A Church dedicated to the glory of God
in the service of humanity through worship,
congregational care, faith formation
and the stewardship of life.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST;
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY; COMMUNION
22 November 2015 at Eleven o’clock in the morning

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD
The Music in Preparation for Worship is intended to draw the people from the outside world into the presence of God. You are invited to remain silent during this time.

Please silence your cell phone.

THE SILENT MEDITATION
A fundamental question before church-going people like us is whether we choose to worship Jesus or to follow Jesus. A decision to worship Jesus promises a kind of peace characterized as perfect that is usually passive, religious and spiritual, serene and holy. A decision to follow Jesus promises a different kind of peace marked by controversy and conflict. Following means going through dark valleys and sitting down with enemies, dangerous and daring, political rather than pious. Perhaps we all want both/and rather than either/or. This hour is an opportunity to become more conscious of the choice you make daily to either worship or follow Jesus – aware of the difference it is making in your life.

William A. Dols, Just Because It Didn’t Happen

THE RINGING OF THE ANGELUS BELL

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY
“Prelude on Ar Hyd y Nos”

Dale Wood
(1934-2003)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

At this time, everyone is invited to sign the friendship register found at the end of each pew. We especially welcome our guests today and ask that you include your contact information. Everyone is invited to coffee fellowship in Heaton Hall Foyer immediately following worship. We invite our guests to the Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer for a more personal welcome.

THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING REPORT

*THE OPENING SENTENCES
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts.
People: We will tell of your wonderful deeds, O Lord.
Leader: I will be glad and exult in you, O God.
People: We will sing praises to your name, Most High.

(Psalm 9:1-2)

The ringing of the Angelus Bell, a three-fold ringing of three, signifies the presence of the triune God: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. In ancient practice it was rung as a noonday prayer calling the whole community to prayers for peace.

We offer childcare during worship for children ages birth - age four. Please see an usher who will assist your family.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in bold.

+ Ushers will seat anyone waiting.

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, stand if you are able.
*THE PROCESSION AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE
“Now thank we all our God”

*Nun Danket

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE ANTHEM
“I Will Praise You, O Lord”
I will praise you, O Lord with all my heart.
In ev’ry song I sing I will praise you
O Lord with all my heart.
In the things that I do, in the words that I say,
I will praise you, O Lord with all my heart.
I will serve you, O Lord with all my heart.
Lord I will sing of your goodness and grace.
Lord I will tell of your glory.
Lord I will love you and serve you more each day.

Tara McGee and Eleanor Teague, descant; Emily Urbanek, piano

+ During the interlude, 3 and 4 year olds will leave with their teachers. They may be picked up in Room 107 after worship.

THE KYRIE ELEISON (Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.)

Kyrie eleison – a prayer that predates Christian usage. The text actually is Greek in origin, not Latin.

The Chapel Choir
Mark Patterson
(b. 1969)

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE SILENT CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come into your presence, O God,
as people on a journey toward wholeness.
Our journey leads us to holy places as well as dark recesses.
It is in those recesses where you alone know of our bruised hearts,
broken promises, deserted dreams and lost hopes.

God of Compassion, have mercy upon us.
As we search for new beginnings, give us courage to
embrace the detours and delays we find on our journey.
Give us grace to accept who we are and all that we are.
May we continue our journey towards your kingdom
knowing we are forgiven and loved by you, right now, this very day. Amen.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God is lavish in love and boundless in mercy.
God fills our cup with forgiveness and love overflowing.

People: Thanks be to God.
*The Canticle (Glory to God in the highest.)*

The Canticle gives the people of God a corporate way to sing our thanks to God for the gifts of forgiveness and grace.

*The Passing of the Peace*

Ancient words of greeting and forgiveness may be used when Passing the Peace to those around you, saying either: “The peace of God be with you” or “The peace of Christ be with you.” The response may be: “And also with you.”

The Passing of the Peace is an ancient tradition whereby followers of Christ would greet each other.

**The Word of God is proclaimed and heard**

**The Gospel Lesson**

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

**The Sermon Hymn**

“Come ye thankful people, come”  
_S. George’s Windsor_

Children are asked to stay in worship today as we celebrate Communion as a church.

**The Sermon**

“When Kingdoms Collide”

The Reverend Joseph D. Aldrich

**The Time for Silent Reflection**

**The Congregation responds to God’s Word**

**The Church at Prayer**

**The Offering**

_The Loose Plate Missions Offering for November supports the work of Friendship Trays._

**The Anthem**

“All Good Gifts”  
Arr. By Penny Rodriguez  
(b. 1958)

The Chancel Choir

Friendship Trays is a Charlotte-area “Meals on Wheels” program which prepares and delivers meals to elderly, handicapped and convalescing individuals.

All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heav’n above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
For all God’s love.

We plow the fields and scatter  
The good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered  
By God’s almighty hand;

God sends the snow in winter,  
The warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes and the sunshine,  
And soft, refreshing rain.

Come, all thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home.
We thank you, then, Creator,
For all things bright and good:
The seedtime and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
For all your love imparts,
But that which you desire,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

*The Presentation of Gifts
As the deacons move down the center aisle, the congregation is asked to stand at the moment the deacons pass their pew. This presentation to God enacts our self-offering and gratitude to God.

*The Doxology
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;

*The Prayer of Dedication

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Music at Communion

The Prayer After Communion (unison)
We thank you, O God, for the table of grace
which brings all people of earth
before your presence with joy.
May we who have been guests at this table
grow in love for one another,
that through us your light may shine in all the world. Amen.
THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY

*The Procession into the World and Closing of the Bible
   “For the fruits of this creation”

The Blessing and Benediction

The Closing Voluntary
   “Now Thank We All Our God”

Number 391
   Ar Hyd Y Nos

Following worship, you are invited to coffee fellowship in Heaton Hall Foyer.

We invite our guests to the Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer for
a more personal welcome.
Leading worship today with The Reverend Mr. Joseph D. Aldrich, Associate Minister, are The Reverend Ms. Robin Paterson Coira, Executive Minister, Frances L. Morrison, Associate Minister of Music, and The Reverend Scottie Stamper, Member of the Congregation.

The Chancel Choir leads worship through music with Frances L. Morrison, Director of the Chapel Choir, and Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist.

The acolytes are Taylor Lawing and Elliott Campbell.

The sound technician is Van Wilson. The webcast technician is Spencer Rackley.

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Dixon Cornwell, Sr. by his family.

The Deacon of the Week for November 22-28 is Richard Pearsall, richardpearsallre@gmail.com, 704.965.5558.
Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”
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<th>Date</th>
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| **Sunday, November 29 – Advent I** | Moravian Lovefeast  
11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary |
| **Sunday, December 6 – Advent II** | • Worship  
11:00 am in the Sanctuary  
• Carols in the Round  
6:30 pm in Heaton Hall |
| **Saturday, December 12** | Children’s Christmas Pageant  
4:00 - 5:00pm in Heaton Hall |
| **Sunday, December 13 – Advent III** | Service of Lessons and Carols  
11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary |
| **Wednesday, December 16** | Wonderful Wednesday Family Dinner  
5:45 pm in Heaton Hall  
(Reservations by noon on 12/14 by phone x56 or email runderwood@mpbconline.org) |
| **Sunday, December 20 – Advent IV** | Worship, “Ceremony of Carols” with Choir and Harp, 11:00 am in the Sanctuary |
| **Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve** | • Family-Friendly Worship  
4:00 pm in the Sanctuary  
• The Music of Christmas by Harp and Organ  
5:30 pm in the Sanctuary  
• Candlelight Worship with Communion  
6:00 pm in the Sanctuary  
• Nativity Tableau Service with Communion  
7:15 - 8:00 pm “drop in” in the Sanctuary |
**THE CHURCH IN WITNESS AND MISSION**

**TODAY**

**NOVEMBER 22: THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THANKSGIVING SUNDAY; COMMUNION; REVEREND JOE ALDRICH PREACHING**

- **8:30** Charlotte Community of Mindfulness Meditation Group, Room 27
- **9:00** Chapel Choir (grades 3-5) Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- **9:30** Congregational Meeting, Heaton Hall
- **10:00** Fall Orientation Class, Cornwell Center Lounge
- **10:00** Children’s Faith Formation, Elementary Wing
- **10:00** Youth Faith Formation, Youth Hall Wing
- **10:00** Adult Faith Formation, Education Building and Cornwell Center
- **10:15** Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- **11:00** Worship in the Sanctuary
- **12:00** Coffee Fellowship, Heaton Hall Foyer
- **12:00** Guest Welcome, Welcome Table, Heaton Hall Foyer
- **12:30** Motet Singers Rehearsal, Berry Hall
- **3:00** Youth High School Retreat Returns
- **5:00** NO Youth Choir
- **6:00** NO Youth Supper or Fellowship

**GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS AVAILABLE THIS MORNING** - Pre-packaged gluten-free Communion wafers are available this morning for congregants desiring this option. One basket of wafers is located in the narthex and a second basket is positioned at the Selwyn side indoor entrance to the Sanctuary (where orders of worship are available). If you want gluten-free, please help yourself to a wafer when entering the sanctuary—or ask an usher to assist you.

**COMMUNITY LIFE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 IS JOINING SUNDAY.** Please plan to stay for the New Member Reception immediately following worship and offer a personal welcome to the newest among us.

**MPBC MEMBER ON PILGRIMAGE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** - Be sure to check the map on the EarthKeepers table in Heaton Hall Foyer which shows the progress Wil Watson is making on his pilgrimage from Rome to Paris, where the UN gathering on the environment will be held. You may also follow his blog - for the link go to [www.mpbconline.org](http://www.mpbconline.org), click on Groups and then click on EarthKeepers.

**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS** - The Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday starting at noon on Wednesday, November 25 and will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27. The staff wishes you and your family a very happy Thanksgiving!

**FAITH FORMATION**

**ADVENT BOOKLETS** are now available through December 24. This year's booklet consists of stories of hope, peace, joy and love (the weekly themes of the season) submitted by members of our faith community. You are invited to pick up a printed copy of the booklet in Heaton Hall Foyer, the Narthex, Church Office Reception Area or the Cornwell Center Lobby OR follow the Advent Blog on the Church website. Daily entries from the blog will also be posted on the Church Facebook page. Journey with us this season of Advent!

**FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2016** - It is not too late to make a pledge toward our 2016 budget. Turn in your pledge card today or go to [www.mpbconline.org](http://www.mpbconline.org) and click on Next to make your pledge.
OUTREACH

GENIUS HOUR AND D.E.A.R. READER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY December 3 from 6:00-7:00pm. Genius Hour is a chance for you to share your "genius" and give the students an opportunity to explore their interests in a variety of areas and build community. We need leaders in a variety of areas: art, cooking, science & technology, sports, yoga, or enter your Genius here. Please contact Laura Handler at laurak.handler@gmail.com or Agnes Banas at agnieszkaa.banas@cms.k12.nc.us, or sign up at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4ca4a828a57-genius.

LAKEWOOD ANGEL TREE - 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 Cornwall Center Lobby. You can select a tag for a boy or girl aged newborn through 18 years old at the Cornwall Center Welcome Desk. We ask that you return your unwrapped gift ($50 max.) with the selected tag to the Cornwall Center by Thursday, December 3. Please contact Chini Nichols at 704.651.5620 for more information.

40th ANNUAL CITYWIDE INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE - Tuesday, November 24, 7:00pm, at St. Paul Baptist Church (1401 Allen St, Charlotte, NC 28205). Everyone is invited to this citywide event to give God thanks and praise through the beauty and the rich tapestry of faith traditions in our region. Sponsored by Mecklenburg Ministries, this celebration invites Charlotteans of different races, cultures and faiths to join together as one in gratitude. There will be a canned goods collection to benefit Loaves and Fishes. For more information visit: www.meckmin.org/thanksgiving-interfaith-service/.

ROOM IN THE INN (RITI) begins December 5 and continues through the end of March. We open our doors on Saturday evenings and provide shelter for our neighbors who are homeless. We need your help. Please volunteer to: be an overnight host, provide a meal, or drive the church van. You may sign up on our website, www.mpbconline.org, or on the bulletin board in Heaton Hall Foyer. Would you like to be more involved in RITI? Consider being a RITI Captain by helping coordinate one (or more) weekends for our RITI ministry. Contact Cheri Lindblom for details, clindblom@mpbconline.org.

FAMILY PROMISE AT ELIZABETH HOUSE (715 Hawthorne Lane), December 13-17. The families living in transition from homelessness to secure housing need you. Serving opportunities include: Overnight Hosts (Sunday-Thursday) and Dinner Providers (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday). Cindy Clemens continues to serve as our faithful leader. You may contact her at cclemens@charlottenc.gov for more information. Sign up on the Church website, www.mpbconline.org.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

HELP DECORATE THE SANCTUARY DOORS FOR ADVENT – Saturday, November 28 at 9:00am. All willing hands and hearts are needed to decorate the front doors and church grounds. No special skills needed. Bring work gloves and flower snips if you have some. Contact Carol Pearsall at 704.562.3100 or cp.carolp@gmail.com.

THE MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST will be celebrated Sunday morning, November 29 during the 11:00am worship service. We will again bring in the Advent season through the singing of Christmas carols, the sound of children's voices, the Motet Singers, the sight of beeswax candles, the smell of tea and cookies, the reading of the Christmas story and a homily by our own Reverend Maria Long.

HYMN SING - Sunday afternoon, November 29, 3:30-5:00 in Room 250. Come join those of us who enjoy “making a joyful noise.” No price for admission other than enthusiasm for singing those old hymns that make you tap your feet and smile. Most of us have more enthusiasm than style and we welcome you to participate. So, dust off your vocal chords, lift up your voices and give us a try!
CAROLS IN THE ROUND - Christmas comes early to Charlotte with our annual “Carols in the Round” by the Motet Singers. Please plan to join us on Sunday, December 6 at 6:30pm in Heaton Hall for an hour of beautiful Christmas carols sung by candlelight. Familiar Christmas hymns will be sung by everyone as we usher in the joy of the season. We hope you will come and bring your friends and family to this free concert.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY
WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED one Tuesday each month, from 3:00-5:00pm, to help prep for the salad bar, which is always a big hit. We also need volunteers one Wednesday each month from 4:30-6:30pm to help with the preparation and clean-up of the evening meal. Please join us for this important ministry at MPBC. Contact Barry Metzger at 704.334.7232 x16 or bmetzger@mpbconline.org.

THE CORNWELL CENTER
HOLIDAY CLOSING - the Cornwell Center will close at 6:00pm on Wednesday, November 25. The Center will reopen on Friday, November 27, at 7:30am and close early at 5:00pm.

TINY TOTS BASKETBALL CLINIC - We have only 8 spots remaining for this popular clinic for ages 3-6 on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:30pm. Now through February 10, the cost is $216 for Cornwell members and $234 for non-members. Questions? Contact Kayla Blake, Youth Services Coordinator, at 704.927.0774 x612.

GIVE THE GIFT OF WELLNESS: TRANSFORM120 - Transform your life in 120 days. Commit to getting healthier by participating in a structured, fitness/wellness-focused package/program. This package includes personalized fitness, nutrition, breathing/deep stretch, massage, health coaching, expert support, peer support, and accountability. Jump start your health transformation at The Cornwell Center. Or give the gift that keeps on giving – the gift of wellness.

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 become members now through December 31, you will both gain a free one month membership. Grab a few invitation cards at our Welcome Desk, or check www.cornwellcenter.org for more details.

LOOKING AHEAD
NOVEMBER 29: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT; MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST
8:30 Charlotte Community of Mindfulness Meditation Group, Room 27
9:30 Fall Orientation Class, Cornwell Center Lounge
9:45 Children’s Faith Formation, Preschool and Elementary Wings
9:45 Youth Faith Formation, Youth Hall Wing
9:45 Adult Faith Formation, Education Building and Cornwell Center
10:00 Motet Singers Warm-Up, Sanctuary
11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary
12:00 Coffee Fellowship, Heaton Hall Foyer
12:00 Guest Welcome, Welcome Table, Heaton Hall Foyer
12:30 Motet Singers Rehearsal, Heaton Hall
3:30 Hymn Sing, Room 250
5:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal, Berry Hall
6:00 Youth Supper and Fellowship, Youth Hall
THE MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

We, the members of the Myers Park Baptist Church, are a people on a journey of faith. By God’s grace we are experiencing God’s love through Jesus Christ and in the community of the faithful.

We are discovering in this experience our freedom to become new creatures and our responsibility to be faithful stewards of our lives and of this world.

We will be open to all new light, strengthened by God and each other in our faith.

We will sustain a critical examination of Scripture, belief and ritual as interpreters of God’s active presence in the world.

We will accept controversy as a reality of life together and an opportunity for growth toward maturity.

We covenant to be a community of God’s new creation and affirm that we are open to all and closed to none.

We covenant to nurture this church as a community of faith and as an instrument for reconciliation in this world: by worship, by Christian education, by the dedication of our personal and material resources and by all the other ways we express the significance of our lives with God and one another.

We covenant together to be priests celebrating God’s presence in community and in the world, believing we are participants in God’s kingdom on earth.

THE 2015-2016 BOARD OF DEACONS

TODD RUBENSON, Chair • JANET MILLER, Chair-Elect • LYNN TRENNING, Secretary

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THE MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

1900 Queens Road • Charlotte, North Carolina 28207-2582
Office: 704.334.7232 • Website: www.mpbconline.org • CCLI License #1864926

MINISTERS

As priests to one another, all members of the congregation are ministers. Some are called out for particular places of service:

THE REVEREND MR. JOSEPH D. ALDRICH, Associate Minister
SHARON BREMER, Director of Stewardship
THE REVEREND MS. ROBIN PATERSON COIRA, Executive Minister
MARIAH B. CURRIN, Director of New Member Ministry
BELINDA GEUSS, Director of Through-The-Week School
THE REVEREND MR. CHRIS HUGHES, Minister of Youth
CHERI LINDBLOM, Director of Outreach
DR. MATTHEW MANWARREN, Organist
THE REVEREND MR. BARRY ZANE METZGER, Church Administrator
FRANCES L. MORRISON, Associate Minister of Music
DEBORAH A. STEINER, Music Associate for Children
THE REVEREND MS. CARRIE VEAL, Minister of Children
THE REVEREND MS. CHRISSEY TATUM WILLIAMSON, Minister of Faith Formation
JENNY YOPP, Director of The Cornwall Center

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