

Why Daniel Means so Much to Us

(Jerry) My wife (Lisa) and I have been wrestling with the issue of homosexuality for a lot of years. 20+ years ago we learned that my oldest brother is gay. Seven years ago we learned our youngest son is gay. Lisa and I were both raised in churches that told us homosexuality was a sin.

(Jerry) After years of bible study and talking with knowledgeable people, we now believe it is not a sin. Believing this alone just didn't seem to be enough. I was wrestling with my level of support for my brother and son. We continued loving them as we always have but we weren't doing anything to support the LGBT community.

(Lisa) I had to work through the guilt of not recognizing that our son was gay and raising him in a church where he could not be himself, so that he could worship a God he had known since birth. It was after he told us he was gay that he started coming to College Park while going to UNCG and before moving to NY. He has joined a church much like College Park called Middle Collegiate where he is strong in his faith as well as himself. Our oldest son (Derek) and our daughter in law (Kathleen) helped us also with biblical passages that were contradictory and confusing; both of them have double masters in religious studies. God in his wonderful grace and mercy was using our children to help us heal and grow. We came to the conclusion for us that God loves everyone and God does not want us to tolerate injustice.

(Jerry) One Sunday last Fall while studying Daniel 3 in Sunday school, it hit us that like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we needed to stand up for what we believe regarding gay rights. We finally realized that doing nothing was a bad thing.

(Lisa) We have heard from Jerry's brother over the years that he did not like the Methodist stance on homosexuals. So we looked up exactly what was in the doctrine and based on that, we decided we had to leave the Methodist church. We contacted our pastor and told him that we were leaving and asked him to please make sure the people he reported to and church members knew why we were leaving.

(Jerry) So the book of Daniel has special meaning for Lisa and I, it inspired us to take a stand. We applaud College Park for the stand you took did 10 years ago supporting the LGBT community. We enjoy the diversity in this church and hope to be a part of its growth. We feel so blessed that God led us to here Thank you for letting us share.
Jerry & Lisa Elkins

Missions Committee

Collecting School Supplies for Teachers

This year the Missions Committee is collecting school supplies for teachers who attend CPBC. Many teachers spend their own money to provide their students with things that the school doesn't supply or doesn't supply enough for all students. Help out by picking up a few of the items listed below and placing them in the marked box in the church lobby. Lots of office supply and discount stores have great deals on school supplies at this time of year. Also, remember that NC does a "sales tax holiday" August 5-7 where you can get many of these items without paying tax! Deadline to drop off your supplies is Wednesday, August 31. Thanks for helping College Park educate children!

Items on teacher wish lists: Ziplock bags - all sizes, address labels any size, pencils, pencil sharpeners, Mechanical Pencils (refillable ones), .07mm Mechanical Pencil Lead, Erasers, Altoids/breath mints, Graph Paper, Paper, Computer Paper/ Copy paper, Dry Erase Markers, Dry Erase Eraser, Card Stock, Tissues, Scissors, child sized and adult sized, Rulers (12in kind), AA batteries, Laminating paper, Tape, Hand Sanitizer, Crayons, Washable markers, White glue, Liquid tempera paint.

Baptismal Statement

The journey that led me to my baptism today has been far from "traditional" but that's what's most appropriate for me. Most people can say that they were brought up in church, but for me, all I can say is I was brought up around religion.

From the youth group of a southern Baptist church to the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, my understanding of religion, faith and who God is, was as non-traditional as one could be. Although all of these doctrines of beliefs are different, they shared one thing in common.... the condemnation of homosexuals. The understanding of God that I had developed and the one that I was taught were totally different perceptions of who I believed God to be.

My beliefs have never wavered given the diversity of faith I had grown up around. I had always believed that Jesus is the son of God, sent by God to show us God's love and compassion for a broken and hurting world. Not only did I whole heartedly believe and understand this, but at most of the places I worshipped they taught this as well. However, they also gave a very different picture of the God whom I believed to be of love.

At many places God was depicted as a judgmental, condemning being. As you can imagine, as a youth this brought about a plethora of emotions within me. I questioned my beliefs, who I was and am, and even at one point, contemplated death. It is because of this questioning and inner struggle that I have never been baptized. I found myself constantly wandering if I was worthy of baptism, and if although I am gay, did God still love me? Difficult questions for most people to answer, especially youth, but even more difficult when all you've ever been taught is to condemn or hate those who were like you.

Fortunately, the story did not end there. My Grandma, a Jehovah's Witness and loving woman always said that "If God sees you to it, He will see you through it." As always, Grandma was right. About the time I was at my deepest, most intense struggle with the idea of my sexuality and spirituality being both equal and important parts of me, my best friend, Lin, started interning at College Park. I started attending Sunday service on occasion. As always, my guard was up for fear of someone condemning me for who I am. Slowly I found that College Park was very different from the churches I had attended in past. I became comfortable and open. For the first time I felt like I was at home in a church.

It is with no reservations, inner struggle, or questioning that I come forward for baptism today. With the guidance and support of College Park members as well as dear friends, I whole heartedly accept the journey ahead. I look forward to showing others that God is a loving and accepting God through my life. This ends one chapter and begins a brand new one..... So let the journey begin!

Hayatt Saei

Men's Occasional Book Club

Our next book read for the Men's Occasional Book Club is *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins and the discussion is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 6:00-7:30 pm at Sticks & Stones, Walker/Elam Avenues. Copies are available outside the church office.

College Park's Summer Options

Adult Sunday School - Book Study - "Love Wins" by Rob Bell

Youth Sunday School - Movie Discussion

Kids Sunday School - What's Cooking? (Rotation based activities)

Wednesday Night Bible Study - Jesus' To Do List @ 6 pm in the parlor

Monday Night Fellowship - Ultimate Frisbee @ 6pm - Lake Daniel Park

Uncorked Is Thursday, August 11

Uncorked is a quarterly adult socializing opportunity for College Park-ers and their friends. Our next Uncorked will be Thurs., Aug. 11, 7-9 p.m., at 1618 Wine Lounge, 1724 Battleground Avenue (Irving Park Plaza shopping center), Greensboro. You buy your own beverage; some munchies will be provided. Stop by and renew old friendships or make new ones!

Dear 16-Year-Old Me, . . .

This is our fall sermon series topic, and we invite you to write a short piece on this topic for use in worship or the collage. What would you say to your 16-year-old self? Advice, warnings, stock tips, or something about the road not taken? By doing so, we might see God's grace in where we've been and think more clearly about where we are headed now. And, just maybe, our current 16-year-olds will pick up some useful. "Dear 16 year-old Me" begins September 4th.

New Wednesday Night Schedule

5:00-6:15 pm Dinner,
6:15 pm Prayer & Announcements

Preschool: (ages 3 yrs old)
Angel Choir, Room 106
Toddler room with childcare workers.
* *Childcare provided in Preschool Room 104*

Children: (Grades 1 & 2)
6:00-6:30 pm Tae kwon do
6:30-7:00 pm Choir
7:00-7:30 pm Play with youth

Children: (Grades 3-5)
6:00-6:30 pm Tae kwon do
6:30-7:00 pm Choir, Room 304
7:00-7:30 pm Tone Chimes

Adult & Youth:
5:30-6:00 pm Backpack Club, FH
6:00-7:15 pm Youth Room is open for home work and hanging out.
6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study
6:30-7:30 pm Adult Handbells, Sanctuary
7:30-8:30 pm Adult Choir Practice
(Choir Room, 3rd Floor)
* *Childcare is provided in room 104.*



College Park Needs YOUR Help Time to Volunteer for 2012

College Park exists only because dozens of volunteers participate in and help lead our ministries, programs, and work groups. Each August we ask you to volunteer for these service opportunities. Please complete the **2012 Participating at College Park** survey to indicate where you're willing to use your skills and talents next year.

- Take the survey online:** Go to www.collegeparkchurch.com and click the "Participating at College Park" link.
- Fill out a paper survey:** Get a copy from Cindy Dillon's office door (side parking lot entrance), the chapel, or the sanctuary. Return it to Cindy or the church office by Sunday, Sept. 4.

Unsure about volunteering? Here are answers to some frequently asked questions.

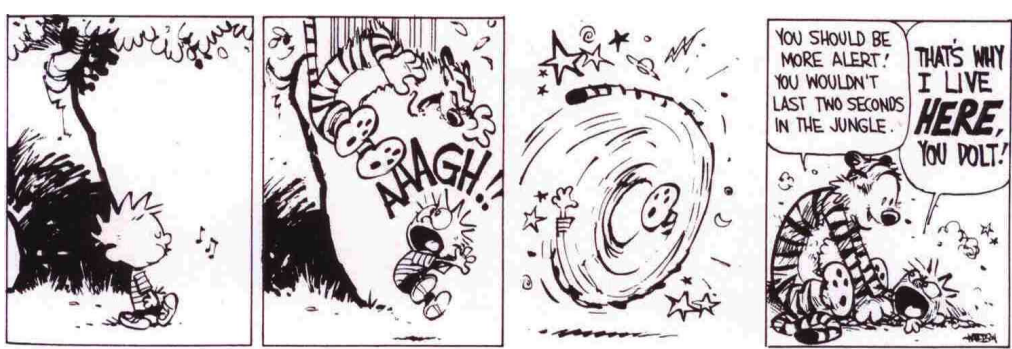
Q: Why should I volunteer?
A: An important expression of Christian faith is the giving of our time and talents. Volunteering may allow you to minister to your fellow church members, to our local community, or to people around the world. Serving on a committee or ministry team is also a great way to get to know your fellow College Park-ers!

Q: Are all positions a one-year commitment?
A: Most positions serve during Jan.-Dec. 2012, but a few committees (such as Missions, Building & Grounds, Finance, and Personnel) are a three-year commitment (Jan. 2012-Dec. 2014). These are clearly identified in the survey.

Q: How often do College Park committees and ministry teams meet?
A: Many meet irregularly or on an as-needed basis. Some (such as Missions and Building & Grounds) meet once a month for an hour or two. All Sunday School teachers serve on a rotating schedule. So do our ushers.

Q: What if I'm new?
A: For most service opportunities, you don't have to have attended for a certain length of time. Some don't require church membership or previous experience, just a willingness to serve. Exceptions are committees such as Finance and Personnel.

Q: What if I'm not sure what I should volunteer for?
A: Then pick a position for a year and try it out. Or contact Cindy Dillon, Minister of Small Groups (314-5279, cindydillon6@gmail.com) for guidance or more info about any service opportunity.



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College Park
An American Baptist Church
1601 Walker Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27403

Return Service Requested

Every Member a Minister

Lin Bunce, Associate Minister
 Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer
 Cindy Dillon, Minister of Small Groups
 Susan Finley, Handbell Director
 Rydell Harrison, Minister of Music & Worship
 Anna & Jackson Hicks, HBD to awesome twins.
 Darlene Johnson, Sexton
 Kelli Joyce, Summer Intern
 Matt Lojko, Deacon Chair
 Georgia Murray, Office & Media Manager
 David Soyars, Organist
 Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Missionaries
 Michael S. Usey, Pastor

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Alliance of Baptists - American Baptist Churches - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
 July Peanut Butter Donations = 13 Pounds
 Total Peanut Butter Donations = 227 Pounds
 Total Other Food Donations = 268 Pounds
 Grand Total for Year = 495 Pounds



Dog Days of Summer

- August**
- 1 Ultimate Frisbee, Lake Daniel Park, 6:00 pm
 - 3 Bible Study, *Repent & Believe*, Parlor, 6:00-7:15 pm
 - 6 Youth Return from San Francisco, CA.
 - 7 Rydell Harrison Preaching
 - Deacons' Meeting, Conference Room, 6:00 pm
 - 8 Ultimate Frisbee, Lake Daniel Park, 6:00 pm
 - 10 Bible Study, *Be Silent*, Parlor, 6:00-7:15 pm
 - 15 Ultimate Frisbee, Lake Daniel Park, 6:00 pm
 - 16 Men's Discussion Club, Sticks & Stones, 6:00-7:30 pm
 - 17 Bible Study, *Take Up Your Cross*, Parlor, 6:00-7:15 pm
 - 18 Ladies' Night Out, 6:30 pm, Kiosco Mexican Grill
 - 21 Lin Bunce Preaching
 - Kellie Joyce's Last Sunday as Summer Intern
 - Promotion Sunday Breakfast, Fellowship Hall, 9:45 am
 - Promotion Sunday
 - GUM & Peanut Butter Sunday
 - 22 Ultimate Frisbee, Lake Daniel Park, 6:00 pm
 - 28 Children's Back to School Picnic
 - Regular Sunday School Classes Resume
 - 29 Ultimate Frisbee, Lake Daniel Park, 6:00 pm
 - 31 Wednesday Night Activities Resume
 - Youth Mission Trip Report, 6:30 pm

Reminder

Please email the church office at cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net if you would rather receive the monthly newsletter via email.