

April 2017
Number 246

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



Happy Easter!

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 9th after the 11 am service.

Maundy Thursday Service

Join us for a Holy Week service of centering our hearts and minds,
 Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 pm in the chapel.
 Rydell Harrison will offer the mediation.



Flowering Cross

Sunday, April 16

**Please bring fresh flowers on
 Easter Sunday (both services)
 for the Flowering Cross**

April Events:

- Wednesday, April 5
 1st Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 pm,
 Fellowship Hall , Trivia w/Matt Cravey
- Saturday, April 8
 Babysitting Service 6:00—8:30 pm, (Girl
 Scouts), Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, April 9—Palm Sunday
 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser 9-10:45 am (Girl
 Scouts), Fellowship Hall
 Easter Egg Hunt after 11 am service
 Missions Meeting 12:15 pm, Board Room
- Thursday, April 13
 Maundy Thursday, 6:30 pm, Forest Chapel
- Sunday, April 16—Easter
 GUM Donations—Canned Fruit
 3rd Sunday Refreshments after 11 am service
- Tuesday, April 18
 Women of Valor 7:00 pm at Craft City Spin
 PFLAG 7:30 pm, Chapel
- Thursday, April 20
 Forever 39 11:30 am at K&W
 Zumba 6:00 pm, Chapel
- Sunday, April 23
 Bright Sunday—wear bright colors
- Sunday, April 30
 Youth Sunday

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College Park Church Meets Here: A brief theology of space

If the book of Acts in the NT is to be believed, the earliest Christians met in synagogues. The first converts **to what was then called The Way were Jews, and it's not clear** that they were distinct from the vast varieties of first century Judaism. As I talked about earlier this year, they first preached in the temple itself about Jesus, but that got them kicked out and beaten up. Read back through the book of Acts, and you can see that, wherever they traveled, the early disciples first went to the local synagogue to tell their fellow Jews that the messiah had **come and therefore here's what to do next.**

It was a good strategy overall. According to Acts, myriads of Jews began to follow the risen Christ. The word *myriads* means literally in the Greek, *tens of thousands*. But in Acts preaching in the synagogues began to show the fissure by which Christianity would part ways with Judaism. That fissure was the acceptance of non-Jews as followers of The Way.

So by the second generation of disciples of Jesus, the followers were largely non-Jews or Gentiles, which is most of us. This is the problem and scandal behind many of the books in our NT, such as Luke-Acts, Romans, Galatians, the letters of John, and **John's gospel**. And these non-Jews did not have to first become Jewish to be followers of Jesus; this is made painfully clear in controversy in Acts 15 and Galatians.

So the second generation of Christians met in homes, as you can see from the couple of texts that were read at the beginning of the service. They met in homes, typically ones big enough to house a crowd. In this **morning's text, Paul is addressing a problem at one of** these house churches: the wealthy Christians are getting there first, and eating all the food, and getting lit before the poorer Christians, many of whom were servants and slaves, were able to get away from their duties. The servants were arriving later to find all food gone and their richer brothers and sister three sheets to the wind.

A couple of observations about this text: First, Paul is **furious with them and isn't afraid to say so**. If **Paul is North American Protestants' model of ministry**—and I think his theology certainly is for Baptist churches in the South—then we should include in our expectation that our pastors and ministers will on occasion tell us to cut it out and knock it off. **This doesn't match up well** with the false model of minister as unctuous and overly nice. Is there a more damning adjective than being called *nice*?

Secondly, note that some of these early Christians were getting too knackered to walk home, and eating too much, and treating holy moments with disrespect. So the problems we face today are not totally different in kind than those early Christians faced. Just **sayin' that it wasn't all sweetness and singing KumBaYa** for the first Christians, or at least, if they were singing, they did it with slurred speech with a cold one in their hands.

The earliest church *qua* church may be in Northern

Jordan in Rihab, near the Syria border, dating from 230 CE, discovered in 2008. There are ruins underneath the church building that some claim to be from the first century. But there is no clear holder of the title of oldest Christian church building, with various sites claiming the title without definitive evidence. The Dura-Europos house church in Syria dates from 241, with several walls still standing, and oldest images of Jesus discovered within the surviving frescoes of the large baptismal font. *Archeology* magazine suggests that Dura-Europos is the oldest surviving church building in the world. The Megiddo church in Israel is a ruin discovered on prison grounds in 2005, is another contender for the oldest building constructed as a church ever discovered. It retains mosaic floor decoration with Christian motifs – possibly the oldest building with this feature. Finally the Aquaba church in southern Jordan was discovered in 1988, built in the late 3rd century, is considered by some to be the world's first purpose-built church. So we have a gap of maybe 150 years or so between when Christians stopped meeting in synagogues and started building churches, *as far as we know*.

Many if not all of these buildings have astrological symbolism in them, usually in the floors. You know, they had one job: not to build pagan imagery in the Christian building, but those astrological symbols were just so darn cute.

The NT Greek word for church is *ecclesia*, which means assembly. It does not denote a building. Our sign out front on the corner of Aycok and Walker says it exactly so: College Park Baptist Church MEETS HERE. I first saw such a sign when I was a junior in high school and dating Gigi Gumricksu, whose father was a Church of Christ minister. Naturally I went to her church a few times—amazing how often interest in God and sexual attraction run together—and at her church I saw this verbiage on their sign, and it was perfect. Even today, when someone asks me where is our church **located, I try to say, "Well, the buildings are on Walker Ave."** Christian churches are not the buildings; College Park church is our faith and people.

Baptists are part of the Christian church family that is called the Radical reformation, in which we have Quakers and Mennonites as cousins. What that means is that we are part of the Free Church tradition, in which each individual church is free to do as we feel God is leading us. When we put up a banner out front or host a **rally, or hire a minister, we don't have to call or confer** with anyone. We are autonomous. So, as in every other aspect of our lives, our strength is also our weakness. We can do whatever we feel God is leading us to do; however we have no bishops or elders to keep us from doing dumb things.

One of the questionable things Baptists did in previous generations is built way too many church buildings. Because we did not have bishops or elders to tell us not to, our Baptist forbearers built church buildings everywhere, and in hindsight, they built much too near each other. Draw a two mile radius around where we are now, and there are a huge number of Baptist churches: First Baptist (our mother church), Lindley Park Baptist (just down Walker), Florida Street Baptist,

Tabernacle Baptist (both south of us), Faithway Baptist (by First BC), Shiloh Baptist, New Zion Baptist, St. Paul Baptist and Providence Baptist (all historically black churches, carrying out the de facto segregation in our DNA), and Immanuel Baptist on Lee street near Taco Bell). The leadership of Catholic, Episcopal, and **Presbyterian denominations don't allow for over building.** True, some of these Baptist churches are going **strong, one could argue, but I'm not sure the kingdom is served** with everyone having their own building, too many of which sit empty too often. Key resources go into keeping a building operational.

Right out of seminary I was called to be the associate minister at a church outside of DC. Columbia Baptist Fellowships shares a large complex with several other denominations: Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Jewish, and Lutheran. I decided again going to this congregation, mainly because it seemed like there were **so many other things competing for people's time and attention**, and members were more casual than passionate about their faith. But I wonder if this model of shared space is the future of churches, especially in mega-expensive areas to build. The building had the offices for all the denominations there together, which made for great theological cross-pollination. But it will take people willing to sacrifice, because not everyone can worship at a choice time on Sunday mornings.

So in our theology, church buildings are outposts of our faith, staging grounds for the work of God in our lives and in Greensboro. This is not the only place God is at work, but we believe it is here also. Here we do ministry: teaching holy stories; training young people to be leaders; engaging adults with the great authors of this generation; coming together as an odd tribe that tries to follow the trail Jesus left us. Here we daydream about God, and welcome newcomers to our community and our faith. Here we cook for the not-yet-sheltered, and plan to built homes too. In Jesus Christ, **God has shown us a path for being a conduit of God's wild spirit in the world**, and here through prayer, and silence, and communion, and music, we try to channel that very spirit. We meet here to talk about what it means to live with honor, and how to fight against the strong forces that are anti-life, and would destroy this wondrous eco-system we inhabit. Here we fight for **women's rights, racial healing and gender equality**, voting rights, and quality public education, access to health care and food, and many other struggles for justice and freedom.

Forest Ave Baptist Church, as this congregation was first named, was created in 1906 by FBCG to serve the **Women's College, which later evolved into UNCG.** Years later, in 1940, we moved to this location, and renamed ourselves College Park. We take this part of our charter serious, to be of service to the college community. We sit at the nexus of four communities: the university to the East, the gentrified homes of Sunset Hills to the North; student housing (the land of midnight basketball) to the West; and the transitional neighborhood due South of us. All of these are represented in our faith community.

So we open ourselves to other groups that have a similar or compatible mission to our own. **It's a long list,**

and you should be proud of all the incredible associations that work and worship here. I think I am most proud of the four GS troops we house, as well as the Narcotics Anonymous home group *Afternoon Delight*, that meets here at noon Monday through Thursday. Ministry is often about location, and we provide that, because of the foresight and generosity of those who came before us and that of the people here now. I sincerely thank you for **this; I'm proud to serve such a church.**

Hospitality is a deeply Christian virtue, of opening ourselves and our spaces to the other, receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, **generous way.** **In the NT, the Greek word *philoxenos*, "hospitality" literally means "love of strangers."** Hospitality is a virtue that is both commanded and commended throughout our sacred text. In the Hebrew Bible, **God commands it: "When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt" (Lev 19).**

In the NT, Hebrews reminds us not to forget to **"entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."** As Jesus said, **"When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed."** In Matthew, Jesus discusses the hospitable who will inherit the **kingdom: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."** In short, Christian hospitality is the practice of open hands, open heart, and open doors.

Which brings me to our amazing new kitchen rebuild. For years to come, millions of meals will be served to the delight of billions of taste buds. God has made the divine known in the world through food. Our new kitchen is designed to be useful for decades to come, and to produce delicious meals for large groups of people. After the service we invite you to tour it for yourself. New Age Builders took the rehab all way down to the ground: there are completely new pipes and drainage, and the walls have been totally sealed and redone against water seepage. It was a fantastic and involved project.

We put the crazy new vent on the bulletin cover, which has inspired it own meme: The kitchen is happy to see you; now we know which gender the church is, apparently this is a Jewish church, etc. We toyed with the idea of putting our Lenten theme on it: You had one job. But **we didn't want you to think it was a fail, since it's actually a fantastic win**, and saved us a ton of money, and is now just another wonderfully unique feature of our cool church building. So Adam and his team did have one job, and they did it exceptionally well. **And we're taking bets** which male will be the first to take his picture taken astride it. Thanks for letting me *vent*.

This kitchen was phase four of our capital campaign, *Access for All*. As you know, we have redone the steeple (beautiful and a good source of income), loaded a fantastic elevator, and refurbished the remarkable chapel. These three were the core of this campaign, and

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are now fully funded. The kitchen was an add-on, wish-list item that needed to be done. About 40% of it is paid for, with \$128K left to finish. **We don't believe in**



debt here, and we need to go ahead and get it paid for.

Here's what I'm suggesting. I'm asking every employed adult over 25 to consider an additional gift of \$500 for the kitchen between now and Thanksgiving, 8 months from now. I know many of you already give sacrificially to College Park's

ministry here, and I deeply appreciate it. I know some of you would like to meet this challenge but cannot right now: employment, babies, college, whatever. **I understand, and I don't want you to have guilt over not** being able to give. But all of us can do something, and many here could do more. We have about 250 giving adult units here at College Park, which is the number of people we need to pay for our amazing new ministry center kitchen. Thanksgiving is 250 days away, which means this giving challenge will have me finding \$2 a day, half at coffee at Caribou. \$500 from every employed adult here at CP. Ann and I will start it off with our \$1K check today. Give as you can. Be a part of the future of College Park, as we front load this incredible new ministry center, our kitchen. Millions of meals already served, and beginning tonight with GUM, **millions more as a lovely showing of God's delicious love.**

Kitchen Dedication

by Kelli Joyce

Loving God, you created the earth to be our home, and filled it with good things for our nourishment. You created the rain that falls from the heavens, bringing forth life and giving growth. From the beginning, we have known your love for us and shown our love for you in the making, sharing, and eating of food. You dined with Abraham and Sarah and saved a nation from famine through Joseph's wisdom. You fed your people in the wilderness, you sent them to a land flowing with milk and honey. You have made yourself known to the world in food. When the time had come, you sent your only-begotten, Jesus Christ, to live as one of us. You created everything that is, and yet you chose to become dependent on food like we are. Jesus dined with the sinners and the outcasts, Jesus dined with the pious and the self-righteous. Jesus gave of himself to ensure that all who came to him

would never hunger or thirst. Still today, Jesus offers himself for us, gives himself as our spiritual nourishment. Still today, Jesus calls us to dine together, offering food to all who are hungry. To those whom much has been given, much will be asked. Let us pray.

Good Creator, we thank you for your love for us and for the world. We thank you that you make the sun shine and the rain fall on everyone, never demanding that we be worthy before you give us what we need. Today especially, we thank you for the blessing of our new kitchen. Bless all those whose time, prayers, and resources made this day possible. Bless all those who gave us this space through their labor. May we never take what we have for granted. Help us use this space in ways that bring you pleasure, and that provide the world around us with a glimpse of the endless feast you will bring in your Kingdom. Amen.

I know they don't want it, but these three certainly deserve it. I want to take just a moment to say thanks to the Kitchen Rebuild team, chaired by Adam Team, with PJ Stocks and Lisa Shortt. Kitchen layout and design inspires passionate opinions from many people, and what I love about this team is that they were able to take input from many different sources and synthesize all that firehose flow of information to make careful and informed decisions that would have concrete ramifications for decades to come. They spent the church money so very wisely, and choosing to make sure future College Parkers would be able to use our kitchen for ministry safely. As a pastor, I know that good church leadership is invaluable these days. Too many people are either afraid to make a decision and become paralyzed with too many options, OR they think that they know what is best for others without **listening carefully to the stakeholders' needs and** desires. Adam, PJ, and Lisa are all not afraid to make a decision, but they did so after careful consideration of what the church needed and could also afford. As you will see, there are lots of thoughtful touches and needed safety updates. My personal favorite is the pot filler, so that GUM cooks no longer have to clean and press a huge pot of water. In honor of your generous gift **of time, research, and wise choices, we've** purchased a set of Wusthof knives set in a black block. Every Wusthof knife is crafted in Solingen, Germany; a family-owned company with a rich heritage since 1814. These knives are not super expensive, but **you can't buy them at 7-11 either. I've worked in many** restaurants and I know you need good knives to cook with, so we bought a couple of extra cook knives and a sharpener too. Adam, PJ, and Lisa, a heartfelt and sincere thank you from the entire congregation. You had one job, and you did it beautifully.

Michael Usey
19 March 2017

Kitchen Rebuild

After four months of construction, the kitchen rebuild project is finally completed. The new kitchen facilities include: waterproofing, electrical and plumbing, complex range exhaust system with fire suppression, dedicated HVAC, flooring and ceiling, commercial equipment including a Hobart dishwasher, on-demand hot water, stainless steel shelves, dish carts (reduce paper plate waste) and work tables.

Thanks to everyone who has given to make this possible. However, there is still a balance owed on **the project, so don't stop giving!**

Kitchen Rebuild Update March 26, 2017

(Kitchen Renovation)
\$205,000 Total Cost
\$80,523 Available Funds
\$124,477 Amount Needed

Mission Strategies

As church we tend to do missions with our "heart."

We respond to needs with sympathy and generosity. Over the years our response has developed from simply writing checks to hands-on involvement. These are commendable responses but studies have shown that our well-intended responses often do more harm than good. How could that possibly be? Simply this: by creating dependency, by destroying personal initiative.

Consider how a series of responses to needs expresses itself: Give once and you elicit appreciation 2. Give twice and you create anticipation 3. Give a 3rd time and you create expectation 4. Give a 4th time and it becomes entitlement 5. Give a 5th time and you establish dependency

Two books in particular help us consider "best practices" as we go about doing missions; *When Helping Hurts* – Steve Corbett, Brian Fikkert (publ. 2009) *Toxic Charity* – Robert Lupton (publ. 2012)

The major premise in *When Helping Hurts*:
"Until we embrace our major brokenness, our work with low-income people is likely to do more harm than good." Our brokenness is a result of being less than what God designed for us: 1. Relationship to God 2. Relationship to self 3. Relationship to others 4. Relationship to creation

These authors point to a "poverty of being" – for low income people – instead of seeing themselves created in the image of God they see themselves as inferior.

But they also suggest a "poverty of being" – for economically rich – "often have "god-complexes", a subtle and unconscious sense of superiority in which

they believe that they have achieved their wealth through their own efforts and that they have been anointed to decide what is best for low-income people, **whom they view as inferior to themselves."**

Design and implementation in many poverty-alleviation efforts exacerbates the "poverty of being!" (resulting in god-complexes for the economically rich and feelings of shame and inferiority for low-income people)

Contrary to popular belief, most mission trips and service projects do not:

- Empower those being served
- Engender healthy cross-cultural relationships
- Improve local quality of life
- Relieve poverty
- Change the lives of participants
- Increase support for long-term mission work

Contrary to popular belief, most mission trips and service projects do:

- Weaken those being served
- Foster dishonest relationships
- Erode recipients work ethic
- Deepen dependency

Solution "I am not okay. You are not okay. But Jesus can fix us both!" Through our words and actions (ears!) we show that they are people with unique gifts and abilities – we can be part of helping them to recover their sense of dignity even as we recover from our sense of pride!

Lupton: *Oath for Compassionate Service*

- Never do for the poor what they can do for themselves
- Limit one-way giving to emergencies
- Empower the poor through employment, micro-enterprise lending, and investing, using grants sparingly to reinforce achievements (Ethiopia groups)
- Subordinate self-interest to the needs of those being served
- Listen closely to those you seek to help
- Above all, do no harm.

Needs-based Community Assessment

Denies Community's problem solving ability

- Directs funding to service providers Ex. Management fees/salaries
- Negatively impacts local community leadership
- Magnifies deception that only outside experts can provide real help (Naomi lady teaching Naomi lady)
- Targets isolated individual clients, not whole community
- Maintains hopelessness and poor self-image rather than encourages hopeful change through belief in self and community
- No long-term sustainability
- Implicit theological and political messages: God is absent. God has cursed. The poor are not blessed. They have no dignity. They are weak, needy, incapable, dumb and violent. Because of my race/class/education I am better and in a position of power over others

Continued on pg. 6

Mission Strategies continued from pg. 5

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD):
Key Elements

Identify and mobilize the capabilities, skills, and resources of the individual or community. See poor people and communities as full of possibilities, given to them by God. As much as possible, look for resources and solutions to come from within the individual or community, not from the outside.

Seek to build and rebuild the relationships among local individuals, associations, churches, businesses, schools, government, etc. God intended for the various individuals and institutions within communities to be interconnected and complementary.

Only bring in outside resources when local resources are insufficient to solve pressing needs. Be careful about bringing in resources that are too much or too early. Do this in a manner that does not undermine local capacity or initiative.

Advantages of ABCD approach:

The process is asset-based

The process is internally focused (development strategies focus on local residents, associations and institutions)

Community development is relationship driven

Resources are directed to real needs and dreams of residents

Explicit theological and political messages:

God is present. God has blessed.

The poor have skills, gifts, abilities, dreams and power.

We are all children of a gracious God in need of each other, in need of community.

What the Stocks learned through the school of “hard knocks”

Always approach a potential ministry with a team (individual burnout)

Be very careful about gifts to individuals (glass houses – the village knows, alienating others).

Personal loans destroy relationships (shame when unable to repay)

Give asset to a church/community rather than an individual

Always expect some personal investment from recipient

Never make promises you cannot keep!

Invest long-term in relationships before starting a ministry

Hospitality is key to deepening relationships

There is an African proverb that reads: “We start as fools and become wise through experience.” We departed in 1995 with little practical experience in missions but with hearts full of good intention. Experience taught us over 22 years that like in most areas of life there exist **“best practices” within missions. We have benefitted** greatly from learning and applying these. We hope you will find them useful.

FREE Babysitting!

Sponsored by Girl Scout Troop 02485 (8th Grade Cadettes)

Saturday, April 8th, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Ages: 3-10

RSVP: Palmer McIntyre, Troop Leader,

mcintyrepalmer@gmail.com



You Had One Job Reflection

It's 5am. The alarm sounds. I fumble through the dark to find the snooze button. Slide from under the covers, pivot to the edge of the bed, my feet hit the floor. **It's four** steps to the bathroom. Brush my teeth. Shower. Shave. Get dressed. Phone, wallet, keys, sunglasses. Check. Make my way to the kitchen. 30 steps. Breakfast: two eggs, a piece of toast, maybe a cup of coffee. Check the phone. Any emails from work? **Then, it's out the door. It's the** same every day. **It's routine.** And in routine, I find the discipline and focus I need to get my job done. **Sure, I'll** wear many hats today. Husband. Father. Son. Brother. Son-in-law. Uncle. **But, it's really only one job. I'm The** Provider.

It's a tough job, and over time – perhaps months, more likely years – I begin to physically and mentally wear down. I just need to find a few minutes of time for myself. And what begins as a few, quite minutes alone, quickly turns into hours, days, weeks, and months of intentional isolation. **But I'm still The Provider, right? I'm** still doing my job. Under tension, the connections that bind me to the ones who love me and need me become strained and frayed. **Unknowingly, I'm only hanging on** by a thread. Until, it breaks.

I awake to realize I've wandered down a dark, twisted path that has led to a hollow, empty aloneness. I had one job. Just one. I was The Provider. **That's it.** How could I have gone from being The Provider to hurting the ones I was supposed to provide for? The sense of self-worth I had is deservedly gone. Embarrassed, shamed, and facing a **problem I likely can't solve on my own.** The options are limited. **I've provided for others, why can't I provide for** myself?

And then, Grace.

God's free flowing and abundant Grace

It was there all along.

All I had to do was ask.

And, accept.

I can now set about rebuilding and repairing old relationships, even form some new ones. I work to mend the frayed ties and learn to fall in love again. Quite moments alone are spent in reflection, meditation, and reconnecting to nature. I discover a sense of humility and **gratitude that is firmly rooted in knowing that I've been** forgiven. And with that, my view of the world and my place in it begins to shift. **It's a subtle but marked change** that will shape and mold me in new, different, and unexpected ways in the days ahead.

It's 5am. The alarm sounds. The routine begins. Shower. Shave? Not today. **I think I'm going to let it grow** for a while. Phone, wallet, keys, sunglasses. Check. Breakfast: Two eggs, a piece of toast, maybe a cup of coffee. **It's always the same.** Mind the routine. Discipline. Focus. **I've got a job to do.** The hats are still the same: Husband. Father. Son. Brother. Son-in-law. Uncle. **I've even added a few more to the rack. Yet, it's still** only one job. **I'm The Servant.**

Paul Hicks

Three Nickels Focus

College Park's Three Nickels program is one way that we demonstrate our love for all people around the world. The yearly goal of Three Nickels is for 100 College Park families or individuals to give at least 15 cents per day. This equals \$1 per week, or \$52 per year. In the past eight years, our members have supported Heifer International, Pennies for Peace, Haiti earthquake relief, Syrian refugee relief, Watering Malawi, Soles 4 Souls, Food for the Poor, Micro loans for villages in Northern Thailand, Operation Smile, Doctors Without Borders among other worthy programs. For 2017, the Missions Committee decided to support two international charities with strong local ties to our church and community: Two Peace Corps workers – our own Jason Borders in Cameroon and Nate Usey in the West Indies – and Faith Action International House here in Greensboro. This may seem odd as Faith Action International House is a local agency. But it serves our newest immigrant neighbors, while educating and connecting our diverse community across lines of culture and faith – *turning strangers into neighbors*. Its goal is for Greensboro to become a model *Strangers to Neighbors city*, and to share Greensboro's experience with other communities. Each person, each faith community, each community has an important question to answer - *Will we fear one another as strangers or embrace one another as neighbors?* Our church chooses to positively engage all of our neighbors, even our immigrant neighbors.

As Dr. King said - We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.

Faith Action directly supports immigrants who have settled in Greensboro - with food, housing healthcare, and a providing a valid form of identification in partnership with several local agencies. Our recent experience with our Syrian families underscores our desire to support all who need our help trying to establish a new home here. To support this, Nate and Jason simply fill out a three nickels pledge form and place it in the offering basket or return the form to the church office. Please help by participating in this giving opportunity.

Michael Pendergraft

Fighting Poverty Around The World With Just 3 Nickels a Day

I _____
pledge to help fight poverty around the world by giving at least One Dollar per Week. I understand that this pledge is above and beyond my normal giving. I would like to make my donation as follows:

- Single 2017 payment of \$52.00
- Weekly payments of \$1.00
- I'd like to give more: \$ _____ (specify amount)

Signature _____

Be sure to write "Three Nickels" on your check memo line or giving envelope.

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 Mimosas). 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.



Sunday, April 9th

after the 11 am worship service

The Children's Committee would appreciate donations of wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt.

The donation box is in the parking lot entrance.

Bikes & Helmets Needed

There are students at Peck Elementary who would love to have a bike to ride this spring and summer. If you have a bike or bike helmet that you don't need anymore, please contact Tammy Shaney: tammyshaney@gmail.com or 336-340-3593. Update: we have united 4 bikes with 4 proud owners and are working on 3 bikes right now that will go out soon to new owners. Thanks for your help!



Failure Imagined

December 13, 1987, the day and event that initiated the biggest failure in my life. There is a bit of irony in this date because it was my college graduation. This is usually a day of celebrating accomplishments and goals set by you and your parents. For me a day of newfound freedom, a bright future and finally becoming an independent adult. There was one thing lacking; my truth, telling my parents and family something I had hidden most of my 22 years. In my mind, I was finally an adult, on my way to freedom, my own future and independence. This was the ideal day to start my new life; start it without secrets and speak my truth. To tell my parents I am gay.

During my celebratory dinner, I decided this was the **time to tell my secret. “Mom, Dad, there’s something important I want to tell you”... My mother interrupted me before I could finish, “Does this have anything to do with boys?” she asked. “Because if it is I have known since you were 14 years old. Your father and I have waited patiently for you to come to us”.**

WOW! My parents have known for years and accepted it. There were no tears, no screaming, no you are killing your mother speeches. This is every gay person’s dream; to have your parents not bat an eye at your coming out. To smile and offer you a reassuring hand. So what was wrong with this incredible picture? Why did I have doubts that my family is loving and accepting of my sexuality? There had to be an ultimatum coming next. No explosion or fireworks. Instead, at the end of dinner while my family prepared to return home, my parents pulled me aside, gave me a big hug, and said they loved me and if I wanted to talk, they are a phone call and car ride away. My father even handed me a substantial check, seed money to start my post college life. As we said good-bye, I saw a slight hint of sadness in their eyes. Just enough to make me doubt the necessity of my announcement.

You may be asking yourself “Where’s the failure?” After weeks of sleepless nights and confusion over the sad eyes of my parents, I concluded I had failed them and their strong belief in family and legacy. I would fail to take a wife and add to the family. I would fail to give my father a male heir to carry on the Marrow name. There would be no grandchildren for my mother to spoil. No family photographs for her to display proudly or show off to friends in her bible study and prayer groups. My siblings would never get the chance to tell my wife and kids embarrassing stories from my childhood. Embarrassment is a rite of passage among me and my brothers and sisters. These scenarios made me feel like I failed my family.

My solution to overcome this failure; distance myself from the family. If I am never home, limit communication, and conveniently missed holidays, I could never see the disappointment in their eyes. Over time, my self-imposed exile left me with a void and

loneliness. I had a successful career, friends and even a boyfriend but they were a pale substitution to my family and the many memories I was missing. What **should I do? I remembered my grandmother’s advice for dealing with difficult situations. “Put it in the hands of the Lord” is what she would always say. At that moment, I realized I had forgotten how to talk to God. When did I end my relationship with Him? How can I ask for His guidance when I had not spoken to Him in years? Then I remembered. He is a forgiving and loving God and would be glad to hear from me again. We talked, He listened and I put it in His hands.**

Through those prayers I realize I was not a failure to my family. I was actually failing myself. My failure to give my family a chance to accept me, kept me from my **parents’ unconditional love. They had not changed. I still received my mother’s weekly phone call. My father still insisted I come home and join him on the bank of our favorite fishing pond.**

My failure to allow myself to love my family and accept the love they had for me could have ruined the relationship many gay men and women lacked. I almost failed to accept a blessing; my blessing.

Prayer, reflection and my recharged relationship with God saved me from losing my family and included me **in becoming part of my family’s legacy.**

Titus Marrow
26 March 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.

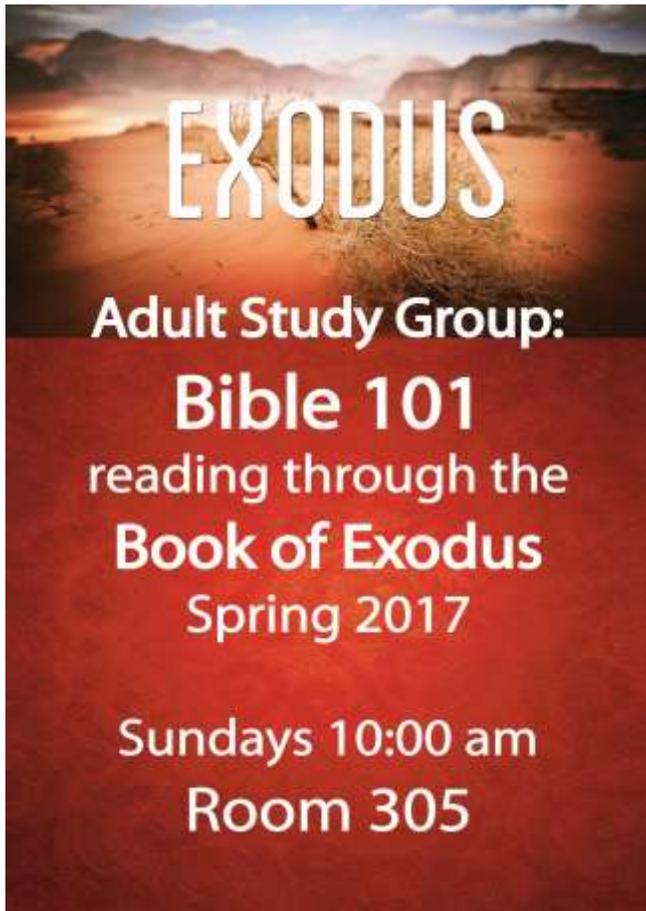


This month’s eco-justice challenge is: Create your own green cleaners! Spring is officially here, and with that comes the often dreaded spring cleaning. This year, instead of using cleaners that leach toxic chemicals into our water and soil, try making your own cleaners. They are easy to make, cheaper, and better for you and the environment!

Here’s a really easy all-purpose spray recipe:

- 2 cups water
- 1 cup hydrogen peroxide
- ¼ cup lemon juice

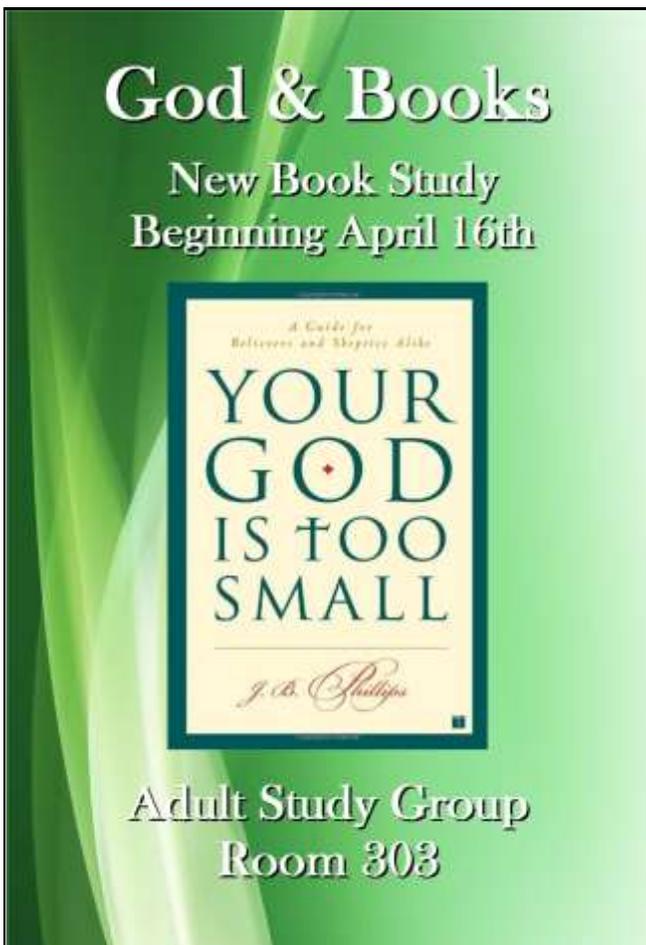
Find more recipes from this website:
<http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/20-diy-green-cleaning-recipes-141129>



EXODUS

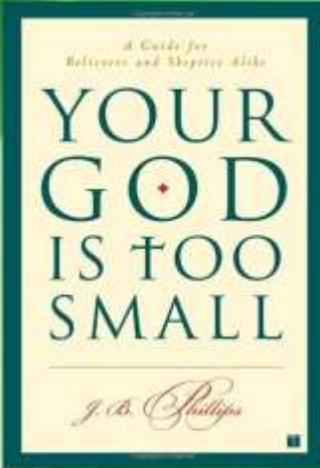
Adult Study Group:
Bible 101
 reading through the
Book of Exodus
 Spring 2017

Sundays 10:00 am
 Room 305



God & Books

New Book Study
 Beginning April 16th



YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL
J.C. Phillips

Adult Study Group
 Room 303



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 and the Collage for updates.

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.

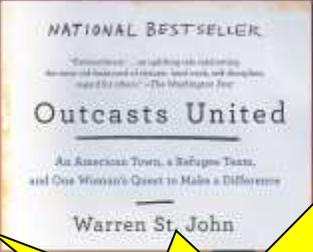
Blood and Platelet Donors Must

- 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.

WOMEN OF VALOR
NEW BOOK
Outcasts United



NATIONAL BEST-SELLER

Outcasts United

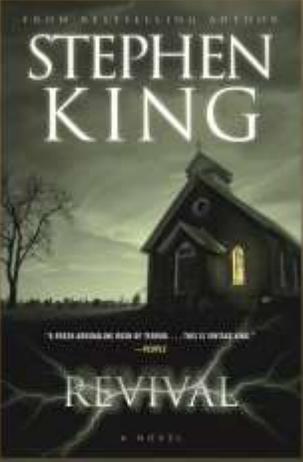
An Abandoned Town, a Refugee Crisis, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference

Warren St. John

**New Location:
 Craft City Spin
 2130 New Garden Rd.**

**Next Meeting
 April 18, 7 pm**

**MOSTLY MEN'S
 OCCASIONAL BOOK CLUB**



FROM BEST-SELLING AUTHOR
STEPHEN KING

REVIVAL

A NOVEL

**NEXT MEETING
 TUESDAY, MAY 16
 STICKS & STONES
 7 PM**

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.

Dear College Parkers,

Thank you so much for your caring hearts and prayers over the past few weeks and months during this season of my mom passing away. She was my first piano teacher and taught all three of us siblings piano and Chinese. In fact, she would often remind us she prayed **"O Lord, please give me musical children."** Music was her passion from a young age and she shared it with others and shared it to express her faith.

Thanks again,
Melody Harter

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.

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.



Nate Usey's Peace Corp Address:

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

Courtnee Hummel's New Address:

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

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

By Girl Scout Troop 02485 (8th Grade Cadettes)
(which meets at College Park)
Sunday, April 9, 9:00—10:45 am
in the CP Fellowship Hall

Breakfast includes: pancakes, sausage, coffee, & orange juice for \$5.00



Licensed Instructors



ZUMBA
fitness
Thursdays 6:00 pm
Forest Chapel
\$5.00 Drop in Rate

Consider joining us at least once (\$5.00) or commit to 5 classes and save \$5.00 (5 classes card for \$20). Brisa, the instructor is fun and inspiring.

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.

Choir Rehearsal

Adult Choir Practice has moved to Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm;

Youth Choir—6:00 pm, Sunday evenings



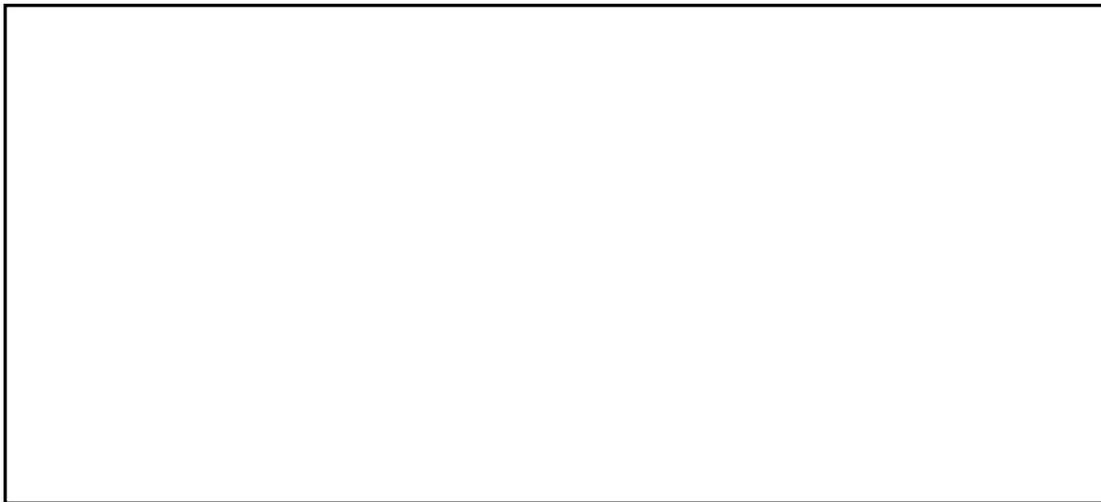
April GUM Donation:

Canned Fruit (any type, size)
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—April

Apr

- 4 NA Noon, Chapel
- 5 NA Noon, Chapel
1st Wednesday Dinner 5:30 pm, FH, Trivia
- 6 NA Noon, Chapel; Alpha Chi Omega 6-9
pm FH, Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
- 7 AI-Anon Noon, Board Room
- 8 Free Babysitting 6-8:30 pm, FH
- 9 Sunday Activities; Pancake Breakfast
Fundraiser 9-10:45 am, FH; Easter Egg
Hunt after 11 am service, Missions Meeting
12:15 pm, Board Rm.
- 10 NA Noon, Chapel
- 11 NA Noon, Chapel
- 12 NA Noon, Chapel
- 13 NA Noon, Maundy Thursday Service
6:30pm in Chapel
- 14 AI-Anon Noon, Chapel
- 16 Sunday Activities, GUM, 3rd Sunday
Refreshments after 11 am service
- 17 NA Noon, Chapel
- 18 NA Noon, Chapel; Women of Valor 7 pm,
Craft City Spin; PFLAG 7:30 pm, Chapel
- 19 NA Noon, Chapel; Pendergraft Meeting
5:30 pm, Board Room
- 20 NA Noon, Chapel; Forever 39 11:30 am,
K&W; Foster Care Chronicles 5:30-9 pm;
Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
- 21 AI-Anon Noon, Board Room
- 23 Bright Sunday, Troop 101 Court of Honor
2-4 pm, Sanctuary
- 24 NA Noon, Chapel
- 25 UNCG TEACH 8:30am-3:30pm, FH; NA
Noon, Chapel
- 26 UNCG TEACH 8:30am-3:30pm, FH; NA
Noon, Chapel
- 27 NA Noon, Chapel; Pendergraft 5:30 pm,
Board Rm.; Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
- 28 AI-Anon Noon, Board Room
- 30 Youth Sunday

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 = 479 Pounds

Every Member a Minister

Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer
Megan Fox, down w/the Egyptian Flu (*Going to be a Mummy*)
Kerri Gibbs, Pastoral Intern, WFU Divinity School
Darlene Johnson, Sexton
Keith A. Menhinick, Minister to Young Adults
David Soyars, Organist
Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Missionaries
Lin Story-Bunce, Associate Minister
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