

January 25, 2017

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

January 28-29
 PRBC Hosts Room in the Inn

Sunday, January 29

Deacon of the Week: Brian Smyth
 9:30 Deacon Prayer
 9:45a Sunday School/
 Connection Groups
 11:00a Worship
 12:00p State of the Church meeting
 with 70 Chef's Catering box lunches
 available for purchase (\$10
 suggested); vegetarian option available
 5:00p Christ-centered Yoga Class

January 29-February 2
 PRBC Hosts Charlotte Family Housing

Wednesday, February 1

5:30p Family Fellowship Suppers
 Resume

Sunday, February 5

Deacon of the Week: Beth Heaton
 9:30 Deacon Prayer
 9:45a Sunday School/
 Connection Groups
 11:00a Worship
 5:00p Christ-centered Yoga Class

Remembering Our Friends at Home

Ted Morris
 801 Hillside Avenue
 Charlotte, NC 28209
 704-523-3945

Children and Youth will attend the Queens University Homecoming Basketball game on Saturday February 4 followed by dinner at Jason's Deli. We will meet at 3:30p at Park Road. The game is free, but everyone will be responsible for any snacks and dinner. If you'd like to join us, please let Joey know.

One of my grandmothers loved a good joke. When I was a child she asked me, "How far can a man walk into the woods?" Of course she stumped me, and even when she told me the answer, I was still stumped. "Half way," she said, with a characteristic grin. "Half way?" I puzzled. "What?... Why?... Half way?... I don't get it."

I'm not sure what she enjoyed most: my not understanding that after half way a man is then walking OUT of the woods, or her being the wiser of the two of us and opening her grandson's mind with wit and wisdom. I'll never forget that lesson about half way, and the significant change that it brings.

Half-way points are important, aren't they? Halftime is sometimes all the break a team needs to change the momentum. There are those awful mid-term exams, but at least you know the day after you take them the semester is mostly over. If I could only get to the 13-mile mark, I feel sure I could run all the way back for the second half of a full marathon. (Or, if I could only get off the sofa, it would feel like I was already half way to the fridge!)

There's that much-celebrated mid-life crisis – because it's all down-hill from there!

And then there's that all important "Hump Day" because everyone knows if you can just get to Wednesday, the weekend is just around the corner. So, hurray...

**Half Way through
 the week . . .**

Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers are Back!

Next Wednesday night, February 1, we resume our tradition of a mid-week meal and fellowship and discussion and youth group and children's music and Bible study. It's the mid-week break some of us were raised to believe was required for all good Baptists, like it was the 11th commandment. (You know, Jesus loved Wednesday nights at church!)

Well... maybe not. But, many of us have enjoyed this tradition for a lifetime, and though it's not strictly biblical, it probably should be. For \$6.00 (\$3 for children), there will be a great meal (from a variety of local restaurants, and Amy will cook a few times, and I'll probably twist Johnny Doyle's arm to help me grill burgers a couple of times). Where else can you get dinner and dessert, tea and coffee for SIX DOLLARS!?

There are also those wonderful round tables, where no one is at the head; we're all equals and sitting close enough to talk and share a laugh or a tear. It's a chance to catch up with each other and all the happenings at Park Road.

For children, there's time for a Bible story and music. For youth, a chance to pick Joey's brain... watch a movie... share some games... talk about some of the things that really matter. Adults will have three options this year. I will again take my lesson from that week's "Christian Century" magazine, which gives us a chance to look at some current events, some developments in the world of church and theology, and maybe share a poem and a song. Dan McClintock will lead a second adult study on "The Hard Sayings of Jesus." Also there will be an opportunity for spiritual practices using meditation and Lectio Divina.

We now only have Fellowship Supper half the year – three months in the spring and three in the fall. And it's not a matter of the glass being half full or half empty – everything is good about Wednesday nights!

I've always loved Wednesday nights at church and have found them worth more than a half-hearted effort. If you could make it a part of the rhythm of your week, I can promise it won't be half-bad.

See you next Wednesday?

Tracy



WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP SUPPERS ARE BACK!

Wednesday February 1, 5:30p

Make your reservation by the Tuesday prior (permanent reservations are available)
 \$6.00 adults/\$3.00 children



Park Road Baptist Church
3900 Park Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28209

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Return Service Requested

Full Suitcases to Cuba

Listed below are the items requested by our partner church in Carlos Rojas when we visit them February 16-20. These very basic items are so important to them because, even if our friends had the money, they are simply not available to them. It is hard to imagine an area where there are no stores, but this is the case in rural Cuba. Items that are so obtainable to us are luxuries to them and greatly needed. Will you take a few minutes to read the list? Then when you are shopping, please purchase some of the items and put them in the bin in the narthex or drop them by the church office. A special need is over-the-counter medications for all ages. Please help us be able to take suitcases packed with these necessities. The deadline for donations is February 14. Thank you.

Medicines: Ibuprophen, Bengay, Imodium, Tylenol, Vaporub, aspirin, Pepto Bismol, Alka Seltzer, antacids, Venastat, Hydrocortizone cream, antibiotic cream, bandages, multi-vitamins for children and adults, vitamins C, D, and E.

Sunday School Supplies: Colored paper, colored pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, permanent markers, highlighters, glue, glitter glue, stickers, pencils, mechanical pencils, staples, a hole puncher, colored files, plastic files, sticky notes, a calculator, scotch tape, paper, paper clips, foam sheets in different colors for children's work.



Many Steps, Many Voices

Park Roadians—40+ females, males, young, old—walked for the rights of women and the marginalized on Saturday, January 21 in Charlotte's Women's March. It was a morning of hope, peace, joy and love.

Very Special People

VSP for Senior Adults meets on the third Thursday each month, September through May, at noon. We always welcome new members and encourage the ones who attend to invite a friend to the next meeting! Beverly Doyle has done an outstanding job with programs! However, we are still looking for someone to take over the leadership of this Connection Group. Let us know if you are interested!

In January, PRBC's own Mike Olender (right) of AARP, shared helpful information and warnings about scams. This time of good food and good fellowship is a bargain for \$7!

Our next meeting is February 16. Please join us!



Senior Stretch Exercise Connection Group

This group of active adults have been meeting every Monday and Thursday morning at 9a for over eight years. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Community Center. We each work at our own pace as we stretch our entire bodies. This group provides a wonderful way to connect with fellow church members during the week. We celebrate each other's joys and share concerns while working on staying fit.

Debbie Brown