Jazz in the Round
Sunday, September 2

The 15th Sunday After Pentecost
Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell Preaching
Dawn Anthony, Vocalist

September 2 will be our final Sunday of 10:00a summer worship and Sermon TalkBack.

LABOR DAY CLOSINGS

The Church Office, TTWS, and The Cornwell Center will be closed on Monday, September 3.

Start-Up Weekend

Friday, September 7
9:00a - 2:00p Cornwell Center 15th Birthday Celebration
See back cover for more information

Sunday, September 9
9:45 - 10:45a Forum with Ched Myers and Elaine Enns | Heaton Hall
See article below
9:45 - 10:45a Faith Formation Classes for Children and Youth
See articles on pages 6 and 7
11:00a - Noon Worship with Communion
See page 5
Noon - 1:30p Barbeque Lunch and Fellowship
See page 8
3:30 - 5:00p Youth Fellowship
See page 6
4:00 - 6:00p Teach-In with Ched Myers and Elaine Enns | Heaton Hall
See article below
5:00 - 6:00p Youth Choir
See page 6

Monday, September 10
4:30 -6:30p Interview, and Q&A with Ched Myers and Elaine Enns | Heaton Hall
See article below

Wednesday, September 12
5:00 - 6:30p Children’s Choirs
See page 7
5:00 - 6:30p Coffee Chat
See page 7

Thursday, September 13
7:00 - 9:00p Chancel Choir Rehearsal
See page 5

Ched Myers and Elaine Enns

By Chrissy Williamson

As we continue our 75th Anniversary celebration, we welcome Bible scholars Ched Myers and Elaine Enns as guest speakers and preachers for Start-Up Sunday. During their two-day stay with us, they will speak on topics ranging from the human body to the Syrophoenician woman in Mark 7, to restorative justice, to incarnational living. Come learn from them and to engage them in conversation. Full schedule is available online.

• Sunday, September 9
9:45a | Forum | Heaton Hall | "A Somatic Faith"
11:00a | Sermon | "Political Bodies and Body Politics"

4:00p | Teach-In | Heaton Hall | "Faith Embodied"
• Monday, September 10 | 6:30p | Heaton Hall Interview and Q&A | "From Denial to Discipleship"

Ched and Elaine spend their time speaking, writing, and working with their organization, Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries (BCM), founded in 1998 as an ecumenical experiment that seeks to work collaboratively with communities of faith. Their specific areas of focus include church renewal, restorative justice, Sabbath economics, bioregional sustainability, and social transformation. Learn more at www.bcm-net.org.
Awakening the Body

By Chrissy Williamson

Our third annual Awakening series kicks off this month with a powerhouse pair of scholars, Ched Myers and Elaine Enns, leading us in a forum that will set the stage for the year’s focus on the body. For more on Ched and Elaine, see p. 2. So what is Awakening the Body all about?

Think about this. When you wake up, you’re in your body. When you read a book or learn something new, your body is helping you to see, listen, hear, and comprehend. When you smell chocolate chip cookies baking or fresh bread, your body helps you remember where you were the last time you smelled that smell. In many ways, our bodies are our primary teachers. Even as our bodies are teaching us, we are being taught about our bodies by media, doctors, culture, and more!

During this year’s series, we will engage in spiritual practices that engage our bodies and strive to help us connect body, mind, soul, and earth. We will also study the history of the relationship between the church and the body. Along the way we will address aging, gender identity, sexuality, health, wellness, death, and other topics pertaining to our human bodies.

September Awakening the Body Gatherings:
- **September 9** | 9:45 - 10:45a | Sunday Morning Forum | Heaton Hall | Ched Myers and Elaine Enns | “A Somatic Faith: Introducing the Year of the Body Series”
- **September 19** | 6:30 - 8:00p | Heaton Hall | Ben Boswell and Chrissy Williamson | "History of Disembodiment"

Chrissy and Ben talk about our state of cultural and spiritual disembodiment -- how we got here and what we can do about it.

Good Vibrations: Awakening the Body Speakers Coming to LIFE

By Bruce Elliott, LIFE Class Member

This 2018-2019 Church year we will be exploring the theme of Awakening the Body by way of seminars led by clergy, outside presenters, and our J21 speaker in October. There are three classes coming up this month that will launch us on this journey, and we are inviting everyone to join us for these special sessions.

Rev. Chrissy Williamson will start us off on September 16 and 23 at 9:45a in the Coffee House as she tells in detail how we are approaching and defining this theme, and how we can apply it in our daily lives. She will also provide some insight on the presentations that our J21 speaker, Eboni Marshall Turman, will make during her visit with us.

On the last Sunday of the month, we will welcome two presenters from Atrium Healthcare: Susan Yaguda (pictured) and Dean Quick. Susan is the program coordinator at the Levine Cancer Institute, working with cancer patients to integrate healing modalities to diminish pain and even alleviate symptoms. As Susan writes, “the awakening of the senses through the arts is foundational in the use of creative art therapies . . . the use of healing arts in cancer treatment offers patients an opportunity to work with their experience non-verbally and creatively.” These encounters can unlock difficult emotions that need to be experienced in order for healing and true spiritual integration to take place. Susan and Dean will outline some of the uses of music and therapeutic art and provide us with a live demonstration on September 30 at 9:45a in Shalom Hall.
**Adult Sunday Morning Faith Formation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Bridge</th>
<th>Room 253</th>
<th>Facilitators: Chrissy Williamson &amp; Carrie Veal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This class is open to all, but specifically designed for youngish adults. All are welcome, no matter who you are or who you’re with. 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. Throughout this year, we'll study New Testament texts that help us connect -- mind, body and spirit -- with the ever-changing world around us.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Faith Encounters</th>
<th>Room 261</th>
<th>Leader: Dixie Pinson</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faith Encounters encourages questions and relishes 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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Centerquest</th>
<th>Room 256</th>
<th>Leader: Nancy Berry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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. 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.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Class</th>
<th>Coffee House</th>
<th>Organizers: Ed Hinson and Eleanor Brawley</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Life Class is a longstanding 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. The class always welcomes new participants. “We believe we are on a faith journey and that we can learn from one another and from outside leaders.”</td>
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<tr>
<th>A Course In Miracles</th>
<th>Room 260</th>
<th>Leader: Jim Hanley</th>
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<tr>
<td>A psychological approach to spirituality, based on the principles of A Course In Miracles (“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, by prior appointment.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Seekers</th>
<th>Room 257</th>
<th>Contact: Tony Dick</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Explorers</th>
<th>Room 255</th>
<th>Organizer: Jenny Martella</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Read the Bible Again for the First Time</th>
<th>Room 254</th>
<th>Leader: Nancy Culp</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Fifth Dimension</th>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Leader: MaryAnn Largen</th>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday Morning Yoga</th>
<th>Cornwell Group Exercise Room</th>
<th>Instructor: Katie Kucich</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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).</td>
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Myers Park Baptist Church
**Commissioned Anthem for Start-Up Sunday, September 9 Worship**

By Fran Morrison

“From Generation to Generation,” the title of the anthem by Tom Trenney, was commissioned as part of our 75th Anniversary celebrations. Trenney took Carol Reid Fricke’s prayer “A Prayer for Our Jubilee Plan” and used it to guide his writing of music and text. He opens with some direct quotes from the poem and an unsettled rhythm (text painting), “We warm ourselves by fire we did not light, and stand upon foundations we did not lay. We lift our eyes to beauty we did not create. You’ve led us to this day.” And then he intersperses a few phrases of the familiar hymn text, “O God, our help in ages past” using a beautiful new melody. The anthem will be enhanced by a string quartet, flute, oboe, and organ. I hope you can be present for this musical offering during 11:00 worship on start-up Sunday, September 9. A string quartet prelude will begin at 10:50a.

**Nativity Tableau Change and Remembrances**

By Fran Morrison

As you read in last month’s Newsletter, we will celebrate our final Nativity Tableau this Christmas Eve following the 6:00p Candlelight Worship service. The decision to sunset this event has followed many conversations over several years as well as having Deacon input from an April meeting this year.

This fall we will celebrate the legacy of the Tableau, share old and newer memories of the evening, and acknowledge those families who have portrayed the Holy Family. On the evening of December 24, we will offer a proper farewell event for everyone in our Church and community whose lives have been touched by the Nativity Tableau.

Remembrance from Nancy Gribble:

I remember how special it was for Skip and me to be a part of the nativity. (We never, ever missed being there.) Even now, without him, our family is there always . . . it’s a special time to be still, pray, and reflect. We were so honored that Christmas Eve to be part of the Tableau that has FOREVER been a family tradition for the Gribbles. At that time, Brent was the youngest baby in the congregation, but, alas, he was too big for the dresser drawer that served as the manger! We held him most of the night . . . were in awe of the reverence of the scene, felt God’s presence . . . and the memory of that Christmas Eve has been and always will be a moment in our lives that lasts forever!

**Silence Can Truly Be Golden! Celebrate the Changing of the Seasons With Us**

By Deb Steiner

To mark the beginning of Autumn when many of the leaves around here turn red, yellow, and gold, we will gather in the Chapel on Wednesday, September 26, from 7:00-7:45p. Come away for a time from the noises of the rest of the world to join us for contemplative worship that includes silence, singing, readings, prayers, and Communion. You are welcome to walk the Labyrinth either before or after the service. Bring a friend with you.

**Chancel Choir**

By Fran Morrison

There’s always room for more! If you google the benefits of singing, you will find a long list ranging from strengthening your immune system to toning muscles, helping you sleep while keeping you optimistic. Yes, singing does all of that and more. But most importantly, it brings people together in community -- in ensemble -- and gives us an avenue for connecting with the divine. We invite you to experience the thrill of adding your voice to a roomful of others. It is a high that is hard to explain, but it is so worth taking the step.

Give me a call at 704.334.7232 x 117 or email at fmorrison@myersparkbaptist.org to visit rehearsals or join us. I would love to share our plans for this coming year. Fall rehearsals begin Thursday, September 9 from 7:00-9:00p in Berry Hall.
Youth Ministry at MPBC

By Allen Davis

Summer is all about creating new experiences, visiting cool places, and making new friends. Why does all that fun have to stop now that school has begun? Well, it doesn't have to for us at MPBCYM, and we're excited to kick off a new year.

Here at Myers Park Baptist Church, our Youth Ministry is about connecting youth with others who provide models and mentorship of faith, leadership, and life. We empower our youth to travel along their paths while creating lifelong friendships, connect with other youth throughout our community, and connect with mentoring adults through Church retreats and worship experiences. We talk about the real concerns youth have, how to help, and how to know God’s love, grace, peace, and hope in every part of life.

We get to “Connect” weekly on Sundays at 9:45a for Sunday Morning Faith Formation (SMFF) and from 3:30-5:00p for Youth Fellowship. During SMFF, we will explore the connection between servant leadership and faith formation. At Youth Fellowship, youth are engaged in experiences together that foster community and empower them as leaders. During both SMFF and Youth Fellowship, we will meet in the Youth Hall above the TTWS classrooms.

We look forward to building relationships outside of the Church walls through retreats. Our middle school lock-in will be held on September 28 and 29 at the Whitewater Center. High school students will have 12 hours of fun on November 17. Our annual winter retreat to Kanuga will be held January 18-20, 2019. Signups will be available on the MPBCYM website or email me for more details.

Start-Up Sunday is September 9. We will kick off the year with an adult-sized inflatable obstacle course, food, and fellowship starting at 3:30p. We encourage ALL youth in 6th-12th grades to clear your schedules and join us on Sundays! If you have any questions, send us a DM on Facebook or Instagram @mpbcym.

Does this interest you but you're a little older than 12th grade? You can still participate in the MPBC Youth Ministry. Everyone needs others who cheer for them! It used to be said that every youth needs an adult mentor. Now, some research says every youth needs at least seven adult mentors who help them navigate through life. We are always looking for adults to serve as mentors and models for our youth. Whether you can participate once, weekly, or only on retreats, we welcome you to come and be a part of our community. We are better with you here!! If you're interested in serving, please reach out to me at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org.

Put These on Your Calendar

SUNDAYS
9:45-10:45a | Faith Formation Classes | Youth Hall
3:30-5:00p | Youth Fellowship | Youth Hall

September 9
9:45a | Faith Formation Classes
3:30p | Youth Fellowship Kick-Off

September 28-29
Middle School Lock-In at the Whitewater Center

November 17
High School 12-Hours of Fun Event

January 18-20, 2019
Kanuga Retreat

Youth Choir Begins
Start-Up Sunday, September 9
5:00-6:00p | Berry Hall

By Charlotte Judge

We need you! Youth Choir is an amazing way to be a leader in worship and in your Church. The bonds and friendships that you form in Youth Choir will last a lifetime. Register now through myMPBC. If you have any questions, please contact me at cjjudge@myersparkbaptist.org or 704.334.7232 x 121.

Music is one of the most powerful things the world has to offer. No matter what race or religion or nationality or sexual orientation or gender that you are, it has the power to unite us. ~ Lady Gaga
**Start-Up Sunday and Children**

*By Carrie Veal*

It’s a new year, with new classrooms and new volunteers. But it’s also a time to see our friends who we have missed all summer long. This year we hope to have even more families than last year! Below is the schedule and classroom list for each age group.

**Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45a – Noon</td>
<td>Childcare for Babies – Twos</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 -10:45a</td>
<td>Faith Formation for Threes – 5th Graders</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00a - Noon</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Threes – Kindergarten begin on the rugs in the Sanctuary, then leave with paid providers for play and snack.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1st – 5th Graders will sit with their parents then leave for Children’s Worship with Katie Hambrick and Sol Lopez.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon - 1:30p</td>
<td>BBQ Lunch on the Cornwall Center Lawn with bounce houses, fellowship, and fun!</td>
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**Room Assignments and Childcare Providers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Provider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants – Walking</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>Savannah Taylor and De’Laya Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddlers – Two Year Olds</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Selena Gaddy and Daj Burt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three and Four Year Olds</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Amanda Healy and Michelle Hagens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TK and Kindergarten</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>Sol Lopez and Abby Tobias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First – Fifth Graders</td>
<td>Upstairs on the Elementary Hallway</td>
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**Children’s Worship**

*By Katie Hambrick*

This summer has been so life-giving. As many of you know, we rolled out a new Children’s Worship program which allowed our children to engage with the scripture and go deeper theologically with creative activities designed just for them. It provided an open space for them to ask questions and seek understanding. The response from children, parents, and Church members has been so positive that we are excited to announce that we have decided to continue the program into the new school year.

**Children’s Choirs Start September 12**

*By Charlotte Judge*

Carol Choir (K-1st Grades) and Chapel Choir (2nd through 5th Grades) will meet beginning at 5:00p. After a snack, each group will move through singing, movement, and instrument experiences. Each choir will lead in worship throughout the year. This year we are fortunate to have Anna-Catherine Fowler leading the Orff instruction. I’ve even heard through the grapevine that we might be using the handchimes! Register your child(ren) now through myMPBC. Questions? Contact me at 704.334.7232 x 121 or cjudge@myersparkbaptist.org.

**Join Children’s Ministry This Fall**

*By Carrie Veal*

A new Church year brings new opportunities for engaging with the children of our congregation. The best place for this is Faith Formation on Sunday mornings from 9:45–10:45. Each week, volunteers are needed to work with children ages three – 5th grade. Your lessons, supplies, and training are provided.

This year, our preschoolers will learn Bible stories around the theme of God’s care and compassion. Some of the stories and Bible passages will be Psalm 139, The Good Shepherd, and Moses.

The theme for our elementary children is test of faith. Some of those stories will be The Garden of Eden, Ruth, and Christmas Dreams. Here is an overview of how you can serve:

- **Preschool Sunday Morning Faith Formation** (ages 3 – Kindergarten) (Classes: 3s/4s and TK/K)
  - The commitment is for two Sundays per semester. Your lessons are sent ahead of time to allow plenty of time for you to familiarize yourself with what you will teach. All supplies are provided. Lessons can be prepared in 30 minutes or less.

- **Elementary Sunday Morning Faith Formation Groups** (first – fifth grades).
  - There are two different ways to serve:
    - **Shepherds** commit to 1-2 Sundays per month. Shepherds serve on a team and the team works out the schedule. 2 Adults are needed each week. Shepherds do not teach, but take attendance, hear joys and concerns, and are there to connect with the kids.
    - **Workshop Leaders** (God’s Garden | Groups are: 1st/2nd Grades and 3rd/4th/5th Grades) commit to 2 Sundays per month and lead a workshop that is of interest to them. This year the workshops will be: Cooking, Art, Games, Drama, and Cinema. Each workshop has a storytelling component alongside the activity. All lessons and supplies are provided for you.

To learn more and sign up, please contact me or Katie Hambrick.

**Family Dedication Sunday, September 16**

*By Carrie Veal*

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and with today’s culture most families want all the help they can get. Through Family Dedication, we as a Church are telling young families that we will be part of their village. We will help their children learn about love and kindness, as well as who we are as a community of faith. This is more than just a moment in worship. This is a sacred ritual where we are invited to join families on this road of parenthood. Parents who dedicate their children to God and the Church are showing their openness to sharing their journey with all of the Church. Families who want to be a part of this fall dedication, please contact me no later than Tuesday, September 11.
By Carrie Veal

As we continue to Live Forward, we continue to practice hospitality with our guests, those who might be strangers to us. There are so many ways you as a congregant can do this. I would like to share two.

Every Sunday, the Ministers stand at the doors of the Sanctuary to greet worshippers. We love seeing new faces and familiar ones. We love shaking hands and offering hugs. And we love to hear what is happening in your life. Yet oftentimes this may not be the best occasion for us to be as attentive as you may need us to be. Often during worship we have spotted someone we don’t know, and we want to make sure we greet them following worship, welcoming them to our Church. So one way you can help offer a bold and boundless welcome is to wait until the Ministers have left the Narthex to engage in more personal or one-on-one conversations with us. We do want to hear what you would like to share, and we want to be able to offer you our best selves. We also want our guests to have the opportunity to meet us and share what brought them to MPBC and how we can help them connect to the Church.

Secondly, you can be part of the Welcome Desk or Greeter Teams. Beginning on Start-Up Sunday, we will have a Welcome Table in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. This is the first place many of our guests come and seems to be the perfect place to have a welcoming presence. To join our Greeter or Welcome Table Teams, please contact me (cveal@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x118). We will offer greeter training this fall, so be on the lookout for that date.

**Bold and Boundless Welcome**

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

Hebrews 13:2

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**October Save the Dates**

**Navigating MPBC**

Helping Guests and New Members Learn More About Us

Sundays
October 22, 28, and November 4
9:45-10:45a in the Parlor

Save the dates for this three-week series with Rev. Carrie Veal and Rev. Ben Boswell.

**Start-Up Sunday Lunch**

By Carrie Veal

As we continue to celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we will have our traditional BBQ lunch with some new additions. This year, we will have tents, tables, and chairs along with bounce house inflatables for the children and youth. Following Worship, we will go to the Cornwall Center where lunch will be served buffet-style. Then you are invited to head outside for fun and fellowship with your Church family. Lunch is $5/adult and $3/child.

Volunteers will be needed for set-up and clean-up. If you are available, please contact Matthew Stuckey at matthewjs1291@aol.com or sign up on the website.

**Hang Out with the Pastor**

Tuesday, September 4 | 5:00p
Olde Mecklenburg Brewery

Dave Dougherty (dave.n.dougherty@gmail.com) and Tucker Pearsall (tucker.pearsall@domtar.com) will serve as our hosts and points of contact for those who want to participate.

**Start-Up Sunday Lunch**

By Carrie Veal

As we continue to celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we will have our traditional BBQ lunch with some new additions. This year, we will have tents, tables, and chairs along with bounce house inflatables for the children and youth. Following Worship, we will go to the Cornwall Center where lunch will be served buffet-style. Then you are invited to head outside for fun and fellowship with your Church family. Lunch is $5/adult and $3/child.

Volunteers will be needed for set-up and clean-up. If you are available, please contact Matthew Stuckey at matthewjs1291@aol.com or sign up on the website.
The History of MPBC Members
Who Have Made a Difference in Charlotte (Part 1)

By Lynn Trenning

Since its inception 75 years ago, Myers Park Baptist Church has attracted members who have a strong sense of justice and fairness. Here are a few of our stories.

Did you know that in 1959, C.D. Spangler led the way for MPBC to help Mt. Olivet Baptist Church rebuild after it was destroyed in a fire? According to a story by Bill Lamkin in The Charlotte Observer, when the church burned it was left with “nothing but a pile of historic ruins, $48,872 in insurance money, and an indebtedness of $12,977.” Mr. Spangler gave the Church a plot of land in a new subdivision on the corner of Keller Avenue and Senior Drive near West Charlotte High School, valued at $25,000. When Mt. Olivet was unable to secure a loan, Frank Dowd was able to facilitate a line of credit at a local bank. The groundbreaking took place on November 2, 1959, and MPBC’s Senior Minister Carlyle Marney gave the main address. The new church was renamed University Park Baptist Church.

Did you know that our Church had a long-term relationship with a woman named Anita Stroud? In 1954, George Heaton asked the congregation for donations to send about 30 African American children to spend a week at a camp she organized. The $387 raised was enough for 39 children to attend. In 1963, our Church donated a mobile trailer to Miss Stroud, in which she conducted a Bible Story Hour and other programs for children in Fairview Homes.

Did you know that for many years, beginning in 1963, the United Cerebral Palsy Development Center was housed on the lower level of the Education Building? The Center provided specialized education for pre-school age children with physical disabilities. It was run by Brenda Pittman and had a staff of six.

Did you know that MPBC member Bonnie Cone was the founder of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and the acting Chancellor during Charlotte College’s transition to UNCC in 1965? Former Charlotte Mayor Ken Harris was quoted in a May 22, 1993 Charlotte Observer article, saying “She’s the reason I went to college. She’s my second mom. She’s a second mom to thousands of kids in this area.” John Kilgo, former General Manager of Jefferson-Pilot Sports Enterprises, was quoted in the same article. Miss Cone signed him up for three courses at Charlotte College, advanced him $25 per course, and arranged for him to go to work while he attended school. “Of all the people I’ve known in Charlotte, I can’t think of a more important person that we’ve ever had in our community,” Kilgo said. Miss Cone, who was a teacher as well as a mentor, put it this way, “A university is a great institution. It is also a necessary institution if young people are to be taught.” Miss Cone not only taught and mentored, she facilitated. “I might not have the money,” she said, “but I could get out and get it. Somewhere. I was not going to let a student drop out of school because of tuition or fees.”

I have enough fodder to write another article about the incredible Myers Park Baptist members who have changed our community for the better. If you have stories to add, please contact me so we can include them and let all our new members know who we are (trelmt@bellsouth.net or 704.344.8610).

Deacons – Spiritual Leaders and Servant Leaders

By Tara Harris

Welcome back to a new Church year! Each year, for me, September holds such promise and possibility as I enter into what feels like a brand new chapter. It’s a time to get ready, to listen for God’s call forward in our lives, and to heed that call. Our Board of Deacons is also very excited about a new Church year. To best prepare ourselves for a year of service together, we will gather during our annual Deacon Retreat, September 28-30, right here in Charlotte. Our Deacons are studying the book entitled Church Leadership by Lovett Weems, and we plan to spend time learning, fellowshiping with each other, and having fun, discerning the ways in which we can be effective Church leaders—spiritual leaders and servant leaders.

The leadership that our Deacon body has taken on is a calling—one that derives from God, from Myers Park Baptist Church, and from the context and culture in which we find ourselves today. I personally am so excited to retreat with these Church leaders and go deeper on what leadership can look like this year—and beyond—for our group. And we look forward to sharing with you in future newsletter articles some of what we learned; even better, we look forward to living it out. If you have any questions for a Deacon, you can always find the list of 44 active Deacons on the Church website at: www.myersparkbaptist.org/board-of-deacons/. Blessings for the beginning of a new Church year, filled with promise and possibility.

McCreesh Day | Saturday, September 22

By Bob Bishop

MPBC has a strong presence on the Supportive Housing Communities board and many of its committees. For the past five years, we have celebrated McCreesh Day at the N. Davidson Street facility in recognition of McCreesh Place being one of our longtime ministries, providing supportive housing for the chronically homeless. Please join us for McCreesh Day on Saturday, September 22 from 11:00a to 2:00p at Cordelia Park (2100 N. Davidson Street) where we will have a “Family Reunion” in celebration of Supportive Housing’s McCreesh Place, St John’s Place, and all the homesites throughout our city.

We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event that brings together all those who make a difference every day in the lives of everyone at Supportive Housing Communities. Lunch will be served and in inclement weather we can use the park’s newly finished clubhouse, so there’s no excuse not to attend!
Awakening Pilgrimage Reflection

By Tara Harris

On a hot weekend in early August, I had the amazing opportunity to make a pilgrimage along a way that an immigrant might take after being picked up by ICE in Charlotte and detained under the “zero tolerance” policy. We stopped in immigration court on Executive Center Drive here in Charlotte and then at the York County Detention Center in South Carolina where some ICE detainees are held. We went on to Atlanta, where some Charlotte detainees might wind up in the Atlanta City Detention Center.

We learned about sanctuary movements in cities like Atlanta and Charlotte. And, most chillingly (yes, it’s ironic to say that something was “chilling” in the sweltering South Georgia heat), we wound up in Lumpkin, Georgia at Stewart Detention Center—a facility where almost 2,000 of our brothers, male detainees, are being held by ICE. Standing on the soil there on Saturday afternoon, we prayed, sang, and listened, leaving relics (for me, a Bible, a prayer for both those being detained and those detaining, and a small sign saying “no human being is illegal”), sweating, thinking, and asking questions.

The listening meant the most to me that afternoon. A woman came out of Stewart Detention Center after visiting several detainees and told us their stories—stories of inedible and unsafe food, of inflated prices of things available to buy in the commissary, of too many men in one room with too few accommodations and bathrooms.

What all of this has inspired me to do right now is find out more. Find out more about the neglect and poor conditions that have been rampant at Stewart Detention Center. Find out more about our three neighbors/brothers who have died at Stewart in the last fifteen months. Find out more about the disparity between the number of people whose cases end in orders of “final deportation” from Stewart versus people detained or tried in other ICE detention facilities around our country (at Stewart, there’s a more than 20% higher deportation rate than the national average). Find out more about respite houses like El Refugio near detention centers like Stewart. The pilgrimage also reminded me not to be silent, to heed the chorus of the freedom song, “We won’t be silent anymore.”

For more pilgrimage reflections, visit awakeningshalom.com.

O’Connor String Camp a Huge Success!

By Fran Morrison

The Mark O’Connor Method String Camp was a huge success for 131 participants and 17 faculty from July 22-26. From the registration on Sunday night to the grand finale on Friday evening, the halls were filled with string music from the youngest participant at 4 years old to those well beyond the senior citizen category. There were 25 teachers learning and seeking instruction in the O’Connor Method to take back to their own studios. Students were from all over the U.S. as well as Canada, the Czech Republic, and Nigeria. There were specialized classes for beginners and intermediates of all ages in violin, viola, cello, bass, guitar, and mandolin. The afternoons offered orchestra class where all participants played pieces from the O’Connor Method books. There were soloists, ensembles, duets, and trios of every combination during the recital hour. And each day ended with a jam session by the students, with the rhythm section provided by members of the O’Connor band.

It was an extraordinary week of music, joy, sharing, and nurturing for those at every level of learning. Also present was boundless hospitality from 16 Church volunteers who not only assisted our guests during the week, but also offered friendship and conversation while learning each other’s names and sharing life stories. My gratitude overflows for this collaborative effort from staff, facilities management, Cornwell, and TTWS.

Westminster Choir College Vocal Institute

By Charlotte Judge

Because of Ron Stone, who provided a very generous scholarship through Westminster Choir College, in memory of Alice and Michael Berman, this summer was able to send four students to the High School Vocal Institute for two weeks this past July. Here is what the scholarship recipients had to say about their experience:

Ian Hull | “I could easily say that the two weeks I spent at Westminster Choir College were the best of my life. Every day, I got to spend time with professional voice instructors who were excited to help us grow vocally. I also had the opportunity to make tons of new friends from around the country that I don’t think I’ll ever forget. Singing in such a large choir full of enthusiastic students really opened my eyes to what singing in a choir and a community can be.”

Abby Smith | “I was so fortunate to have been given the opportunity to be a part of the Vocal Institute! I feel like I grew a lot as a musician and a young adult. I have a better understanding of music and how to perform it. I also made many friends from all around the world! I hope others will get to experience the fun I had.”

Anna Judge | “I could not believe how much I loved it and how many amazing things that I did there. I met so many amazing people and made so many long-lasting friendships. I am so grateful for the opportunity. I grew not only as a singer, but as a person.”

Audrey James Currin | “I learned so much from VI! I learned some of the hardest music I ever thought I could learn. I learned how to grow with people through music. I have never been in a room with people who love music as much as I do! I created so many new friendships and created memories that will last a lifetime. I am so happy for this opportunity and it was an unforgettable experience.”
**Cornwell Center News**

*By Wayne Ballard, Interim Director of the Cornwell Center*

**We’re Hiring!**

The Cornwell Center is in search of part-time Fitness Ambassadors. Fitness Ambassadors are responsible for providing a clean, safe, and fun environment for all Cornwell members, guests, and staff. Please contact me at wballard@cornwellcenter.org if you are interested!

**Parent’s Night Out in September is FREE!**

Friday, September 21 | 6:00-9:00p

Drop your kids off for a night in while you enjoy a night out. Dinner, games, bounce house, and more! Children 6 weeks and up are invited and PNO is open to the community.

**We will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 3.**

**Fall Hours will begin Thursday, September 6:**

- **Monday – Thursday:** 5:00a – 9:00p
- **Friday:** 5:00a – 7:00p
- **Saturday:** 7:30a – 5:00p
- **Sunday:** Noon – 5:00p

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**Forever Forward Capital Campaign**

*By Leigh Anne Hagerman*

Forever Forward keeps moving forward. A total of 184 families have pledged to commit $3,552,841 over 5 years, to fund an endowment for campus maintenance costs. This endowment will generate income each year to help with these expenses, in turn easing pressure on our operating budget to care for our facility. If you have not yet made your pledge to the Forever Forward endowment, you can do so by calling the Finance Office.

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**Congregational Joys and Concerns**

*(as of August 22, 2018)*

**DEATHS — LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:**

- Jane and John Pasquini on the death of her mother, and Alexander, David, and Philip on the death of their grandmother, Diana Harbage Baker, on July 31, 2018 in Charlotte, NC.
- The family of Tom Swanson on his death on August 7, 2018 in Charlotte, NC.
- Oren Biggers on the death of his wife, Nancy Biggers, on August 8, 2018 in Charlotte, NC.
- Twila and Bill Compton on the death of her sister, Ivy Kasal, in Waukee, Iowa on August 9, 2018.

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**TTWS News**

*By Belinda Geuss*

On September 4, Through-the-Week School will begin its 63rd year as an outreach of MPBC, providing early childhood education for Church families as well as the surrounding community. We are pleased to add new teaching staff members Caroline Miller (M-F toddlers), Elizabeth Harris (TWTh 2’s & F 3’s), and Pat McMinn (ThF TK), as well as Joanne Hylinski as the new Assistant Director. Our 190 TTWS students will enjoy in-school enrichment in Science with Robyn Huffstetler, Music with Holly Johnson and Community School of the Arts, and Lyrics and Literacy with Heather Seide. Parents will be able to extend their child’s school day with Cornwell Center After-School Clubs, Soccer, Tennis, and Yoga.

Over the summer, two beautiful benches were installed on our large playground in memory of beloved TTWS and MPBC teacher, Edith Collins, and past TTWS student Lee Ciciarelli, son of Mary Ann and Christian. Lee’s sister Evelyn Ann is a current TTWS student in the four-year-old classroom.

We are looking forward to another year of play at MPBC!

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**Seasons of Stewardship**

**June - August**

The budget will be created during this season, based upon current financials, current pledges, and inflation.

**October - December**

The Fall Stewardship Season, including a stewardship series in Worship, will encourage generosity at year end helping the Church finish strong.

**April - May**

The Spring Stewardship Season will encourage increased financial commitments for the following year’s budget.

Pledge amounts will remain consistent unless a change is communicated to the Church.
Ministers and Staff

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The Reverend Chrissy Tatum Williamson
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The Reverend Leigh Anne Hagerman
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Happy 15th Birthday to The Cornwell Center!

Come celebrate with us on Friday, September 7 | 9:00a - 2:00p

On September 7, 2003, the doors to the Cornwell Center were officially opened. Over these fifteen years, thousands have been touched by this wonderful community center. The “Cornwell Community” means something different to everyone who has graced the doors of this facility. From fitness to art, relaxation by massage, basketball programs, and so much more, this place continues to be a bright light in the Myers Park and greater Charlotte communities.

Many people played a role in bringing this facility into being, from the families who sacrificially gave money to see our dream come to fruition, to the many who planned, directed, and oversaw the project from a dream to a reality. The Cornwell Center stands as a testimony to what can happen when a Church and community are willing to work together for a common cause.

I truly believe there are bright days ahead for the Cornwell Center. I wish to offer a special thanks to all of you who are members, guests, and staff, whether presently or in the past. Fitness, wellness, and friendships are essential components of who we are.

With this in mind, I invite each of you to come and be a part of our celebration with an informal Birthday Party on Friday, September 7. We will have a drop-in reception from 9:00a to 2:00p in the Conference Center with birthday cake and healthy food alternatives. A food truck in the parking lot will make grabbing lunch fun and convenient. Please make plans to stop by on this special day to celebrate the Cornwell Center. Hope to see you there!

Wayne Ballard
Interim Director of the Cornwell Center