By Cheri Lindblom and Scott Crowder

Nearly two years after North Carolina voters approved a constitutional amendment recognizing marriage only as a union between a man and a woman, a federal court judge overturned the ban, allowing gay and lesbian couples across the state to marry immediately. MPBC has been a “Welcoming and Affirming Church” for years, and we rejoice in the decision that all families in North Carolina will now be treated as equals under the law. On the heels of this decision, we have more to accomplish, as we continue to grow into our identity as a “Welcoming and Affirming Church.”

On Saturday, November 15, MPBC, in partnership with TOY (Time Out Youth) and RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network), will welcome Jake Goodman, renowned advocate for LGBT inclusiveness in the faith community, to facilitate a Care and Justice Workshop for Progressive Churches: FAITH, YOUTH and HIV.

...Continued on page 8
Work’s Not the Only Thing

By Everett Goodwin

Work -- Productivity -- Dedication -- Efficiency. These terms dominate economic and financial reports. Sometimes they also are used to explain defects in American character and life, despite consistent reports that Americans work longer and harder than most other cultures. Involuntary lack of work, as in unemployment, is a terrible thing admitted by all. However you interpret the story of creation in Genesis, work is clearly part of God’s plan for human life since the Garden of Eden.

There are degrees of work. When one does work that is honorable, serves others and exhibits personal integrity, it is a spiritual service to God. When one demeanes work by dishonesty or breaks trust with others by not fulfilling the work to be done, it is not. Most agree that good work is work that is fulfilling, helps others, and advances the common good. Most people discover that being paid for work is necessary to support life, but it is not the most important thing. And we all know people whose work as a “volunteer” is the most beautiful work of all.

True, there are at times temptations to slack our work or to perceive that money is its only value. But work’s most significant temptation is that it can become a form of idolatry to us. We can trace that dilemma to the Ten Commandments which warn us that we “should not covet” – for covetousness, or greed, is a work ethic gone awry. In our system of values, over-work is often lauded as a virtue, but it may be a form of idolatry in disguise. If someone frequently brags about the 60 or 80 hour work week he or she performs, it may be more a matter of worship than necessity!

We all likely have seen (or experienced) a family that suffers because one or both of its adult members worked so obsessively that relationship needs went unmet. Children can literally shrivel if work obsessions prevent parental presence. Life partners drift apart and into isolation if work is consistently more important than finding fulfillment in each other.

I once asked a former student to describe the happiest time of his life. “Being able to be with my parents while they worked,” he said. Curious, I asked, “What did your parents do?” “When I was young they picked cotton in Alabama,” he responded. It was hard to imagine that such work could be pleasurable in any way! But he elaborated to say that his father would sing, his mother told stories and each day both gave him many hours of their attention while they worked.

Human identity and health are the result of healthy relationships with others and with God, and not the result of titles and awards for long hours worked, regardless of the field or the nature of the work. Despite the easy prescriptions of some who suggest that a stronger work ethic is the cure for what ails the human race, only worship and compassionate relationships are so important that we cannot be healthy without them.

One symptom of work-idolatry is the inability to take Sabbaths – whether a day, a week, or a life Sabbath, a period when something other than work dominates. A Sabbath, especially as defined in the Bible, is when we deliberately cut ourselves off from work in order to do other things, especially to worship God. William Willimon once said that Christians – all people – need the reflection, remembrance and rest that allows spiritual renewal.

Ministers are frequently the most guilty of “Sabbath breakers.” Suzanne Guthrie recently wrote that “the best place to hide from God is in service to the church!” She recounted a time when a young woman came to her door asking for a few moments. Suzanne, busy with some work, was about to send her away and make another time, when she learned that the young woman had been assaulted the night before, and had come straight from the hospital seeking spiritual help.

E.B. White once wrote, “I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.” Taking a Sabbath away from work most often reveals that the world doesn’t seem to need us to improve it right then.

Jesus told a parable about the Rich Fool. He wasn’t a fool because he worked hard, prospered and lived well. He was a fool because he was so self-absorbed in what he did, he saw no reason to share what he had earned. He never experienced that people are most blessed when they bless others. He was the biggest fool because he kept building bigger barns to store more of what his and his servants’ work had produced, when he could have been blessing hurting lives.

Work is important. Hard work is even admirable. But only when we take a break from work can we walk with others in the light and experience wondrous things, or walk in quiet darkness where we can experience things yet unseen. There is a reason a commandment says “Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.”
New Member Reception
Sunday, November 9, following worship

By Mariah Currin

Please plan to join us on Sunday, November 9 in Heaton Hall immediately following worship for a reception honoring our newest members from the Fall Orientation Class.

Milestones
(as of October 18, 2014)

DEATHS/LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:
• Connie Maccubbin and Betty Lee McKee and their families on the death of their brother, Curt Rogers, of Charlotte, NC, on September 17.
• Michele LaBounty and her family on the death of her brother, Terry Finley, of Oklahoma City, OK, on September 20.
• Rick Goodin and his family on the death of his father, Samuel Goodin, of Elkmont, AL, on September 20.
• Dennis Testerman and his family on the death of his aunt, Letha, on September 21.
• Gene Doar and his family on the death of his brother-in-law, Alfred Davenport, of Chesapeake, VA, on September 22.
• Linda Collins and her family on the death of her mother, Marguerite Dixon, of Charlotte, NC, on September 23.
• Frank Sanady and his family on the death of his aunt, Elizabeth Buffet, of Toronto, Canada, on September 30.
• Dave Dougherty and his family on the death of his father, Norris Dougherty, of Rockford, IL, on October 5.
• Azu Jorgensen and her family on the death of her husband, Carl Jorgensen, of Charlotte, NC, on October 9.

BIRTHS/CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Chrissy and Collin Brown on the birth of their son, Michael Walker Brown, on September 26.

WEDDINGS/CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Allen Owens and Bryan Stevens on their wedding on September 24.
• Melissa and Ricki Barley on their wedding on October 18.
• Marcy McLanahan and Cindy Clemens on their wedding on October 18.

You’re Invited!
Celebration Dinner

By Scott Crowder
Chair, LGBT Fellowship Group

The LGBT Fellowship Group invites you to break bread and celebrate NC’s historic decision to overturn the same-sex marriage ban.

Friday, November 21, 2014
UP TOWN CHARLOTTE PROGRESSIVE DINNER CRAWL
(Four Uptown Restaurants, TBA)

6:30-8:00 Welcome/Cocktail Hour
8:15-9:15 Hors d’oeuvres
9:30-10:30 Entree
10:45-11:45 Dessert

$40 per person or $75 per couple
(alcoholic drinks not included)

Make reservations and pay online ASAP: www.myersparkdinnercrawl.eventbrite.com
Password: myerspark

“All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential.”

~ Harvey Milk

Purple Sunday
Sunday, November 9

By Joe Aldrich

Sunday, November 9, 2014 is the second annual Alzheimer’s Awareness Sunday. Today in the U.S., 5 million people are living with the disease and by 2050 it is estimated that the number will rise to 16 million. We need to educate ourselves on how to support and care for those who are affected by the disease. On Sunday, November 9, all are encouraged to wear something purple to heighten people’s awareness of Alzheimer’s Disease. A table with information will be available in Heaton Hall Foyer on November 9.

Sports Fans: This Is For You!
Wednesday, December 3, 6:15pm, Heaton Hall

By Richard Pearsall

The Sports Fans Group of MPBC is excited to announce that Church member Ryan McGee will be the speaker at a dinner on December 3 at 6:15pm in Heaton Hall. Ryan is the Senior Writer for ESPN The Magazine and he covers SEC football and NASCAR.

The cost of $10 includes dinner and the program. For reservations, contact me at 704.965.5558 or richardpearsallre@gmail.com.
Edith Collins Night at Park Road Books
By Ed Williams
Mark your calendar for 7:00pm Thursday, November 20. That’s Edith Collins Night at Park Road Books in Charlotte. Several members of Myers Park Baptist Church will be reading from Sprouting Acorns, Edith’s collection of stories from her 50 years of teaching the pre-school and elementary children of Myers Park Baptist. The roster of readers is not complete yet, but it will include some well-known members of our congregation who were friends of Edith and great admirers of her wit and her work.

Lorimer Press in Davidson published the book and the first copy was delivered to Edith while she was in hospice at Southminster. She was delighted to see her work recorded for the enjoyment and education of future generations. She died four days later.

The book is a collection of heart-warming short stories involving the children in her classes. They involve the full range of a wise and loving teacher’s experiences with young children, not only Bible stories but also lambs, puppies, physical challenges and dealing with death. Sprouting Acorns is the title Edith chose, and it well represents the mission of the educators who work with our Church’s young people. It’s on sale now at the bookstore, which is in Park Road Shopping Center at 4139 Park Road.

November Loose Plate Offering Recipient
By Cheri Lindblom
The Loose Plate Offering for November supports the work of Friendship Trays. Friendship Trays is a Charlotte-area “Meals on Wheels” program which prepares and delivers over 600 meals daily to elderly, handicapped and convalescing individuals who are unable to prepare or secure meals themselves. For more information, please visit www.friendshiptrays.org.

Tony Abbott Returns for 2-Week Series on Gerard Manley Hopkins
By Chrissy Williamson
Award-winning poet and Davidson College professor Dr. Tony Abbott returns to MPBC for a two-week series on Gerard Manley Hopkins, November 5 and 12, 6:30-7:30pm. We will gather in the Cornwell Conference Center to learn about Hopkins’s fascinating life and innovative poetic style. Hopkins is credited with creating his own rhythm of poetry, which he called “sprung rhythm.” In addition to establishing his own style, Hopkins is also recognized for his use of both simple and intricate metaphors, shaping language in a unique way to bring his readers to experience that which he is describing. Throughout his life, Hopkins struggled with his religious beliefs and his own sexuality. Eventually, Hopkins became a Jesuit, taking the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. He was drawn to the simple life and experienced different phases of gloominess and austerity. Hopkins’s poetry captures much of his life experiences and his personal journey with faith and doubt. I hope all of you will join Tony Abbott on November 5 and 12 to explore the works of prolific poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Congratulations to Mary Lou Buck!
By Dottie Burnside, Member of EarthKeepers
On September 28, Mary Lou Buck received a Volunteer Recognition Award from the NC Chapter of the Sierra Club. Mary Lou is a longtime member of the Sierra Club and has served on their Executive Board. A member of EarthKeepers here at MPBC, she initiated, planned, organized and helped implement a meeting for the Solarize Charlotte City-Wide Campaign to encourage residential solar panel use. The Solarize Charlotte presentation took place in the Cornwall Learning Center and included tours of our solar panels. Thank you to Mary Lou for all of her work on this project. Thank you also to Bob Thomason for tours given on several occasions this summer and fall. Join us in congratulating Mary Lou on her Volunteer Recognition Award and for her service to the environment.
Gratitude has long been recognized as a virtue in many of the world’s great religious traditions. As Christians, we each practice grateful living in many different ways. We practice a variety of personal and communal rituals that make us mindful of what we have received. Among these are prayer, meditation, labyrinth walking, quiet contemplation, singing loudly in the car, and the list goes on. These are just a few examples of the many ways we each give thanks. When we are grateful, we are humble, we are awake, and we are filled with wonder. During the season of our national holiday celebrating gratitude (Thanksgiving), we invite you to join other Christians, along with Sikhs, Muslims and Jews, to engage in conversation about how gratitude emerges from the heart of each of these faith traditions.

On November 19, which is our November Wonderful Wednesday, MPBC, in partnership with Mecklenburg Ministries, has invited members and clergy from each of the faith traditions named above to join us at the table. We will share a meal together and then hear from clergy on the topic of gratitude from their own faith traditions. Following statements from the clergy, Ed Williams will moderate a panel conversation, largely based on questions from you! Everyone in attendance will be invited to write questions for the panel.

Join us on November 19 for an enjoyable evening for the entire family! Remember to make your dinner reservations by noon on Monday, November 15.

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**Advent Booklets**

By Chrissy Williamson

With only fifty-something days until Christmas, perhaps the holiday frenzy has already set in with you and your family. Or maybe you’re already feeling the stress of family that soon will descend upon your home. Perhaps you’re just counting down to those few days off after the Thanksgiving meal has been consumed, the Christmas tree is decorated and the last gift has been opened. Only then will you be able to sit back, take a breath, and just be you.

If this is how you feel even at the mention of the word Advent, consider giving yourself an Advent gift, before the season even begins. Consider letting that gift be 5 minutes of time, each day, dedicated to your own spiritual journey and your preparation for the in-breaking of Christ to this world, to your world.

Members and friends of the MPBC community have been hard at work, as we anticipate Advent, creating a collection of meditations for your spiritual nourishment during this crazy season preceding Christmas. The meditations are organized around the weekly themes of hope, peace, joy, and love and they incorporate readings from the lectionary. The booklets will be available to you starting November 23 and on the Church Facebook page (meditations will be posted daily, beginning November 30). So don’t wait until Christmas for your gift to yourself, go ahead and give yourself 5 minutes each day to be intentional about your own spirituality. Start this season of Advent.

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**November Wonderful Wednesday**

**Mecklenburg Ministries & MPBC Present:**

**An Interfaith Conversation on Gratitude and Thanksgiving**

**with representatives from the Sikh, Muslim, Christian and Jewish traditions**

By Chrissy Williamson and Cheri Lindblom

Gratitude has long been recognized as a virtue in many of the world’s great religious traditions. As Christians, we each practice grateful living in many different ways. We practice a variety of personal and communal rituals that make us mindful of what we have received. Among these are prayer, meditation, labyrinth walking, quiet contemplation, singing loudly in the car, and the list goes on. These are just a few examples of the many ways we each give thanks. When we are grateful, we are humble, we are awake, and we are filled with wonder.

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The following week, please join us for the 39th Annual Citywide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at the Park Church. The Interfaith service brings over 90 houses of faith, an interfaith choir, an interfaith teen group and people from all walks of faith. Reverend Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown, along with Rabbi Judy Schindler and Reverend Christy Snow will provide the message.

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**39th Annual Citywide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

**Tuesday, November 25, 2014**

7:00pm

The Park Church

6029 Beatties Ford Rd, Charlotte, NC 28216

Canned Goods Collection to Benefit Loaves and Fishes

http://www.meckmin.org/events/39th-annual-citywide-interfaith-thanksgiving-service/
Youth News

By Chris Hughes

Register Now for High School Fall Retreat
Find all the information and register for our High School retreat on the Church website, www.mpbconline.org, by clicking on “Events” and then the “Youth Events” tab. Register early so we can ensure transportation and lodging are covered.

Parents Night Out: Sitters Needed!
Saturday, December 6, 4:30-8:00pm
Youth sitters are needed for Parents Night Out. We are looking for 4-6 sitters to help make this night a success. You will get 4 service hours, dinner and a $15 discount for our Kanuga Retreat. Sign-ups will be first come, first served (or first to serve) by e-mailing me at chughes@mpbconline.org.

Discipleship Class 2015
For years, we have walked our 8th graders through a discernment process for baptism and for joining our Church through our Discipleship Class. This year, the class will begin on January 11 and conclude on March 28 with baptism. If you wish to be a part of this class, even if you are on the fence about joining or about baptism, sign up with me and begin searching for a mentor. The sign-ups and names of mentors will be due on December 1. You can find more information about Discipleship on the youth website by clicking on the “Discipleship Class” menu.

November Wonderful Wednesday
What: Hands on Outreach Project: “Bags of Warmth”
When: November 19, 6:30-7:30pm
Where: Youth Hall
Who: Children ages three and older are invited to participate in this special project.

We will be making “Bags of Warmth” for a local assisted living facility. We will be stuffing bags with items to show seniors we are thinking about them. Even if you cannot participate in the bag stuffing, you can help with this project. We will be collecting the following items (a blue collection bin is available in Heaton Hall Foyer):
• Notepads
• Easy Grip Pens and Pencils
• Word Search/Sudoku Books
• Soft Peppermints
• Cough Drops
• Travel-Size Kleenex
• Small Wall Calendars
• Small Flashlights with Batteries
• Book of Forever Stamps
• Magnifying Glasses

Joint Outreach Project for Families with Youth and Children

By Carrie Veal
As we enter the holiday season we have so many opportunities to make a difference in the lives of people in our community. In November, families in the youth and children’s ministries are invited to participate in an outreach project showing love to residents at a local assisted living facility. Here are all the details:

Parents Night Out
Date: Saturday, December 6
Time: 4:30-8:00pm
Who: Children 2 months – fifth grade
Cost: $15 first child; $10 each additional child; Family cap at $45

Parents will have the chance to have kid-free time. We want to offer the following suggestions:
• Parents can do something on their own - Christmas shopping, dinner, a nap.
• Or, join other parents for dinner.
Register online at www.mpbconline.org. The deadline to sign up is Monday, December 1.
Faith Formation/Financial Resources

Connections for 2015

By Carol Reid

Here, there is delight in the journey. You are all so INTERESTING!
~ Laurie Winston

In the context of MPBC’s Connections, those who plan and lead small groups are the source of delight for members of our community. We eagerly anticipate each new semester of small groups to see what is planned that will offer an experience of delight—creative, innovative, sometimes challenging opportunities to explore, contemplate, learn, play, belong and grow. Leaders fuel our life-long quest to discover more about ourselves, each other, the promises and paradoxes of faith.

During MPBC’s years of transition, Connections is delightful, joyful glue that helps hold our community together. So we are asking for your help to plan ahead for the Winter/Spring semester of Connections small groups. Do you have an idea for a group play-date or series? Are you ready to propose and facilitate a group? Will you host a potluck? Please use this link to the proposals form on our website:

https://mpbconline.org/groups/connections-groups-2/
or email me at creid1@carolina.rr.com

Your ministry as a Connections Facilitator gives people a place to be seen, heard and valued, to know that they matter and that what they say is meaningful to us as a congregation. It is crucial for us to create, maintain, and increase our connections with each other during this season. Thank you for the gift of your wisdom, passion, time and talent.

Financial Report
(as of September 30, 2014)

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Thanks-For-Giving Feast

Please join us for a covered dish lunch on
Stewardship Dedication Sunday,
November 23, 2014
immediately following worship.

Last names beginning A-F please bring a vegetable,
G-M bring a salad, and N-Z bring a dessert.
We’ll provide turkey, bread and beverages.

You may bring your dish to the kitchen serving line
on Sunday morning – there will be someone to receive it.
Faith, Youth and HIV

...Continued from page 1

The Workshop will explore these topics:

• What does it mean to be an affirming congregation today and what is our responsibility as faith institutions? How can people of faith be a positive force for social change?

• As a progressive church community, does our current church model work? What will be the future needs in the midst of massive social changes?

• What does it look like to be a LGBT teen today and how do we support them? LGBT youth are disproportionately more vulnerable to becoming HIV positive. You will hear stories from TOY and RAIN’s homeless youth.

• How do we mobilize our faith communities to respond to the rise in HIV diagnoses in our community?

We hope you can join us for this workshop and conversation. We will share stories and ideas on how our faith communities can strengthen the commitment to being an affirming congregation while supporting our LGBT youth in a spiritual context.

The workshop will be facilitated by Jake Goodman, educator, performer, and community organizer. Jake holds an MA in Informal Jewish Education from the Davidson School at the Jewish Theological Seminary and a BFA in Acting from Emerson College. The day will also feature a panel discussion and personal reflection with several LGBT youth from Charlotte.

MPBC at McCreesh Day

By Bob Bishop

On Saturday September 27, a large group from MPBC met at the Supportive Housing Communities location at 2120 North Davidson Street, known as McCreesh Place, for the 3rd Annual McCreesh Day. Our volunteers prepared and served lunch and spent time in fellowship with the residents. As an added treat, our very own Reverend Barry Metzger supplied a sing along with his trusty accordion.

On the menu were hamburgers, hot dogs, and corn on the cob which were cooked on our grill by Bobby Herring and his crew. There was also slaw and lots of homemade desserts provided by the ladies of MPBC. (A special thank you to Holly Hobson Wood.) A good time was had by all and many of the residents of McCreesh Place asked when we were coming back to do this again. McCreesh Day is celebrated on the last Saturday in September each year and the residents really look forward to this event.

A big thank you to all the MPBC volunteers, Ministry of Outreach members and MPBC staff for making this a memorable day for all.

November News from TTWS

By Belinda Geuss

Taradiddle Players
The traveling troupe of Taradiddle Players from Children’s Theatre visited the school on October 14 and presented the play, “The Lion And The Little Red Bird.” In this delightful tale of an inquisitive bird and a good-hearted lion, a friendship was formed as the Little Red Bird discovered why Lion’s tail kept changing colors. The children loved this charming story, told with an imaginative mix of actors and puppets.

Closing for Teacher Conference
TTWS will be closed on Friday, November 7 so teachers may attend the Methodist Conference in Matthews NC, held exclusively for preschool administrators and teachers. We are excited to be able to send the majority of our staff to this wonderful conference.

Festival of Friends
Saturday, November 8 will mark our annual Festival of Friends fundraising event held at Myers Park Country Club. Parent response has been excellent in anticipation of the live and silent auctions and festive classroom baskets. Proceeds from this year’s event will be used for scholarship funds, toddler playground improvements and the ability to purchase new furniture and rugs for our classrooms.

Thanksgiving Feast and Book Fair
Our annual Thanksgiving Feast will be held on Tuesday, November 25 in Heaton Hall at 11:30am. In conjunction with the feast, a book fair will be held outside of the TTWS office with Black Forest Books and Toys. Families are invited to attend the feast and peruse the book fair for early holiday shopping.

Thanksgiving Holiday Closing
TTWS will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday November 26-28.

Saturday, November 15, 2014
10:00am-2:00pm

Myers Park Baptist Church
Heaton Hall (Education Building)
1900 Queens Road
Charlotte NC 28207

Lunch will be provided

There is no cost for the workshop, but please register: https://mpbconline.org/lecture-workshop/
Habitat for Humanity Build

By Cheri Lindblom

On October 4, a group of twelve MPBC volunteers learned and/or improved their drywall skills. For some of us, the learning curve was steep -- and who knew cutting drywall with an exacto knife could be so exhausting? But in all seriousness, it was a picture perfect day. We worked alongside the homeowner, her adorable grandmother, Rosie, amazing Americorp volunteers and members from another congregation. It was not just a day of building a home, it was a day of making new friends and renewing existing friendships. Thank you to all who gave their Saturday for Habitat.

Room In The Inn Season

By Cheri Lindblom

As this newsletter arrives at your door, we are just a month away from the start of our Room In The Inn (RITI) season.

Every Saturday evening, from December through March, MPBC will open its doors and welcome 14 of our neighbors who are homeless, offering a warm meal, friendship and a place to sleep for the night.

More information will appear in the December newsletter, but we would like for you to sign up NOW and start filling our volunteer slots. You can sign up by clicking on the following link, www.mpbconline.org/outreach/, or you may sign up on the RITI bulletin board in Heaton Hall Foyer. Job descriptions are available on the Church website. Feel free to contact me at clindblom@mpbconline.org.

I look forward to reconnecting with you and our guests during the RITI season.
Liturgical Colors in Stained Glass Cloth

By Deborah Moore Clark
Chair, Ministry of Worship and Music

Blue, like purple, is a royal color and may also represent Advent. Advent and Lent are both penitential seasons, which focus on expectant waiting and preparation, respectively. Using blue for Advent differentiates the two liturgical seasons. You are already familiar with the blue stained glass frontals, which have been used in the past on Christmas Eve. For 2014, we are expanding their use for all of Advent. Additionally, the Ministry of Worship and Music commissioned member artist Beth Resler Walters to make stoles to match, and new blue usher badges are also under construction, handcrafted by a group of talented people of the Church.

Lovingly sewn with rectangular pieces of cloth resembling stained glass, our custom paraments capture colors from our magnificent stained glass window, as well as all the liturgical colors used throughout the church year—blue, red, white, green and purple. Walters describes her inspiration: “The vision of the blue “stained glass” paraments came in the joyous months after my daughter Sarah’s birth some 29 years ago. The design grew out of my sense of our movement into the deepest meaning of the stained glass window above the altar—in essence a procession of our members, each different, each in a different place, each joining that movement at a different time, yet moving together.” Like us, each parament is different, imperfect and flawed, yet usable in God’s service.

The four Sundays of Advent begin Sunday, November 30, 2014. We hope you will be present for each distinctive Sunday, as we anticipate together the coming of the Christ Child among us—as members of the congregation light the Advent candles, as we celebrate a Moravian Love Feast of love and goodwill, as we hear the biblical story retold through Lessons and Carols, as we are uplifted and enthralled by the musical offering of John Rutter’s “Gloria”—all leading us to the celebration of Christmas.

Please join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for the reincarnation of the Christ Child within and among us.

Children’s Choir November Notes

By Deb Steiner

On Wonderful Wednesday, November 19, our Carol Choir (grades 1-2) will sing during dinner (at 6:05). Choir rehearsals will end at 6:00 that evening, Don’t forget to make your dinner reservations, 704.334.7232 x56!

All of our children’s choirs will sing in worship with the Chancel Choir, accompanied by Orff instruments and organ, on Dedication Sunday, November 23. We will all rehearse in the Sanctuary at 9:00am. Following worship we will take group pictures of each children’s choir with their leaders, outside, if weather permits.

We will not have choir rehearsal on Wednesday, November 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Save the Dates in Advent

By Robin Coira

November 30 First Sunday in Advent: Moravian Love Feast
December 6 Parents’ Night Out from 4:30-8:00pm
December 7 Second Sunday in Advent
Motet Singers present “Carols in the Round” at 6:30pm
December 14 Third Sunday in Advent: Service of Lessons and Carols
December 17 Wonderful Wednesday: Children’s Christmas Pageant
December 21 Fourth Sunday in Advent: Chancel Choir presents John Rutter’s “Gloria”
December 24 Family Friendly Service, 4:00pm
Christmas Eve Worship with Communion, 6:00pm
Christmas Nativity Tableau, Begins at 7:15pm

Moravian Love Feast

Sunday, November 30 at 11am

By Jonathan Crutchfield

This year marks the sixth year MPBC has enjoyed this beautiful, simple worship service. At 11am Sunday morning, November 30, we will again bring in the Advent season through the singing of Christmas carols, the leading by children’s voices, the sights of lit beeswax candles, the smells of tea and cookies, the reading of the Christmas story, and the hearing of the homily by our own Reverend Maria Long an ordained minister who has served in the Moravian church and is a member of MPBC.

In the early 18th century, a group of German pietists called The Schwarzenau Brethren combined a simple meal, a foot washing service, and Communion and called it a “Love Feast.” In this case all three ordinances were observed, not just the meal. Groups like the Moravians adopted the practice and continue its traditions to this day. Moravian congregations may hold this service several times throughout the year, especially on special occasions like the date a church was founded, on Watch Night, on Good Friday, but most especially on Christmas Eve. The service has been adopted by congregations and communities worldwide because of “its desire to strengthen the bonds and the spirit of harmony, goodwill, and congeniality, as well as to forgive past disputes and instead love one another.”

In the spirit of strengthening the bonds at MPBC, and in the spirit of harmony, goodwill, congeniality, and forgiveness, you are invited to attend this first Advent service of 2014.
Art & Design
As the holidays approach we have several studio classes for those whose artistic pursuits lean in that direction (or those just needing a creative holiday for themselves). These first three feature our Studio and Gallery coordinator, Greg Scott.
- **Beginning and Open Wheel**  
  Nov.10–Dec.15, 10a—12p (Mon’s)
- **Intermediate Wheel**  
  Nov.12–Dec.17, 10a—12p (Wed’s)
- **Mixed Water-Based Media**  
  Nov.7, 14, 21, 10a—1p (Fri’s)
- **This Mug’s for You**  
  w/ Cheryl Judd-Magee  
  Nov.3–Dec.8, 6:30–8:30p (Mon’s)

Greg is putting out a call to artists interested in exhibiting and/or selling at our December Art and Crafts exhibition. **12 Days of Christmas.** It’s open to all Cornwell and MPBC members. Contact Greg by November 10 with your interest.
[gascott@carolina.rr.com](mailto:gascott@carolina.rr.com)

Children and Youth
Adults who’ve worked with Arthur Pulley in group exercise and personal training enjoy the benefits of his experience, training and personality. Now, he helps youth improve speed, agility and endurance while preventing injury through proper technique.
- **Middle School Training Camp**  
  Nov.3–13, 4—4:30p (Mon–Thu)

Beginning this month and extending into the new year is this, with prorating available for those who sign up for only one day a week. You’ll want to register early for...
- **Tiny Tots Basketball Clinic** (co-ed, 3–5yrs.)  
  Nov.17–Dec.15, Jan.5–Feb.2  
  3:45—4:30p (Mon/Wed)

This next activity starts in December but its popularity suggests you may want to schedule for it and register now:
- **Holiday Sports Camp** (co-ed, 3–5yrs.)  
  Dec.29–31, Jan.5–Feb.2  
  8:30a—11:30p (Mon-Wed)

Register for Camps and Clinics at our front desk or e-mail our Children and Youth Coordinator, Lauren Klitzsch:  
[lk Fitzsch@mpbconline.org](mailto:lk Fitzsch@mpbconline.org)

Learning, Technology, etc.
I’m trying out a new smart phone. It’s kind of like what I’d been using. Some of you would know it as an “Android” which means, among other things, that it’s not an iPhone. Most smart phones are either Androids or iPhones. Think Ford and Chevy.

These days I need an Android phone that I can connect to a TV or projector so I can show people what I’m doing while I’m trying to answer their questions; this one does.

It’s a lot like what we’ve done for years with computers when most questions were about laptops and desktops. Now, many of your questions are about the technology you bring with you. The acronym is BYOD, for Bring Your Own Device. It refers to the smart phones and tablets that so many of us carry with us and these are what many of you have questions about now.

To respond to your questions, we’re planning a series of regular, morning sessions for you. We’ll have someone familiar with iPhones and iPads, and someone familiar with the Android system that runs most other tablets and smartphones (Samsung, HTC, Nexus, etc.). It’ll be scheduled to precede or follow other popular senior activities and it’ll be walk-in, at least to start. We hope to have something to pilot soon. Look for posters.

For walk-in help using technology to find your familial past, we already have a great program with a great helper. Try this:
- **FAMILY Connections**  
  Genealogy w/Ted Lucas  
  Second Tuesdays, 6:30–8p

For your photographic development (as it were) help continues in the form of our monthly photo group. Check our galleries by going to the Learning Center page on the Cornwell web site. You can also find us by searching for “Photo Connections” within Facebook. Contact me for more info about:
- **PHOTO Connections** w/John Bambach  
  Third Wednesdays, 7–9p

If you’re seeing this ad in black and white, the background is from a painting that’s really best seen in color. You can see the ad in the November issue of Myers Park Life. You can see it on our web site. Best of all, you can see the original work, with several others from the Crown Artists, in our Gallery during the month of November. It’s really best in person.

Live Well
Group Exercise Coordinator, Ansley Melnik, sends along these announcements of some special activities for November. Our web site has descriptions of each of these following activities, with pricing and a link for the required registrations.

Dr. Matt Lyon, describes stress as the modern black plague, responsible directly and indirectly for 90% of all illness. Learn to stress-proof your body and optimize your potential… before the holidays!
- **Stress-Proof your Body,** w/Matt Lyon  
  Nov.11, 11a—12p (Tue)

Find newness in poses like triangle, half moon, balancing half-moon, frog, bridge, legs up the wall and bound angle. The wall allows you to hold yoga poses longer with better alignment, and get more benefit out of your practice.
- **Yoga on the Wall,** w/Robin McCoy  
  Nov.12, 9:30—11a (Wed)
DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER 2014 ISSUE IS
4:00PM, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14.
Max 450 words, subject to editing for space. Please email all submissions to
the MPBC Communications Director, Laura Geer, at lgeer@mpbconline.org.

DREAMFEST 2014

The Rev. Dr. Everett C. Goodwin,
Interim Senior Minister

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

Sharon Bremer,
Director of Stewardship

The Rev. Ms. Robin Paterson Coira,
Executive Minister

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

Mariah B. Currin,
Director of New Member Ministry

Belinda Geuss,
Director of Through-The-Week School

The Rev. Mr. R. Christopher Hughes,
Minister of Youth

Cheri Lindblom,
Director of Outreach

Dr. Matthew Manwarren,
Organist

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

Frances L. Morrison,
Associate Minister of Music

Deborah A. Steiner,
Music Associate for Children

The Rev. Ms. Carrie Veal,
Minister of Children

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

Jenny Yopp,
Director of The Cornwell Center