

February 14, 2018

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

## COMING UP

### Wednesday, February 14

11:45a Men's Lenten Study  
 Charlotte Café  
 Park Road Shopping Center  
 5:30p Fellowship Supper  
 and Ash Wednesday Service

### Thursday, February 15

Noon VSP  
 Lunch and Program

### Sunday, February 18

9:30a Deacon Prayer  
 9:45a Sunday School/  
 Connection Groups  
 11:00a Worship  
 5:00p Youth Activities

### Tuesday, February 20

10a Coffee & Kibbitz

### Sympathy Is Extended

To Netta Mosley  
 in the death of her mother

### Friends at Home

Joan Mialik  
 3915 Ashton Dr.  
 Charlotte, NC 28210

### Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper and Activities

5:30p — Dinner (\$7.00/adults,  
 \$3.00/children)  
 6:00p — Program for Children led  
 by Amy  
 6:30p — Program for Youth led  
 by Joey  
 6:30p — Program for Adults  
 7:30p — Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

## Choir News

It's Olympics time, and Amy and I are fanatics. If we're yawning and bleary-eyed the next time you see us, you'll know why! We have the fever and always love watching, summer or winter, and the stories about these athletes may be the very best part. Who are these people, many of them just kids, who give years of their lives for this amazing chance at a spectacular moment of fabulous-if-fleeting fame? Some of them become household names for a season. This year add Chloe Kim to that list. Her parents immigrated from South Korea, and her dad calls her his "American dream!" Did you see her last night in the snowboard half-pipe? Incredible!

The stories of the dedication of Olympic athletes are legendary. They give years, literal years of daily discipline for one event. When it pays off and they stand there atop that podium, watching the Stars and Stripes lifted high above, it's spine-tingling. And when they "crash and burn," and that can happen so quickly, one jump, one misstep, literally one second... and it's gone, then what? All those years, all that time, for nothing?

I have wondered about the time and the expenditure that families most give in order for a child to pursue the Olympic dream. Parents quit jobs and sell houses and move across the country, and kids miss much of their childhoods, the parties, the proms... all for the chance to wear a ribbon, to be called "the best," to be remembered for one shining moment? (And even the most spectacular moments are fleeting. Remember Dan Jansen, Katie Ledecky, Mark Spitz? Wait... Dan? Katie? Mark... whom!?)

We may be obsessed with the fame, and that moment in the limelight may drive these athletes, some of it foolishly conceived out of a selfish human need for stardom, the salvation of success. But the discipline, the discipline is its own payoff. For Gold, Silver, and Bronze—and for the also-rans you never hear about, the has-beens you quickly forget, the discipline is awe-inspiring.

The sports obsessions of my youth never materialized into anything approaching Olympic gold, but the discipline I learned in conditioning my body for a new season, in preparing my mind for a new competition, in bracing my spirit from a disappointing loss was formational for my life. It remains with me to this day. Discipline is always its own gold.

Wednesday will bring women's speed skating and the men's alpine "super-G," some ice hockey, luge, and curling competition... and the beginning of Lent! Maybe this year you could think about Lent as your Olympic trial. Why don't you pick a discipline, and spend 40 days training? Buy a devotional book or pick a Gospel from the New Testament and read every day. Eschew the political madness and fast from CNN, Fox, Twitter mania. Write a thank you note every day, 40 reminders to yourself of the way someone in your life has made a difference to you. Join me for a daily meditation at Avondale Presbyterian's labyrinth.

I can make you two promises if you'll make the commitment. 1) You won't become a household name, even for a fleeting moment for winning Lenten Gold (2) You won't be sorry!

Discipline is its own reward.



### Special Choir Opportunities

Have you ever wanted to sing, but scheduling conflicts wouldn't allow you to make a full time commitment? Here are some opportunities just for you!

**Mother's Day**—A male chorus will lead the service. The men rehearse at 9:15 the four Sunday mornings prior to Mother's Day on May 13.

**Father's Day**—Women who wish to sing in an all female ensemble are invited to lead worship on that Sunday. Rehearsals will be at 9:15 for the four weeks prior to Father's Day on June 17.

**Handbell Choir** - If you have played or just want to learn, this choir is the perfect opportunity. Email: [monty@parkroadbaptist.org](mailto:monty@parkroadbaptist.org) to let me know. My goal is to play in service once per month, beginning in mid-April. Anyone ninth grade and older is invited.



Park Road Baptist Church  
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Return Service Requested

Beginning in 2016, when Park Road decided to commit a significant portion of our budget to helping students at Sedgefield Elementary, several of the regularly budgeted mission programs that we supported instead became recipients of our Sunday morning mission offerings. Here is a list of the organizations that benefitted from our mission offerings in 2017:

- Jan - \$949.79 to Charlotte Family Housing
- Feb - \$1,422.56 to Queens University
- Mar - \$1,041.57 to Baptist News Global
- Apr - \$1,375.71 to BPFNA – Bautistas por la Paz
- May - \$1,035.48 to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Jun - \$1,975.51 to Noah's Ark
- Jul - \$1,216.00 to Charlotte Clergy Coalition (fire victims)
- Aug - \$763.60 to Alliance of Baptists (Bridges of Hope)
- Sept - \$3,040.51 to Covenant Church (Harvey relief)
- Oct - \$1,578.08 to Crop Walk
- Nov - \$1,881.26 to Friendship Trays
- Dec - \$2,292.00 to Loaves and Fishes

**Total - \$18,572.07**

The Sunday morning offerings have allowed us to increase our contributions to organizations like the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (from \$500 to \$1,375) and Friendship Trays (from \$1,500 to 1,881) as well as allowing us to respond quickly to immediate needs like Hurricane Relief (over \$3,000) and assisting fire victims (\$1,2016). It's also worth noting that our donation to the Crop Walk to help those suffering from hunger has increase every year for thee past 4 years! Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to these offerings and for your generosity!

## Fun Food Friday

February 23  
11a – 2p  
Punta Cana Restaurant  
Dominican Fried Chicken  
South Boulevard

### Meet and Greet

What could be better than eating cookies and getting to know someone new?



### Reading Between The Lines

Update from Ron Pelt

A new group led by Ron Pelt is now meeting Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:00p in the Chapel Conference Room. (Use the chapel door to enter.) Group members learn to engage the text as story. Open-ended questions help participants encounter the text with their own individual reactions then connect with the world around and with the inner world. Silence is valued, and no one is ever pressured to speak. Members use prepared materials to contemplate the text prior to the group meeting. (\$30 for 9 sessions. An electronic version is available. Both may be ordered through the church office.) Please join us!

### Ministry Area Reports: Spiritual Development

During worship this past Sunday, we heard from Ann Marie and Barry Burke, Ministry Area Coordinators for Park Road's Spiritual Development Ministry Area. This ministry is committed to helping us enhance Park Road's commitment to warm, liturgical worship, and challenging education. The action teams in Spiritual Development Include;



spiritual development

- Recommitment Sunday Team
- Library Team
- Advent Decorations Team
- Sacred Arts Team
- Special Music and Events Team
- Adult Connections Team
- Youth Team
- Children's Team
- Barry and Ann Marie Burke

would welcome your assistance with one or more of the Action Teams listed above. You may contact Barry at [bsburke@bellsouth.net](mailto:bsburke@bellsouth.net) or Ann Marie at [aburke@coldwellbanker.com](mailto:aburke@coldwellbanker.com)