

January 24, 2018

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

Saturday, January 27
 Room in the Inn

Sunday, January 28
Annual: "State of the Church"
 Potluck lunch followed by a fast-moving review of 2017 and a challenge for 2018

Sunday, February 4
 Youth Super Bowl Party at the Palmers

Wednesday, February 7
Fellowship Suppers and Activities Resume

Remembering our Friends at Home
 Marjorie Walker
 19 Kaylor Drive
 Arden, NC 28704

Sympathy Is Extended
 to the family of Lou Smith. A memorial service will be held Thursday, January 25 at 1:00p at the church with a visitation reception to follow.

Remember in Prayer
 Rusty Berger—recovering well at home after recent hospitalization

The pastor of the church I served in Birmingham used to say he always counted his time to retirement by the number of Deacons' meetings he had left to attend and the number of budgets he had left to pass. I've never shared his humorous sentiment (probably offered with a touch of truth-in-jest!), but I do understand it. Getting to the end of this last budget year took a few years off my life.

Sorry for the rollercoaster – but I didn't want to be alone on that bouncy ride!

The bottom line is that both our 2017 Annual Ministry Plan and our 2018 Pledge Campaign finished ahead of their goals. After those last appeals, you really came through! We finished 2017 with an almost \$6,000 surplus, and we finished the 2018 campaign with almost \$6,000 more in pledges than the minimum requires.

Part of this Sunday's State of the Church meeting will be a more detailed review. Despite our tendency to wait until the eleventh hour to finish these things up, these are some very good signs of the financial vitality of our church. We want to share all this with you (along with a request that you not put us through this again next year!)

THANK YOU, and see you Sunday,

Tracy

On a different note, I wanted to share with you the Prayer of Intercession from this past Sunday that I offered in response to my experience participating with about 20 church members in Charlotte's Women's March last weekend. I prefaced the prayer with these words: "Putting aside the vulgarity of some of the signs and the partisan politics, I offer this prayer for why I marched:

'Gracious God, believing that you created us all as good, we yearn for equal rights and equal pay and opportunities to make decisions for ourselves and our bodies.

We want our voices to be heard. We pray for those who have been harassed and abused—who have been put down and shut up. We are heartbroken with so many who say #MeToo, just as surely as your heart is broken with ours.

So we took to the streets—grateful to live in a democracy that not only allows such, but even encourages it.

We resonated with the signs that read "Love Wins" and "Be Kind."

Thank you for your daughters and sons, created in your image, who speak Truth to Power. Grant us the courage and strength to endure. and to march until all of your children are valued and heard. Amen.' "



Amy



Join us for **Wednesday Night Supper starting Wednesday February 7** for a wonderful time of fellowship and good food! If you are on a standing list, you will not need to call.
Reservations Required!
Starting Wednesday, February 7
Wednesday Night Dinner Information:
 Dinner begins at 5:30p.
 Programs for children, youth, and adults run until 7:30p.
 Adult Choir follows from 7:30-9:00p.
Call the church office for reservations at (704) 523-5717.



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

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We will be printing a new Church Directory in February. We are trying to update all contact information, and we need your information by February 11.



Reading Between the Lines

A new group starts Sunday, February 4, 5:30-7:00p in the Chapel Conference Room. Ron Pelt, former RBTL writer and now Educational Center board member, will facilitate.

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.) RBTL is published by the Educational Center. Russ is the Vice-Chair of this Board.

“Reading Between the Lines” is a unique way to engage the scriptures. Join us!

**Next Room in the Inn
Saturday 27**

Thank you to all who have signed up to help with Room in the Inn so far this season! For this weekend, we still need someone to provide 12 bag lunches (with a bottle of water, a sandwich, chips and fruit), and we need an overnight host.

Remaining Room in the Inn dates are February 10 and 24, March 10 and 24



We Need Your Help!

The Park Road Needlers Connection Group will meet Tuesday, February 13 at 10a in the Echerd classroom. Our next projects will be to sew more pillowcase dresses, to create more dress kits, and to knit. The dresses will be taken to Cuba in March. We have fun working together on one or more of our causes. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Sally Silden or the church office if you would like to learn more about this group.

Singing in the Choir?

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. All interested singers ninth grade and older are welcome to come and sing!



1. Palm Sunday/Easter—The choir will join St. Luke Lutheran for a spring concert, but you are invited to sing for Palm Sunday and Easter services — just come to rehearsals during March.

2. Mother's Day—A male chorus will lead the service. They will rehearse at 9:15a four Sunday mornings prior to Mother's Day.

3. 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 9:15a for the four weeks prior.

And... One Ringy-Dingy...

I am reestablishing the handbell choir. If you have played or just want to learn, this is the perfect opportunity.

Email: monty@parkroadbaptist.org to let me know. My goal is to play in service once per month, beginning in mid-April. Again, any-one ninth grade and older is invited.



