



DECEMBER 11, 2016

THE THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

THE FESTIVAL
OF ADVENT
LESSONS AND
CAROLS

MYERS PARK
BAPTIST CHURCH

CHARLOTTE,
NORTH CAROLINA

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THE FESTIVAL OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS
11 DECEMBER 2016 AT ELEVEN O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus, we welcome and affirm all of God’s people into the life of the Church regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical limitation, educational background, or economic situation.

THE SILENT MEDITATION

Wouldn’t it be wonderful
if Advent came filled with angels and alleluias?
Wouldn’t it be perfect
if we were greeted on these December mornings
with a hovering of heavenly hosts
tuning their harps and brushing up on their fa-la-las?
Wouldn’t it be incredible
if their music filled our waking hours
with the promise of peace on earth
and if each advent night we dreamed of nothing but goodwill?
Wouldn’t we be ecstatic
if we could take those angels shopping,
or trim the tree or have them hold our hands
and dance through our houses decorating?
And, oh, how glorious it would be
to sit in church next to an angel
and sing our hark-the-heralds!
What an Advent that would be!
What Christmas spirit we could have!
An angel-filled Advent has so many possibilities!
But in lieu of that,
perhaps we can give thanks
for the good earthly joys we have been given
and for the earthly “angels” that we know
who do such a good job of filling
our Advent with alleluias!

Ann Weems, “Angel-Filled Advent,” in *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

THE RINGING OF THE ANGELUS BELL

The ringing of The Angelus Bell, a three-fold ringing of three, signifies the presence of the triune God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. In ancient practice it was rung as a noontday prayer calling the whole community to prayers for peace. The Music in Preparation for Worship is intended to draw the people from the outside world into the presence of God.

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Adagio in C Major”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Terry Maskin, English Horn

THE WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

THE BIDDING PRAYER

+ Ushers will seat anyone waiting.

* Please stand if you are able.

At this time, everyone is invited to sign the friendship register found at the end of each pew. If you are our guest today, we welcome you especially and ask that you include your address, phone number, and email. If you have not yet done so, please silence your cell phone. Following the worship service, all are invited to coffee fellowship in Heaton Hall Foyer.

*THE HYMN IN PROCESSION AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Irby

Solo: Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Eleanor Teague, soloist

Choir only:

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Congregation (singing):

**For he is our childhood pattern, day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feelth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God’s right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.**

*THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY

Richard and Carol Pearsall, Tucker and Jennifer Pearsall
with Tucker and Lucy Mae

Leader: We light the third candle of Advent as the Candle of Joy where we share the prophet’s vision of the day when the wilderness and dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom and the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing. Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads . . . and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

(Lighting the Candle of Joy.)

People: (singing)

Veni Emmanuel

**O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Adam and Eve in the garden.

Genesis 3:6, 8-13

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Grace Johnson, reader

THE ANTHEM

“Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree”

The Youth Choir

Mark Patterson

(b. 1969)

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know but ne’er can tell,
the glory which I now can see ‘tis found in Christ, the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see; ‘tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

Megan Merritt and Susan Hill-Gilbert, soloists

+ *During the musical interlude, 3 and 4 year olds will leave with their teachers. They may be picked up in Room 107 after worship.*

THE SECOND LESSON

*God promises to Abraham that through his family,
all the nations of the earth will be blessed.*

Genesis 12:1-5

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Max Odom, reader

THE ANTHEM

“Bright Canaan”

O who will come and go with me, I am bound for the land of Canaan.
I'm bound fair Canaan's land to see, I am bound for the land of Canaan.

Refrain: O, Canaan, bright Canaan, I'm bound for the land of Canaan,
O, Canaan, it is my happy home, I am bound for the land of Canaan.

I'll join with them who've gone before, I am bound for the land of Canaan.
Where sin and sorrows are no more, I am bound for the land of Canaan. (Refrain)

Our songs of praise shall fill the skies, I am bound for the land of Canaan.
And higher still our joys they rise, I am bound for the land of Canaan.

The Chancel Choir

Traditional

arr. by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

THE THIRD LESSON

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Ian Hull, reader

*THE HYMN

“Comfort, comfort you my people”

Stanzas 1 and 3 only.

Number 70

Psalms 42

THE FOURTH LESSON

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lindsey Skardon, reader

THE ANTHEM

“A Spotless Rose”

A spotless rose is growing, sprung from a tender root,
of ancient seer's foreshowing, of Jesse promised fruit;
its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold winter,
and in the dark midnight.

The rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said,
is from its sweet root springing from Mary, purest maid;
for through our God's great love and might the Blessed Babe she bore us
in a cold, cold winter's night.

The Motet Singers

Bryan L. Greer

(b. 1980)

THE FIFTH LESSON

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hadley Parker, reader

*THE HYMN

“To a maid engaged to Joseph”

Stanzas 1 - 4.

Number 89

Annunciation

THE SIXTH LESSON

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

James Daniel, reader

THE ANTHEM

“Come with us to Bethlehem”

Come with us to Bethlehem!
Come with joy, young and old.
Come with us to Bethlehem!
There a story will soon unfold!

Count your name in the book of life,
with your families so bright!
See the stable, smell the sweet hay.
God’s gift of love is ours this day!

The Carol Choir
Anne McNair
(b. 1954)
arr. William McNair

THE SEVENTH LESSON

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-16

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pattie Butler, reader

THE ANTHEM

“Japanese Christmas Carol”

Lowly Shepherds of Judea, on a winter’s night,
heard a sound of angel voices, saw a wondrous light.

Refrain:

Come, children, carol merry, Koo-ree-soo-mah-soo (Merry Christmas).

Let us all be very merry, Koo-ree-soo-mah-soo.

Magi seeking Jesus’ manger, traveled from afar;
soon their hearts were filled with gladness, led there by the star. (Refrain)

Happy children, singing carols to the Holy Boy
round the world at Christmas, join us with their songs of joy. (Refrain)

The Chapel Choir
arr. T. Charles Lee
(1915-1994)

THE EIGHTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-12

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Jay Rivers, reader

*THE HYMN

“The first Noel”

Stanzas 1 and 2 only.

Number 120
The First Noel

THE NINTH LESSON

St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-14

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reverend Benjamin Boswell, reader

THE ANTHEM AT THE OFFERING

“Still Shining on this Holy Night”

One starlit eastern night Angelic heralds sang;
on trembling shepherds shone a light, while heaven with music rang.
That holy night they knew that God was near.

But in the roar and glare of our world’s crowded life;
its tumult, strain and anxious care, its fear and cruel strife;
how hard it is to know that God is near.

Yet when the Son of God lay in a manger bare,
a heedless crowd around him trod and saw no glory there.
They knew it now, but God was very near.

Then grant us Lord the sight thy glory now to trace,
still shining in the holy light of Christ our Saviour’s face:
in Him to find thy presence always here.

The Chancel Choir
Glenn L. Rudolph
(b. 1951)

Terry Maskin, English Horn

*THE HYMN AND PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Gifts of loose cash in December support the work of Med Assist, a nonprofit pharmacy program providing access to life-saving prescription medications, patient support, advocacy and related services to poor, vulnerable, and uninsured North Carolina residents.

“O come, all ye faithful”

Ade ste Fidelis

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;
glory to God, all Glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*THE PROCESSION INTO THE WORLD AND CLOSING OF THE BIBLE
“Angels we have heard on high”

Number 96
Gloria

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY
“In Dulci Jublio”

*Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)*

*Following worship, all are invited to Coffee Fellowship in Heaton Hall Foyer.
We especially invite our guests for a more personal welcome.*

Leading worship today is The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister,
and members of the congregation as lay readers.

The Chancel Choir, Motet Singers, Youth, Chapel and Carol Choirs lead worship through music with
Frances L. Morrison, Minister of Music,
Charlotte C. Judge, Associate Director of Music,
Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist, and
Janice Bradner and Emily Urbanek, Pianists.

The acolytes are members of the Myers Park Baptist Church Youth Ministry.

The sound technician is Spencer Rackley.
The webcast technician is Van Wilson.

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIRS

THE CAROL CHOIR

Charlotte C. Judge, Director; Emily Urbanek, Assistant

Anna Bray
Louisa Corrin

Bridget Dougherty
Christopher Dougherty
Larkin Edwards

Maren Haenni
Rhett Hardy, Jr.
Mary Harris

Kinlaw Largen
Zuri Swarouth-Yopp

THE CHAPEL CHOIR

Charlotte C. Judge, Director; Emily Urbanek Assistant

Langley Barfield
Hana Corrin
Audrey Edwards

Harris Harper
Grace Johnson
Avery Monfore

Tucker Pearsall
Mattison Swarouth-Yopp
Eleanor Teague

Darcy Willard
Jessie Wilson

THE YOUTH CHOIR

Charlotte C. Judge, Director; Janice B. Bradner, Accompanist; Todd Geer and Nash Long, Assistants

Adam Cranford
Audrey James Currin
Ellie Dabbs
Conor Dougherty
Jeanine Hasty

Susan Hill-Gilbert
Rowan Hinson
Ian Hull
Josh Hull
Hannah Long
Rebecca Long

Sarah Long
Tara McGee
Wyndham Merrill
Megan Merritt
Ryan Merritt
Emma Monfore
Sarah Nicholson

Annie Odom
Taylor Riley
Brandon Sanders
Lindsey Skardon
Abby Smith
Kendell Smith

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Frances L. Morrison, Director; Matthew Manwarren, Accompanist

SOPRANOS

Jane Brock
Dottie Burnside
Debbie Moore Clark
D Evans
Jill Freeland
*Cindy Green
Carolyn Holmes
Joan Hope
Jane Huddle
*Charlotte Judge
Laura Kratt
Ann McDermott
Erica McGee
*Barbara Mishoe
*Karen Riley
*Jane Seawell
Emily Urbanek

ALTOS

*Janice Bradner
*Bobbie Campbell
Rebecca Chandler
Susan Crane
*Debbi Grosch
Holly Henderson
Donna Herrington
Olive Kile
Patsy Kinsey
*Karen Mayer
*Dana Mitchell
Cathy Morelli
Amy Morris
Martha Odom
Edith Patton
Sarah Rankin
Carol Reid Fricke
*Nancy Rider
*Deb Steiner
Paula Testerman
Beth Walters
Linda Whitesitt

TENORS

*Dan Compton
*Vince DeLap
*Todd Geer
*Jerry Hoogenakker
*Ted Phillips
Don Seawell

BASSES

George Buck
Ron Green
*Mark Hayes
Tom Holmes
Ron Knight
Nash Long
*Barry Love
*Greg Mayer
*Bill Miller
Ernie Rider
*Michael Rukstelis
Frank Sanady
John Totten
Jerry Warmath

**Denotes Motet Singer*

Advent Schedule 2016

Wednesday, December 14

Wonderful Wednesday

5:45pm Christmas Dinner in Heaton Hall

*(Reservations by noon on 12/12 by phone x156,
at myMPBC or email runderwood@mpbconline.org)*

6:30pm "A Charlie Brown Christmas"

*6:30pm "Awakening to Racial Injustice Series: Faith and Race"
in Shalom Hall*

Sunday, December 18 - Advent IV

Worship, featuring Sadowski's *Magnificat* with Soloists and Brass

11:00am in the Sanctuary

Taizé Service to Mark the Changing of the Seasons

5:00-6:00pm in the Chapel

Wednesday, December 21

Service of Lament and Loss with Communion

6:30pm in the Sanctuary; childcare is available

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Family Worship with Communion

4:00pm in the Sanctuary

The Music of Christmas with Harp and Organ

5:30pm in the Sanctuary

Candlelight Worship with Communion

6:00pm in the Sanctuary

Nativity Tableau with Communion

7:15-8:00pm "drop in" in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship in the Round - *Service of Hope*

10:00-10:45am in Heaton Hall

Sunday, January 1, 2017

New Year's Day Worship in the Round - *Service of Beginnings*

10:00-10:45am in Heaton Hall

THE CHURCH IN WITNESS AND MISSION

TODAY

DECEMBER 11: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

- 8:30 Charlotte Community of Mindfulness Meditation Group, Room 27
- 9:00 Youth Choir Warm-Up, Sanctuary
- 9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Heaton Hall Foyer
- 9:15 Chapel Choir (2nd - 5th Grades) Warm-Up, Sanctuary
- 9:30 Carol Choir (K - 1st Grade) Warm-Up, Sanctuary
- 9:45 Motet Warm-Up, Sanctuary
- 9:45 Children's Faith Formation, Preschool and Elementary Wings
- 9:45 Youth Faith Formation, Youth Hall Wing
- 9:45 Adult Faith Formation, Education Building
- 9:45 Sunday Morning Yoga, Cornwell Group Exercise Studio
- 9:45 Advent Awakening Group, Cornwell Center Lounge
- 10:00 Chancel Choir Warm-Up, Sanctuary
- 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 Coffee Fellowship and Guest Welcome, Heaton Hall Foyer
- 3:00 Youth Choir Caroling at Southminster
- 6:00 Youth Christmas Party, Youth Hall

VOLUNTEER FOR ROOM IN THE INN TODAY - You may sign up in Heaton Hall Foyer immediately after worship.

FAMILY PROMISE AT ELIZABETH HOUSE (715 Hawthorne Lane), starts today and runs through December 15. The families living in transition from homelessness to secure housing need you. Serving opportunities include: overnight hosts (Sunday-Thursday) and dinner providers (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday). Cindy Clemens continues to serve as our faithful leader. You may contact her at cclemens@charlottenc.gov for more information. Sign up on the Church website, www.mpbconline.org.

YOUTH CHOIR CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT SOUTHMINSTER, this afternoon. We will depart from the Church staff parking lot at 3:00pm, carol and visit with the residents from 3:30-5:00pm, and return to the Church by 5:30pm in time for the Youth Christmas Party.

YOUTH MINISTRY:

- Our youth are running a month-long "penny drive" to collect change and bills for the Center of Hope. Please ask our youth how you can donate.
- The annual Youth Christmas Party is tonight. Come for food, fellowship, fun, and a white elephant exchange.
- Sign up now for the annual All-Youth Retreat at Kanuga January 13-15 a wonderful weekend to share and learn. Registration is at www.mpbconline.org and *my*MPBC.

COMMUNITY LIFE

SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP - Wednesday, January 4, 10:30-11:30am, Cornwell Conference Center. We will have a dynamic speaker lead us in a time of understanding black/white relationships, particularly between predominantly black and white churches. Maarifa Ukweli teaches a course in African history designed to educate communities on African past history, culture, and origins. He possesses a wealth of information. Start the New Year with us at this powerful presentation.

FAITH FORMATION

CONNECTIONS PROPOSALS FOR WINTER/SPRING 2017 - Do you have a great idea for a small group? Are you willing to host a potluck meal? Let us know about your idea or your willingness to host (any kind of small group) by completing the Proposal Form available at www.mpbconline.org before December 31. Groups will meet February - mid-May. Questions? Please contact Anne Clarke at clarke@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x115.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FAMILY ADVENT BOOKLET - To help your family prepare and connect, Advent Booklets are available on the Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer and on the Children's Ministry page at www.mpbconline.org. Booklets provide a daily scripture reading, reflection, prayer, and activity.

AWAKENING TO RACIAL INJUSTICE SERIES - Wednesday, December 14, 6:30-8:00pm in Shalom Hall. The series continues as The Reverend Dr. Peter Wherry and Reverend Ben Boswell discuss "Faith and Race." Booklets on the series are available on the Welcome Desk in Heaton Hall Foyer and the Church reception area. Information is also available online at www.mpbconline.org. Questions? Contact Chrissy Williamson at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FAMILY CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST - Join us Sunday, December 18 at 9:45am in Shalom Hall for this new tradition. We will eat breakfast, have crafts and games, and then read Christmas stories together. The breakfast sign-up can be found on the Children's Ministry page of the Church website and on the Children's Ministry Facebook page.

COVENANT GROUPS AT MPBC - A new weeknight *Awakening* Covenant Group is forming. This small group (6-10) adults will expand upon the concepts presented and discussed as part of the *Awakening to Racial Injustice Series*, providing a safe space to share personal stories, frustrations, and areas of growth related to the series. Questions? Contact Anne Clarke at aclarke@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x115.

ADVENT AWAKENING - This Advent season we are engaging in conversations about things that matter. These conversations are taking the form of dinner parties or family meals shared without the distractions of TV and smart phones. The Church provides the discussion guides, based on sermon themes and scriptures read in worship each week. If you're interested in hosting an *Advent Awakening* dinner party, contact Chrissy Williamson at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x123. More information is online at www.mpbconline.org.

DISCIPLESHIP CLASS begins Sunday, January 8, at 9:45am in the Youth Hall. All students who have completed the 7th grade are invited to join this intentional journey of faith leading toward decisions about baptism and Church membership. Please contact Chrissy Williamson at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x123, with any questions you may have.

FAMILY DEDICATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 - If your family would like to participate in this special worship service, please contact Carrie Veal at cveal@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x118 by Tuesday, January 17.

OUTREACH

OATMEAL DRIVE: HELP US REACH OUR GOAL- As of December 4, we have collected 16,230 pounds toward this year's goal of 140,000 pounds. We have 123,770 pounds to go. The Oatmeal Drive runs through January 15 and we need your help to reach our ten-year historic one million pounds goal. Drop-off sites are located in Heaton Hall Foyer and at The Cornwell Center. Monetary donations can be made through *my*MPBC and through www.mpbconline.org. For more information, please contact Bob Bishop at bobbishopuk@gmail.com.

ROOM IN THE INN (RITI) continues through the end of March. We open our doors on Saturday evenings and provide shelter for our neighbors who are homeless. We need your help. Please volunteer to be an overnight host, provide a meal, or drive the Church van. You may sign up on our website, www.mpbconline.org, or on the bulletin board in Heaton Hall Foyer. Would you like to be more involved in RITI? Consider being a RITI Captain by helping coordinate one (or more) weekends for our RITI ministry. Contact Cher Lindblom at clindblom@mpbconline.org for details.

STEWARDSHIP

WE ARE STILL DREAMING ON! In this season of giving, we are not asking you to invest in protecting or safeguarding the dream of this Church. We are inviting you to remember those who came before us, to take responsibility of what they entrusted to us, and to be as bold and as fearless as they were in sharing this dream with the world. A pledge, of any amount, makes a difference. You can pledge online at <https://mpbconline.org/make-a-pledge/>, fill out a pledge card, or contact Barry Metzger at bmetzger@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x116.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

WORSHIP SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE - Thanks to John Bambach and the Media Team, you may now view video recordings of entire worship services at any time (not just during the live webcast). They are available on our website, www.mpbconline.org. Click on *Worship*, then choose *Sermons*. From there, select the date you wish (starting from November 13), and click on *Watch the service*.

MUSIC TOGETHER® WINTER SESSION - Early registration is still available. MPBC members can register during the early registration period using this code: PREW17. The discount code "MPBC" gives you a tuition rate of \$100 - only at the MPBC location. The 4:30pm Wednesday class has two spots left; we are adding a 5:30pm Wednesday class. There are also classes Saturdays at 10:00am and 11:00am. The Winter Session runs January 9 - March 11.

MAGNIFICAT BY KEVIN SADOWSKI - Sunday, December 18 during 11:00am worship. Sadowski's *Magnificat* is a setting of Mary's song of joy and praise from Luke 1, sung after she is told that she is with child. There are many musical settings of the *Magnificat*; this one tells the story with choir, soloists, and brass.

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE TO MARK THE CHANGING OF THE SEASON - Sunday, December 18, 5:00-6:00pm in the Chapel. You are invited to join us for the coming of winter. Our worship includes prayer, poetry, singing, silence, and Communion. You are also invited to walk the Labyrinth either before or following the service.

SERVICE OF LAMENT AND LOSS - Wednesday, December 21, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. We offer this Advent service for all to come together to lament our losses as a family of faith. It is a combination of two liturgical traditions, "Longest Night" services that take place on the longest night of the year and "Christmas Service for those who Grieve." We gather during the Christmas season as a reminder that joy can be born among us despite our sadness, hope can emerge out of despair, that nothing can separate us from the love of God, and that light shines in the midst of our darkness.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL - Wonderful Wednesday, December 14. Everyone is invited to join us for this fun evening of fellowship. Dinner will be served from 5:45-6:30pm. The menu is: baked chicken with vegetables (kids under 12 - chicken sandwiches), baked potatoes, rolls, salad bar, desserts. Following dinner we will make crafts and watch *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Please make your dinner reservations by noon on Monday, December 12, online at [myMPBC](http://myMPBC.org) or by contacting Rainey Underwood at runderwood@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x156.

CORNWELL CENTER

LIVEWELL CORNWELL WORKSHOP - *Holiday Stress? Long-Term Health Implications of Chronic Stress*, Tuesday, December 13, noon-1:00pm. Join Dr. Nancy Palermo Leitz of THRIVE, a specialized healthcare center that provides an alternative to conventional options. She will share tips on stress management and discuss the effects of long-term stress on metabolism, immunity, and chronic health conditions. Free for Cornwell members; \$10 community members. Register at the Welcome Desk or call 704.927.0774.

SANTA IS COMING TO THE CORNWELL CENTER on Tuesday, December 13 from 4:30-6:00pm in the Cornwell Lounge. Professional photos with Santa are \$10. While you are there, visit Santa's Workshop in the Lobby to create the perfect gift or holiday decoration.

COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP SERIES – Tuesdays, December 13 and 20, 7:00-9:00pm. Join the Authentic Conversation Panel Series: *What is Compassionate Leadership?* hosted by Enneagram Charlotte. To register, call 704.927.0774 or visit the Welcome Desk.

BEAT THE INCREASE MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL - There's no better time to join. Now through December 31, sign up for an annual membership and receive discounted MPBC Member rates plus two additional months free. Pay for your membership now, lock in 2016 rates and you don't have to renew again until March 2018. Rather make a shorter commitment? No problem. Purchase a special 6-month membership and receive one month free. Make sure to pay in full by December 31 to beat the 5% increase in 2017. More information is available at the Welcome Desk and at www.cornwellcenter.org.

YOUTH SERVICES – Register now for Tiny Tots Basketball Clinics and Holiday Sports Camp for children ages 3-5 years. Clinics run Mondays and Wednesdays through February 8. Holiday Camp will be held Monday - Friday, December 19-23. Space is limited. Register at the Cornwell Center Welcome Desk or call 704.927.0774.

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER 18: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT; THE REVEREND W. BENJAMIN BOSWELL PREACHING

- 8:30 Charlotte Community of Mindfulness Meditation Group, Room 27
- 9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Heaton Hall Foyer
- 9:45 Children's Ministry Family Christmas Breakfast, Shalom Hall
- 9:45 Youth Faith Formation, Youth Hall Wing
- 9:45 Adult Faith Formation, Education Building
- 9:45 Sunday Morning Yoga, Cornwell Group Exercise Studio
- 10:00 Chancel Choir Warm-Up, Sanctuary
- 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 Coffee Fellowship and Guest Welcome, Heaton Hall Foyer
- 5:00 Taizé Prayer Service to Mark the Changing of the Season, Chapel

THE MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

We, the members of the Myers Park Baptist Church, are a people on a journey of faith. By God's grace we are experiencing God's love through Jesus Christ and in the community of the faithful. We are discovering in this experience our freedom to become new creatures and our responsibility to be faithful stewards of our lives and of this world.

We will be open to all new light, strengthened by God and each other in our faith. We will sustain a critical examination of Scripture, belief and ritual as interpreters of God's active presence in the world. We will accept controversy as a reality of life together and an opportunity for growth toward maturity. We covenant to be a community of God's new creation and affirm that we are open to all and closed to none.

We covenant to nurture this church as a community of faith and as an instrument for reconciliation in this world: by worship, by Christian education, by the dedication of our personal and material resources and by all the other ways we express the significance of our lives with God and one another.

We covenant together to be priests celebrating God's presence in community and in the world, believing we are participants in God's kingdom on earth.

THE 2016-2017 BOARD OF DEACONS

JANET MILLER, *Chair* • JAY RIVERS, *Chair-Elect* • BOB THOMASON, *Secretary*

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THE MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

1900 Queens Road • Charlotte, North Carolina 28207-2582

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MINISTERS

As priests to one another, all members of the congregation are ministers. Some are called out for particular places of service:

THE REVEREND MR. W. BENJAMIN BOSWELL, *Senior Minister*

THE REVEREND MR. JOSEPH D. ALDRICH, *Associate Minister*

SHARON BREMER, *Director of Stewardship*

MARIAH B. CURRIN, *Director of New Member Ministry*

ALLEN DAVIS, *Interim Director of Youth Ministry*

BELINDA GEUSS, *Director of Through-The-Week School*

CHARLOTTE JUDGE, *Associate Director of Music*

CHER LINDBLOM, *Director of Outreach*

DR. MATTHEW MANWARREN, *Organist*

THE REVEREND MR. BARRY ZANE METZGER, *Church Administrator*

FRANCES L. MORRISON, *Minister of Music*

THE REVEREND MS. CARRIE VEAL, *Minister of Children*

THE REVEREND MS. CHRISSEY TATUM WILLIAMSON, *Minister of Faith Formation*

JENNY YOPP, *Director of The Cornwell Center*