Mark and Maggie O'Connor, Guest Musicians

Sunday, September 24 | During Worship

By Fran Morrison

Mark and Maggie O'Connor, Grammy award-winning violinist, composer, and educator, is the Charlotte Symphony’s first Artist-in-Residence. A product of American folk tradition and classical music, O’Connor credits his musical journey in large part to folk fiddler, Benny Thomasson, and French jazz violinist and improviser, Stephane Grappelli. It was at the intersection of these two musical styles that O’Connor began crafting his own musical approach. He established the New American School of String Playing with his O’Connor... continued on page 10
Saying Goodbye to our Beloved Barry Metzger

By Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell

Over the past few months I’ve been trying to figure out how to describe what Barry Metzger has meant to our Church during his time on staff. He has had a profound positive impact on our Church community and our staff culture that is very difficult to put into words. Here is what I have come up with: Barry brought our Church and our staff a wise, steady, loving, optimistic, whimsical, and hope-filled pizzazz!

Barry’s love for this Church, our members, and our staff runs incredibly deep. He always wanted what was best for the individual and has often gone above and beyond the call of duty to take care of someone struggling in the congregation or on staff, and even lent a generous and helping hand to those looking for assistance off the street. Barry was often the person that people on staff would go to when they were struggling or stressed, and he is the kind of person who couldn’t do enough for you. His optimism and cheery disposition has been infectious around the office. No matter what the challenge or how difficult the situation, Barry would always say encouraging things like, “We’re going to get through this.” And “It will get better.”

Barry’s whimsical nature is my favorite part of his personality and the thing about him that I will miss the most. He has a witty sense of humor that often bursts out in the moments when we need it the most. His playfulness made him a joy to work with and his delightful accordion playing for the celebration of our staff birthdays will never be forgotten. The combination of Barry’s love, optimism, and whimsy brought a spirit of great hope to the office, and the pizzazz of his daily outfits were a bright and colorful reflection of the cheerfulness and joy that Barry brought to his work and his relationships with others.

None of this may seem like it has anything to do with his job in overseeing the administration of our Church, but it made working with him a lot of fun. Barry helped our Church rise to a new level in administration. He managed our finances with great care and integrity. He helped to lead many successful Stewardship campaigns and he oversaw the growth and distribution of our endowment. We have thrived under his leadership and continue to reap the benefits of his strong relationships of love and trust with the members and staff of our Church. In addition to all this, Barry worked tirelessly behind the scenes, cleaning and cooking when needed, and when he was leading in worship, he gracefully offered beautiful and heart-felt prayers that touched our lives and brought us all closer to God.

We are hosting a reception for Barry immediately following worship on Sunday September 24. In addition, we are taking up a love offering for Barry and receiving notes of gratitude for him in the Church Office. We will miss our beloved Barry Metzger, but we are so glad he and Nancy will continue to remain a part of our Church community as members. We are a better Church and better people for having had him leading us and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Congregational Joys and Concerns

(as of August 15, 2017)

DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:
• Dot and John Stiles on the death of his daughter, Kim Stiles Beck, on July 23, 2017 in Concord, NC.
• Laurie and Tom Winston on the death of her father, and Hank and Lucy on the death of their grandfather, Harry A. Paulk, on August 3, 2017 in Chattanooga, TN.
• Dixie Pinson on the death of her husband, William S. (Billy) Pinson, on August 7, 2017 in Charlotte, NC.
• Michael and Marie Louise Schubert on the death of his father, and Hannah Marie on the death of her grandfather, Marvin Schubert, on August 7, 2017 in Charlotte, NC.
• Sally and Dan White on the death of her mother; and Jamie and Evan White on the death of their grandmother, Sara G. Rabun, on August 8, 2017 in Charlotte, NC.

BIRTHS — CONGRATULATIONS TO:
• Lindsey and Eric Starr on the birth of their son, and to Nola on the birth of her brother, Remy Jameson, on July 27, 2017 in Charlotte, NC.

From mpbconline.org to myersparkbaptist.org!

By Tom Jones

Years ago when our Church established our first website, "mpbconline" was chosen because to be "online" meant we were doing something to keep up with the times. Now, of course, every church is online, and to promote our name as "online" – well, it’s a little bit like bragging about something that’s not very remarkable anymore. With this in mind, we have moved the location of our website to myersparkbaptist.org, which we think is better because:
• It’s easier to say.
• You don’t have to slowly say mpbc as "m like Myers" – "p like park" – "b like baptist" – and "c like church."
• It tells who we are – myersparkbaptist

If you search for us at mpbconline.org (the old address), in all but a few cases you will automatically be re-directed to myersparkbaptist.org. If you have trouble or get an error message, please re-type into your browser "myersparkbaptist.org" and then save it as a favorite.

Stay tuned – exciting things are coming!
Staff News | Community

MPBC Newsletter September 2017

We Bid Adieu to Matthew Manwarren

By Fran Morrison

After an extended period of heartfelt deliberation, Matthew Manwarren has accepted a position as Organist at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. This is an incredible opportunity for Matthew to work in a larger church and explore new creative pathways.

Matthew has faithfully played carefully chosen preludes and postludes that have complemented our scriptures and themes for services. He has worked to create creative harmonizations for leading us through hymn singing and has worked with numerous soloists and guest musicians in enhancing our worship services.

While we know Matthew’s talent and passion for excellence at the organ will be missed, we celebrate with him this exciting professional opportunity. After more than 11 years, Matthew’s last Sunday with us will be September 17.

If you would like to show your support and gratitude for Matthew’s ministry with us, you may do so in the form of prayers, cards, and/or a love offering. Financial gifts may be marked "Matthew Manwarren" and given to Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator, in the Church Office.

Sweet Farewell to Rob and Anne Clarke

By Barry Metzger

Rob and Anne Clarke will be moving to Ponte Vedra, Florida in September. Rob has accepted a new position as Director of Operations at a retirement community that begins on October 1. This is an exciting move for the Clarke family as they will be much closer to Anne’s family and the beach! Recognizing that this is a good thing for Rob, Anne, and their family, it will be difficult to replace them on our staff team!

Over the last 14 years, Rob has faithfully managed our property, attending to regular maintenance and updates and also to immediate needs as they arose. Since 2013, Anne has graciously and tirelessly supported the Faith Formation ministries of our Church as Program Assistant. Her meticulous attention to detail and personable demeanor will be sorely missed in the days and months ahead. Rob and Anne’s last day with us will be September 15.

If you would like to show your gratitude and support for Rob and Anne as they embark on this new journey, you may do so in the form of prayers, cards, and/or a love offering. Financial gifts may be marked "Rob & Anne Clarke" and given to Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator, in the Church Office.

Senior Adult Fellowship Schedule

By Joe Aldrich

The time has come to schedule the next meetings for our Senior Adults’ gatherings. We will gather on the following Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30a in the Cornwall Conference Center. Mark your calendar for these dates:

- October 4 | Our speaker will be our Senior Minister, Reverend Ben Boswell
- November 1
- March 7
- April 4

We also are planning to have a Valentine’s Day Luncheon in February!

Stay tuned for details and plan to join us!

Congregational Meeting

Save the Date for a Congregational Meeting and Lunch

Sunday, October 8

in Heaton Hall

immediately following worship

We’ll be talking about the Tactics for our Strategic Plan.

Following lunch, childcare will be provided for kindergarteners and younger.

LABOR DAY CLOSINGS

The Church Office and The Cornwall Center will be closed on Monday, September 4

www.myersparkbaptist.org
**Road Maps To Transformation**

**By Jay Rivers, Chair, Board of Deacons and Carol Reid Fricke, Chair, Strategic Planning Council**

You, the people of this Church, have accepted the challenge of the Jubilee Strategic Plan -- building again on the foundation of our Founders: to constantly stretch, grow, and reach beyond complacency to lead forever forward.

So now the Board of Deacons faces that huge challenge as it offers leadership for our journey forward. The best strategic plan possible is only as good as its ongoing implementation. September’s weekend Deacon Retreat at Kanuga offers the opportunity to invite all Deacons into the vision of the plan and its spiritual foundation and to enlist their specific, concrete efforts to bring the plan to life.

Retreat leader Rev. Dr. Jim Melson is Director of The Cornelius Corps based at New Community Church, a Washington, D.C. faith community in the tradition of the Church of the Saviour. Jim will share “inward + outward + together,” a way his church community uses small groups to combine personal spiritual growth plus justice work plus nurturing wholehearted relationships. The Deacons will use his process to explore the spiritual foundations of the Jubilee Plan and consider the transforming journey that lies ahead for our Church.

Andi Stevenson, our Lee Institute Consultant, will also lead the Board in analyzing the Jubilee Strategic Plan’s Covenant-based Tactics (action steps developed by staff and Ministries this summer). These exciting new Tactics bring the Jubilee Plan to life! Andi will guide Deacons in creating “road maps” of ways they can support the ideas and work to come.

Our hope is that on October 1, when the Deacons return to Charlotte, they will have developed even stronger personal relationships and spiritual and practical commitments for leading us forever forward. The following Sunday, October 8, at our fall Congregational Meeting, we look forward to sharing the new Tactics and our renewed energy with each of you. Plan to join us October 8 for what is sure to be an interesting and exciting gathering!

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**Tell Us Your Stories**

**By Bob Thomason**

A big part of our Jubilee celebration next year will involve looking back at our Church history and remembering stories about events that made us who we are today. Our plan is to make audio recordings of as many of these stories as possible. Once we have recordings, we will make them available in a variety of formats. We will present some at various Jubilee events, and will preserve the recordings on our website. This way members can access the recordings at will and listen to the ones that most interest them.

We will be contacting certain members whom we know have stories to tell. However, we know many of us have stories that give unique insight into our Church’s history. If you have a story you would like to share, we want to hear it! We ask you to consider the following guidelines:

1. Make sure your story has a beginning, middle, and end (don’t ramble).
2. Explain how your story illustrates some unique quality of the Church, or a member of the Church.
3. Be concise; we’d like stories to be less than 3 minutes.
4. Include a line about how the story makes you feel about our Church.

Lynn Trenning, a member of the 75th Anniversary Planning Task Force, is leading this effort. Contact her with your story idea and she’ll arrange a time to meet with you and record your story. If you live out of town, or simply don’t want to be recorded, we can accept written recollections as well. Lynn can be reached at: trelmt@bellsouth.net or 704.344.8610.

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**What do you think of when you think of our Church?**

**The Covenant?**

Through the Covenant we know who we are!

**Find out how we transform our identity into loving action.**

We’re bringing the Jubilee Strategic Plan to life.

**Sunday, October 8**
Beginning in October we will kick off a new Sunday morning small group called “Navigating MPBC.” Following in some of the traditions of Orientation, Navigating will help guests learn more about our Church and one another while discovering what it means to be a member of MPBC. They will journey with us, and one another, as they navigate the Church. Navigating also offers our members the opportunity to come, meet guests, and share their story of becoming a part of the MPBC community. This event is open to all! We will gather in the Parlor before worship. To learn more, please contact Rev. Carrie Veal at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org.

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**Greeters and Ushers**

By Carrie Veal

All of us are called to offer radical hospitality to everyone on our campus. As a part of the new Strategic Plan, we have created a new ministry team called Greeters. Every Sunday, members will be available around the campus welcoming our members and guests. If you would like to learn more, or would like to be a part of this new team, please contact Carrie Veal at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org.

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**Guest Socials: Want to Host One?**

By Carrie Veal

As we have more guests among us, we want to be intentional about getting to know them. In July, a long-time member hosted 9 guests in their home. The conversation was rich, the atmosphere was relaxed, and we want to do more events like it. If you would be interested in hosting a social or learning more about this, please contact me at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org.

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**Update from the Ministry of Facilities Management**

By Gene Doar, Chair, Ministry of Facilities Management

I want to bring you all up to date on where we are with reference to maintaining our wonderful facility that we enjoy for worship and other spiritual endeavors.

As you may know, we have been experiencing problems with the Education Building elevator. These first became apparent several years ago. Although the elevator continues to operate safely, the company that maintains the elevator has told us that it is in desperate need of repair. Without this elevator, there is no way that handicapped church members or visitors have access to classrooms on the 2nd floor. In addition to use by Adult Faith Formation, these classrooms are also rented to outside groups, creating another income stream for the Church. Following a presentation to the Deacons a few months back, one family stepped up and pledged $150,000 as seed money for the 75th Anniversary Campaign to cover the cost of repair to the elevator. We have received a quote of $155,548 from Otis Elevator for the renovation of the elevator itself. In addition, there may be drilling and other work required associated with the cylinder housing for the elevator piston. These and other costs could exceed $80,000. We are keeping the scope of work to only what is absolutely necessary and, therefore, keeping the cost to the minimum possible. Where the funds in excess of the $150,000 gift will come from is unknown at this time, but, for safety reasons, we are moving forward with the repair. We had hoped to have the work completed during the summer months. However, the best we can hope for now is early fall, assuming the necessary funds will be available. This will cause some disruption of Adult Faith Formation classes and rentals. We’ll keep you informed of the status and schedule for the project.

Another item of importance is replacement of the Church bus. As you may know, we have limited the bus to travel only within Mecklenburg County because of its condition. Transporting the youth for various activities and our guests at Room In The Inn are its primary Church purposes. However, the bus is also used by the Cornwell Center each day during the school year by the Cornwell Center After School program. The Cornwell Center is helping with the purchase of a replacement. Hopefully, this will happen prior to Start-Up Sunday.

The other Church vehicle used extensively by the staff is a pickup truck. The truck has had many issues recently resulting in expensive repair bills. We are attempting to find an adequate, reliable, inexpensive replacement.

These are the major items that we have faced within the Ministry over the past year. However, they are not the only items requiring our immediate attention. Removing bees from the Church façade and repairing water-damaged walls in the basement of the Sanctuary are examples of emergency issues that have arisen. Needless to say, it’s a challenge to keep everything running at optimum levels each and every week, and we couldn’t achieve it without the dedication and service provided by our custodial staff and Ministry members.

I also would like to acknowledge the work of Rev. Barry Metzger to our Ministry. He is always cheerful, gracious, and helpful. We welcome Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman as the new Church Administrator and our Staff Liaison. But we will surely miss Barry! He has been indispensable to our mission!
<table>
<thead>
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<th>FAITH FORMATION</th>
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<td><strong>Adult Sunday Morning Faith Formation</strong></td>
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| **The Bridge** | **Faith Encounters** |
| Adults 20-40-ish | Room 253 | Leader: Dick Blackwell |
| Adults age 55+ | Room 261 | Leader: Dixie Pinson |
| This class explores and learns about the journeys of our members as people of faith. Within the greater context of the whole Church, participants view themselves as the bridge between who we have been, who we are, and who we will become as a community of faith. Topics range from stories of the Bible learned (or not) in youth and how those stories inform our adult lives, relationships, and busy schedules. Class members seek to find their voices, their values, and their beliefs and to support one another in the journey as the gathered, scattered body of Christ, and as children of an all-loving God. | Faith Encounters encourages questions and embraces diversity as the class explores new thoughts and ideas together. Class members embrace that they are all on a spiritual journey and the class is committed to going about it together. Rather than using one specific curriculum, members proudly say, “We are our curriculum.” Weekly conversation topics are selected and led by class members. They include book studies, DVD studies, and the occasional guest speaker. This fall, class discussions will be based on a DVD study (by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt Divinity School) of the Hebrew Bible. |

| **Centerquest** | **Life Class** |
| Adults of all ages | Room 256 | Leader: Nancy Berry |
| Adults all ages; tends to be 55+ | Coffee House Organizers: Ed Hinson and Eleanor Brawley |
| Centerquest is a group with mixed family status, ages, and interests who discuss a variety of subjects. Class leadership is shared among members. The class occasionally gathers for social activities and encourages involvement in outreach activities. Recent classes have covered material from Joseph Campbell, Karen Armstrong, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, and Serene Jones. At times we have experiential learning, exploring nature and creativity. Where it fits, we use the Centerquest model, based on the work of Carl Jung. | The Life Class is a multigenerational class that works to create an atmosphere of free discussion and sharing while studying a wide range of topics, selected by the planning team for the class. Topics include biblical texts and themes, the teachings of important theologians, religious themes found in literature and plays, discussions of local, national, and international issues, and Christian responses and actions. “We believe we are on a faith journey and that we can learn from one another and from outside leaders.” |

| **A Course In Miracles** | **Seekers** |
| Adults of all ages | Room 260 | Leader: Jim Hanley |
| Adults all ages, tends to be 40 - 70 | Room 257 |
| Contact: Tony Dick |
| A psychological approach to spirituality, based on the principles of “ACIM” as they relate to all-inclusive forgiveness. The focus is on coping with life’s challenges and discovering paths to inner peace. (Introductory ACIM classes are available every Sunday, 9:00-9:45a, or by appointment.) | The Seekers is a group of individuals from a variety of religious and spiritual backgrounds that gathers to discuss topics ranging from theology to social justice to movies. We are open to the teachings and wisdoms of faith traditions both new and old, and from far and near. We enjoy a good discussion on just about any topic. Our conversations are sparked by sacred writings, literature, social commentary, and other contemporary media. |

| **Explorers** | **Read the Bible Again for the First Time** |
| Adults of all ages | Room 255 | Organizer: Jenny Martella |
| Adults all ages; tends to be 55+ | Room 254 | Leader: Nancy Culp |
| The Explorers class was originally formed more than 10 years ago by a group of new members looking to form closer relationships with other MPBC members. We are proud of the diverse age group representation in our class and we learn from each other. The class hosts conversations led by group members who have committed to leading one month at a time. Recent topics have included a discussion of author Richard Rohr, meditation and the intersection of faith and daily life. Another popular source for conversations is the Wired Word, a weekly iteration of current events and how they relate to faith. We host a potluck dinner at member homes up to twice a year. | Do you know where to find the story of Job or Jonah? Did you know there’s a book in the Bible named Habakkuk? Is Luke a book in the Bible or a Star Wars character? Did you know the Bible has over 1000 chapters? Let's read the Bible again, perhaps for the first time, and find the answers to these and many other questions. We will engage in an overview of all 66 books of the Bible. Keep in mind, this is not biblical scholarship or a “critical examination” of scripture. This is a surface dance, a mere glance, at the book we call Holy. Join us as we open the Bible to these books, these verses, these words upon which we rest our understanding of our Christian faith. Come on, it'll be fun! Oh, and bring a Bible of your choice. |

| **Fifth Dimension** | **Sunday Morning Yoga** |
| Open to all adults, tends to be 60+ | Room 250-252 |
| Leader: Lee Wensil |
| Adults of all ages | Cornell Center Group Exercise Room |
| Instructor: Katie Kucich |

A long-standing, traditional Sunday school class where we share pastoral concerns, sing hymns, and explore Bible lessons. Teachers include the ministerial staff at this Church and other Church members who love to teach. | If you're interested in trying yoga as a spiritual practice that engages your body, mind, and spirit, join us! During our practice, we engage in beginner level yoga that will help you prepare for worship in new ways (and won't get you too sweaty). |
The United States has a long and complicated history, especially as it pertains to our welcome of newcomers. Beginning with the founding of the first European colonies at the expense of the indigenous people and continuing through today, this “melting pot” that was built on values of inclusion, welcome, and diversity has always struggled to fully realize this American dream. In recent years, the politics and rhetoric around immigration has become a hot topic in public discourse. With lines drawn clearly in the sand based on opinions and partisan allegiances, Americans and even people of faith struggle to find common ground across political lines.

This year we will reframe the conversation on immigration by looking at the issues through a faith-based lens that builds on the scriptural call to love the foreigner and welcome the stranger (Leviticus 19, Deuteronomy 10). The series includes sessions led by local scholars and leaders who will help us understand the differences between asylum seekers, refugees, the undocumented, and illegal immigrants. We will learn together about the history of immigration and immigration policy. We will look to scripture and seek understanding about how God may be working among us and calling us to seek justice for all who come to this country. In addition, we will explore the role of media in shaping our consciousness about foreigners and strangers.

Throughout the year we will also host a number of small group opportunities so that each of you can explore your family histories through genealogies. Small groups will also form around books from the recommended reading list, as well as organized groups that will visit local restaurants owned by immigrants. Similar to last year’s Awakening series, this year will also include pilgrimage opportunities that will be posted later this fall or winter.

In addition to monthly Wednesday night gatherings, ongoing small group opportunities, and pilgrimages, this year’s Awakening series includes several strategic partnerships that will help us get to know people who have immigrated to this country and also help us engage in advocacy for these new neighbors in our midst. For these unique opportunities we are grateful for the partnership of the Baptist Peace Fellowship - Bapuistas pour la Paz, Queens University and the Stan Greenspon Center, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Latin American Coalition, and Camino Church, to name a few.

A brochure outlining the full series will be available at the Church on Start-Up Sunday, September 10. Information will also be available online at www.myersparkbaptist.org. If you have questions about the series or how you might join a small group, please contact me at cwilliamson@myersparkbaptist.org.
Youth Ministry "In The Moment"

By Allen Davis

We are excited to begin Youth Ministry for the 2017-2018 church year. Our theme for this year is “In the Moment,” focusing on finding God in each moment of our lives. We will also focus on leadership development for our youth, with a monthly leadership trait to explore. Our summer has been jam-packed with activities during #MPBCSummerChill. This time of fellowship has given us a chance to kick back and enjoy the summer months. We have gathered for ice cream, played four square, and had dinner together among other activities. Check our Instagram and Facebook pages for details.

This fall, Youth Fellowship will begin making a time shift on Sundays. Please visit the website (www.myersparkbaptist.org) weekly to see the meeting time. We will meet at either 3:30p or 6:00p. The website, handbook, and social media will give you the exact times each week. Our first evening Youth Fellowship will be on September 17 at 6:00p. We will have a Launch Party on Start-Up Sunday, September 10, at 1:00p following the BBQ lunch.

We are excited about our upcoming events in Youth Ministry. On October 13-14, we will have our middle school retreat at the White-water Center. Our high school "Up All-Nighter" will be November 10-11. Our yearly Kanuga retreat will be held on January 12-14, 2018. Please mark your calendars for these events.

Finally, we are looking for people who are willing to share moments in which they have found God working in their lives. If you would like to participate in the building of relationships as a Sunday Morning Faith Formation (SMFF) leader, retreat chaperone, or fellowship volunteer, please contact me at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org.

Children’s Ministry News

By Carrie Veal

VBS 2017

A Great Three Days!

Superheroes were all around!! Thanks to everyone who made VBS 2017 a HUGE success. We had so much fun learning, laughing, and growing. Every moment was a memory. Already making plans for VBS 2018. Hope to see you there!

Sunday, September 17 | 11:00a

As we journey together, we celebrate the joys of those among us. Family Dedication offers the congregation a chance to meet new children, learn about their families, and commit to walking beside families. It offers families a chance to experience love and support from their faith community. If your family would like to participate, please contact me at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org.

PASSPORTkids!

Do. Love. Walk. They seem like simple words, but this year at PASSPORTkids, our third – fifth graders discovered that these simple words can make a major impact on their world. PASSPORTkids offered these four fifth graders a chance to bond as they prepare to move into the Youth Ministry.

Save the date for PASSPORTkids 2018 - July 26 – 29. Completed third – fifth graders will be invited. To learn more, contact me at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org.

Children’s Ministry Start-Up Week

Things are getting ready to start up, not just on Sundays, but for the whole Church year! Here are the things you need to know:

• Sunday, September 10 - Faith Formation for three-year-olds – fifth graders will resume. This is a wonderful opportunity for adults to serve our families. Volunteers will be trained, given all lessons and supplies, and serve alongside others. Invite a friend and contact me at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org or 704.334.7232 x 118 to learn more!

• Wednesday, September 13 - Coffee Chats resume. You are invited to the Parlor at 9:15a and/or 5:15p for Coffee Chat. Through intentional conversations, relationships are built and friendships grow. This fall we will incorporate how to approach faith with your children as we share our journeys together. Join us!
Outreach Opportunity: Get Involved at Hawthorne Place

By Cindy Clemens

For many years, MPBC members hosted newly homeless families in the youth department rooms as part of the “Family Promise” program. In 2011, local organizations joined together to form Charlotte Family Housing and a new model was created. Homeless families live at Shamrock Place, Hawthorne Place, and Elizabeth House while they obtain employment, manage their finances, and attend classes.

The next two outreach opportunities for MPBC are the weeks of September 17-21 and December 17-21 at Hawthorne Place (located in St. John’s Baptist Church, 300 Hawthorne Lane).

What’s needed?
1. Volunteers prepare and serve dinner to Hawthorne Place families on Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday. This is typically an entrée, vegetable, salad, and dessert. Most volunteers enjoy staying for dinner and getting to know the families at Hawthorne Place.
2. One adult volunteer is needed to stay each night, serving as overnight host, Sunday through Thursday. A private bedroom and bathroom is assigned to the overnight host. Children are in their rooms by 8:00p and adults typically head to their rooms by 9:00p. The on-site coordinator is back by 7:00a the following morning. High-speed internet, television, and linens are provided.

How to volunteer?
Email me (cclemens@charlottenc.gov) or look for the SignUp Genius link on the MPBC website under “Outreach.”

Charlotte Family Housing’s Mission:
Empower homeless families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through shelter, housing, supportive services, and advocacy.

Mark your calendar for: September 17-21 and December 17-21

Freedom School Finale

By Karen Taylor, Co-Chair, Ministry of Outreach

On July 27, Myers Park Baptist hosted 80 Pinewood scholars and their friends and families for a joyous Finale in Heaton Hall. The scholars enjoyed lunch and performed original songs and skits showcasing the theme "I can make a difference."

Freedom School 2017 was a great success due in part to the overwhelming participation of the many MPBC volunteers.

This was the fourth year MPBC has supported this summer literacy program at Pinewood Elementary. This year we increased the number of scholars from 50 to 80 and knew we would need many more volunteers to read with students, help with field trips, assist with parent night set ups, provide supplies, and lead on-site activities. I would like to personally thank all 82 volunteers, an increase from 53 the previous year, for the positive time and energy you shared with the scholars and staff.

Through volunteering at Pinewood either at Freedom School or during the past school year, some of us have expressed a desire to continue working with this neighborhood school. Our Outreach Ministry has formed a small group to support the students, parents, and staff of Pinewood. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity to serve our neighbors, please contact me at fitztaylor@aol.com.

Youth Passport Camp 2017

McCreesh Place Cookout
Saturday, September 30 | Noon

By Bob Bishop
Volunteers are needed to help cook, serve lunch, mingle, play games, and share fellowship with the residents at McCreesh Place. Families and kids are welcome and appreciated. For details and to sign up, contact Bob Bishop at bobbishop47@yahoo.com.

Finance Report
Year-to-Date
July 31, 2017

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www.myersparkbaptist.org
Mark and Maggie O’Connor
Sunday, September 24

(continued from page 1)
Method, which teaches orchestra and solo repertoire of American classics with emphasis on creativity, improvisation, and cultural diversity. His wife Maggie has a strong classical background from Peabody Conservatory. Having grown up in a family band, she was instilled with a desire to improvise and create and learned to love music from bluegrass to Brahms. She says, “Mark is a modern day Mozart, but I prove that good technical skills, American styles, and fiddling can come together seamlessly.” Mark and Maggie tour with other family members as the O’Connor Band.

The Season is Changing Again; Celebrate With Us

By Deb Steiner
We will gather in the Chapel on Sunday, September 24 from 5:00-6:00p to fellowship together as we celebrate the beginning of the season of Autumn. Come join us for a contemplative worship service in the Taizé style that will include singing, readings, prayers, communion, and silence. You are welcome to walk the labyrinth either before or after the service. Bring a friend with you.

It's Almost Time for Children's Choirs!

By Charlotte Judge

On Start-Up Sunday, September 10, be sure to stop by the choir table on the patio to say hello and receive a special treat. Carol Choir (K-1st) will meet 5:15–6:15p. Chapel Choir (2nd through 5th) will meet 5:15–6:30p. We will begin rehearsals with a snack at 5:10p and then move through singing, movement, and instrument experiences. Each choir will lead in worship throughout the year. Registration for Children’s Choirs is available through myMPBC.

Through-The-Week School News

By Belinda Geuss

The classrooms at Myers Park Baptist Church will once again be filled with play on September 5 as 192 children return to Through-the-Week School for its 62nd year. For the 2017-2018 school year, TTWS will be led by 27 dedicated and hard-working staff. We are proud to welcome new teachers Susan Boylston (toddlers), Julie Kelly (twos), and Amy Wilson (fours).

The summer has been filled with several property projects which included a total renovation of Room 213. This new Transitional Kindergarten room was transformed with 5 coats of paint, LED overhead lighting, window treatments, and installation of a new sink and cabinet. Fresh mulch will cover the preschool playground and sand will be added to a framed sandbox, which will enable children to have an area strictly dedicated for sand play. Due to one of our Myers Park willow oaks meeting its demise, surface repairs, as well as an umbrella structure will be installed within the next month on the two-year-olds playground.

This fall, we are excited for many upcoming events which include New Parent Orientation, a Book Fair, and our annual Festival of Friends fundraiser on October 21, which will be held at the home of TTWS parents Peyton and Stephen Hostetler. Funds raised this year will help with the creation of a rainy day room for toddlers and twos, security upgrades, playground benches, gift of classroom pictures to parents, and funding for staff appreciation week.

More information regarding Through-the-Week School may be found at our new website, www.throughtheweekschool.com.
Member Appreciation Week

September 10-15!

- S  Salad-in-a-jar Party!  4pm
- Movie: Your Microbiome  4pm
- M  Sunrise Yoga on the Roof  6:30am
- Organic Smoothies & Snacks  8:30am
- Mom’s Playdate  10:15am
- T  Labyrinth Walk  9:30am
- Carolina Bubble Party  5pm
- W  Lunchbox Workshop  10:30am
- DIY Hand Sanitizer  10:30am
- T  Sunrise Yoga on the Lawn  6:30am
- Meditation 101  9:30am
- Free Tai Chi  2pm
- F  Parents Night Out  6-9pm

Check the website for lots MORE!!

Fitness

**New Fitness Experience Team Members:**

- **Zach Holt** graduated from Myers Park and was an assistant manager at Ben & Jerry’s. He went to TTWS and is excited to be back on our campus. Look for Zach Tuesday and Thursday mornings 5-10am.
- **Sean McGeehan** brings his experience as a logistics coordinator, E-Tour, Web.com Pro Caddy, and Physical Therapy Aide to us along with a big smile. Sean is studying to become a Group Ex instructor.

**New Group Exercise Instructors:**

- **Susan Gertzman** has spent over 20 years in fitness including as Director of Fitness for Gold’s Gyms of Charlotte. She is excited to teach classes and join our team!
- **Kayla Moore** is an experienced instructor, teaching BootCamp, Boxing, TRX, and Athletic Conditioning classes. Stacey R referred her to us.

**On the Move:** Jeff Shoaf will switch to 12:00 Tuesday and Debra Toth will now teach the 12:00 Thursday Therapeutic Yoga class.

**Back after Labor Day:** SAT BootCamp, TUES & THUR 1:00pm Barre & Yoga classes, FRI Tai Chi.

**Evening Fitness Options**

For PM workouts, check out classes on Monday, Tuesday*, and Wednesday nights. (*Childcare Tuesdays 5:30-7:30)

LiveWell Cornwall

**Naturopathic Heart Health**

Wednesday, September 20
10:30AM-12:00PM
Cornwell Conference Room

Concerned about your blood pressure, high cholesterol, swelling of the hands or feet, or other vascular issues?

Naturopathic Physician Dr. Dave Hamilton will address nutritional, herbal, lifestyle, and homeopathic approaches to improving cardiovascular health. Grab your seat for this free presentation to learn about Homeopathy and your health!

Register at cornwellcenter.org or at the Welcome Desk. Brought to you courtesy of the Learning Connection.

**PHOTO Connections**

Wednesday, September 20
7-9PM with John Bambach cornwellcenter.org/photo/

Don’t stop the movement – show it! Our September assignment is Action Blur. Try panning your camera to keep the subject sharp while the background blurs. Like a moving car or cyclist against a streaking background. Or let the subject itself blur because of its movement. Email 1-2 shots (jbambach@cornwellcenter.org) by noon on September 19. FREE and OPEN to all levels of experience and equipment.

A Fond Farewell

James Gause, Cornwell Center Facility Manager, is relocating to Killeen, Texas on September 1 to join his new bride, Vivian.

James came to the Cornwell Center in 2012 as a volunteer, teaching computer skills with Jacob’s Ladder. He was quickly hired to assist in the computer lab and work at the welcome desk, prior to his promotion to Facilities Manager. We wish James and Vivian all the very best in their new life together. He will truly be missed. If you would like to contribute to a love offering, please see Lee Gaddis.

DONATE BLOOD!

**Cornwell Center Blood Drive**

Saturday September 9 | 9am-12pm
Please sign up TODAY to enter to win a Movie Night Gift Basket!

Visit www.ncdonor.com and enter sponsor name: Cornwall

FALL HOURS

M - Th  5:00 AM - 9:00 PM
F  5:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Sa  7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Su  12:00 AM - 5:00 PM

The Cornwell Center will be closed on Labor Day.
These hours take effect on Tuesday, September 5

www.CornwellCenter.org
(704) 927-0774

Check Facebook for events
@TheCornwellCenter
Ministers and Staff

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September at MPBC

Sep. 3  Jazz Worship in the Round | 10:00a | Sanctuary
Sep. 4  Labor Day Holiday | page 3
Sep. 6  Music Together Fall Session Starts  
Faith Formation Classes | page 6
Sep. 10  Start-Up Sunday | front cover  
Connections Start | page 7  
Youth Launch Party | page 8
Youth Choir | page 10

Sep. 13  Children’s Choirs | page 10
Children’s Choirs | page 10
Coffee Chat | page 8
Awakening to Immigrant Injustice Series Begins | page 7
Sep. 17  Family Dedication | page 8
Outreach: Hawthorne Place | page 9
Sep. 21  Outreach: Men’s Shelter | 4:00-6:00p

Sep. 24  Music by Mark & Maggie O’Connor | front cover
Retirement Reception for Barry Metzger | page 2
Taize Prayer Service | page 10

Sep. 29  Deacon Retreat | page 4
Sept. 30  Outreach: McCreesh Place | page 9