

COMING UP

October 26-28

Youth Fall Retreat

October 28

Children's Fall Event

October 26

CDC Trunk or Treat
 4:00-5:00p

October 31

NO WEDNESDAY EVENING
 Dinner or Activities
 Enjoy Trick or Treating!

Friends at Home

Jean Thomas
 151 East Dallas Road, #604
 Stanley, NC 28164
 (704) 540-9269

Welcome Harvey Edwards!



Harvey is the newest PRBC member. He has already participated at the Men's Shelter in serving lunch.

Annual Fall Leaf Trip

The colors may not have been as bright as some years, but the fun was just the same. Being together, taking in the beauty of the mountains, eating lunch, and, enjoying ice cream, of course, made the day another wonderful success!



Last Wednesday night, I gave a presentation about my recent Immigration Immersion trip to Tijuana, Mexico. There were many photos to share and stories to tell, but I started with the end in mind. I tried to answer the burning question: What are the solutions???? I came up with a Top Ten list and thought I would share those ideas here . . .

- 1) Change our language. People are not "illegals" or "illegal aliens." Some people, in our midst, are undocumented HUMAN BEINGS. Changing our language can change our hearts and minds about many issues—including immigration.
- 2) Stop living in fear. The Wall is a fear tactic from Clinton to Bush to Obama to Trump—this is bipartisan chaos. We are Good News people, and our language and our actions should reflect Love, Grace, Hope, and Peace—not Fear.
- 3) Find ways to coordinate with what's already going on in Charlotte to help immigrants in our midst. Let's start with church members who already work for those agencies to see how we can help.
- 4) Explore what it might mean us for to become a "Sanctuary" congregation.
- 5) A Tu Lado—engage more fully in the work we are doing to help one Guatemalan mother and two children in Charlotte seeking asylum.
- 6) Invite our representatives to join us on an Immigration Immersion experience so they can see for themselves the plight of many people with horrific stories to tell.
- 7) Admit that we can differ in political agendas and ideas and policies while completely agreeing on the role of the Church. We have but one stance: Welcome and Hospitality.
- 8) A lesson from my day on a Factory Worker Tour: Remember that every single thing you buy has a story which has multiple human beings behind it and often those human beings gave their health and their safety for each item. The challenge is for us to discover the history behind everything we buy.
- 9) Be courageous.
 Be loving.
 Take risks.
- 10) Pray for wisdom for our leaders. Pray for a change of hearts - that compassion might rule the day.

As a caravan of migrants moves toward the US border, the leader of my Immersion group, Ray Schellinger, posted these thoughts yesterday on Facebook. It's worth considering Ray's thoughts as we watch the news: "Don't be fooled into allowing fear and hate to rule your heart. The caravan is an attempt by hundreds of families to seek safety. It is not unlike the peace marches of the Civil Rights era demanding justice. They band together to bring awareness to the desperate situations within Central America. They travel together because it is safer than traveling alone. If their purpose was to try to cross illegally into the US, they would sneak across the border; they would not be publicizing their journey for the world to see. They are not trying to invade the US and overpower our very well protected border. We do not need to force our southern neighbors to violence to stop them . . . These migrants do not represent a mortal threat to our nation. They do, however, represent a moral threat to our nation in as much as we look upon our neighbors in need and choose to close up our compassion against them."

Immigration is a complicated issue, but Ray's words of compassion speak to me about the Church's response to any complicated issue.

Amy





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

Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT
ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLT, NC
Permit #979

Sanctuary Renovation Full Steam Ahead!

The proposal to take the next steps in renovating our sanctuary was approved with no opposition on Sunday. Ironically, as we began worship Sunday morning, we lost power in the sanctuary due to a downed power line on Park Road. We completed that service in the dark after inviting folks to move forward in the room and locating a lectern on the floor, closer to the congregation. The (not planned!) result was that we sat for that service in approximately the same space that will be allocated in the renovated sanctuary. And what a difference that makes! With a half-dozen pews removed from the back and a couple removed from the front and the pulpit pushed forward, we “fit” so much better! The closeness affects every aspect of the experience: our singing is more musical and our fellowship, warmer. We look like we like each other! We look active and vibrant – as we are!

Thanks to Will Neeriemer (Building Committee), Chris Woolley (Capital Campaign Committee), and Greg Blum (Administration Committee), who have all done much work to get us to this point. We voted to approve the proposal – and now comes the real test. Let’s make the financial commitment needed to make this good proposal a reality! Interim financing will be provided so construction can begin in January, putting us back in a new sanctuary before summer. Our campaign goal is \$810,000 – of which we already have \$150,000 on hand. Our Capital Campaign Committee has already begun their work, with a “silent phase” launching this fall. Most members can expect to be contacted in the first couple months of 2019.

Thank you for your interest and your support. And thank you even now for being found faithful.

Disaster Relief Mission Trip

To aid in the clean-up effort in the hurricane aftermath, Park Road will take a team from November 8-12 to help flood victims with mud-out and tear-out in the eastern part of NC.



No particular skills are needed—just a willingness to work hard and maybe get dirty. We’ll leave from the church on Thursday evening, work Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and return home on Monday evening. For that weekend, we will go wherever we are most needed. If you’re interested in going, contact Dan.

Youth News

Cuba for High Schoolers—The total cost of the trip will be \$1,250 per person. This includes flight, transportation, accommodation, meals, and guides. To confirm your spot, please pay a \$300 deposit by November 18. There's a payment plan below but feel free to pay in full if you are able.

Deposit due 11/18: \$300
Second payment 1/13: \$400
Final payment 5/19: \$550

Please let me know if you have any further questions. This is going to be a great trip, and I know that the youth and young adults at Carlos Rojas will love connecting with our youth!

Very Special People



Our Senior Adult monthly luncheon falls on the third Thursday of every month.

Last week, ragtime pianist, Ethan Uslan entertained the crowd. On November 15, singer/songwriter Steve Simpson will make us laugh and think with his original compositions. And on December 20, one of our favorites—Teri McKelton will sing us into Christmas.

Annual Ministry Plan in Process

Five members of our Annual Ministry Plan (budget) Task Force have been selected and have been working to compile a recommended AMP for 2019. Requests have been sent to appropriate leaders, will be assembled, then finally approved by the Ministry Council – at which time our fall pledge process will begin. We understand that this budget conversation comes in conjunction with the beginning of a new Capital Campaign, but the work of the church must go on! You can help to make this process smooth and pain-free by considering now what you will be able to pledge for the 2019 AMP. We anticipate that the AMP recommendation will roughly follow cost-of-living predictions which will be about 2.5% higher than the 2018 AMP. Please consider increasing your pledge to help us meet the recommendation. Pledge packets will be mailed in the coming weeks with a goal to complete the budgeting process before the Christmas season is in full swing.