have a greater understanding and respect for their history. I am more aware of our systemic issues that keep racial injustices thriving. I have a yearning for more honest and sincere relationship-building opportunities. I get it, now. For a long time, I thought I was seeing, respecting, and understanding - but I know now I was not even close.

Making the trip doubly hard, during the bus travels, I tried to continue reading “Waking up White” by Debby Irving. I saw myself in so many places. I was initially embarrassed to be white and angry that my parents had not talked more with me and my siblings about what was happening around us. Later in my reading, I began to feel informed and able to be more cognizant of my own racial and implicit bias - to name it and to be committed to educating myself more fully as to what that really meant. I want to move beyond my blindness and begin to consciously and intentionally be more aware of my own thoughts and action patterns around race. And I know that I will need forgiveness when I miss the mark, and encouragement coupled with relationship to begin and continue the walk.

I have such gratitude for the opportunity for this trip, its dreamers and organizers of what it might offer; the courageous and eclectic pilgrims who traveled together, the sacred stories shared, the raw emotion that touched all of us, and the bonded community of faithful followers who returned to Charlotte humbled, changed, and wanting more.

FAQ: Youth PASSPORTchoices Camp

July 16-21 | Greensboro College

By Koren Cranford

What is PASSPORTchoices? It is a 6-day, 5-night creative discipleship youth camp that allows students the freedom to customize their camp experience, explore their passions, and live out their calling. Attendees choose from multiple afternoon activities ranging from environmentalism, to health and fitness, to music and ministry. Students have the opportunity to explore their interests and discover how to live out the calling of God in their lives. Students room with 1-2 other students from our youth group in college dorms. Food is provided in the college cafeteria. At least three Church members chaperone our group; they will be there the entire week, living in the dorms with our youth.

What is the theme of the camp in 2016? "DO. LOVE. WALK." This is the perfect theme for our youth as our Church embarks on a new strategic plan focused on justice and community. To sum it up, “Following Jesus with our lives demands action. To expect justice we must learn to recognize and intercede on behalf of the oppressed... Faith in Christ is simple, but that does not mean it is always easy.”

Which denomination is the camp? The theology of the camp is described as “Ecumenical Thoughtful Theology,” welcoming churchers from all denominations to come together for community and worship.

Wait, worship at camp? YES – and it is not the same as worship at our Church, or even on our youth retreats. There is always a band, there is video, there is dancing, there are games, and more! Our students who attended last year experienced something new at each group gathering.

What else happens at Passport? There is a daily morning gathering that is high-energy and filled with music and games. During the morning, students are grouped with students from other churches, as well as our own, to explore the camp theme. In the afternoon, they attend their Choice courses. Free time, with the option of participation in camp activities, is every day from 2:30 to 5:30. Each evening there is a camp party – including a fun and silly game night (think water! think messy!), a talent show, and a dance.

Can I still sign up? YES! Let us know as soon as possible. Invite a friend to go with you. Please visit the Church website, or contact Allen Davis (adavis@myersparkbaptist.org) or me (cranford123@gmail.com, 704.604.1136).

Looking Ahead Toward Fall

By Allen Davis

This fall will be an exciting time for Youth Ministry at Myers Park Baptist Church. Through our theme of “In the Moment,” we will examine topics related to faith, leadership, and community. Each month we’ll dive deep, examining scripture, stories, and people that challenge or support our monthly topic. We will take field trips, engage in social outings, and have tons of fun. We look forward to learning how to become better leaders, community builders, and followers of faith.

We welcome members of the congregation to share your experiences or expertise this fall with our youth around our monthly topic. If you’re interested, please email me at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org. Youth Ministry will meet on Sunday mornings and evenings. We welcome you to join us.
**Children’s Ministry News**

By Carrie Veal

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch and Book Discussion**

**Wednesdays July 12, 19, and 26 | 11:00a – 12:30p**

In June, our Church hosted Families Managing Media, a group that leads presentations around the topic of screens and children’s brains. It was informative and thought-provoking. And we want this conversation to continue. This month, we will have a three-week small group on the book *Wired Child* by Dr. Richard Freed. This book will offer some good insights into how we can help all the children in our lives be more connected to the world around them.

A second benefit this group will offer all of us is a chance to improve our relationships with each other. After all, aren’t we connected/reliant/addicted (YIKES!) to our screens as well? Books are available in the Church office for $12 each. We will gather for three consecutive Wednesdays beginning July 12 from 11:00a-12:30p. Childcare will be available at the Cornwell Center. You must sign up for childcare by Monday, July 10. At the first session, we will discuss chapters 1 and 2. I hope you can make this time together. Register via myMPBC today! And feel free to invite others! For more information, please contact me at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org or 704.334.7232 x 118.

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**Passport Camp 2017**

Since 2004, Passport Kids has offered completed third – fifth graders the opportunity to discover what God is doing in the world and how they are invited to join that work. By building relationships with campers from other churches as well as deepening the relationships with those from their own church, Passport Kids creates a space for children to dig deep into their faith.

From July 15-18 four fifth graders, along with three chaperones, will be at Maryville College in Maryville, TN where we will spend time with Micah 6:8: *And what does the Lord require of you but to DO justice, and to LOVE kindness, and to WALK humbly with your God?* This theme of justice, kindness, and walking will be incorporated in games, Bible study, worship, and more for all of us over these four days.

Please keep the campers, chaperones, and all the Passport staff in your thoughts and prayers this July.

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**Family Night at the Charlotte Knights**

**Friday, July 28 | 7:05p Game Time | BB&T Ballpark**

Bring the whole family to the ball park! Tickets are $15 and can be purchased through myMPBC. For more information, contact me at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org or 704.334.7232 x 118.

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**Freedom School Family Night at MPBC**

**Monday, July 10 | 5:00–8:00p**

By Tara Harris

On Monday, July 10 we will host close to 175 Freedom School scholars and their families for a Family Night and Mobile Food Pantry. Scholars from our site, Pinewood Elementary, and three other Freedom School sites from around Charlotte will join together for this family event. You are invited to volunteer in a variety of ways.

We will gather around tables to eat dinner with the scholars and their families. Then we will bless them with pre-boxed food provided by Second Harvest. This will be such a wonderful and unique opportunity for our congregation. To participate, please contact me at taraagnew@hotmail.com.
Preparing for Freedom School 2017

Something Inside So Strong

By Laura Handler

On Monday, June 19, 80 scholars from grades K-8 were greeted at Pinewood Elementary with energetic chants of "G-o-o-d m-o-r-n-i-n-g, good morning!" from their enthusiastic Servant Leader Interns (SLIs), beginning a daily routine full of affirmation and encouragement to carry them into the next six weeks of summer learning. Each morning, scholars sing "Something Inside So Strong" and read empowering multicultural literature to inspire them to make a difference in themselves, their families, their community, their country, and their world. The relationships, conversations, and laughter that will be shared are yours to join! In addition to the daily volunteer opportunity to Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) with a scholar from 11:15-11:45, we invite you to the following events to be a part of this powerful experience:

Monday, July 10 | 5:00-8:00p
Family Night comes to MPBC! We'll open Heaton Hall to scholars and their families from across the city, hosting the mobile food pantry from Second Harvest Food Bank. Help us serve pizza, distribute bags of food, and enjoy fellowship with families!

Thursday, July 13 | 8:30-1:30p
Jubilee is a city-wide celebration of all Freedom School scholars and staff. Shifts are available to help with set-up, serving lunch, and clean-up at the Grady Cole Center. Use this link to sign up: http://freedomschoolpartners.volunteerhub.com/events/indexv1.

Wednesday, July 19 | 12:45-2:15p
Great Day of DEAR! All day long scholars will Drop Everything And Read. Join us for this celebration of reading and a craft in the afternoon!

Thursday, July 27 | 12:00-1:30p
Freedom School Finale in Heaton Hall! Share lunch with scholars and their families, plus see their end-of-year performances, awards, and singing of "Something Inside So Strong." If you have time, help with set-up beforehand or clean-up afterwards.

This year our site is led by Denisha McCluney, with Carly Garcia as her assistant. Level I SLIs are Tanajah, Ayanna, and Kelvin; Level II SLIs are Brianna, Georfan, and Ashaya; Level III SLIs are Destiny and Jewel.

For more volunteer opportunities, please visit the Church website and click on the link for Freedom School. Contact Karen Taylor (fitztaylor@aol.com), Laura Handler (laura.hoeing@gmail.com), or Tara Harris (taraagnew@hotmail.com) for questions or details.

Senior Sunday, May 28
Congratulations to our graduating seniors!

"Sing to Love" Benefit Concert | Friday, June 2
Free will offering from this wonderful evening went to RAIN and Time Out Youth.
**Worship & Music**

**54 Years of Retreating to the Mountains**

By Fran Morrison

Our retreat reputation follows us around—lots of laughter, music that is challenging and touches our souls, quality time with friends, informal worship that lifts and refreshes us. If you have ever sung in Chancel Choir, even for a short while, you have probably heard some of our stories. This Labor Day weekend will mark our 54th retreat. The weekend is a family experience offering hiking, creek stomping, paddle boats, and shopping for all. Afternoons are free for relaxing fun.

If you are contemplating joining this wonderful group of supportive, musical friends, retreat time is prime time to sign up. Rehearsals are held in the mornings and early evenings, afternoons offer leisure time, and frivolity ensues as the evenings progress. If you would like to join us this Labor Day weekend, beginning Friday evening, September 1 through Monday morning, September 4 at the Montreat Conference Center in the North Carolina mountains, please contact me at fmorrison@myersparkbaptist.org.

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**RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) Returns to MPBC**

By Fran Morrison

The Royal School of Church Music is an international, ecumenical, professional organization which promotes high standards of church music throughout the English-speaking world. For eleven years, the Royal School of Church Music in America has brought its Charlotte Training Course to Myers Park Baptist for rehearsal and worship space while utilizing the close proximity of Queens University for housing. The Charlotte Course, sponsored by St. John’s Episcopal Church, runs June 26 – July 2 and offers advanced musical training to girls and boys ages 10-18, adult singers, and directors.

The guest conductor for 2017 is Mr. Julian Wachner, a former chorister of the St. Thomas Church and School in Manhattan and the current Director of Music and the Arts for Trinity Church, Wall Street in NYC. Mr. Wachner is internationally known as a conductor, composer, and keyboard artist. He supervises an annual season of hundreds of events, including Bach-at-One, Concerts-at-One, Trinity’s own contemporary music orchestra, the Trinity Baroque Orchestra, and the Choir of Trinity Wall Street. Mr. Wachner will be joined by Mr. Andrew Scanlon, a member of the keyboard faculty of East Carolina University. The week concludes on Sunday, July 2 at 4:00p with an Evensong service that is open and free to the public.

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**Demystifying the Choir**

By Fran Morrison

One of the comments I sometimes hear following a Joining Sunday, when new members join the Church, is how different it feels to be in the chancel with the organ fully open while singing the Doxology surrounded by the choir. Some of the comments have been, “it was exhilarating, it was loud, it was beautiful, it gave me chills.” The worship experience from the chancel area is indeed different from sitting in the nave.

This summer, we invite anyone who would like to experience worship in the choir loft to sit with us on July 30 and August 6. On these Sundays, the choir will not be singing an anthem. The music will be provided by soloists or small ensembles. But we will still need some voices in the choir loft to assist the congregation in singing the hymns. Come by yourself or bring your whole family. Don’t worry about what to wear - choir members will not be wearing robes those Sundays. Please feel free to have a greeter seat you on the lectern side by 9:55a.

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**MAD Fun Was Had By All With "100% Chance of Rain"**

[Images of children enjoying a rainy day activity]
Youth & Childcare

Camps are in full swing and campers are having a blast! Our camps offer your child a safe, nurturing environment to grow, play, and experience new things. Our camp team goes above and beyond to develop innovative programming that is guaranteed to rock your socks off! We create a camp culture where kids have fun and make new friends, develop new skills, and build self-confidence! Visit http://camperregsecure.com/ccenter/ for availability or email Nicolette nagosto@cornwellcenter.org.

NEW Time and format:
- 30/30 Spin+Sculpt
- 8:30AM-9:30AM Tuesdays
- Marcy
- 30/30 Sculpt+Spin
- 8:30AM-9:30AM Thursdays
- Ansley and Amy are back, and we wish Autumn all the best with her new job!

ON HIATUS until after Labor Day:
- Boot Camp (10AM Sat)
- Barre (1PM Tues)
- Power Yoga Sculpt (1PM Thur)

NEW Summer Swim times at Queens (please inquire at CC Front Desk)

SAVE THE DATE:
- September 8-10: Yoga Training with the Center for Integrative Yoga Studies

Fitness

Even though summer is a time to relax, our commitment to innovative classes and top quality instructors never takes a break! While some regular instructors are enjoying their summer and family vacations, it's a great time to bring in substitute teachers and explore new offerings. Your feedback helps PJ deliver the fitness experiences you are looking for, so drop her a line at pisaic@cornwellcenter.org.

LiveWell Cornwell

PHOTO Connections

July 19 | 7–9PM | John Bambach
cornwellcenter.org/photo/
www.facebook.com/PhotoSIG

At monthly meetings, we explore some photography basics – composition, light, color, and subject. All levels of experience and equipment are invited, from the casual smartphone user to the serious student using an SLR.

The assignment for our July 19 meeting is “Summertime – Livin’ Easy.” While you’re doing your Summer things, try to capture the feeling. Think beaches, hammocks, barbeques, kids and sprinklers… even mowing the lawn! Email a photo or two to help us feel what you do by noon on July 18 (jbambach@cornwellcenter.org). Then come and join us for the group viewing and discussion.

The Cornwell Center is proud to partner with the 24 Foundation to provide childcare for registered riders

Saturday, July 29th | 8AM-12PM

JULY PMO SPECIAL! Reserve Parent's Morning Out Mon – Fri and get 5 days for the cost of 4! Members pay $100 for 5 days during July. Email Chandi to reserve.
cornwellchildcare@cornwellcenter.org
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
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The Reverend Chrissy Tatum Williamson
Minister of Faith Formation
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The Reverend Barry Z. Metzger
Church Administrator
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The Reverend Carrie Veal
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Allen Davis
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Jenny Yopp
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Belinda Geuss
Director of Through-The-Week School
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SUMMER PREACHERS IN THE FREE PULPIT
See page 2 for details

Sunday, July 9
Reverend J. Dana Trent

Sunday, July 23
Reverend Chrissy Williamson

Sunday, July 30
Reverend Dr. Bill Leonard