

CHURCH BUDGET APPROVED; LAY LEADERS APPOINTED

The Administrative Board at its last meeting approved a 2019 church operating budget of \$5,993,138. That's up from the 2018 budget of \$5,635,568. The *Make A Difference* campaign is under way, seeking estimates of giving from church members to fund the 2019 budget, plus the *Jubilee Plus!* fund devoted to outreach. Fill out and turn in your Estimate Of Giving card as soon as you are able, or make a financial commitment at www.myersparkumc.org/give.

Lay leaders were also chosen for 2019: Pete Kelly, Nichelle Weintraub and Lindsay Jones were named new Trustees of the Wesley Foundation. Heather Davis chairs that board. New members of the Finance Committee are Ransome Foose, Chris Lepore, Whitney Seeburg, Sandra Bobbitt and Bruce Morrison. Richard Wood is Finance Committee Chair. Doug Caldwell is the new Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. New Staff Parish Relations Committee members are Lynn Hankins, Ashley Gilbert, Bruce Lawrence and Trey Harb.

New Annual Conference delegates are Matt Daniels and Havaleh Havelka. New to the Nominations Committee are Dick Hagemeyer, Betsy Scott, Meg McElwain and De Cordell. New Administrative Board members are Josh Smith, Meg Seitz, Ernest Chander, Brooks Miller, Beth Gage and Barbara Henson. Administrative Board officers are Chair Will Barr, Treasurer Dixon Crum, Assistant Treasurer Ellen Fox, Secretary Mary Martha Beecy and Lay Leader Dick Carter.

The Charge Conference endorsed two candidates for ordination through the Western North Carolina Conference: Bailey Caudle and Jennie Dugan.

For more on the business life of the church, reach Executive Director Saribeth Dozier at 704-295-4844 or saribeth@mpumc.org.



myersparkumc.org
704.376.8584

Vol. 49, No. 22 ~ November 21, 2018

Building the treasure of a good foundation for the future.

– 1 Timothy 6:18-19

'MY PRAYER EVERY SINGLE DAY...'

Make a
DIFFERENCE

Make A Difference is the theme of our campaign to financially support the church in 2019, including our *Jubilee Plus!* fund devoted entirely to outreach. Please fill out and return the Estimate Of Giving card you received in the mail as soon as you are able. You can mail it to the church at 1501 Queens Road,

Charlotte, NC 28207, put it in the Sunday offering plate or drop it off at the front desk in the Parish Life lobby. You can also make a commitment, and a gift, at www.myersparkumc.org. Here, church member Jennifer Bankhead reflects on what making a difference means to her family.

My prayer every single day over my family is that we let our light shine so bright that others may see the love of Christ in each one of us. Whether it's a simple note to brighten someone's day, a prayer when someone's in need or something else, we always look for those opportunities to make a difference...to make things a little better than they were before. Through their school, Trinity Episcopal, the kids have been blessed to work hands-on with local organizations, allowing them to go out into this world and truly be the hands and feet of Christ. We think it's important to contribute and support our church in the mission started generations ago by being a leader in the community both spiritually and financially.



Jennifer and Chris Bankhead and their children, from left: Victoria (8), Alexander 10, and Isabella, 6.

NEWS OF SUSAN MOBLEY

Dr. Howell shared news of Parish Nurse Susan Mobley with our church staff and now the congregation. There will be more in the coming months, of course, on Susan's great ministry among us, as we express our gratitude.

Friends,

"With some sadness and yet immense gratitude, I am writing today to let you know that our Parish Nurse, Susan Mobley, will be retiring in March, after 19 productive and love-filled years with us. Susan has visited the sick and homebound, organized and supported Care Teams, made support groups happen, played a key role in our Mental Health series, labored with us as staff to be sure we are healthy – the list goes on and on. She has been a faithful, compassionate presence for all of us and our entire church family. You'll want to express your gratitude to her – and join us in prayer as we seek a successor for her position."



Susan Mobley

Snapshots

What a blessing it is for our church to open its doors to good and loving causes. Such is the case with KinderMourn. For 40 years, the Charlotte-based nonprofit has offered comfort and counsel to bereaved parents and others. Learn more at www.kindermourn.org. We are honored again this Advent to host KinderMourn's Annual Holiday Memorial Service at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 2, in the Sanctuary. This is a bittersweet tradition for KinderMourn families, to light a candle in remembrance of the loved one whose loss they must learn to live with. Together, these families grieve and try their best to go on. Whether or not you have been through the KinderMourn program, you are welcome to attend. Light a candle to remember your own loss. Come and stand with others who suffer, knowing there is comfort in numbers. **Turn inside (and to www.myersparkumc.org) for the calendar of Advent activities, and an in-depth look at opportunities for outreach.**

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.



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

WIRED 4 MINISTRY, CASSEROLES, WINTER DONATIONS IN DECEMBER

- Learn how God has wired you to make a difference through your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experiences. Take a *Wired 4 Ministry* class from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 4. Registration and preclass exercises are required. Reach Carol Tate at 704-295-4822 or ctate@mpumc.org. Also: Discover what your spiritual gifts could be with an online assessment at www.myersparkumc.org/engage-serve/wired-4-ministry.
- Church member Barbara Henson shares an opportunity to serve with the wonderful Casserole Ministry: "We need cooks! Involvement in the Casserole Ministry provides a chance to offer a caring touch to members of our church family. If you like to cook and would be willing to make casseroles that would be delivered to members who have had a new baby, been hospitalized, had a death in their family or need support for other reasons, consider this opportunity. Reach me at bhenson@ayrsley.com."
- Travel with a mission team to McAllen, Texas, November 25-30 to serve and pray for migrant families. Visit www.myersparkumc.org/border-response or email Rev. Nathan Arledge at nathan@mpumc.org.
- Donations of new and gently used winter coats and other clothing are welcome in the bin in the Parish Life lobby during December, for neighbors at Crisis Assistance Ministry.
- The 13th annual Women's Retreat at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro February 8-10, 2019, will explore *Encounter – The Everyday Art Of Worship*. The weekend is filled, too, with fellowship, outdoor activities and more. Leading the program will be Megan Argabrite, our Director of Worship and the Arts. To learn more or register, visit www.myersparkumc.org/women. Details: Rev. Barbara Barden at 704-295-4813 or bbarden@mpumc.org.
- A limited number of seats for non-choir members are available for the Chancel Choir trip to Scotland May 20-28, 2019. To learn more, reach Nancy Hamff at 704-295-4831 or nancy@mpumc.org.
- Donate to our relief fund for victims of 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.

Passages

In Memory

Margaret "Bootsie" McWilliams Goforth, mother of Mary Sue Thomas and Gail Goforth and grandmother of Bill Thomas, who died on November 1, 2018. Brenda Litaker, mother of Sage McArthur and grandmother of Lawson and Hatley McArthur, who died on November 6, 2018.

Babies

Jax Bradford Jones, son of Marie and Kyle Jones, brother of Rush Jones and grandson of Ray and Janet Jones, born on October 29, 2018.

WE WORKED TO MAKE OUR GARDEN GROW FOR GOOD

Church member Mike Farrell updates us on the Garden Ministry, which tends to the bountiful garden beside the Parish Life Building parking lot. To learn more and get involved, reach Mike at 704-425-3826 or mikefarrell1950@gmail.com.

The Garden Ministry enjoyed its most productive and rewarding year ever in 2018. God blessed it in so many ways. The planting season started with another gracious donation of rich, natural compost from the SuperSod company. Richard Carter IV donated his time and talent to build beautiful raised beds for the herbs and flowers in his successful quest to earn his Eagle Scout badge from Troop No. 11 at Providence United Methodist Church. Richard, 16, is an 11th-grader at Covenant Day School. He's the son of Rich and Jennifer Carter. Talk about a family tradition: Richard's dad and grandfather, Dick Carter, are Eagle Scouts. Harvest Team Leaders Lisa Boaz, Elizabeth Field, Susan Scott, Frank Turner, Eric Ritchie and more than 25 of their team's volunteers worked hard to harvest more than 600 pounds of fresh vegetables. Suzanne Butler pioneered a new ministry-within-a-ministry, this year recruiting and managing the new Garden Delivery Team that delivered produce to refugees new to our community each week. Special thanks to Chuck Vogt and Glen Cole for their work with the dahlias and roses. As always, we are grateful for the many hands and feet of God that make this ministry such a success.



Richard Carter IV (with a little help from friends) earned his Eagle Scout by building raised beds for herbs and flowers in the church garden.



Congratulations and thanks to our church's new Stephen Ministers, commissioned and now ready to offer one-on-one care (and a listening ear and heart) to those in need.

From left on the front row: Training Coordinator Kay Rice, Susan Lynch, Kori Hall, Chris Jones, Rose Spinks, Amanda Williams, Glenda Wooten and Training Coordinator Ken Rice. From left on the back row: Trip Howe, Ron Peterson, Christine Mull, Ellen Riley and Chris Lundin. To learn more about Stephen Ministries, or to connect with one, reach Rev. Bill Roth at 704-295-4835 or broth@mpumc.org.

JADON IS HOME AFTER THE HURRICANE; 'WE WILL WHISPER A PRAYER OF THANKS'

By Ken Garfield

Two months after nearly dying in Hurricane Florence, Jadon Olsen is back home in Laurinburg, N.C., working to regain what he lost when a tree limb struck him down in the storm.

The Cornerstone shared Jadon's story last month – how the 17-year-old and his dad, Rev. Billy Olsen of Saint Luke United Methodist, were injured while removing fallen limbs from the road for the next guy. Jadon suffered a fractured skull and was rushed by ambulance to Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, where he faced long days of rehab. Jadon returned home to Laurinburg in late October. As his dad tells us, "His therapy is ongoing, and we're still coming back to Charlotte to see his doctors. Jadon has made great strides and is back in school (he's a senior at Scotland Christian Academy) as therapy and doctor appointments allow. He has a long way to go in his recovery, but continues to show improvement every day."

The family's long, anxious days in the hospital were made easier by the prayers and presence of clergy and others from Myers Park United Methodist Church. As the Olsens wrote to Dr. Howell, "As we gather around the table (and turkey), we will whisper a prayer of thanks for you!...Thanks to everyone at Myers Park."

Jadon's mom, Elaine, put it this way: "This is my really big God showing up on the scene of my itty-bitty life in a really big way."



Jadon Olsen, working each day to regain his strength.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, HAMMERS AND HOME, SWEET HOME

Local Missions Coordinator Megan Jones shares news of our latest Habitat For Humanity house, built in the nearby Grier Heights community alongside volunteers from Myers Park Presbyterian Church and the new Habitat homeowner.

Lashika, originally from New York, has been in Charlotte 12 years. She has two children, who she brought to every Habitat function she could. She even brought them with her when she was selecting her lot, so they could help decide where they were going to build their new house. Her daughter, who is in preschool at our partner The Learning Collaborative, was excited to tell everyone involved that her room would be pink.



Lashika (center) is overwhelmed at the dedication of her family's new Habitat home. Photo by Sarah Gibson.

Lashika's aunt and uncle flew in from New York to celebrate the dedication of the house.

In class, Lashika has enjoyed learning how to save money and stick to a budget. She said her favorite thing about this process has been meeting Habitat staff and other homeowners. She appreciates how supportive everyone has been as she takes this great new step in life's journey.

• Since its founding in 1983, Habitat Charlotte has built 1,200 new houses, repaired 500 older, owner-occupied houses through its Critical Home Repair program,

and rehabbed 100 houses acquired by Habitat through foreclosure. To learn more, visit www.habitatcharlotte.org.

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. **Take note, please: No class on November 21, have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!** Details: Dr. Howell at james@mpumc.org.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 21

- No H.O.T. Wednesday. The meal and fellowship return to Jubilee Hall on January 9.

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.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- Learn how God has wired you to make a difference through your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experiences. Take a *Wired 4 Ministry* class from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Registration and preclass exercises are required. Reach Carol Tate at 704-295-4822 or ctate@mpumc.org. Also: Discover what your spiritual gifts could be with this online assessment at www.myersparkumc.org/engage-serve/wired-4-ministry.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2019

- Save the date to give blood in the Youth Building Gym.

FEBRUARY 8-10, 2019

- The 13th annual Women's Retreat at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro will explore *Encounter - The Everyday Art Of Worship*. Leading the program will be Megan Argabrite, our Director of Worship and the Arts. Cost is \$210 double or \$250 single. Charter bus transportation is available for another \$30. Scholarships are available. To learn more or register, visit www.myersparkumc.org/women. Questions? Reach Rev. Barbara Barden at 704-295-4813 or bbarden@mpumc.org.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019

- Rev. Bill Roth and counselor Bronah Livingston lead a *Marriage Matters* seminar from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. This meets the premarital counseling requirements for those getting married at our church. Details: Carmen Rivera at 704-295-4818 or crivera@mpumc.org.

MAY 20-28, 2019

- Some 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

- Give to *Jubilee Plus!* and you are supporting ministry partners around the world. Donate to our out-the-door *Jubilee Plus!* outreach fund 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 lauraowell@yahoo.com.
- Want to receive a written copy of each week's Sunday sermon in the mail? Email Director of Communications Ken Garfield at ken@mpumc.org.

ADVENT, DAY BY DAY

NOVEMBER 22-23

- Church is closed for Thanksgiving. Those in need can call 704-376-8584 and follow the prompts to the pastor on call.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- Dr. Howell leads us in a look at *Christmas Stories In The Bible* at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday November 28 and December 5 and 12, in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. There is no class November 21. Details: james@mpumc.org.
- Family Advent Night from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Jubilee Hall features dinner (chili and baked potato bar) and making three crafts, including an Advent wreath. Register at www.myersparkumc.org/children. Space is limited.

NOVEMBER 29 TO DECEMBER 1

- Order Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands in advance from Youth Ministries, Sunday mornings in the Parish Life lobby or at www.myersparkumc.org. You can also buy a tree for Refugee Support Services. Pick up your purchase at the parking lot across from the church – 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. November 29; noon to 8:00 p.m. November 30 (Family Fun Night with Hubee D's food truck); and 9:00 a.m. to noon December 1. If you haven't pre-ordered, trees and such are available on the lot. Proceeds support youth missions.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

- KinderMourn's Holiday Memorial Service at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary welcomes all who have lost a child or other loved one. Bring a candle in a holder to light in remembrance of a loved one. Child care is provided.
- The annual Christmas concert at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon St. Featured are the Chancel Choir, Women's Choir, Youth Choir, Junior Choir, Alleluia Choir, Myers Park Bells and Myers Park Strings. It's free. No ticket is needed. Shuttles run from the Parish Life portico entrance to the uptown church from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m. There's free parking beside the uptown church.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

- Revs. Nathan Arledge and Uiyeon Kim launch a three-part book discussion on *Home For Christmas: Tales of Hope and Second Chances* by Justin Coleman. Classes are 11:00 a.m. to noon Mondays, December 3, 10 and 17, in Room 106 of the Parish Life Building. Email nholmes@mpumc.org to reserve a book.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

- The UMAR Arts Holiday Sale hosted by the agency that serves the intellectually and developmentally disabled is 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. outside Jubilee Hall. Shop canvases, pottery, plants, quilts, jewelry, scarves and more.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

- Kneeling At The Manger is at 4:00 p.m. in Jubilee Hall. As the narrator reads the story of Christ's birth, children of any age are invited to dress as their favorite Nativity character.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

- The Service of Hope And Consolation at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary offers those suffering a loss or other challenge a chance to light a candle and share in the fellowship of prayer.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

- Lessons & Carols at the three Sanctuary services features the Chancel Choir, Chamber Singers and da capo Brass. Church In The Round offers *Christmas In Word And Song* with Scripture readings, music and visuals.
- Moravian Love Feast hosted by youth at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary with buns, spiced tea, beeswax candles and music.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

- Family Worship. No Sunday School for children. Worship care for eight weeks old through those not yet in kindergarten.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

- 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.
- No child care on Christmas Eve. The 6:00, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m. services will be livestreamed at www.myersparkumc.org. The Christmas Eve offering will go to our school partnerships and mission partner ZOE in Kenya. Write a check to the church with *Christmas Eve Offering* in the memo line. Arrive early and enjoy a few moments' quiet time.

DECEMBER 25-26

- Church is closed for Christmas. Those in need can call 704-376-8584 and follow the prompts to the pastor on call.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

- Blended services in the Sanctuary at 8:45, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. only. No Sunday School for children. Worship care for eight weeks old through those not yet in kindergarten.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019

- Church is closed on New Year's Day. Those in need can call 704-376-8584 and follow the prompts to the pastor on call.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

- Epiphany Party for Grades K-1 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in Jubilee Hall. Donations of baby items go to Baby Bundles.

THIS AND THAT

- Questions? Call 704-376-8584 or visit www.myersparkumc.org.
- Want to decorate the church in memory or honor of a loved one? Reserve a poinsettia for \$14 at www.myersparkumc.org. The deadline is Thursday, December 6, to be listed in worship bulletins for the *Lessons And Carols* services on Sunday, December 16. Details: Peg Broughton at peg@mpumc.org.
- Another way to decorate the church in memory or honor of a loved one: Reserve a wreath for an exterior door for \$30 or inside the Sanctuary for \$50. Place an order at www.myersparkumc.org. The deadline is Thursday, December 6, for listing in the *Lessons And Carols* bulletins on Sunday, December 16.
- There is no shuttle on Christmas Eve. It runs every Sunday.
- Children's Ministries' free devotional – *Emmanuel, God With Us* – with children's artwork and more will be around the church. One per family, please.
- The Goodness Gracious! gift shop in the Parish Life lobby is open 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, December 1, 8, 15 and 22.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH 2018

Ways to #LiveDifferently this Advent Season



Images taken by church member Wes Bobbitt

Imagine...

By participating in these ministries this Advent season...imagine the difference it will make in our world and in our lives. #LiveDifferently

Jubilee Store

December 8-9

The Jubilee Store offers us the opportunity to connect with our neighbors at Charlotte Family Housing by providing an empowering, hopeful and dignified way to experience the joy of Christmas. We welcome our CFH friends to choose, purchase and wrap gifts for their own children. This year, on December 8th and 9th, we join with ministry partners, Myers Park Presbyterian, Christ Episcopal, St. John's Baptist and Charlotte Family Housing in hosting a Christmas store, complete with a meal and childcare. New for this year, the store will take place at St. John's Baptist Church — which is more easily accessible for our families.



Donate: New, unwrapped toys and gifts are needed to stock the store. Please take a tag listing a specific item from the Thankful Trees located around the church, and return your gift (unwrapped!) to the church lobby **by December 3**. Details on ordering gifts through Amazon available at www.myersparkumc.org/jubilee-store. (Please, no toy guns or perishable items.)

Serve two ways: Help sort and price donations on December 3-7 or assist shoppers, serve food, wrap gifts, and help with children's activities on December 8 and 9. To serve or to learn more, visit www.myersparkumc.org/jubilee-store or contact Beth Cory at Beth.cory@duke-energy.com. **You must be 18 years or older to serve at the Jubilee Store.**



School Partnership Ministries

We invite you to engage with our Dilworth Elementary-Sedgefield and Latta campuses and Sedgefield Middle School Ministries now and throughout the year.

Opportunities to serve include:

Praying for the Sedgefield School Communities and our deepening relationship with the staff, students and families. Purchasing gifts from the Alternative Gift Market to support field trips for the schools. Assisting a middle school teacher with club days every Friday morning. Serving in the new Novel Room at Sedgefield Middle, inventorying and organizing books.

For additional ministries and ways to be involved with our school partners contact Kitty Bauknight (kbauknight@me.com) for Dilworth Elementary-Sedgefield and Latta campuses and Frank Turner (ftturner3@icloud.com) for Sedgefield Middle opportunities. Substitutes are needed on Tuesdays and Thursdays at FTOR at Dilworth Elementary-Sedgefield campus. Contact Beth Gage at bethdgage@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH 2018

Ways to #LiveDifferently this Advent Season



Alternative Gift Market

ORDER IN CHURCH LOBBY:

Sundays, December 9, 16, and 23
from 8a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Give gifts that support others. Instead of another trip to the mall to buy material gifts, do your Christmas shopping here. You can honor your family and friends by making contributions to a variety of local and global partner ministries. Questions? Contact McCay Manwaring at mccay.manwaring@gmail.com. Learn more at www.myersparkumc.org/alternative-gift-market.

Room In The Inn

Thursdays and Fridays for December thru March

Our church opens its doors December 1 through March 31 to provide warm meals, beds and fellowship for more than 400 of our homeless neighbors who might not otherwise have a place to stay. There are many opportunities for individuals, families and groups to participate, such as driving the van, preparing and serving meals, and staying overnight with guests. Contact Greg Wells at 704-338-4662 or greg@willisengineers.com.



Angel Tree

Sundays from Nov. 25-Dec.9

This Christmas, more than 2.7 million children will spend the holidays without a mom or dad who are in prison. Working with Prison Fellowship Ministry, MPUMC has an Angel Tree with names and ages of local children whose parents are currently incarcerated. Stop by the tree in the Parish Life Building

Lobby today to pick up your angels. It will include the name, age, gender and suggested gift. Once you buy your gifts, deliver them to the family by contacting the caregiver included with the angel tag. If you have questions, contact Doug Caldwell at dougcaldwell@bellsouth.net.

Home For Christmas book study

Mondays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17

Join Revs. Nathan Arledge and Uiyeon Kim for a book study on the first three Mondays in December from 11am-Noon in Room 106 as they discuss the book, *Home for Christmas: Tales of Hope and Second Chances*.

The author, Justin Coleman, matches real life stories of struggle and triumph of those formerly incarcerated or gang-affiliated to show how the light of Christmas shines brightly even in hard times.

Contact Nancy Holmes in the Missions Ministry office at nholmes@mpumc.org to reserve a book.