

May 17, 2017

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

COMING UP

Wednesday, May 17
 6:30p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 18
 Noon: VSP

Sunday, May 21
 Baccalaureate Sunday
 9:30a Deacon Prayer
 Deacon of the Week: Peggy Pelton
 9:45a Sunday School and
 Sunday Connection Groups
 11:00a Worship
 Reception for Graduates Following
 Worship in Community Center
 5:00p until—Graduation Celebration
 at the Dean's House

Thursday, May 25
 7:00a Men's Bible Study

Friday, May 26
 Memorial Day Holiday for PRBC Staff
 Church Office Closed
 7:00p Young Adults meet at
 Kate Marshall's home Topic:
 Community: An Unexpected Family

Sympathy is Extended
 to the family of Chet Helt,
 who died Thursday, May 11

Remembering
Our Friends at Home
 Jean Messick
 5800 Olde Providence Road, #5710 C
 Charlotte, NC 28226
 704-366-0783

Tonight's third round game in the state playoffs puts us one game closer to the end of our high school baseball career. At this point it's win or lose...

We've had few complaints, but at times we've wanted to say something to the coach about playing time. Playing time, however, is that one topic that is always off-limits. "I will address any concerns with you," coaches say, "but I will not talk about playing time."

I get their position. Parents can be notoriously biased (not me, of course!). I understand that conversations with angry dads are mostly futile. But, on the other hand, what concern could be more important to a parent? And if that which is most important is always off-limits, doesn't that attitude immediately drive a wedge between coach and parent that could only create further frustration and distrust? If a coach has legitimate reasons, shouldn't he or she be able to defend that?

It's like the CEO saying, "You may speak with me about any concerns, except for your salary." Like the principal saying, "You may address any concerns except the quality of your child's teacher." Like the pastor saying, "I'll talk about anything except the way I visit the sick." The preacher saying "I'll address any concerns except my preaching."

Who gets to remove, out of hand, conversations about the one topic that is most important to the "customer?" And, we are told, more generally, that we should never talk about money or religion or politics in public. Great... So how's the weather?

This cultural taboo is a sign of insecure and immature people, an indication that we do not respect one another enough, cannot trust one another enough with the conversation to address those issues that are central to our lives. To be sure... what else is there, of import in our lives, but money and religion and politics?

So in the church, we don't talk about money. Brilliant.

What organization runs without money? How can any institution ignore the lifeblood that feeds it? On a deeper level, as Jesus knew so well, the best indicator of the depth of our spiritual lives is... money. "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matthew 6.21).

Our Stewardship Development Team has voted to send contribution statements every other month and to include with them some communique to celebrate all that our money is helping us accomplish in and beyond PRBC.

You received your last statement about a month ago. I hope you noted the numbers. How much have you given? Are you behind? Could you do more? (Stewardship is about generosity and gratitude, not about obligation.) And, I hope you noted the good ministry and mission your dollars are providing. That's how it works: Good news inspires good hearts to make good promises to change the world. Money alone does not change the world, but it does provide the tools that allow us to do so.

Please note several financial highlights that Allison Weiland, our new Financial Administrator, has noted from our most recent financial statements. The news is mostly very good...

We ought to be talking about it!



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A Few Stewardship Highlights

Annual Ministry Plan (AMP) contributions were \$1,600 ahead of budget as of March YTD, though we fell behind budget in April.

Monthly Mission Payments This Year:

January offering to Charlotte Family Housing	\$950
February offering to Queens University	\$1,423
March offering to Baptist News Global	\$1,042
April offering to Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America	\$1,376
April Fifth-Sunday Offering: Mack Cameron Good Samaritan Fund	\$717
Allocated YTD from the Ruth Endowment Fund to provide assistance to single parents	\$5,228

Collected for Uplift Sedgfield:

General Sedgfield	\$925
Sedgfield DC Trip	\$950
Sedgfield Book Drive	\$305



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

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Invitation

Everyone is invited to the Dean's home this Sunday, May 21, to celebrate Bennett's graduation and to help us break in our new home. There will be plenty of food and fun beginning at 5:00p and lasting until . . . No RSVP needed - we will just count on your being there. And NO GIFTS!

You helped us raise him, so come help us celebrate him.
Our new address is 6124 Springhouse Lane.

-- Russ and Amy



Baccalaureate Sunday this Sunday!

Join us this Sunday, May 21, as we celebrate our high school graduates. Come and hear about what's next for them and help us recognize this accomplishment. Seniors to be recognized: Jackson Boatwright, Patrick Bradey, Bennett Dean, Julia Ferrante and Pearl Speaks. A reception to honor these young people will be held in the Community Center following worship.



Wow! What are those men doing?

The CDC children certainly noticed the construction and beautification efforts in the back. (See them peering intently out the opened window.) Supervisor Bob and Digger Russ grade the area for new plantings as part of the overall landscape design for the church.



Summer Sunday Hours

Dates: June 11 - August 20
Worship at 10:00am
Sermon Talk Back: 11:00am
Sunday School for Children: 11:00am
Youth Discussion at 11:00am

Something New in a Summer Camp for ages 8-18

The week of June 12-16, PRBC will host a Stratagemics Summer Camp that combines a half day of high quality chess instruction (beginners are welcome, too!) and a half day of strategy gaming. Stratagemics has been hosting camps at Park Road Montessori for twelve years. For kids who like to think while they play these are the best (non-video) games in the world. Chess instruction will be led by National Master Matthew Noble. Beginners are welcome, as are half-day or drop-in campers. Camp is from 9-5 and full week rates are \$230, which includes all gaming materials and prizes. For more information about Stratagemics, go to <http://www.stratagemics.camp/Camp/>, or email curt@stratagemics.com. Children of church members will receive a 20% discount on the cost of the camp.

Hosting for Salvation Army City of Hope

During the summer, the housing demand increases for homeless women and children in Charlotte. The City of Hope was built to house 250 people, and, at times, up to 400 women and children seek shelter there. In order to assist with this need for housing, Park Road will host 12 women in our Youth Building from Sunday evening, June 11 until Saturday morning, June 17. Volunteers will provide evening meals from Sunday through Friday and grab-and-go breakfasts each morning, Monday through Saturday. Also, we'll need at least one woman to serve as an overnight host each night. If you can help with this important ministry, please contact Dan.