

## March is for Mission!

If I were asked to make a list of the top 10 most well-known Bible stories, the parable of the Good Samaritan would probably make it onto the list twice. Jesus' tale of the man left for dead on the road being rescued by the Samaritan, and then his call to go and do likewise has engrained itself in the world. The readers of the parable are called to be better – to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

We hold the Samaritan as the model for behavior and for service. We want to be a good neighbor. We want to be the person who helps the person in need because, well, Jesus said so.

I want to propose a shift in our understanding of this most famous parable. What if we are not the Good Samaritan? What if we cannot possibly be? I believe that when we try to identify with the Good Samaritan, we are actually missing the point of the story. I think that, in reality, there is only one person who can be the Good Samaritan, and that is Jesus Christ.

So, if Jesus is the Good Samaritan, the definitive source of mercy, what does that make us? We are the guy dying on the side of the road. It is the gritty truth of our existence. Jesus got down in the mud with us to save our very lives.

And this really beautiful thing happens when we start to identify with the man on the road --- we can look around and see our brothers and sisters, and love them the way we love ourselves, because they are us. If we are all in the ditch together, we are all just people. No one better than the other. The people that we serve are not projects, they are not fixer uppers, they are not things we can save. Mission becomes something different this way. Suddenly, I am helping to meet the need of a brother or sister. Their needs may be different from mine, but we are still the same. Just people, in relationship, who look out for each other because that is what Jesus did for us.

So let us never forget who we are. Let us never forget who our neighbors are. May we truly and without reservation love God with our whole hearts, minds, and strengths, and may we genuinely and recklessly love our neighbors as we love ourselves. May we always remember who the Good Samaritan is and the great mercy He has heaped upon us, remembering always that it is because of God's amazing grace that we made it off the road at all.

Mission Matters.

*Emma*



# Serve Together



## MPC AND 15 OTHER LOCAL CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH

### CONGREGATIONS SUPPORT THE WORK OF ICM.

- ◇ ICM's [Food Pantry](#) provides for 80-100 of our food-insecure neighbors within the 30306 and 30307 areas.
- ◇ ICM [Outreach](#) works to house our homeless neighbors which, in the long run, proves to be the best way for people to obtain stability and costs less than living on the streets.
- ◇ You can donate to stock the [Clothing Closet](#) at ICM, which provides job-seekers with interview outfits as well as work attire and casual wear.

**SHEPHERDS:** Nancy Collins & Laura Ulep. [Email them!](#)

## MPC ADOPTED JOHN WESLEY DOBBS ELEMENTARY AS OUR PARTNER SCHOOL IN FALL 2016.



- ◇ **Mentoring:** Each [tutor](#) works one-on-one with the same student each month, building relationships, reading skills and working on homework.
- ◇ **Teacher Appreciation:** As [teachers](#) come back to ready their rooms each fall, we thank them with a festive lunch, as well as, an Ice Cream Social at the end of the school year.
- ◇ **Collections:** MPC helps stock the "Incentive Room," which holds rewards for students for achievement or good behavior. We also collect school [supplies](#), helping Dobbs to save their budgeted dollars for bigger ticket items, like laptops, projectors, and robotics kits.

**SHEPHERDS:** Bill Means & Emilie Paille. [Email them!](#)



## MPC SUPPLIES VOLUNTEERS TO REBECCA'S TENT IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, PREPARING DINNERS FOR RESIDENTS RETURNING FROM WORK OR JOB HUNTING.

- ◇ Since its inception in [1983](#), Rebecca's Tent has given support and refuge to nearly 1,200 women.
- ◇ Poverty and domestic violence are the top two [causes](#) of homelessness for women.
- ◇ Rebecca's Tent [offers](#) a safe, secure place to sleep, three meals a day, and a wide range of job-hunting and life skills to homeless, unaccompanied women over the age of 18.

**SHEPHERD:** Phyllis Grimes. [Email her!](#)



## EVERY OTHER MONTH, MPC PROVIDES A HOT MEAL TO CLIFTON SANCTUARY GUESTS.

- ◇ Clifton Sanctuary Ministries is Atlanta's oldest faith-based shelter. It's provided [services](#) for over 15,000 men in its 40 years of existence.
- ◇ Open 365 days a year, Clifton seeks to transition its guests into [housing](#) with a 70% success rate. One man at a time, Clifton works to show that homelessness is not helplessness.
- ◇ Our neighbors experiencing homelessness find shelter, meals, and support in developing the [skills](#) which help them live more fulfilling lives.

**SHEPHERD:** Ann Watson. [Email her!](#)



**MEMORIAL DRIVE MINISTRIES REPRESENTS REFUGEES FROM AT LEAST 21 COUNTRIES, SPEAKING 30 LANGUAGES.**

- ◇ MDM provides safe, transformative spaces for collaboration, education and vocational training within the [most diverse square mile](#) in North America.
- ◇ **Worship:** Five faith communities, share space within the MDM campus.
- ◇ **Education:** “Mommy & Me Refugee Family Literacy” teaches reading, comprehension, and civics. “Solid Foundation Christian Academy” serves mostly African-American children, who have been underserved by the public school system. The after-school program, “Inspire,” offers middle-school-aged refugee children educational support.
- ◇ **Training:** “The Amani Women’s Center” instructs women in both domestic and industrial sewing skills. “Just Bakery” teaches refugee women to become commercial bakers.

**SHEPHERDS:** Sandy Ryan & Peter Cobb. [Email them!](#)

## Opportunities to Serve in March

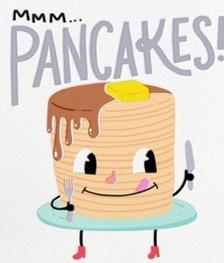
The food drive for **ICM** runs through Sunday, 3/10. Place your donations into the blue bin in the stairwell outside the church office. Items needed include: Spam, Vienna sausages, canned chicken, canned spinach, canned beets, any canned vegetables (except corn and green beans), jelly, cereal - plain and sweetened, powdered milk packets, hot cocoa packets, and hot cider packets. *Pop-top cans preferred!*

Our tutoring project with Dobbs Elementary has been such a hit with the kids that they need more tutors! We tutor on the second Wednesday of each month during the school year. This month, we go to Dobbs on 3/13. Contact [Bill Means](#) if you are interested.

Pans will be available Sunday, 3/17, in the narthex for the **Clifton Sanctuary Dinner** on Saturday, 3/27. Fill the pan with something delicious to eat and deliver by 5:30 p.m., either to [Clifton Sanctuary](#) or the [Watson home](#). Contact [Ann Watson](#) with questions.

Join the mission and youth committees on Sunday, 3/24, for a cookout at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. We'll carpool from MPC to grill food for our friends at Clifton. More details to follow. Questions? Email [Emma!](#)

Come to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the Fellowship Hall on 3/5. All are invited to wear pajamas, eat pancakes and watch the Magic Man! Bring a donation of *new* pajamas for **THREADS**, a clothing ministry for children.



As an Ash Wednesday outreach to MPP families as well as the MPC congregation, Pastors Leigh and Emma will be available for the Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday in the Memorial Garden during drop-off and pick-up (8:45-9:15 a.m. and 12:45-1:15 pm). At 7:00 that evening, we will also have an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary.

The first Sunday of Lent, 3/10, brings a Service of Healing and Wholeness. Healing was an integral part of Jesus' ministry which the church has been called to continue as one dimension of its concern for the wholeness of people. Through services for wholeness, the church enacts in worship its ministry as a healing community. Because Lent is a time when we recognize that we are all in need of healing and wholeness, this service is open to all and not restricted to those with physical ailments.

### Lent through Easter Events

3/5 - **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**; 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

3/6 - **Imposition of Ashes**; 8:45 - 9:15 a.m. & 12:45 - 1:15 p.m. in the Memorial Garden

3/6 - **Ash Wednesday Service**; 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

3/10 - **Service of Healing and Wholeness**; 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

4/13 - **Community Egg Hunt**; 10 a.m. on the Front Lawn

4/14 - **Palm Sunday Worship Service**; 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

4/14 - **Mozart's Requiem**; 3p.m. in the Sanctuary

4/18 - **Maundy Thursday Dinners**; more details to come

4/19 - **Good Friday Service with Central Pres**; 7 p.m. in MPC Sanctuary

4/20 - **Easter Sunday**; 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

## MARCH 2019

- 1 Cade Lawson
- 2 Melinda Sandkam
- 2 Sandy Ryan
- 3 Alex Watts
- 4 Phyllis Grimes
- 5 Ann Watson
- 6 Griffin Hunter
- 6 Sarah Brownlee
- 6 Betty Ray
- 10 Sawyer Barnette
- 11 Ava Arepally
- 11 Claire Strong
- 11 Austin Smith
- 11 Emilie Paille
- 12 Kelly Goldsmith
- 12 Lindsey Howell
- 12 Drew Kimball
- 13 Dorcus Kinumbe-Bauma
- 13 Magan Ward
- 14 Mary Leight
- 17 Charlotte Sommerfeld
- 17 Casper Adams
- 17 Charlie Strong
- 18 Ibbly Bailey
- 18 Gail Kitchens
- 19 Beth Farnsworth
- 20 Aaron Bertrand
- 20 Colleen McClintock
- 20 Charlotte Hitchcock
- 20 Ezekial Kinumbe-Baume
- 20 JoAnn Bertrand
- 22 Kate Durden
- 22 Brenda Fishpaw
- 22 Jamie Jones
- 23 Hillery McNeill
- 26 Carolina Williams
- 29 Hunter Sapp

## Grow Together

Sunday 3/3, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 201, Roland Behm hosts a Lunch and Learn about grief and life after losing someone to suicide. It will be an opportunity to learn and to share our experiences together and make our community stronger. Lunch will be provided — we ask for a donation to cover cost. All are welcome. Please contact [Emma](#) with questions and to RSVP.

(below) *Gibbs Daffodils*, Jerry Mashburn  
Taken at Gibbs Gardens, Ball Ground, GA



Mathew Frease leads the **Faith Development** class in a series on “Atonement,” beginning March 3 through Palm Sunday, April 14, meeting in the Session Room at 9:45 a.m. All are invited to join the exploration of the meaning of the cross this Lenten Season.

The **Families in Faith** class welcomes guest speaker, Dr. Martha Moore-Keish, professor of Systematic Theology at Columbia Seminary, on both 3/3 and 3/10. Ms. Aazam Salehi, counselor at Morningside Elementary, will give an overview of Love and Logic to the class on 3/24. All are invited to attend in Room 201 at 9:45 a.m.

## Be Together

### MPC Couples & Friends

3/9, 6 p.m. @ Sanda & Bill Means' [home](#).

Click to [RSVP](#).

### LGBT & Friends

3/12, 7 p.m.; details to follow.

Click to [RSVP](#).

### RHO Readers

3/17, 12:30 p.m.; Session Room.

Click for [book schedule](#).

### One Gray Hair

3/20, 12 p.m.; Fellowship Hall.

Click to [RSVP](#).

### Women's Roundtable

3/20, 6:30 p.m.; Lynn Young's [home](#).

Click to [RSVP](#).

(below) *Untitled*, Lester Morris

Taken walking home from lunch in Philadelphia, PA



Don't miss MPP's Annual Book Fair 3/4 - 3/7 from 8:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. 30% of the profits go to our preschool.

# MARCH 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b> 3 <b>9:30 a.m.</b> , Coffee & Conversation <b>9:45 a.m.</b> , Sunday School for All Ages <b>11 a.m.</b> , Worship - Communion <b>12 p.m.</b> , Fellowship <b>6 p.m.</b> , Youth Group	<b>MPP BOOK FAIR</b> 4 <b>12 p.m.</b> , Arts & Crafts Guild <b>6:30 p.m.</b> , PNC Kickoff Dinner (offsite)	<b>MPP BOOK FAIR</b> 5 <b>11 a.m.</b> , Yoga <b>1:30 p.m.</b> , Staff Meeting <b>2:15 p.m.</b> , Parkinson's Tai Chi <b>4:30 p.m.</b> , Tai Chi <b>5:30 p.m.</b> , Shrove Pancake Supper	<b>MPP BOOK FAIR</b> 6 <b>8:45 a.m. &amp; 12:45 p.m.</b> Imposition of Ashes <b>7 p.m.</b> , Ash Wednesday Service <b>7:45 p.m.</b> , Chancel Choir	<b>MPP BOOK FAIR</b> 7 <b>11 a.m.</b> , Yogasculpt <b>7:30 p.m.</b> , Handbell Choir	8	<b>10 a.m.</b> , Deacons Retreat (offsite) <b>6 p.m.</b> , Couples & Friends
<b>LENT 1</b> 10 <b>9:30 a.m.</b> , Coffee & Conversation <b>9:45 a.m.</b> , Sunday School for All Ages <b>11 a.m.</b> , Worship - Service of Healing & Wholeness <b>12 p.m.</b> , Fellowship <b>12:30 p.m.</b> , Lunch & Learn <b>6 p.m.</b> , Youth Group	11	12 <b>11 a.m.</b> , Yoga <b>1:30 p.m.</b> , Staff Meeting <b>2:15 p.m.</b> , Parkinson's Tai Chi <b>4:30 p.m.</b> , Tai Chi <b>7 p.m.</b> , LGBT & Friends <b>7 p.m.</b> , Preschool Committee	13 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> , Dobbs Tutoring <b>6:15 p.m.</b> , ☺ Children's Choir resumes! <b>7:30 p.m.</b> , Chancel Choir	14 <b>11 a.m.</b> , Yogasculpt <b>7:30 p.m.</b> , Handbell Choir	15	16
<b>LENT 2</b> 17 <b>9:30 a.m.</b> , Coffee & Conversation <b>9:45 a.m.</b> , Sunday School for All Ages <b>11 a.m.</b> , Worship <b>12 p.m.</b> , Fellowship <b>12:30 p.m.</b> , RHO Readers <b>6 p.m.</b> , Youth Group	18 <b>9 a.m.</b> , First Aid & CPR Training <b>12 p.m.</b> , Arts & Crafts Guild <b>7 p.m.</b> , Session	19 <b>11 a.m.</b> , Yoga <b>1:30 p.m.</b> , Staff Meeting <b>2:15 p.m.</b> , Parkinson's Tai Chi <b>4:30 p.m.</b> , Tai Chi	20 <b>12 p.m.</b> , 1 Gray Hair Lunch <b>6:15 p.m.</b> , Children's Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> , Chancel Choir	21 <b>11 a.m.</b> , Yogasculpt <b>7:30 p.m.</b> , Handbell Choir	22 <b>6 p.m.</b> , High School Youth Mystery Night	23 <b>5:30 p.m.</b> , Clifton Sanctuary (offsite)
<b>LENT 3</b> 24 <b>9:30 a.m.</b> , Coffee & Conversation <b>9:45 a.m.</b> , Sunday School for All Ages <b>11 a.m.</b> , Worship <b>12 p.m.</b> , Fellowship <b>6 p.m.</b> , Youth Group <b>TBD</b> , Clifton Cookout	25 <b>6:30 p.m.</b> , Women's Roundtable (offsite)	26 <b>11 a.m.</b> , Yoga <b>1:30 p.m.</b> , Staff Meeting <b>2:15 p.m.</b> , Parkinson's Tai Chi <b>4:30 p.m.</b> , Tai Chi	27 <b>6:15 p.m.</b> , Children's Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> , Chancel Choir	28 <b>11 a.m.</b> , Yogasculpt <b>7:30 p.m.</b> , Handbell Choir	29 <b>6 p.m.</b> , Middle School Youth Mystery Night	30
<b>LENT 4</b> 31 <b>9:30 a.m.</b> , Coffee & Conversation <b>9:45 a.m.</b> , Sunday School for All Ages <b>11 a.m.</b> , Worship <b>12 p.m.</b> , Fellowship						