

October 17, 2018

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

## COMING UP

**October 17**

Wednesday Night Dinner and Programs  
 Amy presents program about her trip to Tijuana, Mexico.

**October 18**

Noon  
 VSP—(Very Special People)  
 Lunch and program for senior adults

**October 19**

9a – 5p  
 Fun Food Friday  
 Annual Leaf Trip

**October 21**

Called Church Conference following worship

Members of our Building and Capital Campaign Committees will be in the Community Center Foyer from 9:45am – 11:00am again this Sunday to answer any questions you may have about our proposed sanctuary renovation. Worship will be shortened to allow time for a Called Church Conference to vote on the recommendation that we proceed with the renovation and to raise the funds to do so.

**October 26-28**

Youth Fall Retreat

**October 28**

Children's Fall Event

**Friends at Home**

Ober Pauley  
 1101 Laurel Woods Drive  
 Gastonia, NC 28052

Ober's house was badly damaged in last week's storm, and she has moved in with her niece for the foreseeable future. She would greatly appreciate cards from her church family as this has been a terribly difficult experience for her.



### Disaster Relief Mission Trip

To aid in the clean-up effort in the hurricane aftermath, Park Road will take a team from November 8-12 to help flood victims with mud-out and tear-out in the eastern part of NC. No particular skills are needed, just a willingness to work hard and maybe get dirty. We'll leave from the church on Thursday evening, work Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday and return home on Monday evening. We will go wherever we are most needed on that weekend. If you're interested in going, contact Dan or Russ.

This weekend 17 couples spent two nights at Lutheridge Conference Center outside Asheville. It was a perfect weekend to be away. We laughed together, played together, had time for a Saturday night "date night," and studied together, considering how we might love God by loving our partner with "heart, soul, mind, and strength." Four different couples led those sessions. During Gray and Elisa Clark's session on "soul," Elisa invited us to think about our own "sanctuaries," and to spend a few minutes dreaming and sketching what that space might look like.

*Sanctuary—a place of refuge or safety*

Somewhere over the years, in my reading and studying, I have been instructed that every home needs its own "worship space." While Amy and I have never had such a sanctuary in any of our homes, I've never forgotten that suggestion, and I spent my time for Elisa's exercise sketching the floor plan of a simple room that would allow dedicated space for study, reading, and quiet reflection.

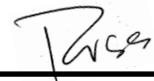
My "sanctuary" included windows overlooking a simple garden, windows that would let in the light of the sun, the beauty of nature. There was a corner fireplace, maybe a small wood stove placed in a surround of stone. Bookcases lined the walls and a desk backed a small sofa facing the fireplace. The walls were paneled in dark hardwood, an invitation to reverence and quiet meditation. The room was adequate in size that I would not feel cramped, but small enough to feel the enclosure of intimacy, as if the walls might help to gather my disparate thoughts, to hold me in a warm embrace of security in celebration.

In a recent conversation about the sanctuary renovation that is again before our congregation, Amy noted that our sanctuary is the only space on our campus that doesn't fit us. For many years, it has been much larger than the size of the congregation. Empty pews do not "fit" the warmth and the friendliness, the family feel and the spirit of fellowship that has always been an essential characteristic of Park Road Baptist Church.

The few services we hold during the year in Milford Chapel have a completely different feel from any of our Sunday services. There is an intimacy we feel when we are there together there – because we are actually together there! The room matches the spirit of our people. When we replaced the HVAC system in the sanctuary building and conducted our Sunday morning services in the Community Center, even though we were worshipping in a "gym," the spirit was completely different. The singing was better. The warmth was natural. The spirit was contagious.

The sanctuary renovation plan that is before us – which was approved as a conceptual design in 2013 – would increase the intimacy and vitality of our worship, while still leaving room to grow. The room alone will not create growth, but it may be that without it, we will never be able to convey the spirit of this congregation, the energy and enthusiasm, that should be a natural attraction, an encouragement for growth.

I hope one day I'm going to get to build that "sanctuary" in one of my homes, and I hope this is the year we will come together to allow the size and shape and feel of our sanctuary to enhance our life together.



### A Retreat for Couples

Thanks to Geoff and Virginia Palmer, Harper and Katherine Fox, and Gray and Elisa Clark for leading the sessions at our recent Couples Retreat. It was a great get-away for all and a chance to renew commitments in relationship.





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

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**A Tu Lado**

Park Road has an A Tu Lado (By Your Side) team that is providing friendship and help to a young Guatemalan woman and two of her children who are seeking asylum here in Charlotte. They are here with temporary legal status awaiting a hearing to determine whether or not they will be granted permanent asylum. Clothing for the children and help with food are their two most pressing needs at this time. We have already received several donations and any additional monies received will be used to purchase gift cards so that they can select the items they need. Thank you!

**Echerd Connection Group**

The Echerd Connection group originated in the 1980s as a Sunday School Class. It eventually took the name of Echerd Class in memory of Ed Echerd, a self taught Biblical scholar, who was the teacher for many years. A few of us in the current connection group were members of the original class.

At this point in our lives, we have become a bunch of nomads – seemingly always on the move. Many of our group travel frequently, some living away from Charlotte several weeks of the year, others living in active, vibrant retirement homes. We love PRBC and care for each other. The church and members of the group are important parts of our lives.

So, we have found a way to stay connected with the church and each other. Starting in October, the Echerd Connection Group will meet at the church the third Thursday of each month. Meeting time is 10:45a in the Conference Room of the Community Center.

Topics for study or discussion will evolve over the next few months. Some discussions will be led by class members, others by church staff or visiting speakers. Buck Blankenship is leading the October 18 discussion. Even if you are not a nomad, you will be welcomed by the group.

**Look Who We Found**



Longtime church member, Marjorie Walker, lives in Arden, NC with her son. She moved almost 10 years ago, and we still miss her greatly. While in Arden for the Couples Retreat,

we stopped by for a visit. She’s still going strong and doing great—and still always smiling!

**Youth News**

Our Park Road Youth Group recently visited the "Doctors Without Borders Forced From Home Exhibition" in downtown Charlotte. We all came away with a much better understanding of the humanitarian crisis faced every day by people all over our world.



We are taking a High School Mission Trip to Cuba this summer June 24-29, 2019! Because the visa process now takes longer, we need to confirm the group by December. Joey is working with Stan Dotson, our contact in Cuba, to create a meaningful itinerary. We will visit our partner church, Resurrection Baptist, in Carlos Rojas, but we are working on the rest of our agenda. Once we confirm the group, I'd love for us to spend some time thinking about what we can do for our friends in Carlos Rojas.

The total cost of the trip will be \$1,250 per person. This includes flight, transportation, accommodation, meals, and guides. To confirm your spot, please pay a \$300 deposit by November 18. There's a payment plan below but feel free to pay in full if you are able.

- Deposit due 11/18: \$300
- Second payment 1/13: \$400
- Final payment 5/19: \$550

**Join our Facebook Group Page**

Did you know that Park Road has a private FaceBook Group Page in addition to its public page? Our Group Page allows members to communicate with each other directly and is a place to share news and ideas, as well as to request assistance or information from the Park Road community. It is a wonderful way to stay even more connected with the church.

We currently have 280 members and would love to have other Park Roadians join us! To join, go to your Facebook page and then type "Park Road Baptist Church" in the search box. A box describing our group will pop-up. Click on the "+ Join" button, and a moderator will approve you entry to the group.

You can also email Bruce Holliday at [bruceholliday@gmail.com](mailto:bruceholliday@gmail.com), and we will add you to the group directly. We look forward to having you with us!