

March 2, 2016

From the Pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

Wednesday, March 2
 5:30p Family Night Dinner
 and Activities

Thursday, March 3
 7:00a Men's Bible Study

Sunday, March 6
 9:30a Deacon Prayer
 9:45a Sunday School/
 Connection Group Meetings
 11:00a Worship
 5:00 Youth Italian Night
 and Auction

Wednesday, March 9
 5:30p Family Night Dinner
 and Activities

Friday, March 10
 10:45a Tea Service at
 Urban Ministry Center

Saturday, March 12
 PRBC Hosts Room in the Inn

Sunday, March 13
 Daylight Savings Time Begins
 9:30a Deacon Prayer
 9:45a Sunday School/
 Connection Group Meetings
 11:00a Worship
 5:00 Youth Activities

Remembering Our Friends at Home

Mrs. O'Neal Starnes
 Legacy Heights, Room D-4
 11230 Ballantyne Trace Court
 Charlotte, NC 28277

Seven years ago, Tom and LeDayne Polaski talked to me about an opportunity upon which their family was about to embark. As they talked, it felt more like a calling. They had decided to sponsor a family from Sierra Leone to immigrate to the United States. They had a connection with this family through LeDayne's work with the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, but they did not know the family well. The Sams had gone through the lottery system for immigration, but they needed a US family to be their sponsor. And so the Sams – all 5 of them – eventually found their way into the Polaski home. And we, as the Polaski's church, said we would help the them with their calling. It was a huge commitment for both of these families. Sacrifices were made financially, as well as comfort. Kate, as the only child living in the Polaski home, suddenly had 3 more children thrust into the mix of daily living. Brickson and Annie Sam needed jobs. Brickson Jr., Annette and Jan would need schools. And our church served as their church home for several years before Brickson stepped in to pastor the local Together in Christ International Ministries Church.

Our children's ministry and our youth ministry quickly enveloped the Sam children. And now a youth trip without one or more Sam youth just doesn't seem quite right. Over time, Brickson and Annie have made their own way – into a home and into jobs and into a life in America. And just last week, Annie was honored for her accomplishments.

The North Carolina Health Care Facilities Association named Annie Sam District 2 Nurse Aide of the Year for her stellar and caring work at White Oak Manor. The award was one of six given for North Carolina -- out of 30,000+ Certified Nursing Aids in the state! As Annie adjusted to life in the United States, she decided that she felt a calling in the field of healthcare and began her training. Juggling a new life in a new culture with three children in tow, Annie made her way to classes and through training and into a job that has landed her in a care facility where she is able to bring wholeness and healing to some of the most lonely and vulnerable folks in our society – the elderly.



This award is a big deal. A big deal for anyone, but let me remind us all: Annie is an immigrant—an immigrant who is now a citizen of the United States of America. All 5 Sams are citizens now. Having seen some of the most gruesome and horrific scenes up close and personal in the Civil War of their home country, they found refuge in the "land of the free and the home of the brave." But they didn't just seek refuge. They have added to the goodness and grace of what it means to be an American. And Annie's recent recognition points us to what so many immigrants in our midst have to offer our country – professional integrity, hard work, commitment and love.

Let us open our homes and our houses of worship to all – the immigrant included. The Polaskis have modeled how this can be done, and Park Road has been the beneficiary of their calling. May their tribe increase.

Two sighs of relief and one pat on the back. . . After Sunday's worship service, Joey Haynes congratulated Max Dower and Jackson Knight who shared both sons' perspectives from the Prodigal Son Parable. Also a big high-five to all the youth on a job exceedingly well done!



Welcome to our Choral Scholars!

Excitedly, we welcome three wonderful, new voices to our choir. Yekaterina Rizhkova, Hannah Morse and Solana Bailey join our singers through our new Park Road Choral Scholars program.

Soprano Yektaerina, a music major at UNCC studying piano, sings in the school choir and also teaches private piano. Hannah, who sings second soprano, is a native of Durham, NC and a Music Therapy major at Queens University. From Aiken, SC, Solana, an alto, is a Voice Major at Queens University.

They bring new talent and vitality to our choir!



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

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Tom Hanchett to Speak March 16

On Wednesday, March 16, Tom Hanchett, Consulting Historian with the Levine Museum of the New South, will join us for our first Milford Dialogue this year and present a program "How Charlotte Got Segregated."

Segregation on the basis of race and income has been in the news a lot lately. It was the background cause of troubles in Ferguson and Baltimore last year. It is interwoven in debates about pupil assignment in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools today. How did Charlotte become segregated? Dr. Tom Hanchett will help us explore that surprising history.

Dr. Hanchett wrote the book, literally, on Charlotte's growth: *Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class & Urban Development in Charlotte* (UNC Press). In his position at the New South Museum, he helped create a number of award-winning exhibitions.

Support Sedgefield with your VIC Card

Want a quick and easy way to help Sedgefield Elementary School? Link your Harris Teeter VIC card to Sedgefield Elementary School through their "Together in Education" program. Then all your purchases will help earn money for the school!

You can follow this link to get started. http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/tie.aspx. Click "Link to Your School," then "Re-Link VIC Card." Next log in and add Sedgefield Elementary School, #2242. It is necessary to re-link the school each year. Please call the Church Office if you have questions or need help signing up. Thank you for supporting Sedgefield!



Youth Dinner and Auction this Sunday March 6

Meet in the Community Center at 5p to enjoy a fun-filled night of good food and fellowship while helping Park Road

Youth raise money for their summer mission trip and Unidiversity! The cost for the evening which includes dinner and entertainment is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children under 10, is free for children 2 and under.

Some of the live auction items include:

Handcrafted birdhouse, T-shirt quilt, Weekend at Lake James, Dinners for 6-8, PuPu Platter, Pet portrait, House Concert, Entertainment, Panther Game Day prints, "I Promise" painting, Artwork, Chopping Block Table, Casseroles, Peanut Brittle and Cakes.

Thank you to all the generous folks who have donated items, services or talents to support the Youth.

Get your paddles ready!

Something new this year----raffle for theme baskets: Sports Basket, Night Out Basket and Family Fun Basket. Raffle tickets can be purchased now --1 for \$5, 3 for \$10 or 8 for \$20. If you have to miss this event, you can still support the Youth by purchasing one or more raffle tickets! Good luck!

This night is always one of the most enjoyable events of the year at Park Road.

Special Music Program March 20

The combined choirs of Park Road Church and St. Luke Lutheran Church will present *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure. This choral work will be conducted by Jan McCoy, Music Director at St. Luke. Members of the Charlotte Symphony will accompany. Our new Rodgers organ will also be heard.

If you would like to honor your loved ones in the program, donations may be sent to the Park Road Church office by March 15. Be sure to include your name and the names of those you wish to remember.



A time of reflection . . .

Erin Rumble leads as members of the 2016 Diaconate gather at 9:30 on Sunday morning for prayer and sharing.