

11 COLLEGE PARK collage

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College Park Baptist Church • Greensboro, NC

June 2017
Number 248

For more information & sermons,
visit www.collegeparkchurch.com

June Events:

Sunday, June 4—Pentecost
Youth Summer Kick Off at High Rock Lake
Deacon Meeting 6 pm, Board Room

Wednesday, June 7
Bible Study 6:30 pm, Michael Usey's home

Saturday, June 10
Help Kristen Scarborough move in, 9 am—1 pm

Sunday, June 11
Healing Rhythms 3 pm, Chapel

Wednesday, June 14
Bible Study 6:30 pm, Michael Usey's home

Thursday, June 15
Forever 39, 11:30 am at K&W

Saturday, June 17
Friends of FaithAction Picnic 12—4 pm
Hester Park Shelter #2

Sunday, June 18
GUM Donations—Mac & Cheese (7.25 oz. box)
3rd Sunday Refreshments after 11 am service

Tuesday, June 20
PFLAG 7:30 pm, Chapel

June 20—23
Passport Kids Summer Camp at Eagle Eyrie, VA

Wednesday, June 21
Bible Study 6:30 pm, Michael Usey's home

Sunday, June 25
Youth Pool Party at Hamilton Lakes Pool

June 26—29
Summer Theatre Camp 9 am—2 pm, FH

Wednesday, June 28
Bible Study 6:30 pm, Michael Usey's home

Friday, June 30
Health Fair/Blood Drive 2-6:30 pm, Chapel

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Fall Down Six Times Stand Up Seven

Summer Sermon Series



Summer Schedule (beginning June 4th):

8:30 am	Tessera
10 - 10:30 am	Coffee Time
10:30 am	Blended Service

Youth Sunday 2017

Born
for such
a time
as this

A Light of Courage



Meghan Davis
Preaching during Youth Sunday

Last time I was up here was the Sunday of my baptism. My family and I were two weeks away from moving to Texas and I had finally found a profound clarity in my faith, for a sixteen year old at least. Growing up at CP, I had always felt encouraged to come to my own understanding about who God is and how God works in the world. A combination of **Michael's sermons**, youth discussions and books like *The Color*

Purple and *The Lord of the Rings Trilogy* - I had come to this understanding of God as the creative, loving, divine spirit that filled the universe. To quote Alice Walker, the author of *The Color Purple*, "**God is everything.** Everything that is or ever was or ever will be. And when you feel that, and are happy to feel that, you have found **It.**" **Her understanding of God resonated with me. I knew** this spirit deeply when I watched the sun rise or felt the love of my friends and I thought that with it I would be ready to tackle any and all challenges presented to me in Texas. However, I was completely unaware of how alone and empty I would feel. I was unprepared for the harsh reality that I was about to embark on one of the hardest years of my life.

For many, the story of Esther is a magical story in the Bible, almost fairytale-like. Esther is this larger than life, beautiful, powerful queen. She saves her people. She is inspirational. She engages in this phenomenal internal struggle, that results in her risking her own life to save thousands of people, her people. It is a terrific story - but Esther is also a story of struggle. It is the story of a girl who cannot fully understand her identity after years of keeping it hidden, of a girl who is put in a foreign place, and of a girl who is called to serve her higher purpose in a most arduous task. The beautiful thing about the book of Esther is that, somehow, we are all able to connect to her and to her story.

For me, I have come to appreciate the struggle of **Esther's story in light of my move to Texas. I, like Esther**, did not want to move or for things to change. It might sound a bit dramatic, but when I moved, I felt like I had been pulled up from the roots. Thrust into a place I did

not know - where I had no community, no friends, no grounding - I felt like I did not even know anymore who I was. If you know me, you know that this is atypical for my type A, obsessively organized, and confident personality. After months of overbooking my schedule in my attempt throw dirt over the uprooted flower that had become my life, I kind of lost it. After eight months of feeling completely lost, I exploded a little. Luckily for me, I am an avid poetry reader as I believe that it is one of the **many ways to experience the divine. I read "Still I Rise,"** a poem by Maya Angelou. Part of this poem goes:

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise
Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.
Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

The line "Still, I'll Rise" has stayed with me. At a time in my life when I felt anything but tall, strong, confident - when I was unsure I would know again the Meghan I knew so well in Greensboro - this poem became for me a calling and a blessing. It was as if the creative, loving spirit of God was reminding me who I was - stirring in me a desire to once again be alive. In this story of Esther, this would be my Mordecai moment.

When Mordecai learns about the planned genocide of the Jews he tells Esther that it is her duty to save her people. When Esther has lost herself in this new royal life - he is the one who reminds her of her own potential. He says, "**maybe you have come into the royal palace for such a time as this.**" **It is a call to action that forces Esther to** truly evaluate who she is, what she stands for, what her role is in life, and how she wants to impact others. This is a challenging situation to be placed in. Esther did not have to save her people. She could have left her people to die and continued her life of comfort in the palace. Mordecai acted as a force that called Esther to action. **I believe that we all have "Mordecai moments" in our lives.** These are moments in which some force, it could be a person, a job promotion, unforeseen life change, or even a college acceptance, offers us the opportunity to come into a place where we have the power to change the course of our own life and the lives of countless others.

For me, reading the Maya Angelou poem seemed to be the Mordecai moment I needed at that point in my life. This poem reminded me what I had forgotten - what you at CP instill so well in your youth - that I have a place and a purpose in this world. A place that I can find and own and accept as mine. As a person who has constantly been questioned and doubted by society due to my race, my gender, and my proposed future occupation, this was a hard thing for me to own. My first year in Texas, I had to spend the entire year trying to prove to my classmates that despite the fact that I was the youngest and only black girl in calculus based physics and in AP chemistry, I was in fact smart. Even after showing this very cool way to take the cross product of vectors utilizing a matrix, they still did not trust my abilities as a scientist or

mathematician. If they did not see my value, maybe they were right and I had no value? I think it was hard for Esther to own as well. She was chosen to be queen purely because of her looks, who was she to have the strength and courage to stand for her people? Who was she to command the king? Why her?

I imagine that at some point Esther must have taken a step back and really reflected on her situation. She was now put in an area of uncharted territory, that she might **have felt she did not belong in, and I'm sure she might have felt like she was not ready to take the risk, to have the faith to take the first step without seeing the whole staircase.** But she did, she mustered all of her courage and put her life on the line believing it would serve a higher purpose. In this moment, she chose to shine her light on the world. This has been true of countless revolutionaries who have come after her - women like Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Blackwell, Rosa Parks, Billie Holiday, and Malala Yousafzai. For Harriet Tubman this meant leading slaves to freedom, just as she had been lead. For Elizabeth Cady Stanton this meant **advocating for the women's right to vote and for women's equality in an unprecedented way.** For Billie Holiday this meant sharing beautiful music like no one ever had. They all owned who they were and recognized their greater purpose in this world and had the courage to take it on.



Youth Choir

I see these examples of courageous lights in my day to day life as well. As my friends and I decided on colleges and majors, I saw each and everyone one of them own their power to shine their light and shape the lives around them. Whether this be through teaching, creating public health policies, social working, genetically engineering foods for improved nutrition, or practicing medicine, they all had the courage to make their choice and to take on their light. I have been extremely blessed to be surrounded by these lights in my family as well. In **my dad's persistent drive for his success and the increased success of his children, in my mom's courageous and unconditional love and care of people, in my aunt's battle to reclaim happiness, in my grandparents' never ending devotion towards improving education, and even in the bright potential and strength of my brothers and cousin.** For one of my brothers, I have to literally look up to see this light as if he is a **super star or something. Which he is, but don't tell him.** I see a bright and beautiful future of our world, despite the darkness that it seems to be engulfed in right now.

In my life, after my mini-explosion, I struggled to find my purpose. I knew I felt a passion for science, engineering, and mathematics but also for helping others through medicine in a clinical setting and really wanted to become a doctor. However, there seemed to be so many opportunities for me to approach this. The uncharted territory in my life seemed to be growing at

unprecedented rates and I was unprepared. A part of my struggle was that I did not believe I was worthy of any of it. I began to think MIT messed up and that Stanford was **just playing around. "You only got in because you're black" friends said. "You don't want to be an engineer, honey. It's an old boys club."** With thoughts like these swirling around in my head, it was so incredibly hard for me to own my own gifts and accomplishments. It has taken an extreme amount of courage for me to see and understand my own potential to impact the world, as it **does so many people. In fact, I've come to believe that having the courage to love and value oneself - to trust your worth - to own your light - might be the most challenging part.** I recently had a moment of beautiful clarity regarding this. I was at MIT sitting in on the black graduation celebration as hosted by the Black Alumni of MIT Association. After several speakers, the keynote speaker concluded with a Mary Anne Williamson quote, **the very quote that hangs up in Lin's office. Williamson says "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our Light, not our Darkness, that most frightens us."** When the speaker read this quote I was instantly **reminded of hours spent in Lin's office staring at the quote, trying to understand what it meant.** In that moment, I felt like I understood. I was invigorated with the strength and courage to own my potential as a change-maker and take the jump towards accomplishing it. And I am so thankful that I am able to start on this new journey towards shining my light.

I believe this is God's call to all of us - to find this courage and to own and shine our individual lights. I believe that this beautiful power exists deep within all of us. It is a gift to ourselves and is a gift to the world. To own who we are, to own what we think, and to carry our lights boldly because there is no one light like yours. **The rest of the quote that hangs up in Lin's office reads: "Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to shine. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. As we let our own light shine we unconsciously give others permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear our presence automatically liberates others." We are called to shine - like Esther, like Maya Angelou, like Malala, like Dr. King. Like so many before us and so many who will come after us - We are called to use our courage and be a light - so for the world's sake, let's do it.**

Meghan Davis
Youth Sunday Sermon
30 April 2017



L-R:
Cheyenne Walden,
Hannah Usey,
Lin Story-Bunce,
Meghan Davis,
Nick Edwards

Everyone is Awkward: Esther Takes on High School

As I grew up, my older brother Zach regularly had a ragtag variety of friends hang out at our house. Being a devious younger sister, I took it upon myself to harass them. While spying on them over the years, I wondered why my kind and generous brother regularly took time away from his close friends to hang out with these kids his age, many of whom were misfits. There were a few who turned out to be drug addicts, one in prison, several with obvious or subtle special needs, kids from other countries, some who marched to their own drum, and several whom I knew were likely to be bullied in school. During those years of my early youth, I secretly questioned why he hung out with these deeply awkward kids. Zach had several cool friends whom he was close to--so why, I wondered, did he bother being with these--people I thought as losers. They would just show up at our house and Zach would invite them in for a drink or snack or video game--or sometimes they would just sit outside on the back deck, or skateboarding down our **street. I remember feeling uneasy and wondering: Wasn't this uncomfortable for Zach?**

I finally asked him why one night while he was shoving cereal in his mouth, and Zach responded, **"Yeah, sometimes it's awkward, but, well, isn't everyone at some point? And, if I'm not a friend to them, then who will be?"** He didn't see it as a big deal or heroic, but just that here and there he noticed overlooked people, hungry to be acknowledged, and he cared. Here was my brother, a junior in high school at the time, doing something small but significant--with great love and while no one was watching. But *I* was watching, it turns out. And it planted a seed.

Every year on the first morning of the school year, my whole family--stands outside our house before setting off on our different paths, and my dad and mom say a prayer in this kind of group hug time. Sounds sappy but we all actually value it. Each year my dad tells us to look for the people on the margins. He reminds us that we can be the light--or salt--in our school and make small but profound differences. He challenges us to look for those opportunities--**that maybe even that's what we're there** for in one sense. He has said he remembers only too well that there are a ton of awkward people in high school--**including each one of us at various times, so it's crucial to** be gentle with people, to be kind. Those little talks were seeds planted in me as well.

Since then, I've thought repeatedly of how ironic it is that, when most people think of Christianity, they think **it's all about sweetness and being nice, which sounds safe**



Hannah Usey
Preaching during Youth Sunday

and boring. But, as I've tried Christianity out, I would highlight *more* how it can lead you to feeling awkward, really intentionally awkward. **Because you're asked to** put yourself out there--to put yourself in deeply awkward situations time and time again. But this is not usually something people think of when they talk about being a Christian. **I've tried to lean into this as I've gotten older, and I've decided, despite the discomfort it causes, it** really is an okay place to stand. In fact, it can be satisfying on a much deeper level, despite that not fitting into the drumbeat of a superficial culture.

Most people here survived high school and turned out okay (Bill Ingold and Wayne Jones might be exceptions), but high school is, as Rydell says, a *hot mess*. **It's a time** when everything is artificially focused on status and appearances and skill sets that regularly are acknowledged--by team, club, or group admissions, grade point averages, varsity letters, and later with college acceptances and scholarships. There are also more subtle status hierarchies only obvious to those at a given school. Many students feel acutely aware of who they feel permission to eat lunch with or even go up to talk to, or fear being gossiped about if they dare to venture out of their normal peer group or acceptable dress or behavior. And all that feeling of being scrutinized is *intensified* now due to social media. I see kids who feel slotted into pecking orders, and they joke about it. Some feel held to ridiculous standards they feel pressure to live up to. It sounds cliché and stupid, but that is my world, and it is hard to ignore those pressures. Living as a genuine Christian in high school--refusing to play by those rules, stupid as they are, can be confusing and tough.

Now imagine Queen Esther. When Lin selected Esther as our theme for Youth Sunday, I wrested with it. **I wasn't sure I found relevance there.** Esther is a young Jewish woman, picked for her beauty to be a queen to someone who is poised to slaughter the Jews. She knows that speaking out against the king, her new husband, carries great risk--in fact, could well end up in her death. **But if she doesn't do it, who will?** I heard echoes of my brother as he shoveled his cereal.

Last year was my hardest year of high school. Not academically, though I had plenty of challenges there. Rather it was hard socially. I have had good **friends, always. Being raised in Greensboro, I've had a** fortunate flow of relationships: my squad at school, soccer teammates, church friends, work friends, choir peeps and longtime childhood confidants. I had the weird temptation of being far too comfortable, of just taking care of me. Looking back on my earlier high school years, I felt pulled by the siren song of nesting in a comfortable bubble of just that, ignoring the larger world and avoiding any potential awkward people, needy people, overlooked folk, people on the margins or who had fallen between the cracks. I wanted to burrow down where it felt safe and warm and turn my back on any higher calling--to withdraw into selfishness.

Seeing people in a prescribed pecking order or calibrated by popularity was the matrix I was struggling against. And I fell into to seeing people through that ridiculous grid at times. Yet the weirdest experiences cut against the grain of those stupid pressures and slowly

changed me. Grace sprang up in unlikely places. Some of my best memories from high school are the moments where I was pushed into an awkward situation--and something beautiful came out of it.

For example, my math class last year. The math part was not my best memory (MIT must have lost my application in the mail), but the people in that class changed my outlook on high school and the dumb social rules surrounding it. It was filled with an odd assortment of individuals that I was so skeptical of when I sat in it the first week. I slid into my seat the first day and heard the roll—not one person I knew on the list. I had not one ally to roll eyes with, or to help with homework. And some of my classmates looked really sketchy. They were by high school social standards easily categorized as misfits.

There was a black Muslim girl Maimouna who wore a hijab but also turned out to have this great giggle and a sly sense of humor. This came in handy because our math teacher was among the worst teachers I ever had. She usually just gave us handouts, letting us labor over problems with no support or lectures. It was so anger-producing and discouraging; my parents **complained, but they couldn't get me moved, so I only** survived thanks to a tutor and people like Maimouna who helped me giggle rather than rage. She was real, down-to-earth, and everyone related to her honesty, so I enjoyed her presence in that class immensely.

Likewise, one Iranian guy, Jason, became an unlikely friend. He was self-conscious and shy. I knew he had been bullied at my school, being called a terrorist--casual catcalls in the hallway. Jason was unsure of himself, a little weird, and intensely awkward. He was short, and had this unruly mop of hair that overwhelmed his face, and he was lonely too. He sat near me, and, as we talked, I could tell he was eager for friendship. As we talked over math, I was charmed by how authentic he helplessly was. He would say negative things about himself as **though it were a rueful fact he couldn't deny, and seemed** resigned to his life on the margins. But he had this incredibly sweet smile—mirroring what I found to be lovely spirit. He was gentle and loving to his core.

We became close friends. He often said how much he appreciated our friendship or something about me, without any designs or manipulative intent. After a while I wondered, how did someone with such a beautiful heart have no friends because of something as shallow as his looks or his ethnicity? Sure, he was awkward, but everyone is awkward in some way during high school.

Later, walking down the Grimsley's halls with one of my friends, we passed Jason and I said, "Hello my math brother!" As an afterthought, I said to my friend, "Love that kid, Jason; he is such a sweetheart!" She looked at me with her eyebrows arched and asked stiffly, "How the [heck] do you know him?" The way she leaned into the word "him" let me know she thought it incomprehensible—and not something she approved of. Her words hit me like a slap. The unfairness of the social dynamics of high school weighed more heavily on me, and I resolved to combat these ridiculous dynamics and to be an agent of change, to be one tiny transforming

energy in the opposite direction. After all, in that crazy math class, there were multiple days when I came to class in a bad mood (hard to imagine, I know), and **Jason's spirit and honest remarks communicated such** warmth to me—causing me to leave the class with my load lightened and my spirit lifted. And it was because of him, or Maimona, or others in this ragtag class of oddballs. **I know my parents won't believe it, since I** complained so often and so loudly about this class, that it now stands in my memory among my favorite classes. In direct proportion to our frustrating teacher, we found an unlikely but deep community. And, being a junior, I was questioning with more resolve the assumptions of how success is measured in high school.

Another learning experience: mid soccer season last year we had a new player join our club team from Mexico **whom I'll just call Erin. Erin and I were not friends at the** beginning. **Actually, I didn't like her; I found her cold** and bitter, and, when I tried to joke around with her, she **would shrug me off. One tournament I didn't even talk to** her because I thought she was so rude. But one day I tried one more time---and Erin gave way and opened up to my playfulness; we had a break through. She started loosening up and hanging out with me more. I offered to drive her to practice from the boarding school where she lived, and occasionally take her on outings—since she was stuck at her boarding school, and, soon enough, she had become a crucial part of my life. I grew to feel **protective over her, as many of the soccer team didn't see** her goodness—in spite of her being a star player. Turns out Erin was gay; turns out I was the first straight person **she'd ever dared to tell.** She actually carried on this charade of liking a boy at her boarding school as a desperate form of cover. **She didn't dare tell her** dorm-mates or teachers, despite my encouragement. I learned she was in a mentally abusive long-distance relationship with a girl back in Mexico, and felt tortured by her antics. Plus, around that time, she found out her **dad was having an affair, which led to her parents'** divorce soon after--and she was basically suicidal and felt completely alone. I found this all this out when I confronted her about cuts on her legs, which she had, for a time, hidden extremely well. I had met Erin at a time when she could not have been at a lower point in her life. I had initially written her off, but, thankfully, something—I like to think it was God--had made me step out of my comfort zone one more time, and something amazing had happened. **It was truly a "maybe you are here for such a time as this" moment--**all because I risked hanging out with an awkward person who generally sent out cold pricklies to everyone. Somehow, things inside both of us had broken open as a result.

It was this church that encouraged me to realize it's okay to get uncomfortable. **If it weren't for you all, I** would not have found the space, the support, the freedom, and the nerve to push myself out of my comfort zone—and be open to so many people, many of whom are wonderfully weird, who in turn ended up shaping me in powerful ways. In fact, I would say this church is full of Esthers who have modeled radical openness that I have had the privilege to watch and learn from my whole life. And, along the way, you have always let me be my

Continued on p. 6

Esther Takes on High School continued from p. 5

own person, to have my own life, to figure out my own faith, and for that I will always be grateful.

As a pastor's kid, I was particularly pushed into awkward moments that I found difficult. It was not unusual for my dad to come up and say to me after church, "Hey, will you go up and greet that family with a daughter your age? They're new and don't know anyone." I found this uncomfortable, though I did as I was asked and just hoped my discomfort didn't show. But I doubt he understood how awkward that made me feel. My mom is a natural extrovert, so she's always acted like, "What's the big deal? It's not rocket science---just go up and connect with people!" She claimed I was good at it, but I wasn't. It was only something I slowly, slowly grew into. In fact, my parents should have known, because there's a family joke that for the entire second and third years of my life, I only barked. I'm not kidding. Seriously, there are several preschool teachers where I went who only knew me as a barker. I was painfully, uncomfortably shy. I went through this long phase where I simply *wouldn't talk* at school. While I eventually grew out of that, I still found casual banter in public to be awkward and difficult for a long time. So even much later, my dad's pushing me to interact with strangers felt terribly weird for me. Now I must admit I've at last gotten better at this, so I guess I have church to thank for this. I barked. . . and you barked back.

Youth group has also been a major factor in my faith. Those Sunday night discussions each week *do* make a difference, and I find myself reflecting on our talks throughout the week. I've appreciated how Lin doesn't tell us what our faith should be like, but challenges us to question things for ourselves and explore how God might be calling us.

Our annual mission trips had a big impact on my faith too. This last year, our trip to Laredo, Texas, was among the best. Lin prepped us once again to remember the trip might not be easy: there was the heat, the poverty of the community we were going to help, and there were tough work sites every day. It *wasn't* a vacation. So I vaguely knew I wasn't going for pleasure. What surprised me was that, alongside challenging situations, there were so many moments where joy crept in. At the end of everyday, we always talked about where we saw God that day, and it was often in unexpected encounters with other people. It has reminded me that, when you seek after selfish ends, you ironically don't usually end up finding happiness. But when you let go of that as your primary aim, something more significant seeps in: the joy of doing something important—no matter how small. Esther certainly exemplified that when she tossed aside concerns for self-preservation by risking speaking up for her unlucky people. I expect that at some point Esther must have likewise felt a deep satisfaction when she let go and stepped up to the plate.

When I realized my friend Erin had risked opening up to me as she had no one else--and that I was equipped to be her friend, to communicate unconditional love and acceptance when she feared she couldn't find it anywhere, that felt important. My dad has said he loves

being a pastor because he gets to be with people in their "holy moments." Well, this time felt like a holy moment. In fact, I felt like I was made for "such a time as this"—like God must have put me in this moment, because I was uniquely equipped to let her know she is a beautiful child of God—and worthy of love JUST AS SHE IS. Did all her problems melt away because she shared with me? Not hardly, but she's made significant progress: she's no longer self-harming or flirting with suicide. She got out of that abusive relationship and is in a much better one now. She's come out to her mom at least, who wasn't ideal in her reaction, but who is slowly on the road to accepting Erin for who she is—which is remarkable for a culture that often doesn't know what to do with anything other than conventional sexual orientations. And while she still isn't ready to share with her other friends, she really seems okay with herself now, which is a significant step. I am not suggesting that I am heroic or noble, only that God can use all of our awkward moments to change us--and the people we dare to touch. To whatever degree I made a difference, I can only thank God for that privilege. Those are the kind of things that animate me and give my life meaning now. Making a difference in this hurting world and offering God's love in some simple, concrete ways. We can all be Esthers, putting ourselves in awkward situation for some larger, more significant goal. It might not be a game-changer on some national level, but it might be a game-changer in someone's week, or month, or even life. You never know.

Hannah Usey
Youth Sunday Sermon
30 April 2017

Kitchen Rebuild Update May 2017

(Kitchen Renovation)

\$205,000 Total Cost

\$119,671 Available Funds

\$85,329 Needed to Pay for Kitchen

3 Ways 2 Give

For added convenience, we have three ways for you to give to the church general budget or special offerings:

- Write a check or give cash at one of our Sunday services or at the office during the week. If you don't have envelopes with an assigned number (for better record keeping), contact the church office.
- Set up bill pay through your bank online. It's a favorite since there are usually no fees to you or the church, and it's very easy.
- Pay online with a credit card at: www.CollegeParkChurch.com. Choose the option to cover the credit card fees or let the church pay them.

Blakely Elizabeth Miga Baptismal Statement

My thoughts, feelings about God, Jesus and life are **amazing and positive**. **If we didn't have God or Jesus** we would all be miserable, mean and uncaring.

Baptism means to me that my relationship with God will grow stronger each day. I will continue to worship and honor Him.

My question about baptism is does that mean I will get to go to Heaven? Once I am baptized does that mean I will actually be a real Christian?

For me, to be a Christian towards my friends meant that I will be more trustworthy and a better example for them to follow. I will share my feelings about God and Jesus with them.

I am scared that once I am baptized if I make a mistake that God will not forgive me and trust me again. I hope that I will have an everlasting relationship with God.

I have attended College Park since December of last year. College Park has been helpful to me by talking and expressing their feelings to me. College Park has given me awesome tips and advice. The people at College Park are nice, loving and caring.

Some images that I have about God and Jesus are they are the happiest and most clever in the world. Sometimes when I am walking to the bus stop by myself I feel like God and Jesus are talking to me. When that happens I feel we are one and I know that I am going to have a wonderful day.

My life now is great but I picture my life being even better once I am baptized. I will continue to attend College Park as long as I can. I want to be more active in the youth group, community and family events. I want to continue to attend church regularly, read my bible and pray more.

I think it might be hard if I make a mistake or don't do things right that God will not trust me anymore. I also think it may be hard for Him to forgive me.

I think praying more to Him will help me with my fears. I think being more active in church will help me better understand what it means to be a Christian and a follower of God.

When I pray I pray for good grades and continue to be a good student. I check in with my grandmother because she died 3 years ago and I want to see how she is doing in Heaven. I also pray for my 2 labs that died, Cole and Sable. They were my 2 favorite dogs. I also pray for my family, friends and College Park.

My favorite holiday is Christmas. I love baking, decorating, spending time with my family and friends and helping others. I love the Christmas Story when Jesus was born. I want to be a mom someday and this story inspires me to think about how much Mary loved Jesus.

14 May 2017

Green Flamingos Eco-Justice Challenge

College Park is committed to promoting and maintaining environmentally friendly practices in our church and community. We believe that environmental stewardship is a religious value and a moral responsibility.



This month's eco-justice challenge is to eat a vegetarian meal at least once a week. The practice of consuming a plant-based diet can have a positive effect on the environment. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization, livestock was estimated to contribute to 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Going meatless one day a week, eating less meat and choosing organic or grass-fed meats all reduce GHG.

Here are some fun ways to try a vegetarian meal: share a meal with a friend who is also trying to meet this challenge, ask a friend who eats vegetarian for a yummy recipe, or try a new dish at your favorite restaurant!

Dipe! Wipe! Swipe!



Our College Park Nursery is growing by six babies this Spring! There are many ways we can help welcome these sweet newborns to the world and to our church family. Here is one suggestion: diapers, wipes and gift cards are always helpful in those first few months. Below is a list of families who have recently welcomed a little one or will welcome a new baby soon. We have included addresses and registry information if known.

Lauren and Stu Bradshaw welcomed baby girl, Sloan Harper on March 6th.
Address: 13294 US 158, Reidsville, NC 27320
Registered: BabiesRUs

Caryanne and Lin Story-Bunce welcomed baby girl Maryn Cole on May 1st.
Address: 305 Lindley Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410
Registered: Target

Mariah Hughes is due in May.
Address: 4605 W Market St., Greensboro, NC 27410.
Registered: Target and BabiesRUs

Erica Palmer and Craig Bowyer are due in June.
Address: 404 Crestland Ave., Greensboro, NC 27401

Lori and Jon Suarez are due in July.
122 E. Keeling Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410
Registered: Amazon.com and BabiesRUs

Megan and Jeremy Fox are due in August.
Address: 754 Cedar Creek Dr., Asheboro, NC 27205

**Part of CP's Series Telling Stories of
Redemptive Failure
I Had One Job . . .**

It was Friday November 3rd, 1993. I was leaving Spring Garden Bar and Grill heading to a Rave party. One of my **best friend's younger sister (whom I adored) was with me.** Minutes after pulling out of the parking lot, I was pulled over by the UNCG campus police. They pulled me over because I did not have my lights on (a big sign of a drunk driver). I was given the standard tests and was **doing okay...then the breathalyzer test came; I failed miserably.** I think it showed I had 0.28% alcohol content. One is considered legally impaired if they blow 0.08%

I was promptly handcuffed and taken to jail. Feeling much embarrassment and not wanting to call a family member, I called a friend to come bail me out. I woke up Saturday morning, engulfed with guilt, shame, and remorse. Knowing I was going to lose my license, I had the daunting task of telling people who would be immediately impacted. My mother was first on the list (and the most difficult) as we were very close and I never wanted to see the look on her face I saw that day delivering my news. I think my siblings were next and so on. I had just started a new job as a traveling sales rep, so I had to inform my employer what happened. I hired an attorney. Went to court. My license was revoked for one year with daytime driving privileges. I attended alcohol assessment classes, and did community service work.

The job I failed so miserably that day, being so irresponsible, was devastating and stopped me in my tracks. It brought me to my knees. And this was not the first time I had driven under the influence (big surprise)! Realizing, someone I adored and/or someone in another car could have been seriously injured or worse, killed, did get my attention. I was racked with self-loathing, shame, and embarrassment. Looking back, I believe that God was doing for me what I could not do for myself the night this happened.

At the advice of my attorney and the court I attended Alcoholics Anonymous. I did so, but with no real intent of **sticking around...however, every time I went to a meeting** I heard something I could relate to. I felt a sense of belonging, unconditional acceptance, and peace. I realized I was comfortable with these people and wanted what they had: self-acceptance, serenity, humility, laughter and more.

However, this new way of life was not an easy one to wrap my head around. I needed to change playgrounds and playmates. With some abstinence from drinking a **few things started to sink in...I could look back and** realize that once I started drinking, the obsession to drink took over. I never knew how the evening might turn out. Some evenings I could have a few drinks, have fun and go home. And then there were those evenings. I would drink (and think I was having fun) but wake up the next day, horrified, filled with remorse, shame, embarrassment and the list goes on.

While all my friends supported my decision not to

drink, a few thought I was going a bit overboard with the **'being an alcoholic' thing. However, for me, I realized** alcohol was not my friend. I did not like what alcohol did to me or my body. I no longer wanted to be the person I was when I drank.

By abstaining from alcohol, one day at a time, the self-loathing started to dissipate. The more I came to understand the disease of alcoholism I realized that my behavior while drinking is not who I am and I was able to take baby steps toward forgiving myself.

In the rooms of AA barriers are broken, the willingness to be vulnerable, share our pain, meet each other where we are, dark places and all and still find **acceptance of one another...gives me courage to go out** into the world and do the same.

The gifts of Recovery are abundant, including tools for **living life on life's terms. Daily I turn my life and my will** over to the care of God. Most days I am comfortable in my own skin. I have learned much about humility. By staying sober, I get to show up, be accountable, be present. I can make verbal and living amends to my family and friends.

Of the many gifts, I have received in recovery, this church is one. The tribe here resembles the way I understand God; striving to accept one another for who we are, meeting and helping one another wherever they **are in life, ... love and acceptance is IN ACTION** and is abundant in this church. When I first started attending this church, I remember feeling much like I did when I first walked in the rooms of AA..I think these just might be my people.

So Yes today, I am incredibly grateful for this one job I failed.

Lauren Sandifer



- 4 Exciting Sessions: M-Th 6/26-6/29; 7/17-20; 7/24-27; 7/31-8/3; 9 am—2 pm
- Kids build confidence & showcase their talents
- Drama games & team builders
- Acting, Singing & Dancing
- Full musical production at the end of the week

For more information and to register, go to: apluskidstheatre.com

Reese Catherine Miga Baptismal Statement

My thoughts and feelings about God, Jesus and Life are that my life is so much better when I have God in it.

I am being baptized today because I want to believe in and follow Jesus. By following Jesus I want to continue to be nice, help others, love and accept everyone. I am 9 years old and it is important for me to become a Christian.

My question about God and becoming a Christian is does He really forgive me if I do something bad? Is He really always with me? Does He hear my prayers?

For me to be a Christian it means for me to be nice, helpful and respectful to my family, friends, and sports team members. For example, I am a pitcher in softball if I accidentally hit a batter I would check on her to make sure she was ok. If a family member were having a bad day and sad I would do my best to cheer them up.

I am fearful of the process about dying. In the past 5 years I lost my granddaddy, grandmother, and 2 labs. **It made me very sad and I didn't understand a whole lot about it.** I am hopeful they all are in Heaven and I get to see them all again someday.

I just started coming to College Park this past December. The people here are very nice and loving. College Park has been helpful to me because I have attended both of the services and although the sermon is the same the services are different. I enjoy going to both of them except I wish they served apple cider too instead of just hot chocolate because I do not like chocolate!!! Just a suggestion!!

I think God is awesome, loving, giving and accepting of all of us. To follow Jesus means that I want to be God like. I want to be and act just like God.

I picture my life continuing to attend College Park. I want to be in the youth group when I am in 6th grade. I want to be involved with community and family events at College Park. I want to read my bible and say my prayers more.

I think it will be hard not to be influenced by others that are not making the right decision(s). I think it will be hard to follow Jesus expectations but I am going to do my best.

What is comforting to me in following Jesus is to make good choices, decisions and knowing that He is always in my heart.

When I say my prayers I pray for my granddaddy, grandmother and 2 labs that passed away. I pray that all of them are doing great in Heaven. I pray for my family that everyone is ok and having a good life. I pray I make good grades and win ballgames.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the story of David and Goliath. My favorite character is David because he is not afraid to fight Goliath. David knows that God will be with him no matter what.

14 May 2017



**American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE**

Give Blood • Give Life

A Red Cross Blood Drive at College Park is scheduled for Friday, June 30, 2017, 2 pm—6:30 pm in Forest Chapel. The Red Cross will provide a link for appointment sign-up approximately 5 weeks before the day of the blood drive. That will be the official making-an-appointment place.

We'll need some folks to staff registration and the canteen. The Red Cross will provide some basic snacks for the canteen, but additional baked goodies are welcome. Please contact Keith Burkhead at kburkhead@triad.rr.com or Kate Scherer-Jones at scherer.katelyn@gmail.com to volunteer or with any questions. And watch the bulletin.

Please support this effort to give the gift of life. It only **takes about an hour. It's open to all in our community.** Consider making the gift of life possible for someone in need.

Why Donate?

Every two seconds someone in America gets a blood transfusion. Five million patients will need blood this year. Summer can be a difficult collection time for blood donations because of busy schedules, traveling, time spent on vacations, and students being out of school. So blood-product donors are especially needed during this time.

Benefits of Donating

- It feels great to donate!
- You get free juice and delicious cookies.
- **It's something you can spare** – most people have **blood to spare... yet, there is still not enough to go around.**
- You will help ensure blood is on the shelf when needed – **most people don't think they'll ever need blood, but many do.**
- **You will be someone's hero** – in fact, you could help save more than one life with just one donation.

Blood and Platelet Donors Must

- Be in good general health and feeling well
- Be at least 17-years-old
- Weigh at least 110 lbs.

Come prepared

- Have a light meal and plenty to drink.
- Wear something comfortable with sleeves that can easily be rolled up above the elbow.
- **Bring your donor card, driver's license or two other forms of identification.**
- Bring the names of medications you are taking.



Healing Rhythms

Sunday, June 11
3:00 pm, Forest Chapel

Monica Citty-Hix will be leading this time: an hour devoted to tending our grief through guided meditation, drumming and reflection. Come and join us in the circle. We'll provide a variety of drums or you may bring your own.

Sponsored by Inner Ground, Inc.
 Contact us at 2innerground@gmail.com
 Free and open to all.

Congratulations!

Lin and Caryanne Story-Bunce welcomed baby girl Maryn Cole on May 1st
 7 lbs., 3 oz., 21 in



FaithAction International House
 Invites You and Your Family to Our
FRIENDS OF FAITHACTION



SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017
From 12:00—4:00 PM

This will be an informal event for our volunteers, clients, and community partners! Please bring a dish or two to share!
 HESTER PARK SHELTER #2
 3615 Deutzia St., Greensboro, NC 27407

College Park Sunday School Opportunities

Nursery
 Birth-23 months (Parking Lot Entrance) Childcare provided by both Preferred Childcare, Inc. employees and College Park volunteers.

Toddlers
 2—3 1/2 yrs. (Parking Lot Entrance)
 1st, 3rd Sundays—Music & Tone Chimes
 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays—Hands-on Faith Lessons

Children's Sunday School
 PreK—1st, 2nd—5th (Children's Library & Youth Room)
 1st & 3rd Sundays—Music & Tone Chimes
 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays—Hands-on Faith Lessons

Sunday Morning Youth Gathering
 6th—12th grades (Fellowship Hall) For more information:
<https://cpbcyouthchaos.wordpress.com/youth-Sunday-school/>

Adult Study Groups

God in Books—(Room 303)
 Class reads & discusses a variety of Christian literature. This spring the class will be reading *I Asked for Wonder* by Abraham Heschel.

Bible 101—(Room 305)
 Class is reading the book of Exodus this spring.

Pathfinders—(Fellowship Hall)
 Class explores a variety of faith topics.

Adult 3—(Parlor)
 Class uses the Smith & Helwys Sunday school curriculum to guide conversations of faith, Bible and life.

New Members/Address Changes

Jennifer Asbill & Family
 1036 McLamb Dr.
 Durham, NC 27703

Pat & Debbie Barket
 7 Montford Court
 Greensboro, NC 27455

Duncan & Gina Chapman
 4708 Wellford Court
 Jamestown, NC 27282

Sarah Greech & Stacey Potts
 209 Oak Ave.
 Lexington, NC 27292

Megan Johnson & Shannon Harty
 4040 NC Hwy 150 W.
 Browns Bummit, NC 27214-9653

Jan Efflandt & Ron Notarianni
 758 Forester Ct.
 High Point, NC 27265

Hjazi Family
 123D Yester Oaks Way East
 Greensboro 27455-3114

Courtnee Hummel
 8 EAMS/TRP, UNIT 61233, APO, AE 09309

Nate Usey's Peace Corp Address:
 PCV Nate Usey
 Peace Corps, P.O. Box 766
 St. George's, Grenada, West Indies

Jeff Valentine & Lee Carter
 653 Piedmont Crossing Dr.
 High Point, NC 27265-8721

Announcements

College Park Website

Our redesigned church website is now very mobile friendly with several new features. To keep better informed about happenings of the church, check out the online

Collage blog that is updated frequently. And see a weekly **calendar of events**. The "Library" is an archive of memoirs, sermons, etc. Give your offering online, read about our latest mission projects or the capital campaign, and share the site as you try to explain our uniqueness to your friends and family.



www.collegeparkchurch.com

Options for Children during the Worship Service



There are several child care options during the worship service: Nursery (birth—24 months) Room 201 main floor, Toddlers (2-3 yr.) Room 104 lower level, Wee Worship (PreK -1st grade) Room 110 lower level. Your child is also welcome to stay in the service with you. Kids Worship binders are available with activities related to the sermon. Look for the bins at the front and back of the sanctuary.

Summer Bible Study

Wednesday nights, beginning June 7th at 6:30 pm,
The Usey's home
111 West Keeling Rd., Greensboro 27410

The book we will be studying is "On Tyranny." A mere 100 -page booklet written recently by Yale History professor Timothy Snyder is meant to be read by small groups in **and out of church. We'll meet to read and discuss it on Wednesday nights at the Usey's home.**

The booklet is broken into 20 short, easy to read chapters, **comprised of suggestions, such as "Listen for Dangerous Words," "Establish a Private Life", and "Learn from Peers in Other Countries."**

Many are anxious over our country these days, and CP has decided to be proactive in addressing this communal anxiety.

Let's gather weekly, those who can, and consider positive, well-researched suggestions rather than devolving as many do lately, in handwringing or venting.

We will end with prayer and a commitment not to devolve into bitterness or cynicism. Communal encouragement and prayer are what the church should offer and bolster, so we will seek to uphold each other with an uplifting benediction.

Visit New York

Have you been waiting for an affordable opportunity to visit New York City? Our family apartment is available again this year with dates in July and August and some other holiday week-ends. Close to Times Square and Broadway. Contact Angela Brady-Fleming by phone [336-501-0270](tel:336-501-0270), text, or fleming1301@yahoo.com.



Passportkids

This Summer our 3rd-5th graders will spend June 20-23 with Passport at Eagle Eyrie, VA. The theme this year is "Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly." During the week of camp, the kids will consider how following Jesus with our lives demands action. You can sign your child up here, on this website. There will be a meeting immediately following the 11 am service on April 2 for all families interested in participating. To signup:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094fa9a728a02-passportkids3>

College Park VBS, August 14-17

Come join us for a week of exploring the depths of God's oceans and the wideness of God's love. Campers 4-years-old through 5th grade (rising 6th grade) are welcome to join us. Please register your camper on the College Park website.

This year our camp will run Monday - Thursday evening, 5:30 - 7:45 pm. We will offer childcare for children birth - 18 months, a toddler class for children 2 - 3 yrs., and an adult bible study 6:00 - 7:00 pm that will cover the same stories your children are learning in VBS. If you are interested in volunteering for VBS, please visit the signup page or email linbunce@gmail.com.

VBS Kickoff, August 13

Sunday afternoon, August 13, your families are invited to join us for our VBS kickoff party at the Natural Science Center Aquarium. Cost per ticket is \$8.00/child, \$12.00/ adult. If you have a NSC membership, you can use that toward your admission cost.

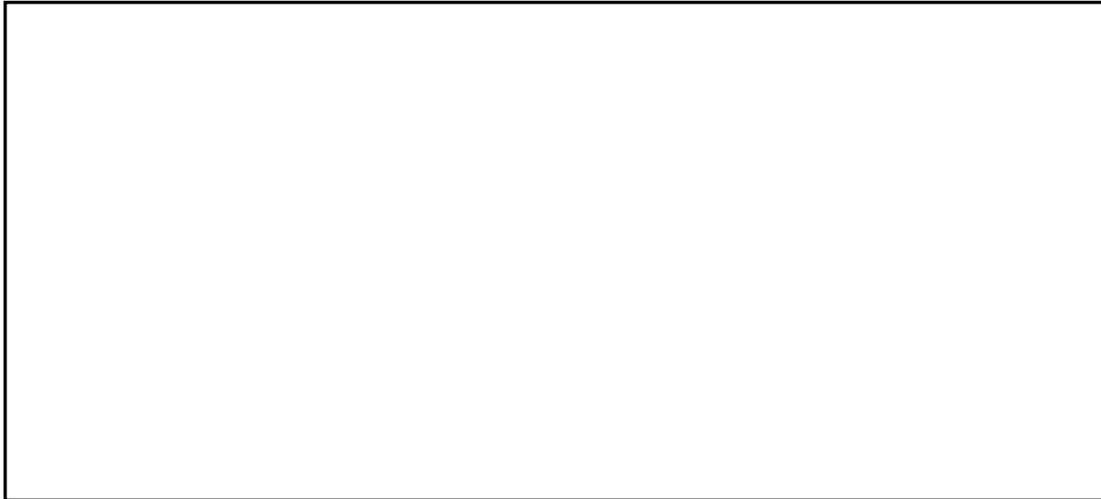
June GUM Donation

Mac & Cheese (7.25 oz. box)
Place donations in the wicker basket in the side foyer entrance (beside the bookshelves).



College Park
An American Baptist Church
1601 Walker Avenue,
Greensboro, North Carolina 27403-2318

Return Service Requested



Looking Ahead—June

June	
1	NA Noon, Chapel; Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
2	AI-Anon Noon, Board Room
4	Sunday Activities; Deacons' Meeting 6 pm, Board Rm.
5	NA Noon, Chapel; Ultimate Frisbee 6 pm
6	NA Noon, Chapel
7	NA Noon, Chapel; Bible Study 6:30 pm, Michael Usey's home
8	NA Noon, Chapel; Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
9	AI-Anon Noon, Chapel
11	Sunday Activities; Healing Rhythms 3 pm, Chapel
12	NA Noon, Chapel, Ultimate Frisbee 6 pm
13	NA Noon, Chapel
14	NA Noon, Chapel; Bible Study 6:30 pm, Michael Usey's home
15	NA Noon, Chapel; Forever 39 11:30 am, K&W; Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
16	AI-Anon Noon, Board Room
17	Friends of FaithAction International Picnic 12-4 pm, Hester Park Shelter #2
18	GUM Sunday; 3rd Sun. Refreshments after 11 am Worship
19	NA Noon, Chapel, Ultimate Frisbee 6 pm
20	NA Noon, Chapel; PFLAG 7:30 pm, Chapel; Passport Kids leave for Eagle Eyrle, VA
21	NA Noon, Chapel; Pendergraft Meeting 5:30 pm, Board Rm.; Bible Study 6:30 pm at Michael Usey's home
22	NA Noon, Chapel; Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
23	AI-Anon Noon, Board Room
25	Sunday Activities
26	NA Noon, Chapel; Summer Theatre Camp 9 am-2 pm, FH; Ultimate Frisbee 6 pm
27	NA Noon, Chapel; Summer Theatre Camp 9 am-2 pm, FH
28	NA Noon, Chapel; Summer Theatre Camp 9 am-2 pm, FH; Bible Study 6:30 pm, Michael Usey's home
29	NA Noon, Chapel; Summer Theatre Camp 9 am-2 pm, FH; Pendergraft Meeting 5:30 pm, Board Rm.
30	AI-Anon Noon, Board Rm.; Health Fair/ Blood Drive 2-6:30 pm, Chapel

Church Telephone: (336) 273-1779; Fax: (336) 273-9637
www.collegeparkchurch.com cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net

Alliance of Baptists - American Baptist Churches
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

2017 Total Food Donations = 642 Pounds

Every Member a Minister

Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer
Kathy Davis, retired after 43 years at Greensboro Day School
Rydell Harrison, Minister of Music & Worship
Darlene Johnson, Sexton
Keith A. Menhinick, Minister to Young Adults
David Soyars, Organist
Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Missionaries
Lin Story-Bunce, Associate Minister (on Maternity Leave)
Matt Lojko, Deacon Chair
Michael S. Usey, Pastor
Annette Waisner, Office & Media Manager

www.collegeparkchurch.com cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net
www.facebook.com/collegeparkchurch

Progressive - Diverse - Ecumenical