The Opportunity of Stewardship

By Christopher and Lydia Skardon
Co-Chairs, 2016 Stewardship Campaign

Heading up the 2016 Stewardship Campaign is a challenge we embrace with excitement and confidence. Our belief stems from the strength and experience of the SLG and staff, growth in membership, and continually inspired ministry. The energy is there, building within a congregation looking ahead - an invigorating spirit that is supremely captured in one word, this year’s campaign theme...Next†.

Next† acknowledges a church in the midst of a confident transition. Almost all aspects of church governance and ministry are being passed to new leadership. Thanks to the vision of our founders and their legacy of stewardship, we inherit the best located church in Charlotte. We inherit a tradition of progressive spiritual thought, social change and community outreach. And we inherit this bounty at a time when Charlotte is among the fastest growing cities in the country.

Against this backdrop of opportunity, we highlight and celebrate the generous stewardship of the current leadership generation: for recent campaigns, those aged 60 and above have contributed over 60% of the total. And we ask that those of us in the youthful and middle-adult segments of the congregation match this generosity in equal measure to our membership and activity. Increasing the breadth of giving from all generations will assure a successful campaign. It will also send the strongest possible signal to current and potential staff that we are a people energized around our journey of faith.

The goals for 2016 are simple: absolute giving will increase by 5% (approximately +$100,000 over 2015) and participation will increase by 10% (to 65%). This year’s pledge packet will include a Performance Report that provides compelling evidence that your contributions to MPBC represent a powerful act of faith and meaning.

As we invite you to contemplate your pledge to MPBC, let us share our family’s reasons for participating generously in stewardship. The “business” of church requires both participation and money, and we are more than happy to contribute our share. Our giving provides the raw material for the Church’s mission. And that mission provides something that we cannot find anywhere else in our lives: spiritual nourishment, intellectual challenge, and structural support to our family and community. In other words, stewardship reminds us to be grateful to God for what we can give and even more grateful for what we receive.

Minister of Music Search Group Announced

By Barbara Linney

On October 13 the Ministry of Leadership met to choose the remaining members of the Minister of Music Search Group who will join Laura Kratt, Chair, in this important work. I am pleased to announce the following people have agreed to serve:

- Mark Andersen
- Janice Bradner
- Dave Dougherty
- Joan Hope
- Barbara Mishoe
- Edith Patton

I know you join with me in expressing gratitude to these people as they begin the search for our next Minister of Music. We pray God’s blessings upon them and their work.

Inside This Issue:

- Executive Minister’s Column
- Community Life
- Faith Formation
- Financial Resources
- Outreach
- Worship & Music
- Cornwall Center
- Through-The-Week School
Executive Minister’s Column

Happenings

By Robin Coira

November already? How did that happen? As we begin the month with the turning of the leaves, we will end the month with the start of the Season of Advent.

November has traditionally been the season when we focus upon financial stewardship. On Sunday, November 15, we will celebrate Dedication Sunday, when all of us come forward during worship to place our commitment cards into the Rice Bowl basket. This is an act of dedication that demonstrates our promise to be “faithful stewards of our lives and of this world,” as noted in our Church Covenant. Myers Park Baptist Church is dependent upon your act of faithful stewardship to continue the long and rich legacy that has been entrusted to our care. I hope that you will give, and give faithfully, to the future of our Church programs, ministry and outreach. Make plans to join us following worship as we break bread together at our annual Thanks-for-Giving luncheon. Deep thanks to Chris and Lydia Skardon and their team for leading our stewardship efforts this year.

On November 1st we will remember all of our members who have died during the past year at our annual Memorial Sunday worship service. I will be preaching that day as we honor and celebrate those we love, remember and hold close in our hearts.

The preaching schedule for the rest of the month is:

November 8: Dr. Jill Crainshaw, Associate Professor of Worship and Ministry Studies Wake Forest University School of Divinity
November 15: Dr. Jeff Rogers, Dean, Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies Gardner-Webb University
November 22: Reverend Joe Aldrich, Communion Sunday
November 29: Reverend Maria Long, Advent 1, Love Feast

We have so much to be grateful for at Myers Park Baptist Church. Come join us for worship as we give thanks to God for our great and many blessings.

Book Reading and Signing

By Robin Coira

Join us Sunday afternoon, November 8, from 3:00-4:30 in the Cornwall Lounge as we celebrate two of our own, noteworthy authors, Mary Kratt and Dannye Romine Powell. Both of these talented women have new books of poetry just recently released: Watch Where You Walk, by Mary; and Nobody Calls Me Darling Anymore, by Dannye. Both authors will be on hand to read selections from their books and to sign copies. You don’t want to miss this time with these two talented and incredible women!

November Loose Plate Offering Recipient

By Cheri Lindblom

The Loose Plate Missions Offering for November supports the work of Friendship Trays. Friendship Trays is a Charlotte-area “Meals on Wheels” program that prepares and delivers over 600 meals daily to elderly, handicapped and convalescing individuals who are unable to prepare or secure meals themselves. For more information, please visit www.friendshiptrays.org.

Deacon of the Week

November 1-7: Tillie Tice,
704.643.8111, ttice@carolina.rr.com
November 8-14: Carol Pearsall,
704.562.3100, cp.carolp@gmail.com
November 15-21: Rick Bahnson,
704.752.7871, rbahnson@bellsouth.net
November 22-28: Richard Pearsall,
704.965.5558, richardpearsallre@gmail.com
November 29 - December 5: Tom Jones,
704.621.6122, tmjsr@icloud.com

Milestones

(by as of October 15, 2015)

BIRTHS - CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Matt and Alicia Burnside Fogle on the birth of their daughter, Patricia Grace Fogle, to grandmother, Dottie Burnside, and to great grandmother, Patsy Burnside, on September 17, 2015.

WEDDINGS - CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Hope Franklin and Alexander F. Vitale on their wedding on August 16, 2015 in Chapel Hill, NC.

DEATHS - LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:
• David Offill and his family on the death of his mother, Elinor Bissell Offill, in California, on September 15, 2015.
• Kevin Brewton and Mariah Currin on the death of Kevin’s uncle, Dan Brewton, in Taylors, SC, on September 22, 2015.
• Francis Fletcher on the death of his wife, Ann (Sissy) Fletcher, in Charlotte, NC, on October 1, 2015.
• Jason Lail and Jenny Madler on the death of their father, Wayne Lail, on September 30, 2015, in Charlotte, NC.
• Doc Thurston, III on the death of his mother, Stella Thurston, on October 7, 2015.
• Mary Ann Largen on the death of her mother, and Edward and James Largen of their grandmother, Kaytee Bishop, on October 14, 2015 in Charlotte, NC.
The Ministry of Human Resources

Staff Spotlight: Fran Morrison

By Tammie Lesesne

If you had the good fortune to hear the Youth Choir singing with the Chancel Choir on October 11, you might have heard a future music minister -- perhaps one that would serve MPBC! Such is the story of Fran Morrison.

When she was a 4th grader, her beloved older brother, Dennis, encouraged their parents (almost charter members) to send Fran to the MPBC children’s music program during music minister Jim Berry's era. So she is literally a child of our Church and its music program herself! Dennis became an instrumentalist, and Fran became a vocalist and teacher.

From that beginning, singing and volunteering, Fran built a music foundation which has served MPBC in countless ways. Currently the Associate Minister of Music, she brings vast experience, talent and a deep love of this Church and its wide-ranging music program.

Since she won't indulge in one form of music, that of “tooting her own horn,” here are some comments from others who experience Fran's gifts:

• From Sarah Nicholson: Fran wants us to succeed and enjoy being in Youth Choir. A choir director at another church was so focused on rules and precision it was stressful and gloomy. Fran makes it fun!

• From Dave Dougherty: Our son Conor was shy. But after being in our children’s choir program, he developed amazing self-confidence in front of any size group. Besides learning music and song, kids learn to stand together in front of a large crowd and show off their abilities. They can make mistakes and know that the audience supports their efforts. Our choir leaders are teaching more than music. The children are developing confidence and presentation skills that will open opportunities, reduce stress and likely improve success.

• And from me: My pre-school grandson and I participated in Music Together®. Kellen got a great rhythm foundation, we had a fun bonding time, we made new friends, and Fran had a variety of age-appropriate songs, movements and percussion instruments to keep us engaged. He and I still dance to the Wiggle Song! Picture Fran on the floor in a circle with kids and their grown-ups, then marching around, then making animal sounds, then shaking instruments. This is the same musician who can lead the Chancel Choir in complex, stunning music during Sunday morning worship or fill our Sanctuary with her full, gorgeous voice!

Here's something that most of us who only see Fran as a vocalist or conductor on Sunday probably don't know: she loves to wear costumes and dance. It might be worth going on the choir retreat just to see her get down! She loves Broadway shows and country music along with classical. A favorite hymn is Be Thou My Vision. It seems fitting that an ancient Irish poem, set to an Irish tune with its haunting harmonies, would draw her in – lyrical, beautiful, musically sophisticated and strong.

The Gift of Life

By John Totten

Sunday, November 8 is National Organ Donation Sabbath. This Sunday celebrates the gift of life given by so many who have donated organs so that others may live. The need is great and the supply few and limited. There are over 100,000 people in the United States waiting on roughly 10,000 kidneys available annually. Approximately 9,000 people with chronic kidney disease die annually for lack of an available kidney. You may know someone who has donated an organ to someone else. It is a rare and beautiful gift indeed. There is no longer a need to have a direct blood type match with the existence of exchanges or banks such as kidney exchange networks.

We have organ recipients right here in our own congregation and there is presently an existing need. There will be a table with information available in Heaton Hall Foyer immediately following worship on November 8. Visit and gain some new information about the needs and process of organ donation. Consider the possibility of the gift of life.
An Invitation to Our Guests: Please plan to join us for our
Orientation Series
Fall 2015

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
9:30-10:45am: Introductions and History of MPBC, Cornwell Center Lounge

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
5:45pm: Gathering, Cornwell Conference Center
6:00-7:30pm: Dinner with Ministerial and Program Staff and Conversation about Involvement in the Life of MPBC, Cornwell Conference Center
• Campus Tour immediately following

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
9:30-10:45am: Architectural Tour of the Sanctuary Building, meet in the Chancel

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
9:45–10:45am: Overview and Discussion about the Church Covenant, Baptism, and Commitment, Cornwell Center Lounge

And, for those who are ready to formalize their commitment to this community of faith, we offer:

JOINING SUNDAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
9:00–10:45am: Light Breakfast and Pictures, Cornwell Center Lounge
11:00am–Noon: New Members welcomed into Congregation during Worship
Noon-1:00pm: Welcoming Reception, Heaton Hall

Please contact Mariah Currin at mcurrin@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232, ext. 41 for more information about the orientation series and/or membership.

*Childcare is available for all sessions.

Our Neighbors, Ourselves

An evening program co-sponsored with MeckMin

By Chrissy Williamson

The Wonderful Wednesday program for this month is called Our Neighbors, Ourselves. It is a collaborative effort with Mecklenburg Ministries to begin an important conversation about discrimination from three lenses: religion, race, and socioeconomic class. Three presentations will be made that incorporate spoken word, music and video to raise up these patterns of discrimination in our society and the impacts that they have on individuals. After each short presentation, everyone will have an opportunity to engage the topics with others in attendance. The more folks who gather around the table, the richer our conversation will be. I look forward to spending some time with all of you on November 18th (6:45-7:30pm).

And for the Children . . .
A Christmas Pageant Sing and Dance Extravaganza from 6:45-7:30pm in Shalom Hall.

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And for the Children . . .
A Christmas Pageant Sing and Dance Extravaganza from 6:45-7:30pm in Shalom Hall.

Joining Sunday
Sunday, December 6
When: 9:00–10:45am
Where: Cornwell Center Lounge
What: Light Breakfast and Pictures, In-person tour of the Sanctuary Building, meet the leaders, sing and share what we’ve learned about the church’s history

Come begin your Christmas season as Anne Trenning introduces you to her new album, The Sunflower Waltz.

Press Release:

Congratulations to Anne Trenning on the release of her new album, The Sunflower Waltz. The Chicago born and raised, Charlotte, NC, based performer has been driven throughout her career by the pursuit of simple elegance. She fashioned this recording’s theme and packaging around her song “The Sunflower Waltz”—not only as a reflection of her deep love for nature, but also because of the sunflower’s unique characteristics (adaptability, beauty, determination) and their clear metaphoric applications to life. Her recordings are available on iTunes, Amazon, and CD Baby and can be heard on Pandora, Spotify and YouTube. Join her on Facebook and Twitter.

Update on Wil Watson’s Pilgrimage
By Chrissy Williamson

In last month’s newsletter, you had the opportunity to read about (former MPBC youth) Wil Watson’s walk with People’s Pilgrimage to raise awareness about the environmental crisis. Wil has begun his walk from Rome to Paris and he is blogging about it! He’s already had the opportunity to sit at the feet of Pope Francis and hear him endorse People’s Pilgrimage for the good work that they are doing. There is a map charting Wil’s progress on the EarthKeepers’ bulletin board in Heaton Hall. To learn more about People’s Pilgrimage, visit http://peoplespilgrimage.org. Join me in following Wil’s blog (https://twomillionstepsblog.wordpress.com). Let’s all pray for him as he follows God’s call on his life to make our world a better place.
Help us make a video of our children reading the stories of Jesus’ birth

By Ed Williams

We want to produce a Christmas video showing Myers Park Baptist elementary students reading the birth stories from Matthew and Luke, backed by songs of the season by other children of the Church. We’ll put it on the Church website so the children can see their talents in action and proud grandparents everywhere can make it go viral.

Think that sounds like a great idea? Good. We need your help.

At present all we have is the idea. No readers, no singers, no videographers, no editors. We need all of those.

If you have elementary age children, encourage them to participate. Each will read a verse or two from a big sheet of newsprint held up behind the camera. No memorization required. And the readers will get their verses in advance, so there will be ample opportunity to master any unfamiliar words. If any reader stumbles, no problem; we’ll just do it over.

If you have any skill making video, even if it’s just with your smart phone, we need your help.

If you have video editing experience, you’re the key to our success. Please join us.

Signing up for this project is simple: Just email your name to me at edwilliams@carolina.rr.com. Tell me whether you’re a reader, a vocalist, or an experienced video editor. When we get the volunteers we need, we’ll organize in a way that respects everyone’s busy schedule and gets the job done.

Dyslexia’s Surprising Gifts and Challenges

By Bruce Elliott

Many of us know Linda William as the co-chair of MPBC’s 2014 Stewardship Campaign—her articulate, warm and very genuine talks helped make the campaign highly successful. Yet as a child she struggled in school with reading and writing. She shares this common thread with some of history’s greatest minds and for the same reason: Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Steven Spielberg, Agatha Christie, Charles Schwab and others all were/dyslexic.

 Experts estimate that dyslexia strikes some 20% of the population, but awareness of the disorder is startlingly low, even among teachers. As a result, the vast majority of dyslexic children go unidentified so testing and treatment options are rarely provided. Children become caught in a spiral of frustration, embarrassment and a debilitating belief that they are not very smart. “I couldn’t understand why everyone else seemed to be getting it and I wasn’t” said Linda. Ironically most children with dyslexia have above average intelligence and many are intellectually and creatively gifted.

The dyslexic difference happens in the brain, which is wired differently than nondyslexic ones. This wiring comes equipped with a picture or feeling-based reasoning process to solve problems rather than a linear one. “If I can visualize it, I can solve it” Linda said.

It wasn’t until 3 years ago that Linda first learned she had dyslexia. Both her two sons were identified by specialists as having dyslexia, which often runs in families. Linda was soon tested and also identified as dyslexic. “Once the final piece of the puzzle snapped together, it explained so much,” she says.

Soon Linda was reading everything she could about this neuro-biological disorder. She also started giving talks and reaching out to other families with dyslexic children.

Linda eventually passed a certification course with a leading expert on dyslexia in the U.S., giving her the professional and legal standing to privately tutor children. Her private practice is growing even as she also works with several mothers around the state to raise awareness about dyslexia and the available testing and treatment options. They have formed an advocacy group called Decoding Dyslexia North Carolina.

With such a large number of people having dyslexia, the implications of so many going unidentified are huge—it’s estimated that some 41% of the prison population is dyslexic.

Linda says the more she learned about dyslexia, the more compelled she felt to do something about it—not only for her children but for others too. “One of my core beliefs is that we are here to give and receive love. And this work? I couldn’t not do it.”

Senior Adult Fellowship

Updated Greenville Trip

By Chrissy Williamson

The Senior Adult Fellowship trip to Greenville, S.C. has been rescheduled for Friday, November 6 (and let’s all pray for good weather!). Join some of your closest friends – or make some new ones – as we journey to Greenville to meet Ann Cunningham for a tour of the downtown area. In addition to the tour, we will have some time to browse the shops and restaurants before coming home. We plan to leave MPBC at 8:00am and be back by 5:00pm. Sign up online or by calling Anne Clarke at 704.334.7232 x15. Registration is limited to the first 12.
2015 Advent Booklets: 
Stories of Hope, Joy, Peace & Love

By Chrissy Williamson

Our annual Advent booklets will be available for you to pick up at the Church office, Narthex, Heaton Hall Foyer or The Cornwall Center beginning November 22. This year’s booklets feature submissions by MPBC members and friends, sharing their stories of hope, joy, peace and love. The second sentence of our Church Covenant says: By God’s grace we are experiencing God’s love through Jesus Christ and in the community of the faithful. What better time to share those experiences than Advent? Telling the stories of our experiences of hope, joy, peace and love - the weekly liturgical themes for the season of Advent - we are sharing our experiences of God’s grace and love with one another. The stories featured in the booklet will also be posted online at mpbconline.org and on the Church Facebook page. You are all invited to journey through Advent with all of us at MPBC by reading the daily meditations online or in the printed booklet. If you choose to participate online, please feel free to post your own story (and let me know if you need help doing that). ■

New Garden

By Chrissy Williamson

On Sunday, October 11, we dedicated the new garden outside of the Conference Room. If you have not had an opportunity to pause and appreciate the beauty of that space, please make the time to do so in the coming days. This garden was made possible by the generosity of our congregation. Listed below are the names of those who donated to the garden, along with the names of those being honored or memorialized by the gift.

- The birdbath was given by Rosemary Neill.
- The three benches were given by Brenda penthal and in memory of Steve Ruppenthal and in memory of Gensie and Bill Johnston.
- The bird feeder was given by Virginia Weitz.
- The maple tree and camellia topiary were given by Missionary Roundtable.
- The birdbath was given by Virginia.
- The Blue Atlas Cedar tree was given by Gloria Gibson in honor of the Governance SLG.
- The bird feeder was given by Virginia.
- The tree was given by the 5th Dimension SLG.
- A donation was given by Don and Priscilla Bynum in memory of Lea Harrison.
- A donation was given by Kay Turner in memory of Edith Collins.

All the blooming flowers were given in honor of Jill Kinney.
- The gardenias were given by the Governance SLG in honor of Gloria Gibson.
- The Blue Atlas Cedar tree was given by Gloria Gibson in honor of the Governance SLG.
- The tree was given by the 5th Dimension Class.
- A donation was given by Don and Priscilla Bynum in memory of Lea Harrison.
- A donation was given by Kay Turner in memory of Edith Collins.

MPBC Youth News

By Chris Hughes

Upcoming Events:
November 6 Deadline to sign up for HS Retreat
November 8 Parents meeting about summer trips (5:00pm, Youth Hall)
November 18 Wonderful Wednesday - High School Retreat (No Youth Fellowship)
November 20-22 Game Night at Youth Fellowship
November 29

Notes from Chris

I want to say a huge thank you to all of you who donated and volunteered for our South Carolina Flood Buckets project. As I am writing this, our Church has contributed enough to assemble over 85 buckets! These buckets will go on to help with relief efforts in South Carolina, specifically to help disaster relief teams and homeowners to clean out their homes and to protect against mold. It will help them get their homes back to normal. Thank you for such a tremendous show of support. See page 9 for pictures of our bucket assembly.

This month, there are two very important events. On November 8, I am going to have a parents meeting about summer trips. Many of you have already filled out the interest forms about the summer trips and I am incredibly thankful. This is the next step where I will give you all the firm details about dates, locations, costs and payment due dates. You will also have time to ask questions. Also this month, our high school group will be retreating to Valle Crucis on November 20-22 and the deadline to sign up is November 6. ■

Children’s Ministry

"It’s a Small Christmas World"

Christmas Pageant 2015
Rehearsal Dates and Locations

By Carrie Veal

It’s that time of year again! We are gearing up for the Children’s Ministry Christmas Pageant. This year our theme is “It’s a Small Christmas World” and we will learn how Christmas is celebrated all over the world.

Our performance date is Saturday, December 12 at 4:00pm in Heaton Hall.

Here are the rehearsal dates, times and locations. For more information, please contact Erica McGee at ericaallenmcgee@hotmail.com.

- Wednesday November 4, 6:15-7:15pm - Pageant Rehearsal (Heaton Hall)
- November 18, 6:45-7:30pm - Pageant Sing and Dance Extravaganza (Wonderful Wednesday - Shalom Hall)
- December 2, 6:15-7:15pm - Pageant Rehearsal (Heaton Hall)
- Sunday, December 6, 2:00-4:00pm - Entire Cast Pageant Rehearsal (Shalom Hall)
- Wednesday, December 9, 6:15-7:15pm - Entire Cast Pageant "Dress" Rehearsal (Heaton Hall)

Child Protection Training Class

By Carrie Veal

If you haven’t taken this class, you are encouraged to do so. We will meet Sunday, November 15 from 9:45-10:45am in the Conference Room. Please sign up by contacting me at cveal@mpbconline.org.
**Children’s Ministry**

**Soup Fellowship**

*Wednesday, November 11 at 6:15pm*

By Carrie Veal

Following choir on November 11 we will have soup and grilled cheese sandwiches while we enjoy each other’s company. Sign up to bring some soup to share. Sign-up can be found on the Church’s website.

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**Children’s Ministry**

**Wonderful Wednesday**

*November 18*

By Carrie Veal

Christmas Pageant Sing and Dance Extravaganza! Join us after dinner for this fun time.

Be sure you RSVP for dinner by Monday, November 16 (runderwood@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x56)

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**Children’s Ministry**

**Christmas Craft Factory**

By Carrie Veal

When: Saturday, November 21; 10:00am–2:00pm

Cost: $12/child; includes all crafts and lunch

Who: Children three and older

Let’s get into the Christmas spirit! At Christmas Craft Factory we will make crafts and some edible goodies. Please sign up for this event by Monday, November 16. You can register on the Church’s website.

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**Finance Report**

*Year-to-Date September 30, 2015*

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**Revenue from rentals expected to reach $60,000 in 2016 budget**

By Ed Williams

If you think Myers Park Baptist Church is open only on Sundays, you’re missing a big part of our Church campus’s life. Throughout the week Myers Park Baptist is a community gathering place, hosting activities by numerous church groups and many outside groups, too.

Use of our facilities by outside groups not only invites others to become acquainted with our Church, it also provides a significant and growing source of revenue. In 2014 the Church collected $50,863 for facilities rental. Revenue from that source is budgeted for $55,000 for 2015 and $60,000 for 2016.

There are restrictions on use of the facilities, of course. Not permitted is any event that “would show disrespect of the Church or conflict with our Church Covenant, Core Values or Strategic Priorities.” Alcoholic beverages are prohibited, which often prevents our Church from being used for wedding receptions (only one wedding reception has been held at the Church this year). Smoking is permitted only in a marked outside area.

Rainey Underwood, who oversees facilities rental, says more than 20 groups regularly meet at our Church. Most of them pay a fee, but we provide free space for a few nonprofits. In general, nonprofits and members of Myers Park Baptist get a 25% discount.

Our facilities have hosted movie and TV productions such as HBO’s “Homeland” series. That series has now left Charlotte to film overseas, but the local location scout for “Homeland” has kept in touch. She reserved space for six weeks for rehearsals of “Lunch at the Piccadilly,” a musical recently staged at the Booth Theater uptown.

Among the groups meeting here regularly are the Amateur Astronomers Club, Charlotte Symphony Guild, Charlotte Folk Music Society, Mindful Meditation Group, the Language League (classes for children in Mandarin, Italian and Spanish), Charlotte Promenade, Jack and Jill adult social group, Carolina Coders (a professional group for medical coders), and Memoir Writing Classes with Gilda Syverson.

Other groups hold special events here and pay a fee to use our facilities. Among them: Collinswood Elementary School Father-Daughter Dance, N.C. State Alumni lunch, Moms of Multiples holiday social, Charlotte Pride band concert, Bruce Irons Camp Fund kickoff, Superior School of Real Estate, McColl School of Business, and many more.

Heaton Hall, which seats 275 at tables or 350 for lectures, is a popular spot for outside groups. It rents for $250 for two hours (and $75 for each additional hour), plus custodial fees. Also available are small meeting rooms, plus many spaces in the Cornwall Center. Guidelines, fees and available rooms are listed under Facilities on our church website.

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**Thanks-For-Giving Feast**

Please join us for a covered dish lunch on Stewardship Dedication Sunday, November 15, 2015 immediately following worship.

Last names beginning A-F please bring a salad, G-M bring a dessert, and N-Z bring a vegetable. We’ll provide turkey, bread and beverages.

*Please bring food cooked, cut, and ready to serve.*

You may bring your dish to the kitchen serving line on Sunday morning – there will be someone to receive it.
A Little Rain Cannot Stop the SOS Crew

By Cheri Lindblom

On the Wednesday before SOS, the forecast looked ominous. Hurricane Joaquin was building strength, and we didn’t know what was in store for Saturday. Three of the projects were to take place outside. I hate to admit it, but I was ready to reschedule. Needless to say, the outside team leaders, David Kroening, Steve Jennings, Cindy Clemens and John Monfore, had more faith than I did. All three kept a positive outlook, saying, “We can do this, it’ll be fine.” Indoor site leaders AnneLouise O’Brien and Bob Bishop made sure they accommodated volunteers who wanted to move inside. They were all correct, because we DID it and even though it was overcast and drizzling, it was a great day full of hard work, fellowship and large quantities of hot chocolate.

There is no way to measure the success of our serving, because I believe that we give from the heart, not looking for accolades. And one cannot measure the rewards of fellowship with new and known friends.

However, we did accomplish a few things:

- **We built a Habitat Shed in SEVEN hours.** Start to finish. The materials were dropped off on Friday; the shed was picked up on Monday. David Kroening summed it up: “There is something about watching a pile of nothing become a building, from the ground up.” Thanks to 38 volunteers, working over two shifts (25 in the morning, 13 in the afternoon), the Lakewood Habitat House has a shed to store their belongings. Special thanks to our leaders: David Kroening, Steve Jennings and John Monfore.

- **We assembled 30 welcome bags for the guests at Hospitality House.** If you are not familiar with Hospitality House of Charlotte, you need to be. The home, located next to CMC, provides housing for families from out of town as their loved ones are receiving treatment in the hospital. Our group made welcome bags for those staying at the house (including bags for children) and we made baked items to share when they visited the house. Special thanks to our leader, AnneLouise O’Brien.

- **We planted, cleaned and spent time in fellowship with the families at Family Promise Elizabeth House.** The inside crew installed shelving, repaired hand railings, reorganized and deep cleaned. The outside crew spread mulch, trimmed shrubs, planted and cleaned and organized the storage shed. Younger volunteers baked muffins to share with the families for breakfast and made four dozen cookies to leave for snacks. Special thanks to our leader, Cindy Clemens.

- **We sorted school supplies and addressed thank-you notes at A Child’s Place.** The rain really did not keep anyone away - we had more than THIRTY volunteers sorting, cleaning shelves and learning about the support A Child’s Place provides for our city’s children who do not have a home. Special thanks to our leader, Bob Bishop.

Here are a few more impressive details:

- Age range of volunteers: 2 (Hollis O’Brien) to 89 (you’ll have to ask me!)
- 9 families served together as an act of kindness.
- Double Shifters (morning and afternoon): - Keith, Susan, Ryan and Megan Merritt - Jenny and Olivia Martella - Porter and Wyndham Merrill - Audrey James Currin - CJ Jennings - Bob Conlon - Deb Steiner - Foster and William Harris
- Triple Shifters (Friday pm, Saturday morning and afternoon): - David Kroening - Bobby Herrig - Steve Jennings - Chris Hughes

Thank you to everyone!

Room In The Inn

By Cheri Lindblom

Room In The Inn (RITI) starts in a mere month. RITI is our “In-reach”/Outreach winter-season ministry to our homeless neighbors. Every Saturday, from December 1 through March 31, we welcome fourteen of our neighbors and provide a warm meal, a place to sleep and shower, and breakfast **inside** our Church. This ministry could not happen without everyone reaching out to serve our neighbors.

Are you interested in being involved with our RITI program? Consider being a Captain for one or more nights. The captain coordinates the volunteers, meets them at the Church, helps greet our neighbors and makes sure everything is set prior to going home. The time commitment is from 4:30/5:00-8:00 on the Saturday night that you are captain. Being a captain does not mean you have to spend the night.

Being a captain is a wonderful way to help serve our neighbors and experience fellowship with fellow MPBC friends. I can honestly say that it is my favorite outreach duty at the Church.

Do you have one or more Saturday evenings that you would like to help captain RITI? If so, please contact me at clindblom@mpbconline.org.

Lakewood Angel Tree

By Chini Nichols

Would you like to be an angel for a child in need this Christmas? If so, please visit the Angel Tree for the children of Lakewood neighborhood located in the Cornwell Center Lobby beginning Wednesday, November 18. You can select a tag for a boy or girl aged newborn through 18 years old. Please remember to sign out your choice at the Cornwell Center Welcome Desk after you have made your selection. We ask that you return your unwrapped gift ($50 max.) with the selected tag to the Cornwell Center Welcome Desk by **5:00pm on Thursday, December 3.**
Buckets of Hope

Doing something as a community of faith justifies our coming together. The function of worship is to do something.

~ Dr. Dominic Crossan, Adult Forum, MPBC, October 18, 2015

By Cheri Lindblom

Heed the words of Dr. Crossan. Did he know we were gathering, that same Sunday evening, to assemble Flood Relief Buckets?

"Doing something as a COMMUNITY of faith." Thanks to all of you, the community of MPBC was able to provide and assemble Flood Relief Buckets for our neighbors in Columbia, South Carolina. Due to the tremendous support of the congregation, we had enough funds to supply 85 buckets along with a sizable donation to American Red Cross South Carolina Flood Relief.

A special thank you to the set-up and assembly volunteers, transportation chief, Bob Bishop, and the assembly-line youth department.
Worship & Music

Time to Prepare

By Maria Long

On Sunday, November 29, we will begin the Advent season with an Advent Lovefeast. Using the Moravian Christmas Candlelight Lovefeast as the frame, we will come together to share a simple celebration of music and quiet reflection focused on mindful preparation for the Christmas season.

So often in the hurried-up sprint to get from one activity to the next . . . from one holiday to the next . . . or even from one busy day to the next, we forget to focus time and energy to prepare for what’s next. By rushing to reach a destination, we lose the chance to connect more deeply and meaningfully with the thing we are trying to reach. Taking time to prepare engages us in anticipation and allows us a richer experience of Christmas. Our Advent Lovefeast offers us time, quiet and simple beauty so that we may prepare. Come join us!

The First Lovefeast

The Moravian tradition of lovefeast was established on August 13, 1727. Following years of religious persecution, the Moravians found refuge in the protection of Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf of Saxony, who encouraged the community to come together, reunite and carry the gospel message throughout the world. The community met together for worship on August 13, 1727, and during that service of Holy Communion, renewed their commitment to their faith and the Moravian community. The service was so profoundly moving for the group of participants that they remained together throughout the day, reluctant to separate from one another and return to their homes.

Count Zinzendorf, sensing that God was at work among the individuals gathered together, sent food to the assembled group so that they might continue to pray and sing hymns together. He actively fostered and developed the idea into a service for celebrating the bonds of community and as the practice continued, lovefeasts became a custom in Moravian life, introduced wherever new groups of Moravian believers came together.

Service through Song and Prayer

The central idea of a lovefeast is a service of solemn dignity, focused on the celebration of community. Lovefeasts are primarily a song service, opened with prayer. Hymns for the order of service are carefully selected to furnish the subject matter for devotion and reflection. On special occasions, an address may be given to guide further reflection and to offer an opportunity for collective focus on the occasion.

Though lovefeasts are traditionally associated with buns and Moravian coffee, there is no rule regarding what food should be offered, except that the food be simply and easily distributed. At Christmas, a candlelight service is often added to foster deeper reflection on Christ’s light coming into the world. Importantly, though, lovefeasts are not just celebrated at Christmas. They can be celebrated any time of the year when there is a desire to bring the community together to stress the oneness and fellowship of Christ’s followers.

First Lovefeast of the Season

We will begin our lovefeast season on Sunday, November 29, 3:30-5:00, Room 250. By Judy Bratton

What do the movies Titanic, Charge of The Light Brigade and Mrs. Miniver have in common? Hymns, that’s what! There are hymns for all occasions, seasons and genres. There is a small (but vocal) group of us who meet regularly to sing our favorites. Many are the old hymns that we grew up with in our varied faith traditions; many are from the Myers Park Baptist Hymnal . . . yes, we published our very own!

Hymn Sing

Sunday, November 29, 3:30-5:00, Room 250

By Judy Bratton

What do the movies Titanic, Charge of The Light Brigade and Mrs. Miniver have in common? Hymns, that’s what! There are hymns for all occasions, seasons and genres. There is a small (but vocal) group of us who meet regularly to sing our favorites. Many are the old hymns that we grew up with in our varied faith traditions; many are from the Myers Park Baptist Hymnal . . . yes, we published our very own!

The next time you open our hymnal, really look at the words and listen to their message. Then, come join us on Sunday, November 29 from 3:30 to 5:00pm in Room 250 in the Education Building. No formal music training or background is required, simply a desire to sing your favorites. If you have questions you may contact any of us: Edith Patton (704.321.1096), George Linney (704.362.1549) or Judy Bratton (704.502.6456).

Children’s Choir Notes

By Deb Steiner

First of all, our choirs will meet in regular rehearsals on Wednesday, November 11, Veterans’ Day. Yes, school is out that day, but choirs will maintain their regular rehearsal schedule.

Each of our children’s choirs will be singing twice in November. The choirs will sing on two separate Sundays in worship – the Carol Choir (grades K-2) sings on Dedication Sunday, November 15. The Chapel Choir (grades 3-5) sings the following Sunday, November 22. Rehearsals before worship will be from 9:15-9:45 each Sunday in the Sanctuary. Plan to be in worship those Sundays to hear the children’s gifts of song.

The Carol and Chapel Choirs will each sing in Heaton Hall on Wonderful Wednesday, November 18. Rehearsal will end at 6:00 that evening so the children can eat before they sing at 6:30. Bring your family and friends; don’t forget to make your dinner reservations by Monday, November 16.

There will be NO choir rehearsals on Wednesday, November 25 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.


News from The Cornwell Center

By John Bambach

WIN-WIN, Refer A Friend
One month free for you and a friend. Do you know someone who might love and appreciate the Cornwell Center as much as you do? When they try us before December 31 you will both gain a “free” membership benefit.

Grab a few invitation cards at our Welcome Desk, or check our website for more details.

LiveWell Cornwell
Because Deep Stretch is such a wildly popular class, we’ve added another to our Group Exercise schedule!
Mondays, 8:15am with Audrey

Our Photo group’s November photo assignment is “After Dark.” Go literal with a night shot or explore darkness as metaphor. Submit one or two entries for our November 18 meeting.
PHOTO Connections with John Bambach
Third Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00pm
www.facebook.com/PhotoSIG

Our longest running special interest group (since 2003!) continues monthly. What better time to begin connecting with your roots?

FAMILY Connections
Genealogy with Ted Lucas
Second Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00pm

Et Cetera
For three years Ansley Melnik has graced us with her leadership of our Group Exercise programming, developing LiveWell seminars, and so much more. She now leaves us to join her husband, Chad, designer of our new web site, in developing their growing business. We’re thankful that she’ll remain engaged here during this transition. More, we’re thankful for having had her with us.

News from Through-The-Week School

By Belinda Guess

We had a very busy October at Through-the-Week School, including the beginning of our “specials” for curriculum enhancement. These include Play Spanish (2’s – TK), Music By Holly (2’s – TK), My Gym and Science (3’s – TK).

60 Years of Teaching
Through-the-Week School will continue to celebrate 60 years of being one of the premier preschools in the Charlotte area throughout the school year. It is amazing how many lives TTWS has touched!

November Save the Dates
November is full of activities at TTWS. The Diwali Indian dancers will be visiting the school on November 10 to teach the preschoolers the beautiful tradition of the Festival of Lights. Class pictures will be taken on November 11 and 12 and field trips begin with the TK students visiting the Aviation Museum on November 11 and the 4’s visiting Latta Plantation on November 19.

Festival of Friends
November 14 is an important parents’ night out at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery for our annual Festival of Friends fundraiser. The committee has been hard at work gathering silent and live auction items to raise money this year for the funding of our cultural arts and curriculum enhancement programming, capital improvements, classroom equipment, teacher appreciation and scholarships.

Thanksgiving at TTWS
The month will end with our annual Thanksgiving feast held in Heaton Hall on Tuesday, November 24. TTWS is so thankful to be a mission of Myers Park Baptist Church! We will be closed November 25-27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

www.mpbconline.org
DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER 2015 ISSUE IS
4:00PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15.
Max 450 words, subject to editing for space. Please email all submissions to the MPBC Communications Director, Laura Geer, at lgeer@mpbconline.org.

A SENDING CHURCH

McCreesh Day - September 26
Saturday of Service (S.O.S.) - October 10
Habitat For Humanity Shed - Morning Crew
Habitat For Humanity Shed - Afternoon Crew
Hospitality House Crew
Family Promise - Elizabeth House Crew
A Child’s Place Crew