

March 21, 2018

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

Wednesdays:

11:45a Men's Lenten Lunch
 (Charlotte Café)
 5:30p Fellowship Supper
 6:00p Children's Music and Activities
 6:30p Youth and Adults Study

Thursdays:

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

Wednesday, March 21:

Intergenerational Game Night
 Fun and games for all ages

Wednesday, March 28

NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES
 Instead . . .

Thursday, March 29

5:30p Dinner
 6:30p Communion and Worship
 in the Chapel

Friday, March 23:

11:00a Fun Food Friday
 Meet at church to go to
 Hobo's in Fort Mill.

Friends at Home

Thelma Koernert
 733 Plantation Drive, B-206
 Matthews, NC 28105
 704-846-5539

Sympathy extended to:

Wendy Watson in the recent death of
 her brother-in-law
 Liza Veilleux in the recent death of
 her grandmother

Youth Sunday Was Amazing!

Our young people never fail to Impress! They led us in worship so beautifully last Sunday. They told and demonstrated what it means to follow Jesus. Through prayer, sermon, and song, in addition to all of the other worship leadership responsibilities, our youth led the way.

Thank you to Joey, the parents, and our teens for guiding us to worship God and to follow Jesus.



In 1979 fundamentalist leaders in the Southern Baptist convention began and organized a movement to take over the agencies of the convention. In the annual meeting, that year in Houston, delegates from fundamentalist churches arrived in mass to vote for Adrian Rogers, a fundamentalist pastor from Memphis, Tennessee. This began a 20-year organized effort to elect fundamentalist leaders, who then appointed fundamentalist trustees to SBC seminaries, hospitals, mission-sending agencies, children's homes, retirement centers, and the publishing enterprises of the convention. In about those 20 years, the effort was complete; all SBC agencies were controlled by fundamentalists.

In 1987 a group of concerned, moderate Baptists, gathered at Providence Baptist in Charlotte to form the Southern Baptist Alliance. This group represented SBC churches but not the fundamentalist values of the convention. From the beginning, this organization, whose name was later changed to the Alliance of Baptists, has been open to women in all roles of church leadership and to the inclusion of homosexual persons in the life of the church.

Then, in 1991, out of concerns that the SBC was too conservative but the Alliance was too liberal, a centrist group gathered to form the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Since 1979 churches across the country have struggled to find their way along this divisive path, often aligning with the SBC and the CBF or with the Alliance and the CBF.

Since the inception of the Alliance and the CBF, Park Road has affiliated with both, as well as with the Baptist Peace Fellowship and our local association of churches, The United Baptist Association. The Alliance has always been more our home, better representing our theology and our style of ministry. The more conservative leaning of the CBF has been problematic for many of us for most of its years.

In the annual meeting of the CBF in Atlanta 20 years ago, a hiring policy was adopted that excluded homosexual persons from employment. This issue has caused friction from the very beginning. Eighteen months ago the CBF formed a committee to lead the "Illumination Project." The committee sought feedback from the churches and agencies who affiliate with the CBF network, and out of these conversations recommended a new hiring policy, which the Governing Board recently approved.

The policy itself eliminates discrimination based on sexuality – yet a separate "Implementation Plan," clearly defining the aim of the policy, makes clear that discrimination against homosexuals has not been eliminated. "...CBF will employ person for leadership positions in ministry who... practice a traditional Christian sexual ethic of celibacy in singleness or faithfulness in marriage between a woman and a man. In our other positions on the CBF staff... [we will include] Christians who identify as LGBT."

There's been quite a bit of fallout from this new policy. A number of conservative churches have already announced their withdrawal from the CBF because the hiring policy allows homosexuals to serve in some roles. Churches from the left have been frustrated by the policy, however, because it still prohibits full participation of gay members.

In the last week, our Ministry Council and Diaconate have discussed the new hiring policy and whether this policy will alter our church's association with the CBF. We are inviting your input and will provide further notice of any church discussion and a culminating vote on our relationship with the CBF.

What is our role in this decision? Are we responsible only for PRBC? Are we trying to offer a voice to the larger CBF and national conversation? Regardless how we answer these questions, how will we best achieve our aim – by remaining in the CBF and offering a voice of encouragement to finally bring full inclusion to all people or by offering a voice of dissent and disconnecting due to our disagreement.

We are seeking your wisdom and trusting we will move together in whatever decision we make.

Roger





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

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Return Service Requested

Backpack Snacks

Our next snack packing date for Sedgefield is Sunday, March 25 after the worship service. Some folks like to pack right away, and some prefer to have lunch and then return to pack. Either option is fine, and packing help is always welcome! Help will also be needed to set up on Saturday. The plan is to set-up on Saturday in the early afternoon. Some folks are going to the March for Our Lives that morning, followed by lunch together. After lunch, if you can help with set-up, that would be fantastic!

March for Our Lives

Lisa Oldham is organizing a group from Park Road for the Saturday, March 24 event. The march begins at First Ward Park and ends at Marshall Park. Please meet in the church parking lot at 9:30a. Russ and Amy have met with Rabbi Ezring from Temple Israel to organize a brief time together after the march for sharing texts from both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. Our two houses of faith will gather in a designated place at the end of the march for a brief time of reflection and prayer. Water and snacks will be available.

Any who are able are invited to return to the church and help set up for the Backpack Snack Packing program, which will be held the following day, Sunday, March 25 after worship.

Uplift Sedgefield

Last Wednesday, we hosted about a dozen faculty and staff from Sedgefield Elementary School to celebrate our partnership with the school. We are grateful for the volunteers from our church who give their time and talent to improving the lives of students. And we give thanks to teachers and school employees everywhere who work every single day to educate our children.



If you would like to volunteer with this mission at Sedgefield, see Dan McClintock.

Opportunities for Children at Park Road

Palm Sunday

This Sunday, March 25, our children will process into worship waving palm branches as we remember the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to begin Holy Week. Please have your children in the Narthex by 10:50a to receive their palms. After they process, they will join their parents for worship.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Psalms 150:6

The children's choir will be singing on the following:

Sunday, April 8, 11a

Sunday, April 22 (Children's Sabbath), 11a

Wednesday, April 25, 6:30p

On recent Wednesday nights and some Sunday mornings, we have been learning songs and movements focusing on praising God. Thank you for sharing your children with me!

— Allyson Neeriemer

Easter Egg Hunt

Our children are invited to bring their Easter baskets to church and immediately following worship hunt for candy-filled eggs that will be hidden all over the courtyard and on both playgrounds. Allyson Neeriemer has gathered about 300 eggs, and our youth will hide them for our children. And a wonderful time of Easter celebration will be had by all!

Children's Sabbath



Sunday, April 22 our children will lead us in all aspects of worship. Please let Amy know if your child can participate. There are speaking and non-speaking parts of worship leadership. And our children will be singing. It's not too late for them to learn the music. See Allyson Neeriemer for details to get your child involved.

Camp Prism

All current 3rd-5th graders are invited to join us for a summer camp in Flat Rock, NC July 10-13. It is a wonderful few days of camp with about 150 children from all over NC and SC. Russ leads the music, and this year Amy is Co-Directing with Christine Kellett. It's going to be a great time studying Micah 6.8 with our theme: "Do. Love."

Youth News



Easter Lilies can be purchased in honor of or in memory of family and friends. Youth will be selling them on Wednesday nights and Sundays before and after worship. The cost is \$8 per lily.