

December 13, 2017

From a pastor's Heart & Soul

COMING UP

Wednesday, December 15

NO Activities—We resume in February

Thursday, December 14

Men's Study Charlotte Café
 Arboretum
 Senior Adult Drop-In
 Heaton's House 11:00a -1:00p
 Staff Appreciation Sedgefield
 Elementary, 2:30p

Friday, December 15

Festival of Simple Gifts, 5:00p

Sunday, December 17

Advent III. Simple Gifts: Music
 Special Music with Choir from
 St. Luke's Lutheran
 Deans' Church-wide Drop-In
 House, 6:00-8:00p
 Church-wide Drop-In
 Dean's House, 6:00-8:00p

Tuesday, December 19

Coffee & Kibitz" Bible Study 10:00a

Thursday, December 21

VSP Christmas Luncheon, 12:00p

Sunday, December 24

Advent IV. Simple Gifts: Travel
 Christmas Eve Service:
 Simple Gifts Presence, 5:00p

Saturday, December 30

Christmas Take-down, 9:00a

Remembering in Prayer

Mark Stegall – CMC Rehab

Remembering

Our Friends at Home

Jean Messick

5800 Old Providence Rd # 5710-C
 Charlotte, N.C. 28226
 (704) 366-0783

Christmas Poinsettias—\$8.00 each

DEADLINE is Wednesday,
 December 13, 2017



When I introduced the Myers Park Jazz band for the performance at last week's Christmas Banquet, I said I first picked up a trumpet in the fall of 1975. Here's the story...

I grew up banging on anything I could get my hands on, so one Christmas the fat man in red brought a little toy drum set down the chimney to a preschooler. I'm sure I drove my parents crazy. So... they bought me a real-live, full-size, five-piece drum kit! A high school garage band had played for our youth group and the drummer had left his red-sparkling kit. He never came back for it, so my parents bought it from him. What fourth grader had a real drum set – snare, bass, two tom-toms and a floor-tom, high hat, and one cymbal? It was the bomb!

Every day after school I'd get a snack and head to "the music room" and spend a half-hour or more working out my frustrations, leaving my cares behind in a barrage of beats and syncopations and fills. I may not have survived without that outlet for a lot of energy and a little creativity.

My childhood home was built by a wealthy textile magnate before it became a Baptist parsonage. It was brick, Greek Revival architecture, with large, fluted columns on the front porch, and 12-foot ceilings, and the grandest central staircase you've ever seen inside. At one end of the first floor, was a sun room that my parents made into our music room. The piano was the first instrument, but we eventually added drums, flute, saxophone, trumpet, dulcimer, and guitar.

One of my earliest memories of that room is of my sister playing as my father sang, "O may I sing. O may I sing..." This was his introduction to "Russell Dean Sings," a weekly radio program. He started that show when he was a pastor in rural Virginia, and for years he recorded the music and the lead-ins for commercials ("and now a message from Clay's Rest Home... Kenbridge Manufacturing and Supply Company..."). Each week he mailed a package with a 30-minute reel-to-reel tape to the station in Kenbridge, VA.

That's where it started, and the room knew a lot more music, but when I started expressing interest in the sixth grade band my father encouraged me to play "a church instrument." ("We don't play drums in church...") So, my folks bought a Bundy, student-line trumpet, and pretty soon I could play the C scale, then D and G and F...and then I was playing in every band I could get my hands on and for weddings and funerals – and, of course, in church!

As I told our Wednesday crowd, it's been a pretty-much daily affair ever since. I've played my horn most days of the 42 years since. Even through the dry stretches, I finger the 12 major scales and a 2-octave chromatic scale almost non-stop as I drive, or watch a movie, or read. (Fold down the last joint of your thumb, and it becomes a perfect set of "valves" for your next three digits.) There are several *Clarke Studies* (any trumpet player worth his salt owns Clarke) that ramble through my brain and over my fingers constantly. The trumpet just won't leave me alone – nor will the music that it begs to hear.

And is there a better season for music than Christmas? I've been introduced to 104.7, which plays the songs of the season 24/7 for the whole month. When I'm not listening to NPR, I'm singing along with Bing Crosby or the Eagles or Amy Grant or The Boss... and it never gets old.

And Sunday, I'll be enjoying our choir along with singers of St. Luke's Lutheran Church and musicians from the Charlotte Symphony and Friendship Missionary Baptist. There's no better way to celebrate Christmas, so join us.

Music has been one of the best, most constant and joyous Simple Gifts of my life. I'm looking forward to Sunday. I hope you'll enjoy it, too.

Travis

A Festival Of Simple Gifts, Friday December 15, 5p

The evening will begin as we enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs, and the works. THE MEAL IS FREE– but please call 704-523-5717 to make reservation. Then we will enjoy an exciting variety of activities including preparing meals, packing food, writing cards, caroling, and making simple gifts for our neighbors at Room In the Inn. Charlotte Family Housing, and Sedgefield Elementary! This event replaces "Stop Hunger Now."



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

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Thursday, December 14, Senior Drop In at the Heaton's 11:00a-1:00p

Thanks to Beth and Greg Heaton for again opening their home for our annual drop in for our Senior Adults & for the many hands who helped. There will be plenty of food and time to share it together.

Friday, December 15 A Festival of Simple Gifts, 5:00p-until

This exciting event will take the place of the "Stop Hunger Now" packing event we have done for the last few years. We begin with a **FREE** hamburger and hotdog cookout (but please call 704-523-5717 or email joyce@parkroadbaptist.org to make reservation). Following dinner we will enjoy an exciting variety of activities including preparing meals, packing food, writing cards, caroling, and making simple gifts for our neighbors at Room in the Inn, Charlotte Family Housing, and Sedgefield Elementary.

Sunday, December 17, Special Music with St. Luke's Lutheran, 11:00a

This Sunday, as we celebrate the Simple Gift of Music, we will be joined by the choir and congregation from our Park Road neighbor for a special service of worship.

Christmas Drop-In at Russ and Amy's house 6124 Springhouse Lane

Join us from 6:00-8:00p in our (new) home. It just wouldn't be Christmas without having you in our home. The food will be good, but the fellowship is always the highlight of the season.

Thursday, December 21, "Very Special People"

Our VSP will meet for this last lunch and program of 2017. Lunch begins at noon, and the program will be Strolling Carolers.



Hopping from home to home... The youth laughed and shared and ate at their annual Progressive Dinner this past weekend.

Community Garden Update

Thirteen members of the CDC Sharks' Class harvested bunches of beets. With the help of Ms. Kristy and Ms. Hedather, and garden teammates, Geoff Palmer, Janelle Travis, Alan Eakes, and Dan McClintock, the kids had a grand time. We delivered 23 pounds of beets and turnips to Loaves and Fishes, bringing out total harvest for 2017 to over 200 pounds.

Leading the way...

Joey Haynes organized the Moravian Love Feast at Queens University this year. Several of our members attended this special celebration and the coffee and buns.



The joyful sound of music resounded. The children sang and played their instruments beautifully and enthusiastically at the church's Christmas Banquet. Later the MPHS Jazz Band shared their talent.

Celebrating the Simple Gift of Food...

A handful of Park Roadians enjoyed preparing lunch at the Uptown Men's Shelter last Saturday.

