Not Because I Was Asked

By Becky Rizzo and Bob Bishop, Co-Chairs, 2017 Stewardship Campaign

Bob Bishop and I were already named co-chairs of the Dream On! 2017 Stewardship Campaign when our new senior minister came on board on February 1 of this year. In our first meeting with Ben last spring, he asked us "Why did you all sign up to do this?" Simultaneously we blurted out "Because we were asked!" There was the wise, trademark Ben-like pause as he looked away, then focused on us again and chuckled, "No, I don't think so."

A few months later, after many hours of planning and even more gallons of coffee, Bob said to me, "You know, I have been thinking a lot about Ben's first question to us. By the time I was 4 years old, my grandmother had instilled in all us grandkids the seeds of lifelong obligation of service to others. This so-called duty for me developed into a true love of service, a joy actually. I am blessed. Fast forward to the mid-1990's, the Men's Shelter in Charlotte, NC. Week after week I volunteered with numbers of great people from Myers Park Baptist Church. (I was a member of a church in Monroe at the time). Wow, this Church really gets outreach and these people are terrific. I wanted to be part of a church that was so actively committed to the community. One that lives out my own passion. Later, I joined MPBC on the same day as my daughter, Christina. We joined together, we did everything together. Our first friend at the Church was Edith Collins. When Christina died in 2010, my entire world was crushed. MPBC, with all its arms to hug me, casseroles and prayers to feed me, was quite literally my rock, my guiding light through the darkest of times. I love our Church. I need our Church. And this is exactly why I said yes to the stewardship job."

I love our Church and need our Church too, but my route to the same sentiment was a little different. I have a drawer full of perfect Sunday School attendance pins from the Methodist Church. After heading off to college, I didn't join a church for 34 years. I played a lot of football. When I joined the military, I was stationed in Korea and had to join a church. At the military base church, I met my wife. After returning from service, I married her and we moved to North Carolina. My wife's family was going to Myers Park Baptist Church, so we decided to join. My route to a real love of service came later. It came a few months ago when I was thinking about Ben's first question to us. I love our Church and need our Church too, but my route to the same sentiment was a little different. I have a drawer full of perfect Sunday School attendance pins from the Methodist Church. After heading off to college, I didn't join a church for 34 years. I played a lot of football. When I joined the military, I was stationed in Korea and had to join a church. At the military base church, I met my wife. After returning from service, I married her and we moved to North Carolina. My route to a real love of service came later. It came a few months ago when I was thinking about Ben's first question to us.

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Senior Adult Fellowship

Wednesday, November 2, 10:30-11:30am in the Cornwell Conference Center

By Joe Aldrich

Our speaker will be Rose Hamid, President of Muslim Women of the Carolinas. The topic will be "The Religion of Islam." We will hear about the misconceptions surrounding the religion of Islam. For example, did you know that Islam is not a new religion? Islam is both a religion and a complete way of life. Muslims follow a religion of peace, mercy and forgiveness that should not be associated with acts of violence against the innocent. Does this raise your curiosity? Want to know more about Islam? Plan to be with us on November 2.

To become more informed before the gathering, drop by my office and I will have an Information Sheet on Islam that you can read before we meet. See you soon!

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Orientation Series Fall 2016

An Invitation to Our Guests

Sunday, October 30
- 9:30-10:45am
  Introductions and History of the Church
  Cornwell Center Lounge

Tuesday, November 1
- 6:00-7:30pm
  Family Fellowship Dinner with Program Staff, with a campus tour immediately following
  Location TBD

Sunday, November 6
- 9:30-10:45am
  Architectural Tour
  Meet in the Sanctuary Chancel
- 1:30-3:00pm
  Social and Conversation with Ben Boswell at the home of Cathryn and Jay Rivers

Sunday, November 20
- 9:45-10:45am
  Overview of the Church Covenant and Discussion about Commitment and Joining Sunday
  Cornwell Center Lounge

For those who are ready to formalize their commitment to this community of faith —

Joining Sunday, December 4
- 9:00-10:45am
  Light Breakfast and Pictures
  Cornwell Center Lounge
- 11:00-Noon
  New Members welcomed into the Congregation during Worship
- Noon-1:00pm
  Welcoming Reception
  Heaton Hall

Childcare is available for all sessions except the afternoon social on November 6.

Please contact Mariah Currin with questions at 704.334.7232, x141 or mcurrin@mpbconline.org.

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Congregational Joys and Concerns

(as of October 15, 2016)

BIRTHS — CONGRATULATIONS
- Steve and Brooke Cornwell on the birth of their granddaughter, Molly Brooke Brackett Cornwell, on July 7, 2016 in Charlotte, NC.
- Bob and Ileana Bishop on the birth of their great grandson, Matthew Bishop, on September 28, 2016 in Lutterworth, England, and on the birth of their great grandson, Jacob Bishop, on October 8, 2016 in Leicester, England.
- Michelle Smith and AnneLouise O’Brien on the birth of their daughter, Bellamy Erin O’Brien, on October 2, 2016 in Charlotte, NC.

DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY
- The family of Sara F. Boggs on her death on September 28, 2016 in Charlotte, NC.
- Susan Furr and Ted Phillips on the death of her uncle, John Vermillion, on September 30, 2016 in Concord, NC.
- The family of Patricia Darsey Burnside on her death on October 13, 2016 in Charlotte, NC.
Award Winning Members at MPBC:

Dr. Anita Blanchard

Bank of America Excellence in Teaching Award Finalist

By Carrie Veal

Each year Bank of America sponsors the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence, one of the most important and prestigious traditions at UNC-Charlotte. This award honors outstanding teachers at the University and provides an example of UNCC’s commitment to excellence in teaching.

Five finalists are chosen each year from among the nominees. While the professors are nominated by their colleagues, this award is student driven. Students are asked to submit support for why the nominee should be chosen. This is not just a short form they fill out, but an extensive paper that requires time and attention.

I had the opportunity to chat with Anita about this award.

Q: Tell us about your area of expertise and work at UNCC.
A: I am an Associate Professor of Psychology and Organizational Science. My area of focus is the psychology of work in organizations. I specialize in online interaction, particularly with work and community groups. I study how the online interactions with each other affect their environments.

This work is truly my calling and over time I have realized that the lessons I learn at MPBC influence my interactions with my students.

Q: Tell us about being nominated for the Bank of America Excellence in Teaching Award.
A: This was a big surprise for me! I learned in February that I had been nominated. I knew that my students had put significant work into this nomination. Being nominated for this award is like being nominated for an Oscar. It really is just an honor to be nominated! It was not until the ceremony in September that I learned I was a finalist. It was overwhelming and humbling.

Q: What was most surprising/humbling/unexpected about this experience?
A: From the moment the nominations came out, it was amazing to see the number of students and colleagues who had shown their appreciation. Too often professors are not given positive reinforcement, especially from their students. We push them hard, ask them to challenge themselves. There is rarely a line of students waiting to talk to you after class or praising you for the lecture you gave or the grade they received on a project. So to know that students wrote words of appreciation and admiration is very humbling. It allowed me the moment to stop and realize that in the times when it seemed like I wasn’t making a difference, that no one was noticing my work, that actually that was not the case at all. It just goes to show, you never know what might happen when you go to work each day.

One of the most rewarding moments of this experience was that our entire research lab, undergraduate and graduate students, were invited to the award ceremony. It was an opportunity for students to see professors being celebrated and celebrating with their colleagues. That was impactful for me and for my students.

Congratulations, Anita!! We at Myers Park Baptist Church are proud to call you one of us!

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Judge Hugh Lewis

2016 Martha Bedell Alexander Award Winner

(From the Anuvia Awards Luncheon Program)

Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center’s Martha Bedell Alexander Award recognizes excellence in leadership and service in advocating for appropriate, accessible, and person- and family-centered substance abuse prevention and treatment services. This year, at Anuvia’s 24th Annual Awards Luncheon, Judge Hugh Lewis received the award. Hugh Banks Lewis was in private practice before he was appointed to the bench in 1994, serving as a Civil Magistrate for the 26th Judicial District. He became a District Court Judge in 2001 and was elected as a Superior Court Judge in 2011.

He has operated several of the drug courts in Mecklenburg County that help stop the cycle of substance use disorders and criminal activity. “The belief that I can still make the world a better place has stuck with me,” Lewis was quoted as saying back in 2011. “To have somebody come back to me and say, ‘You were the one who sent me to detox; now I am straight, have a job, and a life.’ There’s nothing like it.”

Judge Lewis was praised in a 2007 Wall Street Journal law blog, which stated, "Judge Lewis strikes a unique deal with defendants who appear before him with drug and alcohol addictions. ‘I have a standing pledge to anyone who comes in front of my courtroom -- if they do 90 [treatment] meetings in 90 days, I will do cartwheels for them,’ he said.” A video of Judge Lewis doing a cartwheel can still be found on Time Warner Cable News 14’s website.

Congratulations, Judge Lewis! What an honor it is to have you among us!

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**Staff Spotlight**

**Allen Davis, Interim Director of Youth Ministry**

By Lynn Trenning

Greensboro native Allen Davis, 29, is our newly hired Interim Director of Youth Ministry, but he’s been a Youth Department volunteer since 2012. In addition to being a regular at Sunday Youth Fellowship, he’s chaperoned a variety of retreats.

Allen is also the Charlotte area Program Coordinator for Freedom School, a program created by the Children’s Defense Fund. He has been involved with the organization since he was a student at UNC-Charlotte, where he graduated with a B.A. in Africana Studies in 2011.

First, he was hired by Freedom School as a Servant Leader Intern. Then, he was selected to be an Ella Baker Trainer, a CDF honor in which an outstanding intern is chosen to provide technical support and intern training for new sites. After graduation, he was the site coordinator at the Freedom School at Statesville Elementary.

Next, he was promoted to Lead Regional Coordinator, then Program Assistant, and finally Program Coordinator; a position responsible for recruiting and training approximately 140 interns each year, and for coordinating logistics for all Charlotte area sites.

Allen has two daughters who have been attending God’s Garden. Amiyah is 9, and Mileah is 7. “They like camping and hiking until the bugs get to be too much for them,” says Allen. In Greensboro Allen attended a Disciples of Christ Church. In Charlotte, he attended Freedom House Church. He’s an ardent Crossfitter, and he and his girlfriend Myah Stanford enjoy spending time outdoors together.

He enjoys television dramas, and favorites include “Designated Survivor,” “Criminal Minds,” “Law and Order,” and “Quantico.” One of his favorite things to cook is garlic chicken and shrimp on pasta with an Alfredo sauce. His career goal is to help people, organizations, and businesses “take a stand for those who don’t have a voice at the table.”

When asked what he likes about working with MPBC Youth he replies, “I’m good at engaging kids. What I’m passionate about is allowing kids to have fun,” he says. “Our Youth have a great sense of humor. It’s a really fun bunch who like to laugh and to be engaged with each other and the Church.”

Allen’s goal as an Interim Director is to build a community within the Church, so that coming to Fellowship and Faith Formation is something that our Youth want to do. He hopes to leave his successor a solid group of kids who want to be part of the Youth program.

“I am not a Youth Minister at all, so I don’t feel it is right for me to send the kids down a path of faith,” says Allen. “But I am a connector. So I want to facilitate connections in their relationships with the Church and each other, so they have a solid foundation for their faith journey.”

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**EarthKeepers News**

**Film Showing: Racing Extinction**

Wednesday, November 2, 7:00-8:30pm, Youth Hall

By Mary Lou Buck, EarthKeepers Member

*Racing Extinction* is a documentary by Oscar-winning Director Louie Psihoyos about the ongoing Anthropogenic mass extinction of species and the efforts from scientists, activists, and journalists to document it. This viewing is sponsored by Myers Park Baptist Church Earth Keepers, CROWN (Charlotte Reconnecting Ourselves With Nature), and Clean Air Carolina. Details are available at [www.crowncharlotte.org](http://www.crowncharlotte.org), or maryloubuc@aol.com, 704.525.2293.

**The Importance of Water Conservation**

By Rosemary Neill, EarthKeepers Member

"Many people live without love but no one can live without water" is an old but true saying. That is why the EarthKeepers will continue to make water conservation at Church and at home a priority. In addition, we plan to explore ways to help protect our very source of water, which is being wasted, degraded, and polluted in numerous ways, often unjustly affecting the poor. We hope you will join us in any effort that emerges to preserve our water system in our city and our state.
Awakening to RACIAL INJUSTICE

By Chrissy Williamson

On September 21, we kicked off our year-long series called Awakening to Racial Injustice with a timely presentation on the definitions of race, implicit bias, institutional racism, and white privilege. It was an overview, led by Rodney Sadler and Anne VanNewkirk, meant to lay the groundwork for the journey of awakening that we are on together this 2016-2017 church year. On October 19, we gathered again in Shalom Hall with Susan McCarter and Derrik Anderson to learn about local and national data regarding race and racial disparities.

This month, in collaboration with Race Matters for Juvenile Justice (RMJJ), we welcome Elisa Chinn Gary (Clerk of Superior Court), Bob Simmons (Executive Director, Council for Children’s Rights), Jason Williams (Co-Executive Director of MeckMin), and Nikkia Wiler (RMJJ) to lead us in a conversation called “The History of Structural Exclusion.” This is sure to be an eye-opening conversation as we discover pieces of our shared history that is not discussed in most classrooms. I hope you will all plan to be a part of this conversation with these community leaders. We’ll meet in Shalom Hall at 6:30pm on Wednesday, November 16.

In addition to these Wednesday gatherings, a book group discussing Trouble I’ve Seen meets on Thursdays in the Urban Garden uptown. The Explorers Sunday Morning Class has dedicated their meetings to discussing that same book. An Awakening Covenant Group is forming and will begin meeting this month. It is safe to say that Myers Park Baptist members are going deeper, opening our minds and hearts to the realities of race, implicit bias, and white privilege in our city and in our everyday lives.

As we read, listen, and begin to understand these realities, we easily slip into our problem-solver modes. We start imagining quick fixes and solutions to these centuries-old problems. As we continue this journey together, let me encourage you to sit with the discomfort that emerges along the way. Sit with it and let it work on you. Sit with it and let it inform the ways that you read your Bibles and engage with others in the workplace and in your neighborhoods. Sit with it and let it awaken you.

We aren’t going to stay in this “sit with it” place. We will begin identifying some actions that we can each take to help eliminate racism and white privilege. But let us honor the pain of racism and racial disparity for a while as we allow ourselves to become awakened.

Awakening Covenant Group

If you are interested in joining an Awakening Covenant Group (a small group of folks committed to meeting together, with a facilitator, for the purpose of processing and talking about how the information presented/read/learned during this series is informing and transforming their lives), please contact me at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org.

Awakening Forum with Ben and Chrissy

Save November 27, at 9:45am in Heaton Hall, for a Sunday Morning Forum (which is part of the Awakening series) led by Revs. Ben Boswell and Chrissy Williamson.

Women’s Bible Study

A new women’s Bible study Covenant Group is forming this month! We will meet at 1:00pm on Wednesdays and will begin by studying the lectionary texts for each week. Contact me at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org for more information or to sign up.

Faith & Justice

The Faith and Justice SLG began meeting last month and wants to hear from you. If you care deeply about a justice issue, let us know! Send Ryan LaPrade (ralaprade@gmail.com), Chair of the Faith and Justice SLG, an email and let us know how you would like to see your Church (with your help) eliminate injustice in our world.

Children’s Ministry News

Christmas Pageant: It’s A Super Christmas

Saturday, December 10; 4:00pm

Our Children’s Christmas Pageant will be super this year and we want to make sure you have it on your calendar. Save the date and watch for more information.

If your 1st – 5th grader would like to participate, please contact Erica McGee at ericaallenmgee@hotmail.com. Rehearsals are from 3:00–4:30pm on the following Sundays: November 6, 13, and 20.

Advent Devotional Booklets for Families

On Sunday, November 27, Family Advent Devotionals will be available. Each day will have a Scripture reading and an activity to do as your family prepares for Advent. This is a wonderful opportunity for your family to take a moment to have fun and deepen your faith.

The booklet will also be available on the Church website.

www.mpbconline.org
Not Because I Was Asked

(... continued from page 1)

of golf on Sunday mornings. At age 50 I was unexpectedly divorced, my youngest child had left for college, and I was weary of my job. I languished in philosophical self-pity, wondering what was the point of being. I had lost purpose and probably couldn't have even defined faith, much less recognized even the hope of it.

During my decades in Charlotte, I had been to a number of funerals at Myers Park Baptist Church. The homilies never failed to knock my socks off. So many people go to church there, I thought, there must be something to it. And what did I have to lose by giving it a try? I visited MPBC for 2 years and finally a long-time member urged me to join, hustled me into a BibleWorkbench group, hand carried me to Missionary Roundtable, Altar Guild and the Endowment Committee. Great people, great music, great sermons: Great Community. Due to my lengthy absence from church I was woefully inadequate in matters of the Bible, liturgy, and church history. All this was quite baffling and intriguing at the same time. Always an academic geek, I went to a local seminary for fast track remedial catch up. Never intending to be a minister, I completed 10 semesters. Seminary is not a place to find faith, but it certainly gives one the tools to examine and better contextualize Christianity on an intellectual level.

MPBC has put me on a journey that points to good reasons for hope and faith. It has helped me contextualize Christianity on a spiritual level. The biggest gift the Church has given me is not only to teach me, but to show me how to really live, and live out my faith, in community.

The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed. ~ Proverbs 11:25

A fellow deacon was telling me of her journey to our Church. As a new young bride from another state, some years back, she said, "I didn't even know enough then to want this special place!" "Me either!" I exclaimed. "Me either!" I am so very grateful to be here.

So you see, Bob and I are like all of you. We are all on a journey of faith and feel that we were called to be here at MPBC, to lead this wonderful Church into the future by way of stewardship, and to continue the dream those first members had, all those years ago. That's why we signed up - not just because we were asked.

Youth Ministry News

By Allen Davis

Youth fall retreats were a smashing success. Our youth had the opportunity to build community and strengthen their relationships with each other. Our middle school youth experienced the Jazz Vespers Worship Service before a day at the Whitewater Center. Our high school youth were able to get away from it all at Valle Crucis Conference Center. Fall retreats continue to lay solid foundations for youth to grow throughout the year.

Kanuga is coming up in January, so be on the lookout for details coming soon.

November will be a busy month for the Youth Ministry as we prepare for our holiday service project. The youth will be collecting pennies. Please ask a youth how you can be part of our collective giving during this holiday season.

Youth are always interested in connecting with YOU! If you’re interested, please email me at adavis@mpbconline.org to discuss ways to connect with our Youth Ministry.
Room In The Inn

By Cher Lindblom

Room In The Inn gets its name from a familiar Bible story. The story takes place over 2000 years ago; a family is traveling to a small town called Bethlehem and cannot find affordable housing.

MPBC has its own version of the Room In The Inn (RITI) story starting on December 1st. Every Saturday from December through March, MPBC participates in the RITI program. We open our doors and welcome 14 of our homeless neighbors, offering shelter, a warm meal, and hospitality.

And this year, we have a special opportunity to find meaning in the story. This year, MPBC will host RITI on December 24. We will need you to find a place in your schedules and hearts to serve our homeless neighbors on Christmas Eve.

There are many different opportunities to serve with Room In The Inn, and we are confident you will be touched when serving our guests. Detailed information and volunteer sign-up will be available on the Church website in November.

Are you interested in being more involved in our RITI program? Consider becoming a Captain. 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 4:30-8:00pm on the Saturday night you serve. Being a Captain does not mean you have to spend the night, but it is a wonderful way to serve our neighbors and experience fellowship with MPBC friends. You can captain once, monthly, or weekly. It’s up to you and your schedule.

Do you have one or more Saturday evenings you would be willing to serve as a RITI Captain? Please contact me at clindblom@mpbconline.org.

McCreesh Day

September 24, 2016

By Cher Lindblom

Thank you to all the MPBC volunteers who prepared and served lunch to our neighbors residing at McCreesh Place. This annual lunch was a wonderful way to meet the residents and staff who work at McCreesh. All enjoyed a delicious lunch of Bob’s wonderful BBQ. A special thanks to Bob Bishop for his leadership and coordination.

Help Us Reach A Million

By Bob Bishop

This is going to be a very special year for MPBC’s Oatmeal and Staples Food Drive. It is our 10th year of collecting oatmeal for the homeless in our city and we have donated over 860,000 pounds over the last nine years. We will need 140,000 pounds to reach our goal of 1 million.

The local media -- TV, radio and newspapers -- are going to help us reach this amazing total by doing a continuing story about our Church’s run for the million!

I hope you will all take part in the excitement of this year’s Oatmeal Drive by donating as much oatmeal as you can. Drop-off sites will be available in Heaton Hall Foyer and at The Cornwell Center. Or, if you prefer to make a monetary donation so that we can buy wholesale and get more pounds for our buck, you can send a check payable to MPBC (with Sunshine Fund/Oatmeal Drive on the memo line) to Barry Metzger at MPBC, 1900 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207-2582. You can also donate online with your credit card at www.mpbconline.org.

The Oatmeal Drive starts November 15 and runs through January 15. If you need further information, please contact me at bobbishopuk@gmail.com.

I look forward to everyone helping our Church reach this historic number.
Loose Plate Offering

By Cher Lindblom

Gifts of loose cash in November will benefit Friendship Trays. Friendship Trays is the Charlotte-area "meals on wheels" program that delivers more than 600 meals daily to elderly, handicapped, and convalescing people who are unable or greatly restricted in their ability to prepare or secure meals. For more information, please visit www.friendshiptrays.org.

Lakewood Angel Tree

Deadline: Thursday, December 1

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. It will be located in the Cornwall Center Lobby beginning Wednesday, November 16. 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 Cornwall Center Welcome Desk after you have made your selection. We ask that you return your unwrapped gift ($50 max) with the selected tag to a staff person at the Cornwall Center Welcome Desk by 5:00pm on Thursday, December 1.

Report from Chancel Choir Retreat

By Greg Mayer, Chancel Choir President

The hills were alive with the sound of music in the making as members of the Chancel Choir, together with assorted friends and family, gathered this past Labor Day weekend in beautiful Montreat, North Carolina, for the 52nd annual Chancel Choir Retreat.

Led by Minister of Music Fran Morrison, rehearsals began Saturday morning and continued morning and evening throughout the retreat, as choir members began learning and rehearsing the upcoming weekly anthems for the fall. Musical accompaniment was provided by Matthew Manwarren on the piano, with additional musical direction provided by Charlotte Judge, Todd Geer, Janice Bradner, and Amy Morris.

Saturday and Sunday afternoons were “free time.” We shopped in nearby Black Mountain, hiked some of the many trails on the property, socialized with friends, and even took the opportunity to relax or nap. Social activities Saturday evening included hors d’oeuvres and dancing to music by bluegrass duo Zoe and Cloyd. Sunday evening included a multi-game night and the movie “As It Is in Heaven.” Good times!

Morning meditations and a Sunday worship service were planned and led by Maria Long and the youth attending retreat. Our rehearsal hall, with panoramic windows overlooking the valley and lake in front of Assembly Hall, provided the perfect spot for reflection and prayer.

Thanks to all who helped plan, assist with, and attend this year’s Retreat. We look forward to Labor Day weekend, 2017!

Music Together® Winter Session

By Fran Morrison

Early registration begins Monday, November 7. MPBC members can register during the early registration period using this code: PREW17. The discount code “MPBC” gives you a tuition rate of $100 - only at the MPBC location. Classes are available on Wednesdays at 4:30pm and Saturdays at 10:00am and 11:00am. The Winter Session runs January 9 - March 11.

Bluegrass Worship - Sunday, September 28
## Worship Offerings for the Season of Advent

**By Fran Morrison**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advent I / Lovefeast</strong></td>
<td><strong>November 27, 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>11:00am-Noon</strong></td>
<td><strong>in the Sanctuary</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Advent II</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 4, 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>11:00am-Noon</strong></td>
<td><strong>in the Sanctuary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advent III / Service of Nine Lessons and Carols</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 11, 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>11:00am-Noon</strong></td>
<td><strong>in the Sanctuary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advent IV / Magnificat by K. Sadowski</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 18, 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>11:00am-Noon</strong></td>
<td><strong>in the Sanctuary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taizé Service to Mark the Changing of The Seasons</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 18, 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>5:00-6:00pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>in the Chapel</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Service of Lament and Loss</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 21, 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:30-7:30pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>in the Sanctuary</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Eve</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 24, 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:00-7:00pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>in the Sanctuary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Alternative Worship with Erica McGee</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 25, 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>10:00am-10:45am</strong></td>
<td><strong>in Heaton Hall</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christmastide Alternative Worship with Todd Geer</strong></td>
<td><strong>January 1, 2017</strong></td>
<td><strong>10:00am-10:45am</strong></td>
<td><strong>in Heaton Hall</strong></td>
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</table>

### Advent I / Love Feast

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am**
**Worship in the Sanctuary**

**By Fran Morrison**

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

A simple food and drink will be distributed while we sing hymns that have been carefully selected for devotion and reflection. The Motet Singers will provide additional carols and soloists from our children’s choirs will lead us in the beloved “Morning Star, O Cheering Sight.” Readers of the liturgy will be from our elementary department.

I hope you can join us for this quiet, reflective time of preparation.

### Carols in the Round

**Sunday, December 4, 6:30pm**

**By Fran Morrison**

A candlelit Heaton Hall is a wonderful backdrop to escape the impending chaos of Christmas. For one hour, come, relax, and breathe in the quiet beauty, fellowship, and music of the Motet Singers, who will be singing twelve familiar and new carols. Between each set, the congregation will sing a couple of well-known carols. I hope you will join us.
World-Renowned Pianist to Play Concert at MPBC

By Fran Morrison

Mark your calendars for 7:00pm Saturday, December 3, at Myers Park Baptist Church.

World-renowned pianist Denis Evstuhin will play a concert of works by beloved composers. Denis has earned international acclaim for his vibrant artistry, remarkable sound quality, and brilliant virtuosity. His "sonorous, dark sound, clear textures, a fine sense of balance and an elegance of line," together with his ability to find "the expressive heart of each piece even as he made crisp and fluent work of the technical demands," have prompted critics to hail the Russian pianist as a true artist and natural musician.

Denis holds a B.M. and M.M. from the St. Petersburg Conservatory. In the United States, he received an Artist Diploma from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN as well as M.M. and DMA degrees in Piano Performance at the University of Minnesota.

Mr. Evstuhin will be joined in the concert with Tatyana Thulien, soprano. Tatyana received her vocal training from the Crimean Chamber Singing School and master classes from the Kiev State Conservatory. Since moving to the U.S. in 2009, she has been deeply involved in organizing and promoting musical events, festivals, and concerts for Russian-American audiences. She also sings with Opera Carolina.

Details about discounted concert tickets for Myers Park Baptist Church members will be available soon.

Through-The-Week School News

By Belinda Geuss

We had a busy October at Through-the-Week School, including the beginning of our "specials" for curriculum enhancement: Play Spanish (2's - TK), Music Around (Toddlers - TK), My Gym, and Science (3's - TK).

The improvements to the playground for two year olds were completed with the installation of new rubber surfacing and the addition of natural play pieces. This project would not have been possible without the fundraising efforts of our TTWS parents!

Through-the-Week School parents were very excited to attend the 18th Annual Festival of Friends fundraiser at Burwell Hall at Queens University on October 15. Proceeds raised will be used to enhance classroom security (new phones in all classrooms), continue our "specials" curriculum, and support ongoing capital improvements.

Looking forward to November, classroom pictures will be taken by St. John’s Photography and we will hold Parent/Teacher Conferences for three year olds through TK. School will be closed on November 11 for a Teacher Workday and November 23-25 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
**LiveWell Cornwell**

**Yoga Workshop Offered**

*Yoga for Upper Back, Neck, & Shoulders*

*Presented by Jeff Shoaf and Sybil Nance*

*Saturday, Nov. 5, 9:30a—Noon*

Learn how yoga practices can improve posture to reduce chronic pain, increase circulation to affected areas, and improve overall function. This workshop is suitable for everyone, from advanced practitioners to those who’ve never even tried yoga.

**Earlybird thru 10/27- $10 discount**

$55 for Cornwell members

$65 community members

Training CEUs available

**Angel Tree Project Begins**

Would you like to be an angel for a child in need this Christmas? The Cornwell Center will again offer an Angel Tree for the children of Lakewood neighborhood beginning Wednesday, Nov. 16. Select a tag for a child, aged newborn through 18 years. After you choose, please stop by the Welcome Desk to sign out the tag. Please return your unwrapped gift ($50 max) *with* the selected tag to the Welcome desk staff by 5 pm on Thursday, Dec. 1.

**Group Exercise**

Lots of excitement this month with some new classes starting up. Try one or all of these classes with a free guest pass, available at the front desk:

- **Vinyasa Yoga**, w/Dot McMillan  
  Mondays, 6–7p
  A flowing, dynamic yoga practice that cultivates presence by connecting movement with breath.

- **Barre**, w/Autumn Chandler  
  Tuesdays, 1–2p
  A challenging set of barre sequences to sculpt the seat, arms and legs fused with cardio intervals for a full body workout.

- **“Beat Driven” Spin**, w/Amy Eades  
  Thursdays, 6–6:45p
  High-intensity, motivating, high-RPM ride with beat-driven music that will challenge your cardio endurance!

- **Yoga 1-2**, w/Stacy Ransehousen  
  Thursdays, 1–2p
  Increase flexibility and stamina in this intermediate/advanced level class.

**New Personal Trainer**

Looking for a personal trainer to motivate you and take your exercise routine to a new level? We are proud to announce that Stacy Moldovan, who currently teaches athletic conditioning, boot camp and sculpt classes at Cornwell has also joined the personal training staff.

**Children and Youth**

Need extra time after preschool lets out? Our Through-the-Week School (TTWS) After School Program (ASP) offers families an extra two hours of childcare. Call or email us, 24 hours in advance, please, to reserve a place for your child. Email cornwell@mpbconline.org, RE: TTWS ASP.

Youth basketball leagues are starting soon which will limit open gym hours. Call ahead if you are interested in using the gym at a particular time.

**Art**

Get your creative on with resident artist, Greg Scott, who is offering a variety of Fall and Winter art experiences for youth. Winter sessions begin Nov. 4 – May 26.

Visit our website ART page class offerings, fees and session dates/times.

**Photo Group**

PHOTO Connections, w/John Bambach  

*Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7 – 9 pm*

[www.facebook.com/PhotoSIG](http://www.facebook.com/PhotoSIG)

Our photo assignment for this holiday month is, “The Textures of Thanksgiving.” Ever look closely at the skin of a pumpkin, the crust of a pie, a dried corn stalk, or the weave of a seasonal place setting? Photograph these or other seasonal textures. Send samples by noon on Nov. 14, to jbambach@mpbconline.org.

www.cornwellcenter.org

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DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER 2016 ISSUE IS
5:00PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14.

Max 450 words, subject to editing for space. Please email all submissions to the MPBC Communications Director, Laura Geer, at lgeer@mpbconline.org.

J21 Weekend With Robin Meyers