



Seasons

of South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

WINTER 2020

From Strength to Strength

“Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.” Whether you were present to worship God in SMPC’s new sacred space on Sunday, November 8, 2009, or first entered the sanctuary sometime in the last 10 years, this joyful sentiment from Psalm 84 no doubt resonates.

In 2014, Andrew Brown, wife Emily, and children Savannah and Caroline had experienced the joy of worshipping and serving God at SMPC and made it their spiritual home. Andrew, newly ordained as an elder this year, chose to share his gifts with the funds management committee. Inspired by his grandfather’s selfless legacy of community fundraising, and SMPC members’ stories of faithful stewardship, Andrew felt called to help co-lead our church family in our final sanctuary capital campaign.

In 1905, Andrew’s “Paw Paw,” John Richard Brown, was born in central Virginia. One of eight children, John left school in seventh grade to help support his family. A three-week job digging holes for telephone poles led to a 46-year career with C&P Telephone Company. Andrew’s Paw Paw was committed to paying all his family’s debts and was able to do so – with the exception of \$25, as he could not locate the debtor.

With family debts paid, John turned his energy toward helping his community. He founded the Madison County Volunteer Fire Company and raised funds to construct the fire house. John enlisted the help of younger brother Al – an aspiring magician – to raise money for a down payment. Thinking creatively, he arranged for C&P Telephone Company to rent office space in the fire station to help with mortgage payments. John Brown served as the fire chief for eight years, operating the county fire alarm from his home across the street from the fire station. Andrew’s father worked as a janitor at the station during breaks from college.

John Brown’s life of service continued. He raised funds through his local Lions Club to help a community member in need build a home. Along with his wife Tucker, Paw Paw faithfully served God through Beth Car Baptist Church raising funds for new pews, a sound system and a steeple.



Paw Paw & Andrew (age 3)



The impact of John’s legacy on Andrew Brown is profound. “My family is very proud of John Richard Brown,” said Andrew. “I am proud of what he accomplished and how he turned his strength into community strength. It is my hope that his story can inspire us at SMPC, recognizing that as we retire our sanctuary debt, we can engage more fully in transforming the lives of those in our community.”

Andrew Brown shared Paw Paw’s story during the 2020-2025 Capital Campaign Leadership Team’s first meeting on January 11.

Key Milestones & Dates

Read Psalm 84 every day!

Sunday, February 23

Renewal Sunday

We will renew our commitment to the ministry of Christ in this sacred space.

Late February through March

Informational Gatherings

We will hear details about the campaign and ways we can help.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church
2020-2025 Capital Campaign

Sunday, March 8

Gratitude Sunday

We will share the SMPC story and express our gratitude for all that God has given to us.

Sunday, March 22

Service Sunday

We will highlight the ways we seek to change lives through service.

Sunday, April 26

Commitment Sunday

We will return our pledge cards and gather to thank God for working through each of us.

Learn more at www.smpchome.org/2020-2025-capital-campaign.



Lent

@South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, February 25 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Serving 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall.

Reserve now at www.smpchome.org.



Ash Wednesday, February 26

ASHES TO GO!



Ash Wednesday
DRIVE-THRU
7:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday, February 26



ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP & IMPOSITION OF ASHES
February 26
Lunchtime: 12:15 p.m. Evening: 7:00 p.m.

JOIN A STUDY!

NEW! Prayer 101: Soup & Study, Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Room 204, February 10, 17 & 24

Join us for a hearty homemade bowl of soup, conversation, and fellowship as we explore the basics of prayer. We will look at prayers in the Bible and see how we can use those as a model for prayer. We will also specifically learn about writing prayers for a group or meeting. Bring your favorite soup bowl or mug! (We'll have extras if you forget!)

We'll have a basket for donations toward the soup. This study will be led by Rebecca Guzman.

Register at www.smpchome.org. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

NEW! Lenten Study with Dr. Matt Brown: *Invasion of the Dead* by Brian Blount

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., McQueen Room, March 4 - April 1

We use the word "resurrection" frequently in the life of the church, but have we really explored what it means? In this book, Brian K. Blount, current president of Union Presbyterian Seminary, weaves together a study of resurrection as portrayed in the Book of Revelation, the letters of Paul, and the Gospel of Mark. Join us on our journey towards Easter!

Register at www.smpchome.org. Contact: Dr. Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org.

NEW! Book Study: *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, Mondays, 7:00 p.m., Room 204, March 2-30

Bryan Stevenson is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, and a professor of law at NYU Law School. He has won relief for dozens of condemned prisoners and argued five times before the Supreme Court. *Just Mercy* is at once an unforgettable account of a young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice. Join us as we explore what this means for people of faith.

Register at www.smpchome.org. This study will be led by Rev. Jessica Tidwell, jessica@smpchome.org and Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

All Things Considered: Sundays, 9:00 a.m., Room 206

This weekly gathering enjoys discussions of contemporary Christian issues. New Study: Nazi Germany.

Contact: Brenton Hartman, hartbc2@gmail.com.

Dr. Matt Brown's Bible Study: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Each Wednesday, at 9:30 a.m. in the Session Room of the Chapel building, a diverse and welcoming collection of seekers gathers with Matt to have a conversation around the Bible text from which the sermon and worship for the coming Sunday will evolve.

All are welcome!

Contact: Dr. Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org.

The JOY Class: Sundays, 9:00 a.m., Room 301

This adult Bible study is open to adults of all ages, singles and couples. Current Study: *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Joy Levine.

Contact: Carol Palmgren, carol.palmgren@gmail.com.

Men's Morning Bible Study: Fridays, 6:30 a.m., Room 202

Join in a new study of the book, *Genesis and the Big Bang*. Newcomers are welcome!

Contact: Aarik Eberhardt, aarikerberhardt@gmail.com.

Monday Morning Bible Study: Mondays, 9:45 a.m., Room 204, January 27-March 16 (no study on February 17)

This group explores the Kerygma study, *Parables: Stories for Life in God's World*.

Contact: Melissa White, melissawhite1018@yahoo.com.

Rain or Shine Moms' Group: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

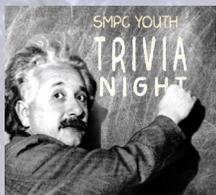
This group meets for study and fellowship, usually focusing on their own Christian journey or some aspect of parenting.

This group is studying the entire Bible in 2020. Jump in!

Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Save the dates! Vacation Bible School: August 3 - 8, 2020

YOUTH MINISTRY



Youth Community Trivia Night, Sunday, February 9, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

All ages invited to come compete in the YOUTH TRIVIA NIGHT in Mecklenburg Hall! Bring your own team of eight or join one at the event. Lemonade + light snacks provided.

Registration not required, but appreciated. Click the Events link at www.smpchome.org.

Parenting Workshop: Ask a Pastor: Theological Parenting Questions, Sunday, March 2, 5:00 p.m., McQueen Room

Rev. Whitney Bayer will host parents for this conversation during the March First Sundays Gathering. If your child has ever asked you a question about God that had you fumbling for an answer, this is the place for you! We will have some questions prepared. Participants can also submit questions beforehand to Whitney or bring them to the session.

Click the Events link at www.smpchome.org to register. Contact: Rev. Jessica Tidwell, jessica@smpchome.org.

SMALL GROUPS & MEET UPS



Lunch Bunch Valentine's Brunch, Saturday, February 8

10:15 a.m., Social Time, 10:45 a.m., Brunch (\$5 at the door), 11:30 a.m., Program, Mecklenburg Hall

Celebrate the holiday with a catered brunch followed by a dramatic historical program by Nora Brooks portraying Abigail Adams.

Please RSVP by Monday, February 3 by clicking the Events tab at www.smpchome.org or emailing coachanita2001@yahoo.com.

3rd-5th Grade MeetUps

Sunday, February 9, 5:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall: This group will sit together at the Youth Community Trivia Night!

This event is designed for everyone! Lemonade and light snacks will be provided.

Registration not required, but appreciated. Click the Events tab at www.smpchome.org.

Sunday, March 22, Service Sunday MeetUp: Gather after church to engage in service activities for organizations around Charlotte. Check your email for more details closer to the date!

Contact: Kathy Graham, kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com.

Small Fries MeetUps (Kindergarten-2nd Grade & Their Families)

Sunday, February 16, 12:00 p.m., Small Fries will gather at the Angerers' home after church/children's choir for a fun February craft and play time. Bring your own sandwich; cookies, chips, and fruit will be provided.

For details and to register to help plan for supplies, click the Events tab at www.smpchome.org.

Sunday, March 29, 12:00 p.m., Get lunch or pack a picnic and meet at the outdoor area near the fountain and playground at Blakeney Shopping Center! Enjoy fellowship with one another over lunch, then stay and let the kids play.

Contacts: Kim Overcash, kim@stovercash.com and Kristen Angerer, kristen.angerer@cms.k12.nc.us.

Hops Around Town, Saturday, February 22, 3:00 p.m., Home of Jane & Tom Klecker

In February, we will do something a bit different from our normal visit to a local brewery. We will have a "bottle share event" hosted by church members, Jane and Tom Klecker, who have their own backyard beer garden. (Their backyard is listed as Elmstone Brewery on the popular "Untappd" app.) The change from our usual day and time give everyone time to head over to The Chatham Rabbits concert at SMPC, which starts at 6:30 p.m.

For complete details and sign up information, click the Events tab at www.smpchome.org. Questions? Contact: Daniel Bayer, danielbayer05@gmail.com.

International Dining, Thursday, February 27, 7:00 p.m., Red Sake, 8410 Rea Road, Suite #100

Join us as we dine at various international restaurants throughout the area.

Please RSVP by Monday, February 24 to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Children's Choirs Rehearsal Schedule

Sundays, February 2, 9, 16 & March 22, 29

11:10 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Saturday, April 11, 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

First Sundays K-5 Music: March 1 & April 5, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Choral Festival: Singing Through the Seasons

Myers Park Presbyterian Church

Saturday, February 29, 5:00 p.m.

**Come support the SMPC Chancel Choir
as they participate!**



Registration for Fall 2020 is open!
Visit www.smpcpreschool.org.



South Mecklenburg
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8601 Bryant Farms Road
Charlotte, NC 28277

Return service requested.

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
*PAID
PERMIT # 2953
Charlotte, NC

Chatham Rabbits



in concert

Saturday, February 22

6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

The concert is free and open to all; a free-will offering will be received.

Learn more about Chatham Rabbits at www.chathamrabbits.com.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

For complete details of all services and activities, please visit www.SMPChome.org.