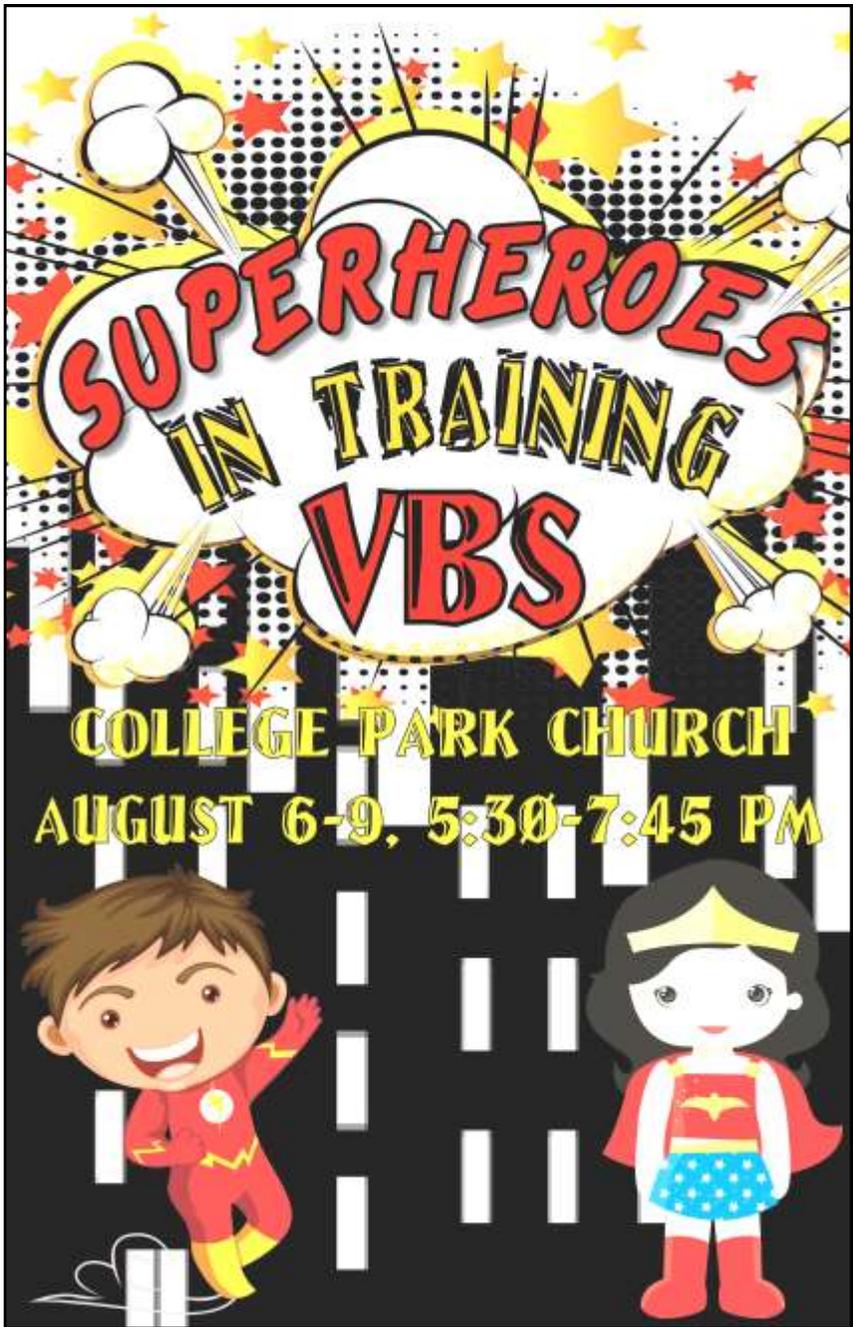


11 COLLEGE PARK collage

a newsletter of
College Park Baptist Church • Greensboro, NC

**August 2018
Number 261**

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



August Events:

- Weekly:
Mondays—Thursdays
12 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Chapel
No Zumba Classes During VBS Week
- Mondays
6 pm Zumba Class, Fellowship Hall
- Tuesdays
6 pm Zumba Class, Chapel
- Fridays
12 pm Al-Anon, Fellowship Hall
(Aug. 3 in Chapel)
- *****
- Wednesday, August 1
6:30 pm—**Bible Study, Usey's Home**
- Friday, August 3
2-4 pm -Guilford Green Foundation, Chapel
9 am-4 pm—VBS Decorating in Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, August 4
9 am-4 pm—VBS Decorating in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, August 5
Noon—VBS Kick-off in Fellowship Hall
(pizza & movie)
3 pm—Healing Rhythms, Chapel
- Monday, August 6—Thursday, August 9
VBS 5:30—7:45, Fellowship Hall (*children*)
Adult Bible Study 6 pm, (*M-W in Chapel, Thurs. night in Sanctuary*)
- Thursday, August 9
6-9 pm, Women Impacting Greensboro, Chapel
- Sunday, August 12
12:15 pm Missions Meeting, Board Room
- Thursday, August 16
11:30 am, Forever 39, K&W
- Sunday, August 19
GUM Sunday (*Rice—any size, any kind*)
- Tuesday, August 21
7:30 pm PFLAG, Chapel
- Inside:*
- Pg. 2-3 *Stewart Detention Center Visit*
Nancy Lindemeyer
- Pg. 4-5 *Life Fulfilled*
Ed Smithey
- Pg. 7-9 *Stay Gold*
Kari Baumann

Stewart Detention Center Visit



Hi, my name is Nancy Lindemeyer and last weekend, I was privileged to be part of a group of individuals who visited the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia. We went to support both the immigrant detainees and their loved ones, and to let them know that they

are not alone. Michael kindly invited me to briefly share my experiences from the trip with you this morning. I want to take just a few minutes to tell you how I got involved in this effort and share a few of the stories of the **immigrant's we met.**

In the past year and a half, I have felt a general sense of malaise, due to decisions from the current administration about issues that are of critical importance to me. I **personally don't know how to carry around my** frustration at the things I see happening in our country today, and my tendency when I feel anxious is to hunker down at home with a blanket over my head, and shut the world out as much as I can. This of course makes me a lot of fun to be around.

But the images that came out 1½ weeks ago of children being taken from their immigrant parents, served as a call to action for me. My husband Tim Goetz works at FaithAction International House, an amazing local organization that serves and advocates for our immigrant neighbors. FaithAction was organizing a trip to the Stewart Detention Center to meet with and offer support to detainees. I signed on and 5 days later, joined 9 other people for the drive to GA. We were a mixed bag of people, ranging in age from 23 to 68, 2 employees of FA, a woman whose father is currently an illegal immigrant, and the rest of us were just humans stunned with the way immigrants are being treated.

When we got to Georgia, we stopped at a place called El Refugio, a hospitality house that provides food and lodging for family and friends of immigrants housed at the Detention Center. Stewart is one of the most remote immigration facilities in the country, located basically in **the middle of nowhere. It's difficult to find and it's** difficult to get to. There are no restaurants or hotels, and our group actually stayed in a hotel in Columbus, GA 45 minutes away, which while an inconvenience for us, is an impossibility for families who visit. El Refugio provides those friends and families a free place to stay.

I want to briefly share a few facts with you about Stewart:

- The Stewart Detention Center is a private for-profit prison operated by a company called CoreCivic that is under contract with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, to house immigrant

detainees.

- Stewart is a medium security facility that houses 1,800 men and some transgender women, who since **they were born men, are required to stay in a men's** facility.
- Stewart and its adjoining immigration court that determines the fate of its detainees has the highest deportation rate in the country. In 2016, less than 2% of men there won their cases. This is, in no small part due to the fact that only 6% of men there have an attorney. Again, the remote location works against detainees by making it difficult for attorneys to practice there.

So, we visited Stewart last Sunday morning. Photos were prohibited once we entered the parking lot. We were allowed to take nothing into the facility other than our ID and a card with the Alien number of the person we were visiting – no phone, no drinks or food, no paper, nothing to write with. This photo of Stewart is from their website, the facility is surrounded by chain link fence with concertina wire. It truly functions as a prison.

When we went inside the building, there were about 20 plastic chairs in the waiting room and waiting was really the order of the day. There were no restrooms available (again an inconvenience for us, an impossible situation for families with children). Stewart has a strict dress code and requires long pants, closed-toed shoes. While we were there, a young girl waiting to see her father-in-law was wearing jeans with holes in them, and a woman who had 3 children with her - one of whom was in a wheelchair - had on a sleeveless dress. Neither of them were going to be allowed to visit. Our group found pants and a shirt so they could.

Five of us from our group were called in to see our detainees. We went through a metal detector and then through 2 metal gates that locked behind us and stopped at a room with 5 partitions, each with a window and a phone. On the other side of the windows were the men we were there to visit. We had been told that the detainees might be depressed and not want to talk, that **we shouldn't make any promises to them about their** situation, and that we should let them lead the conversation and share what they wanted to with us.

Here are their stories...

Javid was a detainee from Pakistan, who left his country because of violence there. His four brothers also left and went to Dubai where they now work, but Javid wanted to come to America.

He traveled to Brazil, then up through the Darien Gap, which is a remote, roadless part of the jungle on the border of Panama and Columbia. He entered the US in California requesting asylum and was immediately flown to Stewart. He has been there for 18 months now.

When I talked to Javid, he was very hopeful that the judge would grant his asylum request. He has never been in any trouble, was fleeing a dangerous homeland situation, and has relatives in Ohio who own a restaurant where he plans to work as an accountant, which is what

he did in Pakistan. He is 23 years old. He asked me how old I was, and when I told him I was 57, he told me that **is his mother's age as well. Since she's still in Pakistan,** he said I could be his American mom. He put his hand on the window between us and smiled. I put my hand on the window as well and felt honored.

Javid asked me where our group was from, and I told him that we drove from Greensboro NC and that it had been a very long drive. And then I remembered that this man traveled through the Darien Gap, and I wished that I could take back those words of my perilous drive.

Javid spends his time at Stewart working in the kitchen from 4 am to 9 am, for \$4 a shift, playing soccer or football outside, watching movies. He has learned English and Spanish since he arrived here. He already knew 4 Pakistani dialects. He smiles frequently and told me over and over again that he still loves America and wants to be an American citizen. He was hopeful that his request for asylum would be granted, and we ended our visit with hope in our hearts.

2 footnotes: Javid gave me permission to call his uncle at the restaurant in Ohio and I did so telling them that Javid was hopeful and healthy. They were more than grateful.

On Tuesday night, I got a call from Javid, who told me that the judge had denied his asylum request. He is **going to try to appeal, but he doesn't have a lawyer.**

Ashra is from Somalia. After the murder of his father and oldest sister, he sought asylum in the US. He entered the country at a legal point of entry in California. He broke no US laws; he presented himself properly and legally to Border Patrol and requested asylum. Ashra was detained on the spot and transferred to Stewart to await the decision on his asylum request. That was 3 years ago.

He was 21 years old when he was detained, and he is now 24. His blue jumpsuit signifies that his behavior in prison is good; he has not been in any trouble or fights. The non-violent, well behaved prisoners sleep in a barracks that holds 62 men and is called the chicken coop. The lights are never turned off. Ashra has not slept in the dark in 3 years. He has frequent headaches and his eyes hurt him, but health care is limited and delayed at Stewart.

In his 3 years there, Ashra has learned English, Spanish, and Arabic, and is learning Italian. He loves to play chess and soccer. He loves coffee with a little milk. He is smart and kind and curious. And bored and lonely and hopeless. He prays for his freedom, to see his mother, and to become a mechanic.

Jose left his country at age 17 with a friend and with the dream that America would offer them opportunity and education. They spent three months traveling through dangerous environments, including the Darien Gap. The friend he traveled with who shared his dream died along the way. Jose arrived at the US port of entry believing he could tell his story and earn the right to work and be educated in the United States. He was immediately sent to Stewart. On May 28, he celebrated his

20th birthday - still behind bars. He believes that he has a chance to get asylum.

These are their stories. We share them so that they are not forgotten. We share them, because although each story is different, each story is also the same as the thousands of immigrants whose hopes for prosperity and safety in America have been reduced to spending their years waiting in a detention center.

If you want to know more or if you want to get more involved, FaithAction has provided us with handouts with **ways you can help. If you're interested, they are here.**

Thank you so much for listening to these stories today.

Nancy Lindemeyer
1 July 2018



Healing Rhythms

Sunday, August 5
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.
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Free and open to all.

Life Fulfilled



Worth Theodore Smithey

How do we measure a life? In a consumption-driven world, some will say career achievement and the accumulation of monetary wealth is the guide. In the ever-younger society of our nation, the millennial generation places a very high value on the collection of experiences. Our religious faiths, regardless of denomination, place the building of a relationship with **God as a life's highest**

achievement. Family and the love found within it is often the scale

employed in a life measure. Many would say that legacy and impact are the ultimate means by which a life should be judged. By all these measures and so many more, Worth Theodore Smithey lived a life fulfilled.

Worth was born in Wilkes County on October 15, 1930, the fourth child of Otto and Clara Smithey. For many families of today, that would be an enormous number, but Otto and Clara were just getting started. By the time the dust and the diapers had settled, Dad would find himself as one of eleven siblings. The entire roster read as Gladys, Ralph, Ruth, Worth, Willa Mae, Lucille, Wayne, Joyce, Clayton, Geraldine (Jeri), and Debbie.

There are no words except maybe... WOW. The Great Depression era had a tremendous effect on our country and the poverty the depression brought was even more intense in the foothills and mountains of North Carolina. Otto and Clara did everything they could to provide for their family, but the times and economic realities meant that even the necessities were hard to provide. The hardships Dad and his family endured shaped his character, as it did to most folks living through this period. Dad learned that self-sacrifice for your children is a very important part of being a parent, to never take anything for granted, and that hard work and dedication are essential to survival. His mom and dad made countless sacrifices for their children without spoiling them. Dad learned these lessons well, he was careful with his money and his possessions (you never, ever wanted to slam one of his car doors shut), and he had a work ethic that I have never seen matched by anyone, anywhere. These blocks in his foundation would allow him find both professional and monetary success in later life, exceeding what he ever thought was possible.

Dad's path to collecting experiences began at an early age, wound its way through the middle of his life, and continued all the way through his later years. Growing up in 1930's and 1940's Wilkes County was "colorful" to say the least and Dad loved to tell stories of driving log trucks down the mountains long before he had seen sixteen years, crossing the Yadkin River from North Wilkesboro to Wilkesboro and getting in fights because he was in the wrong Wilkesboro, and yes, running moonshine in a '40 Ford. While collecting some of these

experiences, he met Mary Ruth Brock. She was beautiful, sassy, and he was instantly in love. They married during a blinding snowstorm on Christmas Eve 1949 and realities of living in Wilkes County during that time pushed Dad to start a new path. Dad told me many times that soon after my older brother Ronnie was born in 1951, he realized that if he and mom remained in Wilkes County, driving log trucks and running illegal liquor, he was going to either end up in jail or dead. They **packed up their new family and moved to the "big" city to the east, Greensboro.** Dad found work a tire shop but he found his lifelong career when he was hired by the **Carolina Steel Corporation. Dad's love of steel, how he could burn it, cut it, shape it, and weld it brought him through the ranks of the corporation, all the way to vice-president level.** Of all his many accomplishments at Carolina Steel, he was most proud of being in charge of the building of several new multi-million-dollar steel **plants from the ground up. Dad's professional experiences didn't end when retired from Carolina Steel** as he helped create two successful steel parts fabrication businesses from scratch. Experiences were not just limited to the work arena. In 1962, mom and dad were blessed with a second child and many of his sisters swear that this child was the most adorable in the family! Dad loved to ride motorcycles and he and Ronnie had many great adventures riding, nearly wrecking, tearing down and rebuilding their bikes. Later in life, Worth loved to travel, touring Europe and the British Isles twice, seeing Japan, and experiencing the wildlife wonders of South Africa. This barefoot kid from Wilkes County had experienced life as few have been able or brave enough to do.

Faith was important Dad but he renewed and deepened his Christian beliefs when he became a **Free Mason in the 1980's. Dad would come home at night, as progressed through the masonic levels, thrilled with how his relationship with God was growing.** All too soon, his faith would be tested in the most severe of ways. In October of 1994, Mom was diagnosed with lung cancer. **Throughout Mom's battle with cancer and death, Dad's faith never wavered, and his trust in Jesus Christ grew ever stronger.** After Dad truly retired, he returned to Wilkes and found the church he would call his own. Wilkesboro Baptist was his place of refuge, meditation, and spiritual restoration. Dad loved this church and through it he became closer to God and brought his level of faith ever higher.

To say that family was important to my Dad is an inconceivable understatement. My Mom, Ronnie and his daughter Morgan and I were the center of his world, no sacrifice was too great, no demand too extreme. He loved his mother and father intensely and did everything he could to care for Clara after Otto died far too soon. Few things gave him more peace and enjoyment than to hop on his Harley Sportster early on a Saturday morning and ride to have breakfast with his mom. As for his brothers and sisters, there is no way that you can discuss **any Smithey sibling individually. Otto and Clara's eleven** were so interconnected, so intertwined that at times it was like you were dealing with a single person with

eleven faces. Dad adored family gatherings and the absolute chaos that bringing the eleven together with their children as well would cause. Dad brought a little of Wilkes to Greensboro by having his brothers Wayne and Clayton with him and he could not imagine life any other way. I am sure that if he could, he would have packed his entire family into one house so he could love and protect us all. Of course, he could not protect us from everything and the loss of my Mom in 1995 was devastating to him. He was supposed to go first and get everything ready for her and in many ways, he felt he had failed the most precious thing in his life. Dad told me often how much caring for my Mom in the nine months leading up to her death meant to him, how they had never been closer. It made losing her that much more intense, but he would not have traded that time for anything.

He moved back to Wilkes after mom died to re-connect with the siblings he loved so much and bring some peace to his still bleeding soul. Dad had always told me that while he might date and go out, there was no way that he would ever marry again. I wholeheartedly believed that until one day he called me while I was on duty and stated that he was bringing someone by for me **to meet. It wasn't a "hey if you're not busy I'd like you meet this person" request, it was a this is the way it is statement.** From the moment Pat Faw walked into that **fire station, it was apparent she was different. Dad's eyes were bright again, and his huge ears were pulled far back on his head by a tremendous smile. That "never marry again" conviction didn't account for what he had found.** Pat Smithey brought him so much love and another **wonderful family he could call his own. Dad loved Pat's children and grandchildren as if they had always been his and delighted in the fact that our families had become inseparable.** In many ways, Dad spent his life building and nurturing families and he succeeded brilliantly.

There is no way that anyone can fully explain or describe the impact that Worth Smithey had professionally and on the places and people around him. He was an important part of bringing the Carolina Steel Corporation from a state company to a regional power. He helped to found two companies that provided jobs and security to many and they live on to this day. Although circumstances forced Dad to quit school after the **8th grade, education was important part of Dad's life.** He always regretted this fact and earned his GED after he moved to Greensboro. He made sure there was never any question of if Ronnie and I were going to attend college, it was just a matter of where. He was very proud when Ronnie graduated from Guilford College, and when I, after far too long delay, graduated from UNC-Greensboro. And of course, you can not talk about this man without talking about the love he had for Duke University. I asked him one time how he became so dedicated to the university and he told me that growing up in Wilkes, everyone around him were Carolina fans and he did not want to be like everyone else. As soon as he was financially able, he became an Iron Duke member for life. We spent countless days wandering the campus,

Casserole Committee

College Park Casserole Committee needs new team members! We deliver food (homemade or picked up at a favorite place) to folks in need—with a new baby at home, or after surgery, or for any reason that makes nourishment hard to accomplish alone.

Signups are sent to your email via Sign-Up Genius, and you choose a date that works for you. All the details (food preferences, address, phone, best times, favorite carry-outs) come in the email. Contact me with any questions you have or simply to be put on the team list.

Lexi Eagles 336-314-8295 or lexieagles96@gmail.com.



attending every sporting event he could get tickets to. Ronnie and I grew up listening to stories of Art Heyman, Dick Grote, and Dick De Venzio and how one day, the devils were going to bring home a national **championship. I can't express the elation he felt the night Duke won its first national title in 1991.** It was one of the few times that I ever saw him cry, other than at the loss a family member.

The impact Dad had on the people around him is really difficult to describe. He demanded excellence from his co-workers and helped them to find the best within themselves. Dad took in mine and my brothers friends and treated them like his own. My friend Randy Barnes is here today and has told me many times that Dad was his second father and helped shape him into the person he is today. If describing the impact Dad had on the people around him is difficult, expressing the impact he had on his family is impossible. He provided anything and everything my mother, my brother or I needed, without question. He cared for his mother in declining health. He cared for my Mom in her final few months with a love that only God could surpass. He brought Pat and her family completely into his heart and helped to blend two families into one that will always be together.

Pop, I would say rest in peace but I know that is not possible. You are far too busy reuniting with loved ones and tinkering on something, making it better than it was before.

We mourn the loss of a wonderful man, Worth Theodore Smithey, but we should not, we can not morn the life he lead because he lead a life fulfilled.

Ed Smithey

New York Mission Report—Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey

Happy summertime, y'all!

With warmer weather, there is a lot of energy and activity in New York City, especially at Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries. We have a lot going on here, and the thing I'm most excited about is the beginning of our [Living Well alumni group](#).



You've heard me talk about Living Well before because I coordinate this life skills empowerment program for survivors of domestic violence and homelessness. Together with the Living Well team, we have recently connected with our graduates from years past and started a monthly gathering. Because these women share trustingly with each other and allow me to bear witness to their stories, they are teaching me that we never stop needing our community to rally around us. Domestic violence is an extremely isolating trauma, and even after graduating the program, survivors continue to struggle with isolation. I've listened to women echo their peer's struggles and immediately offer a point of connection, wanting to support and hold each other up. When these women come together, they create sacred ground.



This week was our first week of [CLUE \(Children Living the Urban Experience\) Camp](#), and we're welcoming 60 children and 20 teenagers to dance, play, create and learn with us all summer. Our campers, who mostly come from the Hell's Kitchen area, spend the whole day with us. CLUE Camp is a collaboration with our sister church Greater Restoration Baptist in Brooklyn, and it wouldn't be possible without the 6+ volunteer church groups who help us put it on. I'm super excited to have a few of my partner churches--Smoke Rise Baptist, College Park Church and Wilshire Baptist--coming to lead camp with us this year!



In April, we spent a day planting baby plants in kiddie pools on our roof, officially opening the [Hell's Kitchen Farm Project](#) for the season. Since then, we've had loads of volunteers and several harvests. On Mondays, I water the whole rooftop farm. Since March, we have hosted six [Urban Immersion](#) teams, visiting groups who join us in learning, working, playing and praying in New York City. In the mornings, I debrief with these groups, and we talk about missions, homelessness and a theology of abundance.

We've got a lot going on around here these days. And it's all contributing to deeper, more connected, more whole community in our corner of NYC. I'm grateful to have you on this journey with me.

Peace,



Stay Gold

In her book *Walking on Water*, Madeleine L'Engle says, **“Jesus was not a theologian. He was God who told stories.”** As a school librarian, I find that quote to be particularly meaningful because I have put my faith in the power of stories to teach, to connect, and to renew. A favorite song in our house is called **“The Story”** and when telling about her life the singer, Brandi Carlile, says, **“These stories don’t mean anything if you’ve got no one to tell them to.”** We make meaning by sharing our stories, by holding them and caring for one another’s stories.

In a sense, the New Testament is just a lot of people telling stories about how Jesus changed their lives. We’ve got the gospel writers telling us what happened, we’ve got Luke telling us about the formation of the church in Acts, we’ve got a lot of people like Paul and James and John writing letters about what being a Christian looks like. They were making meaning of their very real experience with Jesus and with one another.

Today’s text comes from Colossians. Colossians is a letter, probably/possibly written by Paul, to the Colossian assembly, which itself was probably made up of slaves as well as free women and their children. The Colossian assembly appears to have been struggling with **“mystery cults” that encouraged the new Christians to combine worship of God with their practices in order to receive ecstatic spiritual experiences.** (Um, talk about a good story, I’d like to hear more about that!) Paul (or whoever the author was) wanted the Colossians to know who they are in Christ, that they are rooted and renewed in the message of Jesus.

When I was looking up information about this text, I realized that it is often in the lectionary as a Christmas text, used just before or just after Christmas. But the reason that I chose it on this July day is that Mike and I had today’s text read at our wedding, which was 18 years ago today, and I chose this reference to be inscribed on the inside of Mike’s wedding band. The NIV version, of course. That should tell you something about how much I like it, because in general I would say that I find many of the letters written by Paul to be challenging. He’s not always my favorite to wrestle with, and there are other passages by Paul about husbands and wives that we did not have in our wedding. This passage in Colossians, though, paints a beautiful picture for any relationship or community about renewal. About what is possible. And this renewal comes through three main strands: the fruit of the spirit, gratitude, and forgiveness. Last week in the sermon talkback, there was a comment that said that we have been talking a lot this summer about *why* to be kind but sometimes it helps to think about *how* to be kind. I think that’s what this passage does, and I think it’s why, 18 years ago, even as we were tiny babies getting married, we opted to choose these verses as something we wanted to build a relationship on. This was, in a sense, the story we hoped to tell about our lives together.

Earlier in this chapter, Paul is describing the sinful behavior that the community must leave behind now that they are in Christ. These verses begin by talking about the virtues, the fruit of the spirit, that they should clothe themselves in instead: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, love. As I was thinking about these verses over the past few weeks, I could not help but think of a story that I think most of you already know, a story that changed my life when I was a little girl. Mr. Rogers, zipping up his sweater, changing his shoes. In order to be what the kids in the viewing audience needed, he had to literally clothe himself in a ritual that even **Koko the Gorilla knew. It’s a little bit unfair for the rest of us to have compare ourselves to Mr. Rogers, because Fred Rogers was a shining example of someone who easily wore those virtues all the time.** I recently saw the documentary *Won’t You Be My Neighbor* (ok, I cried throughout, but that counts as “saw”) and one of the details that struck me was that his son said that Mr. Rogers was the same person we saw on TV. He did also say that if Mr. Rogers had something negative to say about someone else, he would say it in Lady Elaine Fairchild’s voice, the troublemaker from the Neighborhood of Make-Believe. I laughed to think that Mr. Rogers had to put on a different persona in order to embrace his vices rather than putting on virtue as Paul described. **Mr. Rogers’ everyday example is more like what the rest of us should be putting on.**

Besides the Mr. Rogers parallels, I love the clothing metaphor because it is such a reminder of this idea of **renewal. We can change what we are doing. If you didn’t put on your patience hat today, you can try again tomorrow.** I can leave behind my lying pants or my slanderous shoes. All of us can zip up a better sweater tomorrow. Though we often think of renewal as fully interior, as something that is going on inside, what we put on - our behavior - is a way to bring about renewal.

The passage even starts by saying, **“As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved,” which echoes Mr. Rogers’ constant benediction,** “You’ve made this day a special day, by just your being you. There’s no person in the whole world like you; and I like you just the way you are.” He was embodying this part of the passage, where love binds together all the virtues in perfect unity. Unfortunately for all of us, love does not bind *people* together in *perfect* unity, but it does bind our efforts together.

I was fascinated to see how the virtues that are listed were grouped, and how that is different than other places in scripture. Many of you are familiar with the fruit of the spirit as listed in Galatians - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In 1 Corinthians, there are faith, hope, and love, but the greatest is love. In this passage, we see a direction that moves from forgiveness to love to harmony to peace to gratitude. In the sequence here, is the greatest of these **“thank you”?**

When I was a teenager, there was a popular song by DC

Continued on pg. 8

Talk that said that love is a verb. We all know that love as a feeling can cause us to act - can be a commitment that we embrace. It moves from a noun to a verb. This was the story that Mr. Rogers wanted to tell to children, and his ministry was a story of love.

One thing that surprised me when I was meditating on this scripture is how much gratitude is actually like love. I struggle with the idea of gratitude sometimes, of forced thank you notes or flowery journals in which to write things that I am grateful for. But I have begun to realize that gratitude can be more like love, a powerful motivator. A feeling *and* a choice. We may feel it, or we may not, but it can cause us to act even when the emotions abandon us. We often think of gratitude as an individual exchange - you give me something and I am grateful, or vice versa, but the truth is that gratitude connects us to one another. When we consider the constant flow of giving and receiving and responding that happens all around us all the time, we too become more generous. In community, this might look like service, but it might also look like the Bakeoff, or the music ministry. It looks like everyone who serves on a committee, everyone who has given and received and kept the cycle going.

This summer I read a book called *Grateful* by Diana Butler Bass, which is a meditation on gratitude. One particular thing that she said that stuck out to me was **the importance of communal gratitude. She says “A community centered on gratitude can lead to a grateful society. Feeling grateful is not only play, but a form of politics. Gratitude is joy, and gratitude is justice . . . The kind of transformative thanksgiving that makes all things new, cannot be quiet in the face of injustice.”** She goes on to say that a personal ethic of being grateful is not enough. We must think more broadly of our habits of considering grace and gifts, of being aware of humility and blessing, of setting tables and **sharing food for all. In this sense, she says, “Gratitude is not merely resilience. Gratitude is resistance too.”** This, too, is a powerful story of community and relationship.

Paul specifically calls out music as an important part **of the community’s life, and if I were Rydell or Keith I’d be able to break into song right now, but I unfortunately do not have the voice for that. I am going to have to stick with stories as my form of communication. Although I can’t sing, music is an important part of our house. When thinking about the idea of forgiveness in the passage, another story from a musician did come to mind.**

Brandi Carlile, who I mentioned before, put out an **album this year called, “By the Way, I Forgive You.” It almost sounds like a joke, and sometimes when Mike forgets something at the grocery store, I’ll use it that way. “Oh, I forgot the pickles.” “By the way, I forgive you!” The entire album is a meditation on relationships and forgiveness. When she was promoting the album, she asked people to share stories of forgiveness, and on**

social media people poured out stories of pain and renewal in a way that I found beautiful. The story Brandi herself shared really touched my heart. She said that she forgave Pastor Tim, who was supposed to baptize her when she was a teenager, who waited until all of her friends and family were gathered, and then **said that he wouldn’t baptize her after all because she is gay. She said that she forgives him. And then she said this, to him: “I’d like you to know that I still love you and that I understand we’re all on a journey together, trying our best to walk through the world with honor and dignity - but what I want you to know most of all is that you did not damage my faith. Not in god, not in humanity and not in myself. The experience inspired me to help other gay kids and my spiritual LGBTQ brothers and sisters come to terms with the disappointments they’ve endured on the rugged road to peace and acceptance. I think you’d appreciate that process.”**

I had to sit with this for a while when I read it. Her words are, to me, a radical and living example of this passage. She lets love unify her. She forgives. And she even expresses what she is grateful for - the idea that she has been able to help others. She could not have come to that place quickly, or easily, or without a lot of work for many years.

Please hear me clearly: I do not think we should be grateful for violence or injustice or oppression or suffering. There are many things in life that have happened to me and to my friends and to this community that I cannot find gratitude for. Nor do I think that forgiveness is something that should come quickly or cheaply. But I think that gratitude and love and forgiveness can allow us to see the world as it is and to challenge it to tell a different type of story.

In that vein, I think that any meditation on relationships deserves at least a passing mention of the idea of anger. In 18 years, Mike and I have managed to be angry at each other once or twice, and in 15 years at this church, many of you could say the same about me. Earlier in the chapter, Paul mentions that one of the things to leave behind is bad temper, or meanness. In **some translations, it’s called anger. But I don’t think anger is what Paul is talking about here. I think anger can actually be a powerful force for good. When I was watching the Mr. Rogers movie, I was actually struck by how angry he was, on behalf of children. He thought that only giving children terrible entertainment was a sin. He thought that not recognizing the value of children’s emotions was a sin. And he was angry about it, and that anger led him to create something that helped millions of children, including me, to know that all of us are special the way we are, that it’s okay to feel and express emotions, and that kids deserve a place to feel safe and loved. Mr. Rogers’ anger led him to put on that sweater, to clothe himself in virtue and go out there for kids. Anger at injustice can cause us to get out of bed, to put on our shoes, and to go do the work that needs to be done, the work of loving, the work of forgiving, and the hard work of being grateful. Anger,**

then, is not separate from the virtues we experience but it can drive us to put on these virtues.

In her Netflix special *Nanette*, Hannah Gadsby also talks, at the very end, about anger. She starts off telling jokes, but throughout the special, as she tells her story of abuse and marginalization as a woman and as a butch lesbian, she shares her anger at how she has been treated. Ultimately, she comes to the conclusion that her anger is not enough, even sweetened with laughter, to make the change we need. She concludes, in part, that the only way that we can be united is by **listening to one another's stories, by taking care of each other's stories.**

Paul says to let the peace of Christ keep us in step, but this must mean that there is justice, that it is rolling down, and it probably took some righteous anger to make it happen. Before there was peace, people probably were hurt. Tell that story: You woke up and tried again to clothe yourself in compassion, despite the dismissive thing he said yesterday. You forgave, despite the pain of what happened when you were a child. You found something to be grateful for as a powerful act of defiance and hope.

You worked for peace. You saw the news of children being separated from their families and you raised money to help pay lawyers. You were worried about gun violence of all kinds and you marched. You fed and clothed refugees. You took meals to a new parent. You taught a kid how to read. You made sure a transgender youth knew that she was loved and that the world is better with her in it. You helped at VBS. You called and cried with a friend after Charleston and Charlottesville and Pulse. You made sure people without a place to stay had food and shelter when it was cold outside. You wrote letters to your friend in prison. You sat with your **friend struggling with drug addiction so they didn't** have to be alone.

You lived as though you believed the story that Paul was telling the Colossians: you are chosen by God for this new life of love.

Ok, one more story.

When Michael asked me if I'd be interested in preaching this summer, I asked him what the summer sermon series would be. He said, "Be Golden," and before I realized that he was talking about the Golden Rule, I asked him if I could do an entire sermon on the **many fine qualities of S.E. Hinton's young adult novel, *The Outsiders*, which I imagine many of you read in school at some point. It was written when S.E. Hinton was just a teenager herself. It's still taught in many schools and still elicits a lot of emotions among students. Even though it was published in 1967, there are many things about it that feel fresh to this day. The most famous line is, "Stay gold, Ponyboy," which is of course why I thought of it for "Be Golden." In the book, two of the main characters discuss the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost, which talks about the beauty of nature and how impermanent it is. "Stay gold," Johnny says, encouraging Ponyboy to refuse**

cynicism, to seek beauty in the world, to keep his purity of heart.

This is what Paul is saying, too. In Jesus, you are a new creation. Clothe yourselves in these virtues. Find gratitude. Pursue forgiveness. Be renewed. This is a powerful story that we can read, that we can share, and that we can tell with our lives. As Johnny would say, so I would say to all of you: Stay gold.

Kari Baumann
15 July 2018



Connections

Are you a college student or recently graduated student living away from home? Are you a family with a heart for young people? If so, Connections is the ministry for you.

Connections is a recent College Park ministry that hopes to connect college students/early young adults with families in the hopes of building nurturing relationships. If you'd like to participate in this ministry, as a student or family, please sign up in the hallway outside the Chapel.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEGE PARK KIDS

The best summer ever is right around the corner. Here are some great opportunities that will make it even better!!

College Park VBS

This year our camp will run Monday - Thursday evening, Aug. 6-9, 5:30 - 7:45pm. Come join us for a week of exploring the heroes of our faith and what it means to be a hero for God's world. Campers 4-years-old through 5th grade (rising 6th grade) are welcome to join us. We will offer childcare for children birth - 18 months, a toddler class for children 2 - 3 yrs., and an adult bible study 6:00 - 7:00pm that will cover the same stories your children/grandchildren are learning in VBS.

VBS will kick-off on Sunday, Aug. 5 at noon with pizza and a movie in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Creation Project

Have you taken a photograph that always reminds you of the infinite beauty of God's creation, or have you made a piece of visual art through which you felt able to express God in and through the act of creation? We are looking for photographs and pieces of art created by College Park members to display in our church halls. These pieces will serve as a regular reminder of the awesome beauty of creation, as observed and expressed by our members! If you'd like to submit a photograph or piece of art, please include the following information with the piece:



Name/Brief Description of Piece
Name of Photographer/Artist
Date/Year of Photograph/Artwork

...and send a high-resolution photograph to: christianmcivor@gmail.com. Photos should be cropped for standard frame sizes (5x7, 8x10, 11x14, 16x20). Art pieces and works that are already framed can be accepted in the church office throughout the week or on Sunday. We look forward to seeing your submissions!

Creation Justice Ministry at College Park

If you have a passion for environmental and ecological concerns and have interest in being part of a ministry group that works to protect, restore, and rightly share God's Creation at the local level and beyond, please speak to **Christian McIvor** after today's service and/or email: christianmcivor@gmail.com.

Ultimate Frisbee



Ready to get out and run? Join us for Ultimate Frisbee Monday nights, 6:00 pm, at Lake Daniel Park (corner of Radiance and Mimosa). No experience is necessary. Bring a red shirt, a white shirt, and some water and you are good to go! You will learn as you play! Or just bring a chair and relax and chat with your friends and watch the game.

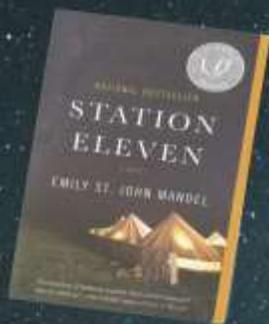
Ultimate Frisbee is a non-contact sport (most of the time) played on a field with two end zones. If you have the Frisbee, you cannot run, but must pass it to another team mate. Points are scored by catching the Frisbee in the end zone. If we have enough players, we can have beginner and advanced games going at **the same time. Follow on Facebook at "College Park Frisbee."** For more information, contact Stephen Jones at stephen.jones25@hotmail.com.



Women Impacting Greensboro

WIG will meet at College Park on Thursday, August 9, 6-9 pm in the Chapel. For more information, visit the *Women Impacting Greensboro* facebook page.

Women of Valor & Mostly Men's Occasional Book Club Summer Read



Next Meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 14, 6:30 pm
Sticks & Stones

Dipe! Wipe! Swipe!



Our College Park Nursery is growing! 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.

Mike & Wendy Ferris are grandparents. Their daughter Sarah Brown had baby girl Cora Parker Brown on June 13th, **2 1/2 lbs. She is home now. Mike & Wendy's address: 2903 Wynnewood Dr., Greensboro 27408.**

Christian & Chrissy McIvor welcomed River Grace, born June 21st. Address: 5207 Carolwood Dr., Greensboro 27407

Tisha Douglas & Courtnee Hummel are expecting a baby.

Announcements

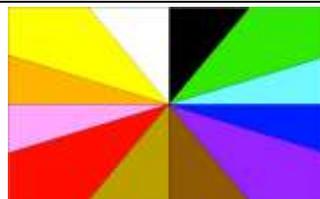
College Park Website

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



Unity flag magnets are now available for \$2/2 magnets. Take an extra magnet to give to a friend as a way of spreading the love and message of unity.

You may also order and pay online:

<http://www.collegeparkchurch.com/unity-flag/>

Prayer Requests

Please write prayer requests on a visitor information card and place in the offering plate or put prayer requests in the prayer box in the Prayer Room.



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.

Address Changes

Chuck & Caroline Joyce: 366 Carlisle Park Dr., Kernersville 27284-7111

Roland Russoli & Sarah Nelson: 2510 Kensington Gardens #207, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Please wear your name tag on Sundays.

If you do not have a name tag, please contact the church office and one will be ordered for you.

336-273-1779 or cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net



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.

August GUM Donation

Rice (any size, any kind)

Place donations in the wicker basket in the side foyer entrance (beside the bookshelves).



Zumba classes meet Mondays (\$3), 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall & Tuesdays (\$5 or \$20 for 5 classes) 6 pm in the Chapel.
Be sure to join us for fun & fellowship!

Online Church Directory

Looking for a CP member's address, phone number or email?

Visit the College Park Online Directory.:

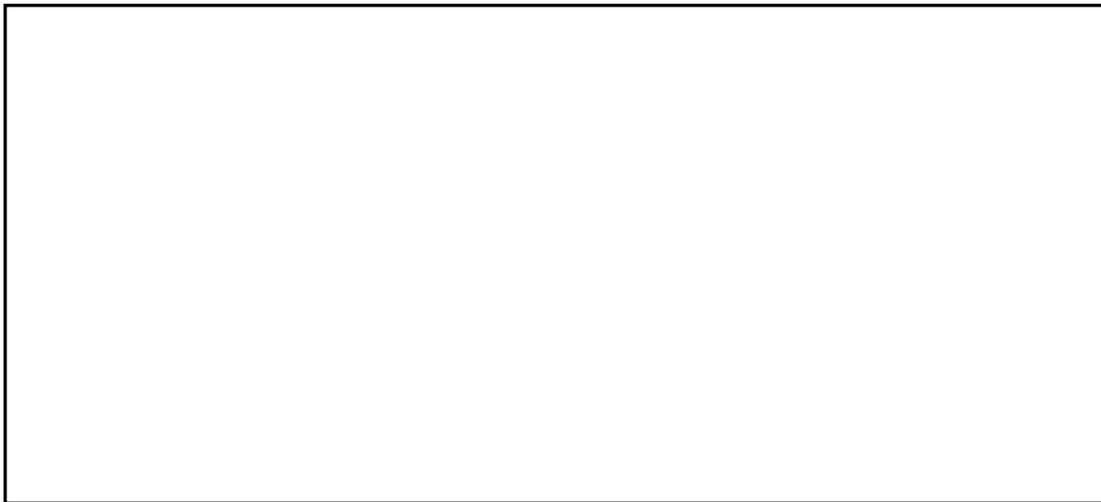
<http://www.churchdirectory.com>, member login: cpbc1601gbo

Please let the church office know if any information needs updating. You can also add a photo of your family by sending it to the office: cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit 245
Greensboro, NC

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

Return Service Requested



Looking Ahead—August

Aug.

- 1 **NA noon, Chapel; Bible Study 6:30 pm at Usey's home**
- 2 NA noon, Chapel
- 3 AI-Anon noon, Chapel; Guilford Green Foundation 2-4 pm, Chapel
- 5 8:30 am Tessera, Chapel; 10 am Coffee Time, Chapel; 10:30 am Blended Service, Sanctuary; VBS Kick-off noon in FH
- 6 NA Noon, Chapel; VBS 5:30-7:45 pm, FH; Bible Study 6 pm, Chapel
- 8 NA Noon, Chapel; VBS 5:30-7:45 pm, FH; Bible Study 6 pm, Chapel
- 9 NA Noon, Chapel; VBS 5:30-7:45 pm, FH; Bible Study 6 pm, Sanctuary; Women Impacting Greensboro 6-9 pm, Chapel
- 10 AI-Anon Noon, Fellowship Hall
- 12 8:30 am Tessera, Chapel; 10 am Coffee Time, Chapel; 10:30 am Blended Worship, Sanctuary; Missions Meeting 12:15 pm, Board Room
- 13 NA Noon, Chapel; Zumba 6 pm, FH
- 14 NA Noon, Chapel; Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
- 15 NA Noon, Chapel
- 16 Forever 39 11:30 am, K&W; NA Noon, Chapel
- 17 AI-Anon Noon, FH
- 19 GUM Sunday; 8:30 am Tessera, Chapel; 10 am Coffee Time, Chapel; 10:30 am Blended Worship, Sanctuary
- 20 NA Noon, Chapel; Zumba 6 pm, FH
- 21 NA Noon, Chapel; Zumba 6 pm, Chapel; PFLAG 7:30 pm, Chapel
- 22 NA Noon, Chapel
- 23 NA Noon, Chapel
- 24 AI-Anon Noon, FH
- 26 8:30 am Tessera; 10 am Coffee Time, Chapel; 10:30 am Blended Worship
- 27 NA Noon, Chapel; Zumba 6 pm, FH
- 28 NA Noon, Chapel; Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
- 29 NA Noon, Chapel
- 30 NA Noon, Chapel
- 31 AI-Anon Noon, FH

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

Alliance of Baptists - American Baptist Churches
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Every Member a Minister

Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer
Diane Ingold—taking a (new) knee
Darlene Johnson, Sexton
Amy Lowrance, Deacon Chair
Christian McIvor, Assistant Minister
David Soyars, Organist
Lin Story-Bunce, Associate Minister
Michael S. Usey, Pastor
Annette Waisner, Office & Media Manager

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Progressive - Diverse - Ecumenical