

THE WINDOW

MPC Quarterly Newsletter

Season of Lent 2019



A community for you.

"Now I'm turning you over to God, our marvelous God, whose gracious Word can make you into what he wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this community of holy friends."

~Acts 20:32 The Message

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The Pastor's Page

by Reverend Luke H. Maybry



Dear Members and Friends of MPC,

When I was growing up, the church had two seasons: Christmas and Easter. I had never heard of Advent, Lent, or Pentecost until after college when I joined a United Methodist church in Georgetown, Texas. I grew up in a Southern Baptist church, which would proudly describe itself as non-liturgical, so I came by my liturgical ignorance honestly. I don't mean that as a jab at Southern Baptists at all.

In fact, Presbyterians described themselves the same way. We Protestants didn't "do" liturgical seasons for good reason. By elevating and promoting certain seasons, the thought was, we down-played and demoted others. Every time and every place we gather, after all, is holy. In fact, all time and all places are holy in that God has graced all of them, even the hard times and places, with his presence. So a Sunday in July, when everyone is on vacation and nobody particularly feels like going to church... that Sunday is as holy as Easter Sunday. So we proudly do not "do" seasons. God has made all time and all space holy. Even though we have prescribed Sunday morning and our sanctuary as a time and place set apart for worshipping God, *it's all holy*. Only the Papists (Roman Catholics) did seasons, and we know about them, right?

Then a funny thing happened. The Roman Catholics called a conference called Vatican II. You might say that our Roman Catholic friends took a page or two out of the Protestant playbook. They started having their services in the native language of the country in which the service took place. That would most likely be English here in North Carolina, but it may be Spanish in South Texas. Before Vatican II, all Catholic services were in Latin. Vatican II did many things to bring worship to the people, all of which sounds very Protestant.

Partly as a result of that, we Protestants started looking at our Roman Catholic siblings differently. They were, after all, just as Christian as we were. They were not hardly, as they were formerly seen, enemies. They were our brothers and sisters in Christ. And whether we liked it or not, their celebration of seasons (Advent, Lent, etc...) made perfect sense.

(continued on pg. 2)

WELCOME

(continued from pg. 1)

I grew up not knowing a thing about Lent. Now it is one of my favorite seasons. It's hard for me to imagine church without it. All of that happened not because we smart Presbyterians had some epiphany in Princeton. It happened because our former enemies swallowed their pride and reached out to us. I am proudly Presbyterian today. I am not Roman Catholic. We still have differences, but we have far more similarities. Mainly, we are all sinners badly in need of grace. Part of that grace came from them, and I am most grateful for it.

Yours in Christ,

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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- Mission Opportunities (pg. 6-7)
- "Digging Deeper" (pg. 8)
- News from Noah's Chapel (pg. 9)

Save the date:

For a detailed list of Holy Week worship services please see pg. 3 or view the calendar on the last page of this newsletter.

Our Vision:

Motivated by the Grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, we strive to honor the Lord as we:

Welcome all to worship in God's name.

Share the love of Christ, through our lives, words, and deeds.

Serve our neighbors, in our community and beyond.

Encourage all children, youth and adults to grow and explore their faith.

Joining together, we celebrate our living traditions as a dynamic and caring congregation who seeks to glorify God in all we do.



Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty."

- Pope Francis 2014 Lenten Message

We Celebrate New Members



Ocoee Meadows by transfer of letter
from Northminister Presbyterian Church,
San Antonio, Texas



Mike and Cindy Smith by transfer of letter
from Providence Presbyterian Church,
Charlotte, North Carolina



Palm Sunday – April 14 at 10:30 am

Our children, youth, and adult choirs lead a processional to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry in to Jerusalem. Children are invited to join the processional. Meet in the Friendship Court at 10:15 to line up and get your palm branch.

Maundy Thursday – April 18 at 7:00 pm

In this service, we reflect on Jesus' Last Supper with the Disciples as we take communion together.

Good Friday – April 19 at 7:00 pm

From Light to Darkness, we recount the last moments of Jesus' life and His death on the cross.

Easter Sunrise – April 21 at 7:00 am

Jesus Christ is risen today! Join us in our outdoor Chapel.

Easter – April 21 at 10:30 am

With brass, bells, choir, and organ, we exclaim *Christ is Risen!*

SHARE

Pastor Luke's Trip to the Holy Land

In February, Luke had the unique opportunity to travel to the Holy Land with Macedonian Ministry. He will be leading a Bible study: March 13—April 10 Wednesday 6:30pm and Thursday 9:30 am to share his experience. Join Luke to study and discuss the beautiful, conflicted, complicated Holy Land of ancient and modern Israel.



* Luke pictured at the Temple Mount with the Dome of the Rock in the background (top right), at Qumran near the Red Sea (left) and at the Jordan River with members of Macedonian Ministry (bottom right).



The **Western Wall** of the Temple Mount, also called the **Wailing Wall** is located in the Old City of Jerusalem. It is a place of prayer and pilgrimage sacred to the Jewish people. It is the only remains of the Second Temple of Jerusalem, held to be uniquely holy by the ancient Jews and destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. The authenticity of the Western Wall has been confirmed by tradition, history, and archaeological research; the wall dates from about the 2nd century BCE, though its upper sections were added at a later date.



DCE Search Update

The search for a Director of Children & Youth Ministries is well underway. The session approved a job description and formed a search committee at its February stated meeting. The search committee is composed of Martin Best (Chair), Daniel Pleasants, Carrie Thompson, Andrew Perry, Beth Pirie, Liz Adkisson, and Darren Busbee. Rev. Luke Maybry is serving as an ex-officio member.

The search committee has met several times already, posted the position on various websites, and has already received some applications. They plan to start interviewing candidates soon. They are committed to filling this position by the end of the summer at the latest. They will keep the congregation updated as the search progresses. Please be in prayer for them as they do their work.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

February 2019 Financial Report

MONTH – FEB2019

YEAR-TO-DATE-FEB2019

Income	Expenses	Net	Income	Expenses	Net
\$36,220.41	\$39,784.27	-\$3,563.86	\$83,372.72	\$76,982.91	\$6,389.81

Balances as of February 28, 2019

General Fund Checking	\$138,037.08
Restricted Checking	\$256,472.87

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

In August 2016, Matthews Presbyterian Church kicked off a huge endeavor – a Capital Campaign. The objective of the campaign was to raise funds to reduce the mortgage debt and complete various capital improvement projects on church buildings and property. A total of \$531,859 was pledged to the Capital Campaign.

Through February 28, 2019, \$431,875.79 or 81.2% of the total amount pledged has been received. Thank you to everyone who has committed their time and financial resources to help the church reach this level of giving.

Completed Projects:

Re-roofed the Christian Worship Center (CWC)	\$ 36,918.97
Repaired and resurface church parking lots	\$ 33,200.00
Repaired church bus	\$ 2,951.48
Installed energy efficient lights	\$ 14,240.50
Carpeted CWC downstairs	\$ 15,971.00
Installed woodwork in CWC Friendship Court	\$ 3,960.00
Painted CWC downstairs (excluding sanctuary)	\$ 4,900.00

Ongoing Projects:

BB&T Loan Principal (Church Mortgage)	\$ 200,000.00
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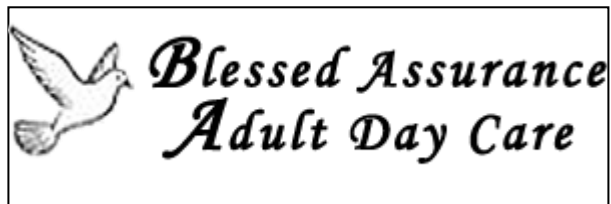
A \$25,000 payment is made every quarter
through June 2019

****Planned Projects:**

- Remove & replace oil furnace in the chapel building
- Paint/wrap church bus
- Repair termite and water damage in the chapel building
- Remove carpet and refinish the hardwood floor in the chapel building

** Please note that the list of planned projects will be contingent on having sufficient funds and Session approval.

SERVE



Blessed Assurance Adult Day & Health Care Services, Inc. gives families peace of mind by taking care of loved one with kindness, warmth and encouragement. Their goal is to preserve the dignity and enhance the quality of life for those we serve through a caring, stimulating, therapeutic and enjoyable environment.

Go to their website to learn more
www.blessedadultcare.org

Our goal is to support the staff at Blessed Assurance in their mission. Each Friday on the first month of the quarter, a group of people from MPC visit with the neighbors at the daycare. Sometimes we sing songs, do a devotional, or bring cards or gifts, but we always pray for and with the neighbors. We also serve communion one Thursday during the first month of each quarter. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, contact the church office for more information.



Join the Acolyte
Program at MPC:

Ever thought about being an acolyte? If so, contact Carrie Thompson. There is a brand-new sign-up live on Signup Genius for the acolytes.

You can find it here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094DA8AB2FA0FDO-acolytes1>.

Room In the Inn

We have completed three months of Room In The Inn. The MPC Family has done a terrific job in caring for the lodging and meals of our homeless neighbors during these winter months. One hundred fifteen men have been given food and shelter at MPC. Please continue to pray and help our neighbors in the final month of the Room In The Inn program.

If you would like more information about the program, please contact Charlie Jennings or Ken Klug.



Room In The Inn History

Since 1996, the Urban Ministry Center has partnered with colleges and congregations of many faiths to open their facilities to provide shelter and food for homeless people during the winter months, December 1 – March 31. Each site offers a warm, safe place to sleep, serves three meals (dinner, breakfast and bag lunch) and then returns guests the following morning to uptown Charlotte. The program offers a unique way for people of faith to become directly involved with individuals who are homeless. The basic goal is to keep homeless people from freezing on cold winter nights. A greater goal is to provide a more personal relationship to homeless people, at least for a night, and to foster a deeper understanding of the depth and complexity of the issue.

MPC Youth Share Music and Fellowship with our Neighbors at Samaritan House

“In the past four months our youth group has been participating in a service project each month by going to Samaritan House off Monroe Road near the Bojangles’ Coliseum. In previous visits, we have gone to the house and played games like *Apples to Apples*, *Sorry*, and *Bingo* but this month we decided to switch it up a bit and bring our guitars and ukuleles to sing and fellowship with all the members that are staying there. I think each member that was in the room singing with us truly enjoyed it, as much as we did. Being in the room, singing and playing guitar reminded me so much of being at the nursing home in Gary, WV, which is like my home away from home, so participating in the singing at the Samaritan House is like a home away from home... if that makes sense. This service is simple, and easy to do, but I genuinely think each of them enjoy it and look forward to us coming once a month!”

by Kadyne Pleasants



About Samaritan House:

Samaritan House is a not-for-profit recuperative care place for people who are homeless and in need of short term care following a hospital or emergency room stay. Samaritan House emphasizes the gospel values of love, dignity, respect and welcoming inclusion. While Samaritan House was established on the values of Christian faith, it is intended to be a place of healing and hospitality for all persons.

Samaritan House is not a shelter, all guests come through a referral system used by social workers and authorized medical personnel at area hospitals.

During their stay, each guest is provided a clean bed, home cooked meals and great fellowship through partnerships and associations with many local churches and organizations. Each guest is provided with transportation to and from all medical appointments as well as prescription pick-up. Guests are also provided with resource information that may be beneficial in helping them with employment, housing and/or transitioning into other social service programs available to them.

For more information, visit <https://samaritanhousecharlotte.org>

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

- Henry Drummond

GROW IN FAITH

Digging Deeper

by Pastor Luke

When Rev. Joe Clifford, of Myers Park Presbyterian Church, asked me to be part of a group of pastors with Macedonian Ministry, the only reason I agreed was that it included a free trip to Israel. When would I ever get the chance to do that again? We met once a month for a year and then, before I knew it, we were getting ready for the trip. As the date approached, I became anxious, more so than I expected. I wasn't anxious about Israel, per se, but about leaving home for two weeks. I'm a creature of habit. Going that far away for that long would get me way out of that habit, and I feared that.

Israel was everything that I both hoped and feared it would be. Walking where Jesus walked is just incredible. I can't explain it. The Sea of Galilee was particularly meaningful. Part of the beauty of it was that, through both our tour guides and our fellow pilgrims, we were able to become embedded in the culture. Reading the Bible and looking at faith through Middle Eastern eyes has been incredibly enlightening for me. Faith is a big part of my life, and the Bible informs faith, so reading the Bible differently (as this trip has allowed me to do) has changed and enriched my life. It has, in the name of this article, made me go much, much deeper.

And yet, Israel was everything I feared, too. It wasn't dangerous, anymore than Charlotte is dangerous, but it did get me out my comfort zone. I had never considered the plight of Palestinians, for example, but now I must. I had also never been in a such a diverse group. Our Charlotte cohort joined a cohort from Atlanta. We had a blast together. I can say with confidence that, of all the tour groups converging on Israel those two weeks, we were, by far, the best and most diverse one.

I cannot put into words all that they mean to me. I heard perspectives on all sorts of things that were completely new. I loved it all. I miss it. I want to go back. I want to go deeper. I did just that in Israel in all sorts of ways. And I want to do that now. The world is full of complex, conflicted, and beautiful people, places, and cultures. God is in the midst of all of it. We can be, too. I am blessed to be on the journey and ask you to join me as we, as hard and uncomfortable as it may be, dig deep.



The Paschal mystery

An excerpt from the [*Companion to the Book of Common Worship*](#) (Geneva Press, 2003 110-111)

What we hear during Lent is the power and possibility of the paschal mystery, and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. "I die every day!" asserts Paul (1 Corinthians 15:31). Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the "old self."

In dying, we live.



Teaching Our Children About God: Faith and Fun in Noah's Chapel

Noah's Chapel has gotten an overhaul! We have a new curriculum and many new faces that have made this an exciting time in the lives of our young friends.

We start each week with a Welcome Song, and then we jump right in with Worship Practice where the children practice elements of Worship that will prepare them for joining the Worship Service when they are ready. The Bible story is then introduced in a variety of ways, such as with a short video or an interactive reading of the story. Music, games, and activities round out our time. Finally, we end with a Goodbye Song before the kiddos are picked up by their parents.

The kids have been enjoying the new format, and it has been exciting to see many new volunteers jumping in to help with this important ministry. A big thank you to ALL of our volunteers! If you are interested in helping with Noah's Chapel, please contact Tara Busbee at taradouce@gmail.com.

*We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.
Psalm 78:4*



**Matthews
Presbyterian Church**
Child Development Center



Matthews Presbyterian Church Child Development Center celebrated Valentine's Day with classroom Valentine's Day parties. We all enjoyed food, fun, and sharing valentine goodies. Throughout the month of February, our classes learned all about hearts, Valentine's Day, Dr. Seuss, ABC's, carnival, and the zoo. Our Bible verse of the month was *Love one another*. Romans 12:10. The children enjoyed reciting this verse and many of them have it memorized. The 3 and 4 year old classes had an exciting visit from the dentist where they learned all about dental hygiene.

2019-2020 school year registration for MPC-CDC began in February. If you missed registration and still have interest, please contact the preschool office at 704-847-5564 or cdcdirector@matthewspresbyterian.org. Wait lists will begin as classes fill up and it is well worth adding your child's name to the list. We welcome children ages 3 months through 5. We are dedicated to helping even the youngest students grow in the knowledge of our Father's love.

Visit the website: www.matthewsprespreschool.com for more information.

Registration forms can be found outside the preschool office, room 209.

Wow, it is hard to believe that spring is almost here. Spring is always full of fun learning opportunities; nature takes a hand and helps form our curriculum of discovery. Be on the lookout for rainbows, caterpillars and other beautiful signs of spring in our classrooms.

Matthews Presbyterian Holy Week Calendar

April 14 at 10:30 am - Palm Sunday Worship Service

April 18 at 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 19 at 7:00 pm - Good Friday Worship Service

April 21 at 7:00 am - Easter Sunrise Worship Service

April 21 at 10:30 am - Easter Communion Worship Service



Matthews Presbyterian Church

A community for you.



Reverend Luke H. Maybry - Pastor
Sarah Allred - Director of Music Ministries
Tom Kiff - Organist

Leisa Gill - Administrative Assistant
April Taylor - Financial Secretary

Worship Schedule

Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

*** Transportation available upon request**

Please contact us for more
information about our worship
schedule and programs.

Matthews Presbyterian Church

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