

November 30, 2016

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

Wednesday, November 30
 5:30p Wednesday Night Fellowship
 Supper and Activities
 Milford Dialogue Conclusion:
 "What Can the Church Do?"
 A Time for Reflection and Response

Thursday, December 1
 7:00p Hospice Memorial Service

Saturday, December 3
 All morning: Decoration Day

Sunday, December 4
 9:30a Deacon Prayer
 9:45a Sunday School/
 Connection Groups
 11:00 Worship
 Advent II: As If...
 We Really Believed in Peace
 Deacon of the Week: Bill Stewart
 5:00p Healing Oils Seminar

Wednesday, December 7
 5:30p Christmas Banquet with
 Myers Park Jazz Band

Thursday, December 8
 11-1p Senior Adult Christmas Party
 at the Heaton Home

Remembering in Prayer
 Tony Burton, CMC Main
 Lydia Ingraham, Sardis Oaks
 Ken Kinnard, Sardis Oaks
 Gwen Moses, recuperating at home
 Martha Clinard,
 in the recent death of her sister

**Remembering
 Our Friends at Home**
 Marvin Fisher
 1830-114 West Main Street
 Rock Hill, SC 29732

You don't talk about religion and politics in polite company, and you don't talk about money in church. (Or, as one parody sings it, "Tip toe, through the tithers, and be careful to stay off their toes...!")

In 16 years Amy and I haven't talked much about money. The truth is, I'm sure we haven't talked about it enough. I honestly believe how we use money (spending it, saving it and giving it away) has more to say about our spiritual lives than just about any other measure. That tight fist that won't let go of a few dollars for a good cause is a pretty good indicator about something in the heart attached to it.

There may stinginess or greed in a lack of generosity; there may be anxiety about the future or fear there's not enough – all of which speak to the condition of the heart.

My mother baked into her children's brain our grandfather's stewardship: "Tithe 10% (which always comes first), save 10%, and spend the rest with joy and thanksgiving." (She now says "save 20%!") There is great wisdom in this simple truth. Amy and I are able to give more than 10% of our gross income back to this good church. We do so with gratitude to God and Park Road for this community of faith. We will continue to encourage the wisdom of tithing. Ten percent is a great metric: it's easy to figure, enough to feel, not enough to harm. (You can still sign up for club sports, take vacations, send your kid to private college...)

Why all this talk about money now? ("You're ruining Christmas!") Whether good or bad, it is interesting that pledge season (giving it away) and Christmas (giving it away!) come at the same time. We had hoped to FINISH our pledge campaign before we decorated the church – but Decoration Day is Saturday, and we're still \$150,000 short of our 2017 goal.

Most of it has to do with neither greed or fear, just with "getting around to it!" So, would you, please (get around to it)!? And if your gift isn't an actual measure of generosity, if it doesn't stretch you at least a little, then the church will benefit from it (every dollar helps), but you will not. If you're going to go to the trouble of writing a check, why don't you let your stewardship be an actual discipline? You won't be sorry.

Please, send in your pledge card today – or you may send a confidential email to: cason@parkroadbaptist.org or call 704-523-5717 and speak with Cason Maccubbin, or just leave a private message.

It is that season, so... Merry Christmas!

T. Cason

Christmas: Past and Present
 Why don't you join hardy souls
 like those pictured
 (from a few years ago) to find
 "The Perfect Christmas Tree"
 for the sanctuary?



Saturday, December 3-Decoration Day

Every year on the first Saturday of December, everyone is invited to help decorate the church campus to prepare us for Christmas. Those who want an early start will gather at the Golden Corral on South Boulevard at 7:00a. Following a hearty buffet breakfast, they will tromp through the woods to get the Chrismon Tree for the Sanctuary. Any others can gather at The Flying Biscuit in the Park Road Shopping Center to eat together at 8:00a. Everyone is invited to converge on the campus at 9:00a to begin decorating. The party is usually over by noon. Come join the fun for all or part of the time. It really is FUN!

Order Poinsettias and Support our Youth Group

Each Sunday, you may order poinsettias in honor of or in memory of loved ones. The plants will decorate the Sanctuary during the Christmas season. A complete listing of honorees and memorials will be printed in the bulletin December 25. Poinsettias are \$8 each, and all proceeds will support our Youth Group's summer trips and programs.

You may place your order in the narthex on Sunday mornings or call the church office before December 20.





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

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Youth Fall Retreat at Camp Rockmont

It was a wonderful weekend of relaxing, playing outside, eating and spending time together as a group. The theme for the weekend was "Who was and is Jesus?" It gave the youth an opportunity to reflect on historical Jesus and how he has been transformed throughout history to fit different contexts. It pushed us to think about Jesus outside of our own culture and imagine him as something different. In this time of uncertainty, we devoted Saturday night for self-reflection, prayers for the world, how we can take action for hope, and reminding ourselves that we must love our neighbor regardless of our differences. It was a remarkable retreat leaving us feeling rejuvenated and energized!

Christmas Banquet Next Week, December 7

Amy will prepare the meal, and our children will sing, plus Myers Park Jazz Band will provide entertainment. Dinner at 5:30p. \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, please make reservations!



Gifts Fit for a King - The Healing Oils of the Bible

Have you ever wondered why the Wise Men brought Frankincense and Myrrh to the birth of Jesus? Come join Jo-Dee Collins as she leads us through the Bible and how oils, incense and plants were used

for healing body, mind and soul. We will also learn how the gift of these natural medicines was slowly and methodically removed from our everyday practice and faith. You will have the chance to smell, taste and experience 12 oils, and even create your own blend to take home.

This is a perfect way to use our senses in our Advent preparation on Sunday, December 4 at 5p. Call Amy or church office if you plan to attend in order to have enough supplies.

Sedgefield Gift Shop



Sedgefield is still in need of items for its Holiday Gift Shop!

This year, the holiday "store" will allow families to shop for gifts at greatly reduced prices while also raising money for school projects such as field trips. Sedgefield has requested specific items for the store from each of their partner

organizations. Remaining on Park Road's list are 19 remote controlled vehicles and 20 sets of hot wheels cars. If you would like to donate individually or through your Connection Group, please let Dan know so the master list can be updated to avoid duplication.

Please consider helping to make this Christmas special for the children of Sedgefield. Thank you!

Sedgefield Book Fair Volunteers Needed

Sedgefield is holding a Scholastic Book Fair, the first in several years during early December. Volunteers are needed to help set up and take down the displays, as well as to escort kids from their rooms to the media center for the fair. Set-up is on Thursday, December 1, take-down is Monday, December 12. The book fair itself will run from Friday, December 2 to Friday, December 9.

You may sign up to volunteer here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4caaae2daafe3-sedgefield>.

Annual Mission Trip to Cuba!

If you're thinking about joining us for our February 17-20 trip to our sister church in Cuba, please let Dan know by Thursday, December 1. February may sound as if it's a long way off, but advance preparation is needed to secure visas and make travel arrangements. The church has a new pastor, and they are looking forward to our visit!

Homeless Ministries

Saturday, December 10 will be a busy day for our homeless ministries with a **Men's Shelter Lunch** from 10:45a-1:15p and our first **Room in the Inn** of the winter season that evening in our Youth Building. Volunteers are still needed for both events so please see <http://www.parkroadbaptist.org/sign-up-to-help/> for more details and sign up to help!