Outreach Sunday, September 20, Kicks Off a New Season of Serving

By Cheri Lindblom

Just a few weeks ago, we were celebrating at the Finale of Pinewood Freedom School 2015. We gathered in Heaton Hall to break bread (a.k.a. - lunch) with parents, teachers, scholars, Myers Park Baptist Church members and our partner church, Sharon United Methodist. The scholars sang and danced and there were plenty of smiles to go around. Because of you, all of our scholars were able to take home books to continue their summer reading and build their own libraries. You donated over 500 books -- thank you!

The Freedom School supplies are barely put away, and the advent of "Outreach Season" is here - the Ministry of Outreach's favorite time of the year. We kick off with Outreach Sunday, September 20, a barbeque at McCreesh Place on September 20.

Stewardship is the Lifeblood

By Christopher Skardon

Last year the congregation of Myers Park Baptist set a Church record for generous giving, with pledges totaling $1,909,068 from 544 families and individuals. It was the first time the annual stewardship campaign had ever topped $1.9 million.

Why do members give? Because this Church adds value to our lives. It provides a place of worship and inspiration. It baptizes the faithful, marries the beloved and buries the dead. It helps shape the moral and spiritual lives of young and old. It provides a community unlike any other, where love and respect are freely offered to all who are willing to give them in return.

This community, like any other this side of heaven, depends on the willing support of its members. Where do our contributions go? Here is a concise view of the 2015 budget, with staff salaries and benefits allocated to their appropriate function or ministry.

Administration, Property and Grounds & Financial Resources: 58%. Our beautiful campus is our congregational body whose lifeblood is propelled by the daily efforts of the executive ministry, senior administrators and support staff. Located at the apex of Myers Park, it stands as a testament to the faithfulness and the abundance of our members, past and present. It is a foundation that, through stewardship and service, will continue to provide for our Church family and community.

September 2015

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MPBC Newsletter September 2015

Happenings

By Robin Coira

I’m not quite ready to say good-bye to summer, but I have no hesitation in saying good-bye to this hot weather! With the turning of the seasons we also see the start of a new program year for the Church.

Start-Up Sunday, September 13, marks the beginning of what is sure to be a wonderful year for MPBC. Worship will begin at 11:00, Bill Leonard will preach and we will share Communion. Following worship, be sure to stay for a barbeque lunch and Congregational Meeting.

A word about Bill Leonard. There is no way we can thank Bill for his presence and the grace, joy, wisdom and compassion he has shared with us over the years—and particularly during this interim time. His final Sunday preaching for us will be September 13th. Please join us for lunch as we express our gratitude to Bill for all that he has done for us throughout the years.

Our preaching schedule for September is as follows:

September 6: The Rev. Joe Aldrich
September 13: The Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard
September 20: The Rev. Dr. Jeff Rogers Dean of Graduate Studies, Gardner-Webb University
September 27: The Rev. Amy Jack Dean Co-Pastor, Park Road Baptist Church

Barry Metzger, our Church Administrator, has recently attended several seminars on church safety. We have hired two consultants who specialize in security issues for the church. A lay group headed by Richard Pearsall will work with Barry and our consultants to ensure the safety of our members, the children attending Through-the-Week School and the folks using The Cornwell Center. We will update you on our progress and any new safety precautions we put into place.

You will see on page 7 an article by Belinda Geuss, our Director of Through-the-Week School. We will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of our school this fall. Imagine that! Each year the parents of the school host an annual fundraiser, Festival of Friends. The money raised is used for classroom and campus improvements. You can help in this effort. If you have a vacation home you would be willing to donate for a weekend, please contact Belinda. Our school has a remarkable reputation within this community and I am deeply grateful for Belinda’s strong and capable leadership.

Our third option for you to experience alternative worship will be held on Saturday evening, September 12 from 5:30-6:15 in the Sanctuary Chancel. You are invited to attend a Taizé Prayer Service led by members of our congregation. For more information, please see Deb Steiner’s article on page 10.

And finally, I want to make sure you have an important date on your calendar. The weekend of October 23-25, Susan Beaumont, former Senior Consultant for the Alban Institute, will be with us as we prepare for our next Senior Minister. Susan will help us explore three distinct stages of pastoral transition: ending, neutral zone and new beginnings. This is work we need to do as a congregation as we step into the bright future that awaits us, and as we prepare to welcome and celebrate the arrival of our next Senior Minister. Please save this date. Registration information and further highlights about this weekend will appear in next month’s newsletter.

Get Ready for Start-Up September 12 & 13

By Robin Coira

Start-Up weekend is a time for new beginnings and renewed commitment. It is also a time of great excitement and energy. I hope you will join us on Start-Up weekend as we celebrate the beginning of a new program year.

Cornwell Start-Up Saturday
We start the activities at The Cornwell Center on Saturday, September 12 with a Splash and Dash Aquathlon—registration is required for this event. A variety of other activities have been planned for the morning, including inflatables, a rock climbing wall, a petting zoo, food vendors and Andre’s Cardio Craze. Join us from 9:00 until noon for the festival. Come and see all of the wonderful opportunities that await you at Cornwell.

Start-Up Sunday
We begin a new program year together on September 13 with Sunday school beginning at 9:45. We will resume our normal 11:00 worship schedule, Bill Leonard will preach and we will share Communion with one another. After worship, please join us for barbeque lunch in Heaton Hall made by our own church members. We are asking for contributions of $5.00 for adults and $2.50 for children. During lunch, we will have a Congregational Meeting to receive an update from the Senior Minister Search group and hear reports about other ministry and outreach events.

Homecoming—Family Reunion—the Gathered Church. Join us for Start-Up weekend—a great time to reengage and recommit to the life of our Church.

Deacon of the Week

August 30 - September 5: Ted Lucas, 704.930.7170, tedlucas@aol.com
September 6-12: Rick Bahnson, 704.752.7871, rbahnson@bellsouth.net
September 13-19: Tom Jones, 704.621.6122, tmjjsr@icloud.com
September 20-26: Nancy Culp, 704.222.6902, necbus@yahoo.com
September 27 - October 3: Tom Jones, 704.621.6122, tmjjsr@icloud.com

Congregational Meeting
September 13 following worship
Senior Minister Search Update, Ministry Reports and Upcoming Outreach Events
BIRTHS - CONGRATULATIONS TO:
- Nicholas and Christin Crane on the birth of their daughter, Evelyn Rose, to Ethan and Landon Crane on the birth of their sister, and to grandmother, Susan Crane, on July 30, 2015.

DEATHS - LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:
- Barbara Stephens and her family on the death of her sister, Teresa Snyder, July 17, 2015 in Wilmington, North Carolina.
- Joyce Marie Bernhard and her family on the death of her husband, Kenton David Bernhard, Sr, on July 31, 2015, in Charlotte, NC.
- Barbara Mishoe and her family on the death of her sister-in-law, Harriet Dempsey, of Greenville, SC on August 2, 2015.
- Dee Eaker on the death of her mother, Margial Eaker, on August 4, 2015, in Charlotte, NC.

September Loose Plate Offering Recipient
By Cheri Lindblom
The Loose Plate Missions Offering for September will benefit Family Tree, formerly named Hyaets. Family Tree is an urban ministry in the Enderly Park Neighborhood. Their vision is to build bridges between the poor and affluent by offering hospitality, building relationships and sharing the love of Christ. For more information, visit www.qcfamilytree.org.

Start-Up Sunday Barbeque Lunch
By Lalla Dabbs
On Start-Up Sunday, September 13, we will gather in Heaton Hall following worship for a barbeque lunch prepared by our kitchen volunteers. We are asking for contributions of $5 for adults and $2.50 for children. If you would like to volunteer for lunch preparation, contact Richard Pearsall at richardpearsallre@gmail. We look forward to seeing everyone on Start-Up Sunday!

Wonderful Wednesday Kitchen Volunteers
By Barry Metzger
Wonderful Wednesdays will start on September 16 and your help is needed! One Tuesday each month, we need volunteers from 3:00-5:00pm to help prep for the salad bar which is always a big hit on Wonderful Wednesdays. We also need volunteers one Wednesday each month from 4:30-6:30pm to help with the preparation of the evening meal along with the clean-up.

If you would like to be a part of this important ministry of MPBC, please contact me in the Church Office or 704.334.7232, x16 or bmetzger@mpbconline.org.

A Note of Thanks
To the congregation of Myers Park Baptist Church:
I reflect on the past nine years of service at Myers Park Baptist as your Minister of Music and Worship. Sitting among my belongings neatly bound up in boxes, it reminds me that people with their needs, hopes, and desires far surpass the books and musical scores that surround me just now. For nine years you gave me the opportunity to interact with you, your families, and your loved ones. You allowed me to lead you in the songs of faith; to lead your children and youth toward their theology through music; to impact the music community in Charlotte; to lead alongside the music staff and the Church staff; and to create magical music moments too vast to recount with the wonderful folk of the Chancel Choir. They will continue to be part of my family.

Thank you, MPBC, for the generous gifts you gave me my last Sunday: money, the drawing of the Church, and the beautiful commissioned vase. I will treasure all of these gifts. Most of all, I will treasure the memories of our times together. Godspeed as you continue your journey toward a new “Alleluia.”

Gratefully, Jonathan Crutchfield

Here’s What’s New
By Jane Huddle, Chair, Technology SLG
Your church staff is busy creating registrations in myMPBC for the new church year. Whether it is for Youth Retreats, Children’s Choirs registration, Connections leader training, the J21 Lecture Series, and so on, registering will be easier and faster if you have a myMPBC ID and password. Please take about five minutes to create an ID soon.

After signing into myMPBC, you will notice several new options in the “I Want to View” box in the top left corner. They include:
- Available Classes (will include available class options)
- Available Activities (will include church ministries and groups you may want to join or learn more about)
- Available Small Groups (will include Connections groups when available)
- Available Registrations (will include open event registrations)
- Available Service Opportunities (will include areas of service where your help is needed)

Keep an eye on these, as some are in a pilot stage and usage will increase.

Additional items have been added to the “Give Now” option. You can now make your pledge gift by selecting the “General Fund” as the fund option. Other features are available too. Contributing this way is very secure and the “Checking” option is always appreciated as this option incurs the lowest fees that the Church has to pay.

If you have any questions about these new features or if you need help creating your sign-in ID, please contact me at jhuddle1@carolina.rr.com or by phone at 704.641.0481.

www.mpbconline.org
New Baptist Covenant: Friendship Missionary & Myers Park Baptist

By Chrissy Williamson

Several years ago, President Jimmy Carter had a dream of racial reconciliation among Baptist churches. Being a Baptist himself, he knew the cost and promise of this dream and he decided to get to work. Out of that vision, in 2007, the New Baptist Covenant (www.newbaptistcovenant.org) was born. In 2011, Carter began to dream again about ways in which Baptists might further their reconciliation beyond conversation into action. Inspired by Luke 4:18-19 and emerging from his vision, Covenants of Action came to be. Covenants of Action are sacred agreements between black and white Baptist churches in the same city. They are born out of partnership and commitment to address a local justice issue. Part of Carter’s vision for Covenants of Action included a very special partnership here in Charlotte, one between Myers Park Baptist and Friendship Missionary Baptist.

About ten months ago, the New Baptist Covenant reached out to our Church and to Friendship to begin opening the doors for us to partner together on a social justice issue. Part of Carter’s vision for Covenants of Action included a very special partnership here in Charlotte, one between Myers Park Baptist and Friendship Missionary Baptist.

On Monday, August 17, leadership from both Friendship and Myers Park met to learn about the history and heritage of each church, to dream about partnering to create a better city for all Charlotteans, and to sense the Spirit of the Living God drawing us together with a common goal. Both churches agreed that childhood poverty is the issue that we would like to work on together. In the coming months, Friendship and Myers Park Baptist will explore the work already being done in Charlotte related to this issue and we will work to discover the needs of the children of Charlotte. Then we will create a plan, a Covenant of Action, that will guide us in our work as we, together, live into our Gospel call to bring “the good news to the poor; release to the captives, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed.” (from Luke 4:18-19).

EarthKeepers
Recycling at MPBC

By Mary Lou Buck

Can you believe we collected two big garbage bags of bottle caps in one week, and have overflowing baskets of batteries, light bulbs and ink cartridges for recycling? Many of you at MPBC do a great job, but we want everyone to know we are making it even easier for you to recycle items not accepted in curb-side recycling. There are baskets in the Cornwell Learning Center for all of the above. Collection bins are also available between the Kitchen and Berry Hall for batteries and light bulbs.

A reminder for bottle caps: Please put only hard plastic, clean tops in the basket—no metal, no soft tops (like yogurt tops), and no batteries. We sort these and it can be very time-consuming.

Thank you to all of you at MPBC who regularly make trips to recycling centers: Nancy Berry (batteries), Anne and Rob Clarke (light bulbs), Cindy and Ron Green (bottle caps), Lee Gaddis at The Cornwell Center (contacts for paper, cans and bottles in The Cornwell Center and near the Church Kitchen. There is a dumpster outside for cardboard.

For Church events there are receptacles for paper, cans and bottles in The Cornwell Center and near the Church Kitchen. There is a dumpster outside for cardboard.

On our priority list: buying recyclable or biodegradable cups, carry-out containers, etc., collecting food from Church events for our garden compost, providing bins and instructions so you can recycle. (We need someone to tend our compost bins!)
John Dominic Crossan

...Continued from page 1

This is the world into which Paul brought the message of one of Rome's victims – one who was crucified for contending that God's will was "peace through justice and sharing," not "peace through victory for personal gain."

Paul took his God resolutely into the tsunamis of an Augustinian mind-set, of a complicated resistance from the Jewish diaspora, of uncountable pagan gods and faiths and, finally, of a maddeningly contentious group of early Christian assemblies. For his efforts, Paul was violently abused and executed.

But as Crossan will explain, Paul's life trials were nothing compared to what happened after he died. His later (non-Pauline) letters make hash of his real beliefs and exhortations about equality and justice.

It seems today we still carry the cross of a Romanized world, one that rewards "peace through victory and personal gain," not through justice and equality. Tea and cake, anyone?

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Tony Abbott to Lead a Connections Small Group

By Chrissy Williamson

For many years, Dr. Tony Abbott has been our guest leader and teacher for Wednesday Night Adult programs. His lectures have invited us into the lives and literary works of several important poets and authors including Anne Lamott, Gerard Manley Hopkins, as well as some of his own work. This fall, Tony will be leading a Connections Small Group on Gail Godwin's book, Father Melancholy's Daughter.

Tony is excited to introduce this book about Godwin's own struggle with her sense of vocation. In Abbott's words, "It's a powerful, beautifully written book, about the search for faith and the struggle to find one's self and one's vocation," certainly something we can all resonate with no matter what our vocation! For more information and to sign up for this unique opportunity, visit the Connections Small Groups page on our Church website, beginning September 13.

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Senior Adult Fellowship

Day Trip to Greenville, SC - September 30

By Chrissy Williamson

Starting September 13, a Sunday Morning Yoga class will be offered 9:45-10:45am in the Cornwell Group Exercise Room. Each week the class will begin with a time for participants to share joys and concerns with one another, followed by a reading of the scripture in focus for the 11:00 worship service that morning. After the scripture reading, participants will be led in a basic yoga class taught by Ansley Melnik. The class is open to adults of all ages and no registration is required. If you have any questions about this class, please contact me at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org.

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Tony Abbott

Altar Flowers

By Amy Jones

Giving flowers for our altar is a lovely way to remember or honor a special loved one for a birthday, anniversary, new baby, etc. We need flowers for our Sunday worship services on September 6 and 27, in particular. For details, please call Amy Jones at 704.334.7232 x26 or email her at ajones@mpbconline.org.
MPBC Youth News:

By Chris Hughes

Upcoming Events:

September 13 - Start-Up Sunday
• Youth Sunday School, 9:45-10:45
• Parents Meeting, 4:30-5:30
• Youth Fellowship, 6:00-8:00

September 16 - Wonderful Wednesday
• Square Dance, 6:45-7:30

October 20
• Early Bird Registration Deadline for High School Retreat

Notes from Chris

Welcome to another church year in the Youth Ministry at Myers Park Baptist Church! This month is an important time for our youth. They will start building relationships with adults and other youth for the year and some relationships may even last for the rest of their time in the youth group. Not to put any pressure on you! We have been working hard all summer to put together the people, the ideas, and the activities that will help our youth grow together and now is when it all comes together.

Please make sure to mark your calendars for Start-Up Sunday and the first Wonderful Wednesday. On Start-Up Sunday, we will resume all of our Youth gatherings, including Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Sunday School), Youth Choir and Youth Fellowship. We will also have a Parents Meeting on Start-Up Sunday from 4:30-5:30, where you can get all the information you’ll need for the fall. There will be open gym time for the youth who are not in Youth Choir.

One more important thing to note: please be sure to visit our updated page on the MPBC website, www.mpbconline.org/youth-ministry/. There you will find all the forms required, information about weekly gatherings and important events and registration links for retreats and trips. Registration is open now for the High School Retreat on November 20-22 and the Early Bird deadline is October 20.

Fall Family Dedication

Sunday, October 11

By Carrie Veal

Family dedication is a wonderful ritual for families with children and for the Church. If your family would like to participate in our fall family dedication, please contact me at cveal@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x18.

Vacation Bible School 2015

By Carrie Veal

Have you heard how amazing VBS 2015 was? It was truly wonderful to be with over 75 children from our Church and community. It was fantastic to be with over 30 adult and teen volunteers who gave their time and energy; from shopping for supplies to shepherding children, VBS would never have happened without them. And it was incredible to see the excitement in everyone’s eyes as we all paid attention to how God is speaking to us.

Those who participated in VBS also participated in Outreach projects:
• They learned about His Nets, an international organization that gives mosquito nets to families in malaria-affected countries. An offering was taken for His Nets each day; over $300 was given, which means at least 50 nets can be provided for families!
• They learned about the Urban Ministry Center right here in Charlotte. Our preschool-aged children made Care Bags for our homeless neighbors while our elementary children made sandwiches.
• On the last day the children learned about Southminster and made cards for some of the residents.

It was a wonderful three days and plans are already being made for VBS 2016. Be on the lookout for how you can be a part of it!

Passport Kids

By Carrie Veal

This summer, seven of our third and fourth graders traveled to Crossville, TN for Passportkids! Summer Camp. It was a great time of deepening friendships with one another and learning how they can be a part of the Jesus revolution, looking at the world with eyes of love and hands of action.

The Camp offers completed third-ﬁfth graders the chance to learn about themselves, their fellow humans and God. All seven campers told me and their parents they definitely want to go back next year!

I will be registering our Church for Camp 2016 on October 1.

Children’s Ministry

Start-Up Sunday, September 13

By Carrie Veal

Let’s kick off a new church year in a fun way! On Start-Up Sunday, children will move into their new Sunday Faith Formation classes. Following class, elementary children will go to the beginning of worship, then leave for gym time. Children in TK-Fifth Grade will stay in worship on this day. After worship we will gather in Heaton Hall for lunch. We will have tables reserved for families with children. It will be a wonderful day so please make plans to attend!
**Children's Ministry**

**Sunday Faith Formation**

*By Carrie Veal*

Over the summer all our families with children received a Parent Covenant from me, asking them to enter into a Covenant with the Children’s Ministry and the children of our Church. I am extending that invitation to Covenant with the entire Congregation.

Sunday Faith Formation is one of the foundational pieces of our Children’s Ministry. Not only do children learn the stories of our faith, they also learn about themselves and how they can make the world a better place.

As we enter a new church year, I encourage you to think about how you can be a part of Sunday Faith Formation for our children.

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**The "Inside Scoop"**

*Wednesday, September 9, 5:15–6:30pm, Heaton Hall*

*By Carrie Veal and Deb Steiner*

Families with children are invited to come to our 2nd annual “Inside Scoop”! This fun event includes a scavenger hunt all around the Church campus plus an ice cream party.

The Children’s Ministry and Music Ministry will give you the “Scoop” about Sundays and Wednesdays this fall. Big event dates will also be announced.

We will begin in Heaton Hall at 5:15. Children’s choir registration forms will be available. Hope to see you there!

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**Through-The-Week School News**

*By Belinda Guess*

We are very excited about our new school year at Through-the-Week School. This year marks our 60th anniversary as an outreach of Myers Park Baptist Church accounting for over 10,000 preschoolers who have attended our wonderful play-filled school! Plans are being made for a special celebration on October 11 with recognition at the Sunday Service followed by a reception and fun and games for children to enjoy. We hope everyone will plan to attend this special milestone!

Special summer property improvements that were made possible by TTWS parent fundraising include the beautiful garden area at the Roswell entrance (pictured below) as well as a brand new toddler playground! We are also excited about our new signage and lamp post at the Roswell entrance.

Our new school year will begin September 8. We welcome new staff members, Kelly Darling, Amanda Fleishman, Alayne Phillips, and Leslie Sellery. TTWS has a staff of 27 teachers and administrators as well as 182 students for the 2015-2016 school year. We continue to move forward with the leading trends and best practices in the early childhood field. This year we will offer a variety of classroom enrichments which will include My Gym, Music By Holly, Monthly Science with Robyn Huffstetler, and Play Spanish. Cultural events planned for the year will include a presentation in October with the Dewali Dancers and a production in the spring by The Children's Theatre.

We welcome all parents to attend our first parent program which will highlight “Kindergarten Readiness” on Tuesday, September 22 in Heaton Hall at 6:00pm. This program will be led by child psychologist Melanie Powell and Stephanie Wick, Founder of Learning Charms, to help parents understand and transition into the next stages beyond preschool.

MPBC members are invited to attend our annual fundraiser on Saturday, November 14 at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. More information will follow in future newsletters about this event, which helps raise money for capital improvements and fund our classroom enrichment experiences.

Please visit any time and “Come Play With Us!”

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**Coffee Chat with Carrie***

*Wednesdays, 5:15 - 6:15 PM*

Coffee Chat will resume Wednesday, September 16, in the Parlor. Gather with other parents for some fun conversation while your child is in choir. Bring your own coffee mug and we’ll provide the rest.

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www.mpbcuniversal.org
Financial Resources / Outreach

Stewardship

...Continued from page 1

Faith Formation, Worship & Music: 27%.

These ministries stand at the heart of the Myers Park Baptist program. From God’s Garden to Youth Group to Adult Faith Formation and Connections classes, spiritual growth is a lifelong opportunity at MPBC. During Sunday service, the liturgy lifts both mind and spirit. Thought-provoking, challenging sermons and guest speakers that prompt diverse reactions are a staple. And, of course, throughout our Church life the music ministry resonates with God’s grace, reconciling our differences and binding our spirits.

Outreach and Congregational Care: 15%.

While the majority of the budget provides for activities and programs at Church, we should be proud that 15% of the budget supports off-campus congregational care and dozens of community organizations. However, even that amount understates the resources dedicated to community outreach. As the article in the next column explains, our members make significant community contributions above and beyond what is seen in the budget.

Some of the Church’s expenditures are sure to increase in 2016. Insurance, budgeted at $48,000 in 2013, rose to $60,000 for 2015. The budget for utilities rose from $125,000 to $148,000 over the same period. And next year’s budget must include funds for a new Senior Minister and a New Minister of Music.

The bottom line is that our Church community, like any large and complex community, needs money to function. Almost all that money comes from members of the congregation who believe in the Church’s mission and value its services. Your pledge is a promise to provide your share of the cost of empowering this Church community.

Finance Report

Year-to-Date - July 2015

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Our Giving for Outreach Goes Beyond the Budget

By Ed Williams

The $180,000 allocated for missions and outreach in this year’s church budget vastly understates our contribution to those efforts. Other donations put the total well over our goal of at least 10 percent of the church budget – and that doesn’t include the value of volunteer hours contributed to mission projects.

The Church regularly provides such off-budget gifts as these:

- The annual Cereal for the City Drive, overseen by Deacon Jenny Lou Wright, this year collected 3,331 boxes (the goal was 2015).
- Deacon Bob Bishop’s holiday drive to collect oatmeal for the homeless annually raises more than 50 tons from donors throughout our region, with substantial support from our congregation.
- Our annual back-to-school drive provides backpacks and coats for children in the Lakewood community, and our Angel Tree provides Christmas presents for needy youth.
- A book drive this year provided more than 500 new and slightly used books from our congregation for the Pinewood Freedom School, co-sponsored by our Church.
- Our Friendship Garden, tucked in a corner to the left of the Cornwall Center entrance, last year provided 755 pounds of fresh vegetables for Friendship Trays, the local meals-on-wheels program, at no cost to the Church.

Add to that, smaller off-budget donations of volunteer service, cash and/or food to individuals or organizations with an urgent need (Bob Bishop frequently calls our attention to these) and to the Uptown Men’s Shelter; the AIDS Walk, Supportive Housing, McCreesh Place, Loaves & Fishes and our Room In The Inn and Family Promise programs.

MPBC Youth Making A Difference

By Chris Hughes

For the past two summers, Kate Fialko, a member of the MPBC Youth Group, has been doing some extraordinary work. She has served as the Team Read Intern for Promising Pages in Charlotte. Promising Pages is an organization whose mission is to “level the playing field and offer all kids a fair shot at life by giving them the tools they need to succeed at an early stage.” They do so by helping to create excitement about reading for the approximately 60,000 children in Charlotte who will grow up with very few books to read in their homes. “The goal is not to teach kids to read but to help them have positive associations with books and to get them excited about reading,” Kate says.

She learned about the program when a representative from Promising Pages came to speak at her Student Congress at East Mecklenburg High School. Kate says that the work of her internship primarily centered on giving books to children, sorting donated books, and reading one-on-one with children in the Book Buddies program.

Kate also organized a book drive with her school last November, where many MPBC members pitched in to donate books. “Amy Jarrett brought a bunch of books down to Virginia to donate when she visited,” she says.

While she has previously held jobs more typical of a young person her age, she says that this one was so much more meaningful to her. “In this job, I could actually see progress in the work and I could actually see us making a difference in the city.” Kate is starting as a freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill this fall, but we in the Youth Ministry celebrate her incredible work and the difference she has made with Promising Pages!
Season of Sharing

...Continued from page 1
ber 26 and Saturday of Service on October 3. The fall has always been an intentionally Outreach-centered time at Myers Park Baptist Church. We, the congregation, gather with renewed energy on Start-Up Sunday. We return to our Faith Formation classes, our Small Groups and our fellowship of friends, with the hope that we can discover and strengthen how we experience God in our lives.

As we regularly come together, we are being strengthened and built up, but God’s intention is that what we freely receive, we gratefully give. And with that renewed energy, we also want to strengthen our commitment to serve our neighbors who are in need. We receive and we give.

Outreach Sunday, September 20 - The worship service, led by the Ministry of Outreach, Church members and our guest preacher, will ask you to consider the following: How do we, both individually and as church community, serve God by serving our neighbor?

Our hope for Outreach Sunday is to connect everyone with MPBC’s wider community, and encourage acts of compassion that address the immediate needs of those vulnerable in our society. We welcome your ideas for ways to advocate for social change that will further justice in our community and greater world.

And, since our beloved Panthers start their season that day as well, we will make sure you are out on time!

Saturday, September 26 - The third Annual McCreesh Barbeque. Come help cook and serve lunch to our neighbors at McCreesh Place. We need volunteers to serve, supply desserts and provide fellowship for the men. Sign up is available online at www.mpbconline.org. Questions? Contact Bob Bishop, bobbishopuk@gmail.com.

McCreesh Barbeque
Saturday, September 26

By Cheri Lindblom

We will cook, serve and visit our neighbors at McCreesh Place. McCreesh Place is a permanent, supportive home for residents transitioning out of homelessness. Residents may rent for more than one year while gaining stability in their lives or they may choose to rent indefinitely. McCreesh Place fosters dignity and respect and is a safe haven for our neighbors who have been homeless.

We need volunteers to help cook, serve lunch, supply desserts and provide fellowship for the men. Sign up online at www.mpbconline.org. Questions? Contact Bob Bishop, bobbishopuk@gmail.com.

YEAR LONG Support at Pinewood Elementary

By Cheri Lindblom

Want to continue your relationship with the scholars and students at Pinewood? We need volunteers to read with the students at Pinewood as D.E.A.R. buddies, provide classroom help, or help with the "Genius Hour" (enrichment clubs for students). Read on for more.

- Morning session:
  - Habitat House Build in Lakewood
  - Habitat Shed Build (at MPBC)
- Afternoon session:
  - Habitat House Build in Lakewood
  - Habitat Shed Build (at MPBC)
  - Family Promise at Elizabeth House Grounds and Gardens

A picnic lunch will be provided between the morning and afternoon sessions.

Detailed information and sign up will be available at www.mpbconline.org. Click on the Saturday of Service link. If you have any questions, please contact, Cheri Lindblom, clindblom@mpbconline.org.

This is just the beginning. These other opportunities are just around the corner:
- Room In The Inn starts December 1
- Elizabeth House week in December
- STOP HUNGER NOW on March 16
- Monthly meals at St. Peter’s Soup Kitchen
- and many more

As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." We invite you to belong and encourage you to grow and offer yourselves to Serve OUR Community and Serve YOUR neighbors.

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Want to continue your relationship with the scholars and students at Pinewood? We need volunteers to read with the students at Pinewood as D.E.A.R. buddies, provide classroom help, or help with the "Genius Hour" (enrichment clubs for students).
- Reading and classroom help are needed during school hours
- Genius Hour is the first and third Thursdays of the month from 6:00-7:00pm.

Don’t wait until next summer to continue to be in relationship and touch the lives of the students at Pinewood. Please contact Laura Handler at laurak.handler@gmail.com.
Worship & Music

**Y Choir Begins**

**September 13, 5:00pm**

By Fran Morrison

Youth Choir is a musical community of students in grades 6-12 who love to sing, goof off, learn a lot, practice hard and spend time with each other. We welcome singers of all styles and skill levels to join during the year.

If you are interested in learning more about the Youth Choir and getting involved in this talented, awesome and fun group of youth, contact Fran Morrison, Associate Minister of Music at fmorrison@mpbconline.org.

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**Save the Date**

**Youth Choir Retreat**

**October 2-3, 2015**

Camp Caraway, Asheboro, NC

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**Music Together® Early Childhood Music**

Ages birth - Transitional Kindergarten

By Fran Morrison

Top Reasons to sign up your child (and YOU) for Music Together:

1. It is the top musical and movement early childhood curriculum for children internationally.

2. The music is so fun for the children and musically interesting for adults.

3. It is very affordable.

4. It is a great way to meet and network with other preschool MPB families.

5. Tired of Twinkle, twinkle for bedtime? MT has a different song CD EVERY session!

6. There’s always room for silliness!

7. Siblings can attend together…it’s a mixed age class.

8. A parent’s/caregiver’s musical skill level is not important.

Class offerings are Mondays only at 4:00-4:45pm, and 5:15-6:00pm.

Registration is open now on a first come first served basis. Sign up and pay online at www.mpbconline.org.

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**Orbit with Us Through the Universe of Song**

By Deb Steiner

Launch into orbit with us in children’s choirs this year! Our Start-up Wednesday for choirs is September 16. Get the “Inside Scoop” about all things children-related, including children’s ministries and choirs on Wednesday, September 9 from 5:15-6:30pm in Heaton Hall. (See the separate article about Inside Scoop on page 7.)

Note the following choir opportunities for all children in grades Kindergarten through the Fifth grade:

- **Carol Choir** (grades K-2, Room 21; Deb Steiner, director) – 5:15-6:15pm Wednesday
- **Chapel Choir** (grades 3-5, Room 7; Fran Morrison, director) – 5:15-6:15pm Wednesday

On Wonderful Wednesdays each month, all choirs will be dismissed at 6:00pm. The children will sing in Heaton Hall beginning in October and at various times in worship throughout the year. Child care for siblings of choir members is available during choir rehearsals each Wednesday.

Choir registration forms are available online at www.mpbconline.org for your convenience. Filling out this registration form will be easier and faster to complete if you have already created a myMPBC ID and password. Non-church members may register as a guest at that site. We’re excited to have your children explore the Universe of Song with us this year!
Community Festival
Each year our annual festival of family-friendly activities beckons neighbors of all ages to pet the animals, climb the wall, soak the heckler, eat the food, stretch the tendons, and all the rest. Join in the fun!

New this year is a signature swim/run event where you can participate in both parts, or just the 5k run.

• **Splash & Dash Aquathlon and 5k**
  Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015
  Registration and full details online

Fitness
The **Group Exercise Schedule** on our new website is regularly updated. Note several new and returning classes, such as...

- **Power Yoga & Deep Stretch**, w/Bri
  Returns Sep.9, 5:45a
  Wed’s

- **Spin**, w/Amy
  Returns Sep.10, 9:15a
  Thu’s
  NEW, begins Sep.11, 8-8:45a
  Fri’s

- **Athletic Conditioning**, w/Stacy
  Returns Sep.11, 9:30a
  Fri’s

- **Power Yoga**, w/Bri
  Returns Sep.13, 3p
  Sun’s

- **Yoga Basics**, w/Audrey
  NEW, begins Sep.14, 8:15-9:15a
  Mon’s

Check out a new and on-going post on the GE page called “Get to Know…” to learn more about your favorite instructor.

Transitions
We applaud both new and familiar faces as they shuffle into new and familiar leadership roles, starting this month.

Lauren Klitzsch, now a full-time mom, still manages to return to us part-time in a new role. She, along with new hire Rachel Waterfill, will collaborate to support our LiveWell Cornwell programming and social media/marketing efforts.

Kayla Blake has diligently led our After School Program for the past year, and has ably overseen the Cornwell summer camps these past three months. We’re very pleased to have her rising to become Youth Services Coordinator.

James Gause is well-known to the Cornwell community, having served in both the Learning Center and at our Welcome Desk. His expansive skillset now serves us as Facility Manager.

Sean Krysak brings a background in sales and customer service, plus current degree work in Kinesiology (scientific study of human movement), to become our new Fitness Coordinator.

LiveWell Cornwell
Downsizing, upsizing or simply reconfiguring what you love in your current house? How do you decide what to keep and what to purge? Certified Professional Organizer, Anne Steppe is guest presenter with this month’s **Salt & Pepper** activity group.

- **Right sizing Your Life – Make Room for What You Love**
  Sep. 15, 9:30-10:45a
  Tue

Following a diet can be high maintenance, confusing and exhausting. Want to intelligently decipher the various diet plans, keeping some of your savings while staying healthy? Haynes Paschall, Integrative Health and Wellness Coach, offers help.

- **Making Sense (and Cents!) of Today’s Diet Trends**
  Sep. 17, 10:30-11:30a
  Thu

In its ninth year, our Photo group has a dedicated web page on our site, with a link to the Facebook page...

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

...where we share ideas, exhibit monthly galleries, explore upcoming assignments. September’s photo assignment is “Clouds.” What’s in your sky this month?

- **PHOTO Connections** w/John Bambach
  Third Wednesdays (Sep.16), 7-9p

Our Genealogy group returns from summer hiatus this month. It’s a guided, hands-on tour through the resources on the web.

- **FAMILY Connections**
  Genealogy w/Ted Lucas
  Second Wednesdays, 7-9p

Children and Youth
The Cornwell Center and Myers Park Presbyterian Church are joining forces to create a **NEW Youth Basketball League**. As the two largest organizations in the MMYBL, the league in which we competed for the last decade, we typically have 90-100 teams. Responding to feedback from parent-coaches, families and youth, this change lets us better serve both organizations with a higher quality experience.

We’ll continue to have teams for ages 5-18. Contact Kayla Blake with inquiries.

[blake@mpbconline.org](mailto:blake@mpbconline.org)

While our elementary afterschool is full, we still have room in our **After-School Program for TTWS** (Through-The-Week-School). Registration form and info are available on our new website.

Also see our new website for **Parent’s Morning Out** reservations. As with TTWS, registration forms and PMO guidelines are also found there. Remember to request your dates at least 24hrs in advance.

Art & Design
The North Carolina award winning **Crown Artists** are pleased to return to the Cornwell Gallery this month with Regina Calton Burchett, Judith Cutler, Angela Harker and Mona Vernona Hearne presenting:

- **EXPRESSIONS**
  Original Works by Four Artists
  September and October

Taking afterschool to a new level with techniques and media, from potter’s wheel to mixed media on wood panel and canvas.

- **After-School Art Focus** (11-13 yrs.)
  Sep. 18 – Dec.11, 4:30-6p
  Fri’s

Wheel and studio techniques create pots and vessels for the season. Covers basic cylinder and bowl forms.

- **Beginning Clay** w/Greg Scott
  Sep. 21– Nov.9, 6:30-8:30p
  Mon’s
DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER 2015 ISSUE IS
4:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.
Max 450 words, subject to editing for space. Please email all submissions to
the MPBC Communications Director, Laura Geer, at lgeer@mpbconline.org.

The Rev. Mr. Joseph D. Aldrich,
Associate Minister

Sharon Bremer,
Director of Stewardship

The Rev. Ms. Robin Paterson Coira,
Executive Minister

Mariah B. Currin,
Director of New Member Ministry

Belinda Geuss,
Director of Through-The-Week School

The Rev. Mr. Chris Hughes,
Minister of Youth

Cheri Lindblom,
Director of Outreach

Dr. Matthew Manwarren,
Organist

The Rev. Mr. Barry Z. Metzger,
Church Administrator

Frances L. Morrison,
Associate Minister of Music

Deborah A. Steiner,
Music Associate for Children

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