By Sharon Bremer

Myers Park Baptist Church - you spoke! Here is what we heard from our Dream On! survey where we asked you to share your dreams for the future of our Church:

“To become and be known for being a progressive beacon and to lead the way against systemic oppression in Charlotte and the world.”

“That we would positively affect the course of Charlotte in bringing a group of people together that represents/reflects the racial, ethnic and cultural make-up of our city. Grow our membership.”

“Offer alternative worship services on Sunday mornings earlier than 11:00am. Content and earlier timing will attract younger people and families.”

“Expand our outreach program with more boots on the ground relational work in addition to money and food. Perhaps band together with other churches for more impact.”

These are some big and inspirational dreams! As a staff, we want to do everything we can to make these dreams a reality. But we can’t make these dreams happen without building a foundation for the future. This year is a crucial year. We have a new Senior Minister in place. We are working on a new Strategic Plan. Big things – exciting things – are happening.

We need to lay the groundwork for the future. For years during the interim period, we worked hard to maintain, but we weren’t growing. In order to grow our Church and our vision, we have to grow our budget. This year’s budget is a 5% increase over last year. That increase will allow us to continue doing what we have always done, but that is not reaching our dream.

To truly Dream On, we need to build a foundation for the future that:

- Brings us back to full staffing capacity which will ultimately allow us to do...

...continued on page 5

You Spoke - We Listened

Thinking Outside the Box with Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers

By Beth Resler Walters

Dr. Robin Meyers, author and pastor, will be at MPBC October 7-9 to lead our annual Jesus the Christ in the 21st Century weekend. You are apt to hear ideas such as these:

"I believe Jesus was kind of the ultimate liberal, in the way I understand liberalism, sort of open-minded, tolerant of divergent opinions, and exceedingly generous."

"We have a lot of (religious) things left over from childhood that a lot of people know they should outgrow, but they don’t know what should take its place."

"There is a politics of the gospel that is not partisan politics but is a set of values that is inescapably political...because it has to do with who has the power, how it is exercised and to what effect, and that is the definition of politics. The church ought to be very political, pushing the politics of the gospel."

That his preacher father taught him, “You couldn’t be too smart to be a Christian,” and “There is no conflict between head and heart when it comes to faith.”

“The church is not, in most places, a beacon of social change; it is not a place where thinking outside the box is encouraged.”

“Some churches are very much a place that’s a defender of the status quo and very often treat people badly in its midst who have questions and new ways they want to think and new ways they want to try and be the church. Sometimes there’s not much patience for that – and there should be.”

(...continued on page 3)
Congregational Joys and Concerns

(as of September 15, 2016)

BIRTHS — CONGRATULATIONS
• Katherine and Randall Hoose on the birth of their daughter and Margaret on the birth of her sister, Cecilia Katherine Hoose, on August 7, 2016 in Charlotte, NC.

DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY
• Barbara and Bobby Herring on the death of her mother, Mary Elizabeth Laine, on August 29, 2016 in Charlotte, NC.
• Tillie Tice on the death of her partner, Harry McClure Burnett, on September 9, 2016 in Charlotte, NC.
• Anna-Catherine Fowler and Keith Young on the death of her grandmother, Louise Hood Ruszenas, on September 13, 2016 in Conway, SC.
• The family of Shirlie Carter Roberts on her death on September 14, 2016 in Charlotte, NC.

Coming Soon!

Coffee Conversations in the Parlor

By Lalla Dabbs, Chair, Ministry of Community Life

In the coming weeks, a new opportunity for fellowship and conversation will appear in and around the Parlor. You are invited before or after worship for a cup of Enderly Coffee and casual conversation. Enderly Coffee is a local coffee provider with a unique mission: “To provide OPPORTUNITY through RELATIONSHIPS in order to ADD VALUE to Enderly Park and Charlotte,” and “to encourage and inspire others to live for others” (www.enderlycoffee.com). This will be a time to visit with our ministers and fellow Church members in a warm, informal setting.

Be on the lookout for the grand opening of this new space. If you would like to volunteer to serve coffee during this time, please contact me at ddabbs@carolina.rr.com.

Senior Adult Fellowship

When: Wednesday, October 5, 10:30-11:30am
Where: Cornwall Center Conference Room
Speaker: Rev. Ben Boswell
Topic: "Dreaming of the Future"

Joining Sunday, December 4

• 9:00-10:45am Light Breakfast and Pictures
• Cornwall 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.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 16, 2016
in Heaton Hall
immediately following worship

Childcare and gym time will be extended so that parents may attend this meeting.
Jesus the Christ in the 21st Century Presents:

Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers

(... continued from page 1)

In an interview last month, the Congregational United Church of Christ minister and professor from Oklahoma City pointed out, “We are followers of a person who broke so radically from the traditions around him that he paid for it with his life.”

Rev. Meyers is the author of several books, including Saving Jesus from the Church (the one he suggests will most prepare us for his time at MPBC), The Underground Church, and Spiritual Defiance, which will be the focus of his Saturday, October 8, morning workshop (registration required).

Dr. Meyers received a Master of Divinity from Phillips University Graduate Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry from Drew University, and a PhD in Rhetoric from the University of Oklahoma. He has served churches in Oklahoma, New Jersey, and Michigan.

At the Adult Forum before worship on Sunday morning, Dr. Meyers will explore “What Kind of Church Would You Find Irresistible?” As he says, “I want to provoke thought in a way, perhaps, that thought has not been provoked before.”

For more information and to register for Saturday morning or evening events, go to www.mpbconline.org or contact Anne Clarke at aclarke@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x115.

Schedule for the J21 Weekend

Friday, October 7, 7:00-8:30pm
• Free Public Lecture in the Sanctuary; Quantum Physics and the Future of God
• Followed by a reception in Heaton Hall Foyer and a book signing in the Parlor.

Saturday, October 8, 9:00-11:00am
• Workshop in Heaton Hall (Continental Breakfast at 8:30am); Spiritual Defiance: Building a Beloved Community of Resistance
• Registration Required: $45 (Register online at www.mpbconline.org or call Anne Clarke at 704.334.7232 x115.)

Saturday, October 8, 7:00-9:00pm
• Head to Head: A Gathering for Younger Adults (45 and under) with Dr. Meyers at Britt Canady’s home
• Registration Required

Sunday, October 9, 9:45-10:45am
• Adult Forum in Heaton Hall; What Kind of Church Would You Find Irresistible?

Sunday, October 9, 11:00am-noon
• Worship in the Sanctuary
  Sermon: Things Aren’t the Same in Joppa These Days

Compassion Satisfaction:
Self Care for the Caregiver

Thursday, October 6, from 8:30-noon in Shalom Hall

By Vikki Hunley, Chair
Ministry of Congregational Care

Join us for this caregiver event sponsored by the Ministry of Congregational Care, presented by Hospice & Palliative Care and The Ivey. In a relaxed atmosphere, join other caregivers to discuss ways to handle stress, find the time to care for yourself, and resolve difficult issues. Share the unique challenges and blessings you encounter as a caregiver. Highlights include practical tips, the power of music, and roundtable topics. A catered breakfast will be served. There is no charge for this event, but an RSVP is required. For more information or to RSVP, contact me at vikki.hunley@theivey.com.

LIFE Class Presents:
Caring For Each Other

Learning About Alzheimer’s

By Melanie Aves, LIFE Class Member

In October, the LIFE Class at MPBC will explore the growing incidence of Alzheimer’s disease and its effects on our families and communities. Everyone who has a brain is at risk for developing Alzheimer’s. It is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States, and as the population ages, the numbers of people struggling with the disease and the costs to care for them are climbing. This year, 700,000 people will die of Alzheimer’s and the costs will top 226 billion dollars.

On October 16, Charles Edwards, M.D., head of Memory Center Charlotte, which specializes in a family-focused treatment of dementia patients and their loved ones, will answer questions about Alzheimer’s Disease and present the latest medical research on prevention.

On October 23, a panel will follow up on Dr. Edwards’ presentation with a discussion of the experience of living with Alzheimer’s as a patient and as a caregiver, the options for care in and out of the home, and the responsibility of the church community to understand and offer support to families facing this challenge. The panel will include Vikki Hunley from The Ivey, an Alzheimer’s care facility, John Aves, an Alzheimer’s patient, Rev. Joe Aldrich, and others.

These LIFE Class programs will take place in Shalom Hall at 9:30am. All are welcome.
As people of faith, we are reminded of how Jesus stood in solidarity with vulnerable women, Samaritans, the poor, and the systemically excluded. As people of faith, we have read the words of the prophets who called God’s people to lives of justice and mercy. And as people of faith, we can no longer respond to injustice in our world with hushed lips and eyes turned toward our own comfort. So we embark on a year of discovery, of learning, and of transformation.

Each monthly newsletter will include updates on the series, including more detailed information about the pilgrimage opportunities, as well as summaries of the monthly gatherings held the month before. Even if you are unable to attend the monthly gatherings, I would encourage each of you to choose a book from the recommended reading list (found in the Awareness booklet), invite some friends to read it with you, and talk about what you’re reading. If the Sunday morning Faith Formation hour is more convenient for you, consider joining the Explorers’ class this fall as they read from this list and discuss this topic. There are also Covenant (longer term) small groups being created to journey together this year through the series. If you’re interested in joining an Awareness Covenant Group, or if you have any questions about the series, please contact me at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org.

My hope and prayer for all of us is that we might be stretched by what we encounter along the way, that we would be attentive to the discomfort we experience, and that we become awakened to the racial injustice (personal and systemic) that exists in our communities. In that awakening, may we become agents of change, agents of justice, and agents of God’s love.

1http://www.opportunitycharmeck.org/about
2http://www.opportunitycharmeck.org/host_a_discussion
3Drew Hart. Trouble I’ve Seen. 41

Covenant Groups: Spiritual Practices, Bible Study, Awakening

By Chrissy Williamson

Are you looking for a longer-term, committed small group with whom to share the journeys of life and faith? Consider joining a Covenant Group this year at MPBC. Covenant Groups are currently being formed around the following topics: Spiritual Practices, Bible Study, and the Awakening to Racial Injustice series. Meeting dates and times are TBD. Contact me at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org for more information.

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner

By Chrissy Williamson

October 26, 2016

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner

Time: Dinner is served from 5:45-6:30pm
Cost: $6 adult / $3 child 12 and under / $22 immediate family max
Reservations: by noon on Monday, October 24
- RSVP online at www.mpbconline.org
- Email Rainey Underwood at runderwood@mpbconline.org
- Call 704.334.7232 x156
Menu: Lasagna (meat and vegetarian), spaghetti with meat sauce, bread, salad bar, and decorate your own cookie for dessert!

Halloween Festival

Come in costume for this Wonderful Wednesday event which will be fun for ALL ages. The Halloween festivities will begin following dinner. There will be games in Heaton Hall Foyer and Trick or Treating throughout the Education Building. This is a great evening to spend time with old friends and make new ones.

We have a fun opportunity for you to be involved, even if you don’t have children. Hosts are needed for Trick-or-Treat Doors, as well as games. Everything will be planned and provided for you, so you can just have fun with the children and families. Sign up on the board in Heaton Hall Foyer. Contact Carrie Veal at cveal@mpbconline.org for more information.
Faith Formation/Financial Resources

Youth Ministry News
By Allen Davis

As the weather begins to cool down, our Youth Ministry is just warming up. This will be an exciting month for the youth with middle school and high school retreats upcoming. We will also begin our service projects this month, starting with St. Peter’s Soup Kitchen on October 8. Our youth will be “stretched” this year to build community among themselves, the Church, and our neighbors.

We are always looking for helpers for our youth activities. Perhaps you can join us to lead discussion during Sunday Morning Faith Formation classes or chaperone an upcoming retreat weekend. There are plenty of opportunities to connect our youth with members of the Church. If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at adavis@mpbconline.org.

Youth Activities for October:
- October 2 – Youth Fellowship
  Youth are encouraged to bring their favorite board/card game.
- October 8 - Youth Service Project
  St. Peter’s Soup Kitchen
- October 14-16 – Middle School Retreat
  US Whitewater Center
  Details about payment and registration are available on the youth webpage.
- October 28–30 - High School Retreat
  Valle Crucis Conference Center
  Details about payment and registration are available on the youth webpage.

Children’s Ministry News
By Carrie Veal

J21 and Families
October 7-9

Because we want your family to attend the J21 Weekend events with Robin Meyers, we have created opportunities for your children to be engaged while you are too. We will have childcare available on Friday evening, October 7 and on Saturday morning, October 8. Also on Saturday morning, children in TK through fifth grade, whose parents are registered for J21, are invited to a special event sponsored by J21 -- Bricks for Kidz will be on our campus for a 2-hour interactive time of fun.

Fall Family Dedication;
 Sunday, October 23, 11:00am

If you have never made a pledge before, now is the time.

The challenge is for 85% to 90% of the congregation to make some kind of pledge to support the operating budget of the Church.

Christmas Pageant

Here are the details for this year’s pageant. If you would like more information, please contact Erica McGee at ericaallenmcgee@hotmail.com.

Auditions: Sunday, October 16, 9:45-10:15am, Children’s Faith Formation Room
Rehearsals: Sundays, October 30, November 6, 13, 20, (3:00-4:30pm), December 4 (2:00-5:00pm), Shalom Hall
Dress Rehearsal: Wednesday, December 7, 6:45-7:45pm, Heaton Hall
Pageant Production: Saturday, December 10, 4:00-5:00pm, Heaton Hall

You Spoke -
We Listened
(continued from page 1)

more dynamic work within each of our ministries.

• Cover all of our facilities-related cost with the operating budget. Currently, we are using our Endowment each year to provide maintenance costs that should be covered by the operating budget.

• New technology - we need to move into the 21st century of technology so that we can continue to reach people beyond the walls of our Church and step into the future of ministry in every area of Church life.

• And programming - we want to do more. To go bigger. To be brighter. For MPBC to be a force for love, mercy, and justice in the community, we need resources.

We are Dreaming.
We want to Dream On.
And that takes you.

The challenge is for 85% to 90% of the congregation to make some kind of pledge to support the operating budget of the Church.

ANY amount that you can give on a regular basis is incredibly important to the future of this Church.

You are important to the life of this Church.
And your participation is important to the future of this Church.

Finance Report

Year-to-Date
August 31, 2016

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Outreach

Loose Plate Offering

By Cher Lindblom

Gifts of loose cash in October will go directly to the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, also known as RAIN. RAIN engages the community to transform lives and promote respect and dignity for all people touched by HIV through compassionate care, education, and leadership development. For more information, please visit www.carolinarain.org.

Six Degrees of Cooperation

By Cher Lindblom

Many of our members at MPBC have been, and continue to be, leaders in the community. If you see any of these individuals or their families, be sure to thank them for their leadership and vision in serving our neighbors. Here are some of the connections between our members and our Saturday of Service partners. Please feel free to educate me with other connections.

- Fred Allen and Bob Ruppenthal: NC MedAssist
- Debbie Warren: RAIN
- The Gaskin Family: Habitat for Humanity Endowment
- Lalla Gribble Dabbs and the Gribble Family: Friendship Trays
- Ed Williams and EarthKeepers: Friendship Garden at MPBC

One more connection: SOS is using Friendship Kitchens to provide our lunch. Friendship Kitchens is the catering arm of Friendship Trays. Visit their café on Distribution Street for a delightful lunch, or use their catering service for your next event.

Showing You The Need!

By Cher Lindblom

The August and September newsletter articles have introduced you to the Ministry of Outreach theme for this Church year:

"Show Me the Need.

Our annual Saturday of Service on October 22 will highlight the needs of seven of MPBC’s partner agencies.

Often our lives are so busy that it feels impossible to find the time to serve. On this one Saturday in October, the Ministry of Outreach hopes everyone will find a place to join hands and work together as a congregation. You can choose from morning and/or afternoon sessions, serving opportunities for families with young children, a specific youth project, and opportunities to serve individually. SOS is the perfect opportunity for new members to dive into our outreach program and meet new friends, and for long-time members to enjoy service and fellowship as well.

Saturday of Service is a day to work together -- together with one another, and together with our partners that faithfully serve others. This will be Reverend Boswell’s first Saturday of Service as Senior Minister at MPBC. We have over 140 volunteer slots to fill, so let’s show Ben how we can meet the needs of our community as a congregation that is called to serve together.

Personally, I love Saturday of Service. I cherish the fellowship of working together, almost as much as the feeling that I’ve made a difference. I have fun, I laugh, I meet new people in my Church home, and I learn about how our partners do good for our neighbors in need.

Our SOS projects are listed on the next page. Details about what to wear, meeting place, etc. can be found on the Church website.

The Ministry of Outreach invites you to find a place to serve. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers at noon in Heaton Hall, so please join us for lunch even if your day is full.

Please read the article "Six Degrees of Cooperation" on this page to learn how we’ve become involved with our partner agencies.

See you on October 22!

Engage • Reflect • Transform

New this Year - Ministry of Outreach Partner Tours

By Scott Crowder, Co-Chair, Ministry of Outreach

This year, the Ministry of Outreach is trying something new. Every other month, we will hold our meetings at one of our outreach partners’ sites. We invite the congregation to join us for a brief informative tour at the beginning of each of our meetings. Our hope is that the on-site visits will give the congregation an opportunity to learn about our partners and help strengthen our relationships.

The series will create opportunities for us to engage with our neighbors and reflect upon the needs in our community and the ways in which we put our hands and feet to work. Through that work, we learn how we transform the lives of others and ourselves when we are involved in God’s kingdom-building.

Our September meeting was held at Charlotte Family Housing (a.k.a. Family Promise). Charlotte Family Housing is a shelter-to-housing program that empowers homeless families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through shelter, housing, supportive services, and advocacy.

In November, we will meet at Regional Aids Interfaith Network (RAIN) on Wednesday, November 16. Detailed information will be in the November newsletter.

If you would like more information, please contact Ministry Co-Chairs, Scott Crowder, scott.crowder@nbcuni.com, or Koren Cranford, cranford123@gmail.com.
**SATURDAY OF SERVICE - OCTOBER 22**

### Morning Session: 9:00am - Noon

**Friendship Gardens (Family Friendly)** Serve and Learn

*Friendship Gardens is an arm of Friendship Trays. Through the Urban Garden, Backyard Gardens, Mobile Market, and Garden Network (like the MPBC Garden), Friendship Gardens believes everyone should have access to fresh, healthy food.*

We will work at the urban farm on 3 acres at Garinger High School in East Charlotte. Food produced at the farm is donated to Friendship Trays, is used in cooking classes at Garinger High School, and supplies food desert communities.

**NC MedAssist (Family Friendly, 12 years and above)** Serve and Learn

*NC MedAssist is a nonprofit pharmacy program providing access to prescription medications, patient support, advocacy, and related services to poor, vulnerable, and uninsured North Carolina residents.*

We will work at their pharmacy warehouse, sorting medicine and stocking the shelves for their Charlotte Over the Counter Medicine Giveaways.

**Habitat for Humanity Shed Build at MPBC – Youth Focus**

*Habitat transforms lives by partnering with families and communities to create and preserve affordable home ownership solutions.*

This is the fourth year and fifth shed we will build at MPBC. We will assemble and build the frames and structure to the shed that will be transported to the Lakewood Habitat House. Older children and youth may participate.

**FRIDAY NIGHT WORK SESSION:** We need some strong arms to prep the materials for the shed from 5:30 to 7:00pm. Leaders: David Kroening, Steve Jennings and Steve Cranford

**Habitat for Humanity House – 16 years and above**

We have a big job to do. We will assist the crew and homeowners on a Habitat for Humanity House in northwest Charlotte. We need between 10-20 volunteers. **THIS SITE BEGINS AT 8:00am. You can work am, pm, or both sessions. Leader: Jon Monfore**

### Afternoon Session: 1:00-3:00pm

**Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (Family-Friendly)** Serve and Learn

*RAIN ensures access to quality, personalized care in a nurturing environment for individuals and their families who are living with HIV and associated chronic conditions so they may live healthier, more fulfilled lives.*

We will work at the RAIN offices- painting rooms, making hospitality bags, and cleaning. Leader: Scott Crowder

**YWCA Women In Transition (18 and above)** Serve and Learn

*YWCA provides safe, affordable housing and comprehensive support services for single women who are homeless. Housing is provided for 70 women at the YWCA on Park Road.*

We will make door wreaths with the residents and serve a light afternoon snack to the women at the site. **Note: volunteers age 18 and over, so that we may be considerate of the women who are separated from their children. Leaders: Koren Cranford, Dianne Bobbit

**ONSITE at MPBC:**

**Hospitality Bags and Baby Onesies at MPBC (Family-Friendly)**

MPBC Friendship Garden (Family-Friendly)

We will assemble welcome baskets for the YWCA Women in Transition program and decorate baby onesies for the Ronald MacDonald House. Leaders: Emma and Avery Monfore

Garden work includes cleaning beds for fall and spreading compost. Leader: Ed Williams

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Genius Hour at Pinewood Elementary

By Laura Handler

MPBC has partnered with Pinewood Elementary for the past three summers for Freedom School. Our hope is that we will continue to be in relationship with the students at Pinewood throughout the year. Genius Hour is an opportunity for you to share yourself with the students.

What is Genius Hour?
Genius Hour is a chance for students to explore their interests in areas they may not get much exposure to during the school day -- the arts, sciences, technology, and numerous other forms of recreation. Our goal is to engage their minds in new ways while developing community among students, parents, staff, and volunteers.

Pinewood hosts Genius Hour the first and third Thursdays of the month, starting in October. The fall dates will be October 6 and 20, November 3 and 17, and December 1 and 15. Students will go to their chosen clubs from 6:00-7:00pm while parents engage in PTA and other social networking activities. Additionally, we will offer a service activity from 5:00-6:00pm as a way to gather the group together and actively contribute to the betterment of our surrounding community.

We need volunteers to help lead student clubs from 6:00-7:00pm and to help with the service activities from 5:00-6:00pm. Please let us know if you are interested in helping in any way! Contact:
- Laura Handler, laurak.handler@gmail.com
- Agnes Banas, agnieszkaa.banas@cms.k12.nc.us.

Questions about Genius Hour or getting involved at Pinewood? Ask one of MPBC’s volunteers: Karen Taylor, Susan Crane, Ruth Burts, Holly Hobson Wood, Jeanne Steele, Sidney Lockaby, Carol Pearsall, or Marylyn Williams.

A Lot to Report from the Ministry of Property and Grounds

By Gene Doar, Chair
Ministry of Property and Grounds

On July 1 of this year, I assumed the position of Chair of the Ministry of Property & Grounds from the very able hands of Jill Kinney, who held the post for the past three years. Feeling a little intimidated by the scope of this position, I initiated my tenure with our first meeting on September 15, at which time I presented my ideas for reorganizing the Ministry and explained how I want to lead it. I’ll be sharing more in the coming months about this because we’ll need your help! But first I would like to share with you some of what has been going on to keep our Church functional and in reasonably good condition.

The list of projects presented below was initiated by the Church Staff and funded primarily from our endowments. Most of the items listed were accomplished over the last few months, but some more recently. Having a campus as large as ours requires a lot of day-to-day work, and it can be expensive. These are only the more salient items:

- Repaired and painted dormers above the Youth Hall.
- Installed new fire/security doors in the Through-The-Week School (TTWS) hallways.
- Painted exterior of the Education building to cover stains from leaking/overflowing gutters.
- Repaired slate roof on the Education Building and Sanctuary.
- Removed two large magnolia trees by the Sanctuary and several large limbs on one of the white oak trees.
- Repaired ceiling leak in tunnel between the Education and Sanctuary buildings.
- Replaced failed air dryer and steam pressure valve on main boiler.
- Relocated thermostat in the Sanctuary.
- Installed new speed bump on Roswell Avenue.
- Repaired and painted interior windows, trim, and sills on the cupola above the Youth Hall.
- Installed new motion sensor switches in the Education Building for control of lighting.
- Re-grouted steps in front of the Sanctuary (bees had taken up residence).
- Re-grouted patio area in front of the Sanctuary.
- Purchased and installed Wi-Fi upgrades in the Education Building.
- Purchased and installed four iron railings for the two entrances to the Church Office.
- Repaired and painted interior windows, trim, and sills on the cupola above Heaton Hall.
- Repaired and painted fascia, dentil molding, and windows on the Education Building and Sanctuary.
- Replaced the 600-volt circuit breaker serving the chiller.
- Repaired the roof leak above the serving line in the Kitchen area.
- Installed office renovations for the Music Department (new carpeting, painting, trim work, and technology additions)
- Cleaned and sanitized HVAC duct work in the TTWS classrooms, office, and LIFE Class.

As you can tell, these aren’t attention grabbers, that is until they either don’t work, cause damage, or worse, injury! However, this is the work of maintaining our beautiful facility, and this doesn’t even include the work of cleaning, setting up, opening, and closing the Church, making our coffee, and all the other tasks necessary for us to have a meaningful experience during worship on Sundays and at other events. Please say thanks to Rob Clarke, David Willingham, Tra Seegars, and Lisa Ford whenever you see them. They deserve your thanks!
**We Welcome**

**Charlotte Judge, Associate Director of Music**

By Tammie Lesesne

When does a treasured collaboration become a godsend to a church? When it involves the decade-long connection that Charlotte Judge and Fran Morrison have nurtured.

Upon Deb Steiner’s retirement, another great talent was needed for our children's music program. Because of this strong connection, Fran, who is hard at work as our Minister of Music, knew where to turn.

It was a wrenching decision for Charlotte to leave the music ministry at her beloved Providence United Methodist Church after 20-plus years. But the timing was fortuitous - Charlotte found herself ready for a fresh challenge and a deepening collaboration.

Charlotte was born in Charleston, SC and raised in Rock Hill and Aiken, SC; her father was a sports journalist and managing editor for the papers that served those cities. Her mother was a church organist, and subsequently, her parents opened a music store. When she first moved here, she worked for a time at a wonderful, now-defunct local institution, Brodt Music. She participated in music programs through her growing up years. Her musicality and resilience were incubated in those experiences.

She attended Winthrop University and the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, and graduated from Queens University. A delightful memory from her long ago student days at Winthrop is seeing Janice Bradner wheeling her toddlers around campus!

Along with running children’s music programs and accompanying various choirs, Charlotte teaches piano and voice. A first soprano, she also sings choral music such as Mozart and Mendelssohn at funerals in the Charlotte area.

Her two daughters are musical as well. At 16, Lillie plays oboe in the MPHS band; 13-year-old Anna plays trumpet in the Carmel Middle School marching band. They both play the piano and sing.

If you are a patron of Brixx on East Boulevard, you’ve met Charlotte’s husband Jack, who has been their highly-regarded general manager for two decades. He will continue to participate in the PUMC choir, and their daughters (who were baptized there) will stay there as well.

For fun, Charlotte reads beach books - “fluff that lets me turn it all off.” And when she has the opportunity, she loves going to big cities. NYC is a wondrous place for her with all the available varieties of music, but of course living there through northern winters isn’t an option!

By the time you read this, another dynamic MPBC collaboration will have begun with a September 7 kickoff. M2 -- Music and Magic -- was a creative effort between Charlotte and Carrie Veal to involve our K-5 youngsters and their parents in the life of this community.

Reflecting on the tough choice to leave the church where so many of her important life experiences have taken place, Charlotte’s excitement about the opportunity to work with Fran is palpable. They have journeyed in similar ways and both continually seek opportunities to learn and grow. They bounce ideas off each other and solve problems together. We will surely hit some high notes with this team!

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**Todd Geer, Artist in Residence**

By Fran Morrison

Six years ago, the Music Ministry began a musical venture by creating the post of “Artist in Residence.” Todd Geer was welcomed as the first Artist. The Music Ministry is re-activating the Artist in Residence program this year and we have asked Todd Geer, again, to be our Artist.

Todd’s year of residency began on September 1, and will run through August 2017. Todd’s duties will include presenting one or two vocal concerts during that time frame. He will also assist with Chancel Choir and Youth Choir singers. Additionally, Todd will sing during several morning worship services throughout the year and will continue to be a presence in the community representing MPBC through a variety of musical events.

Todd is the son of Nancy Rider and the late Frank Geer, and grew up in this Church family. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Binghamton University in New York. For twenty-five years, Todd was on the opera circuit singing nationally and internationally.

After he and Laura moved back to Charlotte in 2009, he began teaching privately and also at Catawba College. He is currently teaching at Winthrop University, Gaston School of the Arts, and Community School of the Arts.

I am grateful and excited to have Todd join our Music Ministry in a more formal manner. I hope you will share your appreciation and enthusiasm to him as well.
On Sunday, October 30 during 11:00am worship, we will welcome flutist Liselyn Adams, daughter of Elise Williams, who is a member of our congregation. Liselyn will play a seven minute prelude entitled *I Will Not Be Sad in This World*, by Eve Beglarian. It is based on an 18th-century Armenian piece, and the composer has recorded the vocal accompaniment with gradual transformation of the sound. It is a beautiful reflection on both strength and vulnerability.

Liselyn and Janice Bradner, a member of the piano faculty at Winthrop University, will perform two recitals in November of works by Ned Rorem, Lowell Liebermann, Peter Allen, and again, Eve Beglarian. Before each piece, a story or reflection on some questions raised by the compositions will be read. These will be written by residents of Plantation Estates.

The recital dates and locations are:

**Sunday, November 6 at 4:00pm**
Winthrop University, Rock Hill SC, Barnes Recital Hall

**Thursday, November 10 at 7:00pm**
Plantation Estates, Matthews

Liselyn refers to herself as a "wayward daughter." She learned music first from her maternal grandmother, pianist Luise Bubé Kruger, and her parents, both excellent singers. She later studied at the New England Conservatory, Boston University, and the Royal Conservatory of the Netherlands. She landed in Montréal in 1980, where she performs and is a music professor at Concordia University. She is thrilled to be back in North Carolina to play with Janice Bradner, hang out with her wonderful mom, and perform at Myers Park Baptist Church.

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By Fran Morrison

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**M²: Music and Magic**

**September 7**

By Belinda Geuss

Before the September 6 start day at Through-the-Week School, excitement filled the hallways in anticipation for the new school year. On August 31 and September 1, parents and children visited their classrooms and shopped at the annual Black Forest book fair in Heaton Hall. The evening of August 31, we had a well-attended New Parent Orientation and special parent program on curriculum featuring guest speaker Dr. Melanie Powell. The program featured the TTWS 2016-2017 curriculum as well as a presentation from Dr. Powell on the importance of play at home and in the classroom.

September is a month for adjusting to routines and learning classroom commitments. Classrooms this year will enjoy curriculum enhancements which include The Community School of the Arts providing music for all ages, Play Spanish for 2’s – TK classes, and for 3’s - TK we will have Science, My Gym, and Exploration Station.

Speech and hearing testing will be offered to students by speech therapist Tammy King October 4-5. Occupational therapy screening will also be available for students in October through Learning Charms.

Parents are excited for the 18th annual Festival of Friends fundraiser to be held in Burwell Hall at Queens University on October 15 at 7:00p.m. The evening features a live and silent auction to benefit the growing capital improvements at Through-the-Week School.

We "Play to Learn" at TTWS! Come join us!
As they say of the crowd at the circus, it was boys and girls and children of all ages who came to the Cornwell Family Festival, on September 10, to pet the animals and participate in the family activities.

LiveWell Cornwell
Ever since our ancestors began to walk upright and civilization introduced new forms of stress, pain in our upper back, neck, and shoulders has been among the most common of human ailments.

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.

- **Yoga Workshop & Teacher Training**
  Yoga for Upper Back, Neck, & Shoulders w/ Jeff Shoaf and Sybil Nance
  NOV.5, Saturday, 9:30a—Noon
  Register at our Welcome Desk

Many people freeze when confronted by a potential danger when they don’t know or don’t practice basic self-defense skills. In this upcoming class, noted Tai Chi teacher Mike Gentile guides you through the fundamentals. It’s for ages 13 to adult, so bring your teenagers, too.

- **Self Defense Class**, w/ Tai Chi Mike
  Saturday, OCT. 29, 9:30a. – 11a

The Learning Connection hosts a series of monthly life enrichment workshops. This month, they’re introducing a variety of simple 5-minute guided meditations as kick starters for those of us who’ve wanted to try yoga and haven’t yet.

- **TAKE 5 - Brief Meditations for Skillful Living**, w/Jeff Shoaf and Mary Powers
  Tues, OCT.18, 9—10:30a

Each month, participants in our photo group submit photos to an assignment. This month, that challenge is “Graffiti.” It’s easy enough to find. Capture some. Contact jbambach@mpbconline for info.

- **Photo Connections**, w/John Bambach
  Third Wednesdays, 7–9p
  [www.cornwellcenter.com/photo](http://www.cornwellcenter.com/photo)
  [www.facebook.com/PhotoSIG](http://www.facebook.com/PhotoSIG)

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:

- **Yoga**, w/Dot McMillan
  Mondays, 6–7p
- **Barre** w/Autumn Chandler
  Tuesdays, 1–2p
- **Spin** w/Amy Eades
  Thursdays, 6–7p
- **Yoga 2**, w/Dot McMillan
  Thursdays, 1–2p

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.

cornwell@mpbconline.org
SUBJECT: TTWS ASP
For more details, see the Youth Services page on our website.

Art
Cornwell’s resident artist, Greg Scott, has some great Fall art experiences for both youth and adults. Adult Clay and Painting classes that began in September continue through Nov.14th. These and others can be joined mid-session and prorated accordingly. **Afterschool Art Focus** (6-10 yrs.) continues on Thursdays and Fridays thru Oct.28th and can also be joined in-progress. See our website for details.

Special for the season: come pick and decorate your own Halloween treasure, built to last. Space is limited, so call us to reserve yours soon.

- **Clay Pumpkin Patch**, w/ Greg Scott
  Saturday, OCT. 15, 11a – 12:30a
  Register by Oct.8

Et cetera
A Special Thank You to everyone who supported and participated in our Aquathlon, 5K, and Family Festival this past September 10th. Fun was had by all and proceeds and donations will benefit Levine Cancer Institute.

Festival of Friends - We’re proud to support this Through-The-Week School fundraising event on Saturday, OCT.15th. Among the awesome items in the Silent Auction will be several certificates donated by The Cornwell Center.

F Y I, Cornwell Facilities are available for your meetings, events, and parties.

Bon Voyage
Joining our child care staff just over two years ago, she exhibited a dear love for children and a highly organized work style. When the time came, she became the obvious choice to lead our expansive Youth programs. Now, Rock Hill School District 3 gets the bragging rights to Kayla Blake as she moves to an undeniable opportunity, working with children in their Special Education program. They’ll be better for her being among them, and we wish her all the best.
Ministers and Staff

The Rev. Mr. W. Benjamin Boswell
Senior Minister

The Rev. Mr. Joseph D. Aldrich
Associate Minister

Sharon Bremer
Director of Stewardship

Mariah B. Currin
Director of New Member Ministry

Allen Davis
Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Belinda Geuss
Director of Through-The-Week School

Charlotte C. Judge
Associate Director of Music

Cher Lindblom
Director of Outreach

Dr. Matthew Manwarren
Organist

The Rev. Mr. Barry Z. Metzger
Church Administrator

Frances L. Morrison
Minister of Music

The Rev. Ms. Carrie Veal
Minister of Children

The Rev. Ms. Chrissy Tatum Williamson
Minister of Faith Formation

Jenny Yopp
Director of The Cornwell Center

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE IS
5:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14.
Max 450 words, subject to editing for space. Please email all submissions to the MPBC Communications Director, Laura Geer, at lgeer@mpbconline.org.