

August 21, 2019

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

August 25

Mondays and Thursdays
 Senior Adult Exercise
 9:00a

Kick-Off Sunday
 Refreshments—9:30a
 Connection Groups—9:45a
 Worship—11:00a
NO POTLUCK
 Children and Family Pool Party
 at the Deans'—2:00-4:00p
 Youth Pool/Pizza Party
 at the Deans'—5:00p

Capital Campaign Update

Many thanks to all of you who have pledged your support to our Campaign.

As the construction work enters its final weeks, we will accumulate additional invoices from our contractor. Now would be a particularly good time to make a pledge payment if you are able.



Again, thank you for your faithful stewardship of our Capital Campaign. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on the life of our church.

Kickoff Sunday—August 25th

I have favorite seasons on social media. I love graduation season and seeing everyone in their caps and gowns. I love birthday seasons. There is nothing like the love shown on Facebook on one's birthday. I love prom season with everyone dressed up and smiling. I love back-to-school season and all the pictures on that first day of a brand new year - new backpacks and fresh school supplies, everyone lined up and ready to catch the bus, anticipation coupled with a tiny bit of nervous energy. I especially love the Kindergarteners and those starting middle school or high school. And I do love the high school senior pictures – that last first day pictures is just the best. I even love it when college students appease their parents by sending a pictures from afar to prove that they are actually attending class. Returning to the routine is filled with excitement especially on that first day.

At church, we return to the normal schedule **THIS SUNDAY**, August 25. I get so excited when "normal" returns! Stop by the Community Center at 9:30a for some refreshments before making your way to a Connection Group for study and discussion at 9:45a. Then join us for worship at 11:00a in the Community Center. Normally we would have a potluck to kick things off, but since we are not back in the sanctuary quite yet, we are putting the potluck on hold until September 29, which will be our first Sunday back in our newly renovated space.

THIS SUNDAY, August 25, Russ and I are inviting children and families (birth-5th grade) to our house for a Pool Party from 2:00-4:00p. The youth are invited for a pizza and Pool Party beginning at 5:00p. What better way to get ready for school the next day than one last splash in the pool?

In worship, our children will receive backpack tags that will be a reminder about wishing peace to all. We will offer a blessing for all of our students and all of our teachers. New beginnings always hold so much hope so let us start anew one more time even at church. While we are here week in and week out, there is something about the return to school routine that offers us a chance to re-energize our faith journey as well.

I can't wait to snap a few pics and post a few shots on social media to show how we are being a community of faith together in study and in worship and at play.

See you Sunday!

Amy

PS – Wednesday night activities begin September 4. Dinner at 5:30p. Children's music at 6:00p followed by creative opportunities to learn the stories of the Bible at 6:45p. Adult and youth programming runs from 6:30-7:30p. And beginning September 18, adult choir rehearsal begins at 7:30p. A mid-week time at church is a great way to make it through the week by checking in with your church family. Think about making it a part of your routine or even your once-in-a-while chance to reconnect.

Connection Group Reception — This Sunday at 9:30a in the Community Center

Join us for light refreshments and fellowship before Connection Groups begin at 9:45. If you are already a member of a Connection Group, surely you're eager to reconnect. If you haven't found a group yet, now is the perfect time to sample the options. There will be a list of available choices and we will gladly help you find your group.

Sunday morning Connection Group options include:

- **Abundant Grace:** Co-ed, ages 60-up, meets in CC505, led by *George and Ann Miles*
- **Sacred Space:** Women, any age, meets in the Youth Building, led by *Amy Jacks Dean*
- **Babylon:** Co-ed, ages 45-up, meets in CC503, led by *Debbie Brown and Merrilee Fellows (alternate)*
- **Genesis:** Co-ed, ages 30-50, meets in Chapel Conference Room, led by *Will Neeriemer*
- **Men's Futures:** Men, ages 40-up, meets in the Chapel, led by *Dick Hester*
- **Lydia Fidelis Dorcas:** Women, ages 60-up, meets in CC501, led by *Beverly Doyle*
- **Children and Youth:** Birth-high school, meet in the children's building or the youth building, led by *various teachers*



**WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP
 DINNERS ARE BACK!
 SEPTEMBER 4
 FUN • FOOD • FELLOWSHIP**

5:30 Dinner (\$7 Adults, \$3 Children)
 6:00 Music w/Allyson, Program Amy
 6:30 Youth Program
 6:30 Program for Adults
 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal



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

Return Service Requested

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

Support our Schools—Direct student involvement opportunities



Park Road supports and recommends the following established programs for involvement directly with a student. In all cases of direct student involvement, you will need to register with CMS as a volunteer so a background check can be completed.

The programs below are listed in order of least preparation and commitment of time and effort, to most.

For the Love of Reading (FTLOR) is a reading buddy program sponsored by Myers Park UMC. There is no advanced preparation, and you don't need to bring anything with you.

Heart Math provides a lesson plan and materials for a 30-minute lesson per child each week. The lessons are well laid out and require no advanced knowledge in math.

HELPS (Helping Early Literacy with Practice Strategies) is an evidence-based program with a structured combination of several practices that statistically improve a child's ability to read fluently, i.e. reading with speed, accuracy, and proper expression.

Augustine Literacy Project tutors learn a research-based structured methodology to teach a child to read.

This has been an extremely abbreviated, high-level overview of these programs, which does none of them service. Please go to <https://www.parkroadbaptist.org/supporting-our-schools#involvement> to discover more information, including how to sign up for each program.

Our next SOS article will discuss the book send-home project.

The Pews are Coming Back!

All of our pews were removed from the sanctuary and stored in a remote location. They will be returned the first week of September. Anyone who purchased a pew needs to make plans to get that pew from the church the first week of September. It should be noted that the pews were disassembled for storage. Anyone who needs help re-assembling a pew, please contact Russ.

CDC by Leslie Gipple

For one whole hour today I forgot all about the political strife in our country. For one whole hour today I forgot about mass shootings. For one whole hour today I smiled and laughed and felt light and unencumbered. For one whole hour today I attended the CDC's summer camp talent show and I'm so glad that I did!

I watched a diverse group of girls and boys sing and dance and rap and play the piano. Many days over the last few weeks I have seen them rehearsing in the gym, working diligently on their performances while being encouraged by teachers Teresa Gatewood and Kiera Gatewood. But today their performances seemed effortless; just kids being kids, enjoying themselves.

I am so thankful for the gift of that one whole hour that they gave me today.

It's not that I want to stick my head in the sand and forget about mass shootings and the strife that permeates every stratum of our country. Rather, I don't want there to be mass shootings and turmoil for us to have to contemplate every day! And today, for one whole hour, our children reminded me of what that FEELS like. That experience evoked in me, viscerally, a keen sense why each of us, using our own unique skills, must stay vigilant to stop gun violence, hate speech and continued social and economic stratification of our society.

Everyone deserves to live free of pervasive fear, sadness, and anxiety — and it shakes me to my core to consider what growing up in this kind of atmosphere does to our children. We must do the work of creating a more perfect union.

I sincerely thank the teachers and staff of our CDC for creating such a nurturing environment for our children and for reminding me today of the life-affirming, societal value of one whole hour, of unfettered peace and joy.



Return to Regular Schedule!
August 25, 2019

- Sunday Connection Groups and Youth and Children's Sunday School at 9:45a
- Worship returns to 11a start
- Children and Family Pool Party at Deans' 2-4p
- Youth Pool Party at 5p with Pizza!

Join Us!