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COLLEGE PARK

collage

a newsletter of
College Park Baptist Church • Greensboro, NC

August 2016
Number 239

For more sermons, visit www.collegeparkchurch.com

college park
VBS

**UNDER
the
STARS**

August 8 - 12
9 am - 12 pm

Children
Pre-K - 5th Grade

August Events:

Sunday, August 7
Sunday Activities, 6 pm Deacon Meeting

Mon.—Fri., Aug. 9—Aug. 12
Vacation Bible School, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, August 18
Forever 39 Lunch at K&W, 11:30 am

Inside:

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Michael Usey

P. 5 *Rydell's 10th Anniversary*
Michael Usey

VBS—Volunteers Needed!

Sign up your PreK-5th grade kids for camp!
A week of learning how we can live out our faith by serving our friends, family, neighbors, community, and God. With crafts, games, story time, outside time and snack, we will bring alive the stories of our faith and our Under the Stars theme. To sign up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094fa9a728a02-under>. Our 3rd - 5th graders will spend each day engaging with the YWCA family ministry. If you would like to volunteer to help lead camp, please sign up using the site above. Note the area of camp you would be most interested in leading - story time, craft, game/mission, snack, 3rd-5th grade mission. Provide some much needed supplies! We are decorating the fellowship hall and other areas of the church to fit our *Under the Stars* theme. If you have any of the following items you'd be willing to donate, please drop those off in the VBS box outside the church office:

Twinkle lights, white Christmas lights, small tent, lanterns (battery), camping items, brown paper bag trees, green streamer for grass, googly eyes, all sizes, glow in the dark duct tape, glow in the dark stars, smooth stones, yellow, orange, red, brown construction paper, bandanas for bracelets, balloons, paper plates, paint stir sticks, old Christmas trees, camping chairs

Help us decorate! Sunday, August 6 we will decorate the fellowship hall. Work will begin immediately after 11 am service.

Three Days of Horror

This is what the LORD says: "A cry is heard in Louisiana, Minnesota, Dallas, and the rest of our country. It is a voice of deep anguish and bitter weeping. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted--for her children are gone." (Adapted from Jeremiah 31:15)

Mostly I'm surprised that mass shootings don't happen more often. I remember being 11 years old in 1968 and watching on TV the police shoot it out in the Oakland streets with some members of the Black Panthers. There are so, so many guns out there, and so very little control over who can get one gun or twenty-one. The increased fetishism of guns and carrying guns has made such **horrors as this week's not merely predictable but** unsurprising. The one thing we can be sure of, after we have mourned the last massacre, is that there will be another.

My fear is this: We'll flag the flags at half-mast (maybe we just keep the flag flying 3 feet off the ground until we get **this right**); **we'll say good things, pray, have moments of silence, make promises that we won't keep, and nothing** will change. If the slaughter of all those first graders at **Sandy Hook didn't motivate change in our gun laws, I'm** not sure anything will. The only real hope I have is that God might change and heal our hearts of hatred and racism.

We don't yet know exactly for what deranged "reason" or mutant "cause" five police officers were murdered, but, as the President rightly suggested, we do know how—and the how is a huge part of what happened. By having a widely armed citizenry, we create a situation in which gun violence becomes a common occurrence, not the rarity it ought to be and is everywhere else in the civilized world. This happened amid a general decline in violence throughout the Western world, which only serves to make the crisis more acute. **America's gun-violence problem** remains the terrible outlier.

I was scheduled to preach the other half of the book of Acts, but Friday, Lin and I decided we all needed a different tack to worship this morning. **We don't** normally do this because the news is only the first draft of history; there is always more to a story than we first hear. But this week was overwhelming for many of us. **We're all a little too raw, and need to choose our words carefully. I'm exhausted by all of the killing, hate,** and blame this week—likely you are too—and to be a person of color or a police officer, it must surely be many times worse. As a Christian church, we mourn the loss of **any and all of God's children. There is not a choice** between standing with protesters OR standing with police. Violence anywhere and everywhere breaks the heart of God just as injustice anywhere is threat to justice everywhere.

As Christians, we stand with all who are suffering—in Orlando, in Baghdad, in Istanbul, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, and Dallas, Texas. As Christians we seek to comfort all who are mourning and we seek justice for all who have been wronged. We believe in a God who is not just with those

who suffer but is fully present in their suffering. God is a God who has entered into this world and fully taken on all of our pain. We pray and work for peace, and know that that the road to peace is through justice and mercy. And, as always, the struggle is darkness vs. the light; never black vs. white.

On the whole, I believe police are better people than the rest of us. They run towards gunfire, when we run from it. They rescue people from danger, risking their own life and limb to do so. They are the ones who respond in the middle of night when there is an intruder, and, as we saw on 9/11, they run into buildings while we run out. The policemen and **-women that I've known personally were** far more committed to justice than most Christians. Like judges, lawyers, and firefighters, police are one of the forces that keep anarchy and chaos at bay, literally and daily.

Which makes it all the more terrible when some of those in blue betray those they are sworn to protect and serve. Those of us who support the police know we cannot defend them all, and we should not defend them all. And the officers who abuse their power and who commit murder with a badge should be punished, but too many times they are not. I thank God for cell phones, body cameras, and dash cams. Now it is easier to piece together what might have happened.

Most of us saw the banquet of horrors this week. The first video that surfaced from Baton Rouge on Tuesday afternoon, which showed a white police officer fatally shooting Alton Sterling. That video, which caused nationwide outrage after it went viral on social media, was actually filmed by a member of an organized group that specifically seeks out violent crimes using police scanners with the intention of filming them, not for the purpose of exposing police but to deter young people from crime. I watched it Wednesday morning, and felt sick to my stomach all day. **Violent movies don't faze** me, but watching Mr. Sterling being shot three times while he was on the ground was beyond disturbing; it chipped off part of my soul.

I don't know all the details, nor was I there, but you and I both know white people don't get killed for selling CDs outside the Triple S Food Mart; we get a ticket. **White people don't get killed for selling loosies on the street; we** get a ticket. **White people don't get killed for a broken taillight; we** get a ticket. It may be the epitome of white privilege to be caught breaking the law and yet to survive.

Special Recipe from College Park's Secret Chef

Summer Pasta Salad

2 boxes of Rotini Corkscrew Pasta
1 green onion
1 container cherry tomatoes
1 cucumber
1 can sliced black olives
2 bottles zesty Italian salad dressing

Cook pasta, drain, add all ingredients. Pour half of bottle of salad dressing and stir. Before serving put in cucumber and the other half of the salad dressing.

Jon Stewart said, "You can truly grieve for every officer who's been lost in the line of duty in this country, and still be troubled by cases of police overreach. Those two ideas are not mutually exclusive. You can have great regard for law enforcement and still want them to be held to high standards." President Obama said, "There is no contradiction between us supporting law enforcement -- making sure they've got the equipment they need, making sure that their collective bargaining rights are recognized, making sure that they're adequately staffed, making sure that they are respected, making sure their families are supported -- and also saying that there are problems across our criminal justice system, there are biases -- some conscious and unconscious -- that have to be rooted out. **That's not an attack on law enforcement.** That is reflective of the values that the vast majority of law enforcement bring to the job."

Body- and dash cams are helping us understand just how fast police must make life and death decisions, in split seconds, and God help them if they're wrong. As you know, I referee soccer, and on the field I make on the spot decisions about what is legal with the laws of the game, and what is not. And whatever decision I make, some are not happy, and a few are very vocal about it. **It's a poor analogy, and sometimes I get it wrong.** But my judgments have to be made in an instant; multiply that by many orders of magnitude with the life and death decisions police must make in seconds.

The day after Mr. Sterling's death, 32 year old Philando Castile was shot and killed by a St. Anthony police officer in Falcon Heights, Minnesota. Mr. Castile was a **cafeteria supervisor for St. Paul's JJ Hill School for the last 15 years.** Children whose lives he influenced have been in the media all week, praising his life, and grieving their loss.

St. Anthony officers initiated a traffic stop (perhaps the most dangerous of police events), allegedly regarding a bad tail light, around 9 p.m., pulling over a white vehicle with a man, a woman and a child inside. Mr. Castile was behind the wheel when an officer asked him to present his license and registration. Police say during the traffic stop, "shots were fired" and "one adult male was taken to the hospital." According to a video from Mr. Castile's girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, the shooting occurred when Mr. Castile told the officer that he was going to reach for his wallet to get his ID but also notified the officer that he had a firearm on him, which he's licensed to carry. This is exactly what people who legally carry concealed weapons are trained to say. Reynolds and her 4-year-old daughter were in the vehicle at the time of the shooting. I for one cannot imagine the horror of someone firing into a car with a 4 year old.

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton has called for a federal investigation into the shooting. But many of us remain skeptical that justice will be served, because there was no conviction concerning the death of Trayvon Martin, no convictions the deaths of Sandra Bland, Kathryn Johnston, Sean Bell, Eric Garner, Rekia Boyd, Amadou Diallo, Mike Brown, Kimani Gray, Kenneth Chamberlain, Traveres McGrill, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray, and Aiyana Stanley-Jones. **I'm not judge and jury, or even a**

lawyer, and perhaps this was the right decision in some, but in all of these? This is deeply suspicious.

As President Obama said, "All of us as Americans should be troubled by these shootings, because these are not isolated incidents. **They're symptomatic of a broader set of racial disparities that exist in our criminal justice system. ... When incidents like this occur, there's a big chunk of our fellow citizenry that feels as if because of the color of their skin, they are not being treated the same. And that hurts. And that should trouble all of us. This is not just a black issue. It's not just a Hispanic issue. This is an American issue that we should all care about. All fair-minded people should be concerned.**" **I don't want black men shot at traffic stops. I don't want police shot by snipers. I don't want children shot at school. Like you, I don't want any of this.** Black Americans shouldn't be killed in routine traffic stops, and police shouldn't be killed while protecting and serving their communities.

The details of what happened are still be pieced together in these three cites. A fellow progressive Baptist minister, Jeff Hood, organized the protest in Dallas that was fired upon. Jeff is a Baptist gadfly: his shaved head, long ZZ top beard and round glasses give him an odd look (which is saying something if I think someone dresses oddly.) He was just saying to an officer there how well and peaceful the protest had gone when the shots rang out. And during the assault, we saw police protect protestors **and protestors and helping police. Dallas is a city that's** had its hearts torn out by a sniper once again. Ironically, Dallas has instated many of the reforms that the BLM movement advocates, and whose reforms are a model to many cities.

I support the Black Lives Matter movement, as I know many of you do. It is a network that advocates for dignity, justice, and respect. Just to be clear, when we say Black Lives Matter, we are in no way saying ONLY black lives matter. Perhaps the media was the one who got that wrong. I wish the movement had been called Black Lives Matter Too; that would have cleared up many misconceptions. In truth we know that all lives matter. Now we need all Americans help with Black Lives Matter, for clearly black lives are in danger. Again, I quote our **president:** "If communities are mistrustful of the police, that makes those law enforcement officers who are doing a great job and are doing the right thing, it makes their lives harder. So when people say 'Black Lives Matter,' that doesn't mean blue lives don't matter; it just means all lives matter, but right now the big concern is the fact that the data shows black folks are more **vulnerable to these kinds of incidents.**"

Two hundred forty years after the first Independence Day, Americans still live by the same color codes **established before the nation's birth. We mark each other** by complexion. We assign meaningless stereotypes to people according to skin color. We adore and fear and hate people on the basis of how light or dark they are. Race, as many scientists will tell you, is not real, but racism is.

If Racism is something you are sick of hearing about, imagine how exhausting it is to live it every day. Rydell

Continued on pg. 4

Harrison, our minister of music and worship is on a much-needed vacation with his family. This was his Facebook post a couple of days ago:

*“Our peaceful family vacation has been interrupted twice by one of my sons informing Monica and me that another black man has been killed at the hands of police. Their looks of frustration and confusion are met by our looks of fear. I am raising my sons to choose peace and make wise decisions, but I am once again at a loss for words knowing that at any moment, one of my sons (those I’ve birthed or those I claim) could quickly be reduced to a hashtag after a run in with a police officer. **“We tell them to watch who they are with, watch what their wear, don’t be too loud, be aware of your surroundings, don’t speed, remember to smile, take off your hood, don’t play too rough, etc. These are the lessons I have to teach my black sons to give them a chance at surviving in a world in which our words and actions are constantly being surveilled. And these lessons are not just for the teens but they are for our 3-year-old as well. “Don’t play too rough Seth, we don’t want anyone to think you are too aggressive.”***

“Please understand that, while I recognize the pervasive nature of hate and violence in our country, my emotional well is running dry; and while I would love to stand behind each of your hashtags and testify of my solidarity with victims of violence by “being” this city or that, but I am busy “being” a black man raising FIVE black sons. As soon as things in our country turn around and I have some level of assurance that my precious gifts are safe, I’ll be all in.”

Racism may be America’s original sin. Racism is not limited to one color; it is a part of all of us that needs redeeming and healing. This redemption will not be a one time event, but ongoing—especially as we uncover how institutional our racism has become. Racism is an aspect of our souls that we all need to repent of, whatever color we are, because, as St Paul reminded his Roman **friends, all have sinned and fall short of God’s love and purposes.** Racism can twist and shape us into people we never wanted to be. The police officer who shot Mr. **Castile didn’t start his day wanting to shoot someone in front of a child.**

St. Augustine wrote, “Hope has two beautiful daughters. Anger at the way things are, and **Courage to see to it that they don’t remain the way they are.**” Clearly, something is deeply wrong in America. We Christians should be about what we are doing this morning: praying, repenting, lamenting, opening ourselves up to the Holy One, bring God our love energies and our heart hurt. But I believe God wants us to find an end to our praying and to do something. We can act now, and in a decade we could have a safer, more just society for everything; this would be pleasing to the God that we pray to for help. We can elect different people. We can resource our schools equitably and generously. We can pass better gun laws, really any gun law would be a good start. We can listen to and connect with people different than ourselves. We could enthusiastically support our police and rebuild trust with

them, while we also hold accountable the small minority of police who exceed their authority.

We can be different people. We can be the people God uses to answer our own prayers. That is, if having prayed, we get off our knees and do courageous things. May God have mercy on all those who were killed and injured this past week, and heal all of us who grieve.

Michael Usey
10 July 2016

Mid-Year Finance Update

(From the Finance Committee) While offerings are about the same as last year, we had some significant increases in expenses **for this year’s budget. As of June 30, 2016, here is where we stand:**

Total Income	\$182,551
Total Expenses:	<u>-\$245,362</u>
Difference:	-\$62,811

Summer is always the slowest time of the year for giving, so we are usually behind on budget at this point. But not by this much! If you are behind on your giving, please catch up ASAP so we know how to plan for the remainder of the year. Our budget is lean, so making cuts will directly impact our many ministries. We will give a more detailed update at our September 14th business meeting.

Capital Campaign Update

Plans for our final project, the total kitchen makeover, are being finalized by the kitchen committee. We hope to complete the work this fall, so your support is needed! Estimated total for construction and equipment will be around \$220,000. Why so much? We must completely gut the kitchen to upgrade ancient plumbing and electrical, followed by rebuilding all interior walls. Commercial grade equipment and design will bring much delight to our members making meals for Greensboro Urban Ministry, youth dinners and many other events / fundraisers. In addition **to a much needed dishwasher, we’ll install a very efficient on-demand hot water heater, a new stove hood and fire suppression system, dedicated air conditioning, storage racks, dish caddies and much more!** All Chapel expenses have been **paid, so here’s the current balance for the Capital Campaign:**

Kitchen Estimate	\$220,000
Cash on Hand	<u>-\$52,000</u>
Donations needed:	\$168,000

4 Ways 2 Give

For added convenience, we now have four 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 Annette in 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 at either church service with a credit or debit card via tablets available for use (church pays fees).
- Pay online with a credit card a www.CollegeParkChurch.com. Choose the option to cover the credit card fees or let the church pay them.

Rydell's 10th Anniversary

This morning we honor the 10th anniversary of Dr. Rydell Harrison. I feel fortunate to have kept him on staff this long. **We're like finely aged wines; we just keep getting better!**

But we actually have kept getting better. I just came off the annual CBF meeting held in Greensboro, so I got my fill (although most of it WAS truly pleasant) of visiting with former colleagues and associates. The CBF is one big **nosey high school. Many of these colleagues I've loosely kept in touch with for decades.** In fact when I preached **last Sun at DA's church in Durham (and by the way, she sends her greetings, although she is somewhat beleaguered by her chemo treatments), I told her congregation that we were like a big nosy high school, and news of one another's churches circulated helplessly.** Churches—and staff—that are considered positive, healthy places—and those that are considered unhealthy or sick—well, word get around. Ours—both church and staff—are in the former category. Rydell is an integral part of that admired constellation.

For one thing, we feel like family by now. He is a true **brother; we know one another's rhythms and idiosyncrasies.** He is a pleasure to conference with, brainstorm with, even just visit with. When we sit down **and, as a staff or in random pairs, we don't put off each other.** We are honest and real—and feel safe to be so. Sadly, finding this safe space for honesty—and having the inner security and verbal clarity to be able to offer that—is not a given in many church staff environments. Rydell is a mature individual who knows who he is and can articulated that well and honestly. That makes it so much easier to work with him.

He also is a lovely mix of being a realist but also an idealist. His heart for ministry is real and rock solid. He cares about and loves the whole mix that is College Park: the adults, the youth, the children. He cares passionately about creating meaningful and varied worship experiences, about developing grounded Christians, about molding future generations. But it is grounded in the reality of working with a web of not-quite-ideal environments and people. **He's not thrown by that absence of perfection, not overwhelmed or made cynical. He's long ago made peace with the church being a flawed place, but one that he still chooses to invest in.** There are sometimes new staff that one has to take care of, encourage, and hand-hold--as various individuals or experiences throw them or let them down. **I'm lucky to work with staff that is beyond that, mature beyond their years.**

Let's not forget what we get in Rydell. His music ministry skills are incredible. From the start, he knew a huge range of traditional sacred music: from his background in soulful black churches to his long education through prestigious classical music programs. With his extended exposures to many denominational traditions, he brings a rich awareness and appreciation of varying hymn and church music traditions—both contemporary and traditional. But **he's so versatile**—not wed to any single style. And what a gift that is to any congregation as varied as ours! He can conduct (and solo in) a challenging Mozart Requiem, play piano and sing a soulful spiritual *he wrote himself*, explain

an odd choral structure to the choir when they're challenged by an odd anthem, lead *all music* in our more contemporary Tessa Service, spice up our 11 o'clock service with innovative blended worship, such as playing a bongo to accompany a traditional hymn that features its beauty in a fresh way, lead the youth to sing from the heart, complete with solos and an unselfconscious freedom that is clearly due to his modeling.

In fact, his gift with our youth—and now-emerging adults **as they've aged into the next stages of life**—is genuinely remarkable. **If you've talked with Haley Turner or Katie Hensley, you'd realize that some of our most musically inclined youth had their career goals indelibly influenced by his powerful mentoring and modeling.** Many still keep in touch with him on a regular basis. Like Lin and like me, he believes that pushing our youth into positions of being lay leaders, develops them in ways nothing else can. So is **it any surprise that he's recently gotten many of our youth**—my son Zach among them—to even join adult choir for a season—and gotten Haley to *lead our children's choirs*—and doing a fine job of it too! **He's touched every one of my kids' lives**—and is a key part of the constellation of reasons that each has developed a vibrant, authentic lifelong faith. **So I'm personally indebted to him.**

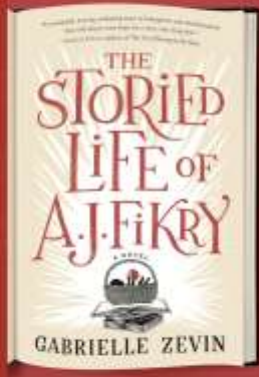
Many families here at CP feel similarly indebted. He has that magic combination of a playful sense of humor and an helpless ability to be emotionally real and present, **sometimes when it's least expected because it bubbles up from within him in the moment.** Ann has long been a fan of Rydell's, and has mentioned being moved when he shares with the choir from the heart about how individual pieces affect him. She has long appreciated his mix of equal parts music expertise and great people skills, accepting people where they are but reminding the choir of their responsibility to do more than merely **"perform" a flawless piece of music**—but instead to seek to channel the living spirit of God in worship.

The truth is, Rydell is so much more than just a music minister. Of course his job title here reflects that: Music and Worship Minister. **But he's a true minister**—in every sense. He can easily preach, pray publicly, offer insightful sermon commentary during casual talk back or bible study, small talk and find common ground with people of all walks of life.

This magic mix of so much more than music expertise—is why we need to remind ourselves of how fortunate we are to have found Rydell. He brings a passion for the church and for people. If you know him wearing his other hats—that of school teacher, elementary school principal, middle school principal, graduate student, county school administrator, mentor of many disparate students both **within and without the church (some of whom he's welcomed even into his home for a season here or there), you know even other dimensions of Rydell I don't have time to cover.** **But I've hit with broad strokes some highlights to say, Rydell, we love you my friend and brother.** We appreciate your 10 years with us, and we hope for many more to come. Thank you for an awesome run this last decade!

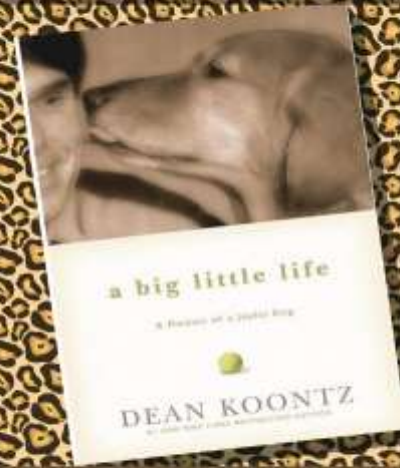
Michael Usey

Women of Valor New Book



Tuesday, August 9th
7:00 pm
Beans Boro Coffee

New Summer Adult Read
July 24, 31, Aug 7 & 21



Sunday Mornings
in the Fellowship Hall
Facilitators Needed
Please Sign Up in Side Foyer

MOSTLY MEN'S OCCASIONAL BOOK CLUB



TUESDAY, AUGUST 23RD
6:30 PM, STICKS & STONES


Operation Bed Roll Conserve, Crochet, Care

Operation Bed Roll is a collaboration between Greensboro's Field Operations and Police departments to keep unrecyclable materials out of our landfills – and help some of our neediest residents have a safe place to sleep.

Operation Bed Roll aims to transform thousands of plastic shopping bags into “plarn,” or plastic yarn to create sleeping mats that provide an insulated barrier for those who sleep on the ground. Greensboro police officers will distribute the mats to the homeless throughout the winter. The goal is to collect 100 bed rolls by October 1.

Plastic shopping bags cannot be recycled via the City's recycling program. Plastic bags that are put into residential recycling bins cause problems in the sorting machinery.

Diana Washburn is participating in this project. You do not need to be able to crochet. Anyone interested, please email Diana dbw1731@gmail.com. For more information, go to: <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4980>

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.

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



www.collegeparkchurch.com

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.

Book Exchange Donate Your "Beach Read"

The new prison ministry at College Park seeks donations of **paperbacks for the men's Book Exchange at Guilford County Jail.** (The women's Exchange has an overabundance at this time.) The books MUST BE PAPERBACKS. Favorite authors & subjects include: James Patterson, David Baldacci, Lee Child, John Grisham, Janet Evanovich, Stuart Woods, Dean Koontz, Dan Brown, Clive Cussler, Harlan Coben, Anne Rice, Stephen King, Nora Roberts Series: Left Behind (Assassins and higher), Game of Thrones, Twilight, Hunger Games, "Urban" books (publishing industry designation for genre targeting African American readers), Spanish language books of all kinds; many Latinos appreciate new novels, but also classics, poetry and other types of books. Non-fiction: Christian biographies, history-related books, humor, poetry (at times). Consider donating your "Beach Read". Action-oriented, mass market paperbacks are the type of books the male prisoners want. A collection point is in the foyer. Questions? Contact Mark Fleming mofleming1301@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Thank You

Dear College Park Family,

Thank you for the tremendous out-pouring of love to us after **Mom's recent death. Your many cards, Facebook posts, messages and hugs** have given us wonderful support & **encouragement. No surprise, as what you do best is love!** We're so grateful to be part of such an amazing tribe. Blessings to each of you!

David Soyars & Mark File

Thank You Dear CP Friends,

This is getting to be too often for notes like this. Hopefully, no more for a long, long time. I am finally beginning to feel like my old self again and hope this will continue. College Park has been so wonderful to Bill and me this past year. I found out how good some of you can cook and others, how well you shop for prepared food for shut-ins. Bill and I really did appreciate and enjoy the delicious food and also, the mounds of get well cards. Bill and I read and re-read the beautiful cards. The visits and calls were really appreciated and kept us in touch. We have missed being at church so much. Hope that is over. Much love to everyone.

Betty & Bill Withers

Dear College Park,

Wow. I wanted to thank you for all the cards, food, and prayers during my recent surgery. I could not believe how many cards that I received as well as cards for my birthday. I cannot write each of you but want you to know they were a blessing in so many ways.

Thanks to everyone.

Becky Clemmer

2016/2017 School Year Backpack Beginnings Volunteer Signup

It is hard to believe August is here! It is time for interested volunteers to sign up to help with the weekly food distribution to needy students at Peck Elementary during the school year. The call is going out now, as we need to have the teams in place before school starts. Volunteers are needed to deliver the food from Backpack Beginnings to Peck on Thursdays, and to deliver to the classrooms on Fridays. If interested in helping with this important ministry of College Park, please contact Jerry Cunningham, jerrycunninghamgso@gmail.com.

Energiea Missions Project – Bikers Burrito

The Missions Committee has chosen to help the Greensboro Bikers Burrito organization. The next Energiea Missions Project will be held on Saturday, September 3rd. According to their mission, "each weekend we feed some of Greensboro's homeless citizens and let them know that people care about them, giving them hope and support." Volunteers are needed to help cook and prepare the burritos on Friday night and meet downtown at Center City Park on Saturday morning (usually in and out in 45 minutes) to hand out the burritos and bottled water. It is not just the food, but as **Hayes the coordinator relates, "the camaraderie, care and compassion, with smiling faces, are most important."** If you would like to help or need additional information, please contact Jerry Cunningham, jerrycunninghamgso@gmail.com.

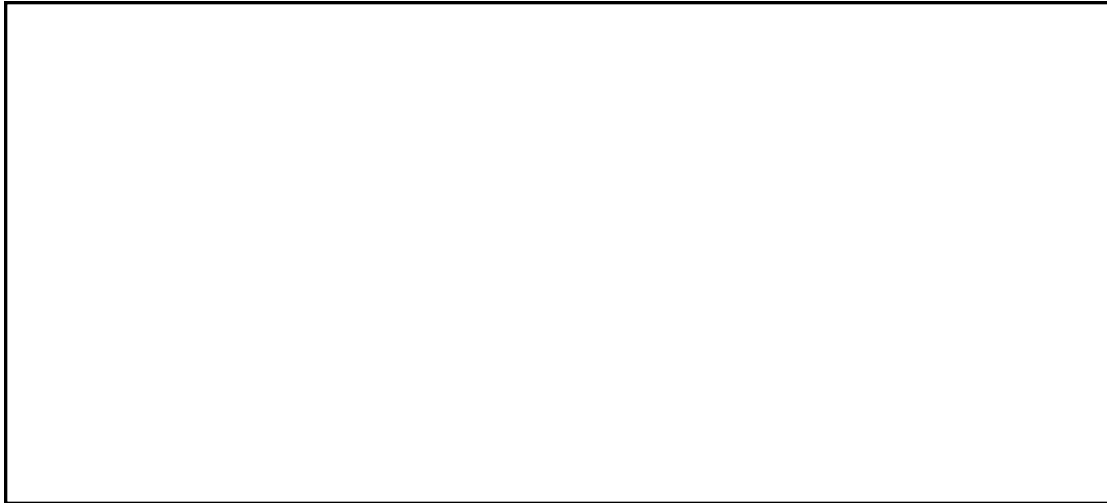
August GUM Donation: *Rice (any size, any kind)*

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—August

- 1 NA Noon, FH
- 2 NA Noon, FH
- 3 NA Noon, FH
- 4 NA Noon, FH
Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
- 5 AI-Anon Noon, FH
- 7 Sunday Activities
- 8 VBS 9 am—Noon, FH
NA Noon, Sanctuary
Ultimate Frisbee 6 pm, Lake Daniel Park
- 9 VBS 9 am—Noon, FH
NA Noon, Sanctuary
- 10 VBS 9 am—Noon, FH
NA Noon, Sanctuary
- 11 VBS 9 am—Noon, FH
NA Noon, Sanctuary, Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
- 12 VBS 9 am—Noon, FH
AI-Anon Noon, Sanctuary
- 13 Douglas Wedding
- 14 Sunday Activities
- 15 NA Noon, FH
Ultimate Frisbee 6 pm, Lake Daniel Park
- 16 NA Noon, FH
PFLAG 7:30 pm, Youth Room
- 17 NA Noon, FH
Pendergraft GNC Meeting 5:30 pm, Board Rm
- 18 NA Noon, FH
Forever 39 11:30 am at K&W
Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
- 19 AI-Anon Noon, FH
- 21 Sunday Activities, GUM Sunday
- 22 NA Noon, FH
Ultimate Frisbee 6 pm, Lake Daniel Park
- 23 NA Noon, FH
- 24 NA Noon, FH
- 25 NA Noon, FH, Pendergraft Meeting 5:30 pm
Board Rm., Zumba 6 pm, Chapel
- 26 AI Anon Noon, FH
- 28 Sunday Activities
- 29 NA Noon, FH
Ultimate Frisbee 6 pm, Lake Daniel Park
- 30 NA Noon, FH
- 31 NA 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

2016 Total Food Donations = 686 Pounds

Every Member a Minister

Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer
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
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