

April 27, 2016

## From the pastors' Heart & Soul

### COMING UP

**Wednesday, April 27**

5:30p Dinner and Activities  
 (Last of the Season)  
 Conclusion and Feedback for  
 Looking for Mercy  
 Milford Dialogue Series

**Thursday, April 28**

7:30a Men's Bible Study  
 12:00p Lunch Bunch

**Sunday, May 1**

9:30a Deacon Prayer  
 9:45a Sunday School/Connection  
 Group Meetings  
 11:00a Worship  
 5:00p Youth Activities

**Tuesday, May 3**

10:00a Coffee and Kibitz

**Sunday, May 8**

Mother's Day  
 9:30a Deacon Prayer  
 9:45a Sunday School/Connection  
 Group Meetings  
 11:00a Worship  
 5:00p Youth Activities

### Remembering Our Friends at Home

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It's just another day on the calendar. How can today mean something that yesterday didn't, or that tomorrow won't?

I'm not talking about Christmas or the Fourth of July, national holidays which are different because town shuts down, the office is closed, the traffic comes to a silent halt. I'm talking about a day when the date just means something to you and no one else. The earth doesn't stop spinning, the Post Office doesn't stop posting, everyone else is going about their usual, frantic business, but for you... well, even the air feels different, all day long.

If you've lost a loved one you know what I mean. The anniversary, one year after she or he died – or 20 years later – that day feels different. Time moves more slowly, each moment opens some mystical portal of transport that bridges the chasm of time and space and connection. Smells are more redolent, places spark memories, objects seem alive with the loved one's presence, and there's that song on the radio that you haven't heard since...

Today is one of those days.

I'll be thinking of Carson and Aline Allen all day long. April 26 marks the 82<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of their marriage. I believe Carson and Aline celebrated their 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary before she died. They were charter members of Park Road and worked and attended faithfully for over half a century. Upon his death in 2009, the majority of their estate was bequeathed to their church. The sale of their Park Road home provided funding for the restoration of the chapel, "the original sanctuary" of this church, per their instructions to make a "fitting memorial... commemorating our love for each other and for the Park Road Baptist Church family."

Carson and Aline endured more than their share of tragedy. An infant daughter, Sylvia died within a few days of her birth, giving the birth of Gayle even more meaning. She got a new car for her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, and she and her boyfriend were out in it (maybe that very day?). He was driving when he lost control and hit a bridge that was behind Park Road Shopping Center. Gayle died instantly.

I cannot imagine their pain and anguish, yet I can imagine that such a loss, compounded by Sylvia's premature death, might embitter parents against the teenage boy who was behind the wheel of that red sports car on that fateful day. But when Aline died, I was sitting with Carson when someone knocked. I opened the door and a man introduced himself. It was Sylvia's boyfriend, who had flown in from California to grieve with Carson. Later Carson told me he and Aline had made a vow that it would be their life-long goal to make sure this boy did not live with any guilt from the accident that took their daughter. They maintained a relationship throughout his high school years and had remained in touch.

When the family disposed of the contents of the Allen's house, I came away with a few old hand tools. There's little value in them beyond what they mean to me to have his hand in mine when I work. I may need to go home today and find some work to do with those tools, just so I can be in touch with 70+ years of "till death do us part" and the best example of lived forgiveness I have ever known.

Carson and Aline... all day long... thank you!




### Deacon of the Week: Kay Thornburg

The daughter of Bill and Peggy McKeown, Kay grew up at Park Road and is a CMA with Novant Health, Bradford Clinic. She has been active in all aspects of Park Road life, sings in our choir and is always available. She and Ken (Church Treasurer), have two grown daughters, Ashley and Sara.

### Multi-faith Gathering at Myers Park Baptist

Daniel Miles performed and our Sanctuary Choir sang last Sunday at a multi-faith gathering for faith communities concerned with the effects of the new HB2 law.





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

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**Sedgefield Book Drive**

We have the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children by collecting books for every child at Sedgefield. Book drive containers are in the Narthex and Community Center for used children's books in very good or nearly new condition.

Our goal is not on quantity but on giving the right books, so we have a goal of giving every child at least one new book a teacher has recommended. The estimated cost is \$2,000-\$3,000. Some of the funds will come from our budget, and \$250 was donated from our CDC's recent book fair. Also you can make a donation (above and beyond your normal giving) by designating "Sedgefield Books" on your check. Please consider giving by May 8 so we can distribute these books the first week of June.



**Young Adult Gathering**

Our Young Adults met for the last time this spring. It was a gorgeous day for an outside dinner and they finished up their discussion of the book of Amos. Our Young Adults group will be planning several events and volunteer activities through the rest of spring and the summer so feel free to join them!

**Reminder for Children**

Sign up your child now for **Vacation Bible School**, June 27-30. Register today at <http://www.parkroadbaptist.org/childrens-activities/>

Also, 3rd-5th graders interested in **Camp Prism**, July 12-15 should pay a \$50 deposit by Sunday, May 15. Send a check to the office (payable to PRBC) or give it to Mallory or Russ.



Our community garden has been planted. Contact Johnny Doyle for the watering schedule (704-488-2394) or alineakes!@gmail.com for general questions.

**Welcome Curt and Janie Frueh**

The Fruehs (free) are educators in the Montessori system, and Janie is also a part-time nurse. Curt sponsors a Strategy Games Camp, which Park Road will host one week this summer. They have two grown children. Welcome!



Our youth had an excellent time at last weekend's Spring Retreat. Dan McClintock led a discussion of the always interesting book of Revelation.