

LEIGHTON FORD'S NEW BOOK, AGING WITH GRACE

- Evangelist Leighton Ford, long a friend to this church and our Senior Pastor, has published his latest book. In *Places of the Heart – A Journey with Paintings, Poetry and Reflections*, Leighton employs watercolor paintings and words to revisit the places he's been to all over the world. He calls them thin places – “where the curtain between heaven and earth seems for a while to part.” Leighton took up painting in his later years. The book, available in the Goodness Gracious! gift shop, sells for \$45. Proceeds go to Leighton Ford Ministries, which mentors young Christian leaders around the world. Leighton will do a reading and sign books at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 11, at Park Road Books at Park Road Shopping Center. Ken Garfield,



Leighton Ford

- our Director of Communications, helped edit and publish the coffee table-style, hardback book.
- The Builders Sunday School class will host a program on *Aging With Grace And Purpose* at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, November 4, in Room 103 of the Parish Life Building. Everyone, including other classes, small groups and individuals from the congregation and community, are invited to hear Dr. Charles Edwards, a gerontologist and founder of Memory Center Charlotte, talk about dementia, Alzheimer's and related topics, and how best to care for those in need.
- Go to www.myersparkumc.org and *Realm Login* at the top of the home page to set up your account in our new communications tool. There you can connect with your Sunday School and small group, check your giving history and more. Questions? Reach Rev. Barbara Barden at 704-295-4813 or bbarden@mpumc.org.



NEWS ABOUT BARBARA BARDEN

In case you missed it, Dr. Howell shared this news with the congregation last week.

After 19 years of faithful service to our church, Rev. Barbara Barden will be retiring, effective June 30, 2019. We want you to know now, as we will begin the sharing of Barbara's incredible store of institutional memory and networking so the transition will be excellent. Barbara has been an integral part of the growth and success of our church over the years, which we celebrate, and for which we give thanks. Although she is retiring from an active appointment to a church, Barbara will still be in ministry as a consultant, helping others develop effective lay leadership, and will be working from Lake Junaluska. The Church will be blessed by her ongoing ministry. There will be many opportunities in the weeks to come for us to express our love for and appreciation of Barbara and her life and ministry.



Rev. Barbara Barden

Turn inside for more staff news.

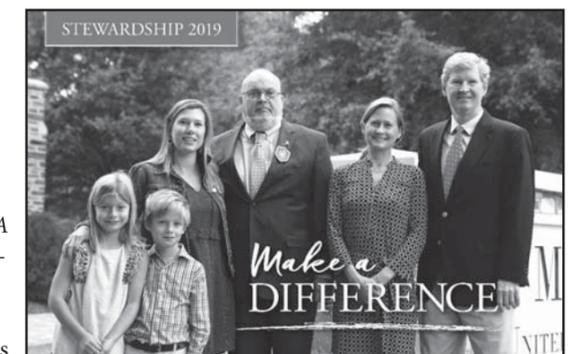
Building the treasure of a good foundation for the future.

– 1 Timothy 6:18-19

THE SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP: MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Ken Garfield

Amid the growing needs of neighbors next door and around the world, we begin the season of stewardship by unveiling the theme of our campaign: *Make A Difference*. Look for a colorful postcard, then a second mailing with your Estimate Of Giving card and material celebrating the good works we do. We ask that you fill out your card and return it as soon as you can. Your generous commitment will support the 2019 church operating, and our *Jubilee Plus!* fund devoted to outreach. Among the righteous causes supported by *Jubilee Plus!* are Crisis Assistance Ministry, Freedom School, Habitat For Humanity, ministries around the world and more. We will even include a return en-



velope to make your job easier. You can also make an Estimate of Giving (aka pledge), or a gift, at www.myersparkumc.org/give. In the coming weeks in *the Cornerstone* and online, we will tell stories of how we are sharing Christ's love in tangible ways, including the folks featured on our first stewardship mailing. Together, in this season of stewardship, we can make a difference.

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REMEMBERING JUSTIN HAMPTON, LOAVES & FISHES

- With a blend of love, pride and heartache, church member Ann Hampton shared with *the Cornerstone* the unexpected passing of her son, Justin, on May 22. An asthma attack took him at age 34 in Lawrence, Kan., where he was completing his PhD in English Literature. How he loved 19th and 20th century British literature, and teaching. Son of Ann Hampton and the late Dr. Thomas Marion Hampton, he graduated from Charlotte Country Day School. Such a loss, for as his obituary shared, he loved his family first and foremost, but also friends, his dog Eve, and all things pumpkins, video games and rocks. “He will be remembered book in hand, sardonic grin, laughing deeply.”
- The needs remain great: Donate to relief for those affected by the two recent hurricanes at www.myersparkumc.org/disasterrelief or write a check to the church with *Disaster Relief* in the memo line and put it in the offering plate, drop it off at the front desk or mail it to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207.
- The power of the Internet to touch lives: Dr. Howell received an email from Susan Crum of Leadville, Colorado, who worships

- with us on Sunday via Livestream at www.myersparkumc.org. “Your church, which I attend on the Internet every Sunday, has been a lifeline for me,” she writes. “I am writing to let you know how very thankful I was that you had church during the hurricane. I had been praying for everyone's safety and was glad to see that you all were safe....With thanksgiving for your ministry.”
- Our church remains focused on mental health and related issues such as addiction: From 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 9, Dilworth Center at 2240 Park Road behind the Blossom Shop in the Food Lion parking lot welcomes visitors to learn about its work helping those struggling with drug and/or alcohol addiction. There will be a tour, light refreshments and a chance to learn more about this ministry. RSVP to 704-372-6969 or cynthia@dilworthcenter.org.
- 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.

Snapshots

It is hard to fathom, isn't it? Two hurricanes striking our shores within a month of each other, bringing tragedy to who knows how many people from Florida through the Carolinas. Our congregation responded with its usual generosity, donating money and loading water, diapers and other supplies onto a tractor trailer bound for eastern North Carolina. But in this era of breaking news, it's easy to move on to the next big story. So we offer this reminder, to keep those whose lives were affected by Hurricanes Florence and Michael in our hearts and prayers. Visit www.myersparkumc.org/disasterrelief to financially support relief efforts. You can also make out a check to the church with *Disaster Relief* in the memo line and put in the offering plate, drop it off at the front desk in the Parish Life lobby or mail it to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207. So far, our church family has contributed \$50,000 to hurricane relief. What a powerful, loving total. For those who lost a lot, or who lost everything, please keep it up. Thank you in advance.

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.

Passages

In Memory

Colin McNary Westmoreland, father of Missy Anderson and grandfather of Ty Anderson, who died on October 1, 2018. Frank Couvillon, uncle of Jim Deal, who died on October 3, 2018.

Babies

Asa Lee Blalock, son of Ellen and Ryan Blalock and brother of Nora Blalock, born on October 3, 2018. Everett Stephen Maciag, son of Meghan and Steve Maciag and brother of Owen Maciag, born on October 14, 2018.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS LEARNED TO LIVE OUT LOUD

Middle School Youth Associate Sarah Yoss looks back on the recent Middle School Retreat to Awanita Valley Christian Retreat Center in Marietta, S.C.

Some 155 youth and adult chaperones embarked on a fun and faith-filled weekend retreat to Awanita, where we learned what it means to *Live Out Loud*. Guest speaker Charlie Conder spoke about turning up God's voice and turning down all the voices that tell us who we ought to be. We worshipped God with our voices and dance moves during energizers. During the weekend, we had the chance to fellowship with one another through mega-relays, mud pits, paddleboats, horseback rides, bonfires and slip 'n slides. My favorite moment of the weekend came during Sunday morning worship, when all of our youth had hands on each other's shoulders and swayed while singing thanks to the Lord. Our youth left this place changed, and as a family.



Sarah Yoss (second from left) and friends having a muddy blast on the retreat.



Just hanging out with friends at the retreat.

NEWS ABOUT KEN, SARAH AND EVAN

- After 12 years, Director of Communications Ken Garfield has decided it's time for a change: Ken will go half-time starting January 7, focusing his church work on writing, editing, media/community relations, special projects and the pursuits for which he is most passionate. This will free Ken up to invest more of his time in his long-time avocations: Writing for nonprofits, developing book projects, and making himself available to families needing a loved one's obituary written. As Dr. Howell said in sharing the news: "We are grateful he will continue his ministry of storytelling with us, and we look forward to reading more of his work out in the community." A successor to direct church communications will be chosen.
- Also in communications: Sarah Gibson joined our staff on October 22 as Assistant Director of Communications. Sarah comes to us from Myers Park Presbyterian Church,



Ken Garfield



Sarah Gibson

where she has served as Outreach Administrator for two years, focusing on global missions. Before that, she worked for five years as Youth Ministries Assistant at Matthews United Methodist Church, her home church, where she also leads an adult small group. Sarah lives in Matthews with her two sons, Elijah, 6, and Caleb, 4. A native of Chester, S.C., she brings to our church family a passion for sharing news across all platforms in words and design, from print to digital to video. She succeeds Melissa McGill, who left to lead communications for the Western North Carolina Conference. Reach Sarah at 704-295-4841 or SGibson@mpumc.org. Better yet, stop by to say "Welcome."

- We welcome, too, Evan Wesley Currie as Music Associate and Organist, an experienced organist, choral accompanist and vocalist who has joined our staff. As *the Cornerstone* previously shared, he succeeds Nicolas Haigh, who left for Christ Episcopal Church. Reach Evan at 704-295-4821 or ECurrie@mpumc.org.



Evan Wesley Currie

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

Megan Argabrite, our Director of Worship and the Arts, offers something to look forward to: Our Christmas Eve schedule of services. Needless to say, much more news of Advent is coming...

We'd love for you to gather in worship with us here at Myers Park United Methodist Church on Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24). Please take note of our updated worship schedule for the day, and make plans to come to any of our beautiful services.

Noon ~ Jazz Service, Jubilee Hall.

2:00 p.m. ~ Carols and Candlelight Service, Sanctuary.

4:00 p.m. ~ Church In The Round Service, Jubilee Hall.

6:00 p.m. ~ Carols and Candlelight Service, Sanctuary.

8:00 p.m. ~ Candlelight and Communion Service, Sanctuary.

11:00 p.m. ~ Candlelight and Communion Service, Sanctuary.



The late Wes Bobbitt captured the beauty of our Christmas Eve candlelight service.

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 24, our Senior Pastor will help us explore *The Fruit Of The Spirit* (Galatians 5:22-23). On October 31, the group will meet at 11:00 a.m. only, come and ask James anything about God and the Bible! On November 7: *The Miracle Of Jesus: Real, Repeatable, Relevance*. On November 14: Rev. Nathan Arledge leads the group. On November 21: No class. Happy Thanksgiving! Details: Dr. Howell at james@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, OCTOBER 28

- Join us for coffee and a conversation on *Children And Technology* from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in Jubilee Hall.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- Church members can attend the Administrative Board meeting and Charge Conference starting with dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. Details: Executive Director Saribeth Dozier at 704-295-4844 or saribeth@mpumc.org.

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.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- Women are invited to the Women's Fall Gathering from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Jubilee Hall. Hosted by United Methodist Women, it features heavy hors d'oeuvres, holiday missions market, speaker Lisa Koons and more. Cost is \$10. Make your reservation at www.myersparkumc.org/women.

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.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- Family Advent Night at 5:30 p.m. in Jubilee Hall features dinner and the chance to make three crafts. Register starting November 1 at www.myersparkumc.org/children.

MAY 20-28, 2019

- A limited number of seats for non-choir members are available for the Chancel Choir trip to Scotland. Details: Nancy Hamff at 704-295-4831 or nancy@mpumc.org.

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.

A Conversation On Faith:

Dollye Walters, And Two Victories To Relish

To know church member Dollye Walters is to love her, and to laugh a lot. Whether it's a gathering of her beloved Builders Sunday School class or a family dinner, she's the life of the party. Way back in high school, she was



Ken Garfield

voted Most Popular. Her husband, Jim, loves to share "Dollyeisms" – like the day at the golf course, when Dollye spotted the sign, "Carts

90 degrees." Concerned, she asked Jim, "Why are the carts so hot today?" Ask a golfer if you don't get it.

Jim started noticing the changes during Christmas 2014. A master of wrapping gifts, Dollye could no longer turn a ribbon into a bow. A math major at Wake Forest, she used to keep a careful ledger of how much she spent on gifts for the children and grandchildren. Now she couldn't keep the numbers straight. You and I, we've seen this too many times in too many friends and loved ones.

Alzheimer's.

Today, Jim is her caregiver, as devoted a partner as God could have brought Dollye, 69. She's in a wheelchair. There's not much she can do for herself, though she still recognizes loved ones. That's good, because there are so many loved ones in her life to recognize. Jim, a natural go-getter, works not to let sadness slow him down. He's a regular at our church's monthly Caregivers Support Group, where he always has something spirit-lifting to share with the rest of us.

With Alzheimer's, you have to relish the victories...

Charlotte's Walk To End Alzheimer's recently raised \$600,000 (and counting) for care, support and research. Among the 4,000 participants were 65 or so of Dollye's friends, family and Sunday School classmates. *Dollye's Darlings*, they called themselves. They even wore T-shirts proudly sharing their name. Together they raised \$8,000. Ever the banker, Jim says *Dollye's Darlings* was the 13th best-performing team financially out of the 338 teams that walked. Out there in her wheelchair, leading the way, was Dollye. How she loved being among those closest to her, all trying to do



Dollye Walters at the Walk To End Alzheimer's.
Photo contributed by the family.

something about a disease that has robbed Dollye and others of far too much.

One more story to share...

Dollye isn't able to attend worship much anymore. But on a recent Sunday morning when she was feeling better than usual, Jim got her up and dressed for church. He brought her to the Sanctuary in a wheelchair, but she insisted on taking her usual spot in the pew (their PSLs, Jim jokes), in front of Melvin and Anita McIntosh. It was Holy Communion Sunday. But because she was seated in a pew rather than her wheelchair, she couldn't get to the front of the Sanctuary for the bread and the cup. After worship, Jim got Dollye into her wheelchair and headed to their car parked in the Hopedale lot across the street. Before they could get there, though, Megan Argabrite and church member Xanie Adams came sprinting to their side.

Having learned that Dollye hadn't been able to make it to the table, they brought the table to her.

Like I said, you have to relish the victories...

There on the sidewalk, across the street from the church that loves her, with her loving husband behind her, Dollye reached for the bread. Then she slowly moved it toward the cup, as she has done so many times before. This time, Megan helped her dip the bread into the cup. And so there on the sidewalk on a Sunday morning more special than most, Dollye took Holy Communion, those familiar words providing a testament to her body and soul...

This is the body of Christ, broken for you.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

- All who care for a loved one are welcome to be a part of the Caregivers Support Group. The next meeting is 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 20, in Room 105 in the Parish Life Building. The gathering lasts an hour. Typically, participants share how they are faring – their "weather report" as Parish Nurse Susan Mobley calls it. To learn more, reach Susan at 704-295-4836 or smobley@mpumc.org. Director of Communications Ken Garfield writes about church life. Reach him at ken@mpumc.org.