

# WELCOME, NANCY AND UIYEON

By Ken Garfield

Welcome the newest members of our clergy family, and celebrate the changes that are part of life in The United Methodist Church.

- Rev. Nancy Watson has started as our Executive Pastor, a new position in which she oversees and works hand in hand with clergy on programs and ministries. Her goal, she says, “is to collaborate and to dream and to encourage and to resource.” She will also preach on occasion and participate in other aspects of life at our church. On July 18, for example, she’s filling in for Dr. Howell at his weekly Bible study, exploring the Prodigal Son at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. Early on, Nancy says she’ll mostly be listening and learning. She comes to us from Montgomery, Ala., where she served as Director of Connectional Ministries for the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Her diverse career has included stints as an athletic trainer, physical therapist and nursing home administrator. She’s also a loyal



Rev. Nancy Watson



Rev. Uiyeon Kim

Chicago Cubs fan, having grown up in suburban Chicago. She has settled into a home in the SouthPark area with her dogs, Buster and Buford. So far, so great: She’s experienced the friendliness of our fine city. Asked to describe her first impression of the church, she cited the warmth of everyone she’s met, the quality of our worship, programs and ministries and wrapped it all up with a “Wow!” Nancy has moved into Rev. Barbara Barden’s old office across from Dr. Howell’s office. Reach her 704-295-4823 or [NWatson@mpumc.org](mailto:NWatson@mpumc.org). Saribeth Dozier, of course, remains the church’s Executive Director, overseeing the operations and business of the church.

*Continued Inside...*

## WELCOME TO REALM

*Rev. Barbara Barden, our Pastor of Lay Involvement, updates us on Realm, our new on-line record-keeping solution.*

We have moved to a new church record-keeping solution called *Realm*. Not only will this improve work life for our ministry staff, it will make it easier for our church family to connect with each other, keep up with what’s going on, and grow as a community of believers.

Members who had previously logged in to *MyMPUMC* (Access ACS) were sent an email in late June that contained a link for you to create a password for a login to *Realm*. More than 350 of you have set up your new account on *Realm*. Congratulations! On *Realm*, you can search the online church directory; view your giving information and make a gift; and view a list of any groups in which you currently participate, including your Sunday School class and service and leadership groups. More features are to come.

Please note: *Realm* operates on Safari, Google Chrome and Firefox. It does not work with Internet Explorer.

*Realm Connect* is the phone app that replaces Church Life. As was the case with Church Life, you must first authenticate your account by logging into *Realm* through the link provided in the email.

I am excited about the opportunities that *Realm* offers us to connect to one another. I am pleased to serve as the staff person to support this launch, plus ongoing support for questions and training opportunities. Reach me at [bbarden@mpumc.org](mailto:bbarden@mpumc.org) or 704-295-4813 or stop by my new office near Goodness Gracious!

I will offer special training for all group/class leaders on Monday, July 23, at 10:00 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. in Room 103 of the Parish Life Building. The content will be identical. Join us, no need to RSVP.



MYERS PARK  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

[www.mpumc.org](http://www.mpumc.org)  
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### SNAPSHOTS

Whether you are on vacation at the beach, in the mountains or in some distant place... Read something serious. Take a long walk and clear your thoughts. Turn off the TV and play a family game. Watch our Sunday worship at [www.myersparkumc.org](http://www.myersparkumc.org). Give up that golf game and play with the kids. Remember to say grace before each meal, and thank God for the blessings of rest and renewal. Sleep late. Drive safely. Come home reinvigorated to do God’s work.

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sanctuary services  
8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m.

Church InThe Round  
8:45 a.m., Jubilee Hall.

Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m., Chapel.

Sunday School  
9:45 a.m.



## In Memory

*The sympathy of the ministers and members is extended to:*

### The Families Of...

*Sara Ann Richardson Layman*, mother of Cathy Bortz and grandmother of Cooper, Addison, Adelle and Hayes Bortz, who died on June 29, 2018. *Henry Hale Nicholson*, husband of Freda Nicholson and father of Michael Nicholson, who died on June 30, 2018.

### Babies

*Grant Douglas Johnson*, son of Kerilyn and Dan Johnson, brother of Evan and Ames Johnson and grandson of Doug and Elayne Langley, born on June 7, 2018. *Anna Catherine Jones*, daughter of Elizabeth and Danny Jones and granddaughter of David and Faye Hinshaw, born on June 20, 2018.

## IN 2019: GO TO ISRAEL WITH DR. HOWELL

Want to go to Israel with Dr. Howell? Our Senior Pastor will lead a trip to the Holy Land March 31 to April 11, 2019. As Dr. Howell writes: "I love taking people to the Holy Land. It's always inspiring, educational, transformative and great fun. Each trip I lead is unique – because of the particular people who come, and also because we see something new every trip, and archaeological sites evolve over time." Hillel Kessler, Dr. Howell's regular tour guide (and friend), will serve in that same role. To learn more about the trip – including itinerary, cost, deadlines and other details – visit [www.revjameshowell.blogspot.com](http://www.revjameshowell.blogspot.com). Those interested in the trip should email Dr. Howell at [james@mpumc.org](mailto:james@mpumc.org).

*Pictured right: On the Israel trip in 2015, Dr. Howell read Mark 4:29-34, the story of Jesus calming the wind and the sea during the group's boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.*



## WELCOME, NANCY AND UIYEON...

*Continued From The Front Page...*

- Rev. Uiyeon Kim is our Pastor of Discipleship, leading our overall Faith Formation program, overseeing Children's, Youth and Adult Ministries, and also our Welcome/Hospitality Ministries and new members. Uiyeon arrives from Lenoir, where he led Trinity United Methodist Church. A native of Seoul, South Korea, he moved with his family to Lubbock, Texas, when he was nine. Uiyeon has long been struck by the excellence of Sunday morning worship here, having experienced it via Livestream. He settles in with those same expectations of life overall at Myers Park United Methodist Church. Uiyeon and his wife, Hana, and two small children (Joel, 4, and Chloe, 2) will live in the church-owned parsonage. The children will attend our church preschool. The Howells recently purchased their first home. Uiyeon has been moved by the welcome he's received from neighbors and church members, everything from "We're glad you're here!" to "Try this restaurant (fill in the blank)." Reach him at 704-295-4840 or [UKim@mpumc.org](mailto:UKim@mpumc.org). Better yet, say hello in person. He has moved into Dr. Melanie Dobson's old office across from Dr. Howell.
- Rev Barbara Barden has a new title – Pastor of Lay Involvement – and a new office next door to the Goodness Gracious! gift shop. Barbara focuses on connecting members to ministries and each other through the *12:12 Ministry*, the move to the on-line *Realm* program and more. Her work with adult Sunday School continues. Reach her, as always, at 704-295-4813 or [bbarden@mpumc.org](mailto:bbarden@mpumc.org).

Read more about Nancy and Uiyeon in the upcoming issue of *Intersection* magazine.

Each issue of the Cornerstone offers a bonus page of programs, classes and other activities offering the faithful a chance to learn, serve and grow. To share news for The Life Of The Church, reach Director of Communications Ken Garfield at 704-295-4819 or ken@mpumc.org.



## A Calendar Of Opportunities

### ALL THE TIME

- Please let the church know when you or a loved one is in the hospital, has had a baby or faces an urgent need. Call 704-376-8584.

### SUNDAYS IN JULY

- Sing in the Summer Choir regardless of vocal ability and experience. The Summer Choir will sing at the five 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary services in July. Gather at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room on those Sundays for rehearsal and donuts. Rising sixth-graders and up are welcome to participate. Details: Nancy Hamff at 704-295-4831 or nancy@mpumc.org.

### SUNDAYS THROUGH AUGUST 12

- Our summer series, *Faces Of Our Faith: Bold And Untold Stories*, explores the ordinary people of faith who do what they can with what they have. We will journey with the often overlooked people in our Biblical narrative and be reminded that we all play a role in God's story of love and grace.

### THROUGH JULY 27

- Our 12th summer of Freedom School offers 80 young scholars from the Sedgefield schools communities a chance to read, learn, build character and have fun. To get involved in the program at Sedgefield Middle School – as a tutor, field trip chaperone, supporting the interns (teachers) and more – reach Megan Jones at 704-295-4820 or mjones@mpumc.org.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

- All are invited to a seminar – *Surviving An Active Shooter* – from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Jubilee Hall, led by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police. Organized by the church's Safety/Security Committee, the seminar will focus on what all of us should do in the event of a crisis such as this. Details: Executive Director Saribeth Dozier at 704-295-4844 or saribeth@mpumc.org.

### TUESDAY, JULY 31

- The Caregivers Support Group meets at 11:30 a.m. in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building, welcoming all to share the challenges and rewards of caring for a loved one. Details: Parish Nurse Susan Mobley at 704-295-4836 or smobley@mpumc.org.

### **DR. HOWELL'S BIBLE STUDY**



*Dr. Howell*

Dr. Howell leads a weekly Bible study on *Familiar Bible Passages: A Closer Look* on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in Francis Chapel. No need to sign up, just come and bring a friend. Come any week you can; each week is an independent entity. On July 18, Rev. Nancy Watson, new to our staff, will fill in for Dr. Howell and discuss the Prodigal Son. On July 25, Dr. Howell will explore John 3 and what it means to be "born again." Details: Dr. Howell at james@mpumc.org.

### SUNDAYS THROUGH AUGUST 12

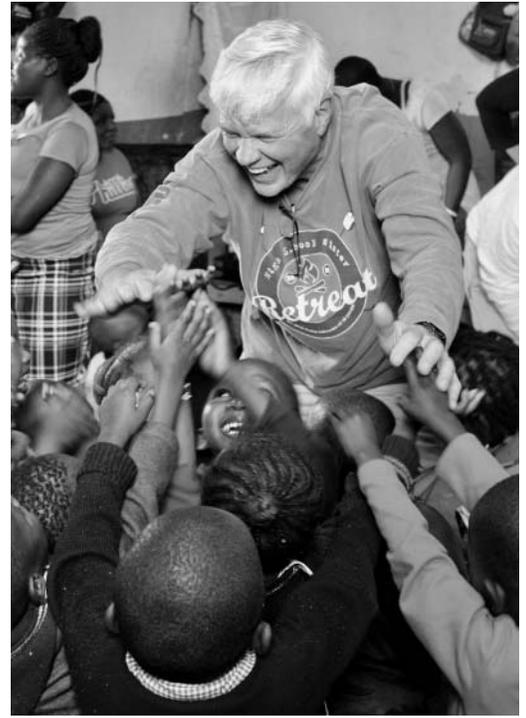
- A Sunday School "elective" class meets at 9:45 a.m. in Room 103 of the Parish Life Building, exploring how to offer comfort to those hurting from a loss or other burden. Stephen Ministries counselors will lead the discussion, based on the book, *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*, by Stephen Ministries founder Kenneth Haugk. Books will be for sale in Goodness Gracious! For child care up to fifth grade, email jwentz@mpumc.org.

### AUGUST 13-16

- The Festival of Wisdom And Grace at Lake Junaluska in the N.C. mountains offers study, prayer, fellowship and renewal for those in the second half of life. The gathering will include speakers, fireside chats, entertainment and more. For cost and other details, visit [www.lakejunaluska.com/wisdom-and-grace](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/wisdom-and-grace). Registration forms are around the church campus and in the Faith Formation office (Suite 218 in the Snyder Building).

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- Registration is open for rising eighth-grade Confirmation. The class meets Sundays from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. in Jubilee Hall starting September 9, and ends with Confirmation on May 19. Two retreats are included – September 28-30 and April 5-7. Cost is \$300 for the retreats and should be paid at the time of registration. Sign up at [www.mpumcyouth.org](http://www.mpumcyouth.org).



Scenes from Kenya. Photos by Ellen Spence.

## On A Mission To Kenya: *'A Love For Others And For Jesus'*

*Youth Ministries' Ellen Spence and several of our young people share an unforgettable experience: Ellen, Lauren Stines and Rick Magee took eight recent high school graduates – Ethan Shipp, Ben Poole, Noah Icard, Elle Boyle, Meg Smith, Skyley Burris, Callie Bernard and Mary Banks Farmer – on their senior mission trip to the Ngong Hills in Matasia, Kenya. The group stayed at Camp Chemi Chemi and worked with Divine Providence Training Center. Here they train pastors. These pastors heard God's call to ministry and started churches that typically are not able to support them financially. Ellen and several youth pick it up from there...*

While we were there, I feel that our youth also heard God's call, that we as humans are more alike than different. We formed lifelong bonds with our new Kenyan friends, Steve, Fiona, Paul and so many more. We saw firsthand what it means for prayers to be answered for a new floor for a Masai Tribal church. We witnessed what it means to be present with the children of Strong Tower Orphanage. I think our youth said it best. Here are some excerpts from their blogs...

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As soon as we drove into the tight gates that our driver Jackson barely cleared, children at the orphanage were running to say hi to us. Sixty little hands waving and reaching for you, what love. Children grabbed on to each of us and stayed with us the whole time. A girl named Precious with the sweetest smirk grabbed my hand. The tiniest little boy Alex attached to Callie. Always-smiling Gilbert took to Ben. Before lunch we all played games and got to know names. This is when we discovered all the big personalities and stories.

- **Mary Banks Farmer**

Church is different in Kenya. There are no hymns. When we first walked in, Rick, Lauren, Noah and I were escorted to the front row of plastic chairs with background music that consisted of a battle cry from the women of the church. For the next 2½ hours, we sat in a room with dirt floors and tin walls and heard the word of God from passionate, emotional Kenyans.

- **Ben Poole**

Today we had the most amazing experience in the most unlikely of places: Kibira is one of the worst slums in Africa. If there's one thing I learned from our trip to the slum, it's that there's only one thing people need to be happy, and that's a love for others and for Jesus.

- **Meg Smith**

As we looked over, we saw eight Masai women wearing stunningly colorful jewelry, singing as they walked our way. When they arrived, they welcomed us warmly. In this group was the Masai pastor who started this incredible church – under a tree if you can believe it!

- **Elle Boyle**

It was easy to wake up this morning because our devotion last night was about light and how it related to God's love. When the bright sun shined through our tent we just knew it was going to be a good day. Today we saw so many of God's beautiful creations. It has made us all so aware that our world is so much bigger than we once imagined.

- **Callie Bernard**



# AT MOUNTAIN T.O.P., PEACE, UNITY, FAITHFULNESS

*Middle School Youth Associate Sarah Yoss reports on the recent trip to the Tennessee Outreach Project (Mountain T.O.P.) in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee.*

Fourteen high school youth set out on a weeklong mission trip to the Cumberland Plateau to serve alongside the nonprofit Mountain T.O.P., which is devoted to meeting the needs of the rural community. Although the week was filled with thunderstorms, it did not stop our youth from joyfully loving the children of Tracy City during the day camp that they led. One of my favorite moments was when our own High School Youth Associate Jason Rhymer led everyone in worship with his guitar. This took place in a small, cramped room as we waited for the rain to pass. Not only were our youth singing, but the day campers were singing as well. It was a moment that could have been filled with complaints and frustration. But instead it was a beautiful moment of peace, unity and faithfulness. It was a moment that embodied what the body of Christ is called to be. By the time we had to leave, our youth were ready to return home transformed and empowered.



*Mountain T.O.P. fun. Selfie by Kevin Gustafson.*

## *There's Still Time To Help:*

# *FREEDOM SCHOOL, AND TWO FRIENDS*

*Missions Intern Jacob Spence reports from Freedom School, the summer ministry our church sponsors at Sedgfield Middle School to help blunt summer learning loss. Freedom School runs through July 27. To help, visit [www.myersparkumc.org/serve](http://www.myersparkumc.org/serve).*

On my recent visit, the Level Ones (Grades K-2) were painting trees with chalk, an activity led by our own Rev. Megan Argabrite. Being a soccer fan, I noticed two kids – Ismael, wearing a Brazil uniform, and Xavi wearing a Mexico uniform. This caught my eye because these two teams were playing in a knockout game of the World Cup. A part of me expected these kids to act as rivals, based on how I might treat a Duke fan if Carolina was playing Duke that day. And yet, they seemed to be good friends. They spent most of the time we were outside painting the trees together. After talking with the two boys, I realized that their shared interest in soccer is what led them to become friends. Freedom School allowed them to make this connection. Instead of being at home all summer, these kids were here, building a meaningful friendship. They're able to have cool experiences like using their creativity to paint a tree. Preventing summer learning loss is important. But so is making a friendship that will last them a lifetime.



*Two Freedom School friends. Photo by Jacob Spence.*

## FRANCIS CHAPEL, ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

- Francis Chapel is closed to make way for the new (used) organ to be installed in that beautiful space. Look for updates on the progress.
- All church members are always welcome to keep up with the business of the church at Administrative Board dinner meetings, the next one on Thursday, July 19, in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Questions about the life of the church are always encouraged. Details: Executive Director Saribeth Dozier at 704-295-4844 or saribeth@mpumc.org.
- A glistening new line of merchandise in Goodness Gracious!, the gift shop in the Parish Life lobby where sales support outreach: *AMen* is a line of sterling silver jewelry manufactured in Italy. Its special coating means it never needs polishing. Popular throughout Italy, *AMen* is a big seller at the Vatican gifts shops in Rome. The company website puts it eloquently: “*AMen* is born from the desire of giving words of faith to the people we love, giving a sense of protection, wellness and the sensation to never be alone.”
- Let the church know when you or a loved one is in the hospital, has had a baby or faces an urgent need. Call 704-376-8584.
- The churchwide effort to build racial reconciliation continues on a number of fronts. To find out more and get involved, visit [www.myersparkumc.org/race](http://www.myersparkumc.org/race).



## BRIAN'S BOOK, CENTERING PRAYER

- Brian Childers, our Director of Music for Children and Youth, has published a beautiful new book: *Ringin' Deeply – A devotional book for handbell ringers, directors, and fans*. The book is filled with recommended ringing. As Brian writes in the introduction: “May all of these thoughts, words, and meditations lead you to more inspired ringing and living.” It sells for \$20. To learn more, reach Brian at 704-4806 or brian@mpumc.org.
- Parish Nurse Susan Mobley shares that medical equipment is available to be borrowed – regular walkers, knee walkers, rotator walkers, bedside commodes, crutches, shower chairs and wheelchairs. The walkers and bedside commodes can be used long-term. Other items are for short-term use. There are also two lightweight transport wheelchairs for short-term use. The equipment is in the Parish Life basement. Stop by the front desk in the Parish Life lobby and someone will help you gain access. When you're done with what you've borrowed, clean and return it so others can use it. Details: Parish Nurse Susan Mobley at 704-295-4836 or smobley@mpumc.org.
- There are two opportunities to learn and practice Centering Prayer. One group has been meeting for years, in Room 024 in the Snyder Building Mondays at 5:30 p.m. A newer group meets Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. in Memorial Chapel, the small chapel beside the Sanctuary. Each group has a slightly different format. But in each, lay leaders help newcomers become comfortable with the practice. Centering Prayer facilitates the movement from a verbal prayer – one of *talking* to God – to a more receptive prayer of *listening* for God. At its core, Centering Prayer is Christian meditation. Details: Christine Mull at 704-295-4815 or cmull@mpumc.org.