By Cheri Lindblom

For the past five years, the Ministry of Outreach's (MOO) Outreach Fair has taken place outside. We set up tents on the patio between the Sanctuary and Heaton Hall showcasing various MPBC outreach opportunities. Outside, suggesting we need to reach OUT to our neighbors in need, and beyond the walls of our Church. Fairly obvious, we were.

This year, we're coming IN -- inside the Sanctuary that is. The worship service, led by the Ministry of Outreach, Church members, and Chrissy Williamson, Minister of Faith Formation, will ask you to consider the following:

- How do we, both individually and as a Church community, serve God by serving our neighbor?
- How do we see the faces of poverty in Charlotte?
- Do we avert our gaze, believing if they worked really hard, they would be able to better their lives?
- Or, do we feel we can rescue them, save them or fix them by sharing our compass of middle class values?

More so, what are the ways that MPBC reaches out to those in our community who are hungry or homeless or need a hand up? Our hope for Outreach Sunday, is to con-

...Continued on page 13
If you have achieved a measure of success in your profession, avocation or in simply living effectively and well, the chances are that you have had the advantage of learning from a good mentor. And if you are effective at something, you may have been asked, officially or unofficially, to mentor someone else. Quality mentoring is a widely recognized and popular practice at present, especially in business, education and in developing leaders everywhere.

However, it is an old practice. Before our present models of education emerged in the last century, practitioners of widely divergent skills, including blacksmiths, lawyers, carpenters, physicians, and ministers developed their abilities through apprenticeship. One judged to be capable learning a task often lived in the home of the master of that skill, or worked closely under his or her supervision, in order to learn the nuances of a trade or lifestyle in which the master was successful.

Mentoring often has huge advantages over more regulated and uniform classroom and textbook based models of instruction. A student who can pass exams based on textbook materials still faces the test of practical application. Some professions, like the medical profession that requires internships or the legal profession that encourages clerkships, require formal periods of mentoring for that reason. In sports, the best coaches are skilled mentors. The most recognized university departments compete for faculty members who are strong mentors in addition to their own mastery of a field. Corporations and businesses with long track records of excellence universally invest in mentors who not only can develop a product or provide a service, but who can mentor others to do so as well.

I have long believed that Jesus had the gift of mentoring. It is often evident in those notable times of silence in the scriptures, times between the narratives of his active teaching and ministry in public. During those times Jesus spent a lot of personal time with the disciples mentoring them to continue his work. When he finally parted from them he said “Go into all the world and make disciples.” He did not mean only to make believers, but also to mentor them into practitioners.

To be sure, there are differences between effective and not-so-effective mentors. A recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education provided examples. One was an English teacher, Tracey Lewis-Giggetts, who related some of her experience as a mentor-teacher. She offered two often overlooked but critical characteristics of mentors.

The first was caring about the student(s). A teacher can provide the information. A company can enlist Competent Carol to walk Anxious Albert, a new employee, through the HR documents and company policies, or a church can recruit seasoned members to give guidance to new members on principles of faith and programs of the church. But why do some such relationships produce spectacular results and others fail miserably? The key element seems to be the caring demonstrated by the assigned mentors.

Mentor-teachers presumably should know more than the student-recruit-inexperienced person. But just giving out information doesn’t do the job. The new person is likely to be insecure, likely to be frightened dealing with a new product, service or even game-plan. And everyone brings to the experience the personal and family issues that affect their ability to focus and function. Without failing to teach professional skills or company policies, or to establish and maintain standards, a good mentor pays attention to the person. He or she lets the mentored one know that he or she is cared for as a person. A good mentor affirms that appropriate, supportive friendship is important in organizational relationships, including the mentoring process.

Ms. Lewis-Giggetts also reminds mentors to listen more than to talk. A mentor almost certainly knows more than the person being mentored about the product, service or subject at hand. A mentor may be very savvy and even wise about his or her craft. But the best way to discern what she doesn’t know about the mentored one’s competence and their comfort level needed to succeed is to listen attentively. In addition, regardless how much a mentor has mastered, a mentor still needs to learn. Listening makes that possible.

The most frequent fatal mistake mentors make is to attempt to make clones of their students. Some very famous mentor examples have demonstrated the bitter harvest that approach can yield. Noted filmmaker Steven Spielberg says about this: “The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves.” A whole generation of film and entertainment professionals will attest to his wisdom and skill as their mentor.

Myers Park Baptist Church is positioning itself to grow in strength, numbers and effectiveness. It has a remarkable membership of potential mentors. Mentoring, whether by formal programs or informal individual practice, could offer a tested and effective tool for MPBC to achieve its growth and effectiveness for the future out of the resources of the present.

September Loose Plate Offering Recipient

By Cheri Lindblom

The Loose Plate Missions Offering for September will benefit Family Tree, formally named Hyaet’s. Family Tree is an urban ministry in the Enderly Park neighborhood. Their vision is to build bridges between the poor and affluent by offering hospitality, building relationships and sharing the love of Christ. For more information, visit www.qcfamilytree.org.
**Interfaith Trip to Israel**

**February 15-25, 2015**

**By Robin Coira**

I am so pleased to announce our next interfaith trip to Israel sponsored by our Church and Temple Beth El. During this eleven day trip, we will explore Israel through the perspectives of our Jewish and Christian traditions. Led by Rabbi Judy Schindler, our veteran travel guide Doron Harel, and me, together we will experience sites that are significant to both religions.

Arriving in Tel Aviv, we will travel to Galilee, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea area and Bethlehem. While in Jerusalem we will visit the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane, walk the Via Dolorosa, and experience the Church of the Holy Sepulcher,

...Continued on page 4
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the Western Wall, the Hall of the Last Supper, the Yad Vashem (memorial to the six million victims of the Holocaust) and the Israel Museum. We will also worship together at a Shabbat service in Masada and a Christian service in Jerusalem.

The cost per person is $3,875 and includes hotels, airfare, guide fees, tour bus, daily breakfast and 6 dinners. Registration is limited to 24 members from each congregation and is first come, first served. To register, stop by the front desk at the Church and receive a registration package with payment schedule and flight information. The registration begins September 15 and ends October 15. (If the need arises, we can cancel this trip by October 31 and you will receive a full refund.)

This is sure to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I hope you will consider joining us for this extraordinary interfaith trip. As our Jewish sisters and brothers say, “Next year in Jerusalem!”

"Sprouting Acorns"
A Gift From the Heart

By Ed Williams

When I heard that Edith Collins wanted to publish a book of stories from her nearly 50 years of teaching our Church’s youngsters, I was curious but, I admit, cautious. Storytelling is an art, and many good people just don’t do it well. However, one look at Edith’s stories showed me she did it very well. They are warm, funny, and insightful— not just about Bible study, puppies and cupcakes but also about her gift for helping children deal with challenges, conflict, even death.

I was eager to help. When I told Edith she was pleased, but she asked a practical question: “What will this cost me?” Nothing, I replied. This book would be our gift to her as well as her gift to us.

Edith’s health was declining, so we needed to get the book quickly. The publisher and the printer made speed a priority. They rushed the first copy off the press to us and we presented “Sprouting Acorns” (Edith provided the title) to her at Southminster. She was overjoyed. Four days later, she died.

Now about our gift. We had 750 copies of the book printed for just over $6,000. How would we finance it? One possibility was from the Church budget. That would have been difficult because we were well into the fiscal year and funds were committed to other needs. Another was to ask a few donors to pay for it. But it seemed to me this book would be a memorial for Edith Collins’ long and generous service to our children, and everyone in the Church should have the opportunity to demonstrate their gratitude.

What we did was secure loans of $2,500 from two donors for the down payment, then borrow from the Church to pay the remainder. We will repay those loans from the sale of the book. It’s available for $15 at the Church office.

I hope you will buy a copy of “Sprouting Acorns.” In fact, buy several—it makes unique and valuable gifts for teachers and parents and anyone who loves children and loves this Church. By doing so you will honor an inspired teacher whose legacy is written not only in this book but also in the lives of generations of our children.

Register Now for Fall Leadership Workshop Series

By Joan Hope

How does personal style impact your approach to leadership? What makes a meeting effective? How else might you act in conflict?

The Fall Leadership Workshop Series is for:
New and returning leaders of Church ministry groups and interested Church members

Topics:
• Assess your leadership style
• Learn strategies for conducting effective meetings
• Practice engaging with conflict

When: Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm, October 8, 15, 22

Important!
Don't Lose Contact!

MPBC EMAILS

The Church now uses Constant Contact as our preferred way of communicating to our congregation.

If you have “unsubscribed” from our emails through Constant Contact at ANY time in the past, you are no longer receiving ANY communications from us this way (i.e., announcements, meeting notices, death/funeral notifications, monthly Newsletters, weekly News Sheets, etc.)

If you would like to re-subscribe, please visit our website www.mpbconline.org and click on the “E-mail Sign-Up” at the very top of the Home page, or you may use this link: http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=wzex9njab&p=oi&m=110963953366&sit=iqvkstngb&t=f=5a0f0090-98a1-4ee8-b7be-eccd077d48d2.
Senior Minister Search Group  
Engaging Candidates

By Skip Gribble  
Chair, Senior Minister Search Group

The Senior Minister Search Group has had a busy and productive summer. While each of us in turn has taken the opportunity to travel or vacation with family and friends, we have not lost focus in our work to discern God’s will for the next Senior Minister for Myers Park Baptist Church.

This summer we began accepting applications from candidates who had seen our advertisements, or otherwise had knowledge of our search. We reached out to Christian leaders across the U.S. (and beyond) for guidance and suggestions about individuals they thought might serve our congregation well.

Over the past three months, we have reviewed more than 100 candidates, representing an incredibly wide range of backgrounds and experience. We have given every person a fair look, in reading through resumes and correspondence, exploring candidates’ church websites, reading published papers and articles, and viewing or listening to sermons they have delivered. We have been consistently impressed and encouraged by the quality of the faith leaders in this group.

We are now well into the process of narrowing that group to the strongest candidates (even as we remain open to adding new candidates when we become aware of them). We are engaging with these individuals through written questionnaires and interviews. We look forward to getting to know our candidates more deeply this fall, and are excited and inspired by this part of our work.

Many of you have shared your hope that we will call a new senior minister very soon. Many of you have offered words of advice, suggestion and encouragement. Please know that we welcome and appreciate your thoughts, and that we share your excitement and your hopes for our Church. We know that this work takes our committed and sustained effort, and even more than that, our holding space for God’s guidance in this process of listening and discernment. We ask that you continue to hold us and our work in your prayers, as we seek the right person to lead our community of faith in the coming years.

Congratulations to Guy Aiken

By Vince DeLap  
MPBC member Guy Aiken has achieved more milestones in his studies toward a Ph.D. in American Religion at the University of Virginia. Recently, Guy was tested by his doctoral panel in a series of three written exams and an oral board. The professors were so impressed by Guy’s work and performance that he passed “With Distinction,” which is rarely used.

Guy also was awarded the prestigious Albert H. Gallatin Graduate Research Fellowship, sponsored by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, which will allow him to work on his doctoral dissertation, a study of American Quakers Abroad between WWI and WWII. He will live in Philadelphia, PA for five months in Spring 2015 for study in the archives at the American Friends (Quakers) Service Committee headquarters and the Quaker-based Haverford and Swarthmore Colleges, all in the Philadelphia area. Additionally, Guy hopes to live at Pendle Hill, a Quaker center welcoming all for Spirit-led learning, retreat, and community.

Fall Orientation Series

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12**
9:30-10:45am: Introductions & History of MPBC, Cornwell Center Lounge

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14**
6:30–7:30pm: Dinner, Staff Introductions and Overview of Ministries, Cornwell Conference Center and Lounge  
Campus Tour immediately following

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19**
1:30-3:00pm: Afternoon Social, location TBD

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26**
9:30–10:45am: Architectural Tour, meet in Chancel

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29**
5:45-7:30pm: Wonderful Wednesday Dinner and Program

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2**
9:45–10:45am: Discussion of Covenant, Commitment, and Joining, Cornwell Center Lounge

And, for those who are ready to formalize their commitment to this community of faith, we offer:

**JOINING SUNDAY**
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9**
9:00–10:45am: Light Breakfast and Pictures, Cornwell Center Lounge  
11:00am–Noon: New Members welcomed into Congregation during Worship  
Noon-1:00pm: Welcoming Reception, Heaton Hall

The locations will be determined. Updates will be on the website and in the October Newsletter. Please contact Mariah Currin at mcurrin@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232, ext. 41 with any questions.

*Childcare is available for all sessions except the Afternoon Social
Noted Columnist to Speak at MPBC

By Everett Goodwin

Washington Post Columnist Bob Levey will speak at Myers Park Baptist Church on September 17 and 18.

Bob Levey is a prizewinning journalist who covered virtually every aspect of Washington, DC from national politics to the “hometown issues” of the nation’s capital from the Johnson administration until now. For 23 years his “Bob Levey’s Washington” was a daily column in the Washington Post, a “don’t miss” column read by national leaders in high office and by most everyone else in Washington too. His early career was as a working reporter of the Post’s coverage of “Watergate” and as a colleague of the reporters who initiated the stories that triggered “Watergate” and as a colleague of the reporters who initiated the stories that triggered national crisis. His daily column later grew out of that early experience during a 36 year career at the Post when he covered Presidential politics, Congress, local news and sports.

Levey’s column won major awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Washington Journalism Review. He was also voted one of the most popular columnists in Washington by Washingtonian Magazine seven times. Levey has also had an extensive career in the electronic media, working for nine radio stations, four TV stations and a popular Internet site as commentator and talk show host. After recently retiring from the Washington Post, he has been writing a monthly column for the Senior Beacon Newspapers. Bob has also been a semi-professional folk singer, union president and national champion bridge player – an activity he has expanded in “retirement.”

Bob Levey and I both graduated from the University of Chicago in the same year, although we did not meet there. Bob was then editor of the campus newspaper, The Chicago Maroon. In my opinion, it was just as well we didn’t meet then – The University had enough problems to deal with in the 60s. We later met in Washington and became friends at a Halloween Party at the home of former members of my church.

Levey will be our featured speaker at the first Wonderful Wednesday program on September 17 on the topic of “The Mess in Washington and What to Do About It” at approximately 6:30pm in Heaton Hall. He will also speak on Thursday morning at 10:30 on the topic “The Future of the Media” in the Cornell Conference Center which will also include Bob’s perspective on the role of religion. Both programs are free and both are open to the public.

Life Class
A Study of Grace with Dr. Douglas Oldenburg

By Eleanor Brawley

On Start-Up Sunday, September 7, Rev. Dr. Douglas Oldenberg will introduce a study of “What Do We Mean By Grace” a term we use widely but may need to explore its meaning. After being senior pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, Dr. Oldenburg became President of Columbia Theological Seminary for 15 years. In 1998 he was elected Moderator of the 210th General Assembly of the Presbyterian (USA). He is a graduate of Davidson College and Yale Divinity School. This session will be followed the next two weeks by a sharing of stories of grace in class members lives, led by Ed Williams. We meet in the coffee house for coffee at 9:30am. Class at 9:45. Don’t miss this opportunity.

EarthKeepers News

By Mary Lou Buck and Kate Green

EPA Hearing September 9 at MPBC

Over the years, EarthKeepers has worked closely with strong environmental organizations like the Sierra Club, Clean Air Carolina and Greenpeace. Our community involvement has helped MPBC be recognized as a leader for creation care among the faith community and the community at large. EarthKeepers is proud to announce that MPBC will host an Environmental Protection Agency public hearing on September 9, 6:00-8:00pm, in Heaton Hall. Formal public hearings are being held throughout the country and thousands of Americans have come out to support the EPA’s recent proposed Clean Power Plan, which calls for strong carbon pollution reductions. The September 9 public hearing will be informal but all comments will be recorded and recognized by the EPA. Please pass the word along for this great opportunity to speak for creation care. We hope to see you there.

For info on the Clean Power Plan, go to http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule

Work on The Point

MPBC is fortunate to have a large piece of natural land next to the Roswell Parking lot but, even in its natural state, it needs HELP. Ivy growing up trees and other invasive plants and trash need to be removed. Please join us to help clean The Point on Saturdays, September 20 and October 4 from 9:00am-noon. Call Cathryn Rivers 704.334.7063 to sign up.

Recycling at MPBC

One way we help care for our wonderful earth is to keep as many things as possible out of our land-fills. We have recycling containers several places around our campus.

- Kitchen area: Large containers for paper, cans and bottles, containers for light bulbs, batteries and printer cartridges.
- Outside the back door to the kitchen: Dumpster provided by the County for cardboard and paper.

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- Cornwell Center lobby and downstairs: Large containers (beautifully painted by our children) for paper, cans and bottles.
- Cornwell Learning Center (computer room): baskets for batteries, light bulbs, hard bottle caps and printer cartridges.

MPBC and Cornwell members do a great job bringing things in—sometimes not so great at sorting! We take hard plastic bottle caps to the Aveda store at Southpark—no metal, no soft plastic (like yogurt tops which go in curbside recycling). Caps are melted down to make containers for beauty products.

Questions? Contact maryloubuc@aol.com or 704.525.2293.

Journey of Faith

By Chrissy Williamson

Our Church Covenant begins with these words, “We the people of the Myers Park Baptist Church are a people on a journey of faith.” The journey of faith is a lifelong path. For many, the journey has significant turns, surprises, hills and valleys, each one shaping and molding us. At MPBC, we have not only covenanted with each other to be on a spiritual journey, but we covenant to be on the journey together. Notice the first word of our Covenant: We.

This church year as we begin anew, let us be reminded that we are on a journey of faith together. Let us find a couple of ways to embrace and engage our personal journeys of faith. Perhaps that means joining a Connections small group to get to know other journey-ers. Or maybe it means finding a Sunday school class with which you might expand your knowledge and understanding of biblical stories or theologians, or maybe simply discussing the intersection of current events and faith. For those wanting to go a little deeper spiritually, join a Covenant group (see the article on Covenant groups) that enables you to form relationships that are long-standing, supporting, vulnerable and authentic. Once you’ve filled your cup, find ways to circle back in service, giving back and inviting others to be on the never-ending journey with you.

We the people of the Myers Park Baptist Church are a people on a journey of faith.

Young Adults at MPBC: Sundays and Beyond!

By Chrissy Williamson

Growing out of our June conversations about Young Adult Ministry, several MPBC-ers, between the ages of 20 and 39, decided to form an SLG (Servant Leadership Group) as part of the Ministry of Faith Formation. This group will work together this year to establish monthly gatherings of MPBC young adults and to serve as visionaries for the future of this ministry. Our goals for this year (September - May) are to establish a Sunday School class for people in their 20s and 30s and to host monthly gatherings for young adults at MPBC. If you are in this age group and looking for community, please join us in Room 253, Sundays from 9:45-10:45am and contact Chrissy Williamson (cwilliamson@mpbconline.org) for more information about getting connected!

Senior Adult Fellowship (ages 60+)

By Chrissy Williamson

This year, we are pleased to offer four fun opportunities for senior adults at MPBC to spend time together. From September to May seniors will take a day trip to Reynolda House in Winston-Salem (October 8), enjoy a meal at our Church accompanied by a performance of Love Songs by some of our own musicians (February 11), relieve tax-time stress with a trip to the beautiful Shelton Vineyards in Dobson, NC (April 15), and support our local baseball team, the Charlotte Knights by attending a game in June (date TBA). As you’re making your plans for the upcoming year, be sure to save these dates! Joe Aldrich, Associate Minister, and I will be joining you for each of these exciting gatherings. If you have questions about this ministry, please contact Kathryn Long at longkw@bellsouth.net.

Covenant Groups: Information Session September 14

By Chrissy Williamson

What is a Covenant group? Covenant groups are made up of people with a common desire and commitment to share their spiritual journeys together. Covenant groups are similar to Connections groups with a few key differences. They involve a deeper commitment to: members of the group, preparation for meetings, attendance, selection of material, etc. Each of these commitments allows people to explore their individual spiritual journeys in more depth through readings, discussion, questions and experiential activities. Because this level of engagement with one another involves a great deal of vulnerability, accountability and authenticity, a Covenant group requires a deeper level of trust among members. Therefore each group establishes its own covenant outlining group goals, norms and expectations.

When do Covenant groups meet? Each group will initially meet for 6-12 weeks (determined by the group). At the end of that time the group will determine its future. Each group will determine the meeting dates and times that work best for group members. We anticipate that this fall, we will have one weekend group (Saturday/Sunday) and one weekday group.

How can I learn more or become involved? Join me, Bonnie Banks, Cherrie Shoemaker, and Charlie Elberson for an introduction to Covenant groups on Sunday, September 14, 9:45-10:45am, in the Cornwell Center Lounge. During this information session, I will provide an overview to Covenant groups and suggestions for starter books. Bonnie, Charlie, and Cherrie and I will also be available to respond to any questions that you may have about this new opportunity to become involved in sharing your spiritual journey with others in this community of faith.
and the work was tireless - tearing off shingles, re-leveling the foundation, attaching new framing to re-enforce the old wood, and adding new siding to a very old and precarious building.

At the end of the week, I surveyed our work: a patchwork blend of old and new wood, a roof that had gone from slanted to a little less slanted, new materials filling in the gaps and strengthening the old. And I wondered at that moment, as many did, if it might have been easier to just plow over the old and start fresh.

But then I thought again and in that moment, I learned what the work of redemption looks like. Redemption is the work of making old things new. It's not forgetting the old and plowing over it. It's strengthening it, reclaiming it, salvaging the good and giving it a new future.

And so it is with God's new creation. The work is always tireless and hard. The raw materials of our lives aren't always in the condition we'd like them to be. Rough edges, old parts, rusted souls and slanted hearts. But God is not above getting into the messy work of redemption. God works with what we can give, strengthening our hearts, filling our souls with new life and setting us on a surer foundation.

That's what I'd like my ministry here to be about: redemption, reclamation and God's new creation. Each and every youth, everyone of us for that matter, should know that God is in the tireless work of redeeming us. God is patching together old and new, taking our stories, our longings, our deeply held passions and even our lingering hurts, and making them into something new.

I am grateful to join you here at Myers Park Baptist Church and I'm excited to continue learning your stories and about the ways God is moving in our community. I'm even more excited to see God's new creation breaking through, even now. ■
Family Camping Trip

By Carol Reid

We are people on a journey of faith, so let us journey to the beautiful mountains of North Carolina together and connect with like-minded MPBC families. Our campsite will be at Pisgah National Forest Lake Powhatan Campground. This campground is a wonderful place with lots of hiking and outdoor activities. Bring a bike, if you can! We will enjoy nature and commune with each other on this supportive trip. Whether you are new to camping or used to wilderness camping, you will fit right in and enjoy yourself with this group.

This family event will be led by Anita Blanchard and Dave Dougherty. Dave and Anita are enthusiastic if somewhat novice campers. They enjoy camping with their children and find that it’s the perfect way to meaningfully connect with their family and with others.

DATES:
• October 10-12 (Friday – Sunday)

TIME:
• All Weekend!

PLACE:
• Pisgah National Forest Lake Powhatan Campground

MAX # OF PARTICIPANTS:
• 5 families (In addition to Blanchard/Dougherty clan)

COST:
• $44 per family for camping space ($22/night). We will share meals from Friday night until Sunday lunch. Details will be sorted out once we know who is coming.

REGISTER NOW!
• You can register quickly and easily online at www.mpbconline.org. We need commitments by September 1 to reserve the campground sites.

ADDITIONAL LOGISTICS:
• Gathering Friday night and Sunday morning will depend on group availability and family travel times.
• Some camp sites have electricity, but most do not.
• If you are arriving in a trailer, we will make sure you have access to electricity, but most tent sites do not.
• Bring your bikes, hiking shoes, binoculars, and nature guides for this amazing national park!

Family Camping Trip

Patchwork Faith

"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Christ, from the whole body, joined and knit together..." - Ephesians 4:15

Youth Ministry @ MPBC

2014
• September 7 Start-Up Sunday
• September 12-13 Youth Choir Retreat
• September 13 Whitewater Center
• September 17 Wonderful Wednesday with Ultimate Frisbee & hangout
• October 24-26 Middle School Retreat
• November 21-23 High School Retreat

2015
• January 16-18 Kanuga Retreat
• March 13-14 Discipleship Lock-In
• March 29 Baptism Service
• May 17 Senior Sunday

www.mpbconline.org
An Introduction from Our New Children's Minister, Carrie Veal

By Carrie Veal

As we head into the fall I am celebrating my tenth anniversary in full time Children’s Ministry. I am excited to begin that anniversary with the MPBC family. I graduated from the McAfee School of Theology in 2003 and was ordained at Northside Drive Baptist Church in Atlanta. I knew early in my seminary education that Children’s Ministry was my calling and a life-giving source for me.

Growing up in Tennessee and Northeast Florida, I have served churches in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. My husband, Neal Chewning, and I met while I was serving a church in Georgia. We were married in 2010.

As children begin their faith journey, I am compelled to travel with them. I love equipping adults who are involved in the lives of children with the necessary tools to walk this road with them. I believe in engaging children in outreach opportunities to help them see where God is working in the world and how they can be a part of that work. Through the stories of our faith, children are able to learn about who God is calling them to be and how they can live out that calling.

This church year will bring some additions to the children’s ministry, including bringing the Nursery, Preschool, and Elementary Ministries under one umbrella called Children’s Ministries. With some special events, outreach projects, and plans for the summer 2015 already underway, this will be a wonderful year of opportunities for families to engage in the life of the Church.

Inside Scoop

Wednesday, September 3
5:15-6:15pm

By Carrie Veal

WHO:
• All parents with children ages 3 – 5th grade (childcare available for children under 3).

WHAT:
• Inside Scoop on children’s ministry happenings this fall.
• Scavenger hunt to answer questions regarding Sunday mornings, children’s choirs, etc. ending with ice cream and toppings for all.

WHEN:
• Wednesday, September 3; 5:15-6:15pm

WHERE:
• MPBC Heaton Hall

For more information, please feel free to contact me at cveal@mpbconline.org.

Children’s Ministry Family Picnic

By Carrie Veal

We have rescheduled our Children's Ministry Family Picnic to Sunday, October 5 at 12:15pm at Freedom Park Shelter #6. Come join us and bring all the picnic goodies and your family for this great time of togetherness!

Children’s Ministry Sunday School Opportunities

By Carrie Veal

The new church year begins September 7. The Children’s Ministry has a place for you. Come help tell the stories of our faith. You are invited to participate in the Sunday School Ministry -- whether you like Toddlers or Tweens or something in the middle -- we have a place for you. You choose the age group and the date. This will be a 4-6 week commitment. We will provide the curriculum and training. Please contact me at cveal@mpbconline.org for more information.
Vacation Bible School 2014 - Our Children “Made a Difference”

By Tara Harris

During the first week of August, 50 children and almost 30 volunteers gathered together for our 2014 Mini-VBS Session entitled “I Can Make a Difference!” Over the course of three days together, the children learned how they can make a difference in their church, for the Earth, and for their neighbors, friends and family. The children—ages 3 through 11—experienced Bible stories about the church being like one body with many parts, about taking care of God’s creation, and about sharing what you have with others. The week culminated with a family potluck lunch on Saturday where the children showed their parents the flags they made to correspond with each day’s theme and filled up a barrel with canned goods to benefit Loaves and Fishes here in Charlotte. And on Sunday morning, August 10, the VBS children helped to lead worship by processing down the aisle with their handmade flags and sharing a song, “This Little Light of Mine,” with the congregation.

The VBS planning team is especially grateful to Carrie Veal for her hard work and leadership in helping make this VBS dream a reality. Thank you to the parents who brought their children each day. And importantly, thank you to the volunteers who selflessly donated snacks, brought in craft items, or gave of their time—for many, their vacation time from work—to make a difference in the lives of 50 children.

On our third and final day of VBS, we studied the Bible story of the boy who shared his lunch and the miraculous way in which Jesus made plenty out of little. We shared a poem with our older children, written by poet David Whyte, entitled “Loaves and Fishes,” which reads:

This is not the age of information.
This is not the age of information.
Forget the news,
and the radio,
and the blurred screen.
This is the time of loaves and fishes.
People are hungry,
and one good word is bread for a thousand.

Thank you to all who supported VBS 2014, helping us to “feed the hungry,” so to speak, with some “good words.”

We have included some photos on the back cover of this newsletter. Take a look.

September News from Through-The-Week School

By Belinda Geuss

Please come check out the new large play structure on the older playground! Last year, parents of Through-the-Week School raised funds through our annual Festival of Friends fundraiser to enable the structure to be rebuilt. Upgrades include a challenging rock climb, fireman’s pole, art easel and drums. We know the children will have many years of play on this wonderful and fun structure.

New Staff at TTWS

For our 2014-2015 school year, we welcome new staff members Katie Blackwell, Meredith Finnen, Susan Hughes, Melissa Keane and Karen Jones. We are very proud of our professional and loving staff of 27 teachers who will nourish and care for over 180 preschool students this year!

Orientation

New parents to TTWS are welcome to attend a New Family Orientation on August 27 from 5:30-6:30pm in Heaton Hall. All students and parents are invited to visit their classrooms and meet teachers on Wednesday, August 27 and Thursday, August 28. During these two days, a book fair will take place in Heaton Hall with Black Forest Books' owner, Pat Siegfried. Representatives from extended day enrichment programs will also be available for parents to sign up for the year. School officially begins on Tuesday, September 2.

Festival of Friends

We are very excited to announce that our annual Festival of Friends fundraiser will be held on Saturday, November 8 at Myers Park Country Club. More information regarding this fundraiser will appear in the October newsletter.

We are very proud to be an outreach of Myers Park Baptist Church. Our reputation of quality preschool learning through play has been a staple in the community for 59 years. For further information regarding potential openings and our program, please feel free to contact me at bgeuss@mpbconline.org.
2014 Stewardship Campaign: "To a Dream Committed"

...Continued from page 1

spirit of this year’s campaign in words. We finally agreed on, “To a Dream Committed.”

We feel that this phrase honors the past, points to the future and emphasizes our shared responsibility and opportunity to make MPBC all that we want and need it to be – all that we dream – for ourselves, for the broader Charlotte community and the world.

The theme originates, of course, in Dr. Heaton’s first sermon at Myers Park Baptist, which he titled, “He Whom a Dream Hath Possessed,” after the poem of the same name, published by Sheamus O’Sheel in 1917. The connection, for us, is clear: Our church was created by a group of people who were not only possessed by a dream, but who dedicated their personal financial resources to make that dream come true.

Today, we continue to dream big. We want to develop worship and educational programs and initiatives that will instruct and inspire our members, and attract new ones. We want to help relieve suffering in our city through missions and outreach. And we want to be a prophetic voice for justice in the world.

Each of us has a dream for this community of faith. But we are not only a group of dreamers – we are a group of doers. We know that making dreams come true requires sacrificial giving. Our dreams have inspired us to give generously in the past, and will continue to do so as we walk into the future together.

Campaign events and timetable

The highlight of our stewardship campaign will be in just a few weeks: DreamFest 2014! (See sidebar for more detailed information.) This event will be an opportunity to gather for an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun. We’ll reconnect with friends old and new, share a meal, rock out and dance to some great live music, and talk about how we can all play a part in revitalizing our dreams for MPBC.

We will officially kick off the campaign on October 19, during our Jesus in the 21st Century weekend with Barbara Brown Taylor.

Finally, we’ll have a stewardship celebration event on November 23 to wrap things up. Details are still developing, but mark this date so we can all get together to celebrate our commitment to the journey of faith we are walking together.

Supporting the church during a time of transition

It’s no accident that we will kick off our campaign this year during our weekend with Barbara Brown Taylor.

Rev. Taylor will be here to speak about her latest book, Learning to Walk in the Dark. In planning this year’s campaign, we have been very aware that sometimes a time of transition, such as the one MPBC is in now, can feel a little bit like walking in the dark. And yet, we can’t stand still. We have to walk forward together, with courage and faith in God and one another.

We have been doing that this year in so many exciting ways. We have invited to our pulpit wonderful guest preachers like Nancy Allison, Susan Sparks, Judy Schindler and Bill Leonard. We sponsored a Freedom School this summer, reaching out to help educate disadvantaged children in our city. And our Connections small group offerings continue to grow, with new and interesting opportunities for learning and fellowship every season.

Commit to the dream – give generously from your heart!

This is why we believe that this year’s stewardship campaign is extraordinarily important. It is more critical than ever that we demonstrate with our financial gifts that though we look forward to our next senior minister, we are not waiting on him or her to continue the vital work of the church. We are forging ahead with faith and confidence, embracing our responsibility to be priests to one another – just as our Covenant requires.

2014 Stewardship Servant Leadership Group

• Chris and Linda William, co-chairs
• John Bambach
• Britt Canady
• Gene Doar
• Charlie Elberson
• Pam Johnson
• Michael and Elaine Johnson
• Steve Lash
• Jenny Martella
• Todd and Lisa Rubenson
• Chris and Lydia Skardon
• Holly Hobson Wood

Save the Date
September 27
DreamFest 2014!
Queens University Front Lawn

The Stewardship SLG (Servant Leadership Group) invites you to join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship featuring live rock ‘n’ roll music by The Holdouts.

This is a time to rekindle our most ambitious dreams for our faith community and the new church year.

Please mark the date, September 27, from 4:00-7:00pm, on your calendar.

Look for more information coming soon about how to sign up for food and adult beverages. We’ll move the party to Heaton Hall in case of rain.

Come join us and recommit to the dream!

Sharon Bremer, Director of Stewardship
704.334.7232, x54
Outreach Sunday

...Continued from page 1

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October 19 (Sunday) - CROP Walk, 1:30pm
The walk will begin at Elizabeth Avenue. Please dress comfortably, bring garden tools, and make sure to provide details if you like, you may reach me at 704.651.5620.

Service Saturdays

By Cheri Lindblom

Here are some opportunities to reach out this fall and serve our neighbors and bring your neighbor along to join us:

- **September 27** - McCreesh Place BBQ, 11:00am-1:00pm
  Help cook and serve lunch to our neighbors at McCreesh Place. We need volunteers to serve, supply desserts and provide fellowship for the men. Questions, contact Bob Bishop, bobbishopuk@gmail.com

- **October 4** - Habitat for Humanity Build, 8:00am-4:00pm (half shifts available)
  We need 15 volunteers who are willing to swing a hammer as we work side-by-side with fellow church neighbors and home owners. We will install dry-wall (no experience necessary, however always welcome). There will be a site supervisor to guide our day. The house is located at 4311 Hey Rock Court, 28269. Questions? Please contact Cheri Lindblom at clindblom@mpbconline.org

- **October 4** - EarthKeepers Point Clean-Up, 9:00am-noon
  We will meet in the MPBC Roswell parking lot and then work together to clean up The Point (the natural area and walking paths across from the Through-The-Week School entrance on Roswell Avenue). Dress comfortably, bring clippers and other garden tools. Questions? Contact Mary Lou Buck, maryloubuck@aol.com

- **October 19 (Sunday)** - CROP Walk, 1:30pm
  The 36th Annual Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk is part of a nationwide endeavor to raise money to alleviate hunger and poverty. The walk will begin at Elizabeth Avenue between Hawthorne Lane and Charlotteowne Avenue. Contact Chris Hughes, chughes@mpbconline.org, for team details, meeting place and fundraising.

You may sign up for any or all of these opportunities on the Church website. Information will be posted on the Outreach bulletin board in Heaton Hall Foyer. If you have questions, please contact, Cheri Lindblom, clindblom@mpbconline.org.

Lakewood Winter Jacket Drive

The Deadline is Thursday, October 2

By Cheri Lindblom

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Save These Dates

Welcoming Faith Community Workshop and Forum

By Scott Crowder

**Saturday, November 15**

**Educational and reflective workshop**

After months of work, MPBC became an official “welcoming and affirming” congregation in 2007. Where do we stand now that 19 states allow same-sex marriage and the federal government recognizes same-sex marriage? Are we as a faith community doing enough? Kids are coming out at younger and younger ages, the fight against AIDS has shifted, and homeless LGBT youth are more visible than ever. Join LGBT Fellowship, Ministry of Outreach, and advocacy leaders from Charlotte to discuss. This will be a facilitator led discussion.

Sunday, November 16

**Adult Forum with Jake Goodman**

What it means to actively create a more welcoming faith community. It will cover the theory of "covering" as articulated by Kenji Yoshino, personal narrative and the biblical narrative from the Book of Esther.

Our facilitator/speaker will be Jake Goodman, a Jewish educator, performer, and community organizer. We are excited to welcome Jake back to MPBC. He facilitated our showing of the Bishop Gene Robinson documentary, “Love Free or Die” in 2012.

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Soaring Into Song  
with our hearts, hands and voices

By Deb Steiner
Soar with us into children’s choirs this year! Our Start-up Wednesday for choirs is September 10. In addition, we are offering ‘The Inside Scoop’ for all preschool and elementary parents the previous Wednesday, September 3 from 5:15-6:15pm in Heaton Hall. It will be a fun evening with a scavenger hunt and ice cream to give you the ‘Scoop’ about all of our children’s ministries including children’s choirs. Choir registration forms will be available as well.

Note the following musical groups for all children through the 5th grade:

- **Music Together®** (birth-age 4)  
  Fran Morrison, director  
  4:00-4:45 Monday or Wednesday in Room 29  
  advance registration required.

- **KinderChoir** (TK/K)  
  Deb Steiner, director  
  5:15-6:00 Wednesday in Room 8

- **Carol Choir** (grades 1-2)  
  Anna-Catherine Fowler, director  
  5:15-6:15 Wednesday in Room 21

- **Chapel Choir** (grades 3-5)  
  Fran Morrison, director  
  5:15-6:15 Wednesday in Room 7

On Wonderful Wednesdays each month, all choirs will be dismissed at 6:00pm. The choirs will sing in Heaton Hall during dinner beginning in October. Childcare for siblings of choir members is available during choir rehearsals each Wednesday.

Choir registration forms are available online for your convenience: [www.mpbonline.org/childrens-choir/](http://www.mpbonline.org/childrens-choir/).

Just print the age-appropriate form, fill it out and mail it back to me, drop it by my office or bring it with your child to choir on Start-up Wednesday, September 10. We’re excited to have your children come sing with us this year!

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**Youth Choir Retreat**

**16 hours of fun, friends, music, recreation, and good food!**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

6:30 - 10:30pm  
Music rehearsal & off-site recreation; parent pick-up 10:30 at church

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

9:00 - 10:00am  
Drumming Circle led by DrumStrong leader, Scott Swimmer; everybody drums!  
*Reservations required to play a drum!*

10:30am - noon  
Music  
Noon - 12:30pm  
Lunch  
12:30pm  
Depart for Whitewater Center  
8:30pm  
Parent pick-up at church

 Reserve your spot now!  
Sign up with Fran at [fmorrison@mpbonline.org](mailto:fmorrison@mpbonline.org)

- **$60 each:** Cost for entire retreat *(including Whitewater Center)*
- **$20 each:** Cost for entire retreat *(without Whitewater Center)*
OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, September 6th,
Fitness, youth, art and technology are the center of this year’s event, featuring the breadth of activities we offer year-round. Explore areas you may not have so far. Get a better feel for the whole-person, whole-life focus that’s at the core of our programming.

Greg Scott and Susan Hughes will host an Art Expo and sale. Fitness activities include group workouts, Yoga, Barre, Mid-Life/Mid-Level, and Cardio Funk. Try our state-of-the-art spin bikes! More to come…

Kids will enjoy an obstacle course and other games in the parking lot. Kid favorites like Coach Kenny will lead a kid’s workout, and there’s a dance party with Coach Tripp.

As with all info about The Cornwell Center, see updates on our website, our facebook page, and via our monthly eMails (have you signed up for them on our Home page?).

Art & Design
New art offerings, these with Greg Scott:
- **After-School Art Focus** (ages 6-11) Sep.18-Dec.18, 4:30-6p (Thu’s)
- **Beginning Clay & Open studio** Sep.8-Oct.27, 10a-12:30p (Mon’s)
- **Beginning Clay & Open studio** Sep.9-Oct.28, 6:30-8:30p (Tue’s)
- **Intermediate Wheel** Sep.10-Oct.29, 10a-12:30p (Wed’s)
- **Painting classes… COMING in October!** (Fri’s)

…and this, with Cheryl Judd-Magee:
- **Beginning Wheel** Sep.8-Oct.27, 6:30-8:30p (Mon’s)

Children and Youth
Registration for Basketball League launches Monday, September 8th and will be available with a link on our home page. These fill fast so put the date on your calendar.
- **Boys and Girls Divisions** (ages 7-17)
- **Co-Ed Division** (ages 6 & under)

In support of kids in basketball we’re also offering this 5-session package for kids of the ages covered in this league. League registration is not needed for this:
- **Basketball Readiness Clinics** Sep.14-Oct.26, 10a-12:30p (Mon-Fri)

Senior Family Discounts
Our special for families of Senior Members (including Silver Sneakers) continues through Startup. Get a year-long membership at the lower senior rate, plus discounts on camps and our After-School Program. Coupons at our Home Page and Welcome desk.

Schedule Update
We’ll be closed on Labor Day, Mon., Sep.1 and hope you enjoy your day, too. Tuesday returns us to normal operating hours:
- **MON–THU, 5:30am – 9pm**
- **FRI, 5:30am – 6pm**
- **SAT, 7:30am – 5pm**
- **SUN, NOON – 5pm**

Learning, Technology, etc.
Seniors asked. We’re delivering.

Thanks to Jennifer Hull and the Knight Scholars from Queens, this month we’re embarking on a collaboration to bring seniors the kind of technology support they’ve been asking us about. This is the first in a series of activities we’ll be offering in response to the Senior Technology Questionnaire we created a couple months ago:
- **Meet and Discuss**

  "Seniors helping Students helping Seniors”
  Wednesday, Sep.24, 10-11a

This is a social event, for seniors to come and chat with students about the kinds of help they each need: seniors with tablets, laptops, smartphones, etc. and students with how to best help seniors with technology. It’ll lead to more activities designed for seniors to get the help they want. We understand that you’re looking for people to listen and help at your speed and level. Got it.

Even sooner we’re having a former collaborator back with us as part of the Cornwell Center’s **Open House** (Sat., Sep.6). Stop by the Learning Center and speak with Mary Stephenson about what you’d like to learn about technology and get some on-the-fly tips from her on questions you bring.

Queens collaborating with us to collaborate with you – sounds good all ‘round. Bring your questions and ideas (BYOQ&I?) to these events, and tell us a thing or two.

Though they’re for all ages, many seniors are well served by ** these** interest groups. Genealogy returns from Summer hiatus as does Ted Lucas with new thoughts and approaches:
- **FAMILY Connections**
  Genealogy w/Ted Lucas
  Second Tuesdays, 6:30-8p
- **PHOTO Connections** w/John Bambach
  Third Wednesdays, 7-9p

Lakewood Jacket Drive
Sep.21-Oct.2
Keep a kid warm this winter. We’re collecting gloves and winter bubble jackets with either hats or hoods for preschool-12th grade Lakewood boys and girls. Please select a tag at our Welcome Desk and return your gift, with tag, by 5pm, OCT.2 please. Call Chini Nichols, 704-651-5620, for details. Thanks.
DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER 2014 ISSUE IS 4:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.
Max 450 words, subject to editing for space. Please email all submissions to the MPBC Communications Director, Laura Geer, at lgeer@mpbconline.org.

VBS 2014
"I Can Make A Difference"

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