August 3-5 (Wednesday-Friday) 9:30-Noon

Myers Park Baptist News
Open to all and closed to none.

July 2016

By Carrie Veal

"Never let us neglect children, but help us to delight in them, showing them the welcome God has shown us all." These words are part of our Family Dedication Litany. We say them as a congregation to show our support. This August you have the chance to put those words into action through our Mini-Vacation Bible School.

This August, we will again welcome children ages three–fifth grade. Many will know; many we will not. All of them will bring laughter and joy. And you will not want to miss a minute of it!

Vacation Bible School is more than just a long-time tradition for churches. It’s different. It’s a unique opportunity to welcome the youngest in our community onto our campus. It’s an opportunity to show their families why MPBC is different. And it’s an opportunity to meet people you may never have met otherwise.

A volunteer from last year said there were families in our Church she had never met and VBS gave her that chance. One parent said that VBS was a place for all children, no matter how calm or energetic they are. VBS is just different.

VBS offers you a chance to serve in ways that are simple, yet impactful. From preparing snacks, to shepherding children, we have a place for everyone.

Your time and talents are needed and wanted this year for our Mini-VBS. We will be sharing and learning about water. Through our VBS Offering, we will be raising money to send a Hippo Roller to Malawi. These rollers make transporting water easier and more effective for Malawian families. You can learn all about it at hipporoller.org. You can also contribute to the offering through myMPBC in the giving section. Please choose VBS.

Please consider how you might be a part of VBS 2016. You can sign up to volunteer on the Church website. To learn more, please contact me at cveal@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x18.

By Ben Boswell

In the month of July I will be preaching on the lectionary texts from the gospel of Luke, which include some of the most famous passages in all of scripture. We will cover the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the Lord’s Prayer, the Parable of the Storehouses, and Jesus’ memorable command “Do not worry about your life . . . consider the ravens . . . consider the lilies.” In our journey through these texts, we will explore Jesus’ vision of the Kingdom or Reign of God and what it means for us to desire, inherit, strive for, and participate in that vision today.

On July 3, our proclaimer will be the Rev. Maria Swearingen, who serves as the Associate University Chaplain at Furman University. Rev. Swearingen is a graduate of Baylor University and Duke Divinity School. In her current role at Furman she provides leadership, advising, spiritual care, and multi-faith development to students, staff, and faculty. She supports and manages 22 religious organizations, as well as 13 affiliated campus ministers and religious advisors. In addition she offers supervision and support to a unique scholarship program for 30+ students focusing on vocational reflection, leadership development, and year-long congregational and non-profit internships. Her passion as a minister is fleshing out the perplexing, subversive, and liberating work of peace-building, social justice, and multi-faith engagement in communities of learning, communities of faith, and the imaginary, intersecting communities that exist between them. At the same time, she hopes to walk alongside lifelong learners and seekers as they ask the “big” questions about life, death, suffering, identity, healing and transformation. She is married to her partner, the Rev. Sally Sarratt, who currently serves as the Pastoral Associate at Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Greenville, SC.

On July 17, our proclaimer will be the Rev. Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Jonathan is a native of North Carolina and a graduate of Eastern University and Duke Divinity School, where he and I became good friends during our time as classmates. In 2003, Jonathan and his wife Leah founded the Rutha House, a house of hospitality in Dur-

(... continued on page 2)
Kingdom Preaching in July

(... continued from page 1)

ham, NC where the formerly homeless are welcomed into a community that eats, prays, and shares life together. Jonathan directs the School for Conversion, a nonprofit organization that has grown out of the life of Rutba House to pursue beloved community with kids in their neighborhood, through classes in North Carolina prisons, and in community-based education around the country. Jonathan is an Associate Minister at the historically black St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church, a celebrated spiritual writer, and a sought-after speaker. He is a co-author of 15 books on Christian Spirituality and Social Justice including Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, The Third Reconstruction, Strangers at My Door, The Awakening of Hope, Free to Be Bound, The Wisdom of Stability, and The New Monasticism.

It is always good to hear from fresh voices, and we are very fortunate to have these two talented and passionate leaders coming to share God’s word with us during the month of July, as we strive together toward the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God. ■

July Worship Schedule

July 3  The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost; The Reverend Maria Swearingen Preaching

July 10  The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost; Rice Bowl; The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell Preaching

July 17  The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost; The Reverend Jonathan Wilson--Hartgrove Preaching

July 24  The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost; The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell Preaching

July 31  The Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost; The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell Preaching

Plan to join us for worship this summer! ■

Congregational Joys and Concerns

(as of June 15, 2016)

BIRTHS — CONGRATULATIONS
• Charles and Debbie Melvin on the birth of their granddaughter, Lucy Laney Watson Melvin, on May 22, in Charlotte, NC.
• Ryan and Kari Morrison on the birth of their son, and Gary and Fran Morrison on the birth of their grandson, Ethan Frederick Morrison, on May 25, in Lafayette, IN.
• Tom and Carolyn Holmes on the birth of their grandson, Asher Burton Holmes, on May 19, in Alexandria, VA.
• Alex and Allison Gnilka on the birth of their daughter and Rosemary and Danielle on the birth of their sister, Annabelle Lucille Gnilka, on June 4, in Charlotte, NC.

WEDDINGS — CONGRATULATIONS
• Maria Goode and Elaine Murray on their wedding on June 5, in Charlotte, NC.

DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY
• Sarah and Joe Parisi on the death of Sarah’s mother, Mary Louise Byrd, on May 27, in San Marcus, TX.
• The family of Charles Clifford Cameron on his death on May 28, in Charlotte, NC.
• Alan and Becky Medearis (non-resident member) on the death of Alan’s father, Clyde Smith Medearis, on May 31, in Charlotte, NC.

July Loose Plate Offering Recipient

By Cheri Lindblom

The Loose Plate Missions Offering for July will benefit Family Promise (Charlotte Family Housing). Their mission is to empower homeless families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through shelter, housing, support services, and advocacy. ■

Finance Report

Year-to-Date
May 31, 2016

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Deacon of the Week

June 26 - July 2: Bob Bishop, 980.613.2573, bobbishopuk@gmail.com

July 3-9: Cindy Clemens, 704.622.3175, cclemens@charlottenc.gov

July 10-16: Tara Harris, 864.906.1865, taraagnew@hotmail.com

July 17-23: Ann Hester, 704.451.0678, alhester2@aol.com

July 24-30: Jane Huddle, 704.641.0481, jhuddle1@carolina.rr.com

July 31 - August 6: Elaine Johnson, 704.258.0961, elainedjohnson1@gmail.com ■
We Welcome Danielle Hilton, Pastoral Assistant

By Tammie Lesesne

When you meet Danielle Hilton, who is the new pastoral assistant supporting Ben Boswell and Joe Aldrich, be prepared to have your expectations upended.

Recommended by Rev. Rodney Sadler of Union Seminary, she brings not only strong administrative skills, but years of experience as a social service provider, community organizer and coalition builder. Danielle has led programs and continues to participate in liberation efforts with those who are unhoused, facing displacement, affected by disparities in healthcare, education and justice, and impacted by pollution and climate change -- those exploited and systemically impeded from their potential for self-determination and resilience.

Danielle has a psychology degree with a minor in human development and family studies from the University of Missouri and describes herself as “sitting at the intersection of many cultural strands... looking through an open, broad and complex lens.” She enjoys the history of her African and Powhatan ancestors and has a multi-cultural family and support network which includes her daughter, an 8-year-old. Danielle is originally from Philadelphia though she has family connections in Charlotte and as far away as Greenland. Danielle has deep ties among the Latinx and Southeast Asian and Indian communities of Charlotte; she’s fluent in Spanish and has offered trainings on cultural competency. Danielle is at home in communities that are accepting of gender fluidity and diverse socio-economic perspectives.

Danielle was drawn to membership at Redemption Christian Ministries, a Pentecostal church in West Charlotte led by Rev. LeRoy K. Dunlap and his wife, Pastor Theresa McCormick-Dunlap, after encountering them through anti-racism work, and she bonds with the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte. Her favorite band is Pamyua, a Yup’ik Soul group started by her cousins in Alaska. One of her favorite books is Upside Down: A Primer for the Looking Glass World by Uruguayan journalist Eduardo Galeano.

Danielle has broad and deep Charlotte connections with many local and broader social justice, cultural and neighborhood groups. Her roles have included public speaking, writing, research, planning, oversight and a strategic, diplomacy-based style of leadership. She has a sustainability lens and aims for a human-centered approach to problem-solving. Danielle organizes with neighbors in West Charlotte, Queer Trans People of Color Collaborative, The Tribe, and Charlotte Environmental Action, is a board member at QC Family Tree and campaigns for clean air for children’s health with caregivers across the country. This summer, she will continue to work to build resilience within disenfranchised communities of West Charlotte, and she will visit legislators in Washington, DC as part of the Moms Clean Air Force Play In for Climate Action. As Danielle describes her motivating values of justice, community and transformation, it’s clear that her deep convictions align with our Church Covenant.

Ben is excited by Danielle’s wealth of administrative gifts, leadership in community building, passion for social justice, her heart for people and commitment to building honest and trusting relationships. He anticipates that she will transform her position – increasing operational efficiency, enhancing the meeting of congregational needs, and maximizing the impact of our senior staff in our Church and community.

As for her transition onto the MPBC staff, Danielle expresses stunned gratitude at the kindness she has encountered in this community.

Stay Engaged

By Joe Aldrich

In a recent Time Magazine article written by Laura L. Carstensen, she begins by saying research states that, “emotional experience improves with age, (that) people are slower to express anger and more prone to see silver linings.” She also stated that, “social engagement has positive effects on health and longevity.” So far, this sounds like good news! Then she says, “Social isolation is a strong risk factor for early mortality.” Does this get your attention? The next words she writes are most alarming. “The 55-64 year olds (Baby Boomers) just about to join the ranks of the elderly are far less socially engaged now than their predecessors were at the same age 20 years ago.” What has happened to us as Baby Boomers? In our younger days, we were ready to change the world. Now it appears we are ready to fade out into the sunset without a whimper.

I am writing this article particularly to all who are entering thoughts of retirement and to those already retired. This is not a time to retreat fully. Yes, pause if we must, but keep forging ahead. There are still many ways we can make a difference in this world. One way to stay involved is to become more active in the life of our community of faith. One small step is to participate in all kinds of gatherings which include Connection Groups, book studies, outreach events, Bible studies, and the list goes on. This fall, several of us will be planning experiences for senior adults that include day trips and opportunities to tell your stories and hear reports on what is happening in Charlotte and in our own Church.

Times of community gatherings help us to support one another and also to engage our minds, hearts and souls. Let’s stay engaged. Let’s journey together into the next chapter of our lives!
Add this page to your Church Pictorial Directory

The following new members were not available for pictures:

- Ellen Caldwell
- Elizabeth Counts
Report From Our Congregational Meeting

By Janet Miller, Chair, Board of Deacons

On June 5, following worship, about 130 members of the congregation gathered for a Quarterly Congregational Meeting. Our congregational meetings are an opportunity for lay leaders to communicate with our members, to whom we report, about issues and actions taken by Deacons on behalf of the Church, and to seek guidance and input about how to move forward on pending matters. I moderated the meeting.

Financial Report: Richard Harris, Chair of the Ministry of Financial Resources, gave a report on the financial status of the Church. He noted that we have a $2.1 million budget for the year that is based on receiving $1.83 million in pledges. Through April we have received $520 thousand in pledges vs. a budgeted amount of $550 thousand. The difference is not a cause for concern, however, as the timing of pledge receipts is difficult to predict with precision. He also noted that, as part of our financial prudence, we build in a provision for uncollectible pledges.

While revenues have been slightly lower than budget, expenses are also under budget. Through April, expenses totaled $670 thousand vs. a budget of $685 thousand. This is due in part to good expense management by our staff.

Our cash position is excellent with 44 days of cash on hand. Our Church is financially stable with a very good reserve.

Finally, Richard noted that a new group is being created to examine how best to calculate and report our Outreach spending as a percent of our budget. The group will include members from the Ministry of Financial Resources as well as the Ministry of Outreach. We can expect a report from this group at a future meeting.

Statement of Membership and Baptism Proposal and Vote: Carol Reid, Chair of the Strategic Planning Council, gave a presentation on the proposed new Statement of Membership. The membership statement was approved by the Deacons in November for submission to the congregation for approval. The statement was provided to the congregation at the January Congregational Meeting and via the Church newsletter thereafter. It was also provided in a handout at this meeting. Carol reiterated the key points, including:

- Our current Statement on Membership and Baptism was created in 1968. It was unclear and needed updating.
- The original statement, combined with Church practices, resulted in inconsistent membership paths for youth and adults. Youth were required to be baptized to become members and adults were not.
- Our Church Covenant has been the focal point for new members for some time and the new Statement of Membership now recognizes this.
- Baptism will be encouraged, but not required, for new members.
- During the discussion, an objection was raised to the term “sacrament” when referring to baptism. The speaker felt the term was not in keeping with the Baptist tradition of soul competence and freedom. She instead preferred the term “ritual” or “practice.” Reverend Boswell explained that the original term used in our documents was “ordinance” so “sacrament” was a less restrictive term. He also noted that the term “sacrament,” while perhaps less

The revised Statement of Membership was voted on and passed by the congregation.

New Alcohol Policy: Carol Reid Fricke introduced the Alcohol Use Policy, explaining that it did not require a congregational vote since it is a facilities use, operational policy. She compared this to the new Statement of Membership, which did require a congregational vote because it deals with a foundational, sacred issue for our Church exploring the question: “What does it mean to be a member?”

Carol noted that this is not a policy that allows alcohol to become a part of Church life. Alcohol already is a part of Church life as it has been served at off-campus Church events for decades. In some cases, events where alcohol has been served have been held next door on Queens University property to avoid violating our historical practice of not serving it on Church property.

The new Alcohol Use Policy, approved by Deacons at their April meeting, will allow for a two-year trial of allowing alcohol to be served on certain parts of our campus under highly controlled conditions. This trial period will be overseen by a Task Force led by Jay Rivers. Congregational input will be received throughout the trial period and the policy will be reexamined at the end of the period.

Charles Johnson, a member of the Strategic Planning Council and an attorney, addressed the liability issues associated with the new policy. In summary, our legal exposure is small and no greater than it has been previously with alcohol being served at off-campus Church events. Nevertheless, because liquor liability insurance is relatively inexpensive ($250/year per million) we will be increasing our coverage.

Jay Rivers spoke briefly and noted that the members of his Task Force include members of the Ministry of Property and Grounds and the Ministry of Financial Resources, among others. Their first order

(continued on page 6)
of business will be to flesh out policy details based on the research done by the Strategic Planning Council, but they will also be developing an evaluation process. A formal implementation proposal will be submitted to the Board of Deacons at its September meeting. Jay encouraged Church members to stay in close touch with his Task Force to provide input and feedback.

The conversation that followed was open and respectful. A wide variety of perspectives was shared. Several members objected to the policy on the grounds that alcohol was inappropriate on the Church campus, while others felt the issue should have come to the congregation for input prior to being approved by the Board of Deacons. Several members spoke in favor of the policy, saying that it can be part of improving our fellowship. Another speaker noted that removing the dualism of serving alcohol at off-campus Church events but not on-campus allows us to bring our whole, authentic selves to Church. Several members stated that the research and suggested structure around the policy are particularly strong. One of the two Deacons who voted against the policy at the April meeting noted that she respects the Deacons’ decision and is happy with the two-year trial period.

I thanked the Congregation for their comments and encouraged them to stay in touch with the Task Force. I emphasized that all perspectives will continue to be welcome in the conversation which will continue during the two-year trial period of this policy.

**Senior Minister Report:** Our Senior Minister, Reverend Ben Boswell, gave a report summarizing the activities of his first 100 days with our Church. He reported that most of his time has been spent listening and learning, and most of all, building strong relationships. He has attended multiple internal meetings with various groups including most of the Ministries, many of the SLG’s (Servant Leader Groups), Sunday School classes (from youth to seniors), and Through-The-Week School.

He has worked closely with the Minister of Music Search Group. He has done preliminary work on our upcoming 75th Anniversary celebration, including working with the Ministry of Leadership to recruit Bob Thomason to chair the effort. He noted this will be his third big anniversary event at churches he has served and he is very excited about ours, which will kick off on Founders’ Day in January of 2018.

Much staff development work has been accomplished. Consultant Susan Beaumont led a staff retreat focused on trust and relationship building that was a very helpful team-building process. Staff responsibilities have been adjusted and some new staff has been hired, including Tom Jones as Operations Assistant and Danielle Hilton as the new Pastoral Assistant.

Ben has also been working with the Strategic Planning Council to prepare for our next Strategic Plan. This plan will be a key part of our 75th Anniversary event and the plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of this church year (May 2017).

Community activity is one of Ben’s areas of focus. He meets regularly with the Myers Park Ministers’ Group, a group of ministers from local churches. He’s been active at Southminster, including attending a Board Meeting as well as preaching there. He’s met with the Baptist Peace Fellowship, NC Council of Churches, the Urban Ministry, American Baptist Churches of the South, the Alliance of Baptists, and several other groups. He’s been discussing partnership opportunities with an African American church in town and he attended a preaching workshop in Atlanta.

Ben noted that the instructions from the Senior Minister Search Group and Church leadership have emphasized that he pay attention to his work/life balance. He reports that he has done so and has a weekly rhythm that is working for both the Church and his family.

**Updating Information in myMPBC**

By Jane Huddle, Chair, Technology SLG

Since myMPBC rolled out in January 2015, over 500 of you have created a login ID and have used the functions in this secure members-only area. This has included registering and paying for events, signing up for Connections small groups, reviewing your personal information that the Church maintains, looking for other members’ contact information, checking your giving records, making a monetary gift to the Church, communicating with the Church groups you are in and many other functions. If you haven’t created a login ID, please visit the myMPBC website page today and follow the instructions. The link to this page is in the top right-hand corner of the Church website home page.

You can update most of your personal information yourself in myMPBC. Click on “My Complete Profile” in the “I Want to View . . .” box. If you see a pencil beside your information, click on it and it will bring up options for editing. After you submit your updates, Church staff will review the requested changes and perform the actual update. This may take a couple of days. If your Group Information is incorrect, please make Amy Jones aware of any changes needed.

If you have any questions about myMPBC, please contact me at jhuddle1@carolina.rr.com or by phone at 704.641.0481.
Youth Ministry Notes

By Chris Hughes

This month we will continue our summer Friday lunches at Hubee D’s on Providence Road from 11:30am-1:00pm. We’ve been having great turnouts. So, if you haven’t been yet, I hope you’ll join us for lunch! On Sunday, July 10, our high school youth will head to Fentress County, Tennessee to participate in Appalachia Service Project. This will be an exciting and transformative trip, so please keep us in your hearts as we travel.

Upcoming Events

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<td>Friday Lunch Bunch (11:30am at Hubee D’s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 10-16</td>
<td>Appalachian Service Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Friday Lunch Bunch</td>
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<td>July 29</td>
<td>Friday Lunch Bunch ■</td>
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Being Sent Out to Appalachia Service Project

By Chris Hughes

“As God has sent me, so I send you,” (John 20:21). These are the words Jesus speaks to the disciples in his first resurrection appearance to them. In his sermon last September, Dr. Jeff Rogers described this as the “Sending Jesus,” and the beginning of the “Sending Church.” The Sending Church is one that centers its mission on people being sent out to bring God’s Good News to the world around them – to be people of healing, grace and mutual transformation. “Sending churches,” Dr. Rogers said, “measure how many people are going out.”

Over the course of two weeks this summer, 21 youth and seven adults will be sent out from this Church. One group of middle and high school youth has already been sent out to Passport in Greensboro, NC. This month, our high school youth will be sent out to Fentress County, TN to work with Appalachia Service Project. ASP’s mission is to inspire hope and service through volunteer home repair in Central Appalachia, spanning across five states.

We are going out to a region marked by extreme poverty and poor living conditions, but also marked by a surprising amount of beauty, hope, music, culture and tradition. And so my prayer, as it so often is on our service trips, is that we go with open hearts and open hands so that we might give and receive, teach and be taught, transform and be transformed. There is so much that we can learn from working with, and being in conversation with, those who seem to lead entirely different lives than we do.

Whenever we leave on service trips, I am always reminded of Jesus’ commissioning of the 70 in Luke 10. In that commissioning service, Jesus partners with his followers and he empowers them to join in on his work – giving them the ability to heal the sick and preach the Good News. He tells them, if you go and they like what you have to say, tell them that “the Kingdom of God has come near to you” and even if they don’t like what you have to say, still say to them, “the Kingdom of God has come near to you.” And when the 70 return, they are exhilarated! They have stories to share of the amazing ways the Kingdom broke forth into the world, right before their very eyes. When we come back, we will have so many stories to share about long bus rides, copious amounts of sugar consumption, inside jokes, hard work, new friends and, I hope, the Kingdom of God. We go with your prayers, your support, and your love, and we look forward to sharing our stories with you.

Children’s Ministry

By Carrie Veal

Family Bowling Night

Saturday, July 9, 4:30–6:30pm
Ten Park Lanes

Join us for a fun evening of bowling! The cost is $15/person which includes your shoes and unlimited bowling. Please sign up on myMPBC. Questions? Contact me at cveal@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x18.

Child Protection Training

Sunday, July 10 or 24, 11:00am

Serving in our children’s ministry is one of the most rewarding experiences in church life. Because we want all of our volunteers to have the best training possible, and we want our children to be as safe as possible, we offer our child protection training. If you have never had this training and would like to serve our children and their families, please plan to attend one of these two sessions. There is no cost to attend. You can sign up through the church website. For more information, contact me at cveal@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x18.

Summer Movie on the Lawn

Friday, July 22, 7:00pm

Bring chairs and blankets, and dinner, if you wish, for a great time of being together! We will gather on the front lawn of the Cornwall Center and watch Inside Out. Please contact me at cveal@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x18 for more information.
**2016 YTD Financial Overview**

By Tucker Pearsall, Member Budget and Finance SLG

**RECEIPTS** - In January the congregation approved a $2.1 million budget to be funded primarily with $1.83 million in pledges. This is a lofty goal and we want to thank everyone again for your generosity.

Through April we have collected pledges of $519,000 in comparison to our budgeted amount of $550,000. Keeping in mind that giving can fluctuate from month to month, we build a “cushion” into the budgeted receivables. This cushion also serves as a budgetary buffer against pledges that are not fulfilled.

Other giving is as follows:
- Rice Bowl giving is well ahead of the budgeted $3,200 with total receipts of $4,700.
- Loose Plate is slightly behind budget at $10,500. The budgeted amount is $12,000.
- 5-in-1 giving was at $800 through April which fell before the annual 5-in-1 push that came in May. We have budgeted $25,000 and we are close to that goal.

**SPENDING** - Spending has been below the budget of $685,000 at $670,000. Thank you very much to our staff for the diligence they have exhibited towards expenditures. Salaries and benefit spending was also below budget but we expect that to be closer to budget once we have hired a Minister of Music. Additionally, a full-time Pastoral Assistant has been hired.

**SUMMARY** - MPBC maintains Operating Cash of approximately $230,000 on hand. This covers average monthly expenses by 1.45 months, or roughly 44 days. While we look forward to the pledge receipts cycle to catch up with our budgeted numbers, we consider MPBC to be financially stable.

**ON THE NEAR HORIZON** - The 2017 Budgetary Process has already started! Ministry chairs, deacon liaisons and staff liaisons met starting in mid-May to prepare for the coming year. The Strategic Planning Council will review all submissions in August and the Budget and Finance SLG will start crafting the budget shortly thereafter.

With a new Senior Minister in place, we think it is a good time to create a working group to examine our reporting and budgeting for outreach dollars. There have been some questions in this area that require further thought and analysis to determine what, if any, changes are needed in the reporting and budgeting. This group will include members of the Ministry of Financial Resources, Ministry of Outreach and staff.

We look forward to a continued financial stability that enables us to spread the Good News!

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**Freedom School: We’re Feeling So Strong!**

By Cheri Lindblom

Each morning, our Freedom School scholars start their day with a high energy “pep rally.” Cheers, motivational chants, a story from a church or community volunteer, and then the song . . . the “Strong Song.”

- **Something inside so strong**
  - I know that I can make it
  - Though you’re doing me so wrong
  - You thought that my pride was gone
  - Oh, no, something inside so strong
  - there’s something inside so strong

This is HARAMBEE. For the past two weeks scholars have heard this song during Harambee. The scholars, staff, parents and YOU, the faith community come together to celebrate themselves and each other.

During May and June, we collected books to stock the classroom libraries. On June 5, MPBC joined together to provide fifty-three backpacks for our scholars and packed them with healthy snacks and school supplies. On June 14, the MPBC Youth (and a couple of “non-youth”) loaded the backpacks, books, supplies from the warehouse and helped the college interns (teachers) set up their classrooms. All this, before the scholars arrived on June 16.

Many of you have already embraced our Freedom School partnership as reading buddies, Harambee storytellers, field trip chaperones and activity leaders. Thank you.

We still have places for everyone to take part in this amazing program to give our scholars a “hand-up” during the summer. Here are a few:
- **D.E.A.R. Reader** (Drop Everything and Read)
- **Lunch Buddy Volunteer** - Work with one or two students on reading aloud and have lunch together: You may come once, once a week, several weeks or everyday. The time commitment is minimal (11:15-11:45am).
- **Field Trip Chaperones** - Chaperone one of the fun field trips set up by the Freedom School Partners.
- **Scholastic Book Fair** - Thanks to a generous donation from American Airlines, our scholars will be able to add books to their home libraries. American Airlines has made it possible for each scholar to receive a Scholastic Gift Card in the amount of $15 to purchase books at the book fair. In addition, Scholastic will offer the scholars a “Buy-One-Get-One” option. We need volunteers to help our scholars choose books that are appropriate for their reading level and help them stay within their gift card limit. Dates vary - contact me for more information at clindblom@windstream.net.
- **Finale: July 27 at MPBC** - Scholars, parents, Freedom School staff, and members of MPBC and SUMC will join together for Finale - a celebration of 2016 Freedom School. We need help setting up, serving and celebrating! Come join us for lunch.
- **Support an Intern** - Freedom School Partners hires college interns as their teachers. Their hope is to encourage and groom potential teachers. Help support the interns by supplying treat bags, or bring in lunch one day. What a better way to let them know that they are appreciated. Check out the back page of this newsletter to see our interns at Pinewood.

For specific dates, job descriptions and sign-up, please go to the Church website, www.mpbconline.org, and click on the Freedom School link.

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Family Promise

By Cindy Clemens

Our next Family Promise Week at Elizabeth House will be July 17-21. Newly homeless families live temporarily at Elizabeth House – with their own bedroom, private storage cubby and personal kitchen supplies. During the day, children go to school or childcare while parents work or attend special training.

Family Promise works to solve family homelessness by doing three things:

- Housing Families - Address the immediate need of homelessness by sheltering working, homeless families and helping them forge a path back to housing, along with providing short-term rental assistance in apartments and homes all around the community.
- Building Partnerships - Partner with families in the areas of financial self-reliance, careers, education, support networks, and health and wellness. Volunteers form intentional relationships of encouragement and support.
- Empowering Change - Preserve dignity and self-esteem, increase personal accountability, and decrease dependency.

MPBC works to solve family homelessness by partnering with Family Promise, both financially (FP is one of our outreach budget recipients) and with our hands and feet serving. Our congregational week offers several ways for you to serve:

- Dinner - Provide and serve dinner for approximately four families and hosts. We provide dinner on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Dinner is typically an entrée, vegetable, salad and dessert. Summer is a great time to cook out for the families. A gas grill is available in the backyard. Sharing a meal offers a chance for fellowship.
- Overnight Host (8:00pm-7:00am) - Hosts stay at the house. A private bedroom with separate bathroom will be provided for hosts. The families retire to their rooms by 9:00pm and you are free to relax in a quiet, private and comfortable room with a separate bathroom. Hosts are needed Sunday-Thursday. (Congregational hosts save Charlotte Family Housing $100 in staffing salary.)

Wrapping up the Minister of Music Search

By Laura Kratt, Chair, Minister of Music Search Servant Leadership Group (SLG)

No word was ever as effective as a rightly timed pause.

--Mark Twain

If you want to make good music, it is important to learn when to sing or play, and when to pause and take a breath. Well-timed silence gives the listener the space to hear and the musician the time to replenish. It is that essential pause that fuels good work.

Since last November, the Minister of Music Servant Leadership Group (SLG) has been hard at work on a shared journey of faith and discovery. Together, we delved deep into the rich musical history of our congregation to understand the foundation for MPBC’s music ministry. We dug into our Church’s early music program and alternative worship surveys that expressed the congregational will, assessed the strengths and weaknesses of our program, and looked for new opportunities to serve and engage the congregation. We listened closely to church staff, both music and ministerial, to help define our Church’s “best fit” candidate.

In working together, we soon discovered in each other the many facets of our diverse congregation. The SLG represented a parent of young children in the early music program, parents of children that grew up in the MPBC music program, ordained laity, current and past Deacons, former Minister of Music and Senior Minister search committee members, Church and non-profit administrators, HR professionals, gay and straight, married and single, employed and retired, the non-musical, amateur and professional musicians, traditionalists and progressives, locals and transplants, new and old members, as well as fans of every style of music imaginable. The result was a wonderful mélange of interests and abilities that fully informed a broad-based decision-making process.

In recent months, while the SLG proceeded with the candidate interview phase, our Church, staff and leadership have been increasingly engaged in a dynamic transitional period as our congregation has welcomed a new Senior Minister. The Search SLG has also been discussing how to continue the search in the coming months since most church music programs take a break for the summer. In recent weeks, Fran Morrison expressed a willingness to continue as Interim Minister of Music for a more extended period.

Given these factors, the Search SLG felt now was the prudent time to take a strategic pause. The extended continuation of an interim position would be most beneficial to our Church at this time, giving our staff and laity the space to embrace important assessment opportunities and tackle transitional needs that could strengthen the music ministry at MPBC.

The Minister of Music Search SLG has recommended that Fran Morrison continue to serve as the Interim Minister of Music for an extended period as determined by the Human Resources SLG with additional support staff as needed. During this pause, we are confident that Fran’s talents, enthusiasm and sincere commitment to the music ministry at MPBC will enable her to make music a vital and inclusive program for enriching our worship experience and congregation.

It was such a blessing to serve with such differently-gifted and thoughtful volunteers who brought prayerful consideration to every stage of this search over the past 8 months. Their generosity, grace, commitment and insightful engagement demonstrated the very best of our Church.

The Minister of Music Search SLG: Laura Kratt (Chair), Barbara Mishoe (Deputy Chair), Mark Andersen, Janice Bradner, Dave Dougherty, Joan Hope, Edith Patton, and Rev. Ben Boswell (ex-officio).
The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Visits Again

By Fran Morrison

The Royal School of Church Music is an international, ecumenical, professional organization that promotes high standards of church music throughout the English-speaking world. For a number of years, the Royal School of Church Music in America has brought its Charlotte Training Course to Myers Park Baptist for rehearsal and worship space, utilizing the close proximity of Queens University for housing. The Charlotte Course is sponsored by St. John’s Episcopal Church, runs July 18-24, and offers advanced musical training to girls and boys ages 10-18, adult singers and directors.

The guest conductor for 2016 is Ms. Sarah MacDonald, a Canadian-born organist and conductor who lives in England and currently holds the positions of Fellow and Director of Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge University, and Director of the Ely Cathedral Girls’ Choir. She has served at Selwyn since 1999, and she is the first woman to hold such a post in an Oxford or Cambridge University Chapel. Ms. MacDonald will be joined by Mr. Stephen Buzard, returning as course organist and accompanist for the choir. He holds a Master of Music Degree from the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. The week concludes with an Evensong service on Sunday, July 24 at 4:00pm, which is open and free to the public.

Summer Music Opportunities

By Matthew Manwarren

Each summer, the Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists sponsors concerts on Sunday evenings in June, July, and August. These performances take place at different churches throughout our city. There will be two opportunities to hear inspiring music here at Myers Park Baptist.

Every July, MPBC is the site of the Royal School of Church Music’s Charlotte Training Course. The course will hold an Evensong in the Anglican tradition in our Sanctuary on Sunday, July 24 at 4:00pm. (See article above for more information.)

On Sunday, August 7 at 7:00pm, organist Richard Gray will present a recital on our Church’s beautiful Æolian-Skinner organ, featuring music of J.S. Bach, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Maurice Duruflé, Jehan Alain, Olivier Messiaen, and other composers. A native of Beaufort, SC, Gray is a candidate for the Master of Music degree in Organ Performance at Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Arts in Dallas, TX, where he studies with Professor Stefan Engels. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he studied with James David Christie and Marie-Louise Langlais.

In July, Mr. Gray will begin his appointment on the music staff of Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas as Interim Organist during the sabbatical of Dr. Yoon-Mi Lim. Most recently, he won the prize for Hymn Playing Excellence (Alamo AGO Award) in the 45th Annual William C. Hall Pipe Organ Competition in San Antonio, TX. Previously, he has served as Sacred Music Intern at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD and First Baptist Church in Worcester, MA. Mr. Gray recently served as Assistant Course Organist and Conducting Scholar for the 21st Annual Royal School of Church Music in America’s Carolina Course in Raleigh, NC.

An active recitalist, Mr. Gray has performed throughout the United States, including recent performances in Boston’s Trinity Church Copley Square, Washington DC’s National City Christian Church, Cleveland’s The Church of the Covenant, and the prestigious Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC.

For more information about the Summer Recital series, please visit the Chapter website at www.charlotteago.org. Concerts are free and open to the public.

50 Plus Years and Still Counting...

By Fran Morrison

If you have ever sung in Chancel Choir, even for a short while, you have probably heard stories about the annual Chancel Choir Retreat held each Labor Day weekend. This Labor Day will mark our 52nd retreat. The weekend offers renewal and rejuvenation for the choir members/spouses/partners/children through singing, worship, laughter, and fellowship.

If you are contemplating joining this wonderful group of supportive musical friends, retreat time is prime time to sign up. Rehearsals are held in the mornings and early evenings, afternoons offer leisure time, and frivolity ensues as the evenings progress. Make plans now to join us this Labor Day weekend, beginning Friday evening, September 2 through Monday morning, September 5, at the Montreat Conference Center in the NC mountains. Registration information will be available online at myMPBC July 1 for returning singers. Interested new singers are invited to contact me at fmorrison@mpbconline.org for more information.
Aquathlon & Family Festival
Saturday, September 10 - save the date. Help celebrate this community with our annual Aquathlon & Family Festival.

This popular event combines community, fitness, and fun with proceeds going to the Levine Cancer Center in honor of Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month.

Aquathlon participants will swim eight laps in the Queens University pool, continuing with a 5K run/walk along these beautiful Myers Park streets. You can also choose the 5K only. Participate yourself or cheer participants on before joining our Family Festival at The Cornwell Center. It'll be a great day!

Watch for more information about special training clinics to be held leading up to the event. More info is available on our web site, www.cornwellcenter.org.

- Aquathlon and Family Festival Saturday, SEP. 10

Children and Youth

Great news in both staffing and services...

All our Childcare services are now in the able hands of Chandi Dunn, including reservations for Before School Care and Parent’s Morning Out. She’s been with us for several years and we’re happy to announce her as our new Childcare Manager. You can reach Chandi at cornwellchildcare@mpbconline.org.

What was formerly the infant room will now be an area for our older kids to hang out, listen to music, play board games, and use their personal technology while parents exercise, or during Parent’s Morning Out.

- Kids Club (8–11 yrs. only) MON–FRI, 7:50a–1p

With Art, Sports, Dance, Spanish, Technology, Yoga, Music, and more, Summer Camps are in full swing. Registration continues for morning and afternoon camps, for children 3–12 years. Details and registration are available on our web site, where you can also download our Camp brochure with full info. Kayla Blake gladly answers questions. Contact her by phone, or email kblake@mpbconline.org.

Families with tight summer schedules will love Before Camp Care, where parents can drop off children as early as 7:50a. We’ll provide care before walking your children to their morning camps.

- Before Camp Care $2/day per child MON–FRI, 7:50a-camp start time

Our popular offering, Parent’s Morning Out, serves parents of children 6 weeks–12 yrs. This summer, if you register your child for all five days, you pay for only four! A full description of this service is on our web site, on the Youth page.

- Parent’s Morning Out 9a–1p, Mon.–Fri. (with 24-hr. notice) Summer Promo through AUG 26 Registration contact: Kayla Blake, kblake@mpbconline.org

Art

Summer Art Camps for youth are inspired by nature, with varied themes for each session. Dress to get messy.

Young children pinch, coil and roll clay into joyful objects of tactile expression. Each runs JUL 11–15, from 9a–12:30p.

- Studio Clay Kids – Session 3 (6–8 yrs.)
- Studio Clay Play – Session 2 (3–5 yrs.)

This adult class is already in session but you can join in anytime and be prorated.

- Beginning Clay Mondays, 6:30 – 8:30p, through AUG 1
- Expressive Teen Clay JUL 18–22 and 25–29
- Expressive Teen Paint AUG 8–12 and AUG 15–19

Group Exercise

Instructor Cathy Bortz will be away now through August 14, but her classes will continue, thanks to fabulous and familiar instructors - Robin McCoy, Stacy Moldovan, Kelli Byrnes and Amy Eades. Amy will also be teaching a replacement for Spin Boot Camp, previously held during this time on Tuesdays (minus the Arms & Abs portion):

- Spin to the Beat, w/Amy Eades 8:30–9:15a (Tue’s) Begins JUN. 14

See our web site, or Facebook page, for more about our G.E. offerings, or contact P.J. Isaac at pijisaac@mpbconline.org.

LiveWell Cornwall

Our photo group has assignments for the next six months, starting with “Color Explosion” for July. Others are listed on this group’s Facebook page, which also features photo news/links to visually stimulating sites, and galleries for each meeting, viewable the evening before these monthly meetings. FREE and open to all.

Photo Connections w/John Bambach
Third Wednesdays, 7–9p
www.facebook.com/PhotoSIG

Ted Lucas’ Family Connections genealogy group returns at 6:30p, September 13, and subsequent second-Tuesdays.

Et cetera

Holiday Closing - The Cornwell Center will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observation of Independence Day!

Summer pool hours for Cornwall members, at Queens University’s Levine Aquatic Center, are:

MON–THU: 11a—1p and 7—9p
FRI: 11a—1p
SUN: 4—6p

“Like” us on Facebook to make sure you get our most timely information, including pool availability.

Non-members coming to play basketball are always welcome. Visitors may check-in and pay their $5 fee at our Front Desk.

Reminder to members: please make sure you sign in at our Welcome Desk when you visit. OK? Thanks.
**Ministers and Staff**

The Rev. Mr. W. Benjamin Boswell  
*Senior Minister*

The Rev. Mr. Joseph D. Aldrich  
*Associate Minister*

Sharon Bremer  
*Director of Stewardship*

Mariah B. Currin  
*Director of New Member Ministry*

Belinda Geuss  
*Director of Through-The-Week School*

The Rev. Mr. Chris Hughes  
*Minister of Youth*

Cheri Lindblom  
*Director of Outreach*

Dr. Matthew Manwarren  
*Organist*

The Rev. Mr. Barry Z. Metzger  
*Church Administrator*

Frances L. Morrison  
*Interim Minister of Music*

The Rev. Ms. Carrie Veal  
*Minister of Children*

The Rev. Ms. Chrissy Tatum Williamson  
*Minister of Faith Formation*

Jenny Yopp  
*Director of The Cornwell Center*

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**DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST 2016 ISSUE IS**  
5:00PM, FRIDAY, JULY 15.  
Max 450 words, subject to editing for space. Please email all submissions to the MPBC Communications Director, Laura Geer, at lgeer@mpbconline.org.

**Pinewood Freedom School 2016**

MPBC Youth Volunteers

Staff Level 1 - Keisha Stills

Aisha Haggard, Site Assistant and Bridgette Dutton, Site Coordinator

Staff Level 2 - Shon Tillet

Staff Level 2 - Will Creekmore

Staff Level 3 - Middle School - Bria Rigs