

August 8, 2018

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

August 11
 Men's Shelter Lunch
 9:30a Community Center

August 19
 Knights Baseball Game
 5:00p

August 26
 Recommitment Sunday
 Regular schedule resumes.
 9:45a Connection Groups
 11:00a Worship
 Potluck, Inflatables, and Games
 will follow Worship.

Friends at Home
 Shirley Murdock
 1501 Zion Church Road E.
 Room 103
 Concord, N. C. 28025

In the Hospital
 Scott Bengel
 CMC
 Cards and letters mailed to:
 4625 Piedmont Row Dr. Unit 515
 Charlotte, NC 28210

Recovering at Home
 John Paris

SAVE THE DATE!

October 12-14
 A Retreat for Couples

Many more details to come, but
 here is the theme of the Retreat:
 "Four Foundations of a
 Lasting Relationship."

Set the weekend aside now!

Welcome, Lou Solomon !



Before Kay Solomon died, she had become active at Park Road, and she often brought her children to worship with her. In time her son, Sandy, joined us, and now it's our great honor to welcome Sandy's wife, Lou. Lou is owner and founder of "Interact Authentically," where she teaches and coaches business executives and business groups on 'authentic communication skills', public speaking, leadership training, and other personal development initiatives. Let us offer an authentic Park Road "Welcome!" to Lou Solomon!

Summer Reading...

I've never really been a summer reader, but with several trips in our schedule, I set a goal to read and to catch up on a few things I should have read long before now. This needs to be a part of my annual discipline.

1984, George Orwell

I had managed never to read this classic before, but with technology now increasingly monitoring our every click, "Big Brother" does seem to be watching. With the current administration's more authoritarian style of leadership, now seemed a good time. Oh, my. My edition included an Afterward by the social psychologist, Eric Fromm, which identified his concerns for this nation (Fromm was born in Germany.) that are truly frightening.

Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America, Michael Eric Dyson

Nothing in Dyson's book was new to me, but this is a brutally honest analysis of a nation still mired in the racism of white privilege and white supremacy. The Georgetown University professor and Baptist minister uses a sermonic style to address his "Dearly Beloved" white brethren with a view of America that will open eyes if you dare to want to know what much of Black America is feeling, now 75 years after we were "integrated."

Hillbilly Elegy, J.D. Vance

Vance was raised in the coal mining regions of Kentucky and Ohio and escaped his beloved "hillbilly" heritage to earn a law degree from Yale. His retrospective is mostly the memoir of his highly dysfunctional family, which he considers fairly typical for a hillbilly family. (Hillbilly is not an insult, but Vance's designation for a segment of the American populace for which he has great love and eye-rolling disdain.) The brief sections of the book by this self-proclaimed conservative Republican which offer Vance's insights and opinions into the 2016 election, however, are troubling.

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

Another classic I had somehow missed has been on my I-have-GOT-to-read-this list for some time. After the first three rather disturbing reads of my summer, I was inspired by the moral courage and the inherent optimism found in Lee's depiction of Atticus Finch. Given the never-ending chaos around us, I can't say I'm in a very optimistic mood about the clarity of vision or the moral courage of the nation at the current moment, so the vision of Lee's hero, though fictional, was well worth my time.

Great, Small Things, Jodi Picoult

This page-turner fit well into my summer of titles related by their concern for social analysis and social justice. This fictional story about an African-American nurse accused of the murder/negligent homicide of the son of a notorious White Supremacist, is brilliantly written to reveal the fearful fringe element of alt-right extremists who have made their presence so loudly known in our country recently, as well as the more frightening, because it is much more prevalent, implicit bias and white privilege that are so much a part of the fabric of our nation.

The combination of fictional and non-fiction wisdom, read alongside the biblical truth I seek in writing sermons, has been invaluable. "To comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable..." We all need it.

So, I hope I'm reading with you...

Children's Sunday School Project

Thanks to Rose Boatwright, Alan Eakes, and the Children's Sunday School class, we have a new bulletin board at the end of the sidewalk.
 What a beautiful reminder of how God works in the world!

PLEASE REMEMBER

Recommitment Sunday is August 26 when we return to our normal schedule with Sunday School for children K-5th grade at 9:45a.
 On that day, we will have inflatables, face painting, and games following Potluck.

(Adults return to their Sunday morning Connection Groups then too!)





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

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Here is our preaching schedule for the rest of the summer:

August 12 – Dan McClintock

Whatever You Ask in Prayer, You Will Receive. Really?
(Matthew 21.22)

August 19 – Amy Jacks Dean

Noah's Ark and Other Floods in Our Lives

Worship: 10:00a, Sanctuary

Talkback: 11:00a, Adults (Community Center)

Youth (Youth Building)

Children's Sunday School (Children's Building)

PLEASE NOTE

Normal Sunday Morning Connection Groups and Worship begin Sunday, August 26.

Connection Groups 9:45a Worship 11a

Following Worship, we will have a Potluck lunch and then inflatables in the courtyard.

Fellowship Suppers... Need Your Help!

We will resume our Wednesday night program on September 5 with another concert from singer/songwriter, Steve Simpson. We will meet for dinner (5:30p) and program (6:30p) every Wednesday through November 28. We had fun in the spring and enjoyed a varied program, so we're putting together a similar schedule for the fall. If you have an idea for a program, a topic, a speaker, a Bible study/text, etc... **PLEASE let Russ know ASAP.**

A reminder of our Wednesday format and times:

5:30p—Dinner

6:00-6:45p—Children's music

6:30-7:30p—Adult program

Youth program

6:45p-7:30p—Children's Creative Bible Adventures

7:30p-9:00p—Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Dinner cost: \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children

Please make your reservation for dinner by Tuesday at noon and let the church office know if you would like to be placed on the permanent list.

Also feel free to bring your own dinner. You can still enjoy fellowship around the tables before the programs begin.

Community Garden Update

Our spring-summer garden has yielded 192 pounds of tomato, squash, cucumber, pepper and okra. We are pleased to provide fresh vegetables for the Loaves and Fishes Pantry at Holy Comforter Episcopal.



Unidiversity 2018

Another great year for our young people to enjoy life together in morning celebration and bible study and seminars and electives and worship and fun and games. Thank you to our chaperones: Geoff Palmer, Liza Haynes, Margaret Knight, and Madison Porter. This is such an important week in the faith development of our youth. Thank you, Park Road, for making this possible for these great teenagers!

