

## Snapshots

We hope you enjoy (or at least notice!) the new design of *the Cornerstone*. It was time to refresh the look of the church newsletter, to make it cleaner, more attractive and easier to read. *The Cornerstone*, of course, remains a go-to destination for church news – published every other week and mailed to homes, placed around the church campus and posted at [www.myersparkumc.org](http://www.myersparkumc.org). While the look has changed, the commitment to telling the stories of our members and ministries remains as strong as ever.

As our focus continues on mental health, *the Cornerstone* reached out to Martin Godwin and Beth Purdy to see what sort of response they received after sharing their story with 300 friends and encouragers in Jubilee Hall. Martin has battled alcohol. Beth has endured (and overcome) 28 years of mental illness. Both have been moved by the love that has come to them through conversations, note and emails. As Beth said, “I used to say if I can just help one person. My goal has gotten bigger.” Look for more in *Intersection* magazine next month on our work to bring mental illness out of the shadows.

## Sunday Schedule

### Sanctuary Services

8:30, 9:45, 11:00 am

### Church In The Round

8:45 a.m., Jubilee Hall

### Holy Communion

9:30 a.m., Chapel

### Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

## THREE WORDS FOR THE TIMES: AVOID. BARRICADE. COUNTER.

By Ken Garfield

It is a fact of modern life that we had to gather in Jubilee Hall to lift up three words that might one day save our lives: *Avoid. Barricade. Counter.*

As part of the church’s intensifying focus on safety and security, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Lt. Steve Huber led a 2½-hour workshop on what to do if an active shooter opens fire. Seventy church staffers and members, including several ushers who often are the first to greet visitors on Sunday, fidgeted as Huber shared the statistic that brought us to this place: In 2017 in our country, 30 active shooters killed 140 people in churches, offices, schools, a Las Vegas country music

concert and other public places. No wonder we hung on his every word, knowing no one is completely safe, even a Sanctuary full of people on Sunday morning or a busy church any other day of the week.

The workshop was entitled *Active Survival For An Active Shooter*.

Huber’s overriding advice: If you see something suspicious, say something. At the sound of the first gunshot, do something and do it instantly, whether it is run, hide or attack. The first few seconds often decide life or death. Movement and distance are keys to making it as hard as possible on the shooter. If running doesn’t appear to be the best option, protect yourself. Or fight back.

*Continued Inside...*

## THE LATEST ON REALM

*Rev. Barbara Barden, our Pastor of Lay Involvement, shares this update on Realm, our new on-line record-keeping solution.*

Wow! Is it really only four weeks since our conversion to *Realm*? A shout-out to our amazing staff and the more than 500 of you who responded to the *Realm Invites* and joined us on *Realm*. With just a few glitches, you have successfully logged in, poked around and begun using this software tool to communicate with your groups and Sunday School classes. I love the pictures you’ve posted, and the events your group promoted using the app. Sunday School leaders are using the app to take attendance on Sunday mornings and at group events. Our kiosks in the Children’s Ministries area are also up and check-in is running smoothly. More than 370 of you have also registered for events posted on *Realm*.

My goal during August and September is to help at least another 1,500 get connected on *Realm*. On Thursday, August 16, we will officially launch *Realm* to all adults in our database. If you have an active email at-

tached to your profile in our database and have not already logged in to *Realm* you will receive an email from me with a link embedded (unique just for you) that will take you through setting up a password to get logged in initially to the *Realm* site ([onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org)). After you login in there, you can download the *Realm Connect App* (optional for your smartphone or tablet) and use the same email and password to log in.

On Sunday, August 19, at 9:45 and again at 11:00 a.m. in Room 105 of the Parish Life Building, I will offer basic training on how to set your notification preferences, your privacy setting preferences and how to access the church directory, your giving records, event and group signups, and posting and communicating within your own groups. The class will be repeated again on Monday, August 20, and Wednesday, August 22, at 7:00 p.m. Join us. No need to RSVP. Sunday mornings from August 19 to September 16, members of the *12:12 Ministry Team* will be at tables in the Parish Life lobby to help you learn more about the groups that are available and even help you sign up for a group.

# Passages

## In Memory

*William Badger Newell Jr.*, brother of Mims Coleman and uncle of Holland Coleman, who died on June 14, 2018. *Edward Harvey McIntosh Sr.*, brother of Melvin McIntosh, who died on June 23, 2018. *Myrtle Culbreth Bennett*, sister of Frank Culbreth, aunt of Allyson Ware, Kathy Hamilton and Fay Culbreth and great-aunt of Mary Kathryn Ware, Sarah Ware, Christopher Hamilton, Jenna Hamilton, Wanda Townsend and Karen Weatherly, who died on June 26, 2018. *Virginia Moore "Ginky" Budd*, grandmother of Perri Freel and great-grandmother of Crawford and Richard Freel, who died on June 26, 2018. *Carol Ann Lynch*, sister of Pat Lynch, who died on July 2, 2018. *Granville E. Hearn Jr.*, father of Carol Kuester, grandfather of Shaw Kuester, Bryan Kuester and Eric Kuester and great-grandfather of Reid, Dillon, Jackson, Mila and Miles Kuester, who died on July 12, 2018. *Jean P. Thomason*, mother of Jane Johnsen, grandmother of Katie Priester and great-grandmother of Jack, Anna and Charles Priester, who died on July 17, 2018. *Henrietta Allen*, mother of Trudy Lampley and grandmother of Meredith Sieber and Alison Lampley, who died on July 17, 2018.

## Babies

*Sara Clementine Hodges*, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Hodges, granddaughter of Lynn and Charley Hodges, niece of William and Katie Hodges and cousin of Henry Hodges, born on June 9, 2018. *Jackson David Leister*, son of Hannah and Will Leister, born on July 10, 2018. *Hannah Cecilia Dellibovi*, daughter of Julie and Rob Dellibovi, born on July 19, 2018. *Briggs Leighton Fulghum*, son of Hillary and Hogan Fulghum and brother of Lily and Charley Fulghum, born on July 19, 2018.

## Weddings

*Sara Banner Burlison and Michael Coulter Vicary*, married on July 21, 2018, at the church. *Joann Amanda Shytle and James Adamson Thompson*, married on July 28, 2018, at the church.

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## WHERE DO WE STAND FINANCIALLY?

*Church member Richard Wood, chair of the Finance Committee, offers this financial update halfway through 2018.*

Summer greetings to everyone. I'm pleased to report that contributions to the church for the six months of 2018 totaled \$2,431,352 – a 10-percent increase over the same period last year. Our operating expenses increased 2.1 percent over the same time last year. Combined, that made for a year-to-date operating deficit of \$216,082. The church operating budget for 2018 is \$5,635,568.

I would ask that everyone prayerfully consider their pattern of giving to the church, and not wait until the end of the year to meet their pledge and make their gift.

Contributions to our *Jubilee Plus!* second-mile outreach fund for the first six months of 2018 totaled \$421,766. That includes a carry-over of \$210,283 from 2017. Our goal is to raise \$1 million for 2018, so your support of this vital outreach program is crucial.

I look forward to reporting on the church's financial results through nine months of 2018 in *the Cornerstone* in October. Those with questions about any aspect of the financial life of the church can reach Executive Director Saribeth Dozier at 704-295-4844 or [saribeth@mpumc.org](mailto:saribeth@mpumc.org).

## WHERE DO WE STAND ON BUILDING FEASIBILITY?

*Church member Chan Martin, chair of the Building Feasibility Committee, shares this update.*

We are pleased to report that Charlotte City Council approved our church's rezoning petition. This rezoning request was a result of the Building Feasibility Committee's work over the past few years to look at longer-term options on our Church campus.

The new zoning allows up to 290,000 square feet of building space on the portion of our property bounded by Queens and Providence Roads. We currently have approximately 160,000 square feet. The other major change allows for a building height of up to 80 feet on the site currently occupied by the Youth Building.

While no decisions have been made as to any possible building expansion, the Church engaged a financial consultant to interview more than 50 households this past Spring. This work focused on what members perceive are our biggest needs in any expansion, and also gauged financial support for a capital project.

Work is continuing to determine options for the broader Church membership to consider, with the focus being on the Youth Building. I'm happy to hear from Church members who want to ask questions or share ideas. You can reach me at [james.chandler.martin@gmail.com](mailto:james.chandler.martin@gmail.com).

# Calendar

## 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 Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. No need to sign up, just come and bring a friend. Come any week you can; each week is an independent entity. On August 1, James will help us look at Micah 6:8 – *What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* On August 8, James' topic will be *War And Genocide In The Bible*. On August 15, Rev. Uiyeon Kim, our new Pastor of Discipleship, will lead the study, looking at *The Lord's Prayer*. Details: Dr. Howell at [james@mpumc.org](mailto:james@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 redemptive love and grace.

### 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 Kenneth Haugk. Books are for sale in Goodness Gracious! For child care, email [jwentz@mpumc.org](mailto:jwentz@mpumc.org).

### NOW THROUGH AUGUST 28

- Help fill a bus bound for Bayonnais, Haiti, by dropping off rice and dried beans (preferably 15- to 50-pound bags available at warehouse stores, but all size bags welcome) in the marked bin in the Parish Life lobby. Donations of rice and beans will support our long-time mission partners at the OFCB school. Questions? Visit [www.myersparkumc.org/Haiti-collection](http://www.myersparkumc.org/Haiti-collection).

### 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).

### AUGUST 14-18

- Travel with a team to McAllen, Texas, to serve and pray for migrant families detained at the border. Also: Help collect toiletry kits for Catholic Charities to share with individuals as they leave detention. For details on the trip and toiletry kits, visit [www.myersparkumc.org/border-response](http://www.myersparkumc.org/border-response). Questions? Reach Rev. Nathan Arledge at [nathan@mpumc.org](mailto:nathan@mpumc.org).

### AUGUST 24-26

- The men's Backpacking Ministry invites men to enjoy a weekend of fellowship at Gorges State Park in Transylvania County in Western North Carolina. Space is limited. To learn more, email Jack Hankins at [jchankins24@gmail.com](mailto:jchankins24@gmail.com).

### THURSDAYS STARTING SEPTEMBER 6

- A yoga class will be 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. in Room 031 downstairs in the Snyder Building. Formerly led by Dr. Melanie Dobson, this class will be led by Diane Cevallos, founder and owner of Charlotte Family Yoga. A \$20 donation is recommended for each session. Details: Parish Nurse Susan Mobley at 704-295-4836 or [smobley@mpumc.org](mailto:smobley@mpumc.org).

### 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 registration. Sign up at [www.mpumcyouth.org](http://www.mpumcyouth.org).

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 & OCTOBER 1

- Children's and Youth Ministries invites all to a two-part seminar – *Kids, Brains & Screens* – from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. each evening in Jubilee Hall. The goal is to help equip parents and guardians to make healthy choices for a child's screen use, including social media, video games, smartphones and more. For child care, email [jwentz@mpumc.org](mailto:jwentz@mpumc.org). Details: Amy Harriman at 704-295-4814 or [aharriman@mpumc.org](mailto:aharriman@mpumc.org).

# A LESSON LEARNED IN BRAZIL: 'IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE. AND STAYING CONNECTED TO GOD...'

In July, a mission team of 13 from our church joined with a team of 22 Brazilians to serve, worship and work at the Instituto Metodista Carlota Pereira Louro, a Methodist-run nursing facility in Três Rios, outside of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Anna Magee, 24, shares the experience with Assistant Director of Communications Melissa McGill, who was on the trip. Their conversation is edited. Visit [www.myersparkumc.org/serve](http://www.myersparkumc.org/serve) to learn about service opportunities. Visit [www.myersparkumc.org/brazil2018](http://www.myersparkumc.org/brazil2018) for videos from the trip.

## What made you decide to go on this mission?

Lauren Stines was my youth director here. She knew that I've been wanting to go on another mission trip since I had so much mission experience in high school. So when a spot opened up on this trip, she called me. I wanted to get re-centered on my faith, and get grounded so I said yes.

## What were your expectations going in?

I was nervous because most of my trips have been heavy labor, building homes, that kind of stuff, not as much community-building. I wasn't sure how that would go, especially working with the elderly when I have worked mostly with children. But this trip blew my mind. It exceeded my expectations. It was awesome to see how much I enjoyed the community-building aspect even more than building houses. Just having that time and space to get to know the local people and volunteers who worked with us and their culture. I loved it.

## What did this experience change for you?

Since I lost my best friend during my freshman year of college, I struggled with my faith. But this experience changed my life. I feel centered on my faith again. While I was in Brazil, I had a breakthrough. I cried as much as I laughed on the trip. Not all sad tears, just a feeling of finding myself again and being excited to bring that back to my daily life here. For awhile, I didn't think I needed to be centered on my faith. But now I realize what I've been missing. It's incredible to realize how much good God does in our lives.

## How will the relationships you built continue?

I made strong friendships with several Brazilian volunteers who came from Rio to join us in mission. I hope these relationships last. I feel like we'll keep in touch. When we go back, it'll be like we never left.

## The best moment of the trip?

When we had Vacation Bible School with kids from the community and seeing them interact with residents at the Carlota facility. I don't know much Portuguese but Guiliana and Debora, two Brazilian volunteers, helped translate. Just seeing how much it meant to those kids that we were there... And the faces of the residents when the children brought them a candleholder craft they made for them was so touching.



Anna (center) with some children from the community.



New friends Luiza, Marcelle, Avery Buie, Giulia, Anna Magee, Debora and Agatha at the Carlota facility. Photos by Melissa McGill.

## The worst?

Being stuck in the airport our second night in Miami, sleeping on a golf cart. Our flights got delayed and we ended up staying in Miami an extra 36 hours. That was rough. It was a time where I had to stop and breathe. We all just wanted to get there. It was disappointing to miss those two days at Carlota. But in the long run, it helped us bond as a team and realize that things weren't going to go perfectly.

## How will you live differently now that you're home?

After this trip, I see how important it is to engage with your community, even at home. Relationships are defining. They bring joy into our lives. I hope I remember that it isn't about the task, it's about the people. And staying connected to God, even in the everyday moments.

# THREE WORDS FOR THE TIMES: AVOID. BARRICADE. COUNTER.

*Continued From Front Page...*

In this order, here are the options he outlined:

**AVOID.** Create distance. Call 911 but only when you are safe. The key is to act quickly, and don't hesitate.

**BARRICADE.** Lock the doors, then block it with furniture, your foot, anything and everything. Turn out the lights. Look for secondary exits, like a window. If you think it's going to come down to it, take up a proactive position near the door, so you can attack. Wait for law enforcement.

**COUNTER.** As a last resort, grab the gun, scream, spit, kick, stick a pen in the shooter's eye, throw a chair, a stapler, a Bible, anything at his or her face. Fight back with everything you've got.

An evangelist for the cause of keeping us alive, Huber preached the need to have a security plan. Among possible planks: Require people to check their coats and large bags. Have police officers in

position to respond in a crisis, including inside the building. Have casualty survival care kits with tourniquets to care for the injured. Practice controlled, deep breathing for five minutes each day so you can react more calmly in the case of a calamity.

Tough stuff for tough times. No wonder Rev. Nancy Watson in her opening prayer asked God to give us "courageous grace" to brace for the worst and be ready to respond if it comes.

- The church's Safety/Security Committee is considering hiring an outside consultant to study current procedures and recommend new ones. Already a police officer has been engaged to walk around the church on Sunday morning. Everything else – usher training, locking some doors, hiring a part-time security coordinator – is on the table. Have a question or idea? Reach Executive Director Saribeth Dozier at 704-295-4844 or saribeth@mpumc.org.

## LILY'S STORY

*Church member Hillary Fulghum shares the story (and sweet heart) of her daughter, Lily, who truly learned her lesson at Vacation Bible School. Props to Hillary for sharing this story FOUR DAYS after giving birth to their third child, Briggs Leighton Fulghum, on July 19. Lily (6), Charley (4) and Briggs are the children of Hogan and Hillary Fulghum. Lily will be a first-grader at Dilworth Elementary School.*

Lily attended Vacation Bible School and learned about ZOE and what her VBS offering was going toward. ZOE is our ministry partner in Kenya, serving children. One night at dinnertime shortly after VBS, Lily asked if she could help make dinner for her and her sister. She said she was the chef at "Lily's Kitchen" and made scrambled eggs, toast and fruit. She served the meal and asked if we could pay her for making it. She wanted to give the money to ZOE. When we handed the baggie/donation over at Summer Fun Days, her smile let on how proud she was. I know it wasn't the dollar amount raised, but the intention behind it that everyone at church was touched by.

Lily has a service-oriented heart. She's raised money at her lemonade stand to help a friend with a terminal illness. She enjoys passing out care bags to those in need around Charlotte. She talks about wanting to donate toys to children in shelters and orphanages. Her heart truly is in it. No matter how small the donation, it's being given in the right spirit. That's definitely something I hope remains important to Lily.



*Lily Fulghum, the big-hearted chef.*

# BACK TO SCHOOL NEWS, FRANCIS CHAPEL

- Kids, don't feel obliged to read this news about back-to-school opportunities since it's still summer: Transition Sunday is 8:45 a.m. Sunday, August 19, in Church In The Round in Jubilee Hall as fifth-graders transition to Youth Ministries. Rising kindergartners will be recognized during the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service August 19. The Flamingo Banquet, a kickoff party for families of youth, is 6:00 p.m. August 19. The High School Back To School Bash is 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, August 25, off campus. Kickoff Sunday for children's Sunday School is August 26. Blessing of the Backpacks for elementary students is 10:00 a.m. August 26 in Jubilee Hall. The Middle School Back To School Bash is 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. August 26 on campus. Turn to [www.myersparkumc.org](http://www.myersparkumc.org) for details.
- Remember, Francis Chapel is closed for renovations to make way for the new (used) organ being installed in that sacred space. *The Cornerstone* will offer updates on the progress, and when the organ will begin making beautiful music.
- Remember to let the church know when you or a loved one is in the hospital, has had a baby or faces a life challenge that requires love and support. Call 704-376-8584.
- Dr. Howell will lead a trip to Israel March 31 to April 11, 2019. To learn more – including itinerary, cost and deadline to sign up – visit [www.myersparkumc.org](http://www.myersparkumc.org). Those interested in going should email our Senior Pastor at [james@mpumc.org](mailto:james@mpumc.org).
- Wanda Phifer, a member of the knitting group that gathers to make prayer shawls and enjoy the fellowship, expresses appreciation for the love she felt after the passing of her husband, Leverne Phifer, on May 22: "To my Myers Park Church family, knitting group and New Covenant Sunday School class, I cannot express my gratitude enough for all the love and kindness that you all have shown and continue to show."



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## GOOD NEWS FROM CHARLOTTE GREEN

Church member Cissy Shull, long a driving force behind *Charlotte Green*, shares a recent project of the ministry that plants gardens in communities around town, then works with neighbors to cultivate relationships: "A group from the *Charlotte Green Garden Club* met at the Wilmore Neighborhood Center and prepared a broth-based soup with vegetables from all Charlotte gardens. We made 27 quarts and delivered them to some of our elderly gardeners and also to elderly residents in each neighborhood we serve." Wilmore is near South End and West Boulevard. *Charlotte Green* has eight gardens in six communities around town. To learn more about *Charlotte Green*, which our church proudly supports, reach Cissy at [rosalind.shull@icloud.com](mailto:rosalind.shull@icloud.com).



*Charlotte Green hosted a picnic with UMAR at McGill Rose Garden.*