PARK ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH
Progressive Theology
Traditional Worship
Welcoming Community

# Good Tidings

February 21, 2018

## From the pastors' Heart & Soul

The middle of the month of February features one of my favorite Sundays of the year. Some folks love Christmas at church. I do too. Some folks love Easter at church. I do too. I'm especially fond of Pentecost, and I do love Youth Sunday and Children's Sabbath. But the middle of February rolls around and ends up being a favorite – Deacon Ordination Sunday. As I mentioned in my State of the Church address at our Annual State of the Church meeting at the end of January, 2018 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Ordination. I remember the sermon from that day – "A Labor Not in Vain" – preached by our professor and mentor from seminary, Dr. Molly Marshall. I remember one of the hymns as Russ's favorite "Be Thou My Vision," and the college handbell choir played my favorite "If You But Trust in God to Guide You." I remember my siblings reading Scripture and Russ's siblings providing special music. I remember Russ's father giving the Charge. I remember the luncheon afterwards for family and out of town guests. And mostly I remember all the hands upon my head and all of the blessings whispered in my ear. I remember Russ kneeling by my side hearing his own blessings. And I remember feeling uniquely an individual and part of a collaborative partnership at the same time. We knelt there together hoping that one day we would pastor a church together, never imagining it would actually happen. So in the middle of every February when I witness this ancient custom of blessing for those being called to serve, I am transported back a quarter of a century, and I lean in, once again, to Blessing.

A whole new group of deacons have been added to this servant ministry. Some have been around this block before. Others are brand new. These folks have said "Yes" to an opportunity to serve the Park Road family of faith. They have been asked to help us be a true to community to one another. The resident members of the church have been assigned to a deacon, and the deacons have been asked to keep their families informed about the life of the church. And they have been asked to connect with their families to assess the needs of each family. They've been asked to celebrate the joys of the families and be present in moments of crisis or grief. When you think about it, it's a tall order.

At our Deacon Retreat, we talked about best practices and acknowledged that every deacon use her or his own gifts and strengths to best minister to families. Let me say a heartfelt thanks to Brian Smyth who so ably led the Deacons last year. And another heartfelt word of gratitude to Ann Miles who will lead the Deacons this year and to Ken Reynolds who has said "yes" to vice-chair Deacons. Hold these leaders of the leaders in your prayers, as well as, the whole group of Deacons.

Two of our new Deacons who were to be ordained were unable to be in worship in the middle of February. One Sunday in the near future, we will take the time in worship to lay our hands upon them and whisper blessings in their ear. Our world could use more words of Blessing these days. There's no better place to start than in church.

Amy

### COMING UP

**Wednesday, February 21**
11:45a Men's Lenten Study
Charlotte Café
Park Road Shopping Center
5:30p Fellowship Supper
6:15p Children's Activities
6:30p Adults and Youth Bible Trivia

**Friday, February 23**
Fun Food Friday
**11:30a – 2p**
Punta Cana Restaurant
Dominican Fried Chicken
South Boulevard

**Saturday, February 24**
Room in The End

**Thursday, March 1**
11:45a Men's Study
Charlotte Café, Arboretum

**Friends at Home**
Thelma Koernert
733 Plantation Drive B206
Matthews, NC 28105

### 2018 Deacons

Ann Miles, Chair
Ken Reynolds, Vice Chair
Dwayne Baxley
Debbie Brown
Chris Gabriel
Dona Leonard
Daniel Miles
John Moseley
Geoff Palmer
Bill Stewart
Max Carroll
Mike Hamrick
Allyson Neeriemer
Ann Woolley
Chris Woolley
Peggy McIntyre
Laura Baxley
Twila Broadway
Ann Marie Burke
Rose Marie Burton
Alan Eakes
David Knight
Lisa Oldham
Crystal Smyth

### Ministry Area Reports: Resources Ministry Area Teams
### Resources Ministry Area, John Paris, Ministry Area Coordinator

The mission of our Resources Ministry Area is "to inspire a culture of generosity in PRBC." By wisely using our resources, physical and financial, we as individuals and as a church can develop generosity. If you are not involved in an Action Team, maybe you would consider supporting the church through:

**Development Team** – This is not a "money" team, but a "marketing" team, whose purpose is to tell the Park Road story, through pictures and words, enhancing an understanding of hour the money we give the church becomes actual ministry and mission.
**Stewards for Sustainability** – This team will evaluate and enhance the campus's green initiatives, lessening our footprint within the campus and within the community.
**Community Garden Team** – Our garden is used by church members to provide support to the local Loaves and Fishes, and we share this garden with our Burmese partner congregation, Chin Bethel.
**Legacy Team –** The purpose of this team is to keep the church's legacy alive, by encouraging estate planning (leaving a financial legacy), and through our Milford Dialogue program (creating awareness of our historical and theological legacy).

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

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CHILDREN'S OUTREACH

Does your child play a sport or a musical instrument? Is your child a part of some group that performs in anyway? Is your child receiving an honor or being recognized for some accomplishment? Do your children love it when they have a visitor for lunch?

I am wanting to connect with your children outside of church. They need sometimes to see me not in my robe but on their turf. So let me know what's going on in the lives of your children. Send me schedule. Brag a bit and let me know what's going on. I want to show up.

As a brand new empty nester, I'm missing showing up for my boy's stuff on a regular basis (though we are still making that 2 hour commute for as much of their stuff as we can). It's been an important part of parenting, and I think it could be an important part of my pastoring your children. So please let me know when and where, and I will do my best to show up. And if your child isn't involved right now, that's okay. Maybe I can take them out for ice cream one afternoon after school.

Grace and Peace, Amy

***Strummin' Singin' Steve***

Singer/songwriter, Steve Simpson kicked off our Spring Wednesday nights with his amazing lyrics, tunes, and stories of his musical journey.

**Zooming In**

Over 20 women connected last week by video and phone to participate in Amy's Zoom Lenten Study.

They discussed vulnerability, shame, courage, connection, worthiness, and wholehearted living. **#thatsgoodstuff**

**Potential Women in Ministry**

Thanks to our Park Road Young Adults Connection Group for sponsoring three students from Queens University to attend a discernment retreat for college women hosted by Baptist Women in Ministry. What a great opportunity for these students to discern a possible future in ministry!

**HVAC Repair and Legacy Giving**

With five buildings on our campus, we are in constant need of some repairs. Leslie Gipple, our Operations Manager, does a wonderful job keeping up with these needs. Currently the heat and air is being repaired In the Youth Building. (It will soon be replaced.)

This work will be provided by monies that remain from the Jim Foster and Carson and Aline Allen legacy gifts. Long after they have died, we are still feeling the support of these wonderful church members because they included the church in their