

Good Tidings

March 16, 2016

From the Pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

Wednesday, March 16

5:30p Wednesday Night Dinner
 and Activities

Speaker Tom Hanchett:
 "How Charlotte Got Segregated"

Thursday, March 17

7:30a Men's Bible Study
 Noon: VSP

Sunday, March 20

Palm Sunday

9:30a Deacon Prayer

9:45a Sunday School/

Connection Group Meetings

11:00a Worship

4:00p *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure

PRBC Choir and St. Luke Lutheran
 Church Choir

5:00 Youth Activities

Thursday, March 24

5:30p Soup Supper

6:30 Maundy Thursday

Communion Service

Sunday, March 27

Easter Sunday

9:30a Deacon Prayer

9:45a Sunday School/Connection
 Group Meetings

11:00a Worship

Noon: Children's Easter Egg Hunt

**Remembering
 Our Friends at Home**

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We are headed into the home stretch of the Lenten season. This Sunday is Palm Sunday – the grand processional that begins another Holy Week. Children will lead the way into worship waving their palm branches. They will put them at the foot of the empty, bare cross and, in one week's time, the bare cross will be transfigured into one covered in lilies. Along the way from Palm Sunday morning to Easter Sunday morning, we will stop for the beautiful and haunting music of Faure's *Requiem*. On **Palm Sunday, March 20, at 4:00 pm**, the choir from St. Luke's Lutheran will join our choir, along with members of the Charlotte Symphony to present this beautiful work. Jan McCoy from St. Luke's will conduct and sing the baritone solos, and our own Monty Bennett will be the organist.

However, along our journey toward Easter, we will NOT have our regular Wednesday night meal and programs, but instead we will gather on **Maundy Thursday, March 24, at 5:30 for dinner and/ or at 6:30 for our Maundy**

Thursday Communion Service. The

service, which will be held in the Chapel, will focus on that last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. As we prepare for that service, I am reminded of Pauline Grant who graced our choir and our church for some years before



her death. She was a Presbyterian through and through. And an organist and lover of church music. When it came time for her to leave her own church, she chose us because we were in her neighborhood. And she fit right in becoming actively involved in the life and ministry of Park Road – though she made it very clear – she wasn't really Baptist!

After Pauline's death, as her daughters were cleaning out her house, they came across something they wanted to give to the church - a Mikasa china rendition of "The Last Supper." Looking at the detail, Jesus is in the center, flanked on both sides by six disciples. Their robes are trimmed in gold. The table is full of cups and plates. On the plates are loaves of bread and fish. Fish? An interesting twist perhaps to remind us of the miracle previously performed. All the disciples are leaning in, very engaged, conversing with one another more than listening to Jesus who seems to be set apart and a bit alone though he is in the exact center. One disciple holds a sword almost behind his back, assumed to be Peter who would later that night use it. And the treasurer, Judas, holds the money bag. And I promise, I'm not making this up, this artist's rendering has a woman at Jesus' right hand. It's a stunning piece, and as I have studied it a bit, I have tried to remember that night – that last night with his closest friends. I have tried to wonder what they knew, what they understood, or were they more in the dark than anything? Interesting questions for us to ponder as we prepare for Easter.

On **Sunday, March 27**, we arrive at the glory of Easter which is always a Blessed Hope of possibility of new life. I hope you are preparing –not just with eggs and bunnies and clothes but in your heart. From Procession to Praise, we will travel together to make our way on this path of faith. I hope you will join us for the journey.

Amy



Celebrate a job well done. Sunday, February 28 was Youth Sunday. Our young people stepped up and covered almost every aspect of worship and did so, excellently. Congratulations for faithfully serving.

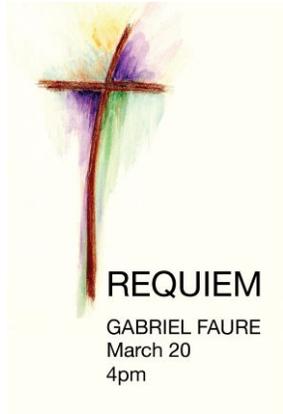


Youth Seder
Sunday,
March 20 at 5p,
 join us for a
 traditional
 Jewish seder
 with Talli
 Dippold, the
 Director of
 Jewish Life at
 Queens
 University.



One hundred dollars for 1 pound cake?!? The annual Youth Auction/Dinner was March 6. The Youth, the adult leaders, Joey and all who attended enjoyed a fun and rewarding evening.





Choir Date
Friday, March 18 at 7:30p
in the Rowe Recital Hall at
UNC Charlotte, the Park
Road choir will join with
choirs from UNCC and
Winston-Salem State
University in a program
entitled, "Let It Shine."

Easter Lilies 2016

Easter Lilies may be ordered in
memory of or in honor of someone.
The lilies will be used to decorate the
cross on Easter morning, March 27.
Payment of \$8 must accompany the
order. Youth will
be in the narthex
Sunday, or you
may call the
church office
to order before
March 22.



Looking for Mercy The Milford Dialogues April 6, 13, 20 and 27

We say, "Lord, have Mercy," but Mercy is more than a word expressing exasperation, and it's more than an antiquated concept from the pages of the Bible, where it shows up at least 139 times. Beyond biblical and theological imagery, Mercy has much practical value in a modern world of technology and industry and commerce.

**APR
6**

On April 6, Dr. James Howell, pastor of Myers Park United Methodist Church, will introduce our series, exploring with us the biblical and theological dimensions of Mercy. Dr. Howell is the author of a number of books and a frequent contributor to Christian publications and *The Charlotte Observer*, where a recent editorial prompted this discussion. (See "We Christians Have Harmed, and We're Sorry," January 23, 2016.)

**APR
13**

On April 13, we will begin looking at practical implications as we explore Mercy in educational policy with Dr. Andy Baxter, VP for Educator Effectiveness at Southern Regional Education Board. Education is a pressing concern in the life of our nation, now that the US has fallen below many advanced societies in education rankings. Might the practice of Mercy in our education system change this?

**APR
20**

On April 20, our exploration continues as we evaluate the place of Mercy in our nation's economic practice. Tax policy, housing, welfare and healthcare are topics of conversation and controversy, especially in an election year. What role does Mercy play as our leaders make specific recommendations for economic fairness and viability? Mark Cramer, a long time member of Park Road will lead this discussion.

**APR
27**

On April 27, we will conclude this series by providing an opportunity for congregational dialogue. What have we learned about Mercy? Do we need more or less of it in church, politics, economics? After facilitating this dialogue, Russ Dean will offer a summary and concluding remarks.

All programs are on Wednesday nights in the Community Center of Park Road Baptist Church. Dinner is available at 5:30p. (Please call the church office by noon Tuesday to make a reservation: 704-523-5717.) The program begins at 6:30p, and all are welcome.



March 20-24

**Can you volunteer to help
with Charlotte Family
Housing (formerly Family
Promise) during the week
of March 20-24? Their
mission is to empower
homeless families to
achieve long-term self-
sufficiency through
shelter, housing,
supportive services and
advocacy. They are a
shelter-to-housing
program for homeless
families. Volunteers are
needed to provide dinner
on Sunday, Tuesday and
Thursday and overnight
hosts are needed Sunday
through Thursday nights.
You may sign up to help
using this link: [http://
www.signupgenius.com/
go/10c0944adaf2ba46-
family](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944adaf2ba46-family)**



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Deacon of the Week: Laura Dower

Laura and Rich Dower have been at Park Road for a decade, raising their sons , Austin (UNC, Chapel Hill) and Max (South Meck High) here. Laura has been active in many of our programs, and uses her artistic gifts in a variety of creative ways. Last week she hosted our youth girls for lunch and a mixed-media painting session. We are grateful for the vitality that Laura brings to our church and our diaconate.

Last week's Deacon of the Week: Chris Gabriel

Chris and Lorie Gabriel have been members of Park Road since 2006 and have been active in the choir since they joined our congregation. Chris was ordained as a deacon this year and works as a sculptor. You will find his artwork featured around the state, including commissioned works by the state zoo and the city of Indian Trail. But his most well-known work is the beautiful monument featuring a pair of hawks that graces the sculpture garden on the west side of our Community Center!



Monty Bennett
Director of Music and Organist

Brenda Casteen
Administrative Assistant

Russ and Amy Jacks Dean
Pastors

Heather Gaskins
Child Development Center Director

Joey Haynes
Youth Coordinator

Bruce Holliday
Director of Communications

Cason Maccubbin
Financial Administrator

Dan McClintock
Minister of Missions and Family Life

Mallory Monroe
Children's Coordinator

Paul Owens
Facilities Manager

Erin Rumble
Diaconate Chair