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The Prodigal Son Returns – Guest Preachers in August

By Ben Boswell

Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard

Sundays, August 12 and 19



The celebration of our 75th anniversary would not be complete without a visit from Dr. Bill Leonard. Bill has preached at Myers Park Baptist more than any church in America, including his home church First Baptist Church Highland Avenue in Winston-Salem, and we welcome the prodigal son home this August. Bill will continue his legacy of love and learning with our congregation by preaching and

leading TalkBack on back-to-back Sundays, August 12 and 19. August 19 is PRIDE Sunday and TalkBack will take a different form that Sunday, as Dr. Leonard has agreed to join our Church community in uptown Charlotte as we march in the PRIDE parade. All are welcome to join us to march shoulder-to-shoulder with Bill Leonard, and to proclaim God's loving embrace of LGBT+ people together.

In addition to being a beloved member of the Myers Park Baptist family, Dr. Leonard is the Dunn Professor of Baptist Studies and Professor of Church History at Wake Forest School of Divinity. His research focuses on Church History with particular attention to American religion, Baptist studies, and Appalachian religion. He is

the author or editor of 25 books including *Christianity in Appalachia* (1999); *Baptist Ways: A History* (2003); *The Challenge of Being Baptist* (2010); *Can I Get a Witness?: Essays, Sermons and Reflections* (2013); and *A Sense of the Heart: Christian Religious Experience in the U.S.* (2014). His newest book, *The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Church History: Flaming Heretics and Heavy Drinkers*, was published by Fortress Press in 2017. His sabbatical research focuses on a new book, tentatively entitled *Security or Idolatry?: A History of Religion and Firearms in the U.S.*

In March 2015, Dr. Leonard delivered the William James Lecture on Religious Experience at Harvard Divinity School and in February 2017 he gave the William Self Lectures on Preaching at McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University. Leonard is on the board of the Journal of Disability and Religion, The Baptist Quarterly (England), the Day1 Preaching Network, the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, and the Governing Board of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Leonard writes a twice-monthly column for *Baptist News Global*, and is an ordained Baptist minister. We are incredibly delighted to have Bill joining us to preach, march, and help us celebrate 75 years of ministry as a Church.

Lin Story-Bunce

Sunday, August 26



Lin Story-Bunce serves as Associate Pastor at College Park Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. Lin is a native of Lexington, NC, where her family still calls home. She earned a bachelor's degree in Math Education and Religion from Campbell University and a Master of Divinity degree from Wake Forest University School of Divinity. A lifelong athlete, Lin played soccer in college and was

undoubtedly the most skilled player in all intramural sports at Wake Forest. She is married to Caryanne Story-Bunce who is an educator in Greensboro. Together, Lin and Caryanne enjoy trying to keep up with their children, Loukas (3) and Maryn (1), and two energetic pups, Wake and Parker. Lin is a gifted teacher, preacher, and pastor, who has been in ministry at College Park for more than 10 years and has served in leadership capacities within the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists. ■

**A Time to Connect
with Ben and Each Other**

Monday, August 6 | Olde Mecklenburg
Tuesday, September 4 | Olde Mecklenburg
Monday, October 1 | TBD
Monday, November 5 | TBD
Monday, December 3 | TBD

Dave Dougherty (dave.n.dougherty@gmail.com) and Tucker Pearsall (tucker.pearsall@domtar.com) will serve as our hosts and points of contact for those who want to participate. ■

Hang Out
with the
Pastor

Save The Date For

Jazz in the Round

September 2

Labor Day Weekend

10:00a Worship

Heaton Hall

CHARLOTTE PRIDE

August 18-19

By Ryan LaPrade and Chrissy Williamson

LGBT+ Pride is the positive stance against discrimination and violence toward people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning or queer. It seeks to promote self-affirmation, dignity, and equality while raising awareness about sexual diversity and gender variance. Pride, as opposed to shame and social stigma, is the predominant outlook that bolsters most LGBT+ rights movements throughout our country and around the world. Charlotte's PRIDE Festival includes diverse national, regional, and local entertainers, musicians, and bands. It also hosts numerous vendor booths, including art exhibitors, area non-profits, political candidates, retailers, food stands, and more! Visit www.charlottepride.org/2018event for more information.

As an act of faith and solidarity with all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, MPBC participates in Charlotte PRIDE each year. In the past, we've been involved in interfaith worship services, the parade, and the opening ceremonies, as well as having a booth to show that we are welcoming and affirming of all people – open to all and closed to none.

This year, as we prepare for Charlotte's PRIDE Festival, there are a number of ways that you can get involved to support and stand in solidarity with our LGBT+ members and broader community.

For more information about PRIDE and our Church's involvement in these events, please contact Ryan LaPrade, Chair, Faith and Justice SLG at ralaprade@gmail.com.

Interfaith Service | St. John's Baptist Church
Sunday, August 12 | 4:00–6:00p

Join with people of many faiths at St. John's Baptist Church as we kick off the week-long PRIDE celebration with a service of love, support, and affirmation.

Charlotte PRIDE Festival | S. Tryon Street
Saturday, August 18 | Noon–10:00p

Sunday, August 19 | Noon–6:00p

Come enjoy the food, fellowship, and entertainment as you browse art and vendor booths, discovering the diversity of Charlotte's LGBT+ and ally communities. Sign up through the Church website to help staff our table and greet and meet the festival attendees.

Worship | MPBC Sanctuary

Sunday, August 19 | 10:00–11:00a

Worship with us on August 19 as we celebrate the diversity of God's beautiful creation. Then, in lieu of TalkBack, join Dr. Bill Leonard and a group of volunteers to represent the Church in the parade.

Charlotte PRIDE Parade

Sunday, August 19 | 1:00–3:00p

You won't want to miss this culminating event of Charlotte's PRIDE Festival! Join us at the parade as LGBT+ people and allies march in celebration and affirmation of sexual diversity and gender variance. To sign up to join our group go to www.myersparkbaptist.org/event/support-charlotte-pride-2. ■

Awakening to Immigrant Injustice Pilgrimage

By Chrissy Williamson

This month nearly 20 people from our congregation will embark on a sacred journey to listen, learn, and discern how God is calling them as individuals and us as a Church to seek justice for America's immigrants. The trip comes as a culmination of our year-long series, *Awakening to Immigrant Injustice*, which has helped open our eyes to the complex, convoluted, and in many ways inhumane ways newcomers are treated in this country. Following the path of any undocumented immigrant who is arrested in our city, we

will journey to Charlotte's immigration court, to York County jail, to Atlanta, and finally to Stewart Detention Center. Along the way we will listen to the people we meet. We will learn from advocates on the ground, working with and for immigrants every day, and we will discern next steps for ourselves and our Church.

If you would like to follow the trip online, updates will be available at www.awakeningshalom.com, on the Myers Park Baptist facebook page, and on our Instagram account @MPBaptist. ■



Start-Up Weekend Guest Speakers:

Ched Myers and Elaine Enns

September 9 – 10, 2018

By Chrissy Williamson



The 2018–2019 Church year will start up with powerhouse team Ched Myers and Elaine Enns leading us in worship and faith formation. Ched is an ecumenical, theological activist, teacher, writer, and organizer who works to renew the church and support faith-based movements for peace and justice. You may remember his work from our Theology Upstream podcast book study on *Our God is Undocumented*. Beyond his writing on theologies for hospitality and welcome, Ched has done tremendous work in jubilee and human connection with the land. Elaine is a Canadian Mennonite, a teacher, writer, facilitator, and trainer in conflict transformation. Her current work focuses on restorative justice and historical violations of justice which often include intergenerational trauma and healing. Through a series of events, Ched and Elaine will help us to understand the connection between humankind, our practice of faith, our bodies, and the earth. ■

Start-Up Weekend Schedule

Sunday, September 9

- 9:45 – 10:45a Forum with Ched Myers and Elaine Enns
- 9:45 – 10:45a Faith Formation for Children and Youth
- 11:00a - Noon Worship in the Sanctuary | Ched Myers, preaching
- Noon - 1:30p Lunch in Heaton Hall
- 4:00 – 6:00p Teach-In with Ched Myers and Elaine Enns

Monday, September 10

- 6:30 – 8:30p Podcast recording and live conversation with Ched and Elaine (Location TBD) ■



75th Anniversary Commissioned Anthem for Start-Up Sunday, September 9

By Fran Morrison



In June 2017, I approached Tom Trenney, Minister of Music at First Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, about writing a choral anthem for the Chancel Choir to commemorate our 75th anniversary year. I was drawn to Trenney's

work through an anthem of his I had purchased for the choir the previous summer and after singing in the adult choir he conducted at the Montreat Worship and Music Conference.

Tom Trenney, new to commissioned work but not to composing, is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and Eastman School of Music. He shares his passion



Tom Trenney

as pastoral musician, composer, and teacher in worship with his home congregation, in the college classroom, and in performances, hymn festivals, choral and organ workshops, and master classes all around the country.

For the text of the anthem, I gave him the beautiful prayer that Carol Reid Fricke, Chair of Strategic Planning Council, wrote entitled "A Prayer For Our Jubilee Plan." Tom is using the prayer to guide his text that speaks to our history, our diversity, our welcome, and our future.

The anthem, yet to be titled, will be sung by the Chancel Choir on Start-Up Sunday, September 9, during 11:00a worship. The instrumentation will be string quartet, flute, oboe, and organ. I hope that you can be present for this most special morning. ■

It Takes a Village (Really)

By Tucker Pearsall



I recently heard a mother of a young child at our Church telling about a connection her son has made with an unrelated adult member at our Church. She commented that "he (the child) really loves that (this adult) knows his name and talks to him." I don't know for sure, but I think this child is 5 years old. The adult . . . well, I really shouldn't guess.

Jeannie Steele. Marilyn Furman. Jim Templeton. Connie McCubbin. Jean Menzies. Some are still at MPBC, some have moved on, some have passed away. The common thread is that these are some of the many people who were involved in elementary and youth education when I was in these programs at MPBC so many years ago. I am fairly sure they still know my name and I definitely know theirs.

Interestingly, not one of these people has children very close to my age -- I did not have Sunday School (Faith Formation) with their kids. Some have older or younger children, some maybe have no children at all. Regardless, each of these great people made the effort to shape my memories, my connection to MPBC, and my life

through teaching Sunday School (Faith Formation).

Skip forward to today. I have two elementary-age children who love Faith Formation. The program that has been developed by our staff is excellent and very simple for our adult leaders to be able to lead. Simple cooking, art projects, readings, movies, etc. Everything is prepared, provided, and ready to go. My experience is that teaching an elementary class on Sunday takes well under an hour of preparation on my part.

In recent years, these teaching opportunities have been taken almost exclusively by the parents of the participating children. This is a missed opportunity for our children to get to know adults not directly related to their peer group, and for our adults to get to know and enjoy these amazingly bright and entertaining children. It worries me that my children may not know people like those mentioned above, as well as the many others who have helped over the years.

If you would like to help shape the memories, connections, and lives of our children, I invite you to reach out to Katie Hambrick, Rev. Carrie Veal, or Allen Davis and find out how you can start making these lasting impressions. My children and others will thank you for years to come. ■

The Power of Time

Children's Ministry Volunteer Training

Sunday, August 19 | 8:30 – 9:45a | Youth Hall

By Carrie Veal

There is always something new we can learn. There is always a new way we can answer God's call. There is always an opportunity to live out our Church covenant. On Sunday, August 19 we will offer a volunteer training for anyone who plans to or wants to learn how to serve in the Children's Ministry.

We will begin with breakfast then move into training around resources for teaching as well as our Child Protection Policy. Know you want to come? Contact Katie Hambrick, Children's Ministry Intern (khambrick@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x129). ■

Start-Up for Youth and Children's Choirs

By Charlotte Judge

Youth Choir Begins September 9



Youth Choir is open to all 6-12 graders who love to sing, learn a lot, practice hard, make friends, and have fun spending time together. We meet on Sunday evenings from 5:00 – 6:00p in Berry Hall and we lead in worship throughout the year. Registration for Youth Choir is available through myMPBC. Hope to see you there! ■

Children's Choirs Begin September 12



We will begin each week with a snack at 5:00p and then move through singing, movement, and instrument experiences. Each choir will lead in worship throughout the year. Registration for Children's Choirs is available through myMPBC. Coffee Chat for adults meets from 5:00 – 6:30p in the Parlor. Please make plans to attend! We need your voice. ■



Jesus the Christ in the 21st Century (J21)

Get Ready for Eboni Marshall Turman

Friday, October 12 – Sunday, October 14

By Chrissy Williamson

The J21 Servant Leadership Group is thrilled to welcome Eboni Marshall Turman this fall as our J21 speaker. Marshall Turman is a scholar and professor at Yale Divinity School where her research focuses on womanist theology. This important weekend comes not only as part of our J21 series, but the themes of Eboni's work will inform our year-long study of Awakening the Body. In addition to all that Eboni brings to us as a teacher, she is one of the best and most prophetic preachers of our day.

As you begin to prepare for this significant weekend, read more about her on our website at www.myersparkbaptist.org/jesus-21st-century.

Get to know her voice by following her on social media:

- Facebook - @Eboni Marshall Turman
- Instagram - @ebonithoughts
- Twitter - @ebonithoughts

Or watch some of her videos online:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8rXGMz1daQ>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_LB710TJD0
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPy-c1aLTN0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0piKZGx21s&t=1647s>

Registration opens on the Church website August 15, and tickets are \$10 for the weekend. ■



Claiming Your #METOO Going-Forward Story

with Facilitator Tambray Harris

By Chrissy Williamson

This Retreat is for women survivors of sexual abuse who have:

- Felt **encouraged by the collective voices** of women claiming their sexual abuse/ harassment stories,
- Wrestled with their **story keeping them stuck** and unable to live life fully and with vibrancy, and
- Desired to **claim their Going-Forward Story** through journaling exercises, reflection, and story boarding in an intimate, safe space

Retreat Details (4 Opportunities Starting in August)

- All retreats are held on **Saturdays from 9:00a – 5:00p** and include lunch
- Dates: **August 25, September 22, October 27, and November**

17, 2018

- Location: **Myers Park Baptist Church**, 1900 Queens Rd, Charlotte, 28207
- **Registration:** Contact Tambray Harris at tambryharris@bellsouth.net or 704.281.9637
- **Space is limited to 10 participants and cost is \$100** (includes lunch and all materials)

Facilitator Tambray Harris has a Masters degree in applied psychology and has been a certified coach for 18+ years and a certified Spiritual Director for 4+ years. She teaches a course on retreats at the Charlotte Spirituality Center. ■

Stephen Ministry at MPBC

By Joe Aldrich



We have been taught at MPBC since our founding in 1943 that we are called to be priests to one another, clergy to laity, laity to clergy, and laity to laity. We are all called to reach out to one another, to care for one another, to listen to one another, especially in times of crisis and distress. Too often I have heard, "But I am not trained to know what to say to others" or "Someone else would be a much better choice." Well, hear this good news! We are beginning a series of training sessions for our laity

September through November that will help train you to be a Stephen Minister. In these sessions you will learn about the art of listening, how to help others in times of grief, confidentiality, using mental health professionals, ministering to the dying, caring for people after discharge from the hospital, and additional topics. You will develop skills to help care receivers in their time of need. Interested? If so, please contact me at jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org. ■



Freedom School: 15 Years and Forward (into the Fall)!

By Laura Handler

Many, MANY thanks to the 75+ volunteers who served in some capacity to support Freedom School at Pinewood Elementary this summer, promoting the confidence, activism, and literacy skills of our community's youth. From guest reading during Harambee to buddy reading during DEAR time to supply shopping, serving dinner, leading activities, chaperoning field trips, and so much more, we are grateful for your energy, time, and smiles that filled these six weeks of learning! While next month we hope to share scholars' perspectives on the experience, below are the voices of MPBC members as they reflect on their outreach over the last six weeks:

I've had great fun reading six times with the same little boy who skips down the hall smiling and says, "Hi Barbara"—he brightens my day. – Barbara Linney

Reading during DEAR time at Pinewood is always a welcome break during my workday during the summer. There's the anticipation of which eager reader will come sit next to you and what treasured books they are bringing to read that day. Some dive into the books on their own, while the younger ones hand you a book with a toothy smile and big eyes waiting for you to start, yet each demonstrating in their own way joyfulness in sharing the time with someone. – Ashley Hardy

I have enjoyed being paired with and listening to a young scholar read aloud during the morning DEAR time. The college student interns are doing a good job helping these scholars choose books of interest to them which are in an appropriate reading level. I also had an opportunity to watch these enthusiastic interns in action at the first family evening supper program and Open House. These young adults have received extensive training and are such positive role models for the students! – Elizabeth Chaplin

It was always the highlight of my day to read with a scholar. I loved listening to them read, helping them read, and hearing about their favorite activities. – Fran Morrison

As a Harambee reader I enjoyed inquisitive calm of scholars as a group, as well as when chaperoning Discovery Place, where they showed persistence and delight at science tasks. I was amazed by the students and their unity with the staff in both experiences. – Dottie Burnside

My attendance at the Jubilee Celebration at Grady Cole Center – sheer joy and energy – made me so grateful for all those who make Freedom School possible for our kids! – Sidney Lockaby

The Freedom School scholars I read with were so proud of their reading and so excited to share it with me. The highlight of my day! – Barb Hopewell

This summer what struck me most were the smiles on faces—smiles when I got to read with kids (like Karen or Davion) during DEAR time, smiles on parents' faces at the parent night when we all played board games together, and smiles on faces when we sang "Mother Gooney Bird" together during an on-site activity about birds. This Freedom School summer really put a smile on my face. – Tara Harris

Please stay tuned for more details of MPBC's initiative to continue support of Pinewood Elementary throughout the school year! ■

Vacation Bible School - Thank You to All of Our Volunteers

By Katie Hambrick



Vacation Bible School is a timeless tradition. Not only does it bring the entire Church together, but it is a staple in each child's summer. As I've talked to volunteers and parents, I constantly heard comments about their memories of VBS and how special it was to them. These memories and lessons stick with our children throughout their lives. However, these memories would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of each of our volunteers. A special thank you to Kathryn Maltarich and Tempie Largen. These incredible women went above and beyond and dedicated months to planning and executing an amazing VBS. Without them, VBS would not have been so successful. Another special thank you to every volunteer, who took time out of their lives to invest in our children and the children of our community. Your hard work and dedication not only helped make VBS successful, but positively impacted the life of every child who attended. Also, we appreciate all who donated supplies. Your contributions were essential to a successful VBS. A final thank you goes to everyone for ensuring that the timeless tradition of VBS is enjoyed by ALL. ■

Youth Mission and Choir Trip**Outreach in NYC****By Ellie Dabbs**

This past June, the MPBC youth group was given a spectacular opportunity to take a service-based trip to New York City. The week was comprised of countless activities including service and seminars connected to immigration (the theme of our trip), must-see tourist attractions, and many conversations and reflections that strengthened our spirituality and the group's relationship as a whole. So much was packed into the 6-day journey that it is impossible to summarize in just one article, but I will do my best to cover the most influential experiences and greatest lessons.



Immigration was the main focus of our trip, and our experiences were especially powerful due to the relevancy and controversy surrounding this issue at the time of our trip. Two days involved educating the group about immigration. We actually met in the building that housed the faith-based branch of the United Nations, which was ridiculously cool in itself. Here we heard speakers ranging from artist and activist Marco Saavedra, the education and outreach director at a nonprofit aimed towards immigration reform and aid, Tania Mattos, and a preacher who played a role in a small film showcasing some of the issues concerning immigration. We also participated in an activity which had the group reflect on past bills and events that have affected immigration starting all the way from 1492!



We were able to use and reflect on these experiences during our service project. We partnered with El Nido, a nonprofit organization that shelters and guides new immigrant mothers through pregnancy up until the child is three years old. They provide baby clothes, formula, books, toys, Mommy & Me classes, yoga classes, and more! After learning more about the program, we were put to work, doing anything from sorting baby clothes, to cleaning toys, sorting and cleaning books, and assembling baby furniture. It was truly an enlightening experience, and gave us a tangible outlet for all of the information that we had taken from the seminars and speakers beforehand.



While we worked closely with service and immigration, we still made time for the classic NYC attractions and monuments. We visited the Guggenheim Museum, Ellis Island, the Brooklyn Bridge (plus the famous handmade ice cream shop in Brooklyn), the One World Trade Center, and Times Square. We danced at a summer stage concert in Central Park and even saw *Wicked* on Broadway! Ellis Island was extremely relevant to our theme, and it was so moving to stand in the building and walk the same path as millions of people on their journey to America.

We were also given the incredible opportunity to sing for Christ Church United Methodist in worship. We sang "Jubilate Deo," "Beside a Stream of Living Water," and "Even Here." The sanctuary was absolutely breathtaking, and the service was engaging and unique, pushing each of us to draw our circle of faith wider as we experienced the new worship.

Our days were packed from sunrise to sundown, but we never failed to take a pause at the end of each day to decompress, reflect, and reconnect with the faith that propelled this journey. We were fortunate to have some unimaginably amazing adult chaperones who tolerated our antics and still managed to keep us safe in one of the biggest cities in the world. They led us through meditation on a specific theme, and then encouraged us to share what had "bubbled up." They guided us to draw connections between the things we were experiencing on the streets and the roots of our spirituality and faith. Some nights God emerged in the form of giggles, or a relevant and sophisticated question posed by a 6th grader, or tears that were shed, or even just the reflective silence. No matter what form, God's presence was always apparent and supportive. Leaning into these moments at the end of the day, we were able to go to sleep excited for the next day to come, when we would have another opportunity to put our minds, bodies and souls to work for our faith. ■



MAD (Music Art Drama) Camp 2018

The Tale of the Three Trees by Allen Pote and Tom Long

By Charlotte Judge

On June 18-22, the children's music and children's ministries hosted twenty children in first through fifth grades, with thirteen youth helpers and many volunteers, for a wonderful week of music, art, drama and fun! I directed the camp along with drama teacher Natalie Secrest and Orff (instruments) teacher Noreen Hofmann. We were accompanied by Kim Ballard. Throughout the week, children were singing, playing instruments, painting and building sets, learning lines, and staging. On Friday evening, they performed *The Tale of the Three Trees* at a dinner in Heaton Hall. To make the week even more special, the children wrote and performed an Orff instrument prelude. If you missed attending the camp and/or the performance this year, be on the lookout for registration information for next year's camp. ■

Children's Ministry Social

By Tara Harris



Children's Ministry Families - Let's get together and have a "last blast before summer's past" social on Sunday, August 12, from 5:00 until 7:00p at the home of Tara and Richard Harris and family. The Children's Ministry will provide hot dogs and buns, and we will have some kid-friendly fare like goldfish and fruit. Please plan to bring a side dish or a small plate/appetizer to share with your Children's Ministry friends.

Let's celebrate a great summer together and the success of things like Children's Sunday Worship, VBS, and MAD Camp. And let's look forward to back-to-school in late August and all the fun things coming up in the new Church year for children. Please contact Katie Hambrick at khambrick@myersparkbaptist.org or me at [taraagnew@hotmail.com](mailto: taraagnew@hotmail.com) for further information and to RSVP. We will see you then! ■

Family Dedication | Sunday, September 16

By Katie Hambrick

Family Dedication is a time for us as a Church and family to celebrate one of God's greatest gifts -- children. As one family in Christ, we join together to dedicate ourselves to walk this journey of life with the next generation. Our next family dedication will be on Sunday, September 16 during the 11:00a worship service. If your family would be interested in participating, please contact me at khambrick@myersparkbaptist.org. ■

Congregational Joys and Concerns

(as of July 22, 2018)

BIRTHS — CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- John and Nicole Travieso on the birth of their daughter, Rene and Michelle Travieso on the birth of their granddaughter; and John and Brenda Bean on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Violet Grace Travieso, on July 7, 2018 in Charlotte, NC.

WEDDINGS — CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Katherine Dowd and Matthew Butcher on their wedding on July 21, 2018 in Charlotte, NC.

DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:

- Elizabeth Peterson on the death of her sister, Linda Lakins Russell, on June 14, 2018 in Amherst, NH.
- Carolyn Lee on the death of her son, Bruce Reinecke, on July 4, 2018 in Raleigh, NC
- Derrick Reeves on the death of his sister, Belinda Gordon, on July 3, 2018 in Charlotte, NC.
- Alex and Allison Gnilka on the death of his father, and Rosemary, Danielle, and Annabella on the death of their grandfather, Arnold Gnilka, on July 23, 2018 in Asheville, NC.
- Meredith Spangler on the death of her husband, Abigail Spangler and Anna Spangler Nelson on the death of their father; and his grandchildren on the death of their grandfather, C.D. Spangler, Jr., on July 22, 2018 in Charlotte, NC. ■

Missionary Roundtable Shines Its Light

By Gretchen Allen

It has been brought to my attention by a new member of our Church that Missionary Roundtable seems to have hidden its light under a bushel. And truth be told, a number of our members have said “nobody knows what we do.” We don’t hide it on purpose!

So, let me introduce you to Missionary Roundtable and please come join us! Missionary Roundtable, or with our updated acronym, MRT, was founded near the beginnings of Myers Park Baptist.

So, who are we and what do we do? We are a group of about 20 women who meet monthly (second Monday) to enjoy fellowship and have a speaker. Our speakers come from groups in the community or within our congregation who are reaching out to help those in need — be it for a library (Susan Aldrich’s One Library at a Time), the hungry (Bob Bishop’s Oatmeal Drive), a health clinic (Nancy Hudson’s Community Health Clinic), or other community agencies such as Lily Pad Haven, A Child’s Place, The Relatives, and more. When someone representing these groups comes and tells us their story, our admiration and gratitude for their work, and the need to support them, come immediately to the fore.

We had our final meeting for the Church year in May (we take a summer break) and at this potluck luncheon, we disbursed our remaining treasury monies. Oh, the treasury. It is self-generated by “passing the purse” at our meeting, with each giving according to desire. From these funds, we send a contribution to our monthly speaker; and at the end of the Church year luncheon we review this year’s and past year’s agencies and send a contribution. This year we sent money to Bob Bishop (for the cereal/oatmeal drive), Marie G. Davis Leadership School (for their 5th grade graduation), The Bulb



(farmer’s markets in food deserts), One Library at a Time, Lily Pad Haven (human trafficking rescue), Changed Choices (incarcerated women’s support), A Child’s Place, and Second Harvest. We also are beginning support for Pinewood Elementary School and as a kickoff provided a BBQ lunch for its staff in May.

Each November we honor our wonderful Church staff with a Thanksgiving Thanks luncheon, where the serving tables are covered with the best food in Charlotte!!

At Christmas we choose a project, which for the past three years has been to provide games and books to A Child’s Place for distribution to their homeless children. Other years we have sent personal care baskets to participants in the Women in Transition program at the YWCA.

It’s a wonderful group of energetic, fun, talkative, knowledgeable, caring women, and we want to share this with all who wish to come! My email is gretnet@gmail.com and phone number is 704.551.7069. Give me a call or drop a note and let me add you to our email/yearbook list so you can be informed of our meetings. If you are part of a community agency or support one we should know about, please let me know.

We will meet again on September 10 in the Parlor to hear about the Center for Community Transitions. We start with fellowship and refreshments at 10:00a and meetings begin with roll call and devotional at 10:30a.

Mission may have become an evolved term, but Missionary Roundtable has not abandoned its roots of being an outreach to those in need who are touched by the heroes among us who serve them. ■

Nativity Tableau Celebration

By Fran Morrison

For sixty-five years, Myers Park Baptist Church has offered a live Christmas Eve Nativity Tableau. Its first season was in 1953, with Dr. George Heaton, as Senior Minister. It was the only Christmas Eve offering for the Church at that time and it was immensely popular. Dr. Heaton set the parameters for the event:

Come anytime between 7:30 - 10:00p, dress as informally as you wish, sit anywhere you wish and “receive with your eyes and ears what God is trying to say to you,” at any time come to the chancel and kneel in prayer, make a donation to the Sunshine Fund, (the Church’s benevolence fund), stay as long as you wish, leave as soon as you wish.

Since 1953, the Nativity Tableau has been “tradition” and has been altered only in changing the time and adding the serving of Communion in the transepts.

The scene is simplistic, with the Sanctuary lit only by candlelight. A blue spotlight focuses on the Holy Family portrayed by a Church family with their newborn baby. Shepherds and Magi share visits, paying homage to the newborn with carols playing softly in the background.

In 1998, the Church added its first Christmas Eve service. It, too,

was very popular and in 2007, we added another service designed for young families. Christmas Eve had become one of the busiest days of the Church year. With the addition of each service, the time frame and attendance at the Nativity Tableau continued to decrease.

At the April 2018 Deacons meeting, there was conversation among the Deacons about having too many Church events. The Deacons were asked to list their top five programs/events they felt the Church needed to “sunset,” using the word sunset to acknowledge the long run of several Church programs/events that perhaps had run their course. The Nativity Tableau was at the top of the list.

Over the next four months, we will celebrate the legacy of the Tableau, share old and newer memories of the evening, and acknowledge those many families who have portrayed the Holy Family. On the evening of December 24, we will offer a proper farewell event for everyone in our Church and community whose lives have been touched by the Nativity Tableau.

I would love for you to share your remembrances of this event so that they might be a part of this final celebration. If you have photographs or wish to tell me your story, please contact me at 704.334.7232 x 117 or fmorrison@myersparkbaptist.org. ■

Financial Update

By **Tucker Pearsall**, *Chair, Ministry of Financial Resources*

Year to date we have given nearly \$50,000 from our budget, and over \$260,000 from all funding sources, to help our neighbors in need of food, housing, education, and other areas. Included are our weekly loose plate and Rice Bowl offerings, 100% of which are passed directly to assistance organizations. Loose plate offerings in August will be given to RAIN. If you are unable to be in worship on Sundays, or find yourself without cash during the service, donations can be sent anytime via text message. Please see the order of worship for instructions or contact me at 704.334.7232 x 116 for assistance.

Through May we have continued to have strong revenue and are 11% ahead of last year. Expenses have risen slightly at 1.1% over last year. For the month of May we nearly broke even, with expenses be-

ing \$77 higher than revenue. A monthly deficit is expected through the summer months as revenue historically falls while expenses do not. Luckily, with revenues YTD being strong, we enter these summer months with a surplus that will help offset the expected deficits.

2019 budget discussions are under way. Please keep in mind that our pledge drive will be moved to the spring of 2019 for 2020 pledging and pledges will be assumed to be self-renewing for 2019 budgeting.

A huge thanks to all who help with financial support. We are looking forward to a strong second half to 2018. Our daily operations, programs, and community giving would not be possible without your generosity. ■

Year-Round Stewardship

By **MaryAnn Largen**, *Co-Chair, Stewardship SLG*



Under the “Live Forward Plan” Goal 4 | Strategy 2 | Tactic 3: Develop and launch year-round stewardship campaign with a permanent brand that promotes education about Church finances, describes stewardship as discipleship, and emphasizes giving from everyone in our community, beginning with the 2019 campaign.

What does this mean? And what does it mean to me as a member?

First, a little bit of history on how we have conducted our Stewardship Campaigns in the past. Traditionally, the senior minister identified a chairperson or co-chairpersons to lead the Stewardship Campaign for the coming year. That person or persons recruited a committee to assist the effort. That group went to work, learning how campaigns were conducted in the past, selecting a theme or logo, sometimes creating media tools to assist in informing the congregation of the upcoming campaign. Then, after Start-Up Sunday, the campaign kicked into gear and extended until the Sunday prior

to Thanksgiving with get-togethers, sermons, member testimonials, and finally extensive member contact to solicit pledges for the coming year’s budget.

The new TACTIC will change several of the former practices.

- First will be the establishment of a permanent brand to eliminate the yearly “start over” of branding and eliminate the necessity to educate every year on what that brand means.
- Second will be the move to the spring of the calendar year starting in 2019. The hope is the change will relieve some pressures of member pledge commitments during the holidays.
- Third will be a “sustainability” idea that will renew pledges year to year unless changed by the congregation.
- Finally there will be an emphasis on “stewardship as discipleship” and on “giving from everyone in our community.”

You will continue to hear more about these changes. At any time feel free to direct questions to me or Leigh Anne Hagerman. ■

Cornwell Welcomes Bill Geiger, Strategic Consultant

By **Wayne Ballard**, *Interim Director of the Cornwell Center*

As we move forward together through this period of transition we have enlisted the assistance of consulting firm LevRidge Resources, trusted experts in organizational change management and strategic planning, to work with us over the next few months to identify our strengths as an organization, as well as the places we need to improve, the challenges we face, and the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we’ll gather information, assess our community, articulate the vision for the Cornwell Center moving forward, and begin the process of living into that vision.

LevRidge has offered us Bill Geiger to aid and accompany us on this journey. Bill has bookended a 20+ year business career with leadership in non-profit organizations. He served as Interim Executive Director of Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden and as Interim Executive Director for the McColl Center for Art and Innovation. He graduated from Dartmouth College. ■

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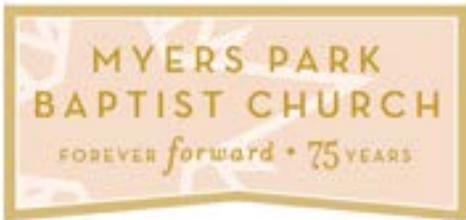
TTWS Welcomes Joanne Hylinski

By **Belinda Geuss**



We are excited to welcome Joanne Hylinski to Through-the-Week-School as Assistant Director.

Joanne grew up in Charlotte and attended Myers Park High School. She graduated from UNC with a Business major and spent the next 14 years with Wachovia Bank in a variety of Corporate Banking jobs in Winston-Salem, Charlotte, and Chicago. She “retired” from banking when her first daughter was born and spent the next 20 years raising her three girls and volunteering at their schools, at church, and in the community. She also worked as a substitute preschool teacher and as a CMS sub. Now that her two older daughters are in college and the youngest is at AG Middle School, she is ready to focus on what her journey showed that she loved: working with children in God’s home and supporting the amazing teachers who care for and nurture them every day. In her spare time, Joanne loves to be with family and friends, exercise, read and travel. ■



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Myers Park Baptist | Cornwell Center | ThroughThe-Week School

FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Help Our Garden Grow!

The Friendship Garden at Myers Park Baptist, tended by Ed Williams for years before it had to be removed for HVAC underground pipe repairs, has been reborn!

Addison Schultz, a scout mentored by Tom Jones, re-built the garden as his Eagle Scout Service project, and did a brilliant job: all natural cedar side garden beds, with sanded cedar top caps for sitting, and organic soil and mulch.



Ed personally donated 4 varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants, which were planted on July 2. It is a late planting for the season, but we are hopeful for a full bounty of vegetables that we can deliver to Friendship Trays.

Come help us by signing up for a day or two to water the plants. It's a quick 15-minute job, and the hose and spray wand are provided.



Sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44aaad2ca3fa7-friendship

Follow our progress at www.instagram.com/mpbcgarden