

MENTAL HEALTH CONVERSATIONS, MINDFULNESS AND MORE

Continuing the conversation on mental health, and more for the body, mind and soul. To learn about Health Ministries offerings, reach Parish Nurse Susan Mobley at 704-295-4836 or smobley@mpumc.org. To register for most programs, visit www.myersparkumc.org.

- Two gatherings – *Mental Health: Continuing The Conversation* – are 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, October 5, and 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Monday, October 8, in Room 110 of the Parish Life Building. Mental Health America of Central Carolinas will help us talk about anxiety. There will be a Q&A and handouts.
- A workshop at 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 15, in Jubilee Hall will look at ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and the role they can play later in life. Details: Rev. Bill Roth at 704-295-4835 or broth@mpumc.org.
- Parish Nurse Susan Mobley will lead a book discussion on mindfulness Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. September 27 through

November 15 in Room 103 of the Parish Life Building. The group will study *Mindfulness: An Eight-Week Plan for Finding Peace in a Frantic World*. Sign up with Susan at 704-295-4836 or smobley@mpumc.org.

- A cardio sculpting class is 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursday in the Fitness Room downstairs in the Youth Building. Cost is \$50 for eight classes.
- Get a flu shot or pneumonia vaccine from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 3, in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building.
- Church members Nick Beard, Ron Knappe, Jan Nomina and Bill Spier will offer one-on-one Medicare D counseling from 9:00 a.m. to noon many weekdays from October 16 to December 6 in the Church Library on the main floor of the Parish Life Building. Bring a list of medications and dosages. For an appointment, call Carmen Rivera at 704-295-4818.



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GOD'S GUYS, FAITH GIRLS, FORWARD

- Fifth-grade boys are invited to *God's Guys*, a weekly Bible study meeting Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. through May in Room 239 in the Snyder Building. Church member Kenan Gay facilitates the group, offering "tween" boys a chance to discover who they are and what they are becoming by learning to make good choices. Details: Director of Children's Ministries Amy Harriman at 704-295-4814 or aharriman@mpumc.org.
- Fifth-grade girls are invited to *Faith Girls*, a weekly Bible study meeting Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. through May in Room 240 in the Snyder Building. Director of Children's Ministries Amy Harriman facilitates the group, offering "tween girls" a chance to study and discover who they are and what they are becoming. For more, reach Amy at 704-295-4814 or aharriman@mpumc.org.
- *Forward*, a ministry for fourth- and fifth-graders, meets from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. the first Sunday of each month starting October 7 in Room 240 in the Snyder Building. This group serves as a crossover for Youth Ministries. Reach Amy for details.
- Adults in their 20s and 30s can attend a new Young Adults Sunday School class meeting weekly at 9:45 a.m. in Room 259 upstairs in the Youth Building. The class discusses current issues from the perspective of scripture. Reach Director of Young Adults Ministries Jessica Stevens at jessica@mpumc.org.
- H.O.T. Wednesday meets Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Jubilee Hall. Visit www.myersparkumc.org to make a reservation and see what's for dinner each week. Remember to leave a seat at your table for a newcomer or visitor.



myersparkumc.org
704.376.8584

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Snapshots

Two compelling gatherings coming in October: *Blessing Of The Animals* is 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 7, in the Hopedale parking lot across from the church, weather permitting. Bring your cat, dog, goldfish, turtle, we've even blessed a snake and miniature horse. Have your pet on a leash or otherwise in your control, where appropriate. Children of the church will participate in a brief liturgy before it's time for the blessing. On Sunday, October 21, gather in the Parish Life Building basement for *Rise Against Hunger* and pack meals for hungry brothers and sisters around the world. Two sessions are planned that day starting in the morning. You might know this project as *Stop Hunger Now*. The name has changed, but the hairnets and enthusiasm remain the same. Look to www.myersparkumc.org to learn more and sign up. **Also:** The Fall edition of *Intersection* magazine has been mailed to homes and placed around the church campus. Look for the striking mosaic of faces on the cover. For extra copies, or to share a story idea, reach Director of Communications Ken Garfield at 704-295-4819 or ken@mpumc.org.

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.

AFTER THE HURRICANE, HELP

Images of Hurricane Florence will not be washed away by time or the next big story: One-year-old Kaiden Lee-Welch is swallowed up by floodwaters after his mother loses her grip on her child. Robert Simmons Jr. seeks safety in a small boat, a kitten named Survivor perched on his shoulder, the photograph of them going viral. Thousands of N.C. neighbors stand waist-deep in water, their homes in ruins, wondering where in God's name help will come from. In God's name, it will come from us. Turn to www.myersparkumc.org/disasterrelief for opportunities to contribute financially and otherwise. Included there is an Amazon wish list of needed supplies that you can purchase, from diapers to dehumidifiers. Soon there will be trips to Eastern North Carolina to join in the work of repairing homes and businesses while building relationships with those who stood tall against the wind and rain.



– Ken Garfield

OCTOBER 23:

EXPORING RACE, RELIGION

Our focus on racial reconciliation deepens when pastor/author Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove leads a conversation on *The Uneasy Legacy Of Race And Religion In Our New South City*. The program, open to the community, is at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 23, in Jubilee Hall.



Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

Jonathan, a Duke Divinity School graduate, founded Rutba House in Durham in 2003 with his wife, Leah, welcoming the formerly homeless to eat, pray and share life together. Among his books is *Reconstructing The Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion*. That work forms the heart of our coming conversation.

As Jonathan shares in an e-mail: "I grew up in the Bible Belt in the American South as a faithful church-going Christian. But I gradually came to realize that the gospel (I heard growing up) was not good news for everybody... Just as Reconstruction after the Civil War worked to repair a desperately broken society, our compromised Christianity requires a spiritual reconstruction that undoes the injustices of the past. When the gospel is reconstructed, freedom rings for both individuals and society as a whole."

Jonathan will read from his book, then share in conversation facilitated by Greg and Helms Jarrell of Charlotte's *QC Family Tree*. Their work in the Enderly Park neighborhood provides an example of how today's church can work to undo the legacy of racism that is part of our shared history. Greg is also the author of the forthcoming book, *A Riff of Love: Notes on Community and Belonging*. Jonathan's book is available through traditional booksellers, online and in the Goodness Gracious! gift shop. For child care October 23, email lrsmit@mpumc.org.

Passages

In Memory

Turner "Barry" Thackston III, father of Nancy Deel and grandfather of Gracie and Eva Stuart Deel, who died on August 27, 2018. Betty Harvey Ham, mother of Jane Hood and grandmother of Sophie and Trey Hood, who died on August 28, 2018. Frank Michael Cummins, father of Sally Underwood and grandfather of Elizabeth Underwood, who died on August 31, 2018. James Lee Chambers, husband of Dottie Chambers, father of Anna Smith and grandfather of Mary Claire Shulstad, Christopher Shulstad, Connor Shulstad and Anna Case, who died on August 31, 2018. Suzanne Lillicrapp Anderson, wife of Dick Anderson and sister of Arthur Lillicrapp, who died on September 1, 2018. Helen June Flowe, sister of Ann Morris, aunt of Charles Morris and great-aunt of Geyer, Sullivan and Payson Withers, who died on September 2, 2018. Susan Hunter Troxler, wife of Tim Troxler and mother of Garrett Troxler and Brooks Troxler, who died on September 4, 2018. David Wise Ohl, father of Matt Ohl and grandfather of Katy Moore, Sara Ohl and Christopher Ohl, who died on September 5, 2018. Marcy Yandle Coleman, sister of Sherrie Catledge, aunt of Casey Rogers and great-aunt of Jake and Dylan Rogers, who died on September 5, 2018. William James Watson, son-in-law of Ben and Linda Hawfield, brother-in-law of Lindsay and Brian Jones and uncle of Ella and William Jones, who died on September 9, 2018. Al Deering, father of

Melissa Jesse and grandfather of Violet and Jack Jesse, who died on September 16, 2018.

Babies

Henry Tyler Harris, son of Raleigh and Jordan Harris, grandson of John and Ann King and nephew of Hannah King, born on July 20, 2018. Louisa Whitfield Tarwater, daughter of Julia and Michael Tarwater, sister of Tripp and Eleanor Tarwater and granddaughter of Barbara Brewer, born on August 21, 2018. Poppy Anne Mogensen, daughter of Laurel and Dan Mogensen, sister of Ellis Hayes and Willow Mogensen, granddaughter of Bob and Tobie Holberton, niece of Shannon and Lance Townsend, Brian and Jimena Holberton and Eric and Kristen Holberton and cousin of Easton Townsend, Gage Townsend and Bennett Holberton, born on September 9, 2018.

Weddings

Logan M. Jamison and James N. Troutman, married on September 15, 2018, at the church. Bailey Kristen Langvardt and Erich Garland Straughn, married on September 22, 2018, at the church.

WELCOME, MUSIC ASSOCIATE AND ORGANIST EVAN CURRIE



Evan Currie

The congregation welcomes Evan Wesley Currie as Music Associate and Organist, bringing his gifts to the ministry of music at Myers Park United Methodist Church. Evan, an experienced organist, choral accompanist and vocalist, joins the staff on October 15. He succeeds Nicolas Haigh, who left for Christ Episcopal Church.

Evan grew up in the Charlotte area, attending First United Methodist Church of Mount Holly and graduating from Gaston Christian High School. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree, cum laude, in Organ Performance at Furman University. He went on to earn a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

With a heart for worship and a passion for collaboration, Evan comes with impressive credentials: An accomplished baritone, he made his vocal debut in Handel's Messiah at Furman. He has completed additional performance studies in Arezzo, Italy, at the Accademia dell'Arte and served as an intern at The Juilliard School in New York. As an accompanist, he has collaborated with many choirs in the New York City area, and appeared and collaborated in performances throughout New York City and the New Jersey area, as well as in Boston, Washington, D.C., Charlotte, Greenville (S.C.), Rochester (N.Y.), Montreal (Canada) and Arezzo, Rome and Milan in Italy.

WELCOME, TWO CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES STAFFERS

Welcome two new staffers to Children's Ministries:

- Leslie Lowery is the second Assistant Director of Children's Ministries, working alongside co-Assistant Heidi Giffin and the rest of the team. Leslie has been a pre-school teacher here at The Children's Circle for eight years. She has also been an Assistant Director for Summer Fun Days, taught Sunday School and volunteered at numerous events and activities. She and her husband, Brandon, have two children – Dean, 13, and Clara, 10. Reach Leslie at 704-295-4801 or LLowery@mpumc.org.
- Lisa Ross-Smit is the new part-time Child Care Coordinator. She succeeds Julie Wentz, serving now as our church's School Partnership and Local Outreach Coordinator. Lisa is in her 15th year teaching at The Children's Circle, which she will continue to do. Lisa and Bernard have two children – Javin, 18, and Mali, 16. You will mostly see Lisa (and her smiling face) on Sunday mornings in the nursery area. Reach her at lrsmit@mpumc.org.
- The rest of our Children's Ministries team includes Director Amy Harriman and Communications Coordinator Katharine Willis.



Leslie Lowery

Lisa Ross-Smit

THIRD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY

Is there a tradition as sweet and significant as Third Grade Bible Sunday? Our church gave the gift of an engraved Bible to 84 third-graders, a stepping-stone on their faith journey and a tangible expression of our love for them. But it is also a practical expression, for we counsel our children to open their Bibles, read it, study it, embrace its lessons. The Bible they receive in third grade is the Bible they can cling to for the rest of their lives, in times of exhilaration and times of challenge. After worship, the children posed for photos in the Sanctuary with Dr. Howell and their family, and outside with their brothers and sisters and, in many cases, with their grandparents. Sweet and significant indeed.

– Ken Garfield



Snapshots from Third Grade Bible Sunday. Photos by Ken Garfield.

HEARTFELT THANKS FROM MELANIE AND PARKER

Dr. Melanie Dobson and Rev. Parker Haynes, both of whom we miss dearly, share thanks for the love (and love offering) with which we sent them on their way.

Beautiful Myers Park Congregation,

Thank you so very much for your generous love offering to me. My heart was very warmed by your generosity and kindness. Your gift enabled me to carry on with trust and hope through a couple of months without a paycheck. Your offering taught me yet again that when we take a leap of faith, and step into a calling, the Holy Spirit moving through others provides us with what we most need. I am really enjoying my work of teaching at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, and Elijah is thriving in his new school and will start a fall YMCA soccer league soon. Much love back to you,

– Melanie Dobson

My Brothers And Sisters At Myers Park,

I give thanks to God for the time I had among you and especially for your generous gifts as my family and I moved from serving you to St. Timothy United Methodist Church in Brevard. Your financial support has been a blessing to us. We excitedly await the birth of our second child as Alisha is due on November 9. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to transition to a new home and a new church. May the peace of Christ be with you always,

– Parker Haynes

Calendar

DR. HOWELL'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

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 September 26, Rev. Uiyeon Kim will lead the gathering, exploring 1 Corinthians 13:4-13 ("Love is kind..."). On October 3, Rev. Nancy Watson will guide us through 1 Corinthians 11:22-26 and The New Covenant. Details: Dr. Howell at james@mpumc.org.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- Donate blood from 7:30 a.m. to noon in the Youth Building Gym. Walk-ins are welcome. Bring a state-issued photo ID or America Red Cross blood donor card at registration. Details: Carmen Rivera at 704-295-4818 or crivera@mpumc.org.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

- Learn CPR and how to use the AED defibrillators located around the church from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Room 110 of the Parish Life Building. Cost is \$40, paid in advance. Register at www.myersparkumc.org or with Carmen Rivera at 704-295-4818 or crivera@mpumc.org.
- Children's and Youth Ministries invite all to the second of a two-part seminar – *Kids' Brains & Screens* – from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Jubilee Hall. The goal is to help parents and guardians make healthy choices for a child's screen use, including social media, video games, smartphones and more. For child care, email lrsmit@mpumc.org. Details: Amy Harriman at 704-295-4814 or aharriman@mpumc.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

- *Blessing Of The Animals* is at 2:00 p.m. on the Queens Road side of the campus, weather permitting. Bring your cat, dog, goldfish, turtle, whatever. Have your pet on a leash or in your control.
- Youth in Grades 5-12 are welcome to participate in Sanctuary worship on Sunday mornings as Crucifers, Acolytes and Bible Carriers. Youth can attend a training session from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A parent must accompany their son or daughter. Details: Amelia Miller at cmiller5@carolina.rr.com or Katharine Willis at katharinecwillis@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

- The Caregivers Support Group meets at 11:30 a.m. in Room 105 of the Parish Life Building. All are welcome to come and share the challenges and experiences of caring for a loved one. Details: Parish Nurse Susan Mobley at 704-295-4836 or smobley@mpumc.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

- Gather in the Parish Life Building basement for *Rise Against Hunger* and pack meals for hungry brothers and sisters around the world. Two sessions are planned starting in the morning. This project was formerly *Stop Hunger Now*. Look to www.myersparkumc.org to learn more and sign up

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

- Heads up, kids (and the young at heart): The annual *Phantom Of The Organ* concert and Halloween-related shenanigans will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come in costume!

ALL THE TIME

- Funds collected through the church's second-mile outreach fund help support ministry partners around the world. Give to *Jubilee Plus!* year-round at www.myersparkumc.org/jubileeplus or write a check to the church with *Jubilee Plus!* in the memo line and put it in the offering plate or mail to the church.
- Let the church know when you or a loved one is in the hospital, has had a baby or faces a sudden need. Call 704-376-8584.
- Can't make it to worship? Watch and listen each week to our 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service at www.myersparkumc.org. The worship bulletin is also available via the live streaming link.

THREE STORIES FROM THE BORDER

A church team of 12 traveled to McAllen and Brownsville, Texas, on the Mexican border to connect with “those in our midst who live on the borders of life,” as Rev. Nathan Arledge puts it. There they helped set up a respite center, listened to stories of immigrants seeking a safe home in the United States, and worked with United Methodist and Roman Catholic organizations that serve the vulnerable. Here are three stories from the journey. We’ll return November 25-30. Visit www.myersparkumc.org/serve for more.

Megan Argabrite

‘THE ONLY THING WORTH SAVING’

Borders. Walls. Boundaries. We draw imaginary lines in the sand because we believe we are more worthy than another. That’s it. What is a border for, if not to keep people in their place? This is mine. You don’t deserve it. As we drove a highway that followed the U.S./Mexico border between Brownsville and McAllen, Texas, the border wall was a startling reminder of this. It divided fields of crops. It would disappear behind buildings and trees, then snake back into view, something sinister, looming. The metal used to build portions of the border wall came from defunct military equipment from the Vietnam War. Its very substance is one of violence and division. It lives up to its legacy. We are fools. Building a wall along a line we’ve drawn, around land we’ve decided we own, to protect a way of life we think we have earned. In doing so, we separate ourselves from the only thing worth saving – each other.

Janie Reynolds

‘LOVE, TRUST AND HOPE’

We first met immigrants seeking asylum at the McAllen bus station. Their only possessions were the clothes on their back. They wore ankle bracelets issued by ICE. They appeared fatigued, silent, numb. We led the group to Catholic Charities Center. There they were greeted by cheers, singing and embraces. There were sighs of relief that they had arrived at a safe place. Within hours, the group was fed, showered and issued new clothes. The next part of their journey was mapped out, to their sponsored home in the United States. Though there was a language barrier, we connected through smiles, touch and listening. Their stories were powerful and sad. But as the immigrants settled in, their demeanor changed. Children laughed and played. We were no longer strangers. In a sense, God had torn down the border wall and knit us together with love, trust and hope. We led our friends back to the bus station the next day so they could continue their journey. It was hard to let them go. But I felt the wall come down for the brief time we were together.



Janie Reynolds makes chicken soup at Catholic Charities Center in McAllen, Texas, which serves our neighbors at the border.

Sarah Gillespie

‘HE’S MINE. TAKE CARE OF HIM.’

We had just accompanied a group to the bus station when we learned another group was being dropped off by ICE. The men, women and children entered quietly, holding the hands of their children. The children were sent ahead to sit in the lobby while their parents were given an explanation by other volunteers. I was struck by how docile the children were as they followed us to the rows of chairs. There was no crying and little talking. At the end of my row sat a boy no more than two years old. Though his serious brown eyes made contact with mine, he never spoke or smiled. I wondered how long he had been separated from his parents. One by one, the children were collected by their parents. Finally he was the last one there, and the group was about to leave. I took this little one’s hand and began walking toward the adults. A man getting help at the counter turned around, smiled and said, “He’s mine.” With relief, I handed him over. Ever since that moment, I’ve been thinking about what Jesus would have said... “He’s mine. Take care of him.”