New Wineskins for New Wine

By Chrissy Williamson

For months, many of our staff and lay leaders have been writing, editing, and designing the beautiful new website that you will find when you type in that old URL www.mpbconline.org.

The new site not only has a fresh, new look, but it also has new and improved capabilities. Just a few clicks on the site will reveal the expanded capacity to include photos and videos associated with our ministries. It also handles online registration and donations with ease!

Biblically speaking, the new site is reminiscent of Matthew 9:17, “Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.” In other words, containers matter. As we move into our next phase on our journey of faith together, we anticipate a lot of newness. In many ways, the new website is a new container, a brand new wineskin. It has been carefully crafted and ready to hold that brand new wine.

...Continued on page 3

Chancel Choir to Celebrate its 50th Retreat!

By Barbara Mishoe and Jane Huddle
Co-Chairs of the 50th Retreat Celebration

It is hard to believe that the Chancel Choir has been retreating every Labor Day weekend for 50 years! In 1964, Jim Berry, former Minister of Music, initiated what is now known as the Chancel Choir Retreat at Fort Caswell, NC. Over the course of 50 years, the choir has retreated at the beach and the mountains but has found that the mountains are their favorite spot. We currently trek to the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, NC. Our tradition is rich with music making in the learning and rehearsing of music for worship in the fall & winter. It is also an important time of making new friends, re-connecting with others and sharing fun and fellowship with lifelong friends.

A typical day at retreat includes rehearsals in the morning and early evening, free time in the afternoon with an intergenerational event in the evening. We have participated in many talent and variety shows, dances and joke telling sessions over the years. Many children of choir members grew up with fond memories of a “non-stop, fun-filled” weekend of game rooms, sports, creek stomping, climbing towers, and sharing their talents in the talent show.

This 50th retreat will include a Sunday

...Continued on page 10

Start-Up Weekend
September 6 and 7

By Robin Coira

Cornwell Open House
Saturday 9:00-Noon

Join us on Saturday, September 6 at the Cornwell Center for a potpourri of activities for all ages. Fitness highlights will include invigorating Barre, energetic dance with Andre, soothing Tai Chi, Yoga, Cycle, Boot Camp, Weight Training, TRX, Pilates and more! If you have not yet taken advantage of our Cornwell Center offerings, this will be a great day for you to explore the many options available to you.

Toddlers through high school youth can experiment with sports like soccer, tennis and t-ball or enjoy dance and backyard games. In addition, the Cornwell staff will be available to share information with you about classes, our afterschool program, camps and party hosting.

Artist-in-residence, Greg Scott, will be on hand to provide art demonstrations and experiential activities. And we will provide lots of resources for healthy living: recipe sharing; workshop snippets; and eating nutritionally. Please join us and learn about all the wonderful opportunities that await you at Cornwell!

Start-Up Sunday
Sunday School Classes will begin at 9:30
Finding God: Sacred Spaces and Places

By Everett Goodwin

Summer’s more leisurely pace brings many opportunities. One is that I can often catch up on reading the stacks of newsletters, newspapers and books that accumulate in busier times. Sometimes good thoughts and new ideas emerge from the least expected places.

For example, a newsletter from Harvard Memorial Church’s Jonathan Walton reflected on the transformations occurring in higher education, especially the impact of technological innovation. Professor Walton noted the possibilities created by web-enhanced teaching spaces and on-line instruction, multimedia instruction and collaborative learning environments. All these will promote intellectual expansion and cross-pollination in remarkable ways, and all will dismantle boundaries and barriers that have sometimes limited academic and intellectual life.

But Walton also asserted that such changes have made Memorial Church’s role in the heart of the university’s “Yard” more important than ever: “During times of rapid change we all need an axis mundi, a place of centering and connection to that which is sacred,” he wrote. The church – in all its divisions and expressions – has a long history of dealing with change, yet its rituals and beliefs also have affected change as much as churches themselves have changed. And the church, however it has itself changed, points to God, ever changing, yet changeless.

When Johannes Gutenberg invented moveable type, thus ultimately putting a copy of the scriptures in everyone’s reach, many feared that it would destroy faith. Since then churches have been embroiled in successive controversies over whether typewriters, phones, answering machines computers and other new office technologies would destroy parish life. I remember some of them personally: Less than a generation ago my predecessor in one church created a controversy when he proposed the purchase of an electronic stencil maker that would allow their publications to include graphics. I ran into similar winds later, in another church, when I proposed that we produce our print materials exclusively with copy machines. Both churches are still standing!

I am confident that MPBC’s next Senior Minister will be challenged to lead this church through even more changes made necessary or possible by technology – some of which we are not yet even aware. But MPBC’s mission will continue – as a sacred space that enables those who enter and participate to connect, consider and determine the things that are truly eternal and to reflect them in ministry to a community and world that are both also changing.

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I had no sooner put down one article when another arrived via an internet source – speaking of technological change! This one reminded us that the single greatest challenge to faith is not technology or change, but the reality of human suffering. It is the question we both hear and ask. “If God is a good and loving God, why is life so hard?” Why do good people get cancer? Why are babies born only to starve to death? Why do the accounts of deadly earthquakes and terrorist attacks dominate the news? Why?

That is a question we are likely never to answer fully. But one consideration is a question in return: “Where did we get the idea that faith was supposed to make anyone exempt from the routine and ordinary human condition?” Neither theology nor technology has provided an answer to that question. It is a question as old as the Book of Job and continues in urgency today. When we turn to the scriptures for understanding we find some wonderful stories that seem to demonstrate God’s protection from peril: When Joseph interpreted Pharaoh’s dream both Egypt and Joseph’s family were spared from a deadly famine. Esther’s boldness to the Persian King diverted Haman from carrying out his genocidal plan against the Hebrews. Peter was rescued from Herod’s murderous plan by an angel who released him from his shackles in the middle of the night. Many more have been recorded then and since.

But despite these accounts of protective miracles, we remember others; Joseph was rejected by his brothers and sold into slavery, and later was jailed on false charges. Esther had been forced into a pagan’s harem and abused; both Peter and Paul were spared disasters and their ministries continued, but they were not spared from beatings, prison and in Peter’s case, a martyr’s death. Jesus healed some and restored life to others, but not all. Holy Week reminds us that despite our belief that Jesus was the Son of God, he died a hideous death on a cross.

The Bible depicts life as a mixture of highs and lows. It describes places of incredible joy and spaces of deep sorrow, including glimpses of God’s goodness and convincing encounters with evil’s malice. If everyone of faith was exempt from illness, injury or suffering, all that would prove is our self-centeredness. The church is a retreat not from any possibility of suffering. It is a refuge where God’s presence is evident and God’s compassion is available.

That article included an observation from a man who lamented his personal sorrow, and then said, “But where the sun shines all the time is barren desert. My life has needed the shadows and storms to acquaint me with humility in my own life and compassion for others in their pain. With all of that, I am sure that life works just as it should.” Faith does not provide a pass from suffering. It does promise God’s presence in our suffering, and God’s promise for the future.

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Thinking of sunny skies and barren deserts, as you receive this newsletter, Jane and I are in my native California visiting family. We will also be spending time in the sacred space of the High Sierra mountain country where I spent many summers as a child and youth. Those mountains’ rugged beauty and exacting challenges shaped me tremendously.

Spend summer’s remaining days lavishly! As August’s weeks come to an end, be sure to plan to join us for Start-Up Sunday and, not long after, our first Wonderful Wednesday when it will be a pleasure to introduce my friend, Bob Levey, long-time columnist for the Washington Post and astute observer of Washington’s ways, as our guest speaker.
Milestones
(as of June 15, 2014)

DEATHS/LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:
• Stella Thurston and her family on the death of her brother, Fred Rutledge, of Athens, GA, on June 7.
• Anne Crabtree and her family on the death of her husband, Claude (Bill) W. Crabtree, of Charlotte, NC, on June 18.
• Judy Murphy and her family on the death of her husband, and Kate Green and her family on the death of her uncle, Dennis Murphy, of Charlotte, NC, on June 19.
• Bob and Carolyn Ruppenthal on the death of their son, and Jeff and John Ruppenthal on the death of their brother, Steven Fiske Ruppenthal, of Arlington, VA, on June 20.
• Cathy Hasty and Mark Larson on the death of his father on June 21.
• Elaine Price-Hudson and her family on the death of her mother, Edna Boatwright Price, of Florence, SC, on July 2.
• Chaz and Peggy Seale and their family on the death of their daughter-in-law, Jeanne Carlson, of northern Virginia, on July 9.
• Melinda Richardson and her family on the death of her mother, Nova June Myrtle Clyburn, of Lancaster, SC, on July 10.

BIRTHS/CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• John and Linda Staton and their family on the birth of their granddaughter, Louisa Elizabeth Quinn, on May 20.
• Bruce and Suzie Harned and their family on the birth of their granddaughter, Isabella Suzanne Mangum, on June 25.
• Brittany Sprayberry and Damian Sekielewski and their family on the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Grace Sekielewski, on July 3.
• Ed and Dottie Hinson and their family on the birth of their grandson, David Eugene Hinson, on July 8.

WEDDINGS/CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Margaret Nolan Melvin and Todd Joseph Ritter on their wedding on June 28.

New Wineskins for New Wine

...Continued from page 1

As is true of all experiences of growth and newness, we are sure to encounter some hiccups and bumps along the way. We know that you will be patient and gracious with all of the staff and lay leaders as we figure out the kinks and address them as quickly as possible. We say, “Thanks be to God” for that! We also recognize that this new website is a huge undertaking and will require constant editing, writing and re-writing. Please let our Communications Director, Laura Geer (lgeer@mpbconline.org), know if you notice anything that needs revision.

Great and deep thanks to Charlie Elber and Lou Kinard for this wonderful gift!

Leadership Training Returns

By Robin Coira

If you have a leadership position in the Church or want to enhance your leadership skills, we will be offering an Introduction to Leadership training in October. We will meet from 6:30 until 8:30 on October 8, 15 and 22. In January we will be offering a more in-depth workshop on leadership. The dates to save are January 21, 28, February 4 and 11. Please look for more information in next month’s newsletter.

Start-Up Weekend

...Continued from page 1 followed by worship at 11:00. Everett Goodwin will be preaching and we will share Communion with one another. Following worship, we will gather for a barbecue lunch in Heaton Hall prepared by our own kitchen volunteers. We are asking for contributions of $5.00 for adults and $2.50 for children. I hope you will save these dates and plan to be with us as we begin another great year together at Myers Park Baptist Church.

August Loose Plate Offering Recipient

By Cheri Lindblom

The loose plate offering for August will benefit the Charlotte Community Health Clinic. The clinic provides quality, low-cost, compassionate health care to uninsured, low-income residents of Mecklenburg County who lack access to care. For more information, please visit www.charlottecommunityhealthclinic.org.

August: Save The Date

August 3  Dr. Bill Leonard preaching
August 10  Rabbi Judy Schindler preaching
August 24  Congregational Meeting
...Continued from page 3

From the Northeast to the Deep South, and from the West Coast to the Midwest, we are discovering churches that stir us with innovative worship styles, inspire us with a strong commitment to outreach, and excite us with creative ways of staying relevant in our ever-changing world.

Meanwhile, we also are moving ahead with the core work of our search. We are reviewing materials from those who have reached out to us, and reaching out to those who have been recommended by our many sources. We are reading and listening to sermons, and working together every week to talk about the gifts and talents that each candidate might bring as our new Senior Minister.

From the beginning, God has reminded us that we are never alone. When Jacob was sent from his home on a journey, God came to him in dream, saying: “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.” (Genesis 28:15) Like Jacob, and like churches living into a spirit of ecumenism and openness across the U.S. and around the world, our Search Group prayerfully looks to God to be with Myers Park Baptist Church, and to watch over us all, wherever we go.

Please keep our group and our work in your prayers, and please contact us with any questions. Thank you for your continued support. ■

Financial Report
(as of June 30, 2014)

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5-in-1 Unified Mission Offering $29,416 ■

Kick off the new church year at “DreamFest 2014” with food, fellowship and fun

By Todd Rubenson, Member, Annual Operating Budget SLG

What could be better than a cool, breezy Saturday afternoon in September, picnicking and taking in live music with all your favorite people? Not much, in our view – that’s why the Stewardship Servant Leadership Group is inviting the entire MPBC congregation to come out for a fun-filled picnic on the Burwell Lawn of Queens University (directly across from MPBC) Saturday afternoon, September 27, from 4-7pm.

We’ll have plenty of food, fun and fellowship, live music and dancing. We’ll reconnect after our summer activities and travel, and rekindle our most ambitious dreams for our faith community for the new church year.

Please save the date on your calendar, and 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! ■

EarthKeepers Helping Youth

By Kate Green

If you’ve been around church on Thursdays around 1:00pm you may have noticed 30 young people, 11-18 years old, walking around our campus. They are part of an ecumenical Christian organization named Passport, which has partnered with Queens University to host the youngsters, during a week-long camp experience devoted to outreach featuring sessions on environmental stewardship. EarthKeepers were asked to show the youth our solar panels, Friendship Garden and to talk with them about our recycling efforts. The camps ran from June 19-July 24 and EarthKeepers spoke to almost 200 youth who went back to their home congregations with ideas on how they can be good stewards of God’s creation. Thanks go to Bob Thomason, Beth Walters and Ed Williams, along with EarthKeepers who participated, Sonya Dyer, Virginia Weitz, Dottie Burnside, Mary Lou Buck, Rosemary Neill, Cathryn Rivers and myself. ■

Deacon Chair Advisory Council

By Barbara Linney
Chair, Board of Deacons

The new governance structure set up the Deacon Chair Advisory Council to deal with tough issues or emergencies that come up in the Church. The Council is made up of the Chair of the Board of Deacons, the Chair-Elect, the past Chair, the Chair of the Strategic Planning Council, and three deacons who are elected each year by the Board of Deacons—three people they think would be good at dealing with tough things. Last year the people on the council were Cliff Jarrett, Barbara Linney, Bob Thomason, Bonnie Banks, Todd Rubenson, and Ed Williams. This year the members are Barbara Linney, Todd Rubenson, Bob Thomason, Dale Allison, Janet Miller, and Ed Williams. ■
Autumn Harvest Brings Barbara Brown Taylor

By Bruce Elliott
For over 15 years Myers Park Baptist Church has been hosting the Jesus in the 21st Century series each October, providing a cornucopia of leading theologians and speakers who have visited and shared with us their perspective on the Christian faith. This year we will have an especially bountiful harvest of ideas, insights and inspiration that may well continue to nourish our community long after the weekend. Barbara Brown Taylor is one of the foremost public theologians and speakers of our time, and she is coming to be with us October 17-19!

An ordained Episcopal priest, the Reverend Taylor spent 15 years in parish ministry before leaving to focus on writing books and teaching college religion classes. This April she released her 13th book, Learning to Walk in the Dark, which subsequently made the NY Times bestseller list and was the cover story of Time Magazine’s April 28th edition. In the same issue, the magazine also named her to their list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World for 2014.

Whether writing about great theological and spiritual issues or her experiences as a parish priest, Rev. Taylor writes with humility, candor and a keen eye for detail. She is a master story-teller who speaks the way she writes, with an understated elegance and erudition leavened with a common touch that invites us to relate her stories directly to our own lives. Once you experience her speaking in person, you’ll understand why the renowned divinity school at Baylor University named her one of the 12 greatest preachers in the English-speaking world (out of 1,500 nominees worldwide).

Yet in spite of her many accolades and accomplishments, Reverend Taylor remains uncommonly connected to what is real. She shares stories from her life with bracing transparency and authenticity, candidly acknowledging her own shortcomings and limitations. She acknowledges her fear of the unknown, her familiarity with divine absence, mistrust of conventional wisdom and doubt about the health of her own soul. And though she is a master of the language, she recognizes the limits of all language to convey what an experience of God’s presence is truly like.

After years of speaking engagements in the U.S. and elsewhere, today Reverend Taylor spends more of her time at her home in northeast Georgia, where she and husband Ed run a small farm. She seldom accepts multi-day invitations, so we are especially blessed to host this rare opportunity to explore her work with much greater depth and reflection than is normally possible. Much of the weekend will center around her new book and its themes of lunar spirituality.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to be with us in October. Registration for the Saturday program opens on August 1, and we strongly recommend that you not delay in signing up. As word of her weekend at MPBC spreads, we are anticipating a workshop that will be sold out and with a potentially long waiting list. So please reserve your place the first two weeks in August, and join us at the harvest table being prepared for your enrichment.

Men’s Retreat Led By Dr. Bill Leonard

By Joe Aldrich
All MPBC men are invited and encouraged to sign up now for the fall retreat, October 24-26. This is an opportunity you will not want to miss! Bill Leonard will be leading our conversations focusing on the idea (from our Church Covenant) that we are a people on a JOURNEY OF FAITH. He will introduce the idea of covenant, emphasizing that it is less about what you believe than how you act in the world and with one another. Interested? It will also be a great time to build relationships with other men from your community of faith. Join us in Black Mountain, NC. Questions? Contact Joe Aldrich (jaldrich@mpbconline.org).

Women’s Retreat: September 26-28

By Chrissy Williamson and Pattie Butler
In our heart of hearts, many of us yearn for a deeper connection with ourselves, with God and with others. In our individual lives and journeys, we encounter challenge and success, darkness and light. In the ebb and flow of life, we realize just how much we need one another as a community of seekers on the path.

In our covenant at MPBC we say that “We are a people on a journey of faith.” We are not alone on this path, rather; in community we covenant to share the journey with others. You are invited to join with other women for a retreat. Together, we will slow down, look inward, create precious space, experience presence with ourselves and with God, and support one another as we pause to consider this sacred journey and its importance in our lives.

Retreat leaders are Pattie Butler and Chrissy Williamson. All MPBC women are welcome! Registration and online payment ($150/pp) is available on our new church website! Sign up early, this event filled up the last time it was offered!
In lieu of a sermon, on Senior Sunday, the members of the class of 2014 elected to let 5 seniors do the talking! Three testimonies appeared in the July newsletter; we share two more with you here.

By Cooper Kinsey

It's hard to imagine that only seven years ago, I entered 6th grade and middle school. Also seven years ago, I graduated into the youth group at Myers Park Baptist Church; and like graduating middle school and soon to be high school, there is no looking back. I can piece together my very first time coming to youth, walking up those stairs and seeing the giant open room, with a bunch of giant high schoolers and adults - keep in mind I was a good six inches shorter than I am now - so everything seemed really big. I recall the tasty food, which usually was pizza or some sort of pasta, and then going off and sitting with my other little friends on a sectional sofa. For me, it was a tad overwhelming at first, but everyone involved from adult leaders to other youth made the process of coming to youth group easier for me because I knew I was included. Having the feeling of being included can happen at only one place; not at school, not in the real world, but in that Youth Hall. This is something I just realized at the beginning of senior year and last fall.

Be the open, heart-warming, kind “big kid” who all the middle schoolers and the other high schoolers looked up to; and I learned that first-hand.

During this time of awkward adolescence, a bunch of memories were made and shared between our senior class. All the Kanuga trips, beach camps, mission trips, choir retreats, you name it, there is always a good story that can be told. With each retreat or trip the majority of us went on, the closer we got to one another. Flash back to 8th grade when our discipleship class went to Camp Thunderbird for our last get-together before being baptized. You all probably expect us to learn the bible and get closer to God, but instead, we made flour bombs out of flour and pantyhose and hit each other with it while playing capture the flag. Garrett always had a weird way of getting the Word across to us, but in his own way it worked. Most recently and perhaps my favorite memory happened at Kanuga this year. It was Sunday morning and we had our own youth church service before we left for home. The message was a speech given by each of the six seniors who were present. Abbie and Marissa wrote speeches the night before, and typical bros like Patrick, Skylar, Joe and I went up there and winged it - and to clear the air no this speech is not being winged - I put more time into this one. All six of the speeches brought us to tears, knowing that this is our last trip together at Myers Park Baptist. After the last speech was given I remember us huddling around like football players do, each crying and vowing to each other that wherever we go after high school, that we all would stick together, make the effort to see each other, we let each other know that if you are down, you have someone who can bring you up; and that is something that I love about each and everyone of you and this Church.

If I could, I would give a shout out to everyone for making Myers Park Baptist a terrific Church home for me and our senior class. I know for a fact next fall at East Carolina University, I will miss the Sundays and the 5 o’clock rehearsals, and then 6 o’clock youth groups, but I know deep in my heart that you all will always be with me no matter where I go, or any of us goes for that matter. Thanks for making it a great and spectacular seven years!

By Joe Trenning

Ever since birth, I have been a part of Myers Park Baptist Church. I did not know it then, but I had entered not one, but two families. I’ve grown up in this place, and many people have watched as I have matured and become the person I am today. Many times I pass people around the Church and hear them say “Wow, you’ve grown! I remember when you were just this big.” The answer my mom gives is “Yeah, look what happens.” When I was in Through-The-Week School, this moment wasn’t even close to being in my head. I was focused on when snack time was, and getting my Through-The-Week School diploma so I could move onto God’s Garden, and more importantly, the awesome movie theater that is within it. God’s Garden flew by, and the next thing I knew I was a 6th grader, standing in the Youth Hall. Little did I know that the Youth Hall and the people within would change my life. I had never been around such an optimistic, joyful and loving group of people. Within the first year, I made friends that will last a lifetime. It has been great to have a place with people that I know I can count on; a place where I can be myself and be accepted for that. The most important thing not only youth group has taught me, but the Church as a whole, is to be open to all and closed to none. That is a value that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. There is too much hate in the world we live in, and although I am only one person, being nice and open to everybody can make a difference. I thank MPBC everyday for showing me that being open to all is the best way to live. I’m going to miss this place and the people within it so much. The trips that have been taken will live in my memory forever. I’ve made 7 or 8 friends who are so close to me that I can call them brothers; you can’t find that in a lot of places. As sad as it is to leave, it’s just as exciting to begin a new chapter of my life, and I couldn’t be more grateful that MPBC helped get me to this point.

“And who is my neighbor?”

By Chris Hughes

That’s the question the lawyer asks that prompts Jesus to tell one of his most fascinating parables – the one we call the parable of the Good Samaritan. And it is the same question that confronted our youth during the Mission NOT Trip, June 23-28.

Throughout the youth ministry program, we have adopted a model which carries youth through a series of mission opportunities in the summer: an international trip, a national trip, a regional trip and a local trip. This is purposeful and practical: it exposes youth to a variety of ways to live out their calling to be Jesus people in the world, and it also makes trips more accessible to families who may not be able to pack up their youth every summer and send them off across the world. And so, for the first time in this mis-
sion cycle, we went out to serve as missionaries—not to neighbors across the globe or across the country, but to those neighbors right here in our own city.

Over the course of five days, between 18 to 25 youth gathered each day at the Family Tree, an intentional ministry community in the Enderly Park neighborhood. We worked to transform an old shed into a new arts studio, a place where the youth of that neighborhood could gather to create and imagine and perform. Each day we worked from 8:00 until 4:00, doing the arduous work of taking off layers of old wood and shingles, re-leveling the foundation and renewing this very old structure. And we got a lot of tangible work done.

What’s more were the intangibles of our week: we paused at noon to say midday prayers, a practice shared by every member of the Family Tree every day. We shared meals together. We worked alongside folks from very different walks of life. And we made friendships with people we never would’ve met otherwise until we shared in work, prayers, meals and fellowship.

While we might think that it is the mission trips that take us the furthest away that can have the most impact, I believe it might actually be the opposite. It’s the ones closest to us that can have the biggest impact. Like the Samaritan in the parable, the people we went to serve are people we may very well pass by in our everyday lives. And we can connect with them not through pity but through compassion and connection. Our youth know what it’s like to need a place of expression and community. Why not help others do the same?

And we, like the man in the ditch, learned that help can come from anywhere and from anyone. We worked side by side with people whose lives are very different from our own, yet who were just as willing to give their time and resources and passions to something bigger than themselves. We were served and changed and helped just as we went to serve and change and help.

Why do I believe the Mission NOT Trip is so impactful? Because there is still work to be done and because our neighbors are still there—just across town. The question is whether we will keep it going. Who is your neighbor? And how can you love them as you love yourself and love God with everything that you have? Wonderful questions for us today, even if they came from a lawyer!

Promotion Sunday
By Chris Hughes

There are moments in life when we as a Church acknowledge a life transition. Moving from the children’s ministry into the youth ministry is one of those moments. On Sunday, August 24 we will recognize our rising 6th graders during 10:00am worship. We invite all families with youth beginning 6th grade this fall to participate. Rising 6th graders will come to the front of the Sanctuary during worship and will receive a special blessing as they transition to the youth ministry.

Following worship, our new youth and youth families are invited to a lunch and short orientation to the youth program. This is a chance for us all to meet in a small group and for youth to become acquainted with the youth space and the youth program. Lunch will be $3. Please RSVP on the youth website.

August Youth Events:
6 - Social @ Ben & Jerry’s on Providence Road, 5:30pm
13 - Soccer @ MPBC, 5:30pm
24 - Promotion Sunday

Sunday School Resumes September 7
By Carrie Veal

God’s Garden
This approach for our 1st-5th graders allows children to learn the stories of our faith through a variety of learning styles in the form of workshops: storytelling, art, cooking, creative movement/games, drama, and cinema. Each workshop leader teaches for 4 or 5 weeks at a time. There is a sign-up board for leaders in Heaton Hall Foyer.

Another critical component to God’s Garden are our class shepherds. These are the adults who will take children to their workshops as well as connect with the children in a deeper way. Shepherds are a part of a team and serve two Sundays a month.

As we prepare for a new church year, please be thinking and praying about your role in the lives of the children of our Church. If you would like more information, please contact me at cveal@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232, x18.

Preschool Sunday School Ministry
Sunday School will be offered to our Toddlers and 2’s through TK/K children using a variety of teaching materials and methods to teach Bible stories.

Teachers will commit to four Sundays at a time and will be given their lessons a month ahead of time. You may sign up for a particular month and age group on the bulletin board in Heaton Hall Foyer.

If you are interested in teaching or need more information, contact me at cveal@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232, x18.

Teacher Training
Wednesday, August 27
6:30-7:30pm

By Carrie Veal

Teacher Training will be provided for all adults who will be a part of God’s Garden or our Preschool Sunday School. We will have Child Protection Policy training as well as general teaching tips. Participants are welcome to bring supper for themselves. Childcare will be provided for those who request it no later than August 20. For more information, please contact me at 704.334.7232, x18 or cveal@mpbconline.org.

Children’s Ministry Greeters

By Carrie Veal

As we look ahead to the fall, we are looking for volunteers to help families with children get to where they need to be on Sunday mornings and be a friendly face to all who bring their children to Church. This new piece of the ministry will add to the already wonderful atmosphere we have. Volunteers will be trained and given an extensive tour of all the rooms used by the children. If you would like to serve as a greeter once every few weeks, please contact me at cveal@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232, x18.
Thank You, Cooking Together for Our Community

By Cheri Lindblom

After 5 years, Cooking Together for Our Community (CTOC) is taking a break. This amazing group has created homemade meals for our community partners who serve the hungry. I remember the day Beth Handford came into my office (a brand new church member) and had an "idea" to start an outreach project in which the members of our congregation could gather together to make a meal and deliver it to those in need. Over the last five years, they have made meals or lunches for the following outreach partners:

- Dove’s Next
- The Relatives
- Women In Transition at the YWCA
- Community School for Girls Lunches
- Bruce Irons’ Camp
- Pinewood Panther Camp
- Cookies for Kids with Cancer

Their most recent project was leading an AMAZING program for our Pinewood Freedom School scholars. The scholars participated in Cardio Funk with Andre (and what an inspiration that was for the kids); they then participated in a nutrition and cooking exercise. The scholars picked fresh squash and green onions from the Pinewood garden, cooked them with other vegetables and added fresh basil, sauce, and cheese to whole wheat crusts for vegetable pizzas. They all tried something new thanks to the encouragement of CTOC. One scholar loved the basil so much that he asked for a plant so he could grow it at home. They finished off with fruit pizzas for dessert. It was a memorable and healthy adventure for everyone.

A heartfelt thanks to Beth Handford and Carol Huffman for the inspiration and passion which started CTOC, an amazing ministry that served the needs of our community and provided fellowship and friendship for all of those who were involved.

A note - CTOC has a model which is set and ready for a new group to take over. If you are interested, please contact Cheri Lindblom, clindblom@mpbconline.org.

Dedication at McCreesh Place

By Bob Bishop

Several MPBC members were present for a very special event on July 10 at McCreesh Place (Supportive Housing Communities). A dedication was held for a new ice machine. Yes! . . . an ice machine! Our very own Reverend Barry Metzger led a large group of residents, staff, friends and donors in prayer.

This was a very special day for the 90 plus residents of the McCreesh Place as they had never had access to ice since the facility opened some 10-plus years ago. This could not have happened if it weren’t for the generosity of our MPBC members. A special thank you goes out to Jeff and Lynn Trenning for their kind donation and support. Thank you also to everyone who helped make 90-plus men (and staff) very happy and cool, especially during these hot summer days.

Also, I just must mention that our Reverend Barry Metzger can now add, with honor, the distinction of dedicating "ice machines" to his resume, just in case someone should need such a service.

Vikki Yeghoyan - A Haiti Update

By Cheri Lindblom

Haiti has been hit hard by the mosquito-borne virus Chikungunya (translated, "bent over with pain"), causing fever, joint pain and swelling, and headache. Tylenol and Ibuprofen ease the symptoms, however, having those medications is a luxury for the Haitians.

If you would like to help make sure these medications are available to our friends in Haiti, please contact Vikki Yeghoyan at: vy4haiti@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your continuous support.
Your Financial Support of Critical Needs

By Jane Huddle, Chair, Finance and Budget SLG
and Jill Kinney, Chair, Ministry of Property and Grounds

On behalf of the Ministry of Financial Resources and the Ministry of Property and Grounds, we would like to thank the congregation for its support of the critical needs highlighted in the June 2014 newsletter. Your contributions will cover the costs of the Education Building flat roof replacement and as noted in the article, extra contributions are going to the First Phase of the Signage Project. The roof replacement will be completed by the end of July and the drainage issues have been addressed. We are anticipating that the most critical outside light fixture replacements will be completed by startup Sunday in September with other Phase 1 signage efforts being done as contributions allow. We hope you are as excited as we are that these needs are being addressed. Thanks again for your support.

Property and Grounds Update

By Jill Kinney,
Chair, Ministry of Property and Grounds

If you haven't heard or seen the progress, there are a lot of projects going on this summer on our property and grounds! The flat roof project on our Education Building is close to completion. There will be new drainage covers which will resolve the leaks and problems we experienced with our interior downspouts. The spouts have been cleared and water is now running freely. Our thanks to our own Robert Barfield who has been overseeing the project as well as developing the working documents for Baker Roofing and MPBC.

The next project underway is the new lamp posts with new signage along the walkway between the Sanctuary and the Education Building. Through-the-Week School purchased their lamp post and sign which will be visible from Roswell Avenue. An exciting addition to the new lamp posts will be uplighting from the base to enable the signs to be read at night.

The Landscape Committee has the go-ahead to start the new garden in front of the Conference Room this fall. There will also be a major cleanup effort in front of the TTWS Roswell entrance which will provide a great welcome as you enter.

All of the cabling and routing systems and most of the new computers have been installed for the staff. The staff is grateful and loving the great advancement of this project. The software which the staff had been using was out of date and obsolete. The new software allows for a much higher level of efficiency, communication and work productivity. More on this project later. We are very excited to report that our new website will launch by August 1 -- so check it out!

New projects are popping up every day. We are currently researching options for a new kitchen hood for the large commercial range. New regulations require a hood system which covers the surface of the stove. New projects are popping up every day. We are currently researching options for a new kitchen hood for the large commercial range. New regulations require a hood system which covers the surface of the stove.

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Chancel Choir Celebrates 50th Retreat

...Continued from page 1 afternoon reception and memory video to help celebrate our anniversary. If you have been in the choir in the past and would like to learn more about this event, please contact Jane Huddle (jhuddle1@carolina.rr.com) or Barbara Mishoe (barbara.mishoe@att.net).

The Church is most grateful for the forethought and vision of W. Frank Dowd, Jr., who many years ago established the Elizabeth and Sally Dowd Music and Worship Fund for the purpose of assisting in expenses for this retreat so that all families wanting to attend, could attend. We are also partially funded from our Annual Operating Budget for which we are very grateful. We believe the worship experience at Myers Park Baptist Church is enhanced by the quality work the choir does during the weekend and we are truly grateful for the opportunity each year and for the Church’s support.

Mixed age family classes are being offered on Mondays OR Wednesdays:
- Mondays, 4:00-4:45pm beginning September 8 and running for 9 weeks
- Wednesdays, 4:00-4:45pm beginning September 10 and running for 9 weeks
Each class has a minimum/maximum enrollment of 6-12 children.

Registration Information:
- Registration opens August 1 for Church member families returning to our MT program.
- Registration opens August 15 for Church member families new to our MT program.
- Registration will be processed on a first come, first served basis.
- Payment deadline is September 1 for the fall session.

Tuition Costs are:
- First Child: $110.00 for returning families
- Siblings: $60.00* (children 8 months and younger are free with a registered sibling)
- New Families pay $15.00 (one time, non-refundable registration fee)

- Register by August 20 for a $5 discount + a $5 coupon for Winter Session.

Enrolled families will receive a weekly 45 minute class teaching a new song collection every fall, winter, and spring, a color illustrated songbook, CD of outstanding arrangements that are fun, sophisticated, and loved by children and grownups alike. Families also will have access to Music Together’s brand-new Family Music Zone where you can download the current song collection and explore fun content created just for you!

A couple of comments from a preschool mom and a participating grandparent:
- “We LOVED it!”
- “For MPBC grandparents, with little ones in Charlotte, MT is a phenomenal way to spend time with your grandchild! It is a rewarding 45 minutes of active rhythms, percussion, movement and singing, and a great way to get to know other parents and grandparents. Plus, you get to play the CD of the songs you are learning together in between times and enjoying hearing a delighted little one learning to sing and clap along!”

Please join us for this delightful music class.

Music Together is a global early childhood music and movement program for children now found in 2,500 communities in 40 countries. This developmentally-appropriate curriculum created and developed by Kenneth K. Guilmartin and Dr. Lili M. Levinowitz (Director of Research) in 1987, is based on the recognition that...

All children are musical.
They have a natural aptitude for music when given a supportive music environment. Children learn to sing and dance as naturally as they learn to walk and talk.

MPBC is excited to offer again to its Church members the mixed age family class for ages birth-4 years old.

This approach fosters natural, family-style learning where younger children enjoy watching and imitating older ones; older children learn by leading younger ones; and adults are happy because the children in the family can go to class together!

Each child participates at his or her own developmental level in singing, moving, chanting, listening, observing, or exploring musical instruments.

Parents, grandparents or nannies are welcome to bring their children to class. Parents don’t need to have music skills - they just need a desire to play and have fun with their children! Being an enthusiastic participant in musical activities the best thing you can do to set a child on the road to a lifelong love of music.

A FREE Demo Class will be offered on Saturday, August 23 10:00-11:00 in the RITI room
RSVP required to Fran Morrison at fmorrison@mpbconline.org or 704-334-7232 x 17.
Taking flight

Last month Ansley Grinde Melnik and the kids of Freedom School each took an airplane, (an English nickname for the Warrior 3 pose) to find courage. Among other learnings, they found that our word, courage derives from the Latin for heart. At the end of their journey they found that courage lies within one’s own heart center, or Anjali Mudra (prayer hands).

In related news, a Summer Camp that helps girls bring their practice to the next level with awesome Asana (yoga poses) and a choreographed Yoga dance party is titled…

- Girls (just wanna have fun) on the Mat! Aug 4-7, 9a-12p (girls, ages 6-8)

Art & Design

Ceramics by our own Greg Scott are among the items on display at CHROMA: Lyrical Lines and Compulsive Color, an exhibition at the Projective Eye Gallery at UNC Charlotte Center City. Trot on over and see Greg’s work featured along with the oil paintings of Linda Luise Brown, and acrylics and collage by Marge Loudon Moody.

While the exhibit runs through Sept. 24th, your chance to work with Greg continues well beyond that. Keep an eye on our web site for upcoming classes. Contact us about your own Independent Study with him.

Children and Youth

Registration for any of several activities and services for young people can be accessed on our Home page… some now, some soon.

Registration and information about Summer Camps continues on our home page. Here are some of note during August.

Different sport activities each day include basketball, gymnastics, soccer, t-ball, all finishing up with a water day on Friday!

- Tiny Tots Sports Camp (ages 3-5)
  Session 3: Aug 4-8, 8:30a-12:30p
  Session 4: Aug 18-22, 8:30a-12:30p

Board Certified Health Coach Carmen Johnson takes children where science, fun and silliness combine to teach them how different foods affect them from the inside-out.

- The Mischievous Sweet Tooth (ages 5-8) Aug 4-8, 12:30-2p

Brush off the sand and prep for kindergarten with fine motor and reading activities:

- Going to Kindergarten Club (ages 4-6)
  Session 2: Aug 4-7, 12:30-2p
  Session 3: Aug 11-14, 12:30-2p

Basketball League registration will be available with a link on our home page, beginning Sept 8th, for either of two divisions. These fill fast so put it on your calendar.

- Boys and Girls Divisions (ages 7-17)
- Co-Ed Division (ages 6 & under)

Our Elementary After School Program for 2014-15 has largely filled but Lauren Klitzch, lklitzsch@mpbconline.org, can tell you about remaining openings or place you on our wait list. Through-The-Week-School (preschool) After School availability is still good.

Learning, Technology, etc.

Many thanks to those of you who responded to the Senior Technology Survey we distributed several weeks back.

Most responses were on paper with about a third submitted as online responses. Most were from seniors who seemed to already have some grasp of the technology they were using and the needs they had. Good to see.

When we started our technology classes, almost eleven years ago, much of what you wanted was information about how to eMail and access the internet. Back then, Apple had only 10% of the consumer market. Digital photography was very new.

Now, a third of you are seeking help with Macs, iPhones and iPads. Your needs run from general operations to working with digital photos, saving to other devices, sending via eMail, working with the cloud, etc.

What all this says to me is that you want help with a broad range of devices (PC’s, Macs, tablets, phones, clouds…). You want to know more about how things work and how to make things work together. You aren’t totally new to this but you don’t want to speed through it either. Your time preferences run from Mon-Thurs, between 10a-4p.

We’re actively working on how to best meet your broad range of needs and interests. We hope to have something, small groups and/or tutorials, starting in late September. Stay tuned…

Our photo group is going well this summer with regular updates on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TheCornwellCenter

Come by and check us out.

- PHOTO Connections
  Third Wednesdays, 7-9p

Volunteer?

Our After School Program is seeking volunteers for the upcoming school year. We welcome van drivers and/or high school student "riders" seeking community service hours, between 2-4:30pm. Contact Lauren Klitzch, lklitzsch@mpbconline.org for more.

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DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2014 ISSUE IS 4:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15.
Max 450 words, subject to editing for space. Please email all submissions to the MPBC Communications Director, Laura Geer, at lgeer@mpbconline.org.