November 2018

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FOR DEEPER INVOLVEMENT

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Embody: The Advent of the Body

By Fran Morrison

Sunday, November 25 | Advent I | Lovefeast
11:00a - Noon | Sanctuary
Sermon: "The Embodiment of Hope" | Rev. Ben Boswell
Music: "The Angel Gabriel" | arr. Alan Smith | Chancel Choir with soprano soloist Anna Judge

Sunday, December 2 | Advent II
11:00a - Noon | Sanctuary
Sermon: "The Embodiment of Peace" | Rev. Ben Boswell
Music: "O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" | Thomas Tomkins | Chancel Choir
"The People That Walked in Darkness" from Messiah by G. F. Handel | Patrick Hughes, bass

Sunday, December 9 | Advent III
11:00a - Noon | Sanctuary
Sermon: "The Embodiment of Joy" | Rev. Ben Boswell
Music: "Deposuit Potentes" | Pergolesi/Durante | Chancel Choir
"Bogoroditsae Devo – #6" from Vespers by Sergei Rachmaninoff | Chancel Choir

Sunday, December 16
Festival of Lessons and Carols | All Choirs Will Sing | 11:00a - Noon | Sanctuary
Taizé Service to Mark the Changing of the Seasons | 5:00 - 6:00p | Chapel

Wednesday, December 19 | Service of Lament and Loss
6:30 - 7:30p | Sanctuary

Christmas Services
Sunday, December 23 | Family Service
11:00a - Noon | Sanctuary

Monday, December 24
Candlelight Service with Communion | 6:00 - 7:00p | Sanctuary
Sermon: "The Embodiment of Love" | Rev. Ben Boswell
Chancel Choir with Harp and tenor soloist Todd Geer
Nativity Tableau | 7:30 - 8:00p | Sanctuary

Sunday, December 30 | Christmastide | Jazz Worship in the Round
11:00a-Noon | Heaton Hall
Sermon: "The Business of God" | Rev. Ben Boswell
All Saints' Sunday Banners

By Rev. Carrie Veal

This fall the elementary children have been making banners for the families of our members who have died since last All Saints’ Sunday. The idea came from a church in Kentucky as a way to teach the children about All Saints’ Sunday and help connect them to families they may not know.

On Sunday, November 4, the banners will be part of our worship service. Following worship, the banners will available for the families to take home as a reminder that their loss is shared by others and that prayers continue for their families.

Many thanks to Jill Kinney and Dawn Tatum who helped make this project a reality.

Joining Sunday
November 4
Please join us for Worship and a Reception in Heaton Hall afterwards as we welcome a new class of members.

Moving Liturgy
Diverse Worship | Sunday, November 11

By Fran Morrison

On November 11, as part of our Awakening the Body Series, the professional liturgical dance ensemble Moving Liturgy will bring its talents to our diverse worship service at 11:00a in the Sanctuary.

The dance troupe is directed by Jane C. Wellford, Professor of Dance in the Performing Arts Department of Elon University. With a BA in Theatre and an MFA in Dance, Wellford uses her arts background to work collaboratively with churches in worship arts. Wellford and her troupe have performed extensively throughout the United States, offering a repertoire of 237 dances of worship to hundreds of churches and conferences.

As part of our service, Moving Liturgy will offer sacred dance to the processional, the scripture, the Youth Choir anthem, and during the singing of "The Lord's Prayer" by the Chancel Choir.

Advent Lovefeast
Sunday, November 25 | 11:00a | Sanctuary

By Fran Morrison

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

Simple food and drink will be distributed while we sing hymns that have been carefully selected for devotion and meditation. The Chancel Choir will provide additional music and readers of the liturgy will be from our elementary department.

Please join us for this quiet, reflective time of preparation.

Jazz Vespers:
A Sign of the Times of the Carolinas

By Fran Morrison

Join us on Sunday, November 25 from 4:00-6:00p for a "Giving Thanks" Concert presented by A Sign of the Times of the Carolinas, a seven-piece musical ensemble that performs music from the African Diaspora, including Latin, Jazz, Classic Rhythm & Blues, and Funk.

The ensemble was founded by internationally-known composer and trombonist Tyrone Jefferson, who initiated the “Giving Thanks” concert “as an offering of gratitude for all that we’ve received from the Creator, our ancestors, and the community in which we live.”

Free to the public, the concert will blend sacred and secular musical genres into a story of faith and gratitude. Musical selections will include “Total Praise” and “Blessed Assurance” as well as secular favorites from Duke Ellington, Sam Cook, Billie Holliday, and Marvin Gaye. A love offering will be collected with 10% given back to MPBC.
Myers Park Baptist Church,

For some time now, it has been a dream of mine to lead a congregation in the role of Senior Pastor. Early in my life, I felt God’s Spirit working in the world through the ministries and fellowship of Baptist churches. I have always felt most at home in sanctuaries and church offices. Through a long journey of theological education this sense of call was shaped and honed. Over these last eight years, you have been my teachers as we have grown together in times of transition and stability. It has truly been an honor to serve in ministry alongside each of you as Minister of Youth, Minister of Faith Formation, and now Associate Minister.

Interim times at MPBC have offered me opportunities to grow and expand into new areas of ministry. Each experience taught me about myself and refined my understanding of calling. After Ben’s arrival in 2016, these opportunities and experiences of growth only multiplied. Throughout these last two and a half years, I’ve learned so much from his collaborative leadership style that will hopefully carry me into this next phase of ministry. Words cannot express my gratitude for his friendship, guidance, and constant support, especially most recently.

These recent months have brought winds of change into my life and ministry as I’ve been listening to the lure of the Spirit. In my journaling I’ve described this season as one of listening, waiting, and paying attention to God’s call. This summer I was invited into conversation with the Senior Pastor Search Committee of Greystone Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. As our conversations progressed, I began to discern that God is indeed calling me to this congregation. Much to my surprise (admittedly), the search team unanimously agreed that God is also calling them to recommend me to their congregation as their next Senior Pastor.

As a woman in ministry, I am humbled, overjoyed, and excited to serve this Baptist congregation as their first female Senior Pastor. At the same time, I lament that my days as Associate Minister at Myers Park Baptist are coming to an end. Since my arrival in 2010, you have supported me as I married Justin. Five short years ago you helped us welcome Mia into the world. You gifted me with my first sabbatical in 2016. We have cried together, laughed together, shared meals together, and endured long transitions together. You have shaped my leadership skills, my teaching style, and my preaching voice. You have provided opportunities for me to dream dreams and pursue innovative ideas. You have been both family and church to me and my family. For that, I am eternally grateful.

Next Sunday, I will preach in view of a call at Greystone Baptist. After worship, the church will be called into conference for a vote as to whether they will call me as their next Senior Pastor. If the vote is a “yes,” I will accept the call and my first Sunday in the pulpit will be January 13th. If that is the case, my last day at Myers Park Baptist will be December 26th.

This is truly a bittersweet moment for me and for my whole family and we plan to soak up every moment with you between now and December 26th. We will dearly miss the congregation, staff, and members of this Church. You have been our faith community for eight years and you will be sorely missed. At the same time, we are very aware that Raleigh is only a few miles up the road (167 to be exact) and we will continue to be with you in Spirit as you continue living forward into your 76th year of ministry in Charlotte.

With my most sincere gratitude for all that we have shared,
Rev. Chrissy Tatum Williamson

A Letter From Chrissy
Awakening the Body Series Continues With 
Dr. Bill Leonard on November 11

By Rev. Chrissy Williamson

This year’s Awakening the Body Series continues with Dr. Bill Leonard on November 11. During a Sunday morning forum, Leonard will further a dialogue that began in TalkBack this past summer on ability and disability. Please save the date and plan to join us in Heaton Hall on November 11 from 9:45 – 10:45a.

J21 Eboni Marshall Turman Recap

By Rev. Chrissy Williamson

Last month we welcomed Rev. Dr. Eboni Marshall Turman as our J21 scholar. Over the course of the weekend, Turman spoke to us about the intersections of race, gender, and class. From her distinct position as a womanist thinker and theologian, Turman challenged us to consider those who face a multiplicity of oppressions.

We are so grateful to the congregation of First Baptist Church West and their leaders, Rev. Glencie Rhedrick and Dr. Ricky Woods, who graciously organized teams to welcome us and host the event due to a power outage at MPBC. Attendance boasted over 85 participants on both Friday evening and Saturday morning. Questions were thoughtful and thought-provoking. Many more folks from our congregation and beyond heard Dr. Turman’s prophetic sermon as she was met with applause as she descended the pulpit stairs.

If you were unable to attend the weekend events with Dr. Turman, be sure to listen to her Saturday lectures, Sunday Forum, and sermon. All of these are available online at www.myersparkbaptist.org/sermon/rev-dr-eboni-marshall-turman-pressing-toward-the-beloved-community.

Christian Education in Our Jubilee Year

By Bob Thomason

One of the founding principles of our Church was excellence in Christian education. If our founders could see us today, in our 75th Anniversary Year, they would be proud of how we are upholding this principle. Under Ben and Chrissy’s leadership, I have experienced some of the best Christian education of my over 50 years of Church membership. I am referring specifically to the Awakening Series.

We are in our third year of this series. Year 1 focused on racial injustice. In year two, we studied immigrant injustice. This year, the topic is Awakening the Body. Each series lasts the entire Church year and consists of a variety of events. I have only participated in parts of each series - and that is the beauty of the way they are designed. You don’t have to make a huge commitment of time to participate (although you will want to once you get involved!). We’ve had guest speakers, both theologians and professors, who are experts in their fields. There have been joint events with other local groups including Queens University. There have been planned pilgrimages allowing participants to witness first-hand the things they have studied. There is an extensive reading list for further study. And, finally there are podcasts - my favorite!

If you have not listened to an MPBC podcast, you are missing out on the single most informative, educational, and entertaining thing we do in this Church. Ben and Chrissy are superb in this new media format. Until I started listening to these podcasts, I had no idea how deep, smart, and informed these two young ministers are. As someone who spends a lot of time walking my dog and listening to podcasts, I am somewhat of an expert. Ben and Chrissy are among the best I’ve listened to and that includes national figures with millions of listeners. See the accompanying article (page 4) on how to access these podcasts on your computer, smartphone, or iPad.

At Myers Park Baptist, we say in our Covenant that we are a “people on a journey of faith.” There’s an old joke that goes along with that. One MPBC member bumps into another and says, “How’s your faith journey going? Mine is going great!” The implication is that each of us is on a distinct and separate faith journey. The Awakening Series is an opportunity for all of us to go on the same journey - a community faith journey. And if you are not participating, you are missing out in a big way.

What prompted me to write this article was my attendance at the Awakening event on Wednesday, September 19. The topic was “How Did We Get Here: History of Disembodiment.” I was stunned as the historical facts, from both the political and spiritual realms, were presented to demonstrate how the powerful have dominated the weak for thousands of years by shaping how we think about our bodies. For example, if people can be convinced to separate the body from the soul or spirit, and then be convinced to focus on the latter, this more easily allows their bodies to be controlled through laws, customs, and norms. If all that matters is the afterlife, and that can be attained by correct belief, why should it matter if we enslave or even kill people? This form of manipulation has been a part of human history for the last two thousand years. Did Jesus teach this? No! We are learning how Jesus’s teachings have been distorted to benefit the powerful and what we can do to resist and reverse this travesty.

I urge every member to participate in some part of this year’s Awakening Series. Join the rest of the Church on this community faith journey. And tell your friends, too. If more people knew of the quality of these events, we’d have to move them to a larger venue and charge admission!
Intergenerational Enneagram Retreat | November 30- December 1

By Rev. Carrie Veal

This November, as part of the Live Forward Strategic Plan, we offer a wonderful opportunity to expand our faith and build our community: Anne Geary from Enneagram Charlotte will lead us through a weekend retreat around the Enneagram. The Enneagram offers a powerful pathway to self-awareness and the understanding of our interpersonal dynamics. Anne offers an extraordinary teaching method that promotes an open exploration of the personality and potential of nine distinct worldviews through Panel Interviews. The Interviews bring the Enneagram alive through meaningful conversation and insights.

This retreat is for everyone! Children birth – three will be in the care of our childcare providers; four-year-olds - fifth graders will have games, movies, and a day camp on Saturday that will include cooking, art, and more. Sixth – twelfth graders are invited and encouraged to attend the retreat. Adults and youth will participate in an interactive time of learning and discovery. Anne is trained and passionate about the Enneagram and the impact it makes in the world. The Enneagram approach impacts all areas of life.

**Details**

**Friday, November 30**
- 5:30 - 6:30p  Dinner
- 6:30 – 9:00p  Sessions with Anne

**Saturday, December 1**
- 8:30 - 9:30a  Continental Breakfast
- 9:00a – 5:00p  Sessions with Anne

Cost: $100/individual | $150/couple/family (includes: meals and a copy of David Daniels’ book The Essential Enneagram). Scholarships are available. Register through myMPBC.

Questions? Contact me at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org.

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Faith & Justice SLG Presents First Advocacy Statement

By Rev. Chrissy Williamson

For more than one year now, the Faith & Justice SLG, led by Ryan LaPrade, has been crafting a process for taking congregational stands on current issues. Informed by the learnings of the Awakening to Racial Injustice Series, the Deep South Pilgrimage, and the Opportunity Task Force Report, the Faith & Justice SLG presented its first advocacy statement on racism to the Board of Deacons in September of this year. After 30 days of prayerful discernment, hours of conversation, and a few final edits, the Deacons voted to pass the following statement on to the congregation for a congregational vote at the quarterly meeting on January 13, 2019.

**Statement on Racism**

Recommended by the Faith & Justice SLG and the Strategic Planning Council for Approval by the Board of Deacons October 2018

Racism against African-Americans still permeates our systems, institutions, and churches. This racism continues systemic oppression that was instituted with slavery and was reiterated in the Jim Crow era. Today, this racism takes shape through mass incarceration, economic and social exclusion, and lack of access to education, healthcare, housing, and employment. As people of faith, we will work to educate on white privilege, to dismantle racism, and to denounce white supremacy in every iteration, until all people, regardless of race, are fully affirmed, welcomed, and included in the social and economic fabric of our society.

Between now and January 13, Deacon leaders are hosting opportunities for you to come, talk through the statement and process, and ask any questions that you might have. Please contact Caroline Manning (cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 115) to attend one of these conversation opportunities:

- Wednesday, November 14 between 5:00 - 6:00p
- Sunday, December 2 at 9:30a

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By Mary Ann Largen

Henri J. M. Nouwen says in Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World: “Our humanity comes to its fullest bloom in giving. We become beautiful people when we give whatever we can give: a smile, a handshake, a kiss, an embrace, a word of love, a present, a part of our life . . . . all of our life.”

Our Church has a long and rich legacy of giving, to our congregation with programs and fellowship; to our community with institutions like Planned Parenthood, RAIN, Room In The Inn, and Urban Ministry; and to the greater community with programs on social justice, immigration, and affordable housing.

We are entering an exciting time of “Empowering Church,” when we will move away from a budget-driven stewardship into a time of possibility. This is the beginning of the next horizon. We want to “Finish Strong” so that we can focus on what the new opportunity will be. Specifically, this shift encompasses the following:

- We will formulate our 2019 budget based upon current year pledge data, historical giving trends, and inflation.
- Our fall stewardship series will encourage generosity at year end through pledge fulfillments and increased giving.
- Our spring stewardship series will encourage increased financial commitments for the following budget year.
- We will assume that your pledge will remain level unless communicated to the Church.

As we go forward into stewardship, remember Psalm 24, The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.  

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Children’s Ministry

Preparing for Advent

By Rev. Carrie Veal
On Sunday, November 18, all children ages 3 and older are invited to Children’s Worship. We will meet in Shalom Hall and create Advent wreaths. These wreaths will be taken home and can be used as a spiritual practice for your family during the Season of Advent. Look for more information in the Weekly News and the Children’s Ministry weekly emails.

Youth Ministry November News

By Allen Davis
Can you imagine being locked inside our Church overnight with a bunch of middle schoolers? How about spending an all-nighter exploring the city of Charlotte with a group of high schoolers? Well, that’s what is going on in the Youth Department this November. For the first time, both events will take place on the same night.

Activities kick off on Friday, November 16. The middle schoolers will meet in the Youth Hall where they will explore their faith, participate in thoughtful community, eat a meal together, and possibly get some sleep. On Saturday, they will make a breakfast fit for royalty after which they will travel to the Whitewater Center for team-building activities that will center on trust, friendship, and faith.

Watch out Charlotte, when the high schoolers hit the town for sundown to sunup adventure. Activities might include laser tag. There might be an Escape Room on the agenda. Perhaps there’s a treasure hunt in store. Certainly, there will be opportunity to connect with old friends and make new ones.

The Youth are always a staple in our Churchwide effort to “Rise Against Hunger.” Traditionally, they unload the truck (which holds some seriously heavy bags of rice and vegetable protein), help assemble thousands of meals, and help get the meals back on the truck at the end of the night. It’s a great intergenerational activity, and a chance to score some service hours as well!

TTWS November News

By Belinda Geuss
Through-the-Week School held a successful toy drive benefiting many at-risk children. Toys collected were donated to The Learning Collaborative, a new preschool in the Grier Heights neighborhood providing tuition-free preschool education to children through a unique partnership with families, patrons, staff, and community.

TTWS is proud to once again collaborate with Queens University. Queens students were provided opportunities to observe preschool children in several of the TTWS classrooms to enhance learning about developmentally appropriate practice and early language development.

TTWS’ annual Festival of Friends fundraiser will be held at the home of Peyton and Stephen Hostetler on Saturday, November 3. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support in-school specials, staff appreciation week, classroom pictures, playground enhancements, classroom materials, and teacher training.

Thanksgiving will be celebrated with our annual Thanksgiving Feast held in Heaton Hall on Tuesday, November 20. Students enjoy decorating tables and preparing food to be shared by the class and parents. Through-the-Week School will be closed November 21-23 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Happy Thanksgiving to all!
Stephen Ministry Update

By Rev. Joe Aldrich

With two weeks of training remaining for our Stephen Ministers, the Leadership Team is excited about the quality of training that has taken place. We are also grateful for our twelve participants and for their part in making the training sessions enjoyable while learning to care for others without trying to “fix” them. We cannot say enough about the importance of being able to listen as a Stephen Minister. We will commission this class during 11:00a worship on Sunday, November 11. Then Stephen Ministers will be paired with care receivers. If you or someone you know is interested in having a Stephen Minister, please contact me at jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org or call me at 704.334.7232 x 113.

Congregational Joys and Concerns (as of October 23, 2018)

DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:
• Bob and Melinda Pryor on the death of her father; Jeff and Kasey Fisher on the death of her grandfather; Ben and Sarah Pryor on the death of his grandfather; and James, Blaine and Graham Fisher and Huntley, Emme, and Hank Pryor on the death of their great-grandfather, Herman Ralph Fisher, on September 19 in Charlotte, NC.

WEDDINGS— CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Kathryn Lynn Aldrich, daughter of Reverend Joseph D. and Susan D. Aldrich, and Jiasheng David Guo on their wedding on September 22, 2018 in Charlotte, NC.
• Myah Stanford and Allen Davis on their wedding on October 20, 2018 in Charlotte, NC.

Family Dedications

Ed and Caroline Dalton bringing Margaret Rogers Dalton

Kasey and Jeff Fisher; along with big brothers James and Blaine, bringing William Graham Fisher

Bethany and Erik Johnson along with big sister Hazel, bringing Otto Cameron Johnson

Mike and Kathryn Maltarich, along with big brothers Matt and Jack, bringing Benjamin Robert Maltarich

Kelly and Matt Mosby bringing Frances Mosby, Tel Mosby, and Claire Mosby

Daniel and Ashley Norton bringing Kathryn Isabelle Norton
Nativity Tableau Celebration

By Fran Morrison

On Christmas Eve, December 24, we will celebrate and say farewell to the long tradition of our Nativity Tableau. As part of the celebration, we will offer professional family photographs of Church and community families who have made attendance at the Tableau a Christmas Eve tradition. We want to honor your tradition and create an opportunity for another memory by offering a photograph of your family taken in the Chapel beginning at 7:30p. Each participating family will receive a high resolution photo by email that you can print in any size and share with family and friends. Families will also receive an updated Christmas Eve Nativity Tableau booklet listing participating Holy Families over the past sixty-five years.

As we work to complete our booklet, there are a few years for which we have no record of the Holy Families who participated. If you have information that might help us fill in the blank years from 1993 to 2007, we would be most appreciative. Please contact Fran Morrison at fmorrison@myersparkbaptist.org.

If you would like to be a shepherd or one of the Wise Men in this final Tableau, contact Allen Davis at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org.

MPBC Gives $81,602 to Supportive Housing Communities

By Bob Bishop

On McCreeeh Day, Saturday, September 22, 2018, Rev. Ben Boswell presented Pam Jefsen, Chief Executive Officer of Supportive Housing Communities (SHC), with a grant check for $81,062 towards affordable, supportive housing for the formerly homeless at McCreeeh Place, St. Johns Place, and hundreds of scattered sites around the city. The grant was given in memory of George Campbell, who was one of the original directors of St. Peter’s Homes (and a longtime member of MPBC). St. Peter’s Homes later became McCreeeh Place under the guidance of SHC. Today there are four MPBC members serving on the SHC board.

Many MPBC members were in attendance at Cordelia Park for this special event. Many were volunteers who cooked and served and helped make this event a great success. Mark your calendars for McCreeeh Day next year on Saturday, September 21.

Room In The Inn 2018-2019

By Koren Cranford, Ministry of Outreach

WHO:  14 of our homeless neighbors
WHAT:  MPBC participates in a temporary winter shelter program through the Urban Ministry Center, providing food, beds, and facilities
WHERE: In the MPBC basement kitchen and surrounding rooms
WHEN: Every Saturday night from December 1, 2018 through March 30, 2019
HOW: YOU make it happen. There is a job for everyone in the Church - Make a bed. Bring a meal. Drive the van. Host our guests.

Advent Door Decorating

Saturday, November 24 | 9:00a
Front Doors of Sanctuary

Join us as we continue the tradition of decorating the doors with beautiful greenery and nandina berries. Experienced or newbie, we’d love your help! If you’re coming, wear appropriate clothing for working outdoors and bring garden gloves, clippers, and needle-nosed pliers (if you have them). We especially need many nandina berries. Questions or nandina berry donations? Contact Carol Pearsall at cp.carolp@gmail.com or 704.562.3100.
The Impact of MPBC Members and Events on City of Charlotte (Part 3)

By Lynn Trenning

Since its inception 75 years ago, Myers Park Baptist Church has attracted members who have a strong sense of justice and fairness. This is the third set of stories from our past.

Did you know that in 1989, Ann Smith, a nurse anesthetist at Presbyterian Hospital and MPBC member, began the non-profit agency North Carolina Harvest? As its volunteer director, Smith led the effort to collect unserved food from hotels and restaurants and deliver the meals to homeless shelters and other agencies that served the hungry. The organization was fashioned after City Harvest that began in 1982 in New York City.

“North Carolina Harvest was organized to feed the poor and to help discontinue the waste of food,” Smith said in a April 4, 1989 article in The Charlotte Observer. One night, Smith was eating dinner at the Ole Smokehouse Restaurant on Montford Drive and approached owner Bill Koutsoupias with her idea. According to the article, he responded “Why not tomorrow?” In the beginning, she operated out of her home in Myers Park with 100 volunteers. The organization held annual fundraisers called “Chef’s Best,” where Charlotte’s finest chefs prepared a multi-course gourmet dinner.

Smith was honored at the 1997 N.C. Harvest 8th Annual Chef’s Best Dinner. Those of you who lived in Charlotte in 1997 will appreciate the list of chefs who cooked at this fundraiser . . . most of the restaurants they represented are just a memory. They included Eddy Giel of Dobbs International, Joseph Jarmatchi of River Hills Country Club, Michael Ingersoll of Rainbow Deli & Cafe, Christopher Ivens-Brown of NationsBank, Tobin McAfee of Sir Edmond Halley’s, John Mickey of Wachovia, Gregory Page of Fifth Street Cafe, Steven Pairolero of the Adam’s Mark Hotel, Charles Rousey of Mama Ricotta’s, and Steve Smrcina of the Tower Club.


Did you know that in 1992, Reverend Debbie Warren attended an event hosted at MPBC at which Margaret Austin, the Founder of Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, was speaking about the role the religious community should play in helping people with AIDS? This event led to the founding of The Regional AIDS Interfaith Network of the Southern Piedmont, which was incorporated by Debbie Warren in January 1993.

“People were dying and they were dying alone. Families were going through this alone,” Warren said in a March 4, 2004 article in The Charlotte Observer. “That’s the role of the faith community, to stand with people that were hurt.”

Today Warren is the President and CEO of R.A.I.N., where she oversees a staff of 17 that helps people with HIV live a healthy, stigma-free life. Among its many programs, R.A.I.N. provides pastoral care, medical case management, and specialized programs for Latinx and youth.

If you have stories to add about MPBC members or events that have made a difference in our community, please contact me (trelmt@bellsouth.net | 704.344.8610) so we can include them and let all our new members know who we are. ■

Ministry of Financial Resources

Finance Update

November 2018

By Tucker Pearsall, Chair, Ministry of Financial Resources

Myers Park Baptist Church is maintaining good financial health through August. We have received slightly more pledges received than this time last year. We are about 3.7% behind budget, but expect to see giving increase as it usually does in the fourth quarter.

All ministry areas are under budget with the exception of utilities. Expenses are 8.9% less than last year and 8.4% less than budgeted. This is great news and we are going into the fourth quarter in a strong position. We do expect expenses to rise in the fourth quarter due to historical trends in spending. A big thanks to all ministries for continuing to be excellent stewards of our financial resources. ■

Myers Park Baptist Recycles!

By Mary Lou Buck, Faith & Justice SLG

Batteries, light bulbs, ink cartridges—things you cannot put in curbside recycling—we take them!

There are baskets in Cornwell Center (inside door to staircase—opposite Cadence spin room) and there are bins near the Heaton Hall Kitchen and Berry Hall.

Thank you to a Cornwell student who regularly takes our recyclables to a full service recycling center.

For Church events there are designated receptacles for paper, cans, and bottles in all buildings on our campus—look for the blue bins! There is also a dumpster outside the MPBC kitchen door for flattened cardboard.

The guide for home recycling is available on the EarthKeeper/Faith & Justice table in Heaton Hall Foyer or you can find it online at: http://charlottenc.gov/SWS/ResidentServices/Pages/Recycling-Collection.aspx. ■
A Myriad of Ways to Give

By Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman
The financial contributions and gifts of our congregation are the means by which MPBC funds its ministry. Giving is essential to continue programs for our Church family, maintain and care for the people, property, equipment, and furnishings in our care, and give and connect to our community and our world. In short, giving allows us to ensure the future vitality of our Church.

Most people prefer to give during worship. For your convenience, offering envelopes are provided in each pew. However, there are several ways to give at MPBC, as outlined below.

Checks - can be written to MPBC and placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Church. If there is a special designation for your gift, please indicate that on the memo line. Otherwise, funds are applied to the general operating budget, where they are most needed.

Automatic Bank Draft, Credit, and Debit Cards - This is an efficient and easy way to give, and can be set up online through myMPBC, or you can call the Finance Office and we will help you set up a gift. This is also the best way to set up recurring gifts, so you don’t have to worry about monthly payments.

Text - Giving through your mobile phone is another easy way to give any time and from anywhere. Text instructions can be found in the order of worship. The first time you will need to input your card information, name, etc. However, after the initial setup, texting a gift simply requires a short text.

Cash - Gifts of loose cash, without designations attached, are given to fund outreach ministries.

Noncash Gifts - Occasionally, someone may wish to give the Church a noncash gift, such as a vehicle, property, jewelry, stocks, or other items. If accepted, these gifts must be unencumbered and in most instances, will be liquidated and placed into an existing fund.

Other Planned Giving Opportunities - The Church urges members to make provision in their wills, which is a great way to leave a personal legacy and ensure the Church continues to move forward into the future. These gifts become part of our endowment fund. Endowment funds help ensure the vitality and longevity of the Church’s mission. Contact me for more information.

For more information, please contact the Finance Office.

Cornwell Center News

Salisbury Swing Band coming to Cornwell
Saturday, November 3 | 6:30 - 11:00p
The Cornwell Center will host The Salisbury Swing Band for their Military Appreciation and Benefit Dance. This is a yearly dance to raise funds that benefit the Veterans Bridge Home. 100% of the profit goes to this great non-profit organization.

Admission is $20. The doors open at 6:30p. Beginner lessons will be offered by Denise and Tom Bach from 7:00-8:00p. Then the open dance will groove from 8:00-11:00p. Dress is business casual to dressy. Swing by and join the fun!

PHOTO Connections With John Bambach
Wednesday, November 21 | 7:00-9:00p
Events around November are often associated with holidays, something this group often recognizes with assignments reflecting that. This year, we decided to expand the usual thought. Instead of specifying holidays as a subject, we’re simply calling this assignment, “Events.” Consider Events to be any important social activity which recognizes people, traditions, occasions, common efforts, and the like. Of course, we always accept (and encourage) diverse interpretations.

Whatever the case, share one or two of your best Event photos to jbambach@cornwellcenter.org, by noon, Tuesday, November 20. Then join us for our viewing and discussion on the 21st.

All are welcome at our FREE meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. From the casual smartphone user to the serious practitioner with an SLR, we emphasize the components of photography that are common to all - composition, light, color, and subject. If you’re new to us, please visit our Facebook page to see past galleries, and our page on the Cornwell website for some photo resources and more about our group.
We all want to do what we can to resolve hunger around the world, especially in these times of devastating hurricanes. The good news is there is an easy way to make a significant impact on hunger AND have a lot of fun with our Church community. This is an especially great time for families of children of all ages.

On Wednesday, November 7, we will gather a team of volunteers to package 20,000 meals to help hungry people around the world. Each package feeds a family of 4 people, is easily transportable, and comes with all the protein and vitamins a hungry family needs. This is a great solution for an extremely important cause.

Important: We need all volunteers to sign up!

Here are the details:

- **4:00 - 5:30p** Help Unload and Set Up | Roswell Circle
- **5:45 - 6:15p** Fellowship Dinner | Heaton Hall | Reservations required*
- **6:30 - 8:30p** Meal Packaging | Cornwell Center Gym
- **8:30 - 9:00p** Help Clean Up | Cornwell Center Gym

Can't help on November 7?
Give generously to the Rice Bowl offering on Sunday, November 4, or send a check with RISE AGAINST HUNGER on the memo line. The ingredients for one meal cost only 34¢, and the more funds we have, the more meals we can provide.

If you can help unload, set up, package meals, and/or clean up, email Joe Aldrich at jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org or sign up on the Church website.

* Make dinner reservations by noon on Monday, November 5 online through myMPBC, or contact Rainey Underwood (704.334.7232 x 156 | runderwood@myersparkbaptist.org).