



MOUNT CARMEL NEWSLETTER

Notes from Barrett

About "Vision"

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

-Proverbs 3:5-6

That little scripture right there is where it all falls apart for most people and most churches. In fact, that little scripture is where it first fell apart for all of us. If you go back to the Garden of Eden, you might remember how God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the Tree of KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil because they would die. Ole Serpent came along and disputed that saying, "You certainly will NOT die (at least not a physical death), but your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Well now Adam and Eve had a second opinion to consider and it's pretty obvious they chose to believe the serpent rather than God. At the very least they must have thought "being like God" was worth the risk of death because they did more than chew on the idea...they bit into it. Technically ole serpentine was right, because they did not drop dead, but God was right too, because they died another way. They died to their original created state. They were no longer just creatures, created by God, living in innocence. Now they were trying to "be like God." They wanted God's knowledge. Since that day every child born on this earth has had to deal with that same first sin; *trying to be like God*. It's the worst of all the sins because it tempts us to believe that we are little versions of God. Which means God might be a good back-up plan in emergencies, but I don't really need God...BECAUSE...I KNOW! I know what's best for me. Honestly, I know what's best for you too. I know what's best for people on TV, in other towns, and even countries. I know what's best for people who I have never met or spoken with. Just like God, I have the knowledge of good and evil and can decide what's right and wrong. I know what we should do, when we should do it, and how it should be done. Aren't you impressed? I hope not, because that's a big ole lie!

Living like that is living in a fake world. Deep down the only thing we know for sure is that we don't know anything for sure. The problem is certainty. Certainty feels so stinking safe and secure that we'd rather tell ourselves it exists and pretend like we have than admit the truth about not knowing. That's not helpful if we want to be people of faith because faith forces us to stop faking and get real. It requires our not knowing. Faith cannot exist if there is certainty and knowledge. It only happens when we don't know for sure, but we move forward anyway. That's how faith works. On top of that faith tends to travel with some pretty strong friends. Maybe you've heard of them. Hope is the one that looks forward to the unknown because she believes there's something good in it. Trust is the one that tends to leap toward unknown because he believes there's a secure place to land. Neither one of them knows what's coming but they are willing to go forward with faith, because they all heard from another buddy named Love, who supposedly said, "you've never seen, or heard, or even imagined anything as good as what God is going to do."

That's how the church, the people of God, are supposed to approach the future. Not with great vision, but with faith. Faith is our version of vision. I always cringe a little when I hear talk of people who are visionaries. Additionally, if you ask me what my vision is for the church, I'm just going to sit there looking goofy. I don't have one, but I know God does. Scripture assures us of that fact and says we *CAN LEAN* on it. As we aspire to "Open Doors" into God's loving Kingdom, let's be moved by faith, hope, and trust...IN GOD...and not ourselves.

That's the path! That's the vision!

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love him."

- 1 Corinthians 2:9

Sermon Series



Calendar

Sep 7 6:30pm

Children's Choir resumes

Sep 9 9:30am

Legacy Bible Study begins

Sep 11

Deacon Election, both services

Sep 18 10am

Deacon Ordination/
Combined Service

Sep 24

Children's Mission Day

Sep 25

Children's Worship during 9am
service begins

Sep 25 1pm

Preschoolers to Durham Bulls
Game

Sep 25 2pm-4pm

Baby Shower for Phil Ramos &
Barbara Herrera

Sep 28 7pm

Church Conference

Save the Date!

SEPTEMBER 2022

Oct 2 Sign Language Interpreter available at 9am service 1st & 3rd Sundays

Oct 9 Deacon Orientation

Oct 15-16 Prayer Walk

Oct 22 Missions & Maintenance Day

Oct 30 Trunk or Treat

Coming Up

Legacy Women's Bible Study

Study on The Book of Acts



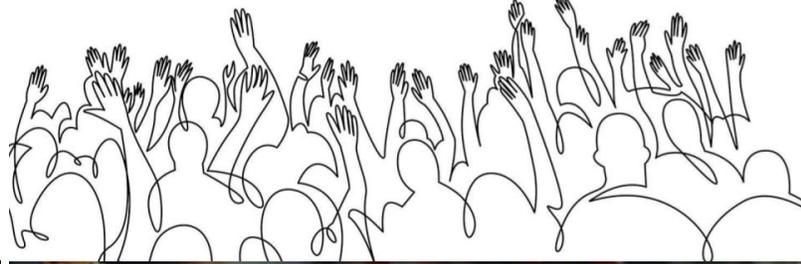
Fridays 9:30am-11:30am
Fellowship Hall



begins September 9

for details and to register: legacybiblestudy.com

Deacon Election
Sunday September 11
both services



Deacon Ordination
Sunday, September 18
10:00am
Fellowship Hall



**CHURCH
CONFERENCE**

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28
7:00PM**



Kitchen Volunteers Needed

Our Kitchen Team needs volunteers to help with Wednesday Night Suppers. Cooks are needed as well as volunteers to help prep food, set up, serve food, and clean up.

Contact Dawn Berry dmberry7998@charter.net

2 COLLECTIONS



We're collecting items for the Chapel Hill Police Department's Crisis Response Unit through September.



We're collecting grocery items for children in need through September.

See individual lists of needed items. Drop off in Fellowship Hall bins.

GARDEN WORKDAYS

EVERY

TUESDAY, THURSDAY &
SATURDAY MORNING



Grief Oasis

Volunteers Needed

- Facilitators
- Host Team

Grief Oasis is planning a re-launch the first week in November and needs volunteers. Email: griechoasis@gmail.com.

Baby Shower for Phil & Barbara

Sunday September 25

2pm-4pm

Fellowship Hall

Get Involved

NANCY WILLIAMS HUNDLEY CIRCLE

The Nancy Williams Hundley Circle will resume on Monday, September 12 at 2:00pm. The circle meets the 2nd Monday of every month in the Fireplace Room. Contact: Grace Harris.

INTER-FAITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICES (IFC)

Planning for the spring 2023 Chapel Hill-Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk is underway! We are seeking volunteers to join our Planning Committee, which helps make decisions about the walk and assists in tasks such as recruitment, publicity, education, and walk day logistics. The committee meets monthly via Zoom. Our first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th at 5:30pm. Anyone may join the committee - no experience required - just a willingness to serve and a passion for fighting hunger! Our walk typically raises \$50,000 a year and makes a big impact in our community. Email chapelhillcarrborocropwalk@gmail.com for the Zoom invitation.

COMMUNITY GARDEN AT MT CARMEL

August in the Community Garden was typical for this month – lots of heat, and lots of growth. Many plants had a big spurt of productivity, then finished out August by winding down for the summer. The vines of the small white cucumbers were removed, after producing many bags of cukes since the end of May. We also harvested the last of the melons and took those vines down. Apparently, the word got out in the local critter community that these were wonderfully sweet and juicy; a nighttime tunneling raider bit chunks out of many tasty fruits before we could harvest them! It's hard to stay ahead of an animal that can climb a trellis! We also saw a good bit of damage on other crops from smaller varmints, including insects and birds. Since we do attempt to garden organically and humanely, our discussions about battling these hungry critters will still be going on in September.

August workdays in the garden have been so colorful: In addition to the melons and white cucumbers, this included the last of the yellow squash, 3 colors of peppers, onions, 3 kinds of eggplants, garlic, green cucumbers, basil, many bags of okra, and 9 tomato varieties in all sizes. We hope everyone has enjoyed the giant sunflower blooms as much as the goldfinches have, plus the many other blooming plants.

We do know that families in the community have enjoyed the produce. According to Abi at TABLE, we donated 268 pounds back in July. Hoping for even more in August; we've made about 12 deliveries to TABLE and CORA together, plus a number of donations to folks who are part of the church family. Let us know if you'd like to be a delivery driver. People are always happy to see you!

While the okra keeps producing its summer crop like mad, we have already begun the transition to fall! The planning group met to decide on cool-weather crop choices and placement, and we've assessed the seeds and equipment that will be needed. Would you like to learn how to use a tiller, or how to form rows or make compost? Join us in September as we transplant strawberries, and plant spinach, beets and other fall crops.

Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace. – May Sarton



The needles and hooks (and great conversation) have been flying, as autumn approaches! Oh, what fun it has been! Here are a few of the projects for all ages, finished in August, for donation this fall. In addition to hats and scarves, and warm sweaters, there are "fiddle muffs" for people challenged by autism or Alzheimer's, and "loveys" for children who need a snuggle-buddy. There is also some interest in learning to make knitted/crocheted stuffed toys.

There is room at the craft table for YOU! You can work on things to donate, or bring your own projects (you know, those ones you've never gotten around to finishing, HA!). If you want to learn how to knit or crochet, quilt or embroider, we have people who can teach you. If you are stuck on a project, we can put our heads together and help you! We all learn from each other! Yarn donations are always welcome, so if you or a friend or family member need to clean out a yarn stash, think of us! Thank you-thank you for your thoughtfulness! We would be delighted to turn those left-overs into warm, engaging, or cuddly comforts for others...the ultimate in recycling!

Come, gather with us on Thursdays at 10:30 in the craft room in the sanctuary building. For more info, feel free to contact Dorothy Rand at 919 542-3002.



Children's Worship
for age 3-kindergarten
begins Sunday September 25
Children leave for their own special worship time after
the morning prayer during the 9:00am service

Durham Bulls Game
for preschool aged children & their families
Sunday September 25
@ 1pm
cost \$15
children get to run the bases after the game!
let Virginia know if you'd like to go asap!

Notes from Virginia

SEPTEMBER 2022

Three years ago, just months before the Pandemic, we began a program called Grandfriends. Retired adults from our congregation came up to the church one day a week to have lunch with children from our weekday preschool. In addition to lunch, they would read books together and do a craft activity. What happened between the children and Grandfriends was quite simply, magical. Dick Richardson shares his experience here:

Being a grand friend was one of the most significant events of my long and happy life. I had not expected it. After all, we have four children, ten grandchildren, five great grands. What was one more kid? But years after, Harrison and his two brothers and mother continue to visit us. (He made a bracelet for me this month). And we go to his baseball games and swap gifts. He hangs my picture in his tent to "scare away lions and bears." It is a simple matter of love.



We are happy to announce that Grandfriends is returning this fall, beginning on Monday, October 10th for six weeks (ending the week before Thanksgiving). If you are interested in being a Grandfriend, please contact Virginia Taylor at virginia@mcbbc1803.org or Linda DiFranco at lindakaigas@gmail.com.



This month we met up at the RDU Observation Park to watch the planes take off and land. Our very own pilot, Hans Tammeling, came and brought every child a play airplane. They caught on quickly, pretending their planes were at the Southwest Hub in New York. Thank you Hans for making our outing so special! Join us September for the Durham Bulls Game on the 25th.



Before they “bumped up,” Lola and Levi showed Ms. Tommie some love. She has been watching over both of them since they were born.



Even some of the children participated in our most recent M&M Day, cleaning out the church basement and rescuing some treasures to take home.



Our new Sunday school classes started on August 28th and so far the boys are outnumbering the girls! If your child is age 4-1st grade, they are welcome to join us in the Monkey Room on the Preschool Hallway in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings between 10-10:45. The 2nd-5th graders meet up stairs in the children and youth hall.



While their parents worship in the 9 o'clock service, our youngest children are learning about God and church and how to care for one another.

Notes from Sharley

Children are back into the swing of things at school and on Sunday evenings here at MCBC. First through fifth-graders are welcome to join us from 5-6:30pm each Sunday, in the Fellowship Hall, for dinner and games.



The backpack blessing in worship, for school-goers of every age, was such a powerful experience. The students and staff filled the front of the Fellowship Hall as our church family raised their hands in the air, offering them the sweet gift of a blessing. They are certainly loved and prayed for, and this minister (and mom) is so very grateful.



This month, our Sunday School room transformed. We have a magnetic tree for artwork, buttons that record what children are grateful for each week, a chalkboard wall, Bible bags, a faux-brick prayer wall, and a landscape of Chapel Hill to remind children that we carry God outside of these walls. They loved it almost as much as I loved seeing them in it. Next month, I'll have to add some pics of their smiling faces bouncing around the space!

Notes from Will

A huge thank you to all who came out to support our youth at our fifth Wednesday Fundraiser at the end of August! I am so grateful for the love and support that our church family shows its youth.

I am thrilled to have our new sixth graders in the group who came in with a bang on bump up day and will continue to be such a vital piece of the life of our youth. Our September schedule is steady with regular Sunday and Wednesday night activities as well as a special night of fun with Youth at the Steiner's on 9/25.

Looking ahead, the Youth Praise Team will help lead worship at Mount Gilead on Sunday, 10/9, and the whole Youth Group will travel to the State Fair on 10/15. More information on both of these is coming soon. As always, the best way to stay in touch with what is happening in the life of the Mount Carmel Youth is to visit our webpage at www.mcabc1803.org/youth.



Notes from Shannon

Just as I suspected, summer has breezed right by and here we are thinking about Fall and all that comes with it! One big part of the season for us at MCBC is that children's activities resume, and one of those activities is Children's Choir for children in grades 1 through 5. Next Wednesday, September 7, we will meet in the foyer of the Fellowship Hall and head to the sanctuary for some serious musical fun (and believe me, serious fun is possible)!

Sanctuary Choir is finishing the summer season having sung lots of beautiful anthems. We have experienced regrowth and have welcomed new members as we continue to adjust to all the changes that have come as a result of the pandemic. We will begin work on our Christmas cantata, *The Seven Noels*, very soon, and we would love to have you join us. I will share more information soon about ways you can participate with us as we start rehearsing for Christmas. And, as always, if you would like to be a part of the Sanctuary Choir, we rehearse every Wednesday night in the choir room (near sanctuary in back hallway) from 7:30 to 8:45. Contact me anytime at shannon@mcabc1803.org with questions or concerns.

On October 30th (that's less than 60 days!), we will hold our annual Trunk or Treat event at MCBC, and we would love to have your help! Consider now if you would be able to bring your vehicle to the MCBC parking lot and provide candy/treats to the children who will come by. Themed decorations are always a hit, and you can find loads of ideas for trunk decorating by googling "Trunk or Treat decorations." The possibilities are endless—although we do want to stay with positive and non-scary themes as we welcome the MCBC family and our community! Information for how you can sign up will be available soon!



Preschool of the Warm Heart

Preschool of the Warm Heart kicks off the 2022-2023 preschool year on Thursday, September 1st! Children and their families are invited to join us on the playground for “Meet the Teacher.” School begins for all our classes on Tuesday, September 6th. The teachers are ready share their “warm hearts” with the children and their families.

This year, once again, our children will have the opportunity to explore God’s beautiful creation. While we won’t be outside all morning like we have been the past two years, we will spend time outside utilizing the wonderful spaces MCBC provides. We are committed to offering a safe environment where children can engage in creative play, social interaction, education learning, and grow in their love of God!

Each month, the preschool will highlight one of our staff members so that the MCBC community can learn more about the preschool staff. Our director, Anna Williams, is starting her 5th year at the preschool. This is her 3rd year as the director. Previously, she was the lead 2-year-old teacher at Preschool of the Warm Heart. She has been married to Ben, a pastor in Chapel Hill, for 19 years. They have a 16-year-old son, Stuart, a sophomore at Carrboro High School. They also have an almost 15-year-old daughter, Maggie, who will be starting her freshman year at Carrboro. Anna’s family loves to visit the Pamlico River in Washington. During football season, you will find them at the CHS games or pulling for Wake Forest (and sometimes Duke)! Being part of a preschool community allows Anna the opportunity to merge her passion for early childhood education while also teaching children about God’s love for them.

Thank you for sharing your home with us and allowing us to share God’s love throughout the community. We are excited for a new school year!

Open Doors Update



In August the Capital Campaign Team reported that our account balance as of the end of June was \$222,355 and the amount pledged to date is \$1,257,970. There are currently 78 pledges.

The Master Plan Team reported that surveyors have completed surveying the east side of our property and are close to completing the west side. The team has the architect’s proposal for the Outdoor Pavilion in hand.



Save the Date! There will be an overnight Prayer Walk scheduled for Saturday October 15- Sunday October 16. October 16 will be a combined worship service at 10:00am. Sign ups will come after Labor Day.

Significant Events in our Congregation to Remember

since the last published newsletter

New Members: Scott and Barb Harvey

Deaths: Pat Sturdivant's mother, Elizabeth McCoy Mason

Current Prayer List

New Concerns: Shannon Hall's friend, Ann Holt; Chapman family friends, Randy (kidney replacement issues) and Mandy (caregiver) Hackley; Barbi Harvey's brother, Scott (recovering from a fall)

Continuing Concerns: Donna Barton; Kenon and Nancy Blackwood; Jim Bowen; David Hall; Barbara Herrera; Elaine Jeffcoat; Katie Jenkins; the Johnson family; Lance Kaye; Ron Knight; Dee Loveland; Beth Merritt; Robert and Brenda Middour; Taffy Moore; Shirley Morter; Valerie Potter; Ken Samuelson; Ruth Sparrow; Randy Stewart; Dominick Tomaro; Ron Woody; Peggy Yates

Extended MCBC Family: Donna Barton's father, Fred Wood; Dawn Berry's friend; Geary Blackwood's uncle, Deryl Merritt; Steven Blanchard's father, Steve Blanchard; Timothy Carnes's sister, Emily Fields; Diane Cash's sister, Karen Rowe; Roger Chapin's nephew, Joshua; Manna Traas-Chapin's daughter, Marte van der Wees; Karen Chapman's grandnephew, Lane Stanhope; Tara Clowes's sister, Tracey Vajay; Jackie Collins and Rose Dixon's friend, Jean Saffelle; Jane Cutchin's neighbor's sister, Jennifer Snyder; Mohibullah Delsoz; Alexis Duncan; Jerry and Elizabeth Fisher's friend, Tom Baucom; Bill and Brenda Goodrich's daughter, Leigh; Kathy Graham's son, James January; Kathy Graham's granddaughter, Verity Graham; Dot King Harris's son, Rick King; Pavel Khrapak; Tracy Lane's fiance, Joey; Dee Loveland's niece, Tina Crews; Robert Middour's son, Rob; Taffy Moore's daughter, LA Renn; Carol Newnam's son-in-law, Ben Dunlap; Brian Paren's mother; Royster family friend, Bob Koch; Jennifer Royster's mother, Tonja Wesson; Sarah Scarry's mother's husband, Don Tice; Sarah Scarry's father, David Chajkowski; Susan Smialowicz; Frieler Thompson's father, Draa Thompson

Care Facilities: David Atwater (Durham Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 411 S. LaSalle Street, Room 56, Durham, NC 27705-3799 - appointments required - 919-383-5521); Paul Brimfield (Brookdale Senior Living, 2230 Farmington Drive, Room D6, Chapel Hill, NC 27517); Karen Chapman's mother-in-law, Mary Chapman (Parkview Rehabilitation Center, Chapel Hill)

Hospitals: Richard Lawrence's brother, Bob Lawrence (UNC)

Birthdays and Anniversaries in Our Congregation

Birthdays (September)

02 John Davison
 02 DJ Emerson
 02 Jennifer Klingel
 04 Dennis Hill
 05 Pat West
 06 Ashlyn Jenkins
 08 Crystal Sparrow
 10 Mary Daiker
 11 Diane Riibe
 12 Shirley Davis
 12 Austin Rigsbee
 13 Michael Perdue
 14 Keith Norwood
 16 Melanie Mather
 17 Lois Hoenig
 17 Ann Samuelson
 17 Walter Stone
 18 Brian Scarry
 19 Kelly Daiker
 21 Haleigh Blanchard
 21 Laney Campbell

Birthdays (September)

21 Ann Oakley
 22 JoAnne Merritt
 24 Chris Hunt
 25 Elizabeth Fisher
 26 Olive Capps
 26 Grace Underwood
 27 Mark Burnett
 27 Sandra Stinnett
 28 Tessa Derickson
 28 Will Hendrick
 28 Paul Mather
 28 Leon Murdoch
 28 Aaron Smith
 28 Aaron Squires
 28 Nathan Taylor
 30 Iva Gettier
 30 Kim Johnson
 30 Sue Reinhardt

Birthdays (October)

01 Joyce Brimfield
 01 Donald Porter
 02 Debby Berry
 02 Lola Freeman
 03 Dawn Berry
 04 Karen Byrd
 06 David Oakley
 07 Jessica Barlow
 07 Ann Blackwood
 07 Gary Spaugh
 07 Pat Sturdivant
 10 Bonnie Hunt
 11 Shirley Morter
 12 Barbara Herrera
 12 Daniel McGeever
 12 Doug Noell
 13 Owen Barber
 14 Kellan Bochicco
 15 Mason Cutchin
 15 Wesley Russell
 16 Courtney DiFranco

Birthdays (October)

16 Nathan Steiner
 17 Brian Paren
 17 Asa Thompson
 19 Marie Flanagan
 19 Scott Morris
 20 Adam Cutchin
 20 Louis Mizelle
 21 Tara Clowes
 21 Reef Freeman
 21 Tim Steiner
 22 Kenon Blackwood
 23 Liam McGeever
 24 Ann Cowen
 24 Jake Daiker
 24 Rachel Lassiter
 26 Amelia Ramos
 26 Cameron Vines
 27 Sunnee Hallman
 28 Bob Jeffcoat

Anniversaries (September)

03 Charles and Allyson Wieland
 04 Daniel and Katie Jenkins
 11 Glenn and Melissa Lassiter
 14 Dan and JoAnn Dalton
 17 Doug and Michelle Farrell
 21 Dan and Linda DiFranco
 25 John and Shirley Davison
 27 Eddie and Patsy Williams
 29 Richard and Janet Andre

Anniversaries (October)

03 Jim and Judi Bowen
 04 Jim Sparrow and KC Schoolcraft
 05 Lee and Beth Merritt
 08 Matthew and Grace Underwood
 10 Doug Noell and Deborah Davis-Noell
 11 Paul and Joyce Brimfield
 12 Will Hendrick and Brigid Grabert
 18 Bob and Jean Atwater
 20 Bill Bryant and Tish Rogers
 23 Kent and Jessica Barlow
 23 James Ernest Jones and Linda Jones
 26 Tom and Susan Winters

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