

July 20, 2016

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

Thursday, July 21
 7:00a Men's Bible Study

Sunday, July 24
 9:45a Connection Groups:
 Sharing Our Story, Amy Jacks Dean
 11:00a Worship
 5:00 Youth Activities

Sunday, July 31
 9:45a Connection Groups:
 Sharing Our Story
 11:00a Worship
 5:00 Youth Activities

Tuesday, August 2
 10:00a Coffee & Kibitz

Remember in Prayer
 Betty Blankenship
 CMC-Mercy
 Mary McGowan
 Sharon Towers Rehab
 Thelma Koernert
 Recuperating at home
 (Plantation Estates)

**Remembering
 Our Friends at Home**
 Sara Eggleston
 White Oak Manor
 111 S. Congress Street,
 Room #110
 York, SC 29745

"...even loved the church part..."

I just got back from Camp Prism. Here's why I always love it:

Our kids are wonderful.

I've never spent time with any group of our children or youth who embarrassed me or were out of control. They may have completely pulled the wool over my eyes, and if so, I hope I'll never find out – I prefer to think they're as wonderful as they always act in front of their pastor!

The ministers at Camp Prism are great people, excellent ministers, treasured colleagues.

Our camp is seven churches strong, and was formed over 20 years. Most of the leaders are Children's Ministers, but they do let a couple pastors into their circle! Two ministers co-direct the camp, and we meet during the year to plan a theme and assign responsibilities: Bible study, worship, group games, etc... We have a great time, and these ministers have become important friends in my ever-widening circle of good people.

Bonclarken is a great place for a first camping experience.

**Camp makes a
 difference:
 Growing up and being
 on your own**



This Associate Reform Presbyterian conference center in Flat Rock has been our home for more than a decade, and it's enclosed enough to turn kids loose (always with a buddy, please!) for what is often a first overnight experience away from mom and dad. There's a lake, a pool, two gyms, Frisbee golf, a climbing wall, a zip line, a "Nibble Nook," more than 100 new friends to meet and no end of fun to be had by all!

You wouldn't believe the way these children SING!

A dozen years ago the musician was unavailable so I said, "Have guitar. Will travel." They didn't have a theme song, so my not-so-illustrious composing career was born. I write one song a year! But now that I've been doing this so long, all the songs we sing are Camp Prism "hits," and it's all my music. No music publisher is knocking down my door yet, but the songs are fun, involve a good bit of clapping and stomping and shouting and some very good singing!

Camp makes a difference.

I just got a note from one of our moms, whose thanks included these words:

"...he had an absolute blast. In his words, 'I even loved the church part! You know how much I like history, and we learned about all of these cool Baptists!' ... He's come home singing the songs and talking about prison ministries. It really made an impact."

Wow: "Learned about all these cool Baptists... loved the church part!" Those words will make a camp-loving preacher smile every day of the week and twice on Sunday!

Camp Prism is the result of more than two decades of hard work, developed relationships, and the integrity of faith – practiced in a community of ministers and in the experience of 100+ screaming, laughing, singing children.

I had a blast, too, and thanks to 118 kids, 30 chaperones, and 6 very cool and dedicated ministers, I, too, loved the church part – and the growing-up-and-being-on-your-own part, the studying part, the challenging activities part, the laughing part, and especially the "I can't wait for next year" part...



Priscilla

Children's Lake Day:
 Friday, August 12... Details to follow!



Deacon of the Week: Debbie Brown

Debbie Brown and Dona Leonard came to Park Road together about a decade ago and have been active in all aspects of the life of this community of faith from day one. Debbie has served on numerous teams and committees and leads our Senior Adult Exercise group each Monday and Thursday morning. Debbie is an active leader of our Babylons' Connection Group.



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

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Every Tuesday morning we can almost hear them from the church office – our Needlers’ group as they work, creating prayers and love with every stitch! The latest offering, during our Vacation Bible School week, was banners for our corridors featuring the handprints of our children. Thanks to our Needlers for the ministry of artwork and time!



Loaves and Fishes Pantry has received over 200 pounds of fresh vegetables from our Community Garden this year.

Note: The VSP TEAM will meet Wednesday, July 27 in CC Room 503.

Summer Mission Opportunities

It’s summertime and the livin’ is easy, right? Well, perhaps not. But hopefully it’s a time that includes some relaxation and some added family time. When you are looking for a way to serve your neighbors, remember these opportunities:

July 22 Urban Ministry Tea Service 10:45a-12:15p
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944adaf2ba46-urban>

July 31-August 4 Charlotte Family Housing - Volunteers are needed to prepare meals and to serve as overnight hosts
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944adaf2ba46-family>

August 13 Men’s Shelter Lunch 10:45a-1:15p - Prepare and serve lunch
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944adaf2ba46-mens>



Sunday, July 24
9:45a Amy Jacks Dean:
Telling Our Story
11:00 *The Words of Our Mouths*: “Thank You for Being Found Faithful”

Congratulations to Mallory and Ben Brown who married on July 16!!



Playground Upgrades: to keep up with new licensing requirements, the mulch on this playground has been replaced with turf, providing a safer and better place for our children to play!