



*March, 2019*

## **Five Things to Do When You Don't Have a Pastor**

The period of time between pastors is difficult for a church. Just the presence of a pastor creates a sense of stability that is absent once they are gone. There is the uncertainty about the future that is present and often there is a general anxiety about many things, both large and small. In general, things just don't seem normal. We have been through this experience before, but it may be a good idea to review what we should do when we don't have a pastor. Here are five things to start the discussion.

**Pray.** God already knows our need. He understands us better than we understand ourselves. He already knows what is going to happen next. Giving voice to our concerns and desires helps us to be more aware of God's hand in our lives and the life of our church. Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "Pray without ceasing." If we do as he says, that puts us in a state of constant communication with God about our individual needs as well as the needs of the church. We should pray for our church as a whole, for our leaders, for God's plan for our next step and for ourselves as we play our part in our church family.

**Be thankful for what you do have.** What a difference attitude makes. Instead of focusing on all the inconveniences and difficulties of not having a pastor, we need to be thankful for the blessings of God that we continue to enjoy. Paul again tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." That speaks to our attitude, our way of facing the world. We have many things to be thankful for if we give it some thought. We can continue to meet together for worship. We have a means to continue to hear the Word of God preached even if it is by different preachers. We have freedom to assemble and worship as we see fit. We can meet together in a place where we are safe and warm. We even have cushions on the pews. What would you add to the list?

**Encourage each other.** The ups and downs of our individual lives as well as our church life continue even when we don't have a pastor. There will be good things that happen and bad things that happen. As members of the body of Christ called Parkway Baptist Church, we need to be ready to walk with each other through whatever life brings. There will be sickness, disappointments, frustrations and maybe even tragedy and death. We need to be ready with a kind and encouraging word to each other. The writer of Hebrews speaks to this in chapter 10, verses 24 and 25. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Our desire should be to lift each other up and help each other as we do the Lord's work.

(cont. next page)

**Limit Criticism.** It's a given that things will happen that don't make us happy. We may see something that requires fixing. We may notice something that is not being done properly. Certainly, all of us aspire to give our very best to the Lord and His church. In our effort to make things better, we need to make sure we don't make things worse. We need to remember that often our fellow church members are in roles that are new to them or even roles that are difficult for them. If we approach each other with the attitude that we are all doing the best we can with the resources that we have, then we will all be less critical. If a correction needs to be made it is important for us to do it with kindness and gentleness. Paul tells us in Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Even in moments of correction we should be thinking more about the other person than ourselves.

**Take Up Some of the Slack.** In this time of transition there is extra work to be done. All the roles that in the past were filled by the pastor must be filled by someone else. Each of us needs to be willing to take on some of the responsibility to keep the church running during this time. Each of us has different gifts and talents. God has placed us all here with different abilities so that all the necessary tasks of a church can be done. We need to be willing to share our gifts and talents to help keep the church running. Perhaps God has been teaching and grooming you for more involvement in his church. Be willing to shoulder some of the work. Volunteer to do something that you have the ability to do. Don't wait to be asked. All of us are part of the body and we should all be interested in keep the body in good working order. 1 Corinthians 12:7 tells us, "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. Our gifts are not for our personal use but are to be used for the church. Let's use our gifts for the glory of God during this time of transition.

## **Director Of Music and Worship Ministries**

To our Parkway family, Janie and I would like to thank you for letting us spend six and a half years with you. It was definitely God that sent us here. I've learned one thing in this experience and that is He can and will use a broken vessel that has been through a terrible storm. As with a lot of storms, it is difficult to see where you are going and what direction to follow. Sometimes you just need float and let God steer the ship and let him take you to your destination while you take time to heal. Thank you for letting us spend time with you. We must now leave as I feel like this is God's mission for me to teach another church about the joy of music and worship. We will continue to pray for Parkway as you seek and choose the direction God wants you to go. I know it can be confusing floating on that ship, but some day I hope the storm will clear up and your direction will be clear. We love you. Chip and Janie

## **New Evangelism Opportunity**

Drew and Hannah Brandon, the missionaries living in our Mission House have graciously offered to help us improve our witnessing skills. They would like to form a small group of Parkway people to mentor in reaching others for Christ. This will not be a book study but instead will be a practical course with accountability to help us learn to be effective witnesses. There will be an initial meeting of those interested in this new opportunity on March 10 at 4:00pm in the conference room. Come and listen to Drew and Hannah describe their vision for teaching us to reach our community. You will have an opportunity to join the group if you so desire at this meeting. The regular meeting time will be determined by the schedules of those who choose to participate.

If you have any questions, see Susan Small.

## PREACHERS FOR MARCH

**March 3 and March 24- Pastor Phil Whitt**, grew up in Greensboro, graduated from Page High, Campbell University, Luther Rice Seminary. Pastored 5 churches over 50 years of ministry; 2 of those churches are in Greensboro: Gate City Baptist. and DayStar which he started in 1997. Married to Joy Garner Whitt and have 3 daughters & 6 grandchildren

**March 10 - Jayson West**, Jayson grew up in the Atlanta area and in 2000, he and his wife Marianne moved to Greensboro for a job opportunity. Over his 20 years with the same firm, Jayson has been in Institutional Retirement Plan sales and has managed teams of sales professionals regionally and nationally. Jayson and Marianne moved their family to Mercy Hill Church almost three years ago to begin what they felt was an opportunity to be a part of a church focused on missions and church planting. In 2017, Jayson felt that God was calling him to go to seminary, so he began taking classes at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jayson is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Church Planting. In the Spring of 2018, soon after Eric and Kelly Hovis shared with them their plans to plant New City Church in Tampa, Florida, Jayson and Marianne began praying about joining the launch team. As they prayed it became clear that God was leading them to become a part of this church plant and in the summer of 2018 they joined the team. God continued to reveal His plans for Jayson and Marianne and Jayson is now slated to leave his corporate career and become the Executive Pastor at New City Church later this year. Jayson and Marianne have six beautiful children ranging in age from 6 to 18 years old.

**March 17 - Larry Doyle**

**March 31 - Carter Mundy** is the Associate Executive Director at Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center. He earned his undergraduate degree in architecture from Virginia Tech, then took a hard right-turn to go to seminary where he earned a Master's Degree in Christian Ethics from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. On the job, he enjoys teaching biblical sexual ethics, connecting with churches and local organizations for partnership opportunities, and doing his best to wrangle the crazy staff members of the Care Center! Outside the pregnancy center ministry, he enjoys spending time with his wife and three young children (2 girls and a boy) and doing projects around the house. Carter also loves to serve as a directional and shepherding elder at Mercy Hill Church.

### Mobile Meals

Friday March 29th

9:30 am

Please find a substitute if you cannot deliver your scheduled route. Please contact Georgia Gaines 336-282-0590, if you have any questions.

### The Old and the New

The year is past and all mistakes should be sealed and put away.  
Everyone should do their best to bring about a better day.  
It is only through the forgiving heart that we can close the erring door.  
When it's closed, we should forget and open it no more.

The year is past. We should not mourn nor should we cry for yesterday.  
A world of tears cannot erase, can't wash one sin away.  
Nor can they change those yesterdays into a bright or new tomorrow,  
But we can change ourselves, and then bring joy where we brought sorrow.

The new is here. The old is gone. Those good old days we can't relive.  
What is tomorrow we do not know but we can pray and we can give.  
And when another year appears, if we have done our best,  
We can look back at yesterday, old days of happiness.



## THE CHURCH ON MISSION: KNOWING AND DOING MISSIONS

### *Share the Change Campaign*

We hope you have been filling your baby bottle with change to support the Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center. (If you haven't picked up a bottle to fill, there are plenty on the Missions Table.) If your bottle isn't full, never mind! Cash and checks are welcomed too! If you write a check, make it out to Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center. Don't forget to bring your bottle to church by Sunday, March 3. It would be really helpful if you would count the change and write the total on a slip of paper and include it in the bottle! Put it in the box on the missions table or turn it in to the office.

### *Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering:*

This year, the theme is "Sending Hope". The call for believers is the same today as it was then: Love God, love others and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Many today feel hopeless. We have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus, taking hope throughout the continent and shining light into dark places. We can do this by praying for the lost, giving to gospel ministries, witnessing to those around us, and reaching out in compassion.

Video clips will be shown during the morning services leading up to Easter. Prayer guides will be included in the bulletins. Please pray for the missionaries featured each day of the Week of Prayer. They represent the work of all the North American Mission Board's missionaries. Pray too, concerning your contribution to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Our church goal is \$3,000. The Annie Armstrong Ingathering is slated for April 28. AAEO envelopes will be included with the regular offering envelopes being mailed to members and additional envelopes can be found in the back of the pews for your convenience. Please make out checks to Parkway and write "Annie Armstrong" or "AAEO" on the memo line.

### **Prayer & Ministry Group**

The March meeting of the Prayer & Ministry group will be at 10:45 am on **March 28** in the Conference Room. Ladies, please bring **\$1.00 for Triad Ladder of Hope, 3 cans of chicken noodle soup & 3 cans of tomato soup for Urban Ministries.** Lunch will be provided by Susan's group. Our ministry project this month will be for the Homebound.





Dear Parkway Family;

Thank you so much for all the prayers, calls, texts, cards, food and flowers during my recent total hip replacement. All of this kindness touched my heart. God has been very good to me and He answered many prayers. I have been pain free since I woke up from surgery.

Thank you all for your kindness.

Love in Christ,  
Jan Stanley

**Thank You** - Kay Weddell and Family would like to thank the church family for all of your loving support at John's passing. Words cannot express the comfort you shared just by being there. The food, cards, visits and labors all expressed a Christ-like spirit that was such a blessing. We pray God continues to use you as you bless others! Love in Christ!!!



Liz Kimbro  
7589 W. Firebird Drive  
Glendale AZ. 85308

Phone: Cell 336-317-7142  
Email: ekimbro18@gmail.com

Barbara Seay  
6100 West Friendly Avenue  
Apt. 2209  
Greensboro, NC 27410

Home Phone the Same: 336-854-2002  
Cell: 336-314-2471  
Email: Seaybar@aol.com





## Susan's Scribbles

How do you connect with God? Prayer immediately comes to mind. Prayer is a direct one on one conversation with God. We can talk to God in prayer about our most intimate, personal needs and desires. We can connect through reading and studying the Bible. This enables us to understand how God wants us to navigate our life and how we can become more like Jesus. We can connect to God through immersing ourselves in nature. Observing God's vast and majestic creation helps us to understand our place in God's mighty kingdom. We can also connect to God through sacred music. Music gives us a means to offer our praise and worship to God that is both emotional and intellectual.

I find myself connecting with God through all the ways mentioned above, but most often I connect through music. While a beautiful passage of music has the power to move us, the real power of sacred music is in the lyrics. The arrangement of the notes in a piece of music is neither sacred or secular. In fact, there are sacred songs and secular songs that have the same melody.

For me, it is the words of a sacred song that offer me strength and assurance even if it is just running through my head as I go about my other activities. When I play an offertory during the worship service on Sunday morning, I am always reminded of some powerful advice I once received from a piano conference leader. She said, "When you are playing in church, always play the words." That means as I am playing the song, the words are running through my head and I can give emphasis where it is needed based on the words. Some members of the congregation have told me that they want to sing when I play alone. I always tell them to go ahead and sing. That desire to sing along means the words of the song are speaking to you. They carry the message of Jesus even if you are only hearing the melody.

During this time of transition as we search for a new music director, I think we need to renew our commitment to the worship and praise of God through music. We need to continue to connect with Him in song. We need to be engaged with God in all the music in our service. We need to be praising God with abandon as we worship. If your engagement involves tapping feet and raising hands, that's great. If your feet are only tapping in your heart that is great too. If you want to silently contemplate the words during sections of the service that involve only music that is wonderful. If you want to use your voice as you contemplate, feel free to sing along. It is all about connecting to God and He is the audience for which we sing.

***Help me to walk in your light,  
and live my life in faith and glory.***



**1411 Benjamin Parkway  
Greensboro  
North Carolina  
27408-4518**

**Phone** 336-288-2710

**Email** info@parkwaygso.org

**Website** www.parkwaygso.org

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 104  
Greensboro, NC

**Return Service Requested**

## **Our Church Staff**

### **Susan Small**

Director of Discipleship and  
Church Ministries  
susansmall@parkwaygso.org  
**Office Ext. 209**

### **Libby Boggs**

Administrative Secretary  
info@parkwaygso.org  
**Office Ext. 201**

### **Amber Bolling**

Financial Secretary



On Sunday March 10,  
Turn your clocks  
forward one hour to  
Begin Daylight Saving  
Time. Also, change  
Your smoke alarm  
batteries if they are  
more than a year old.

Don't have working smoke alarms?  
Call the Greensboro Fire Department  
at 336-574-4088 for free equipment  
and installation