

February 28, 2018

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

Wednesday, February 28

11:45a Men's Lenten Study
 Charlotte Café, Park Road Shopping Center

5:30p Fellowship Supper
 6:15p Children's Activities
 6:30p Youth Activities and Adults: Spiritual Practices

Thursday, March 1

11:45a Men's Study
 Charlotte Café, Arboretum

7:00p, Amy's "Zoom" Study:
The Gifts of Imperfection by Brené Brown

Sunday, March 4

Immediately following worship:
 What Can WE Do about Gun Violence?
 Brief gathering with Russ and Amy in the Community Center

Tuesday, March 6

Coffee & Kibitz Bible Study
 10:00a, CC503 — All are invited!

Friends at Home

Jean Messick
 5800 Olde Providence Road,
 #5710-C
 Charlotte, NC 28226
 704-366-0783

Fellowship Suppers in March

If you've not made Wednesday nights a part of your routine — even if you could come once-in-a-while — we hope you'll try. The food is excellent, and the fellowship even better.

[Here's the March schedule](#)

February 28: Spiritual Practices

March 7: Topical Discussion (TBA)

March 14: Sedgefield Celebration

Sedgefield teachers and staff will join us for our meal, and we will celebrate the work of "Uplift Sedgefield."

March 21:

Intergenerational Games

Children, youth, and adults will be together for a one-hour version of our popular Labor Day retreat.

Thursday, March 29

We have no Wednesday night activities this week, but dinner is moved to Thursday night and will be followed by our annual Maundy Thursday Service in Milford Chapel.

We were in SC over the weekend, and in a conversation about the latest round of tragic current events, one of our family's teachers shared with us the procedure for the now-monthly "active shooter drills" they conduct in her middle school. Active Shooter drills. Every month. Just let that sink in.

We learned about the new locks and locking procedures schools are now using and how students are instructed during these drills to barricade doors and how they learn to use the power cord from a computer to lash door knobs or as a makeshift rope for a window escape. (I'm not kidding.) Students are taught to push desks in the way of a perpetrator, to throw books to disrupt a gunman's aim. (Yes, really.) Our niece told her students they might need to jump out their second story window. "Won't that kill me?" one middle school boy asked. "No," but then she told him matter-of-factly, "You'll

probably break your legs, but it's better than being killed by an AR15." Then she said that her husband, the former Navy-Seal-turned-police-officer, told her that in an assault all the procedures go out the window: "You do what you can to protect you and your kids. Don't worry about 'procedure.'"

I really just could not believe my ears. I have to admit that anger is getting the better part of me at times these days; that is when I'm not weeping for the meanness and foolishness that is overtaking us. I'm thinking of Jesus, in that biblical episode that is too prescient now for irony, when he enters the beloved city and weeps over Jerusalem, saying, "*Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes*" (Luke 19.41-42).

As a nation, we have conceded the gun war. We have admitted defeat (though we call it a Second Amendment victory.) If you want proof that I'm right, just listen to the conversations. We're not even suggesting ways to keep our children from dying in their schools — just ways "minimize the casualties," ways to best "respond," best procedures for the "first five minutes after the killing starts."

I commented to my family, "Can you imagine what someone from any other country in the world would think if they dropped in on this conversation? Americans are seriously asking our children to be prepared to jump out of second-story windows, to throw paperback books at gunmen armed with weapons of war. We have become such a foolish nation."

There are no easy answers, and with 300+ million guns in the system now (a number that increases in proportion to our fear with every new mass shooting), there will be no quick solution. But we can act. We can demand the response of reasonable dialogue and decency in our politics, and we should demand to live in a nation where children are free from the fear of being killed before they graduate.

This Sunday, after worship, Amy and I will be in the Community Center to hold an informal conversation about what we as a church might DO. Come prepared to talk with us. Bring ideas and information about community events. We're not expecting to create a plan to save the world, but we hope we can agree on some simple, intentional actions that CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Amy and I are looking at the Charlotte march, scheduled for March 10, and the march in Washington, DC, sponsored by those brave kids from Parkland, FL, as potential church-gathering events that might spur us to further action.

Let's MAKE A DIFFERENCE. See you Sunday.




Park Road Community Ministry Area Teams
 Hugh and Sarah Ashcraft, Ministry Area Coordinators

The mission of PR Community Ministry Area is "*to strengthen this church's identity as a 'family of faith.'*" If you are not involved in an Action Team, maybe you will consider supporting the church through:

Caring Church Companions (3Cs) Team — This team provides care through simple contact with our own members.

Reception/Bereavement Team — This team stands by to provide food and other needs for these church functions.

Very Special People (VSP) Team — This team is responsible for the monthly programs for our senior adults.

Intergenerational Team — This team creates opportunities for fellowship across the age/generational spectrum.

New Babies Team — This team provides special attention for our new babies and their parents.

Seasonal Parties Team — This team provides for special events.



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

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Lilies go on sale March 11 and may be purchased for \$8 in honor or memory of loved ones. The flowers are used for Easter Sunday. Proceeds benefit our youth program.

Blue, Who!?

A native of Clover, SC, tenor Nicholas “Blue” Setzer is a vocal performance major at Winthrop University. Blue’s beautiful voice and sense of humor enhance the Park Road choir. I am so pleased to have all of our Winthrop University choral scholars being a part of the music program and the life of PRBC! — Monty Bennett



The Journey to Generosity

For the last two years you have been invited to complete a pledge card AND a survey, printed on the back of that card. This “journey to generosity” is an attempt to measure stewardship growth, which is not defined by dollars given, but by the sacrifice made. Most people did not complete this survey, but we want to continue to provide this survey, as an encouragement for us all to “step up” (from “periodic giving” to “regular giving” or from “increasing a percentage” to “tithing, 10%,” etc...). The tally below, representing giving units, is from these two years.

Where are you on the journey to generosity?

	2017	2018
Periodic Gift	3	0
Giving Regularly	17	11
% of Income	7	7
Increasing %	8	16
Tithing 10%	3	5
Beyond Tithe	9	7
TOTALS	47	46



Amazing Art. Amazing Friendships

Last Sunday Abby Burton had a gift for her friend, Johnny Doyle. Every Sunday Johnny brings candy, and he and Abby have become fast friends. After working for six months preparing this incredible needlepoint masterpiece, she had it framed and presented it to Johnny on Sunday. And, not to be outdone by her twin sister, Lillie made a “prayer pillow” for her buddy! Where else could Abby and Lilly make a friend like Johnny, but in church!?! Amazing!