



Parkway Baptist Church

The Messenger

January, 2019



**Parkway Baptist Church
January 20th
11:00 am Worship Service**

WHO IS MERCY'S WELL...

For any rising, young Christian vocal group, each new recording and each church or concert appearance spawns the hope of making an indelible mark on the life of each individual who hears the music that group presents. Before the first note has been played or the first lyric has been sung, the commitment is made to strive for perfection. Nothing less can be said of talented trio, Mercy's Well.

Originally organized in 1998 as a duet, Mercy's Well, under the leadership of group founder, Brad Strider, soon made the natural transition to a trio. The group's first three single releases paved the way for their first Top 80 single in 2005. Throughout the past six years, the group, which is based in Greensboro, NC, has continued to produce chart topping singles and has gained national attention from fans, music critics, pastors and promoters alike.

The group's most recent recording, *POWER*, promises even greater success, as it excels with creative excellence, a testament to the recording's production team and producer Donna Beauvais (*Hope's Call*), as well as Mercy's Well members Strider, Greg Gainer and Kyle King. *POWER* is filled with moving messages, first-class production and rich vocal harmonies. The recording, like each performance by Mercy's Well, is a testament to the versatility of this talented trio, as it encompasses a variety of musical genres, without compromising the Gospel message.

Mercy's Well is carving their own unique niche in today's Christian music scene. This exciting vocal group is comfortable performing on concert stages before thousands, as well as in rural churches across the nation. The group's versatility makes them a favorite among young audiences and older music lovers alike. Their ability to adapt to any setting, without compromising the message they present, makes Mercy's Well a favorite wherever their music is shared.

Mercy's Well continues to reach new plateaus, as they consistently strive for perfection in their musical presentation of the Gospel message. "We believe we are constantly reaching new levels, lyrically, vocally and spiritually," Strider explains. "We believe that's what God expects of us, and our greatest desire is to please Him in all we do."

Director Of Music and Worship Ministries

Jeremiah 29:11 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. We never know what lies ahead of us for the coming year. According to the Lord He plans to prosper us and to give hope for a future without any harm. What is happening to our churches and why are so many declining? I have been in the ministry for over thirty years and it saddens me to see churches in this predicament and so many are closing their door, and some are trying to resolve it but are too far gone to bring it back. Our culture has changed, so what do we do? Our church is facing the biggest challenge to keep going. I ask that you keep praying for answers as to what we need to do. I honestly feel that we get in God's way that prevents the plans he has for us to have a hope and a future, all because his plans and provisions to help us grow are not what we think it needs to be and does not meet our personal taste. I wonder if this may be the reason why the continued decline in church membership. Let's be honest, congregations can be harsh to the leaders of the church and to each other. This has been going on for years and I have had personal experiences with it as many other Pastors, church staff and church members. Are we finally reaping what we sow? On a personal experience, I say yes. My children were brought up in church and they saw it. Now they are adults and making their own choices. I have one son that does not make it a priority to go to church like he was brought up to do, but when they do, they go to a contemporary church "when they are not busy". One day I asked him why it was not a priority, his answer was that he did not want to go to church and get involved with fake people. Well I got my answer. I can attest that he surely has seen that. For churches to leave an impression like that on my children really does bother me because I'm thinking that I am trying to be a good parent by being a role model of being heavily involved in church, and then to find out it has been torn down by other people's behavior. Don't get me wrong, he and his wife are wonderful people and we are very proud of them. They are finding other ways to teach our granddaughter about Jesus. Thank goodness. In Jeremiah 29:11, it says,

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

It sounds like the declining of churches must not have anything to do with God since he has plans for us to prosper, so the decline must have more to do with us. Is it our fault? If it is our fault, we need to ask God to forgive us of whatever we have done that helped cause the decline so that we can move forward with His blessings.

Parkway could be at a new beginning or could be at a continued decline. Please keep all decision makers in your prayers. All decision makers mean all members because you will have the opportunity to help make a change. Let God speak and let's listen to His voice. He, and only He is the Way Maker.



THE CHURCH ON MISSION: KNOWING AND DOING MISSIONS

The Church on Mission: Knowing and Doing Missions

In 2018, Parkway expressed the love of Christ.....

Across our Community and City by...

Giving \$819.40 through the “Share the Change” campaign to Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center.

Providing diaper bags filled with needed items for babies and mothers served by Room at the Inn.

Giving a financial contribution to Wheels 4 Hope, a organization that provides vehicles for responsible people who need transportation to their workplace.

Collecting 571 pounds of food for people who come to Urban Ministries for assistance.

Providing and giving out care packs containing hygiene items, socks & a tract to the homeless served by the Interactive Resource Center.

Providing 70 Christmas bags for women inmates at Guilford County Jail.

Providing 82 pairs of underwear for Chaplain Burke to distribute to the women at the Jail.

Giving baby and “premie” items for the neonatal unit and the indigent closet at Women’s Hospital, including lots of baby hats!

Providing insulated bags for the NICU Unit of Women’s Hospital so that breast milk can be sent home with babies when they are ready to leave the hospital.

Giving red scarves to Women’s Hospital for heart patients.

Making 65 pillows for patients & new mothers at Women’s Hospital.

Making hundreds of visits and calls, sending cards, taking gift baskets and flowers, to those who are homebound, in nursing homes or assisted living, hospitalized or sick.

Assisting those in need, through the church Benevolence Fund and by Sunday School class donations.

Ministering to Assisted Living residents with a handbell concert.

Providing paper goods, cleaning supplies & feminine hygiene items to women served by Hannah’s Haven.

Providing school supplies, non-perishable food and produce for needy children through the Backpack Ministry at General Greene School.

Holding Vacation Bible School in the summer.

Providing volunteers for Mobile Meals each quarter, as well as financial support.

Providing Prayer Shawls for people who had suffered some kind of traumatic event, such as bereavement or serious illness.

Taking gift baskets to the homebound for Easter.

Supporting local missions and ministries through the PBA Shubal Stearns Offering.

Participating in Life Chain as a pro-life witness in the community

Including Piedmont International Fellowship in the church budget.

Across our State...

Supporting state missions through the North Carolina Missions Offering.

Providing lotion for the Christmas Red Boxes to be given to women at Central Prison in Raleigh.

Sending boxes of food and supplies to NC Baptist Children’s Homes as part of their Food/Supplies Roundup.

Giving to the BCH’s Thanksgiving Offering.

Providing financial support for WMU-NC through the Heck-Jones Offering.

Serving as a Baptist Men Disaster Relief trainer at several locations and providing meals for flood victims.
Giving funds for Disaster Relief transportation to sites providing assistance to disaster victims.
Distributing Care Packs for female veterans at the Stand Down event held at Westover Church.
Sending Valentine Thank You cards to residents of the Veterans' Hospital in Salisbury.

Across our Nation ...

Providing financial support for North American missionaries and ministries through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Sending ministry items to Christmas in August missionary & church planter Alan Berthiaume in Quincy, MA.

Across our World..

Contributing to the Global Hunger Relief Fund to combat domestic and international hunger.

Contributing 200 shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child.

Supporting missions and missionaries taking the gospel to the ends of the earth, through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and through prayer.

Giving financial support for Rohingya refugees through Samaritan's Purse Bangladesh Project.

Providing financial & prayer support for the Pressons who serve with Wycliffe, Charis Ministries in Haiti and the Cokers and the Thigpens who serve with IMB.

Providing a place of residence for missionaries on stateside assignment, at our Mission House.

Providing pantry supplies for missionaries as they arrive at the Mission House.

Sending dresses & underwear & blankets, via Pat Garmon, to Honduras.

Committing to pray daily for poverty stricken families in Haiti, by name.

Participating in a number of ministry projects in Cincinnati, as a part of the Youth Mission Trip.

Supporting missions and ministry through contributions to the Cooperative Program.

Providing financial support to poverty-stricken people in Honduras through Mercy & Grace Ministries.

Thank you to all who took part in any of these missions and ministry opportunities!

Missions is not a strategy of the church, it is the very essence of the church – not what we do, but who we are as the people of God.

**“Share the Change” Campaign
Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center
January 13 – March 3, 2019**

Baby bottles will be available on **January 13** (Sanctity of Human Life Sunday) for church members to collect silver change for the Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center, an agency that defends the unborn and ministers to pregnant women in our community. Cash & checks are also welcome. Please make checks out directly to GPCC, not to the church and write “Parkway Share the Change” on the memo line. Filled baby bottles need to be returned to the church on or before **March 3**.



Susan's Scribbles

On Saturday night John and I went to Five Guys for a burger. The place was very busy and after we placed our order, we discovered that all the tables were taken. The couple who had been in line ahead of us was seated at a four-person table and offered to let us join them. So, we did. It was just a chance encounter. The busyness of the restaurant put strangers together sharing talk around the table. It was a very generous gesture for the couple to offer to share their table. It was certainly not expected. The chance encounter turned into an uplifting experience for me.

Our conversation began with a discussion of Christmas cookie baking and handbells. She plays and John told them I had been practicing for a concert on Sunday. One topic led to another and before long we were talking church. She is the vicar at a small local Episcopal church. She shared some of her experiences at her latest church as well as a former church in Maine. I was struck by the commonality of the Christian experience. We talked about church life cycles and the ebb and flow of church involvement. We talked about funerals and change. The thing that made it an important experience for me was the reality that my experience was not unique. Parkway is not the only church with challenges. It was uplifting to hear of another church facing challenges and emerging better for it. It was helpful to hear how another church leader had handled a difficult relationship problem with kindness and compassion.

As we were walking back to the car, I thought how effortless it seemed. This sharing of our lives around the table. Since I am an introvert, it is seldom that sharing my life with a stranger is effortless. We never got beyond first names and yet something meaningful happened. That is how easy it is to share our Christian witness. We have to look at the day to day encounters that we have with people as an opportunity to be a Christian witness. I'm not talking about passing out a tract to everyone you see. I'm talking about being engaged with the people you encounter every day in all kinds of situations, some strangers and some friends. Every encounter we have with people can be a positive for the kingdom of God or a negative. Some people have a negative attitude about Christianity because of their encounters with Christians. That should not be. We should all endeavor to make all our encounters with people a blessing to them. Jesus needs to be visible in our lives and on our tongues. Take the message of Jesus on your journey no matter where you go even if it is inviting a stranger to share your table.



*Thanks to the hospitality team for a delicious meal on Sunday,
December 23rd.*

The reception was wonderful thanks to Cyndy Davis and helpers. The cake was beautiful and very good.

My church friends and family, along with guests, made it a very special day. Love the Church Picture.

*Love and prayers to all.
Liz Kimbro*

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"Wednesday Morning Bible Study resumes on January 9th at 11:00 am in the church conference room, facilitated by Sharon Smith"

Prayer & Ministry Group

We will meet on **Thursday, January 24 at 10:45 am** in the Conference Room. Please bring **\$1.00 for our new long-term project & 2 cans of pork 'n beans & 2 small cans of tuna for Urban Ministries**. Barbara Moody's group will provide lunch. All women interested in missions & ministry are invited to join us! Bring a friend!