



MYERS PARK
BAPTIST CHURCH
FOREVER *forward* • 75 YEARS

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“Into the Great Wide Open” With Tom Petty on July 8

By Ben Boswell

On October 2, 2017, we lost one of the greatest singers and songwriters in history, Tom Petty. Known and loved by many, Petty was an exceptionally talented musician. Throughout the course of his career he sold 80 million records, won 8 Grammy awards, was nominated 18 times, and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Music critic John Thompson once said, “If ‘Christian music’ could be half as electrifying as [Petty’s] ‘Running Down A Dream’ no one would ever have to apologize for the genre again.” Well, let the apologies cease, because we are bringing the music of Tom Petty to the Church! On Sunday, July 8 we will have another diverse worship service in the round in Heaton Hall led by our own Randy Franklin and his band The Sardines, featuring the music of Tom Petty.

Tom Petty was not a practicing Christian, but he was a spiritual person. In an interview with “Billboard,” Petty was asked to explain the history behind his song “Playing Dumb” and he said, “No one has interpreted Jesus Christ’s teaching more incorrectly than Christians.” Later Petty said, “I’m fine with whatever religion you want to have, but you can’t tell anybody it’s OK to kill people, and you can’t abuse children systematically for God knows how many years.” Petty’s philosophy often echoed Gandhi or Buddha, yet religious themes of his music were obvious to Christian people. His famous song, “I Won’t Back Down” was covered by scores of contemporary Christian artists from Switchfoot to MercyMe, who easily converted it into a praise and worship song.

Petty was understood as an unintentional “crossover” artist by many in the Christian community because, as John Thompson claims, “he offered echoes of the gospel by constantly assuring us that someday we would be free, and—most importantly—that we were not alone. He stood up for us against the users and abusers and mocked the absurdity of the world we shared, even as he celebrated moments of rare transcendence. He punched out three-and-a-half minute sermons wrapped around primordial riffs and delivered with perfectly imperfect swagger. Songs like ‘The Waiting,’ ‘Deliver Me,’ ‘Learning To Fly,’ and ‘Into The Great Wide Open’ might not have been specifically Christian in nature, but the inspiration and hope they offered lifted people’s spirits over and over again. Petty’s songs offered encouragement and inspiration. He sneered humorously at the wolves at the door, while singing about a secret hatch in the roof through which we all might escape. He painted himself as one of us. He was right there with us, wondering about love and lies and the meaning of it all.”



What is the difference between “sacred” and “secular” music? Is it determined by the faith or religious belief of the composer? Who decides what is “sacred” and what is “secular?” Is it an arbitrary distinction? Can music move back and forth into both categories? Could it be that individuals and communities are the ones who determine for themselves what is “sacred” or “secular?” Maybe what makes a piece of music sacred is not the faith of who composed it but what it draws out of us and allows us to express about the nature of the human condition, how it moves us and shapes us as people, and whether or not it helps us to communicate something true about the holy mystery of a God who loves us in spite of ourselves.

This will not be the first time we’ve worshipped with music

written by a non-Christian composer. Last summer we explored the blurry line between “sacred” and “secular” as we worshipped with music from Bob Dylan, the Beatles, the Band, and U2. In addition we’ve also worshipped with Tchaikovsky, Brahms, and Vaughan Williams, who all considered themselves atheists or agnostics, as well as Wagner who was an ardent Nazi. Even the famous Baptist hymn writer Isaac Watts was a Victorian colonialist whose music celebrated England’s violent conquest of indigenous peoples and native lands. The people who wrote and composed the music we love, and worship with, were all imperfect human beings. Tom Petty was far from perfect as well, and yet he and his music were an inspiration to millions. In fact, it was his imperfection that made him so powerful, as it often does

with those we love.

Bob Dylan once said that his good friend Tom was “full of the light.” Petty served his audience well, lifting our spirits and giving us a reason to dance. He looked down the barrel of life, bared his buck teeth, and flashed that crazy smile. Tom Petty was the voice of hope deferred and longing fulfilled. He was our companion ‘into the great wide open.’ Psalm 18:19 says, “God brought me out into a broad and spacious place; God delivered me, because God delighted in me.” May God use the music and lyrics of Tom Petty to bring us out into a broad and spacious place—into the great wide open—where we are free to worship in new ways with non-traditional forms from non-Christian composers, always seeking to be “open to all new light” as it states in our covenant, so that we can continue to be people who lift our voices passionately and authentically to God in spirit and in truth. ■

Summer Sundays at MPBC

10:00a Worship | 11:00a Sermon TalkBack

Worship in the Round with Randy Franklin & The Sardines

Sunday, July 8 | 10:00a | Heaton Hall

by Fran Morrison



Randy Franklin is an award-winning singer-songwriter from Charlotte. A Church member, he has spent the last four decades sharing the stage with nationally recognized performers such as The Spongetones, Don Dixon, Mitch Easter, and David Childers.

Having played guitar since he was six years old, and performing solo throughout the Southeast, Randy continues to write and record his own style of Americana Folk-Pop. He brings with him guitarist Ed Leitch, Rob Thorne on drums and percussion, and Mike Clark on bass guitar. Music selections for worship may include Tom Petty favorites such as “Won’t Back Down,” “Learning to Fly,” and “Into the Great Wide Open,” plus a few of Randy’s original compositions.

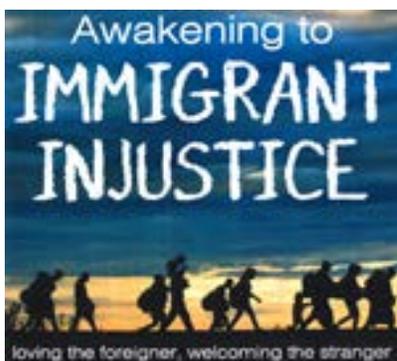
Randy is passionate, for sure, about his music, but when asked by *Coston Chronicles* what he was most proud of, he mentioned his annual tribute shows over the past 10 years for Crisis Assistance Ministry. Money raised is used to promote awareness and prevention of homelessness in our community. I hope you can join us July 8 at 10:00a for the weaving of Tom Petty songs into our diverse worship service. ■

By Katie Hambrick, *Children's Ministry Intern*

On Sunday, June 3, we began offering Children’s Worship for TK - 5th graders. Children begin worship in the Sanctuary and leave at their normal time. Instead of heading to the Gym, they join me and one to two lay-leaders or paid providers in the Chapel. We engage in a creative activity centered around the Biblical text used in worship, learn essential Bible skills, and learn a song based on the text.

The first few weeks have been life-changing for me. The kids have been engaged and have asked to go deeper in the Word. They have been willing to ask the tough questions around what it means to be bold and to have courage. These moments when the children challenge me and I challenge them are bringing to life a new set of standards for our community which show the radical hospitality of Jesus in the children’s context, whether that is here at Church, at school, or anywhere else they may go. From welcoming children at our Church to standing up to bullies at school, our children are willing to follow the example Christ set for us.

This new summer tradition is really making an impact and leaving an impression. If you have questions or are interested in helping, please contact me at khambrick@myersparkbaptist.org. ■



Pilgrimage Registration

By Chrissy Williamson

Sign up now for the Immigration Pilgrimage, August 3-4, 2018. During this two-day pilgrimage, we will follow the steps of immigrants who were arrested in Charlotte, NC, beginning at Charlotte’s Immigration Court, passing by York County Detention Center, meeting with Sanctuary Movement leaders in Atlanta, and finally arriving at Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, GA. We will listen to stories and engage in public prayer for immigrants and their families. The cost covers transportation, Saturday breakfast, plus one night in a hotel (totals: \$75/person for double occupancy or \$100/person for a single room). Space is limited, so register now online or by contacting Caroline Manning at cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org. ■

Eboni Marshall Turman | October 12 – 14, 2018

By Chrissy Williamson

This October, MPBC will host one of America’s best preachers and teachers for the annual Jesus in the 21st Century workshop. Rev. Dr. Eboni Marshall Turman is a graduate of Fordham University, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, McCormick Theological Seminary, and Union Theological Seminary (NYC). Her publications, interests, and topics for the weekend focus on the intersections of faith, race, and gender (which makes her a great fit for the year-long series, *Awakening the Body*). Her preaching is always inspired, prophetic, and moving. This will be a weekend you won’t want to miss. Go ahead, mark your calendars and tell your friends! Registration: \$10. Details on our website. ■





Carlyle Marney - The Emancipation of a White

By Ben Boswell

As we celebrate our past and honor the 75th anniversary of our Church, it is important to remember the work of those who came before us. To that end we've decided to reprint an article written by the second Senior Minister of MPBC, Dr. Carlyle Marney. Marney's article, entitled "The Emancipation of a White," was written and published in *Christian Century* magazine shortly after the controversial Brown v. Board decision declared the segregation of public schools unlawful in 1954. In the article, Marney describes his theory on the origins of racism and white supremacy in the writings of Joseph Arthur Gobineau and he declares some "decisions" he has made as a result of this discovery. Theologically, intellectually, and politically, Marney was way ahead of his time. His brilliance is obvious throughout the article. One important point of note is that Myers Park Baptist Church called Carlyle Marney to be Senior Minister after this article was published, knowing full well what they were getting themselves into . . . and we've been the better for it ever since.

Carlyle Marney, Th. D.

The Emancipation of a White

November 17, 1954

People do not think about Race. We just have an emotional reaction.

E. Decay starts wherever races mix too much.

1. How did I get that way?

I was born in the heart of "the purest Anglo-Saxon populace on the face of the earth," they said, everybody I knew said. In the Cumberlands there just isn't any other kind of blood - much. Early Anglo-Saxon settlers like the mountains; geography, prejudice, and poverty combined to keep it Anglo-Saxon. There were no "foreigners" to see. There were two splendid Jewish families in my town, but I never knew of Anti-Semitism- their sons were our friends. A dark-skinned white man spoke at our Church one morning and took a collection for the families of those unfortunates the Turks had massacred. We had never seen a Turk but were sure they were fearful people. Nevertheless, we were quite chagrined when the police in the city caught our "missionary" for soliciting funds for the survivors of a massacre that had happened twenty-five years before! The first Chinaman I ever saw ran a laundry in Bristol, and as a twelve-year-old I followed him three blocks, at a good safe distance.

Without knowing it, I was caught in the Anglo-Saxon Myth. Every Fourth of July orator, every politician, and the only college president I ever saw till I was twenty all said the same things. We were Anglo-Saxon; Anglo Saxons are nice, they have character, integrity, religion, and courage. No other race is like us and nothing can ever be so nice as to be a white, Anglo-Saxon, Southern mountain man.

The only Negro people I knew were Sam, who I helped with barbecues; Jessie, a wonderful woman who worked at the Presbyterian manse next door, and Jessie's sons with whom we played. But because these were our friends, they were Anglo-Saxon too and we all went to heaven together. Only in occasional rock fights with the Basel-town small fry did our real prejudices speak out - otherwise it was a safe, friendly, wonderful Anglo-Saxon world. In a way, it would be nice if it were still there, I guess.

When I reached sixteen my world got bigger. It became apparent that there was a whole half of a world-full of people who really believed what I had always heard:

A. White culture, especially Teutonic, is superior.

B. Other races can never equal us.

C. To worship Ancestors, especially the military ones, preserves racial purity.

D. Human prosperity requires some to be "hewers of wood and drawers of water." Some races are especially equipped for this work.

2. How did we all get this way?

One day, quite by accident, I found it: *The Master Textbook for Racism*; and could read for myself from the fountain-head of the stream. Alas, only one volume in English, the rest in French, but somehow, I struggled through the work of Joseph Arthur de Gobineau, *An Essay on the Inequality of the Human Races*.

There it was, in a book, gathered up for any to read who cared - and they did read; Kaiser Wilhelm II read, and Nietzsche read, and an Englishman named Chamberlain read, and wrote a book that was bought for every officer of the Kaiser's army to read, too. A fellow named Hitler read, and wrote *Mein Kampf*: Words people in the Anglo-Saxon countries were saying and had been saying for centuries - but Gobineau put it down in a book: You can read it yourself at the University Library:

Teutonic White Culture alone can reach the peak of accomplishment-all others take from it and fail if left outside its influence. Lower races can never reach a cultural level that even approaches the Aryan. European history is the story of Teutonism and Teutonic invasion. Ancestor worship preserves racial purity. The colored races and the Jews are purely destructive races, at best only imitative and are unfit for cultural work. Only the white . . . only the Aryan . . . only the German (only here will the Great-Aunt Betsy's have to stop for we do not like the word German in the hinterlands). But this theory in 1933 became the ground doctrine of the German State and German Science.

Gobineau goes on, like the president of some local society for the preservation of something or other, "all Civilizations derive from the white race . . . none can exist without its help . . . a society is great and brilliant only so far as it preserves the blood of the noble group that created it . . .!"

On he goes: When the elite of a people has attained to this moral liberty, there must be established a strong social hierarchy in order to safeguard its independence . . . Human prosperity requires the superposition in each country of a race of conquerors and a race of vanquished. . . . Decadence set in with the fusion of peoples: Democracy is decadence.

1. Gobineau, J.A., *Essai Sur L'Inégalité des Races Humaines*, Vol. I, p. 210

(... continued on page 5)

(Carlyle Marney - *The Emancipation of a White ... continued from page 4*)

And there you have it: Gobineau made the Englishman, Chamberlain, whose book the Kaiser loved, and marveled that an Englishman should be the restorer of Germany; then he gave a copy to all his army officers and subsidized the German translation of Chamberlain's book on German greatness. World War I was the normal result of the attempt to expand German race superiority, even over other "Germanic" nations.

Again, Gobineau made Freidrich Nietzsche's doctrine of Super Man-Super Race possible. Without this there could have been no Hitler. World War II came on the heels of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. Do you need some lines from that?

"All that is not race in this world is trash" . . . "For the formation of higher cultures, the existence of inferior men was one of the most essential presumptions." . . . "Only the Aryan . . . is culture-founder" . . . "Founder of higher humanity" . . . "all great cultures of the past perished only because the originally creative race died off through blood-poisoning" . . . (then comes a hodge-podge of Darwinian Evolution, Mendelian Biology, and Gobineau Racism, shatteringly logical, if only the major premise and his transfer of Darwin and Mendel were truly applicable) . . . "the Aryan uses inferior men" . . . "The Jew

imitates or destroys" . . . "the Jews bring the Negro to the Rhine" . . . It comes from Gobineau.

And where did the Great-Aunt Betsys get it? They never heard of Gobineau, that's obvious, but they use his ideas. How tragic the future of people who will not examine the source of their enslaving ideas. She got it where Gobineau got it.

What a heritage! Gobineau to Chamberlain to Kaiser Wilhelm II, to World War I. Or: Gobineau to Nietzsche to Hitler to *Mein Kampf* to World War II. Or: Pagan dream, to Anglo Saxon tradition, to Gobineau, and simultaneously to England, America, Southern myth of Saxon Aristocracy, to "White supremacy." Past slavery, economic vassalage, "equal facilities unequal," to the Governor of Georgia who says what great-aunts want said.

3. Decision

I will not be a part of this ideologically false pseudo-racism.

I will not be even an unwitting disciple of Hitler and Gobineau.

I will not make emotional ignorance the basis for opinion or action.

I will grasp the Christian meaning of human personality. ■

Ched Myers and Elaine Enns | September 9 – 10, 2018

By Chrissy Williamson



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

of justice which often include intergenerational trauma and healing. Through a series of events, Ched and Elaine will help us to understand the connection between humankind, our practice of faith, our bodies, and the earth.

Schedule is as follows:

Sunday, September 9

9:45 – 10:45a | Forum | Heaton Hall

4:00 – 6:00p | Teach-In | Heaton Hall

Monday, September 10

6:30 – 8:30p | Podcast Recording | location TBD

All are invited to attend and participate (by asking questions, etc.) at the Podcast Recording! ■

Stephen Ministry at MPBC

By Tammie Lesesne



Wanting to deepen lay congregational care, we are thrilled to be reinstating the Stephen Ministry program at MPBC. This ministry supplements the ministerial staff's pastoral care to our Church family. Stephen Ministry, founded in 1975, takes its name from St. Stephen, who was the first lay person commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry (Acts 6). For in-depth information, see www.stephenministries.org.

Under Associate Minister Joe Aldrich's guidance, a group of volunteer Stephen Ministers will undergo intensive training this fall and be commissioned in early

2019.

They will then be paired in a confidential, compassionate relationship with care receivers who are experiencing distressing life circumstances. Once paired, care givers and care receivers meet weekly or even bi-weekly. Care givers also get together every other week to support each other in this ministry (always protecting the identity of each care receiver).

For information about applying to become a care giver, or a care receiver, please contact Joe Aldrich at jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org. ■

Board of Deacons – Caring For Our Congregation

By Tara Harris, Chairs, Board of Deacons



Last month, we began a new Church year, and I was honored and thrilled to become the new Chair of the Board of Deacons. In preparing for the year ahead, I re-read our Deacon Covenant and was reminded that it says we Deacons will “provide pastoral care for the well-being of our members.” During our Deacon orientation each year, we are also reminded that we Deacons are meant to be spiritual leaders for our congregation, doing acts of servanthood (Acts 6), providing support and encouragement to the people of our Church, and bearing each other’s burdens (Numbers 11). And I can’t begin to tell you how many Deacons, during our June Deacon meeting, voiced a desire to help in providing pastoral care.

Many in our Church (including me) are suffering the pain of loss, grief, change, separation, divorce, or job instability. None of us is immune to trials and tribulations that arise along life’s paths. So,

this Summer, our Board of Deacons wants to take just a moment to remind each one of you in the congregation—simply—that we are here for you and can lend an ear, a shoulder, a smile, or a helping hand. Of course, our Church has entire ministries and servant leadership groups dedicated to providing amazing pastoral care to our members everyday—our Ministry of Congregational Care does a yeoman’s job of caring for members who are experiencing hardship; our Pastoral Care Deacons serve at Southminster and provide in-reach/outreach to folks attending our services there; our Thursday morning prayer group prays diligently over the members and guests of our Church in need of prayer; the list goes on and on. Your deacons simply want to supplement that good work and offer ourselves to you all, the congregation, to serve in the way of pastoral care too. Please contact us any time with a need that you have, and we will do our best to listen, to pray, to help—to bear each other’s burdens. Blessings for peace and hope this summer. ■

Freedom School - 15 Years and Going Strong

By Laura Handler



What's your morning routine like? Do you rely on that caffeine to get you going? How about a healthy dose of solidarity and affirmation? Well, each morning of Freedom School begins with Harambee, "pulling together," and includes the singing of "Something Inside So Strong." Read the lyrics here (www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/labisiffre/somethinginsidesostrong.html)--the voices, actions, and passion are truly inspirational. Then, Servant Leader Interns (SLIs) continue a daily routine full of positivity, affirmation, and encouragement, reading empowering multicultural literature to inspire them to make a difference in themselves, their families, their community, their country, and their world. The relationships that will be developed, conversations that will be discussed, and laughter that will be shared are yours to join! In addition to the daily volunteer opportunity to Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) with a scholar from 11:15-11:45a, we invite you to the following events to be a part of this powerful experience:

Tuesdays, June 26, July 10 and 17 | Family Nights | 5:30-8:00p

Family Nights at Pinewood! Help us serve pizza, play with children during the workshop, and enjoy fellowship with families!

Wednesday, July 18 | Great Day of DEAR | 9:00a - 2:30p

All day long scholars will Drop Everything And Read. Join us for this celebration of reading and learning!

Thursday, July 26 | Freedom School Finale | 12:00-1:30p

Share lunch with scholars and their families, plus see their end-of-year performances, awards, and singing of "Something Inside So Strong." If you have time, help with set-up beforehand or clean-up afterwards (held at Pinewood this year).

This is the second year our site is led by Denisha McCluney, with Devin Rankin as her assistant. Level I SLIs are Jazmine, and Amari; Level II SLIs are Jayla and Nasir; Level III SLIs are Brianna and Aaron.

For more volunteer opportunities, please visit the Church website and click on the link for Freedom School. Contact Karen Taylor (fitztaylor@aol.com) or Laura Handler (laura.hoeing@gmail.com) for questions or details! ■

Men's Shelter Summer Meals

By Bob Bishop



For nearly 40 years MPBC has had a mission working within the homeless shelters of our city, including over 30 years at the Men's Shelter of Charlotte. I, personally, have been involved for over 35 years working in the shelters and representing churches on various boards. So, when Liz Clasen Kelly and Randall Hitt from the Men's Shelter asked if I could get MPBC to help with supplying meals while their kitchens are closed for renovations from May through August, a quick meeting was set up with Rev. Ben Boswell and Rev. Joe Aldrich to come up with a plan. This led to our dedicated Men's Shelter cooking team kicking into action at the beginning of May to produce 350 meals every seven to ten days. The menu includes chicken sandwiches, potato salad, slaw, and chocolate cookies. By the time the Men's Shelter kitchen renovations are completed at the end of August, MPBC will have supplied over 2,800 extra meals for a total of approximately 4,600 meals over this 4 month period.

If you would like to volunteer to help us at the Men's Shelter and join one of our most successful ministries at MPBC, please contact me (980.613.2573 | bobbishop47@yahoo.com). ■

Charlotte Family Housing Week

By Cindy Clemens



The week of July 22-26, Myers Park Baptist will be the host for Charlotte Family Housing | Hawthorne Place at St. John's Baptist Church. Charlotte Family Housing provides short-term shelter for families experiencing homelessness while providing comprehensive support.

Volunteers are needed to provide meals Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday of that week. We also need volunteers to serve as overnight hosts Sunday through Thursday. Can you help? Please contact Cindy Clemens with questions (cclemens@ci.charlotte.nc.us). Sign-up is available on the Church website. ■

Cereal For the City Drive Update

By Bob Bishop



Thanks to the generosity of all who contributed to the Cereal for the City drive, we surpassed our goal of 2,018 and were able to provide 2,835 boxes that were delivered to food banks, shelters, and individual's homes throughout Charlotte.

Even though our drive has ended, the need still exists. We will continue to accept cereal and/or monetary donations to help feed the homeless and hungry children in our

city. Make a monetary donation on the Church website and through myMPBC. ■

A New Generation For the Friendship Garden

By Ed Williams



Want to help Myers Park Baptist Church's Friendship Garden bloom again? Your investment of a little sweat and time makes a big difference in the lives of people served by Friendship Trays, a meals-on-wheels program for the needy. If you want to help with the tasks described below, sign up at garden@myersparkbaptist.org. The greatest need is for someone or a small group to organize the volunteers.

Problems with underground piping last fall caused a volcano-like eruption in the garden. The piping is repaired, but concern for drainage caused Cornwell Center officials to move the garden to the other end of the building.

Addison Schultz, a Boy Scout whose adviser is our Church's Tom Jones, made the building of new raised beds his Eagle Scout project. The garden will have a new fence, storage, and equipment.

Fred Allen and I oversaw the garden when it was created in 2014. The annual harvest was nearly a half-ton of fresh vegetables. Fred watered it as part of his morning walks. I took care of planting and harvesting, with the help of volunteers. But Fred has moved to Southminster, and my health prevents me from playing an active role. To continue, the garden needs a new generation of volunteers.

There's not much to it. The work can be organized into small parts that volunteers (or a couple of Sunday School classes) can handle easily.

The first task is **planting**. Somebody needs to oversee that. I'll provide the first round of seeds and plants.

Watering is important. That takes 15 minutes or so. I did it Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Someone taking a class at Cornwell could do it.

Next comes **harvesting**. That takes up to half an hour a couple of times a week or as needed. I planted vegetables that didn't require much judgment or work – for example, long beans (easy to see and pick) but not peas. The harvest can be stored in the designated kitchen cooler to await delivery.

The final task is **delivering** the harvest to Friendship Trays on Distribution Street, four miles from the Church. We delivered on Tuesdays and Fridays.

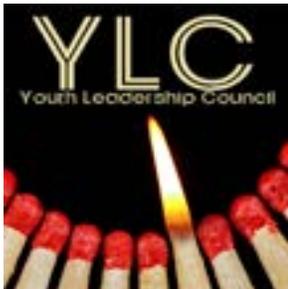
Thanks to the raised beds' good soil, there's not much **weeding**. Weeds do grow between the beds, but I just killed them with chemical weed spray.

A few volunteers can make our Friendship Garden grow again. Try it – you'll like it! ■

Youth Ministry in Action This Summer

By Allen Davis

Summertime is here but that doesn't mean Youth Ministry is taking a break. This summer, we will continue to build community through fellowship and volunteer activities. In July, we will meet at A/R workshop, gather for dinner, and volunteer at Freedom School together. You can follow along with all our summer fun by following us on social media @mpbcym.



Youth Leadership Council

This summer, we are excited to launch our Youth Leadership Council. The YLC is a diverse, youth-led group that stands to uphold leadership, promote change, and raise awareness for youth ministry. YLC aspires to lead teens in discovering their faith through community and Church involvement, team building, and spiritual reflection. The

YLC will be open to any rising 10th-12th grader from our congregation. Serving on the YLC, you will have the opportunity to help impact your Church community for the better through what you learn. You will have a chance to take the lead on youth ministry activities that impact your peers and community. YLC applications can be found on the Church website or at the Welcome Desk in Heaton Hall Foyer and are due by Sunday, July 15. Please return them to me at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org. ■



Josh Hull Receives Eagle Scout Award

By Mary Lou Buck

Josh Hull, son of Dawn and Allen Hull, Jr., grew up attending Myers Park Baptist, and is a member of Boy Scout Troop 79 at Carmel Presbyterian Church. He completed requirements for Eagle Scout on April 4 and received his award in a June 3 ceremony with his troop.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America. The requirements necessary to achieve this rank take years to fulfill and include completion of 21 Merit Badges representing varied interests, Life Scout, and a culminating service project. Josh's detailed plan for the service project was reviewed and approved by his troop's Eagle Scout Project Board. Josh's project: work on The Point—MPBC's wooded land on Roswell Avenue. Josh recruited other Scouts and parents for a Saturday of work on February 10. A few small trees were cut, English ivy cleared from the path and away from trees, boards on the sitting circle replaced, benches power-washed and re-stained, and trash picked up.

We encourage you to visit The Point—walk around the trail, use the sitting circle for meetings or meditation, enjoy being in our beautiful woods, and thank Josh for his hard work! ■

Children's Ministry Volunteer Training

Sunday, August 19 | 8:15 - 9:45a

By Carrie Veal

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

then move into training around resources for teaching as well as our Child Protection Policy. Over the summer we will share more about this event, but for now save the date. Know you want to come? Contact Katie Hambrick, Children's Ministry Intern (khambrick@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x129). ■

Unexpected Blessings From a Lifegiving Call to Serve

By Allison Gnilka



Some of my fondest early childhood memories were of my Sunday School teachers, friends, and church events. To this day I can remember joyfully singing church songs as a child, having such a strong love for the stories and activities that the volunteers who served in the Children's Ministry at my church prepared for us every week. When our family joined MPBC four years ago I immediately jumped into the Children's Ministry, discovering a great opportunity to serve the children and families in the same way that I so favorably remembered as a child. I am also a mother of three children in the Children's Ministry, ages two, three, and four, so volunteering in my own children's program seemed like a very logical privilege for me!

What I could not have planned or predicted with taking on this calling of volunteering in the preschool Faith Formation class on Sunday mornings was the wonderful adult relationships I formed with other volunteers, parents, and grandparents. The fellowship that has blossomed among my new friends who also teach and share the blessing of serving Christ through our Children's Ministry Faith Formation class has been truly lifegiving, giving me intergenerational relationships with volunteers I would not have otherwise had the opportunity to have. I look forward to the 2018-2019 Faith Formation school year in the Children's Ministry, the new teachers my children will enjoy learning from, and the new friendships that will bloom among both the children and adults alike. ■

Report From Congregational Meeting Held June 3 in Heaton Hall

By **Tony Dick**, Secretary, Board of Deacons



Tara Harris, Chair, Board of Deacons, opened with a prayer and led the meeting. After a delicious lunch was prepared and served by MPBC volunteers to ~150 attending, Chrissy Williamson presented an overview of summer and fall programming. Allen Davis, Director of Youth Ministry, gave an overview of Freedom School and MPBC's participation at Pinewood Elementary, June 18-July 26, 2018. Tucker Pearsall, Chair, Ministry of Financial Resources, reported that income year to date was strong, expenses down. Jim Largen, Co-Chair, Stewardship, gave an overview of coming changes to the Stewardship process and calendar. Chris William, Chair, 75th Anniversary Campaign, reported that the campaign had raised \$3.4 million from 130 members, and more to come. Ben Boswell reported on progress implementing the 5-year *Live Forward* Strategic Plan: Over 60% of tasks planned have been completed or are in progress. Tara announced that for any who have thoughts/feelings on the new organizational structure/governance

of our Church, 3 members of SPC's Governance Oversight group are available this summer for one-to-one conversations: Ashley Hardy, Martha Odom, and Gary Morrison.

Mack Clark asked about timing of the new Stewardship Campaign; Tara responded that the new stewardship calendar better aligns financial cycles with the Church year calendar, enables more effective budget forecasting, and allows more focus on pledge fulfillments at year end. Coordination would be needed to minimize conflict between stewardship and planned giving campaigns. Fran Kerr commented that she wants the Church to thrive, and encouraged all to give. Robert Dulin commented that the *Forever Forward* Capital Campaign's emphasis on endowing facility maintenance will ultimately benefit programs and outreach and make Church more attractive to new members. Susan Green commented that she enjoyed the presence of children in worship and around the Church, recognizing that they are the future. Tara announced that the next Congregational Meeting will take place October 7, 2018. Ben closed the meeting in prayer. ■

Update on Stewardship

By **Leigh Anne Hagerman**

1 Chronicles teaches us that everything we have comes from God, and when we give something back to God, we are only giving what already belongs to God (29:14). We are called to give God our first and best. Stewardship as discipleship teaches us that we do not give to underwrite a church budget, pay off debt, or raise money for missions, although those things help. We give out of gratitude to God for what God had done in our lives.

I get excited by stewardship as discipleship because I see what can happen in people's lives, and in the life of the local church, when every single person practices it. In the first half of the year we have much to celebrate. We celebrate the fact that we have kept expenses under budget thus far (as I write this, we have not yet closed the books for May). We celebrate the fact that our giving has exceeded our expenses and allows us to continue reaching and serving God, including over \$200,000 to outreach and missions from all funds through April. We celebrate the fact that we are worshipping in new and diverse ways and that people are finding the Spirit of God among us. We celebrate the fact that our ministry areas are working hard to implement the *Live Forward* Strategic Plan that has provided us with a vision and direction for ministries into the future. Yes, stewardship

as discipleship sure can make a difference.

The chart below shows ministry expenses from all funds through April. Stewardship as discipleship promotes using all funding sources to do the work God has for us. ■

	Budget YTD	Endowment YTD	Designated Funds YTD	Total Expenses YTD All Funds
Outreach	\$42,704	\$130,318	\$49,997	\$223,019
Ministry of Financial Resources	\$700	\$534		\$1,234
Ministry of Leadership	\$1,776			\$1,776
Ministry of Community Life	\$281		\$12,829	\$13,110
Congregational Care	\$0		\$5,787	\$5,787
Faith Formation	\$4,547	\$5,875	\$44,250	\$54,672
Worship & Music	\$10,449	\$2,100	\$4,275	\$16,824
Administration	\$27,696	\$9,072		\$36,768
Maintenance	\$32,494	\$2,049	\$2,500	\$37,043
Utilities	\$56,809			\$56,809
Communications/Technology	\$10,228	\$6,078	\$83	\$16,389
Food Service	\$1,107			\$1,107
Other	\$27,074			\$27,074
Human Resources	\$438,550	\$1,230	\$2,856	\$442,636
Total Expenses	\$654,465	\$157,264	\$122,578	\$934,308

Give Forward

By **Leigh Anne Hagerman**



THANK YOU to all who have pledged or made a gift to our 75th anniversary capital campaign! To date, we have raised approximately \$3.5 million toward our goal of \$5.0 million. This is truly a gift that will keep on giving, as this endowment capital would fund ongoing property upkeep, maintenance, and capital improvements. MPBC could then redeploy budgetary funds allocated to property maintenance

to capital improvements and/or redeploy funds to other needs such as programs.

It is not too late to make a gift – either as a pledge, or a one-time donation. Gifts and pledges can be made on our website, or by calling the Finance Office (704.334.7232 x 116). ■

Changes to the Stewardship Process

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



In an article on Stewardship, Hugh Welchel stated: "The people understood that they needed to create wealth in order to allow for tangible generosity . . . a cycle of sustainability was established . . . no longer waiting for outside relief, the grace of giving has replaced the welfare state and our entire town was rebuilt."

We are moving toward a change in the structure of stewardship based on "establishing a cycle of sustainability." Rather than beginning every stewardship season at zero dollars committed and working our way up to a budget, we will assume all previous pledges will resume for the next period. Any changes, either increase or decrease, should be initiated by the congregation. That will allow the Church to

make plans for staffing, programming, and outreach.

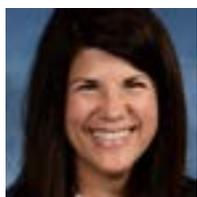
The calendar will change for stewardship, moving from the fall to the spring. Hopefully that change will ease the pressures of soliciting pledge commitments during a time of year punctuated with holiday expenditures.

Finally, all ministries will start with a \$0 dollar budget and will build their requested budget based on strategic tactics for their ministry rather than simply requesting a percentage increase from the prior year's budget.

You will hear more about the stewardship cycle changes over the summer and fall. Please feel free to contact me, Ed or Jim Largen, or Leigh Anne Hagerman. ■

What Is Music Together?

By **Lucy Chapman**, *Music Together Instructor*



Music Together® classes are for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and the grown-ups who love them. Our philosophy is based on the idea that all children are musical and that parents/primary caregivers play a crucial role in activating their child's music development. Classes include songs, rhythmic rhymes and movement, and instrument play activities that are developmentally appropriate for children and easy for caregivers, regardless of their own musical ability.

At MPBC, children and their parents or caregivers (nanny, babysitter, grandparent) meet weekly for 45 minutes to experience new songs, chants, movement activities, and instrumental play alongs. Both adults and children sit in the circle and participate, led by certified Music Together teacher Lucy Chapman, who makes it easy for adults to participate and enjoy the activities with their little ones.

Children have opportunities to create and play - making up words to songs or offering movement ideas to express a sound. Some children will simply observe and absorb the musically rich environment, "recording" the experience to build on later. Some children

will sing, play, and dance freely. Through immersion and informal instruction, each child learns at their own unique speed and developmental level. The class experience, reinforced by CD listening and parent involvement, offers a foundation for continued learning at home and throughout the day. Each class has ritual features which young children thrive on such as the "Hello Song," the instrumental jam session, a lullaby, and the "Goodbye Song."

Music Together's approach pioneered the concept of a research-based, developmentally-appropriate early childhood music curriculum that strongly emphasizes and facilitates adult involvement. Participation with a loved one develops every child's birthright of basic music competence by encouraging the actual experiencing of music rather than the learning of concepts or information about music.

Music is a universal language, transcending boundaries and reaching beyond culture to touch the depths of our souls, express our common emotions, and inspire us all.

MPBC members receive a 50% discount on MT sessions at the Church location and the Fall Session begins after Labor Day! Please join us for free demo classes offered July 8 at 9:00a or on July 21 at 9:00a or 10:00a to experience a class. Contact me for more information at lucybelle22@gmail.com. ■

O'Connor String Method Camp

By **Fran Morrison**

Goal - fall in love with playing music . . . expand your creativity and imagination . . . all on a stringed instrument.

Ingredients:

4 stringed instruments of American music - *The Entertainer*, *Simple Gifts*
a cup of history
a cup of cultural diversity
a handful of improvisation
4 Tbsp of Bach
ability to tap your foot
Mix, mingle, and practice for five days.

Voila! Toe-tapping success! New friends, skills, and memories!



Gratitude for the week.

The O'Connor Method String Camp is being hosted by Myers Park Baptist July 23-27. It is such a privilege to open our doors to children and adults, from around the country and as far away as Nigeria, and the Czech Republic. Whatever walls we find ourselves uncomfortably living within, music has the capacity to break down those walls creating understanding, acceptance, and community. Registration info: www.oconnormethodstringcamp.com.

Please consider being a part of a welcoming team of volunteers during the O'Connor week. We have needs for greeters, helpers, and shepherds. Sign up here: www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44aaad2ca3fa7-mark. ■

Royal School of Church Music Returns to MPBC

By Fran Morrison



For twelve years, the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), an international, ecumenical, professional organization that promotes high standards of church music, has brought its Charlotte Training course to Myers Park Baptist for rehearsal and worship space while utilizing the close proximity of Queens University for housing.

The Charlotte Course, sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church, runs July 9-15 and offers advanced musical training to young singers ages 10-18 and to adults and directors.

The guest conductor for 2018 will be Robert McCormick, Organist and Choirmaster of Saint Mark's Church in Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Westminster Choir College. The organist for the week will be Graham Schultz, Associate Director of Music at the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, Texas.

The week concludes on Sunday, July 15 at 4:00p with an Evening service that is open and free to the public. ■

Congregational Joys and Concerns

(as of June 15, 2018)

BIRTHS — CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Jane and Jim Huddle on the birth of their grandson, Tucker Wyatt Huddle, on May 14 in Richmond, VA.
- Kasey and Jeff Fisher on the birth of their son, James and Blane Fisher on the birth of their brother, and Bob and Melinda Pryor on the birth of their grandson, William Graham Fisher, on June 1 in Charlotte, NC.

DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:

- George and Kelley Smith on the death of his mother, Shirley Smith, on May 20 in Mobile, AL.
- Sue and Bob Thomason on the death of her mother, Carolyn Main, on May 23 in Bowling Green, KY
- Lisa and Mack Turner on the death of her mother, Patricia Crocker, on May 27 in Gaffney, SC.
- Sally White, on the death of her husband and James D. White III and Evan R. White on the death of their father, Rev. Dr. J. Daniel White, on June 12 in Charlotte, NC. ■

Take Me Out to the Ballgame . . .

By Leigh Anne Hagerman



Hotdogs, popcorn, laughter, and baseball. It was fun for all ages as almost 70 adults, youth, and children gathered on June 7 for the Knights game. This time of community building was a wonderful chance to connect with old friends and make new ones, as well as

provide a relaxed and fun atmosphere to be around people of different age groups within our Church. At the end of the day, when we grow in our relationship with others, we grow in our relationship with God. ■

John Richardson In Concert

Sunday, July 29 | 7:00p
MPBC Sanctuary

All are invited to attend a free music recital featuring John Richardson on the pipe organ of Myers Park Baptist Church. This hour-long Summer Recital Series is sponsored by the Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and will feature John playing major works by Zoltán Kodály, George Shearing and César Franck. ■



Greetings From the Cornwell Center's Director's Desk!

By Wayne Ballard, Interim Director of the Cornwell Center



Summer is here along with the presence of heat and humidity. Longer daylight hours make a wonderful time of year to go outside and get active. We are designed to be in motion and to celebrate life by doing activities specific to you. If you are currently not being active, I encourage you to find those activities you love and enjoy.

As the temperatures and humidity continue to rise, remember the importance of moderation, hydration, and finding ways to beat the heat this summer. One way to continue being active during the summer's heat is at the Cornwell Center. From working with clay, to finding a favorite Group Fitness class, or simply walking on the indoor track, you can find a great activity at the Cornwell Center – all designed to help you MOVE! Hope to see you soon! ■



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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

God's Sweet Promises
July 18 - 20, 2018
9 a.m. - Noon

**Come learn that God's Promises are Sweet
 in a fun Candyland theme
 supporting Friendship Trays.**

**Registration is currently open
 and will close on Wednesday, July 11.**

**If you would like to volunteer or need more information,
 please contact: Kathryn Maltarich (kjmaltarich@gmail.com)
 or Tempie Largen (tempie.largen@gmail.com).**

**Can't volunteer? Donate! We would love to have donations
 for arts and crafts, science, snack, and storytime!**