December 17, 2017

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
17 DECEMBER 2017
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

Light of lights! All gloom dispelling, 
Thou didst come to make thy dwelling 
Here within our world of sight. 
Lord, in pity and in power, 
Thou didst in our darkest hour 
Rend the clouds and show thy light. 

Praise to thee in earth and heaven 
Now and evermore be given, 
Christ, who are our sun and shield. 
Lord, for us thy life thou gavest, 
Those who trust in thee thou safest, 
All thy mercy stands revealed.

- St. Thomas Aquinas

THE RINGING OF THE ANGELUS BELL

The ringing of the Angelus Bell, a three-fold ringing of three, signifies the presence of the trinvo God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. In ancient practice it was rung as a noonday prayer calling the whole community to prayers for peace.

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

“An Advent Suite: I Cornet Voluntary: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

THE WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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

THE BIDDING PRAYER

At this time, everyone is invited to sign the friendship register found at the end of each pew. We especially welcome our guests today and ask that you include your contact information. If you have not yet done so, please silence your cell phone. Childcare is available for children ages birth through four years. Please see a greeter for more information.

*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.

Elena Denning, soloist

* Please stand in body or in spirit.
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 feeleth 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.

*THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY*  
Holly Henderson and Susan Anderson

Leader: O come, let us adore him—
People: whose coming was announced by the prophets.
Leader: O come, let us adore him—
People: whose message was proclaimed by the angels.
Leader: O come, let us adore him—
People: whose glory was hailed by the shepherds.
All: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

(Lighting the Candle of Joy.)

People: (Singing: Choir sings once, Congregation repeats.)

**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.

Michael Meissner, reader

**THE ANTHEM**  
“Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree”  
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.

Mary Nattaradol and Megan Merritt, soloists
THE SECONDLESSON

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.

Emma Monfore, reader

During the interlude, 3 and 4 year olds will leave with their teachers, and may be picked up in Room 107 after worship. Children in grades TK-5 will remain in worship today.

*THE HYMN

“The God of Abraham praise”

(Stanzas 1 and 3)

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.

Andy Fialko, reader

THE ANTHEM

“A Different Kind of King”

Ronald Nelson (b. 1929)

Why was Jesus born in a stable? How could a king have such a humble birth?
Why wasn’t Jesus born in a palace when he came to earth?

Why wasn’t Jesus’ mother a princess? Where was this new king’s royal golden crown?
There in the straw with sheep and with cattle Mary laid him down.

Later he said, “The poor are blest.” He came to give the weary rest.
Riches and fame are not the best of all to be possessed.

Maybe our Lord was born in a stable, so he could be a different kind of king,
Lifting the lowly, loving the lonely, peace and joy to bring.
Then greet our newborn King! His praises now we sing!

*THE HYMN

“What child is this”

(Stanzas 1 and 2)

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.

Laura Kratt, reader

THE ANTHEM

“A Spotless Rose”

Tom Shelton (b. 1966)

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.

Jamie Lee, flute
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.
Doug Carter, reader

*THE HYMN  See page 10.
“My soul cries out with a joyful shout”  Star of the County Down

Choir sings Stanza 1 and refrain; Congregation sings Stanzas 2 - 4.

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.
Susan Trammell, reader

THE ANTHEM  The Carol Choir
“Sing Lullaby”  Traditional Basque Carol, arr. Jeremy Russell
Sing lullaby! Lullaby Babe, God’s gift arriving, sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the infant King.
Angels are watching, stars are shining
over the place where He is lying. Sing lullaby!

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.
Barry Love, reader

THE ANTHEM  The Youth Choir
“Midwinter”  Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)
In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain:
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable place
sufficed the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but only the mother in her maiden bliss
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what can I give him, give my heart.

THE EIGHTH LESSON  The Magi 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.
Ashley Hardy, reader

THE OFFERING
**The Chancel Choir**

*Early American, edited Brad Holmes*

**THE ANTHEM**

“Star in the East”

Hail thou blest morn when the great mediator, down from the regions of glory descends.

Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger, lo for his guard the bright angels attend.

*Refrain:* Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.

Star in the East the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining, low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.

Angels adore him in slumbers reclining, maker and monarch and savior of all. *Refrain*

Say, shall we yield him in costly devotion, odors of Edom and offerings divine.

Gems from the mountain and pearls from the ocean,

myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine. *Refrain*

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**THE NINTH LESSON**

*St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.*

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

Reverend Ben Boswell, reader

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*THE HYMN*

“Incarnation”

Who is this whose silent advent summons mortals now to see?

Word of God made flesh in secret, wisdom of eternity.

Stand amazed as you behold him: paradox of God’s design.

Lord transcendent, yet incarnate: fully human and divine!

Reason cracks; it cannot hold him. God and man enfleshed as one!

Faith alone, mind’s transformation, leads us to embrace the Son.

God’s abode enclosed no longer, by the cult to temple tied.

Holiness is loosed among us, all creation sanctified!

Harbinger of final triumph, infant born in Bethlehem;

come in fullness now to save us, break into our lives again!

Stand amazed as you behold him: paradox of God’s design.

Lord transcendent, yet incarnate: fully human and divine!

Lynn M. Labs, 2004

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**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

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*THE 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.

Mobile giving is available through the Church Life app or via text – see instructions on page 8.*
* The Hymn of Dedication

“O come, all ye faithful”
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

“Hark! The herald angels sing”

The Benediction

The Closing Voluntary

“An Advent Suite: II Fugghetta: Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

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 with The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister, are The Reverend Chrissy Tatum Williamson, Associate Minister, and members of the congregation as lay readers.

The Chancel, Youth, Chapel and Carol Choirs lead worship through music with Frances L. Morrison, Minister of Music, Charlotte C. Judge, Associate Director of Music, John Richardson, Organist, and Emily Urbanek, Pianist.

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

The sound technician is Eric Roberts.
The webcast technician is Spencer Rackley.

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**EMBRACE & EMPOWER**

**MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2018**

*Ways to Pledge and Give*

- **Pledge online** at www.myersparkbaptist.org/make-a-pledge
- **Give online** with your debit or credit card at www.myersparkbaptist.org/online-giving
- **Automatic bank drafts** through myMPBC or by calling the Finance Office at 704.334.7232 x116
- **Text your gift**: see our website for instructions or call the Church office
- **Write a check**
- **Call Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman**, Church Administrator, at 704.334.7232 x116
MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIRS

THE CAROL CHOIR
Charlotte C. Judge, Director; Cindy Green, Megan Merritt, Anna-Catherine Fowler, Assistants

Liam Cochran  Mary Harris  Lucy Mae Pearsall
Louisa Corrin  Kinlaw Largen  Zuri Swarthout-Yopp

THE CHAPEL CHOIR
Charlotte C. Judge and Fran Morrison, Directors
Cindy Green, Megan Merritt, Anna-Catherine Fowler, Assistants

Paige Aprill  Hana Corrin  Christopher Dougherty  Michael Meissner
Langley Barfield  Elena Denning  Rhett Hardy  Tucker Pearsall
Anna Bray  Bridget Dougherty  Grace Johnson  Hannah Marie Schubert
Marguerite Conlon

THE YOUTH CHOIR
Charlotte C. Judge, Director; John Richardson, Accompanist; Todd Geer and Nash Long, Assistants

Adam Cranford  Susan Hill-Gilbert  Wyndham Merrill  Brian Ratledge
Audrey James Currin  Ian Hull  Megan Merritt  Abby Smith
Ellie Dabbs  Josh Hull  Ryan Merritt  Kendall Smith
Whit Dabbs  Anna Judge  Mary Nattaradol  Eleanor Teague
Conor Dougherty

THE CHANCEL CHOIR
Frances L. Morrison, Director; John Richardson, Accompanist

SOPRANOS
Jane Brock  Janice Bradner  Dan Compton
Dottie Burnside  Bobbie Campbell  Todd Geer
Debbie Moore Clark  Rebecca Chandler  Jerry Hoogenakker
Jill Freeland  Susan Crane  Ted Phillips
Cindy Green  Holly Henderson  Don Seawell
Carolyn Holmes  Donna Herrington  BASSES
Joan Hope  Olive Kile  Mark Andersen
Jane Huddles  Patsy Kinsey  George Buck
Elizabeth Ignasher  Karen Mayer  Vince DeLap
Charlotte Judge  Dana Mitchell  Ron Green
Laura Kratt  Cathy Morelli  Mark Hayes
MaryAnn Largen  Amy Morris  Tom Holmes
Ann McDermott  Martha Odom  Ron Knight
Erica McGee  Edith Patton  Nash Long
Barbara Mishoe  Sarah Rankin  Barry Love
Ashley Norton  Carol Reid Fricke  Greg Mayer
Karen Riley  Nancy Rider  Bill Miller
Jane Seawell  Deb Steiner  Ernie Rider
Emily Urbanek  Paula Testerman  Michael Rukstelis

ALTOS
Janice Bradner  Bobbie Campbell  Jerry Hoogenakker
Rebecca Chandler  Susan Crane  Ted Phillips

TENORS
Dan Compton  Todd Geer  Ron Green
Dana Mitchell  Cathy Morelli  Mark Hayes
Karen Mayer  Amy Morris  Tom Holmes
Donna Herrington  Martha Odom  Ron Knight
Olive Kile  Edith Patton  Nash Long
Patsy Kinsey  Sarah Rankin  Barry Love
Karen Mayer  Carol Reid Fricke  Greg Mayer
Nancy Rider  Deb Steiner  Bill Miller
Beth Walters  Paula Testerman  Ernie Rider

BASSES
Mark Andersen  George Buck  Michael Rukstelis
George Buck  Vince DeLap  John Totten
Vince DeLap  Ron Green  Jerry Warmath
Ron Green  Mark Hayes  Jerry Warmath
Mark Hayes  Tom Holmes  Ron Knight
Ron Knight  Nash Long  Barry Love
My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
Canticle of the Turning

Choir: 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the

All: 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you

All: 3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a

All: 4 Though the nations rage from age to age, we re-

God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the
work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your
member who holds us fast: God’s mercy must de-

wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
liv er us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the
This saving word that our forebears heard is the

weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the Magnificat, Mary’s song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.
name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.
crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.
The Season of Advent 2017

Sunday, December 17 – Advent III

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
11:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
Taizé Service to Mark the Changing of the Seasons
5:00-6:00p in the Chapel

Wednesday, December 20 - Advent IV

Service of Lament and Loss with Communion
6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Family Worship with Communion
11:00a in the Sanctuary
The Music of Christmas with Flute, Violin, and Organ
5:30pm in the Sanctuary
Candlelight Worship with Communion
6:00p in the Sanctuary
Nativity Tableau with Communion
7:30-8:30p “drop in” in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 31

Jazz Worship in the Round
11:00a in Heaton Hall

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Epiphany Sunday Worship with Communion
11:00a in the Sanctuary
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

Christmas Eve | Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell Preaching
"Welcoming God the Stranger"

Luke 2:1-20

I AM making my way. Leaving everything I've known, for solidarity, to be with you. Can you make room? Like Mary, open your womb; give me refuge, make living space within . . .

It is believed that it takes a divine act, an angelic messenger or miracle, an unwinding string of unbelievable-yet-real circumstances to convince and inspire real world change.

True, and yet willing souls also make a difference. People courageous enough to resist death dealing, starve fear, and consecrate space for holiness: life begetting life, new breath, fresh eyes, hope!

This kind of resistance calls you with me to offer dignity, house the refugee, grace the infringed-the exiled-the homeless—the stranger. To become the inn keeper allowing just one more family without reservation his last bit of room, just enough for me. Light, embodied.

I AM, after all, forever the last one of you. Lead one another by my way, leaving everything you've known for solidarity. To be with me. I am expecting you.

Make room, beloved. There is more than enough.

- Expect Me? by Kelly Ann Hall

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CHRISTMAS EVE Worship Schedule</th>
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<td>**11:00a</td>
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This service will give children an experience of Christmas through placing figurines in the creche, familiar carols, scripture, Communion, and candle lighting, concluding with the singing of "Silent Night."

| **5:30p | The Music of Christmas with Flute, Violin, and Organ | Sanctuary** |
This is a musical prelude to our 6:00p service. 
6:00p | Candelight Worship with Communion | Sanctuary
The service will include some of our favorite Christmas hymns, soloist Charlotte Judge, the Chancel Choir, a homily by Rev. Ben Boswell, and Communion.

7:30-8:30p | Nativity Tableau with Communion | Sanctuary
This is a drop in meditative time of viewing the Nativity scene, prayer, and Communion in the transept.

THIS WEEK

Monday, December 18
8:30a - 12:30p Cornwell: Kids Holiday Camp | Runs Through Friday, December 22
5:30 - 7:00p Faith and Justice Meeting | Library
5:30 - 8:30p Ministry of Leadership Meeting | Off-Site (remote in)
6:00 - 8:00p Ministry of Financial Resources | Conference Room
6:30 - 8:30p Strategic Planning Council Meeting | Room 253
8:00p - 7:00a Outreach Opportunity: Overnight Host | Charlotte Family Housing | Volunteer Now

Wednesday, December 20
6:30 - 7:30p Advent Service of Lament and Loss | Advent IV | Sanctuary
7:00 - 9:00p Photo Connections: Just Eyes | Cornwell Center
8:00p - 7:00a Outreach Opportunity: Overnight Host | Charlotte Family Housing | Volunteer Now

Thursday, December 21
10:30 - 11:30a Prayer Group | Parlor
4:00 - 8:00p Outreach Opportunity: Provide Dinner | Charlotte Family Housing | Volunteer Now
6:00 - 7:30p Charlotte Community of Mindfulness | Room 27
7:00 - 9:00p Chancel Choir Rehearsal | Berry Hall
8:00p - 7:00a Outreach Opportunity: Overnight Host | Charlotte Family Housing | Volunteer Now

Friday, December 22
Noon Church Office Closes for the Christmas Holiday

Saturday, December 23
5:00p - 8:00a Room In The Inn | Room 29 and 32

Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve | Communion | Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell Preaching
8:30 - 11:00a Charlotte Community of Mindfulness Meditation Group | Room 27
9:30 - 11:00a Coffee Fellowship | Heaton Hall Foyer
11:00a - Noon Family Worship with Communion | Sanctuary
Noon - 12:30p Coffee Fellowship and Guest Welcome | Heaton Hall Foyer
4:45 - 5:00p Chancel Choir Warm-Up | Sanctuary
5:30 - 6:00p Music for Christmas with Flute, Violin, and Organ | Sanctuary
6:00 - 7:00p Candelight Worship with Communion | Sanctuary
7:30 - 8:30p Nativity Tableau with Communion | Sanctuary

More detailed calendars can be found here >

CONGREGATIONAL JOYS AND CONCERNS

Please remember the following members of our congregation (as of Tuesday, December 12, 2017)

DISCHARGED FROM A MEDICAL FACILITY

• Ed Williams

MERCY - MAIN

• Tom Holmes

NOVANT PRESBYTERIAN - MAIN

• Una Jefries

CMC - PINEVILLE

• Matt Stuckey
LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO

- Julia Alexander on the death of her brother, A. McNeil Upchurch, on December 2, 2017 in Winston-Salem, NC.

We rely on friends and relatives to keep us posted on hospitalizations, births and deaths. If you know of any member not listed, please contact Joe Aldrich, Associate Minister (704.334.7232 x115 joealrich@myersparkbaptist.org).

TAKE NOTE

Merry Christmas
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL CLOSE
AT NOON DECEMBER 22
AND WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 25-26

75th ANNIVERSARY

Tell Us Your Stories

A jubilee anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for us to revisit the stories and events of our collective history. We invite you to share your memories of special moments, interesting encounters, and humorous tales that you’ve experienced as part of the MPBC Community. We will make these stories available at the beginning of our Jubilee Celebration and continue to collect them all year.

- You can submit a written story directly to the website by clicking here.
- You can submit your story as an audio recording by calling 704.334.7232 x175.
- If you have a story you want to tell but need a little help, contact Lynn Trenning (treni@bellsouth.net | 704.344.8610). We can’t wait to hear from you!

FAITH FORMATION

Connections Proposals for Winter/Spring 2018

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.myersparkbaptist.org before December 30. Groups will meet February through mid-May. Questions? Contact Caroline Manning (cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x115).

Click here for the Proposal Form >

Making Room Book Study

Join us during this season of Advent for an 8-week study on Dr. Christine Pohl’s book, Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition. Everyone is invited to pick up a free copy of the study guide to Pohl’s book, available by contacting Caroline Manning in the Church Office OR download a digital copy at practicingourfaith.org/pdf/MakingRoomStudyGuide.pdf.

As we work through the study guides together, Chrissy and Ben will post weekly podcast conversations on the book. Those conversations will be available online at myersparkbaptist.org and on our iTunes feed called, "Theology Upstream Podcasts." To sign up for the seasonal study or to pick up a printed copy of the study guide, contact Caroline Manning in the Church Office (cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x115). You may also purchase the book in the Church Office for $15.

Families of Abraham
MPBC and the Levine Museum of the New South have teamed up to offer the full *Families of Abraham* exhibit on our campus this month. You can view the exhibit in the Cornwall Center Gallery and extending into the Church Hallway near Heaton Hall. This extensive exhibit was curated by our own Church member, Eleanor Brawley. It features photographs taken by Eleanor and seven other photographers, as well as interviews by Linda De Carrière, Judy Simpson Cook, and Linda Newcomb. We will host an evening event next month to honor Eleanor and her extraordinary work and to provide an opportunity for you to view the entire exhibit and commune with several of the contributors.

**Awakening to Immigrant Injustice Series**
*Wednesday, January 10 | 6:30 - 8:00p | Heaton Hall*

**Reality, Myth, & Media: Discovering the Humans Behind the Headlines**

Can you tell the difference between fake news and real news? Dr. Amanda Martinez, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies and Sociology at Davidson College helps us break down myth from reality as it relates to the movement of people across American borders.

Details about the series are available on our website >

**YOUTH MINISTRY FAITH FORMATION**

**Youth Discipleship Program**

Calling all 9th graders! The Discipleship Class journey begins in January and it won’t be the same without you! Now’s the time to choose a mentor and let Allen know that you’ll be there! For more information, contact Allen Davis at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org.

**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

**Elevator Repair**

The time is almost upon us to replace our struggling elevator in the Education Building. As was recently reported, this elevator is unreliable and has become a safety concern. Thanks to a generous donor, our Forever Forward campaign is funding this replacement. The work will begin in mid-January and may take up to 8 weeks. Several adult classes have been displaced to new homes during that time, and have already been contacted. The elevator project may be noisy during weekday working hours, and while we are sorry for the inconvenience, we are working with the elevator company to minimize the disruption as much as possible. We will keep you updated throughout the project. For questions on room/class changes, please contact Events Coordinator Rainey Underwood (704.334.7232 x125).

**FINANCIAL RESOURCES | STEWARDSHIP**

**EMBRACE & EMPOWER**

MPBC is a bold, dynamic church striving to make a difference in the lives of our members and our community. But we can’t do it alone. We need you and your pledge to keep this tradition going strong. If you have already submitted your pledge for 2018, thank you for your generosity. If not, you can make your pledge here: https://myersparkbaptist.org/make-a-pledge/.

**Season of Giving**

As we head into the Christmas season, the “season of giving” here are some ways to give to our Church that you may not know about:
The "In Kind" Donation of Stocks or Other Investments
Do you own shares of a stock, mutual funds or other investments that have gained value over the years? Consider giving the asset directly to the Church in the form of an "in kind" donation. If you gift your shares directly to the charity, you can effectively avoid the 20% capital gains tax.

For Givers Over Age 70½ - Gifting Directly from Your IRA
You can give some of your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) on a tax-free basis to the Church using a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" (QCD). This previously temporary provision of the tax code has become permanent. If you are taking an RMD from your IRA account, the QCD donation "counts" toward your annual RMD. AND it also stays off your tax return - meaning it does not get added to Adjusted Gross Income for tax purposes.

To learn more, talk with your financial planner, or contact Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman at 704.334.7232 x116.

LEADERSHIP
Deacon Nominations
Please watch for information on the 2018 Deacon Nomination and Election process in your January Newsletter. Nominations for the Class of 2019 will officially begin on Sunday, February 4 and conclude on February 11. Questions? Contact Janet Miller, Chair, Ministry of Leadership at janetmiller1960@gmail.com.

OUTREACH AND JUSTICE
Charlotte Family Housing Week
December 17-21
Charlotte Family Housing (Family Promise) is an interfaith hospitality network. Its mission is to empower working homeless families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through shelter, housing, supportive services, and advocacy. The families reside in Hawthorne Place, located in St. John’s Baptist Church on Hawthorne Lane. Outreach opportunities include preparing meals and serving as overnight hosts. For more information, contact Cindy Clemens, clemens@charlottenc.gov.

Room In The Inn (RITI)
Every Saturday through March 31, 2018
Each winter, MPBC participates in this temporary shelter program through the Urban Ministry Center. We open our doors on Saturday evenings and provide warm food, beds, facilities, and fellowship for our neighbors who are homeless. YOU make it happen! There is an opportunity for everyone to participate - make a bed, bring a meal, drive the van, be a host for our guests.

Oatmeal Drive
We have begun a new goal that will support a variety of organizations that help feed the homeless in our city. So far we have only collected 15,125 lbs. toward our goal of 100,000 lbs. Our eleventh annual Oatmeal drive runs through January 15, 2018. Drop-off sites are available in Heaton Hall Foyer and the Cornwall Center Lobby. Or if you prefer to make a monetary donation, send your check payable to MPBC (with Sunshine Fund/Oatmeal Drive on the memo line) to Leigh Anne Hagerman in the Church Office. You can also donate online at www.myersparkbaptist.org.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC
Service of Lament and Loss | Advent IV
Wednesday, December 20 | 6:30p | Sanctuary

This service is a combination of two liturgical traditions, the “Longest Night” service that takes place on the longest night of the year and “Christmas Services for Those Who Grieve.” We will gather together to pray, meditate, and offer hands to hold and shoulders to lean on as we walk the journey together.

Music Together Winter Session
January 10 - March 10
Wednesdays, 4:00p and 5:00p | Saturdays, 10:00a and 11:00a

Music Together’s mixed-age classes help children from birth through TK develop a foundation for life-long music making! The grown-ups who care for them are an essential part of the fun. Studies show that children who participate in interactive music classes smile more, communicate better, and show earlier and more sophisticated brain responses to music.

The winter session has 45-minute classes of music, instruments, and movement! Registration has begun (use code PREW18 and MPBC). Questions? Contact Lucy Chapman at lucybellev22@gmail.com. Hope to sing with you soon!

Register Here >

CORNWELL CENTER  (visit cornwellcenter.org for details)

Holiday Camp
December 18-22 | 8:30am - 12:30pm

When school’s out, send your kids (ages 3-5 years old) to the Cornwell Holiday Camp where they will be safe and engaged in fun, healthy activities. Students remain challenged and active while in a safe environment. Space is limited, so please register early. $155 Cornwell Members | $195 Community Member’s.

PHOTO Connections
Wednesday, December 20 | 7:00-9:00p | www.cornwellcenter.org/photo

The assignment this month is “The Eyes Have It” and all eyes look forward to seeing your creative ocular inspirations! You can think of “eyes” phonetically... as the features normally appearing above our nose, as “I’s,” or “aies,” or whatever. Send one or two (designating which is which, please) to jbambach@cornwellcenter.org by noon on December 19. Then bring something to share for what will be our holiday gathering! Yum!

For those working ahead, January’s assignment reflects on the season that brought together the friends we’ve known for a while, and those that come with the new year. We’re calling it “Old Friends/New Friends.” Send one or two photos by noon on January 16. Then, join us for usual third Wednesday meeting on the 17th, 7:00-9:00p in the Cornwell Conference Center.
Girls on the Bike
Mondays and Wednesdays | 5:00-5:45p | Cadence Studio

Girls rule! This fun, high energy spin class for girls ages 10-14 begins Wednesday, January 3. The class is included in family and student memberships or $7 for drop-in fee.

Boy’s Bootcamp
Mondays and Wednesdays | 5:00-5:45p

These are not just beat up sneakers. These are the shoes in which you will find courage, strength, and friends. These shoes are gonna step you into greatness (... and that’s why they smell so bad). Boy’s Bootcamp starts Monday, January 8. This class is included in family and student memberships or $7 for drop-in fee.

QUICK LINKS

SUNDAY SERVICES
Did you miss a worship service or would you like to experience one again? It’s available here.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
Check out our current issue to learn more about MPBC, its ministries, and programs.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

CORNWELL CENTER WEBSITE
THROUGH-THE-WEEK SCHOOL WEBSITE

Make it a great week!
Laura Geer
Communications Manager
Myers Park Baptist Church
lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org

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1900 Queens Road | Charlotte, NC 28207-2582
www.myersparkbaptist.org

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OUR 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.

❄

MYERS PARK
BAPTIST CHURCH
OPEN TO ALL
1900 QUEENS ROAD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28207-2582
704.334.7232
WWW.MYERSPARKBAPTIST.ORG

❄

MINISTERS

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

THE REVEREND W. BENJAMIN BOSWELL, Senior Minister
FRANCES L. MORRISON, Minister of Music
THE REVEREND JOSEPH D. ALDRICH, Associate Minister
THE REVEREND CHRISY TATUM WILLIAMSON, Associate Minister
THE REVEREND LEIGH ANNE HAGERMAN, Church Administrator
THE REVEREND CARRIE VEAL, Minister of Children and Community Life
JOHN RICHARDSON, Organist
CHARLOTTE JUDGE, Associate Director of Music
ALLEN DAVIS, Director of Youth Ministry
JENNY YOPP, Director of the Cornwell Center
BELINDA GEUSS, Director of Through-The-Week School

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