MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

June - July 2019

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www.myersparkbaptist.org
Our next Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 2 at 11:00a following worship. We will have lunch together in appreciation of all who have volunteered throughout the year, and then we’ll discuss many wonderful updates in the life of our Church. For example, our agenda will include an update from our team working on the Church identity project.

Our agenda also will include a congregational vote on a new lay leadership structure, “Reimagining Lay Leadership,” that was recently adopted by the Board of Deacons. Last fall, the Strategic Planning Council (SPC) began working on a new vision of lay leadership for our Church. The SPC worked with our Board of Deacons during several months of written and discussion-based visioning processes to determine the best structure for our Church’s lay leadership bodies. In March 2019, the SPC unanimously recommended a new lay leadership structure to the Board of Deacons. At our Board of Deacons meeting on April 8 (held at Southminster), an overwhelming majority of our Board of Deacons voted to adopt the new proposed structure.

Now, we, the Board of Deacons, bring the new proposed structure to you, the congregation, for a vote and for approval. We will vote following a discussion time at our Congregational Meeting on June 2. Under the new proposed structure:

- The Board of Deacons will include 21 Deacons per year who will serve staggered three-year terms (in three groups of seven). This new Board size will be a reduction from a Board size that typically includes about 45 to about 48 Deacons per year (and a Board size that technically, under current rules, could have included 66 Deacons this past year).
- The Deacons will be chosen to serve in certain capacities (for example, strategic planning, leadership development, leadership identification, leading the endowment allocation process, or leading a human resources Deacon team).
- A new Ministry Council will be formed, through which the Chairs of the various Program Ministries will meet every other month to increase collaboration among the ministries.
- A new Church Council will absorb all of the duties of the Deacon Chair Advisory Council as well as the informal Deacon leadership team that has been meeting twice a month for several years.
- The new lay leadership structure will reduce the number of Ministries, Servant Leadership Groups (SLGs), and Councils required for doing the work of the Church each year, thereby streamlining Church leadership. (For example, the jobs formerly performed by the Ministry of Human Resources, the Ministry of Leadership, the Strategic Planning Council, and the Endowment SLG (the allocation duties) will roll into the new Board of Deacons).
- The new lay leadership structure will use a calendar-year model. Thus, the Church will elect (and then ordain or install) our new group of seven Deacons between the June 2 Congregational Meeting and the start of the new calendar year on January 1, 2020.
- The Board of Deacons will return to its original size (21 Deacons, set forth in our 1943 statement of organization).

Please call me or email me with questions regarding this new proposed lay leadership structure or this notice for a vote. I am including my contact information below. Also, we will have plenty of time to answer questions during our discussion at the Congregational Meeting. The Deacons are excited to move forward together by streamlining and making more effective the lay leadership of our Church.

Blessings,

Tara Harris
(864-906-1865 | taraagnew@hotmail.com)

As you know, this spring’s stewardship campaign is about stepping up to higher levels of financial commitment. This past year, we have had many generous members pass away or relocate from Charlotte. In order to maintain and grow our existing ministries, we need 100% contribution participation from all our members. For some families who do not give, this will mean increasing a regular donation to our Church. For other families who currently give, this may mean increasing your financial gift. As I write this, we are just beginning our campaign, but we are $115,000 behind our budgeted number for pledges. Can you consider how you might step up your financial contribution to our Church, or begin a regular gift?

You were recently mailed a pledge card. Cards can also be found in the Narthex and in each pew in the Sanctuary. Commitment Sunday is June 2, and I hope you will bring your card to worship as we commit these gifts to God. You may also make a pledge on our website, or by emailing me directly at lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org. Regardless of whether you may be naturally timid talking about money or deeply passionate about it, Commitment Sunday invites us all to engage in faithful stewardship to empower our Church to continue in ministry and mission in the world. The work of Myers Park Baptist Church depends on the commitment and generosity of each of us.
Embrace | Expand | Embody | Staff News

June - July 2019

Hello MPBC!

By Mia M. McClain

I’m thrilled to be on board as your new Associate Minister of Faith Formation and Community Outreach. I have felt so welcomed by this community and I’m grateful for the opportunity to do transformational ministry with you. Some of the things I’ll be focusing on this summer and fall include launching our new Ascension to Environmental Justice series, diversifying our faith formation programming to allow for more inter-generational interaction, creating some new midweek groups that focus on Bible literacy and encourage scriptural exploration, and increasing our partnerships with neighboring faith communities for outreach projects.

I’d like to get to know each of you a little better, so please schedule some time with me over the summer through Caroline Manning (cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org). I look forward to spending time together as the year progresses and I’m excited about the future of this wonderful faith community.

MPBC is Partnering with

By Mia M. McClain

We are excited to enter into a 3-year partnership with Self-Help Credit Union, a mission-driven credit union committed to expanding ownership and economic opportunities for all. Since 1980, 69% of loans have gone to low-income borrowers, 3,642 families have been able to purchase homes, and 913 jobs have been created or maintained. In order to do our part as a church to address the issue of economic mobility as identified by the Leading on Opportunity Task Force report, the Ministry of Outreach has approved a grant to the Self-Help of $100,000. With our investment, Self-Help will be able to continue supporting small businesses -- specifically nonprofits -- and helping families buy their first car, first home, or reduce high-cost debt. Please visit the newly opened branch at 1065 Providence Road to make a deposit and become a member. Visit www.self-help.org to learn more.

Celebrating Fran Morrison - Sunday, June 9

By Rev. Ben Boswell

Fran has spent her entire life as a member of Myers Park Baptist Church and has blessed us for 30 years with her ministry through worship, music, and friendship. On her final Sunday before her retirement, we will celebrate with a special worship service followed by a reception.

"Choral music is not one of life’s frills. It’s something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community and our souls." - John Rutter

The instrumental and choral music as well as hymns for this service have been chosen for their specific scriptures and texts that have had special meaning to Fran and the choir over the years. The music and sermon will be woven around Pentecost themes from Acts 2:1-14 and Ephesians 5:6-21. A preview of some of the music includes the beautiful setting of “The Ground” from Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo’s “Sunrise Mass,” the hymn “When in our Music God is Glorified,” Bobby McFerrin’s feminine version of the Twenty-Third Psalm, and from the organ, “Final” from Symphony I by Louis Vierne. The prelude will begin at 9:50a with a string quartet.

Following worship, all are invited to a reception honoring Fran in Heaton Hall. (This will take the place of Talk Back.)

We are collecting notes of appreciation and a love offering in the Church Office. We hope you will join us in expressing appreciation for our beloved minister and friend.
Thank You, John Bambach, for 15 Years of Dedication

By Rev. Ben Boswell

John Bambach served on staff in the areas of communication and technology at our Church and the Cornwell Center for the last fifteen years before retiring at the end of April. They say “a picture is worth a thousand words,” and if that is true, then John has left us with millions of extraordinary words about who we are as a community of faith. Over the years, John has taken thousands of photographs of Church members, staff, Deacons, special events, and worship services. Through photos and videos for our stewardship campaigns, John has been the primary documentarian of our Church’s recent history. His gift of photography leaves a legacy of images and stories that future generations will benefit from for many years.

In addition to serving as the primary photographer for the Church, John has also led a Photo Connections special interest group since 2006. John was also one of the first staff members at the Cornwell Center where, as Director of Technology, he wrote some of the earliest communications for the newsletter, managed the Learning Center, and taught computer classes when the Center first opened.

Beyond photography and communication, John’s work in the area of A/V and sound technology for our Church has been nothing less than transformative. John has not only led the sound team, but he was the primary staff leader and implementer of audio and visual upgrades all over our campus, including the Sanctuary, Heaton Hall, Shalom Hall, and the Cornwell Conference Center. His innovative efforts in A/V development and implementation have enabled the Church to produce a professional quality webcast of worship services for people to watch online. John also pioneered the livestream of our services through Facebook, built our studio, produced our podcasts, and edited all the audio content to complement our faith formation programs. John has done more than anyone else to increase our ability as a Church to create meaningful worship and faith formation experiences.

While John’s experience and abilities are irreplaceable, we are pleased to have hired Seph Rackley to serve as our part-time A/V Specialist. Seph trained with John and took over for him in early May. I hope you will join me in welcoming Seph. I also hope you will join me in offering our deep gratitude and appreciation to John Bambach for a wonderful career of service to our Church. He has had a transformative impact on our congregation and left a legacy that we will enjoy for many years to come. We are collecting notes of appreciation for John in the Church office.

We Welcome Austin Maynor as Pastoral Intern

Austin will serve our Church this summer as a seminary intern from Duke Divinity School. Prior to enrolling at Duke, Austin earned a BA in Christian Studies from Campbell University, where he held two student chaplaincy positions. He has completed internships with Hominy Baptist Church of Candler, NC and L’Arche of Washington, DC. This past year, he served as Campus Ministry Coordinator at Binkley Baptist Church of Chapel Hill. Austin is interested in preaching, spiritual direction, and the intersection between religion and literature. He is a native of Asheville and in his spare time enjoys perusing the shelves of used book stores, weightlifting, and attending concerts and art museums.

Congregational Care this Summer

While Joe is away on sabbatical, the staff will be stepping in to help with our congregational care ministry. Senior Staff will continue to make hospital visits as usual, with Operations Assistant Carol Cedar coordinating the visits. Stephen Ministers will help as needed.

For our Caring Touch Ministry, a schedule is in place for calls and notes to our members who will celebrate a birthday and a MPBC anniversary.

For our Senior Visitation Ministry, visit assignments are arranged for the summer.

Our Stephen Ministers will continue their bi-monthly Supervision Meetings led by Alex Gnilka with the support of Tammie Lesesne and Grace Mitchell. If you know someone who needs a Stephen Minister, please contact Rev. Ben Boswell.

Funeral/Memorial Services will be coordinated by Rev. Boswell with the help of the Senior Staff as well as Rev. Gary Hudson. Please call Carol Cedar when a Memorial Service needs to be planned and she will handle the details.

While Joe is away, let us all be especially attuned to one another’s needs. It is a great time to renew our efforts to be “priests to one another.” When you hear of someone in the hospital, a rehabilitation center, or a nursing home, please contact the Church Office. Once again, Carol Cedar is the one who will disseminate this information. Also, let Carol know about all our Congregational Joys and Concerns such as births, deaths, and weddings. The more information each member shares with the community of faith, the better we can care for one another. Carol’s contact information is ccedar@myersparkbaptist.org and 704.334.7232 x 100.

We wish Joe a rejuvenating sabbatical and look forward to his return on August 20.
Awakening to Racial Injustice

On Sunday, October 29, we welcomed a new joining class into the life of our Church. We want

Nutrition, health, and mental health are also goals of the program. Scholars receive free breakfast and lunch as part of CMS’s Summer Food Service Program -- Pinewood became a program site when Freedom School was launched there six years ago. In addition, Freedom School provides scholars with snacks in the morning and afternoon to help fuel their learning in the classroom and on their off-site adventures. Every morning, scholars participate in a cooperative group activity, a social action activity, and a conflict resolution activity to enhance their social and emotional development. Talk about nurturing the body and soul!

Clearly there is so much more than meets the eye at Freedom School. I haven't even mentioned the parent and family engagement nor the many, many field trips offering enrichment and fun. Please know that MPBC's investment goes a long way in so many layers of injustices we have studied. We invite you this summer to get a more up-close look at Freedom School -- come with us on a tour to see it in action. We’ll depart from the Church and become familiar with the “Freedom School Way” (and I challenge you not to smile or shed a tear of joy while there).

We've got a minimum of 124 volunteer spots to fill from Monday, June 17 through Thursday, July 25:
• 28 days to read with scholars (whole group with Harambee or individually with DEAR time),
• 14 afternoons of activities to plan,
• 6 weeks of supply shopping to do,
• 3 nights of parent workshops to assist, and
• countless field trips to chaperone!

All of the volunteer opportunities vary in time and capacity, so there is surely a perfect match for your summer schedule. Check the Church website for descriptions of these roles and links to sign up, or contact me, Laura Handler (laura.hoeing@gmail.com) or Karen Taylor (fitztaylor@aol.com) with any questions.

By Laura Handler

For the past three years, our Church has sought spiritual growth through our Awakening series. Examining injustices of race, immigration, and our bodies, we’ve read, discussed, and journeyed into the community to tackle these big issues. And what humility and empowerment we've experienced! Now is the opportunity to act where these systems of injustice intersect -- just 3.5 miles down the road in one of our city’s schools, Pinewood Elementary -- and to extend such growth to the youth of our community.

Over six weeks, scholars at Pinewood’s Freedom School will read aloud nearly 30 books focused on making a difference in themselves, their families, their communities, their countries, and their world. Here’s a sampling of texts the scholars will examine: A Shelter in our Car, This is our Earth, Eleanor, Quiet No More, Let the Children March, and What Does Peace Feel Like?. Sound right up our alley, don't they? Every year I find myself using the Freedom School book list to add to my own summer reading. As a bonus, scholars get to take home one of these books each week to add to their personal libraries and read over and over again! With diverse characters and powerful themes, the literature provided by the Freedom School curriculum is just what our young readers deserve. And as a bonus, 90% of scholars either maintain or advance their reading level over the summer.

Scholars aren't the only ones that Freedom School Partners support over the summer -- Servant Leader Interns (SLIs) are provided a week of training at the Children's Defense Fund headquarters in Tennessee, plus an additional week of homegrown training here in Charlotte. This training includes everything from lesson planning to equity. Typically college-age, these SLIs are far more diverse in their cultural, racial, gender, linguistic, and economic backgrounds than the current work force of educators. Some enter the summer interested in a career in teaching, and many more decide to dedicate themselves to the profession as a result of this experience.

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MPBC Steps Up at the RAIN AIDS Walk

MPBC supported and celebrated RAIN’s 23rd annual AIDS Walk on Saturday, May 4. Our team won for the Religious Organization that raised the most money. We are proud to report that we met our goal and contributed $9,002 of the $157,966 total raised for the event. Thank you to all who supported, volunteered, donated, and walked.
The Faithful Prayers on a Detained Abuela

By Glori Tolentino Rivera

"On the detention center television, I see pictures of ICE raiding homes and businesses in North Carolina and throughout the country. I see mothers and fathers being led away in handcuffs. They are being taken to places like this one. I feel sorry for them, because I don’t wish this place upon anyone.

Glori wrote these prayers while she was detained:

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I write to you from an immigration detention center. I am in a room with 100 beds, and every one of them is full. 100 beds, 100 women. If one of us gets the flu, we all get the flu. If one of us cries in the night, we all hear it. Each woman carries her own pain with her and each has her own story. This is mine.

During this Lenten season, I think about all that I have lost. I was my granddaughter’s primary caretaker.

She called me “mommy.” She is my life, my strength, my motor, my everything. On March 21, she will be eight years old. That will also be one year since ICE separated us and locked me in a detention center in California, thousands of miles away from her.

For many years, we lived happily in Mexico. I ran my own business selling second-hand clothing. We didn’t plan to leave. But in 2018, a cartel threatened to kill my family. We fled to another city but the cartel followed us. We came to the United States to save our lives. We planned to stay with my son, a U.S. citizen, at his home in Huntersville, North Carolina while we pursued our case for asylum.

Instead, ICE took my granddaughter away from me. They said that grandmothers must be separated from grandchildren, even if we are the child’s primary caretaker. They left my granddaughter in NC, and they locked me in a detention center in CA.

In Mexico, just like in the United States, it’s common for grandparents to raise their grandchildren. But the immigration laws don’t recognize this relationship. They separate children from the only “mommies” they know. What can “abuela-madres” like me do?

Every day in detention, I pray, I knit, I read the Bible. I walk around the dormitory for exercise. The same routine, every day, for 11 months. I can’t let myself get depressed, because I have to be strong and keep fighting my asylum case. But I ask myself, "When? When will I be able to hug my granddaughter again?" To be far away from my granddaughter is painful.

Sometimes I can’t wait for night to come, because then I get to dream about my little girl. I see her running, sitting at the kitchen table and playing with her dolls. She’s happy that I’m home. But then I wake up, and I’m back in the detention center: 100 beds, 100 women, each with her own story. And on the detention center TV, more families being separated by ICE.

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After her release from detention in California, Glori travelled all the way from Huntersville to visit MPBC on May 19 with her son and granddaughter just to say “thank you” and offer gifts of gratitude for our congregation’s work in calling for her release.

Immigration work is an uphill battle. The reality is that most people detained by ICE are kept in barbaric and inhumane cages, die in custody, or are deported back to danger and death. Release is rare and we have a direct opportunity to make a difference in the life of a family in our community. Let us continue to stand with Glori’s family in this moment when they need us the most.
Supporting Mayfield's Affordable Housing Initiative

By Rev. Ben Boswell

Two years ago, after our Awakening to Racial Injustice Pilgrimage to the Deep South with Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Peter Wherry, Mayfield’s Senior Pastor, called me with a plan. He and his leaders were establishing a Community Development Corporation (CDC) and preparing to embark on an initiative to build affordable housing on eight acres of the property around their Church. Dr. Wherry asked if we had any leaders who would be well suited to serve on the board of their CDC. I immediately thought of two Deacons, Robert Barfield and Chaz Seale. I knew only enough about Robert and Chaz to be dangerous, but I must have had the Spirit’s help because Robert and Chaz eagerly agreed to serve and were the perfect people for the job. Interracial community development and social justice work are not easy, especially as outsiders, but Dr. Wherry has been extremely impressed and grateful for Chaz and Robert’s leadership. He has described them as incredibly insightful, skilled, patient, and critical to the success of the board and their affordable housing initiative.

Now two years later, with Robert and Chaz’s help, Dr. Wherry and the other leaders of the Mayfield CDC were approved for rezoning on April 15th by the Charlotte City Council to construct 25 townhomes on their property. This means that the building can begin. The land will be developed with up to 50 units of affordable housing, as well as church parking and a neighborhood park. Our Church should be very proud of Robert and Chaz. They represented us well. During that time, our Church has also served as the administrative account holder for the CDC, and the Ministry of Outreach recently agreed to fund two students from UNC Charlotte’s Masters in Urban Planning program to serve as a fellows to assist the CDC with fundraising and research related to affordable housing.

Sometimes people ask me what our Statement on Racism against African Americans actually accomplished for us. To that I would answer: it looks like Robert and Chaz, two Deacon leaders working side-by-side with the leaders of our partner church Mayfield to build affordable housing for our community.

Dr. Wherry said, “This gives us the opportunity to make a contribution to what we view as one of the crises of our city -- the lack of affordable housing.” MPBC has joined Mayfield Memorial’s efforts, contributing $44,000 to this project. We look forward to witnessing the progression of this development and are proud to be partners in the work!

Supportive Housing Communities Establishes Bob Bishop Award

By Linda Miller, Supportive Housing Communities

Myers Park Baptist Church is an essential partner and supporter of Supportive Housing Communities (SHC) and our residents. Besides hosting meals and coffee talks at McCreesh Place, MPBC also provides an annual cookout to celebrate all of our residents, supporters, and staff members. While the food is always incredible, the best part of the event is seeing our MPBC supporters in fellowship with the SHC residents. This event has been such a success that we expanded it into our very first SHC Family Reunion in September 2018.

Among MPBC members, Bob Bishop has served SHC with special distinction. He is a board member, Luncheon Committee chair, Marketing and Development Committee Leader, Expansion Committee member, donor, volunteer, and inspiring servant leader. To acknowledge how much he means to our organization, SHC presented Bob with a special award for his “Extraordinary Volunteer Efforts.” Now every year at the SHC Family Reunion, SHC will present the Bob Bishop Award to an exceptional volunteer or donor. Come to Cordelia Park in September to see who this year’s recipient will be!

Shopping on Amazon Can Benefit MPBC!

By Rev. Leigh Ann Hagerman

If you are like me, you frequently shop on Amazon.com. Now, by shopping through Amazon’s charity site, a donation will be made directly to support ministries at Myers Park Baptist. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to our Church. How do you start? Start at smile.amazon.com and do a search on charitable organizations to find us.
Sprucing Things Up During Saturday of Service

By Carol Cedar

MPBC’s Saturday of Service cleanup at the Point was hot, dirty, and hard work. But under the direction of Mary Lou Buck, a team of intrepid volunteers rose to the occasion and did an awesome job! Our EarthKeepers had been joined by several Boy Scouts who had "adopted" the area and worked there for their Eagle Scout projects. After trimming, weeding, and clearing brush, it is once again the perfect place for quiet contemplation, picnics or small meetings. Take a few moments from your hectic schedule and enjoy the benches, paths, and tranquility.

Another team enjoyed the day planting gardens at the Urban Ministry Center.

There IS Room In The Inn!

By Mia McClain

Here at Myers Park Baptist, we are proud to be a church that unapologetically proclaims, "there's room in the inn!" Since 1996, the Urban Ministry Center has partnered with colleges and congregations of many faiths to open their facilities to provide shelter and food for those who are housing-insecure during the winter months. Each site offers a warm, safe place to sleep, serves three meals, and returns guests to Uptown Charlotte the following morning. Myers Park Baptist Church has participated in Room In The Inn since its inception, making the upcoming 2019-2020 season our 24th year!

We’d like to thank the Ministry of Outreach, our partners at Urban Ministry Center, and every single volunteer who helped make our neighbors comfortable for the few hours they shared with us each week. We are gearing up for the next season of Room in the Inn and would love to have YOU join us! For more information, please contact me at mmcclain@myersparkbaptist.org.
This time last year, I was away on sabbatical. I was grateful for the gift of rest and renewal and excited for cooking classes and time with family and friends. It was a very different summer than what I’m used to. And while it was nice, it was also difficult. It wasn’t easy to be away from our worship, my colleagues on staff, and the daily routine. And I realized how much this community means to me. You are my family. And I missed you!

So, as we get ready for this summer, I will be around and I hope you will, too, because we miss you when you are gone.

By Carrie Veal

Stay Engaged this Summer

Here are just a few of the ways you can stay engaged with your Church family this summer. Keep your eyes on your email and the Church website to see other opportunities that might come along.

Social Opportunities

Charlotte Knights Baseball Games
Friday July 12 and Friday July 26
Join us for one or both nights with the Charlotte Knights. Tickets are $20 each and include a $2 gift card for food or beverage. RSVP on the Church’s website or by calling Caroline Manning.

Potlucks
June - Home of Scott Crowder and John Locklear
July - Home of Jennifer and Tucker Pearsall
*Watch your email for more details on these*

Virtual Book Group
Join Mia McClain online for a summer reading of our next J21 Scholar, Catherine Keller’s book On the Mystery: Discerning Divinity in Process. We will meet through Zoom, an online meeting place. We will provide tutorials on how to use it before we kick off on July 10. Books can be purchased through Amazon for Kindle or hard copies will be available at the Church for $20. Sign up on the church website. To learn more, please contact Caroline Manning (cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 115).

By Mia McClain

Summer Reading List

For Adults
- Bipolar Faith: A Black Woman’s Journey With Depression and Faith by Monica Coleman, PhD
- Surprised by God: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Religion by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg
- Rainbow Theology: Bridging Race, Sexuality, and Spirit by Patrick Cheng, PhD

For Youth
- Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church by Rachel Held Evans
- The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

For Children
- 3-book series by Julian Lennon: Heal the Earth, Love the Earth, and Touch the Earth
- Make Every Day Earth Day!: Caring for Our Planet by Vita Jimenez (George Ermos, illustrator)
- Water by Subhash Singh Vyam

By Rev. Carrie Veal

All those who have joined in the last year, or who are guests among us, are invited to a newcomer social! This will be a relaxed time for fellowship, and you will have the opportunity to get to know our newest staff members, Matt Caine and Mia McClain. Childcare will be provided at the Church. To RSVP, please contact Caroline Manning (cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 115) in the Church Office by Sunday, June 9.

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- Water by Subhash Singh Vyam

By Rev. Carrie Veal

All those who have joined in the last year, or who are guests among us, are invited to a newcomer social! This will be a relaxed time for fellowship, and you will have the opportunity to get to know our newest staff members, Matt Caine and Mia McClain. Childcare will be provided at the Church. To RSVP, please contact Caroline Manning (cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 115) in the Church Office by Sunday, June 9.
Summer Guest Preachers

By Rev. Ben Boswell

Sunday, June 16

Dr. Tim Moore served as a pastor for churches in North and South Carolina for three decades. For 19 years, Tim was one of the pastors at Sardis Baptist Church, a spiritually progressive community of faith in Charlotte, where he now holds the title Writer-in-Residence. Currently, he is speaking to churches and organizations on the topic of his new book, Practicing Midrash: Reading the Bible’s Arguments as an Invitation to Conversation, by Wipf & Stock Publishers. Tim will preach and lead Sermon TalkBack on Sunday June 16, and his book will be available for sale and signing in the Heaton Hall Foyer.

Sunday, June 30

Our new Associate Minister, Mia McClain, who began the summer with a rousing sermon from the book of Revelation entitled, “There’s Something in the Water,” will preach again from the Free Pulpit on June 30.

Sundays, July 28 and August 4

Last but certainly not least, summer at Myers Park Baptist would not be complete without a visit from our beloved professor Dr. Bill Leonard. Dr. Leonard will preach on back-to-back Sundays, July 28 and August 4, and lead TalkBack on both occasions. ■

Randy Franklin & the Sardines

Sun, July 7

By Fran Morrison

We will again welcome Randy Franklin, long-time Church member and award-winning singer-songwriter, to lead in worship on July 7 at 10:00a in Heaton Hall. Randy will be joined by Ed “Wolf” Leitch on lead guitar, his brother Tommy Franklin on drums, and Mike Clark on bass. Having played guitar since he was six years old, Randy continues to perform solo and compose his own style of Americana Folk-Pop. His latest album “Coastlines” was released this spring.

Music for morning worship will include some favorite folk-rock tunes from the Woodstock era, such as “For What It’s Worth” by Buffalo Springfield, “Get Together” by the Youngbloods, “Fortunate Son” by Creedence Clearwater Revival, “You Can’t Always Get What You Want” by the Rolling Stones, “Carry On” by Crosby, Stills & Nash, as well as a cut off the new album. ■

Summer Worship and Sermon TalkBack

By Fran Morrison

Myers Park Baptist has enjoyed 10:00a Summer Worship and the unique and sacred tradition of Sermon Talkback for many years. Adult Faith Formation classes are typically suspended for the summer, and the congregation gathers in Heaton Hall following worship to engage the preacher of the day in dialogue about the sermon. Deep questions are often asked, a wide variety of perspectives is shared, and the freedom to offer ideas and thoughts is always apparent. While there are no formal rules, the best guideline for Sermon TalkBack is to focus your remarks on the content of the sermon and its implications for our faith as individuals, for the Church, and for our life as followers of Jesus in the world. We look forward to seeing you in worship and at Sermon Talkback! ■
Summer Choir Opportunities

By Matt Caine

What a joy it is to be a part of the MPBC community of faith! Thank you to Fran Morrison for your many years of service to God in this place, and for your gracious hospitality in allowing me to overlap your time of service to learn from you. I hope you have a wonderful retirement and look forward to seeing you when you aren't travelling or otherwise enjoying retired life.

We will begin our summer choir schedule on Thursday, June 13. The summer will be a great time for anyone who would like to give choir a try without making a commitment to join us. It is also a great time for anyone who would love to sing throughout the year but is unable to do so. Here is our schedule:

• Summer Choir Rehearsals | Thursdays, June 13, July 11, and August 8 | 7:00-8:00p
• Worship | Sundays | Rehearsal at 9:00a | Worship at 10:00a
• The choir will not sing on Sundays, July 7 or August 4.

Choir retreat will be Labor Day weekend and after that we will resume our normal schedule of rehearsing each Thursday from 7:00-9:00p.

If I haven't already had the opportunity to meet you, I look forward to that happening soon! You can contact me at mcaine@myersparkbaptist.org or 704.334.7232 x 117.

Mark O’Connor Method String Camp

July 29 - August 2 (Orientation is July 28)

By Fran Morrison

Last summer, Mark O’Connor, Maggie O’Connor, and the O’Connor Band led 135 students (4 years old to adult) through an extraordinary camp of Appalachian music through the teaching and use of the O’Connor Method of string playing. Along with class study of each of the stringed instruments, there were also mandolin and guitar lessons. Electives included classes in “chopping,” bluegrass, chording, and Scottish fiddling. There were opportunities every day to perform in a recital, play in a string quartet, join the full orchestra, and practice your improv skills at the jam session. Whether you play violin, viola, cello, or bass, the O’Connor Method offers you American tunes utilizing creativity, cultural diversity, and improvisation.

Patricia Sparti, Gardner-Webb Professor of Music, says of Mark O’Connor: “He plays classical style, jazz, blues, spirituals, ragtime, folk music, hoe-downs, every style of American music authentically, and his technique is flawless!! His wife, Maggie is an incredible player, and they play flawlessly together.” One of Mark and Maggie’s joys is playing with those learning, sitting among those in the orchestra, and accompanying their solos.

It is a delightful week of watching music emerge from all ages. Camp and registration information is available at www.oconnormethod.com/Camps.html.

If you can volunteer anytime during the week assisting in Sunday registration or greeting/shepherding parents and students for the first couple of days as they become familiar with our campus, please sign up here.

Music | Art | Drama (MAD) Camp 2019

By Charlotte Judge

There is still time to register for MAD Camp, June 17-21. We will be learning and performing Oh Jonah! by Allen Pote. During the week we will sing, paint, act, build sets, and have a fun time! Our leaders will include Allyson Ware, assisting with music, Natalie Secrest, acting and choreography, Lindsey Bray, art, sets and props, and Sherry Blevins, Orff (instrument) leader. We will have a whale sighting and much more. Register now through myMPBC. Questions? Contact Caroline Manning (cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 121).

Dinner and Performance

Friday, June 21 | Heaton Hall
6:00p Dinner | 6:30p Show

Please join the Music and Children’s Ministries as we present Oh Jonah! on Friday, June 21. Dinner will begin at 6:00p and will be generously provided by the Pearsalls. The performance starts at 6:30p featuring the children and youth who participated in the MAD Camp. The cost for dinner and the show is only $5 per person. The deadline for reservations is noon on Tuesday, June 18. So, click here to reserve your spot.
Raise a Song

By Charlotte Judge

On Friday, March 29, eleven Chapel Choir children, one youth, and five adult chaperones left the Roswell parking lot for our eleventh annual Raise a Song event at Camp Caraway in Asheboro, NC. As is our tradition, we stopped for dinner at Chick-Fil-A in Salisbury on the way. Myers Park Baptist is one of five churches that participate in this annual event that was started by Fran Morrison, Larry Schultz, and me. The other four churches are Providence United Methodist, Providence Baptist, Pullen Memorial Baptist in Raleigh, and Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian in Cary. On Friday evening, we met our new and old friends as we sang together and ended our evening with s’mores by the campfire. Saturday morning brought more singing and after lunch, with the help of the Caraway crew, we took a squirrel walk, rode the zipline, and played lots of games. The culminating event of the weekend was our final worship service. This year, Pullen Memorial brought a violinist, bassoonist, and a flautist to play with us on one of our anthems. Larry Schultz from Pullen put together a wonderful service for us this year with lots of participation from the children. I look forward to Raise a Song number 12 next year.

Vocal Institute Recipients

By Charlotte Judge

Congratulations to Anna Judge and Abby Smith, recipients of the Alice and Michael Berman Endowed Music Scholarship. Each spring, one or more Youth Choir students exhibiting high musical talent, aptitude, and commitment to our Youth Choir program are chosen to attend the Vocal Institute at Westminster Choir College/Rider University in Princeton, NJ. This two-week vocal camp is under the direction of choral conductor and clinician Amanda Quist, and draws students from across the country and around the world. The scholarship fund was established in 2007 through the generosity of Ron Stone. Ron was a participant in the vocal camp many years ago and his life-long friendship with Alice and Michael Berman inspired him to make this musical offering available to rising tenth through twelfth grade singers at MPBC. Since its beginning, the scholarship has had eighteen recipients. Alice Berman served this Church as Minister of Music from 1943-1952.

Youth Fellowship Reflection

By Audrey James Currin and Devin Green

What an exciting year it has been for the Myers Park Baptist Church Youth Ministry. Kanuga, our annual winter youth retreat, always is the favorite event of the year. It provides opportunities to further connect with fellow youth and old members of the group who come back as chaperones. The youth also had a lot of fun at the Christmas party last December. We played White Elephant, which was both fun and stressful. There were funny stories to share and so much more. The middle school lock-in/high school all-nighter was also very fun. High schoolers enjoyed exciting events such as laser tag and doing an escape room. The youth ministry also took a trip to Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, which our youth described as a “very cool and interesting experience.” The end-of-year cookout is something we look forward to every year. As you can see, it has been a very eventful year for the Youth Ministry and we hope that the following years will be just as exciting, if not more!

Graduating Seniors

By Allen Davis

We want to congratulate all of our graduating seniors: Ellie Dabbs, Julian Yocum, Taylor Riley, Wyndham Merrill, Mitchell Magas, Adam Cranford, and Lindsey Skardon. You can read more about them in the Senior Sunday Order of Worship. We wish them well as they enter into a new season of their lives.
VBS and Community Outreach
Camp 2019

By Rev. Carrie Veal

Neighbors are more than the people in our families or communities; neighbors include all of God’s children. And we all have the opportunity to show God’s love to all of them. Whether you have a child in your life who is age three through completed fifth grade or you’re an adult who has a little time to give, VBS has a place for you!

Ages 3 – Completed Second Grade will be on our campus participating in all the usual, fun VBS activities. Completed Third – Fifth Grades will be both on and off campus participating in VBS Community Outreach Camp where they will go to three different ministry partners to learn about the work they do and spend an hour helping with a service project for them.

If you are thinking, “Why should I volunteer if I don’t have kids or grandkids?”

You never know the impact VBS will have on someone. Last fall, during introductions in our Navigating class, the Mannering family shared that VBS is what helped them decide to visit the Church. Michele said, “Every day our kids came home with a message of love. We decided we needed to see what this Church was all about.” When they joined, they commented that they wanted a Church that will speak, teach, and show their children what love is all about. That’s what VBS does. That’s why we need you!

What if I cannot be on site, is there something else I can do?

Yes! We always have supplies that need to be purchased and monetary donations are wonderful and always greatly appreciated. Backpacks for Pinewood Freedom School Scholars will be our Faith in Action project this year. Please visit the Church’s website to get a list of items you can bring to help our VBS participants fill backpacks!

To sign up yourself or your family member, or for more information, visit our [website](http://www.myersparkbaptist.org).

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Children's Faith Formation
New This Fall

By Rev. Carrie Veal

When I came to MPBC five years ago, God’s Garden was entering its 11th year. It has been a revolutionary program for the Church and for faith formation with children. It was one of the draws for many of our families for over a decade, and it was a model that churches across the country used for a long time. It was so successful that several Christian publishing companies offered resources, with the idea being that you would purchase their resource and it would last for six years.

The problem arose that the resources became stale and lost some of the newness. As churches made decisions to no longer do the rotation model, no one was writing new resources.

Over the last few years, we have thought about, prayed, and evaluated what we offer our children on Sunday mornings. We began using a new curriculum for our preschoolers two years ago. We have seen a tremendous growth in both our participation and in the children’s faith formation. We started talking about how this same curriculum could be used with our elementary children.

This fall, we will move away from the God’s Garden model to a more traditional faith formation opportunity. This move will allow for continuity for families who have children in preschool and elementary. Both age groups will learn the same Bible story or passage each week. It will also mean that we will need fewer volunteers on Sunday mornings, because we will no longer need shepherds.

As we work over the summer to make this transition, we will be redecorating the elementary hallway, removing the theming that was connected to the God’s Garden model. When we start up in the fall, the stairwell, hallway, and classrooms will be fresh and updated. We will also be recruiting leaders to work with our children. Every Sunday we will need 10 volunteers to work with ages three – fifth grade. Our hope is that volunteers will commit to one Sunday each month, keeping consistency with the children as well as deepening relationships with one another. All lessons, supplies, and training will be provided.

If you would like to learn more or sign up to volunteer, please contact me ([cveal@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:cveal@myersparkbaptist.org) | 704.334.7232 x 118). Let’s get coffee or lunch and I’ll share all that I hope and believe will come from this change!

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Children's Ministry Parent Social
Sunday, June 30; 5:00 -7:00p
Home of Tara and Richard Harris

By Rev. Carrie Veal

Parents are invited to a social to meet our newest staff members, Mia McClain and Matt Caine. Please bring a beverage to share. Childcare will be provided at the Church at a cost of $10/family. RSVP on the Church’s website or by contacting Caroline Manning ([cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org) | 704.334.7232 x 115) in the Church Office.

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Parking on the Brick Patio

By Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman

We know that many people in our church and community visit our campus each day. We also are aware that disabled parking may be hard to find. While the brick patio between the Sanctuary and Education buildings can be used for dropoff/pick up only, please be aware that it is not for parking. This will be especially important to remember beginning in June, when our TTWS carpool moves to this patio.
Update From Through-The-Week School

By Belinda Guess

Through-the-Week School is on break for the summer, but we are looking forward to a new school year to begin September 3 with 200 current and new students. This past year, our TTWS parents raised money to support many programs and projects. These funds were spent to move the men’s bathroom door to the Heaton Hall Foyer, install a new climbing structure on the preschool playground, renovate a storage room into a beautiful rainy day room for toddlers and twos, award $12,000 in tuition scholarships, purchase class pictures for all students, fund parent programming, replenish tote bag supplies, and support teacher appreciation week.

We are very excited to announce that the TTWS carpool will be moving from the entrance of the Cornwell Center to the brick drive/patio, beginning the weeks of Camp Kaleidoscope (June 3-7 and June 10-14) and moving forward for the new school year. Cars will enter the drive moving north from Selwyn and exit south onto Queens Road East. We kindly ask that no cars be parked on the patio from 8:45a - 12:45p Monday-Friday so that we can load our children safely.

Planned Giving is Important . . . and Simple

By Bob Thomason, Chair, Planned Giving SLG

“What is a legacy? It’s planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.” This line from the acclaimed musical Hamilton is poignant, but not entirely accurate. As you consider your own legacy at our Church, you can see the garden. You can see the good things we do for people’s lives, not only in our Church but in the community. Your planned gift to the Church will help ensure that our garden will continue to grow and thrive.

How does one make a planned gift to the Church? Here are the five most popular methods:
1. Gift included in will
2. Church named as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy
3. Church named as a beneficiary of an IRA or investment account
4. Charitable trust
5. Real property (house, land, etc.)

Technically, there are also many other ways depending on your objectives and personal financial situation. If you have a financial advisor, it would be best to consult him/her. If not, naming the Church as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, annuity, or retirement account is simple and easy; so is including a gift via your will. If you need help, we have a number of experts who can assist you, but the best way to get started is to call our Administrator, Leigh Anne Hagerman, and tell her about your situation. She can direct you to the proper person who can lead you through the process.

Remember that some of your financial assets will be taxed after you die. Leaving a portion of them to the Church allows 100% of the gifted assets to do good work. There are other financial advantages, depending on the type of gift and amount. We can’t cover them all in this short article. Instead, we’ll address the common roadblocks people often face when deciding to make a planned gift.

Roadblock #1: “I need to take care of my family.” Of course family comes first; but if your assets allow, giving to the Church not only helps the Church but reinforces to your survivors the importance of charitable giving and the Christian value of sharing of one’s resources. A common method of taking care of the family first is to designate that initially a certain dollar amount will go to your survivors, then next, a specified dollar amount will go to the Church, and anything above that goes to the survivors. This ensures that your heirs get the amount they need before the Church receives anything.

Roadblock #2: “I’m too young to think about it.” Every adult regardless of age should have a will, and if you already have one, it’s easy to include the Church in it. An attorney can make the change (add a codicil) for a small fee. Also, naming the Church Endowment as a beneficiary of a group or low-cost term life insurance policy is easy, cost efficient, and can readily be changed.

Roadblock #3: “My gift would be too small to matter.” Not true! All gifts matter regardless of size. When you make a planned gift of any amount and notify the Church, your name is added to the list of Friends of the Covenant. Having your name on this list will encourage others to give, thereby leveraging your gift. It’s your decision to make a gift that matters.

Roadblock #4: “My future is too uncertain to make a long term gift to the Church.” Many of our members work for employers who may transfer them to another location someday. Others are concerned they may be called upon to support family members in declining health. Everyone’s life is potentially full of these types of uncertainties, but most planned gifts are as easy to undo as they are to put together. Examples would include simply removing the Church as the beneficiary of your retirement account, annuity or insurance policy or writing a new codicil to your will. Please do not let these types of uncertainties, which we all face, deter you from making a planned gift to the Church.

Roadblock #5: “I want to focus my giving on the annual stewardship campaign.” Thank you! This is important, but keep in mind that making a planned gift will not reduce your ability to contribute to our annual operating fund. Most planned gifts are made from one’s estate and don’t involve reducing one’s income or assets during one’s lifetime. Both types of giving are important to the ongoing health of the Church.

Sixty-five families are currently Friends of the Covenant and have made arrangements for a planned gift to the Church. We want you to be a Friend of the Covenant. Your participation is important to the future of the Church and easy to do. Take the first step today by contacting Leigh Anne Hagerman at 704.334.7232 x 116 or lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org.
Ministry of Finance Update - 1st Quarter of 2019

By Tucker Pearsall, Chair, Ministry of Financial Resources

After a very strong finish to 2018, we have seen a slowdown in pledges received in the first quarter. Receipts through March are down 30% compared to 2018 and 20% below budget. This raises a bit of a concern going into the summer months, which are historically low on collections. Please get pledges in if you have an outstanding balance to help us avoid a scramble in the summer months.

Luckily expenses are down 13% year over year. This has mainly been due to the open positions that have now been filled (welcome Mia & Matt) and we expect the rest of the year's expenses to be on track with budget.

Through the first quarter, we are running a budget deficit of $74,000. We are anxious to see April revenue numbers and look forward to strong quarters 2, 3 & 4 again in 2019.

Summer Office Hours

Front office traffic slows down significantly during summer months. Therefore, the Church Office will close at noon on Fridays, June 7 - August 30.

Congregational Joys and Concerns
(as of May 28, 2019)

DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:
• Kevin and Susan Pfahl on the death of his mother, Ruth Pfahl, on March 22, 2019 in Hendersonville, TN.
• The family of Tena Andersen on her death on April 6, 2019 in Charlotte, NC.
• Frank Deaton on the death of his mother, Carolyn Deaton, on April 12, 2019 in Charlotte, NC.
• Morris and Claudette Green on the death of their daughter and Devan and Alicia on the death of their sister, Alesha Green, on April 15, 2019 in Charlotte, NC.
• Jane Wensil on the death of her husband, Lee R. Wensil Jr, on April 17, 2019 in Charlotte, NC.
• Frank Deaton on the death of his mother, Carolyn Deaton, on April 12, 2019 in Charlotte, NC.
• Brandon Sanders on the death of his sister, Kaylee Sanders, on April 23, 2019 in Charlotte, NC.
• Dawn and Allen Hull, Jr on the death of her mother and [osh, Ian, and Addie on the death of their grandmother, Wanda Hall Edwards, on May 7, 2019 in Statesville, NC.

BIRTHS — CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• John G. and Samantha McMurray on the birth of their daughter and Lura McMurray on the birth of her granddaughter, Zoe Irene McMurray, on March 17, 2019 in Newtown, PA.
• Anna-Catherine Fowler and Keith Young on the birth of their son and Conner and Sawyer on the birth of their brother, Foster Swanson Young, on May 19, 2019 in Charlotte, NC.

WEDDINGS — CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Elizabeth Kennedy, granddaughter of Pepper Dowd, and Ryan Lucia on their wedding on May 4, 2019 in Charlotte, NC.
• Jeremy Carter, son of Jo and Doug Carter, and Keavan Ohi on their wedding on May 11, 2019 in Charlotte, NC.
• Caroline Travieso and Joshua Roten on their wedding on May 18, 2019 in Charlotte, NC.

Cornwell Center News

MEMBER’S CORNER

Booty on the Lawn
Friday, July 26, 2019, 6:00 - 9:00p
Cornwell Center Front Lawn and Parking Lot

A 3-hour event to commemorate the opening of Charlotte’s Annual 24 Hours of Booty event of 2019 (starts at 7:00p on Friday). The event will showcase the Cornwell Center and invite members of the community to watch the race from our lawn.

The event will include activities for all ages such as:
- Children's obstacle course
- Yoga on the lawn
- Music with DJ
- Wellness vendors
- Food trucks
- Face painting
- Spin class/bikes on the lawn
- Cornwell promotional items

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Parents Night Out
Friday, June 7 | 6:00-9:00p

Parents’ Night Out is back to celebrate the end of an amazing school year! Drop the kids off to hang out at the Cornwell Center for a night with some outside fun, games, and pizza. The cost is $20 for each child one year of age and older. Please register at www.cornwellcenter.org.

THE ARTS

PHOTO Connections Photography Exhibit
Wednesday, June 19 | 7:00 - 9:00p | Cornwell Conference Center

The subject is “Working.” Capture people and their careers, art or crafts, making things happen, etc.

Wednesday, July 17 | 7:00 - 9:00p | Cornwell Conference Center

The subject is “Passages.” Choose something metaphorical (life experiences) or literal (halls, doors, windows, openings).

Summer Nights Beginning Wheel
Mondays | June 3 - 24 (four classes) | 7:00 - 9:00p

In this 4-week workshop led by Greg Scott, you will learn basic wheel throwing techniques and tools while creating various forms on the potter’s wheel. The cost is $130 per participant and includes 25 pounds of clay. Please visit www.cornwellcenter.org or the front desk to register.
Ministers and Staff

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

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

Dr. Matt Caine
Minister of Music and Worship
mcaine@myersparkbaptist.org | x 117

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

Reverend Mia M. McClain
Associate Minister
mmclain@myersparkbaptist.org | x 123

Reverend Leigh Anne Hagerman
Church Administrator
lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org | x 116

Reverend Carrie Veal
Minister of Children and Community Life
cveal@myersparkbaptist.org | x 118

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

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

John Richardson
Organist
jrichardson@myersparkbaptist.org | x 146

Pamela Handon
Director of The Cornwell Center
phandon@cornwellcenter.org | x 601

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

Summer Opportunities to Connect with Rev. Ben

**just breathe**

**Meditation With the Pastor Resume**

**Wednesdays Starting June 5 | 11:30a - Noon | Library**

Rev. Ben Boswell will guide a weekly meditation on Wednesdays throughout the summer. This dedicated time begins with a word, poem, or insight pertaining to mindfulness, followed by peace, quiet, calm, clarity, and quite possibly, a transformed life.

Inhale, Exhale. Our lives rest in the balance of these simple actions.

Come catch your breath with us!