

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, OUT OF THE DARKNESS

- As part of the continuing focus on mental health, 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. Rev. Bill Roth explains: "Comprehending the long-term physical and emotional impact of childhood stressors and trauma or ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) is the key to understanding our communities and ourselves. ACE awareness enables us to understand the reasons behind many behavior and health issues, and gives us tools for countering their impact. The good news is that the impact of ACEs on the lives of children is not irreversible. Our congregation can play a unique role by providing the support that repairs the effects of childhood stressors." Details: 704-295-4835 or broth@mpumc.org.
- The conversation on mental health widens: At 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 24, Providence United Methodist Church at 2810 Providence Road will host a free program exploring literature, art

and the power of telling our stories. National Alliance on Mental Illness will lead the dialogue. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. is \$7.50. Call 704-366-2823. At 7:00 p.m. Sunday, October 28, at 3646 Central Avenue, the nonprofit Silent Images will host *Into The Light* – a night of films and discussion about mental health. The event is free. RSVP to RSVP@silentimages.org.

- Church middle and high school youth will join in a powerful community event – *Out Of The Darkness Walk* to raise awareness of suicide at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, October 20, starting at Romare Bearden Park uptown. Our youth will lead face-painting and games and help at the Memory Wall, remembering those who lost their lives to suicide. Student leaders are Margaret Barr, Porter Kennedy and Lucy Person. To get involved, reach High School Youth Associate Jason Rhymer at jason@mpumc.org.



myersparkumc.org
704.376.8584

Vol. 49, No. 19 ~ October 10, 2018



1501 Queens Road
Charlotte, NC 28207
www.myersparkumc.org

(USPS No. 074680)
is published bi-weekly by
Myers Park United Methodist Church
1501 Queens Road
Charlotte, NC 28207

Periodicals postage paid
at Charlotte, NC
POSTMASTER

Periodicals
POSTAGE PAID
Charlotte, NC
USPS No.
074680

KIDS AND TECHNOLOGY, PLANNED GIVING

- Parents and others are invited to a coffee talk at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, October 28, in Jubilee Hall to discuss the timely topic of children and technology. Details: Director of Children's Ministries Amy Harriman at 704-295-4814 or aharriman@mpumc.org.
- Look in the mail for the packet from the church sharing news and information on planned giving and its importance to the life and future of Myers Park United Methodist Church.
- Our friends at Temple Israel at 4901 Providence Road on the Shalom Park campus will mark the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht with an observance at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 7. Kristallnacht, also known as the Night of Broken Glass, is widely viewed as the start of the Holocaust – a night of violence against Jews in Nazi Germany on November 9-10, 1938. The name comes from the shards of broken glass that littered the streets after the windows of Jewish-owned stores, buildings and synagogues were smashed.
- With the need for blood especially urgent after Hurricane Florence, our church came through: The recent blood drive in the Youth Building Gym netted 32 pints. Our next drive is February 3, 2019.
- Mitchell's Fund held its annual *Prescription For Hope* luncheon at Charlotte Convention Center to raise money to support the financial needs of families facing a life-threatening pediatric illness. The fund honors Mitchell Bays Turner, the son of church members Frank Turner and Meg McElwain. Mitchell passed away at age two from a rare form of leukemia. Some 800 people attended the luncheon, helping to raise \$100,000 (and counting). Dr. Howell delivered the invocation. Church member Annabelle Poovey was named the 2018 Young Philanthropist for raising more than \$1,000 at lemonade stands and bake sales. She's the daughter of Melissa and Matt Poovey. Details: www.mitchellsfund.org.

Snapshots

Thank you for all the ways you have reached out with time, love, prayers and money to those whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricane Florence. The outreach continues. Visit www.myersparkumc.org/disasterrelief to keep up with all the opportunities. Checks can be made out to the church with *Disaster Relief* in the memo line and put in the offering plate, dropped off at the front desk in the Parish Life lobby or mailed to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207. So far, we have contributed more than \$40,000 to hurricane relief. In addition, church members, friends and neighbors loaded water, diapers, formula, cleaning supplies, tools and more onto a tractor trailer bound for hard-hit Laurinburg in eastern North Carolina. And when Jadon Olsen, a United Methodist preacher's kid from Laurinburg, was critically injured during the hurricane and rushed to Levine Children's Hospital here in Charlotte, we wrapped our loving arms around the family. Read all about it inside the *Cornerstone*. And continue giving your time, love, prayers and money.

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.

OCTOBER 23:

A Q&A ON RACE AND RELIGION

Pastor/author/activist Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove joins us at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 23, in Jubilee Hall to lead a dialogue on "The Uneasy Legacy Of Race And Religion In Our New South City." He is the author of "Reconstructing The Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion," available in the Goodness Gracious! gift shop. The conversation will be facilitated by Greg and Helms Jarrell of Charlotte's QC Family Tree. Greg is the author of the forthcoming book, "A Riff of Love: Notes on Community and Belonging," also available in Goodness Gracious! and elsewhere. For child care October 23, email lrsmit@mpumc.org. Here, Jonathan, who lives in Durham, talks about his book and the coming conversation.



Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

Q. Those who join us October 23, what can they expect to hear?

A. Since this book came out in the Spring, I've been facilitating conversations around the country about how America's history of white supremacy has compromised Christianity, and how, at the same time, the faith of Jesus has always challenged racial injustice. I'm looking forward to this

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CHURCH SECURITY, THE POWER OF SPEAKING UP

By Ken Garfield

Our church's Safety/Security Committee continues its work, all the while lifting up the familiar phrase that guides how we live here and in other public places.

If You See Something, Say Something.

In these unpredictable times, all of us have an obligation to act on our reasonable suspicions. It is the new mantra: If you see something out of the ordinary – something that catches your eye, causes concern or just doesn't feel right – tell someone. At our church, reach out to police officers, who are a welcome presence on Sunday mornings. Or connect with a staff member, greeter or usher. If the matter is obvious and urgent and help isn't around, call 911. Law enforcement preaches about needing the eyes and ears of the public to help protect the peace.

Our Safety/Security Committee is chaired by Tom Harrall and Jim Zopp and includes staff and laity. Plans are being finalized to hire an outside security consultant to study current procedures and recommend new ones. Everything is up for consideration: Staff and usher training, panic buttons, locking more doors, staffing the front desk before and after work hours, hiring a part-time security coordinator and more. Look for more news of the consultant soon, as he will spend time talking with staff and laity before making recommendations. Already, the church has engaged a police officer, usually the friendly Detective Todd, to walk around the campus on Sunday morning. And as you come to worship, study and serve, remember: If you see something, say something.

Passages

In Memory

Mary Jane Frazer, grandmother of Megan Linebarrier and great-grandmother of Emma Grace and Frazer Linebarrier, who died on September 12, 2018. *Bill Michael King*, husband of Susan King and father of Morgan Ainsworth and Madison King, who died on September 13, 2018. *Judith M. Pierce*, mother of Karrie Payne and grandmother of Hadley Payne, who died on September 17, 2018. *William H. "Doc" Simendinger Jr.*, husband of Evelyn Simendinger and father of Gail Felton, who died on September 18, 2018. *Carolyn E. Walker*, wife of Bud Walker, who died on September 20, 2018.

Babies

Finley Marie Brookes, daughter of Rachel and Craig Brookes, born on September 10, 2018. *Evelyn Thach*, daughter of Kathryn and

John Thach, sister of Jack Thach, granddaughter of Ellen and Gary Erickson and niece of Will Erickson, born on September 16, 2018. *Francis Jane Skouras*, daughter of Hope and Spyros Skouras, sister of Evie Skouras, granddaughter of Beth and Chuck Hood, great-granddaughter of Betty and David Francis and niece of Eric Davis and Elise Houston, born on September 20, 2018. *Brooks William Gay*, son of Liz and Kenan Gay and brother of Wells Gay, born on September 22, 2018. *Graham McGraw Sutton*, son of Hailey and John Sutton, born on September 24, 2017.

Weddings

Sherylle P. Smith and Alexander A. Diffey Jr., married on October 6, 2018, at the church.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Church members Mary Kelly and Lea Johnson, members of our church's Affordable Housing Advocacy Group, share their work and invite you to join them in learning more.

The Affordable Housing Advocacy Group is made up of 26 church members. The need for what we focus on is compelling: Charlotte has a shortage of 24,000 housing units for residents earning \$37,050 or less.

Our church has a longstanding commitment to affordable housing, which grows not out of any political inclinations but from our understanding of God's love and care for all God's children. We feel called to play a prophetic role and raise theological questions within the complexities of homelessness and inadequate housing. We affirm the dignity of every human being and the right of every person to a home that allows him or her to grow into all God intended.

We strive to educate our church family about the basics of affordable housing, how it applies in Charlotte and what we can do to influence decisions. We meet the third Tuesday of each month to discuss policy changes or host a learning session. We attend City Council and community meetings to advocate for affordable housing. We walk with our sister congregation at South Tryon Community United Methodist Church to work with Brookhill Village residents

to support their right to adequate housing. Our team welcomes the opportunity to talk with your Sunday School class or other group.

On Tuesday, November 6, our city will vote on whether to approve a \$50 million Housing Trust Fund Bond referendum. If the bond passes, funds will be used to increase the supply of quality affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households through new construction while preserving existing housing. An initiative with the private sector is under way to match the \$50 million bond fund. Our church does not, by policy, direct our members in their voting. Members of our Affordable Housing Advocacy Group are obviously enthusiastic about what the \$50 million bond package could do in concert with our efforts. We encourage church members to learn more about the bond before voting on November 6. You can reach us at Mary.m.f.kelly@gmail.com or leajohnson@mvalaw.com to learn about our work, the bond vote and scheduling a dialogue with your class or group. Or you can access the bond referendum website for details about the Housing Trust Fund Bond Referendum projects and programs at <http://www.voteeyesforbonds.com/housing/>

THE LATEST ON THE FRANCIS CHAPEL ORGAN

What's the latest on the organ going into Francis Chapel? Construction is well under way for the installation of the pipe organ, as our beautiful chapel must be adapted to accommodate the instrument. It will be known as the Walter Ball Memorial Organ, honoring our beloved former choirmaster and organist. The Walter Ball Endowment has made this project possible. Built in 2014 for a private owner, the organ has been rebuilt to blend into the existing chapel. Once completed, the organ and Francis Chapel will play host to worship services, weddings, special recitals and other events. The carpet is being removed and replaced by a stone floor in which will be embedded a labyrinth for walking and reflection. Keep an eye on *the Cornerstone* and online for updates.



Getting Francis Chapel ready for the new organ. Photos by Jim Deal.

A Q&A ON RACE AND RELIGION . . .

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conversation because I've seen how it can bring healing and a fresh vitality to the gospel message, especially for people who are ready to face the truth about our present moral crisis in America.

Q. *You speak and write of the gospel, and I assume the churches that practice it, as being broken? Explain?*

A. The lie of white supremacy wasn't condemned by much of American Christianity. When abolitionists challenged slavery in the 19th century, many preachers and teachers in the church used the Bible to justify human bondage. That compromise impacted how we read the Bible, and its influence is with us still. The healing we need, both as individuals and communities, demands that we address this sin and its generational impacts.

Q. *What do we need to do to reconstruct the gospel and make our churches part of the answer to our racial divide, rather than a partial cause of it?*

A. We begin to heal when we confess the ways we continue to perpetuate the problem. But healing is a long journey that takes work – unlearning old habits and trusting new sources of wisdom for our personal development, church growth and political hope.

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 October 10, James will explore *St. Francis Of Assisi And The Bible*. Details: Dr. Howell at james@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.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

- The Wired 4 Ministry class helps you understand how God created you to affect others through your spiritual gifts, heart, ability, personality and experiences. You can take a class from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Pre-class exercises are required. To register, reach Carol Tate at 704-295-4822 or ctate@mpumc.org.

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!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

- The Fall Block Party from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Life Building parking lot, weather permitting, features Bill Spoon's Barbecue food truck, bounce houses, music and more. Kids, wear your Halloween costume. Adults, bring tailgate chairs and blankets.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- To mark Veterans Day (November 11) kindergarten and first-grade children will make Veterans Day cards on November 4 to mail to veterans and families with church ties. Know a veteran or loved one of a veteran who'd welcome a card? Send the name and address to Assistant Director of Children's Ministries Heidi Giffin at heidi@mpumc.org.

NOVEMBER 25-30

- Travel with Rev. Nathan Arledge and a mission team to McAllen, Texas, to serve and pray for migrant families. Visit www.myersparkumc.org/border-response or email nathan@mpumc.org.

ALL THE TIME

- Our church Nominating Committee meets October 18. Do you know people who would be good leaders in Finance, Staff Parish (personnel matters), Administrative Board (strategic planning, governance), Trustees (campus and endowment), Nominations (people who know lots of people), and those who would enjoy attending Annual Conference in mid-June at Lake Junaluska? Email your suggestions to Dr. Howell at james@mpumc.org.
- 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.
- Join the team that meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Loaves & Fishes warehouse at 648 Griffith Road to sort donated food. Details: Laura Weller at lauraoweller@yahoo.com.

A CONVERSATION ON FAITH:

JADON, BILLY AND THE HURRICANE



Ken Garfield

Hurricane Florence brought death and damage to North Carolina. But it also brought people together, as this story about our church and the Olsen family illustrates. Director of Communications Ken Garfield wrote it for United Methodist News Service. Rev. Billy Olsen shares this message with Myers Park United Methodist Church: "Thanks to one and all for being the hands and feet of Christ while we are here in Charlotte with our son!"

It was the sort of thing Jadon Olsen, 17, would do. Driving home with his father, the Rev. Billy Olsen, in the midst of Hurricane Florence, they came upon a fallen limb in the road. This was around supertime Friday, September 14, as one of North Carolina's worst natural disasters was unleashing its fury. Jadon, his dad and younger sister, Amelia, had gone to St. Luke United Methodist Church to watch a movie, the comedy *Mr. Bean*, after losing power in the parsonage. This was in Laurinburg, the small eastern N.C. town where Olsen pastors Saint Luke. They were two blocks from home. They could have squeezed by the debris. But Jadon would have none of it. He told his dad they needed to stop and clear the road for the next traveler.

"Jadon said 'Let's move it,'" Olsen said from the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Levine Children's Hospital. "That's the kind of guy my son is."

As they were moving the limb from the road, another one fell from the tree and struck father and son. Billy Olsen remained conscious. But he could see that something was wrong with Jadon. As Amelia called 911 from the car, Olsen acted quickly. "I got down on all fours and laid on my son. If another branch came down, I was not going to let it hit my son." And he prayed, too, during the 10 minutes he waited for help to arrive. "I was saying, 'Lord, save my child.'"

Olsen wound up with a wound to the top of his head that required 12 staples. He dispensed with anesthesia so he could remain as alert as possible for his son. Jadon suffered far worse – a fractured skull that required an ambulance ride through the hurricane to the Charlotte children's hospital. The ambulance arrived at 1:30 a.m. Saturday. There, a medical team performed a three-hour surgery to stop the bleeding and relieve pressure on his brain. At presstime, Jadon faces a long recovery. Olsen said he has "absolutely blubbered" over every inch of the hospital's sixth floor. He smiled when he said his wife, Elaine, had to declare Jadon's room a "no crying zone."

Olsen, 51, is a member of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. He grew up in Chapel Hill attending University United Methodist Church. He's in his sixth year as solo pastor of 350-member Saint Luke in Laurinburg, 100 miles southwest of Raleigh.

Jadon is the third of the Olsens' four children. A senior at Scotland Christian Academy, he ushers at church and volunteers with Special Olympics, Vacation Bible School and more. Elaine Olsen said her son is always ready with a Bible verse when someone needs one. "You see, if you know Jadon personally, you get this," she wrote. "He loves life. He loves people."

That's what led him to stop in a hurricane to help the next guy.

Sitting in the sixth-floor family waiting room at the hospital, Billy Olsen reflects on this experience.

His family has been deeply comforted by the Methodist connection, including visits, calls, emails and prayers from our church. Members of his congregation have reached out as well. In her blog, Elaine Olsen wrote about the sacred road of suffering, and the solace found in traveling that road together.

The accident has caused Olsen to reexamine his prayer life. "I lay so many requests at God's feet for a life of ease," he said. "God, make my life easy. God, fix my hurt." This suffering he is going through, it has brought him closer to God, and a simpler prayer: "Spare my son."

It has also helped him see joy in a new way. No longer is it just a birthday, graduation or other milestone. "I watched my son move his left foot," Olsen said. "I'm not sure I was happier on the day my son was born or when he moved."

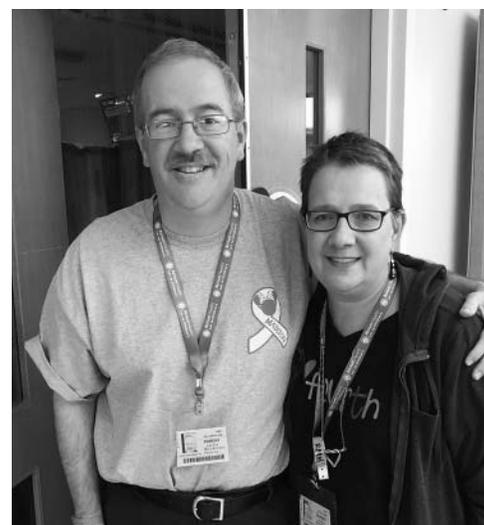
Olsen's cell phone rings. It's his wife calling from Jadon's bedside. It's time to go. But one more question needs answering:

He'd stop the car again that night in the hurricane. He just wishes one thing could have been different.

"I wish it was me in that bed," Olsen said, "and Jadon out here telling the story."



Jadon and Billy at a football game.
Photo contributed by family.



Rev. Billy and Elaine Olsen, outside Jadon's hospital room. Photo by Ken Garfield.