

June 27, 2018

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

Thursday, June 28

Middle Schoolers to Knights Baseball

July 10-13

Camp Prism for 3rd-5th graders
 Flat Rock, NC

Wednesday, July 18

Children's Pool Party at the Deans'
 3:00-5:00p

Friday, July 20

Fun Food Friday
 Whitewater Center

Youth Pool Party at the Deans'
 5:00-8:00p

July 23-28

Unidiversity Youth Camp
 University of TN

Friends at Home

Jim Russell
 Charlotte, Square
 5820 Carmel Road #21
 Charlotte, NC 28226

**THERE WILL BE NO
 NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED
 THE WEEK OF JULY 2nd**
 Enjoy the holiday week!



My mother, who just celebrated her eighty-fifth birthday, is staying active and in touch the way many octogenarians do these days—staying on the computer. This is as helpful as it is unhelpful –no matter your age! – so she frequently emails or calls me with questions. This week she asked, “What’s a sanctuary city?” I explained that in sanctuary cities immigrants without documentation will not be reported to immigration authorities. (“And, please, don’t call them ‘illegals,’ Mama. They’re all people.”) The leaders of sanctuary cities have declared their cities will be places of safety and refuge for all immigrants.

Some churches have also agreed to give sanctuary to undocumented workers, protecting many from being separated from their families. US-born children are citizens, but that has not prevented the heartbreaking deportation of many of their parents.

“Of course,” I said to my mother, “these are acts of civil disobedience.” “What?” she said. “These people are breaking the law in order to provide shelter because the Bible consistently calls us to ‘welcome the stranger.’ Civil disobedience means breaking the law in order to obey a higher law.”

In response to Attorney General Jeff Sessions’s much-criticized use of Romans 13 to defend family separations on our southern border, fellow Alabamian Wayne Flynt, a brilliant, retired Auburn history professor and a well-known Baptist historian, made his point with power:

“Mr. Sessions... If you are making a list of ‘followers of the way,’ as Christians were first called, who have no intention of obeying immoral laws of this administration, add my name to the list (that’s FLYNT with a ‘Y’).”

Mama,

These are perilous times, much too divisive, unnecessarily derisive. Our immigration system has needed fixing for decades, so “family separation” may not be a new thing. Maybe we need to ask forgiveness for our blissful ignorance of past atrocities, but the horrible abuse of these children, having been brought to our attention, deserves our compassion.

Even as we work to change the immigration laws – however you see fit to try to change them – there is NO alternative for people of biblical faith. The Bible is consistent, and Jesus teaches it clearly: welcome and compassion must always be our response.

Even if we have to break the law to show it.

A Tu Lado (By Your Side)- So is there something we can DO?

And the answer is YES! We have a team in place to assist one family currently living in Charlotte and seeking asylum. In order to respect their privacy, we will, for the time being, not print details of their situation nor will we post photographs. I have just come from talking, with the help of my trusty translator Erin Rumble, to the mother and her two beautiful children. We are assessing ways that we can help with their needs. It feels good to be doing something. One family can benefit from our church. It is not a fix to the bigger issues, but for one family, Park Road gets to be a part of their solution. Call Dan McClintock for ways to be involved.

Current needs include a car seat for a 1 year old and clothes for that toddler and an 8 year old girl. Our team will begin organizing in a couple of weeks other ways to assist this family with food and help with reading for the second grader. Our Spanish speakers are encouraged to help.



Monty Bennett, in concert

July 8, 2018 7:00 pm

Park Road Baptist Church
 3900 Park Road, Charlotte, NC

Works by Bossi, Thalben-Ball, Mendelssohn
 and others.

This is no charge for this concert and no tickets are needed.
 A free-will offering will be taken to support the Stigall Scholarship sponsored by the Charlotte Chapter of The American Guild of Organists.

For more information, please visit www.charlotteago.org.

Join Their Pilgrimage

Russ and Amy are currently on their Pilgrimage journey of The Way of St. Andrews in Scotland—walking the St. Margaret’s Way route—61 miles from Edinburgh to St. Andrews. They have provided everyone a daily guide of prayers and Scripture and song so that all can “join them” on their journey.



There are printed booklets available in the church office, or you can find the link to print your own on the church website or use this link if receiving the digital version. The guide is for June 26-30, but feel free to use these prayers and poems as your devotional guide any time and anywhere along your own journeys.





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

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Here is our preaching schedule for the rest of the summer:

July 1 – Tim Moore
Song of Solomon

July 8 – Russ Dean
Is God at Work in Everything? Romans 8.28

July 15 – Amy Jacks Dean
Women in the Bible

July 22 – Joey Haynes
What Is the Emerging Church?

July 29 – Dan McClintock
How to Make a Difference! What Does It Mean to Be a Servant of God and to Others?

August 5 – Amy Jacks Dean
Is Jesus the Only Way?

August 12 – Russ Dean
Whatever You Ask in Prayer, You Will Receive. Really? (Matthew 21.22)

August 19 – Amy Jacks Dean
Noah's Ark and Other Floods in Our Lives

Worship: 10:00a, Sanctuary
Talkback: 11:00a, Adults (Community Center)
Youth (Youth Building)
Children's Sunday School (Children's Building)

Building Committee Update

Our Building Committee recently met with Sean DeLapp's firm, WGM Design, to begin fine-tuning the plans for our sanctuary renovation. Some preliminary decisions were made, and we are beginning to explore short-term funding solutions. We have \$170,000 on hand. Because the HVAC replacement ran over-budget and because our sanctuary proposal only involved a conceptual design, we will need to raise money to complete this exciting project. Our Building Committee is taking the next step with WGM, and our Ministry Council will call together another Capital Campaign Committee. You will soon hear more about this project to keep you informed and to give you an opportunity to provide feedback.



Updating Our Database and New Membership Directories
We are just about ready to print a new directory, but we want to give a final opportunity for you to UPDATE ANY CONTACT INFORMATION for your family. Especially important is that we have a preferred phone number since we are using One Call Now, our automated messaging system, so frequently. Two directories have been printed and will be available in the narthex for the next few Sunday mornings. **Please check and correct any information there – or you may call or email Joyce Williams to provide updates (joyce@parkroadbaptist.org; 704-523-5717).**

Additionally, in seeking to provide consistency, we have adjusted our newsletter mailing list. Beginning immediately ALL Resident Members, as well as our Regular Prospects, will receive a printed copy of the newsletter. We apologize if you have previously opted out of receiving a paper copy. **If you wish to only receive the emailed version**, please contact Joyce and ask her to remove you from the printed mailing. Thank you.



Congratulations, Miledys!
The pastor of Resurrection Baptist Church, our partner church in Cuba, recently graduated from the seminary in Matanzas. Many from her church family were there to celebrate with Miledys. What an accomplishment to complete her education while pastoring the church! She is doing wonderful work among the people in Carlos Rojas.



SAVE THE DATE!
Intergenerational Night
August 4th