

An ecumenical church in the Baptist tradition

November 2005

704-334-7232



“Your Home . . . Your Mission”

by Cliff Jarrett
Stewardship Chair

Why is Myers Park Baptist Your Home? Why is it Your Mission?

There are as many different answers to these questions as there are members of our congregation, made evident in our mission statement describing us as a “people on a journey of faith.” No two journeys are alike.

As you’ll see on the pages inside, brave folks stepped up to address these questions publicly, and their responses reflect varied reasons for joining and participating in the unique community of Myers Park Baptist.

Whether it’s the camaraderie, friendships, and fellowship that we find; the scholarly thought, intelligent debate, and respectful controversy that enriches us; or the shared commitment to work toward peace, justice, and love in our community and in the world that sustains us (and perhaps it is all of these!), Myers Park Baptist is certainly Our Home and Our Mission.



I suspect you’ll find something that tugs on your soul when you read these short, personal essays, something that will remind you, again, why you love our community, our people, our church. And I hope you’ll be reminded why it’s both important and joyful to keep this living church alive and growing.

In this season of stewardship, let’s think about why we are here as a joyful community of faith. And then, let’s give until we smile.

—More Stewardship on page 2

DEDICATION DAY AND THANKS-FOR-GIVING FEAST NOVEMBER 13 by H. Stephen Shoemaker

Our tradition here of late has been to offer our pledges as an act of worship on Dedication Sunday. It is a beautiful thing to watch all our members, young and old, come to the Communion Table and place their pledges and offerings on the table.

We will do this on Sunday, November 13. After worship we will have our Thanks-For-Giving Feast where the church supplies the meat and drinks and you bring the other dishes. Reserve this day and come help us reach a victory for our church.

Our proposed budget is 8% above the 2005 Budget, the main increase coming to meet the needs of an expanding church. To date, this year is the best year of giving on record. Let’s keep the ball rolling.

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‘Your Home . . . Your Mission’

The 2005 Myers Park Baptist Church Stewardship Campaign

Key Dates

- ▶ **October 2** - Stewardship Campaign kicks off
- ▶ **October 30** - Sunday School Stewardship Day - New Members’ Event
- ▶ **November 1** - Pledge Packets Go Out
- ▶ **November 13** - Dedication Sunday and Thanks-For-Giving Celebration following worship

Key Budget Highlights - with selected expense categories

2005 Annual Budget		2006 Proposed Budget		% Change
Total	\$1,704,267	Total	\$1,842,980	8 %
Missions	\$127,820	Missions	\$147,438	15 %
Community life	\$370,684	Community life	\$397,103	7 %
Education	\$270,748	Education	\$297,989	10 %
Music/Worship	\$208,735	Music/Worship	\$223,399	7 %

Options for Pledging and Giving

Myers Park Baptist Church now offers online options for pledging and giving in addition to traditional methods. Online giving is available through the church’s web site, www.mpbconline.org.

Q: *How can funds be withdrawn directly from my account?* Only with your authorization via your electronic signature. No one can deduct money from your account automatically unless you specifically authorize it.

Q: *Are electronic contributions risky?* No. An electronic contribution is safer than writing a check, and it can’t be lost, stolen or destroyed in the mail. All Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) transactions are governed by strict national rules and guidelines.

Q: *When would this automatic contribution be taken from my account?* On the signup screens, you can specify whether you want your contribution made one time, bi-weekly, semi-monthly, monthly or as designated.

Q: *Can I try out the service by giving one time?* Yes. You may try Online Giving by selecting “One Time” in the frequency drop down box in the signup process. You will see how easy and efficient the process really is.

Q: *What if I change banks or accounts or want to change the amount of my contribution?* You can change your giving choices at any time through the ‘Contributions Online’ page accessed through the Church home web page.

Q: *Is there any charge to me from my bank to give online?* No. Electronic funds transfers carry no bank fees.

Q: *Whom do I talk to if I have more questions?* Please call the church office 704-334-7232, Linda Noblitt at extension 16 or Diane Griffin at extension 20, or email us by clicking this link: lnoblitt@mpbconline.org.

TESTIMONIALS

What Myers Park Baptist Church means to me and why I pledge financial support . . .

DON BRYANT

It has been a privilege for me to be a member of this church for more than 62 years. I signed on as a charter member the day before I left for the Air Corps in 1943. From that day forward, my journey of faith has been exciting, rewarding, surprising and constant. Be-

cause my dad was one of the founders of MPBC, I had an understanding of our uniqueness and why we were needed in this community.

The foundation upon which this church was built has allowed a free pulpit, a veritable buffet of opportuni-

ties for spiritual growth, and unlimited ways to serve our community.

My personal journey has been influenced by a culmination of strong ministers and staff, strong lay leaders, the steadfastness of our core membership,

—continued on page 10

MILESTONES

Births

Congratulations to David Willingham (MPBC staff) on the birth of his granddaughter, Courtney Janelle Davis, on October 5.

Congratulations to Bruce and Suzie Harned on the birth of their granddaughter, Robin Mae Harned, on October 15 in Bozeman, MT. Parents are Peter and Debbie Harned.

Weddings

Congratulations to Michael Henderlite and Elaina Pope who were married September 14 on Catalina Island, CA. Michael is the son of Jim and Patty Henderlite.

Congratulations to Gwen Phelan and Brian Ross who were married October 1. Brian is the son of Anita Ross Furr.

Congratulations to Jeanne Winn and Jonathan Sweeney who were married October 15. Jonathan is the son of Gordon and Susanne Sweeney (MPBC staff).

Congratulations to Kathie Morris and Donald Martin, Jr. who were married October 22.

Deaths

Our love and sympathy to:

Dottie Burnside on the death of her great aunt, Eulee Teasley, on September 10.

Jennifer Parker on the death of her cousin, Dr. Charles O. Watlington, on September 14.

Tobie Steele and his family on the death of his aunt, Louise Robinson, on September 20.

Kathryn Long on the death of her mother, Susie S. Long, of Elizabeth City, NC on September 30.

Peggy Kelly on the death of her brother-in-law, John William (Bill) Heinz, on September 30.

Susan Pfahl on the death of her father, and to Emily and Carly on the death of their grandfather, Dr. Charles Kenneth Cloninger, October 15.

Nancy Rider on the death of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Richard Davis, on October 16.

Please contact Nancy Holmes at 704-334-7232, ext. 19 if you know of someone who should be included in this column.

SOUTHMINSTER CORNER

Southminster announces the formation of an Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group, open to anyone – caregiver, family member or friend – whose life has been challenged by a loved one's diagnosis of Alzheimer's/Dementia. The group meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at Southminster Retirement Community, 8919 Park Road. Please contact Bethany Lakatos or Sara Weiers for additional information, 704-551-6800.

Financial Report

Weekly Budget Needs	\$32,774
Received September 11	\$39,844
Received September 18	\$28,634
Received September 25	\$25,784
Received October 2	\$19,363
Received October 9	\$18,449
Received October 16	\$30,754

Revenue & Expense Report as of August 2005

YTD Income	\$1,138,826
YTD Expenses	\$1,288,770

**Cornwell Center/Mission
Tithe Income as of 10/16/05**
\$2,306,182

Testing One, Two, Three

by Deborah Moore Clark
Chair, Board of Worship

The scriptures have good things to say about gifts and talents. We each have at least one talent or gift that may be used for the greater good. Our gifts and talents vary in type and degree. Some have more gifts, while others have gifts that are distinctive and remarkable. But thankfully, we each have at least one to nurture and use or lose.

Certainly, we'd be in a big mess if we all shared the same gift, but fortunately our gifts differ. Through our diversity, we are able to accomplish much.

When I examine my gifts and talents I can sing a solo, conduct a choir and edit a newsletter, but I have little mechanical sense, can't do math without pencil and paper, my frosted layer cakes are disasters (just ask Chris Clark about his last birthday cake), and I haven't a clue how to tune a piano. Thank goodness others do these things well! My point, you ask? I'm good at some things, poor at others—just like you.

While I would be an unlikely candidate as a sound system technician, I am convinced a good number of our members would be very good at this, given proper orientation with the equipment. It is somewhat dangerous to make generalizations, but I suspect many of our young adults might be particularly skillful at things electronic. Perhaps *you* are gifted in this particular area.

Good stewardship involves not only our money, but our time and talents. When we engage in activities that use our special gifts and talents we find satisfaction, fulfillment and joy. Using our gifts and talents benefits others and oneself.

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Education

Early Childhood Ministry

On Wednesday, **November 9th** the Parenting Playgroup topic will be **Chores & Your Child**. Come share your perspective and experiences! We meet in Room 104 from 5 - 6 pm and children are welcome.

On Saturday, **November 12th** we will try again for the **Family Hay Ride & Pumpkin Patch Outing**. Stay tuned to the weekly emails for further details. If you signed up but will not be able to make the new date, let me know. If you didn't sign up but really want to go, let me know that as well!

Wednesday, **November 16th** Katie Clark will facilitate a parenting workshop on **The Wonderful World of Boys**. We will meet at 5 pm in the Cornwell Lounge. This will be useful regardless of whether the boys in your life are already grown, your children, or other people's children!

Working Mothers' Group gathers on Friday, **November 11th** at 6:30 pm at the Greek Isles. All working mothers are invited to attend. Contact Maria Long for further information.

On Sunday, **November 20th** we will celebrate our annual **We're Thankful for Our Families Breakfast** at 9:45 in Heaton Hall. We will enjoy breakfast, crafts, and a circle gathering. In addition, the 3-year-old Sunday School class will receive their Family Story Bibles. If your 4-year-old or TK child did not receive a Bible last year, please let Katie Clark know ASAP.

On Saturday, **November 26th**, the **Lolipops Concert Outing** will enjoy *Carnival of the Animals*. Pre-concert activities begin at 10 am at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. Group tickets are no longer available, but individual tickets can be purchased through the box office.

Not Necessarily Early Childhood

The **First Wednesday Book Group** will discuss *Bee Season: A Novel* by Myla Goldberg on Wednesday, **November 2nd** in the Cornwell Lounge. Kim Clark facilitates. Contact Marilyn Smith for more information.

Non-Partisan Artisans gather on Friday, **November 18th** from 6 - 10 pm in Berry Hall. Bring a project to work on and, if you'd like, a few dollars to pitch in on dinner. Contact Katie Clark for further information.

On the Bookshelf . . .

Because of You by B.G. Hennessy

The first line of this book is so simple, yet full of truth: "Each time a child is born, the world changes." What a beautiful thought, that each person is special and important and the world can be a better place because of just one person. The author uses basic, everyday examples that children can understand to show the importance of being kind, generous, and loving. The idea starts small: "When you were born, there was a new person for your family to love and care for. And because of you, there is one more person who can love and care for others." As the story builds, everyone around the world is helping, caring, sharing, and listening to one another in peace. And "something as big and important as peace begins with something small and precious. It might begin...because of you." This is a lovely book in every way, and perfect for children ages 3 to 8.

Catch a Fish, Throw a Ball, Fly a Kite: 21 Timeless Skills Every Child Should Know (and any parent can teach!) by Jeffrey Lee

Life is just richer knowing how to fly a kite, juggle, play a blade of grass, do a magic trick, bake bread, eat with chopsticks, build a wooden box, name the

stars, etc. This is just the book to teach parents how to teach their kids to do such things. Each skill is illustrated and embellished with fascinating trivia. Some are simple enough for 3-year-olds while others will fascinate the most jaded adolescent. You get the added bonus of learning something yourself - or, at the very least, realizing that it's been way too long since you've done one of these activities and that it's never too early to share the fun with your child. This is a great book!

Reviews by Katie Clark

Wednesday Evenings in November and December

November 2

5:00 —First Wednesday Book Club, Cornwell Lounge

6:45—STEPS TO LIVING MORE SIMPLY

Almost no one ever says "I need to be busier. I need to buy more stuff. My life is waaaay too simple." With holiday season approaching, how can we help each other simplify our lives a bit? And how might that more simple life give us more and better time to practice our faith? A program by Mecklenburg Ministries in Berry Hall.

November 9

5:00—Parenting Playgroup

6:45—"Atonement and the Recovery, Renewal and Completion of the Imago Dei" - A two-part theological discourse with Dr. Stephen Shoemaker.

Part I, Berry Hall

November 16

5:00—The Wonderful World of Boys, Parenting Workshop

6:45—"Atonement" Part II, Berry Hall

November 23

NO ACTIVITIES - Thanksgiving Holiday

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November 30

6:45—RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITY: WHAT'S IT LIKE **NOT** TO BE A CHRISTIAN IN CHARLOTTE?

We live in a community in which "What church do you belong to?" is often the first question we get when we meet someone new. Christians are the majority in Charlotte. So what's it like when you're NOT a Christian, especially with holidays like Christmas advertised all over town? Join **Sid Sussman**, our friend from Temple Beth El, as we explore how we might be more sensitive to those of other faiths. Berry Hall

December 7

5:00—First Wednesday Book Group
Cornwell Lounge

6:45—Christmas Festival, Cornwell Commons

December 14

5:00—Gifts Your Child Can Make,
Parenting Workshop

6:45—Elementary Department
Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary

December 21 & 28—No activities,
Happy Holidays!

WAY TO GO! *Jesus Seminar a Great Success*

October 14-16, MPBC's Jesus the Christ in the 21st Century committee hosted Dr. Bart D. Ehrman, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. Dr. Ehrman's lectures were stimulating, eye-opening, lively and informative. He gave us a purely historical view of early Christianities and how the different strands of Christianity worshipped, what texts they used, and how they viewed Jesus.

These seminars attract many people outside our church community; in fact, many of our new members cite these seminars as why they joined our church! So thank all of you who attended the events, and thank you for being so kind and hospitable to our

guests and to Dr. Ehrman. And a HUGE thank you to the members of the committee who guarantee, every year, that this event runs smoothly and successfully: Bob Ruppenthal, Chair; Bill Walker, Sarah Bryant, Sally Whelan, Neal Rodgers, Todd Rubenson, Ike McLaughlin, Sidney Lockaby, Ruth Fuller, Kathie Collins, Joe Feiler, Jennifer Parker, Don Hudson, and Bobbie Campbell, Sheila Ennis and Steve Shoemaker from our staff.

Mark your calendars for next October when we will host HARVEY COX, author of *When Jesus Came to Harvard*.

Dead Sea Scrolls/Jewish Christian Dialogue

Mark Your Calendar! On Sunday, January 22 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm we will host our friends from TEMPLE BETH EL for a dinner and discussion of the Dead Sea Scrolls. More information will follow in the December newsletter, but for now—SAVE THE DATE!!

Adult Forum December 6

We have a very special opportunity to spend an hour with Rabbi Steven Greenberg: author, scholar, 1st gay Orthodox Rabbi. Rabbi Greenberg is the featured guest at Temple Beth El's Alan Rosenberg Memorial Inclusion Shabbat Educational Weekend December 2-4.

In 1996 Rabbi Greenberg was recognized as a master educator and was awarded a prestigious Jerusalem Fellowship that provided him two years in Jerusalem to study and to research the biblical and rabbinic attitudes towards sexuality. Arising from those studies was "Trembling Before G-D," a groundbreaking documentary in which Rabbi Greenberg stars.

The Forum, as always, will be held in Heaton Hall at 9:45 on Sunday December 4. For a great article about the Rabbi, go to: www.spiritualityhealth.com/newsh/items/article/item_5375.html. Or "google" him to find out more! Please join us.

Friends of Jung

John Martin, long-time *Journey Into Wholeness* presenter, makes his first visit to Charlotte Friends of Jung. Martin is well regarded for his intellectual command of Jungian concepts as well as his ability to apply these in practical, down-to-earth ways. Martin contends that philosophy is a way of *thinking* about life, while the power of Jung's approach is that it is a way of *living* life.

Friday **November 4** LECTURE at 7:30 pm. \$15 for CFJ members, \$20 for non-members.

Saturday **November 5** WORKSHOP 9:30 – 4:00 pm. \$35 members; \$45 nonmembers. Events are held at Myers Park Baptist Church in Berry Hall. All are invited!



ANOTHER WAY OF
CARING FOR THE EARTH

- In addition to recycling batteries and cellphones, we are doing something new! EarthKeepers are now recycling printer ink cartridges and toner cartridges. For the EarthKeepers, this means that we are:
- reducing landfill clutter;
- recycling;
- receiving a small remuneration.

There is a box in the Cornwell Center lobby and one across from the Heaton Hall elevator. Thank you for helping us work toward a better earth.



WHAT GOD'S GARDEN MEANS TO ADULTS

by Ginny Sullivan

After our successful initiation year for the Workshop Rotation Model, the Elementary Education Department realized its value for the children of MPBC. This year, however, this innovative and exciting program is revealing its value for the adults who participate in it.

Each of the seven groups of Rotation teachers is given a Bible story, the story's conceptual messages, and suggestions for conducting an hour-long workshop (Drama, Story/Cooking, Art, Cinema, and either Music or Computer/Games). From these humble beginnings, the creativity builds into a workshop plan for the assigned five weeks. People who don't necessarily teach in their everyday lives bring their special talents to the task. Before the work of planning begins, the teacher group meets to explore the meaning of the story, using the Bible Workbench methodology. Participants get to hear how others understand the material. This process internalizes the story and its concepts. Thus, the teaching staff can bring a richer, more spiritual meaning to the process of teaching the children. One person said, "I thought I knew who Esther was and what she did, but now I UNDERSTAND it."

Cheryl Patterson, on completing her teaching of the art workshop in Samuel, remarked, "These children were introduced to 'the priesthood of the believer!'" I wonder what the adults in church for the last few weeks have thought about the stoles the children were wearing after making them. Did they wish they had a priestly stole as a symbol of their role in the church?

Jenny and Matt Martella, cooking and story-telling teachers for Samuel, remarked about how it felt like being back in the time of Samuel to teach in that wonderful room.

Sometimes there is just some wonderful creative energy going on. The Drama Coordinator, Alene Lambert, worked out whole new drama scenarios. Shepherds are learning how to manage behavior issues. Parents are hearing Bible stories from their children and are in wonder about how much such young ones remember about them. Teachers are coming up with grand ideas of what to do with the story. Grandparents are in touch with either their own, or other's grandchildren in a whole new way. All of the volunteers are able to see very concretely the results of their work. What better way for a person to grow spiritually?

Yes, God's Garden is a gift to the church's children, but how much more of a gift to its adults.

KATRINA FUNDS UPDATE

As of October 12, the church has received the following:

- \$10,574 for Disaster Relief/ABC Church World Service
- \$8,850 for Sunshine Fund/Angel Flights
- \$2,540 for SunshineFund/Katrina Families

THROUGH-THE-WEEK SCHOOL

Through-the-Week School's seventh annual **Festival of Friends** fundraiser was a huge success. Held at the home of Taylor and Stancel Riley on October 1st, the benefit raised over \$28,000 for TTWS. A big thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets or made a contribution for this fundraiser. The Ballantyne raffle weekend was won by Tammy Hull, a Through-the-Week School teacher of 3-year-olds.

School is in full swing with many "extra" activities being added this year to the curriculum. Along with our weekly music program, taught by Karen Jones, Julie Dean is conducting art/pottery classes for students ages 3-5. Cherie Behrens of Stretch-N-Grow is holding gym classes at the Cornwell Center for ages 2-5, and Story Café, instructed by Wendy Gill, combines literacy with cooking for 2-5 year olds.

Friendship soup will be available again this year. This delicious soup is a great gift for the upcoming holidays or fun to have on hand for a cold day. Soup this year is \$10/jar or \$100/case (12 jars). Available at the TTWS office by November 10.

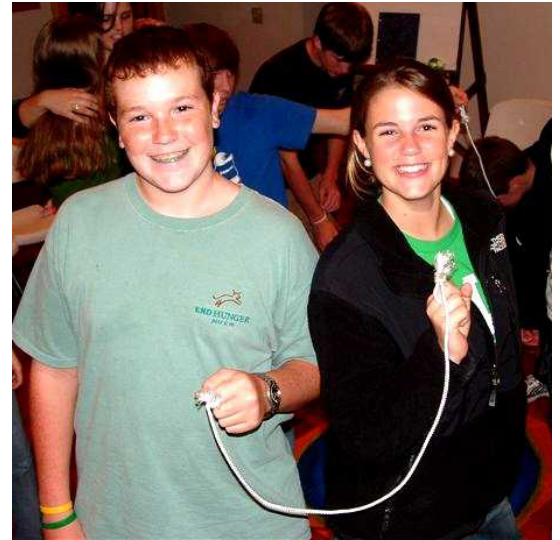
During the week of November 14-19 (M-Sat.), TTWS will be hosting a **book fair** in conjunction with Black Forest Books and Toys, 115 Cherokee Road. Everyone is welcome to come and shop for books and toys. Shopping coupons will be available at the church front desk, or when checking out of the store. Mention you are with Myers Park Baptist Church and TTWS will receive up to 20% in proceeds from all sales.

TTWS will be celebrating Thanksgiving with their annual "**Thanksgiving Feast**" with three's, four's and TK students in Heaton Hall on November 21st. School will be closed November 23-25th. From everyone at Through-the-Week School, please have a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday!

Susanne Sweeney
Director

Senior High Retreat
October 14-16 at Valle Crucis Conference Center

Photos



Music & Worship

Advent and Christmas

SERMONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The Mystery of The Incarnation is just that, a mystery. It cannot be contained in one gospel or in one way of thinking. That is why we have four gospels – and why we are still learning the meaning of The Incarnation, God becoming flesh in Jesus Christ.

This Advent I will preach on The Incarnation According to Matthew (November 27), The Incarnation According to Mark (December 4), The Incarnation According to Luke (December 18), and The Incarnation According to John, (January 8). Please note that on December 11 we will have the traditional Lessons and Carols service, and Sheila Ennis will preach January 1.

H. Stephen Shoemaker

WORSHIP SERVICES

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2005

Lighting of the Candle of Hope
Anthem: "Thou Shalt Know Him
When He Comes" – Hal Hopson

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2005

Lighting of the Candle of Peace
Anthem: "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly
Come" – Paul Manz
Handbell Choir plays

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2005

Lighting of the Candle of Joy
Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Children, Youth, and Adult Choirs
singing

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2005

Lighting of the Candle of Love
Anthem: "Magnificat" - Herbert
Howells

A Candlelight Service of Carols and Holy Communion

December 24, 2005, 6:00 p.m.

Motet Choir and instrumentalists

The Christmas Tableau

7:00-9:00 p.m. Silent Prayer and
Communion

Christmas Day Celebration

December 25, 2005

11:00 a.m. Family worship in the
Sanctuary. Children are invited to
worship with their parents

New Year's Day

January 1, 2006

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion
Children are invited to worship with
their parents



by John Bambach

CORNWELL OUTREACH

Look for the **Holiday Spirit Tree** in the Cornwell Center. Our angels this year are from the Double Oaks Community. Church members and Sunday School classes are encouraged to take an angel off the tree and help make Christmas brighter for these kids.

Upcoming in January -

- ◆ Focus on Katrina and Rita

2nd Annual 5K Community Road Race

– Nov. 5, 8:30 am, 16 yrs and up. \$15 for early registration or \$25 on site. Proceeds go to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Cornwell Wellness Initiative – Weight No More is a new offering that integrates health-related tools and information for maximum effectiveness, including:

- ◆ Diet Plan – personalized by a Board Certified dietician
- ◆ Seminars – monthly, designed to provide you with current, expert knowledge on nutrition and exercise.
- ◆ Fitness progress chart – personalized and updated monthly, allowing you to track your progress.
- ◆ Harvard Diabetes risk calculators – estimating your risk of developing diabetes and heart disease.
- ◆ NHLBI Guide to Behavior Change – An informative summary to help you set the right goals and better understand the process.

ART

Japanese Book Binding

by Summer Allison

Learn the popular style of Eastern book binding on 4-hole stitching thread, binding needle and Japanese yuzen paper. Each student will learn the basics

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"Requiem"
Maurice
Duruflé
Sunday, November 6
11:00 a.m. Worship
The Chancel Choir
and members of the
Charlotte Symphony

-Cornwell Center continued

of bookbinding and make three soft-covered hand sewn photo albums or journals.

Class Information:

Saturdays: 10:30 am - 12 pm (2 weeks)

Nov 5 & 12th

Cost: \$25 Members

\$35 Members

THE LEARNING CENTER

If you've got videos you want to improve or experiment with (family events, recitals, etc.), we're looking for you! If you'd like to try editing or to learn more about shooting video, contact John Bambach (jbambach@mpbconline.org) and let's get something going.

Stewart Bankhead's class in *Conversational Spanish* is well underway and is the closest thing we've seen to a party in the Learning Center. Consider joining us in November. Classes are Saturday mornings at 10.

Also in November...

Windows... START-ing

4 sessions, WEDNESDAYS – NOV 2, 9, 16 and 30, 10:30 am – NOON

For absolute beginners, or those who have been stumbling along until now.

E-mail... Beginning

4 sessions, WEDNESDAYS – NOV 2, 9, 16 and 30, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

For those who can use the computer a bit.

PowerPoint... Beginning your presentation

4 sessions, MONDAYS – NOV 7, 14, 21 and 28, 10:30 am – NOON

Assumes basic computer skills – keyboard and mouse, starting programs, saving files, etc.

Word... in the beginning (of word processing) - assumes basic computer skills

4 sessions, TUESDAYS – NOV 1, 8, 15 and 22, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Coming to the CORNWELL CENTER in December...

The *Stretch-N-Grow* program is designed to promote exercise and wellness for children ages 3 to 5. It assists parents

in developing good health and fitness habits in young children. *Stretch-N-Grow Stars* participate in a 30-minute weekly session, which includes exercise, activities, and discussions on health and related issues such as nutrition, hygiene and safety. Stars have lots of fun while they learn to enjoy exercise and build good habits.

Fast Pitch Softball Clinic

(Coming in Dec...)

Quick Start - Ages 6-12

Focusing on Batting Basics, Throwing, Fielding and Catching

Cost: \$20 Members/ \$25 Non Members

Advanced Quick Start Fast Pitch -

Ages 13-18

Advanced hitting, fielding and throwing

Instructor Bio: **Sonya Bright**, UNC Chapel Hill (1990-1993)

Two-time All-ACC, All-ACC Tournament ... All-Southeast Region in 1993, second-team in 1991, '92 ... UNC's career leader in runs scored, second in at-bats, stolen bases ... Led ACC in batting (.393) and stolen bases in 1993 ... ranked 13th nationally in stolen bases in 1993 ... 1998-2000 Women's Pro Softball League player.....now: pro fastpitch instructor and coach

Youth Basketball Clinic & League Registration

◆ Registration – Cornwell Center Members - Oct 1 - Nov 18

◆ Registration – Non-Cornwell Center Members Oct 8 - Nov 18

◆ League Practice – Begins November 14, 2005 (Day and time will be determined by team coach).

◆ League Season - Starts December 10

◆ Clinics Begin - December 5

Adult Fall Women's League Basketball League

◆ Days: Mon, November 7th - Dec 14th
· Time: 6:30 – 10:00 pm (game time will vary)

◆ Season: 4 games + single elimination playoffs

Ages: 18 and over

Fees: \$175 Cornwell Members

\$200 Non-Cornwell Members

Adult Winter Men's Basketball League

◆ Days: Tues or Thur, Dec 12 – March 12

◆ Time: 6:30 – 10:00 pm (game time will vary)

◆ Season: 10 games + single elimination playoffs

Ages: 18 and over

Fees: \$500 Cornwell Members

\$550 Non-Cornwell Members

Personal Training Holiday Promotion:

Begins November 24th - January 1st.

Receive an additional 10% off from already low training prices, when purchasing 10 or more personal training sessions

Evening Childcare Now Available!!! -

Evening Childcare available Monday-Thursday from 4-7 pm. All parents must sign in their child with the Cornwell Receptionist before taking their child to the Childcare room and/or gymnasium.

Social Dance Series

Richard Cousins is fox-trotting along as we write this. Consider swinging with him, beginning in November.

◆ **Swing**, NOV 31 – DEC 22, THURSDAYS at 7 pm

Flu Shots Sign Ups - November 15th and 16th, call the Cornwell Center Reception to reserve your spot!! (704-927-0774).

Volunteers needed to assist with Basketball Clinics. Call David Pohorenc @ 704-927-0774, extension 601.

Group Exercise punch cards available for purchase at the Cornwell Center Reception Desk. A group of 8 classes is available for \$35 Cornwell Center member and \$56 for non-Cornwell Center members.

TESTIMONIALS —continued from page 2

and a beautiful facility in which to worship and work. (I even sang in the choir) To have church without music would be unimaginable. And can you imagine now not having the Cornwell Center?

We, you and I, are the ones responsible for continuing this now and for future generations. Our mission opportunities are needed more than ever and our educational opportunities are unlimited. It is exciting to see what is happening for our young members, from cradle to college.

We have so much to be thankful for. To continue this journey we need a strong and creative budget. None of this can happen without it. If you stop to enumerate your blessings and consider your opportunities to serve—we will exceed our goal.

BOB EDWARDS

MPBC has given me the opportunity to serve others through such programs as Lakewood, the Food Club, Cornwell Outreach, “Building Bridges” with First Baptist West, Christian Cooks, Congregational Care, Room In the Inn, the Men’s Uptown Shelter and coaching our High School Youth Basketball Team.

MPBC is a place where I’m loved unconditionally. It challenges my sense of purpose and relationship, with each of you and with God. It has enriched my spiritual journey, has fostered great friendships, and has reaffirmed to me that it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive.

An inspiring music program, exceptional preaching, and the best church staff I’ve ever worked with make it a place where I’m provided with physical and spiritual assets to share with not only the community, but also the world. What would my summers be like without “Talk Back”! Because of MPBC, I understand how each of us can impact the lives of others by the tithing of our time, prayers, passions and talents!

Two passages speak to me during this time of stewardship: “And in every work that he began... to seek God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered!” *2 Chronicles 31:21.*

“Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase!” *Proverbs 3:9-10.*

EMILY TRENNING (age 11)

I think MPBC is a great church. Our church is so huge that on first sight you might think it is a rich church with snobby people. If so, think again. It is a church with lots of activities for young to elderly people. There is choir for ages four to adults. (I have done choir myself and it is a great experience.) Afterwards we have dinner and fun and games in the Cornwell Center. There is a book club and a working mothers’ group and movies.

On Sunday, children in kindergarten through fifth grade can join Reverend Sharon Doar in David’s House of Music for prayer and sharing our concerns and joys. Then we can go to Music, Drama, Cinema, Art, Cooking and Storytelling.

Truly, the church has done a lot for us, so why not help by pledging some money? Our church spends money to help other people and pay our staff. We need your pledges to keep our church strong. Adults aren’t the only ones who can pledge. In God’s Garden we pledge money every week. So please help us by pledging.

NANCY CLARE MORGAN

OK, I’ll admit it...I’m an NPR junkie. You know the type – a talk show-emailing, tote bag-carrying, pledge drive-volunteering junkie. I even listen during fundraising time. And every time a host says, “Hey, we’re talking to YOU,” I know it’s meant for me. I get all my news from NPR. I enjoy the weekend humor. Each week I think about issues that need to be examined and discussed in our world. So I listen, and I pledge. Faithfully.

Things aren’t that different at Myers Park Baptist Church. Those of us who have found a home here continue to turn to MPBC for all our “programming” needs. Whether it’s Christian fellowship, intellectual stimulation, mission opportunities, or the chance to examine our own faith journey, we keep ourselves tuned in week after week.

Stewardship is not my favorite topic. Budgets bore me, and financial planning makes my head spin. Soliciting funds doesn’t seem very “church-like.” It would be easy to tune out for a few weeks and start listening again when the money talk is behind us. But as a listener, a reliant member, and a sister of this church, it’s my obligation and choice to stay tuned in. After all, the programming during fund-raising time is first-rate. It reminds me of why it is I’ve found a home here, of what I get out of this place week after week, and of how I can be a better neighbor to Charlotte and the greater world community in which I live. And every time I hear a stewardship challenge, I know it’s meant for me.

I’ve only been a member of MPBC for a short while, but already I’m a full-fledged junkie. The mission projects sponsored by MPBC move me and inspire me to be a better citizen. I love the camaraderie of Wednesday nights. I come away from Sunday mornings thinking more deeply about issues that need to be examined and discussed in today’s world – issues such as forgiveness, loving my enemies, God’s mercy and our humanity.

Will you join me? Let’s listen, and let’s pledge. Faithfully.

CINDY CLEMENS & MARCY McCLANAHAN

When we were asked to write a few words about pledging to the annual campaign, our first thought was “No way!” Like many of you, talking about money is an uncomfortable subject for us. However, we were inspired by Cliff Jarrett’s message a few weeks ago when he urged the congregation to “give until you smile” rather than the more typical “give until it hurts.”

As we began to think of all the ways our church makes us smile, we realized writing this article was going to be easy. We joined MPBC several years ago for the same reason that many of you may have come back to the church: we had a child that we felt needed to be raised in a church community. Little did we know that the

church would come to mean much more than that to our entire family.

We smile as we think about:

- Our first memory of Lucy going to Sunday school and having our separation anxiety calmed so quickly by the love that Merrilou Niegenfind showed to our entire family.
- Our large circle of friends who have become such a tremendous support system for our family...answering countless parenting questions and struggling with us as we try to reconcile our beliefs within an increasingly polarized world.
- A church staff that works so hard to “do the right thing” even when it is the unpopular thing to do.
- Our GLBT friends who have happily found an inclusive church home as we did.
- The Wednesday night fellowships...so hectic and so much fun.
- Volunteering in the children’s Sunday school and God’s Garden classes and finding out that we learn as much as we teach them.
- Enjoying the Non-Partisan Artisans who manage to eat, craft and fellowship all at once!
- And most recently, the chance to prepare and serve lunch to Charlotte’s homeless citizens at the Urban Ministries.

As we think of these and many other memories, we realize that our pledge helps each of these opportunities flourish, and we realize that we can do a little more giving and smiling ourselves.

BOB RUPPENTHAL

Our joining MPBC was finally decided by that bite on the arm!

We visited the church in 1968 on the urging of my senior minister during my formative years in Philadelphia. We were impressed enough by the beauty of the sanctuary, the thoughtfully structured worship service and the people we met, that we applied for our middle son to enter the Through-the-Week School. We’ll always remember that visit to our house by Mary Pinson

and Helen Goans. We were a little uptight, assuming that this was sort of a trial interview and were horrified when said son bit one of his probably deserving brothers on the arm. The calm manner with which the two “church ladies” handled the incident (“We use our mouths to talk, not to bite”) was our first practical introduction to MPBC’s relational theology.

In the ensuing almost-40 years, we’ve made wonderful and supportive friends and enjoyed many highs of glorious music, provocative preaching, inspiring and reassuring prayer and meditation, and challenging classes. We’ve also seen the congregation struggle through some contentious issues, unpleasant or divisive personality conflicts, difficult decisions and have sat through many long, trying hours of board and committee meetings with their reams of newsprint and endless envisioning and action plans. Healing leaders have always emerged from this amazingly diverse community to pull us back together to a new vision. We have seen controversy accepted as a “reality of life together and as an opportunity for growth toward maturity.”

This church remains alive with fine preaching, a glorious sanctuary and campus, a solid education program and a growing commitment to mission understood not as bringing a reluctant or indifferent world to Jesus, but as demonstrating God’s love for all people and God’s insistence on a just world through how we deal with our neighbors near and far. We sustain a worship service consistent with our joint desire to offer the best of our minds, hearts, talents, and resources in the praise and service of the living God whom we recognize most clearly in the inclusive life of Jesus.

Our pledge is only part, but an important part, of our continued commitment to the life and mission of MPBC.

Testing –continued from page 3

The Board of Worship would like to thank Gene Doar, Paul Gubert, Spencer Rackley and Eric Roberts for their dedicated and faithful ministry running the sound systems. These men have tirelessly dedicated themselves to broadcasting and recording our regular and special services of worship in the Sanctuary and gatherings in Heaton Hall. This past year, Paul and Gene retired from the committee, although Gene has remained partially active running sound for children’s events. Only Spencer Rackley, Eric Roberts and a new recruit Van Wilson remain active running sound for worship and adult events. Without these people, we’d all have a difficult time hearing one another. Their ministry in the life of our church is one of enormous value. I shudder to think what might happen should all three fall ill on the same Sunday morning. I’m sure you hear the need for more trained volunteers.

In addition to running the sound system for worship and events, post-production help is also needed, editing and producing the tapes, which are distributed to anyone who requests them. Future plans are to upgrade to digital recording, giving users an option of cassette or CD. Perhaps you’d like to get involved in this aspect of the ministry.

More Audio and Tape Ministry volunteers are *urgently* needed. A *minimum* of four sound technicians is desired. Training will be provided. If you can join the Audio and Tape Ministry Team, please contact Chair Eric Roberts at (704) 537-8503 or Spencer Rackley at (704) 679-0779. Again, the need is urgent. Thank you.



Thanks-For-Giving Feast

Be our guest on
Sunday, November 13,
following worship

*(Meat & beverages will be provided.
Please bring a side dish or salad.)*



Advent Decorating of the Sanctuary Door

Help decorate the Sanctuary door for Advent on Saturday, November 26 at 9:00 a.m. If you can, bring nandina berries, cedar, magnolia leaves and clippers. Contact Mary Beth Woodard if you can help, 704-372-4620.

Did You Know . . .

That Chris Parnell ran the Chicago Marathan and has qualified for and will run the Boston Marathon in April? Way to go (fast!), Chris!

That Peter Schwarz, professor of economics at UNC Charlotte, was one of two professors there who won a \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant to take a new look at how communities redevelop urban industrial sites called "brownfields"?

That the Teen Health Connection (THC) and Carolinas Medical Center have established the John Gardner Johnston, MD Endowment Fund for Excellence in Adolescent Medicine? The fund honors Dr. John Johnston who recently retired as medical director of THC. John also won the 2005 David T. Tayloe, Sr. Award for Outstanding Community Service from the NC Pediatric Society.

NEWS SCHEDULE

To assist you with your planning, upcoming newsletter deadline is listed below:

NEWS DEADLINE

November 15 for December issue

POSTMASTER: Send
address changes to
Myers Park Baptist News
P.O. Box 6006
Charlotte, NC 28207-0001
704-334-7232, mpbconline.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED