

Pulse of Parkwood

September 2009

PULSE OF PARKWOOD IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Return

Zechariah 1: 3 - This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Return to me," declares the Lord Almighty, "and I will return to you." (NIV)

The arrival of September brings out a chorus of "back to ... " -- I'll let you finish the sentence. Some look forward to going back; some dread the idea, and put off thinking about it as long as possible.

The idea of going back to something, or someone, is a Biblical idea. In fact, the English word "back" appears over 600 times in the New International Version of the Bible; the word "return" appears over 200 times. The notion of going "back" includes the idea of having first moved forward, and together the idea of movement points to a rhythm. Life has many rhythms. The earth moves back and forth, sometimes farther, sometimes

nearer, the sun. We rise from our beds, only to return to them and lie down again. We get up from the table, and a few hours later return to it to eat again.

The prophet Zechariah is commissioned to speak for God, and, among others, he reminds us that God sees our going and coming, and bids us return to Him. In fact, He promises to return to us.

Sometimes going back means returning to resume a good habit which has been neglected for awhile. Attending public worship, spending a minutes each day reading the Bible or perhaps a devotional meditation, returning to talk to God in prayer in the morning or the evening or both -- all are examples of practices to which we are encouraged to return.

For others, going back may mean a return to first principles -- asking the questions that are necessary in laying the foundation for meaningful life. Who am I? Why am I here? What am I called to do while I live? Where am I going? How can I be sure of getting there? Going back to first principles may mean re-ordering the priorities of our lives.

Still others may find that going back means seeking to restore relationships. Re-connecting with children who have grown or moved on; recommitting to engage with a husband or wife, seeking to restore a relationship with a colleague at work or a neighbour -- all these are examples of what a call to "return" might entail.

The good news is that God is in the “returns” business. Jesus came to tell many stories to encourage return. The parable of the prodigal son, returning to his father after having wasted his inheritance and having made a first-class mess of his life, is the best known illustration, designed to show us the wisdom of “coming to our senses” and turning back, to find our way to a God who is waiting to welcome each one who returns.

Perhaps this is a point in your life’s journey where you need to return to God. Maybe to worship, maybe to worship more regularly, maybe to share in a fellowship group, maybe to take up an avenue of service -- the point to which we return will be different for each of us -- but God’s call is for all of us. “Return to me,” declares the Lord, “and I will return to you.”

God has promised to return to us ... Dare we not return to Him?

Your pastor, returned from some vacation, and glad to be back,

James T. Hurd

Circle the Date on Your Calendar

CANHAVE's Annual Fundraising Dinner will be held on **Saturday, October 24th**, 5:30 pm – 10 pm, at Christ Church Cathedral Hall, 420 Sparks Street. It will be an evening of food, crafts, entertainment and silent auction. This year, instead of a buffet, dinner will be served to each table. Advance tickets are \$35 each or \$260 for a table of 8. After October 8th, tickets will be \$40 each. See Jan Sheridan if you would like a form to reserve a full table of 8.



Please e-mail all Pulse submissions to office@parkwoodchurch.ca

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT PULSE:
Monday, September 28, 2009**

Parkwood Presbyterian Church
10 Chesterton Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K2E 5S9
www.parkwoodchurch.ca

613-225-6648

office@parkwoodchurch.ca

The Pulse is in colour online.



Summer Sunday School Volunteers

THANK YOU for supporting Parkwood’s Summer Sunday School Program. It is only with your assistance that we are able to provide programming for the children of our congregation during the summer months. So, once again **THANK YOU** for a job well done!!

- Blessings on you from the Christian Education Team



Record Breaking Teddies

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of Parkwood family and friends (knitters, stuffers, face-makers, and makers of bags), a record number of 240 teddies have been delivered to the Toronto area to be forwarded to Doctors Without Borders.

Congratulations to all participants!



Back to School - Back to KUMON Crafts

The KUMON craft team is preparing to welcome KUMON students and parents throughout the coming school year- late afternoon every Monday and Thursday. Sometimes one of the team must be absent and we like to be prepared. If you think you might be able to help occasionally, please discuss possibilities with Jan Sheridan.



New! Parkwood Church Book Group

On the second Monday of alternate months, the Parkwood Church Book Group will be meeting for fellowship and discussion of a selected novel. The group will meet in September, November, January, March and May, in the Fireside Lounge, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

On September 14, at 7:30 pm, the first Parkwood Church Book Group will meet in the Fireside Lounge for a discussion of the book, ***The Shack***, by William P. Young. ***The Shack*** is a story about Mack, who works through the meaning of suffering and forgiveness as he spends the weekend with the Trinity. The discussion will be led by questions found on the website:

http://bestsellers.about.com/od/bookclubquestions/a/shack_questions.htm.

Please join us for what should be an interesting discussion! All are welcome!



Message from Leah Hopp

My time in Karamoja, Uganda with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (opc.org) was very valuable. I spent April to June of this year in rural Uganda to meet the team there and get to know the local people. I have been invited to return to work there long term and hope to go in November to teach community health. Please pray that all the details will be sorted in order for that to happen.

Since returning from Karamoja, I have been reading some materials recommended by the team to help me process working there. One book that has been informative is called "Gods of Power" by Philip M. Steyne. It gives a good overview of animism and the challenges that stem from working with animists. I will also be taking a 4-week, distance studies course in September from the Chalmers Center (chalmers.org). The course is called "Foundations and Principles of Holistic Ministry" and helps equip the local church to serve the poor through the ministries of Word and deed more effectively.

While in Karamoja, I will be working in the community teaching health. In order to do that in the beginning, I will have the help of a translator. The translator will also serve the dual purpose of protecting me on my daily walks to the villages. I will be spending time learning the language as well - called nga'karimojong. It is different and more difficult from kiswahili that I learned while in Tanzania, yet I am eager to build on the little that I learned over the two months there this spring. The rewards to knowing some language to communicate directly with people are worth all the hard work involved in trying to understand and be understood. A suitable translator has not yet been found. Please pray that the right person will be available for this role as I will be spending all day with them.

I will focus my teaching on sanitation and hygiene, prescription compliance, antenatal clinics, and children's Bible stories. There is a clinic there that is staffed by local nurses so I will not spend much time there besides morning devotions and a half day for antenatal clinics. I will be visiting people in their homes, in the fields, and occasionally in larger groups for more generalized teaching.

I will be coming to Ottawa the first week of October and hope to have time for specific questions and talks during that time. You may also email me anytime to hear more about what God is doing my in life - ljhopp@alumni.uwo.ca I am also maintaining a blog -For an invitation please email me or ask the church office for the log-in details. mishleah.blogspot.com

God bless, Leah





Read & Heed

God won't be looking for your medals, degrees or diplomas--He'll be looking for your scars.

Give God what's right-- not what's left!

It's hard to stumble when you're on your knees.

"Will the road you're on get you to my place?"God

Jesus built us a bridge, with 2 boards and 3 nails.

Count your blessings! Recounts are OK---

Don't be God's weakest link!

They see our methods, He sees our motives.

Finding hell is easy! It's at the end of a 'Christ-less' life.

The greatest of evils is our indifference towards evil!

Count your blessings, not your problems.

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep; talk to the Shepherd.

In this life it's not what you have but Who you have that counts!

He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses more; He who loses faith, loses all.

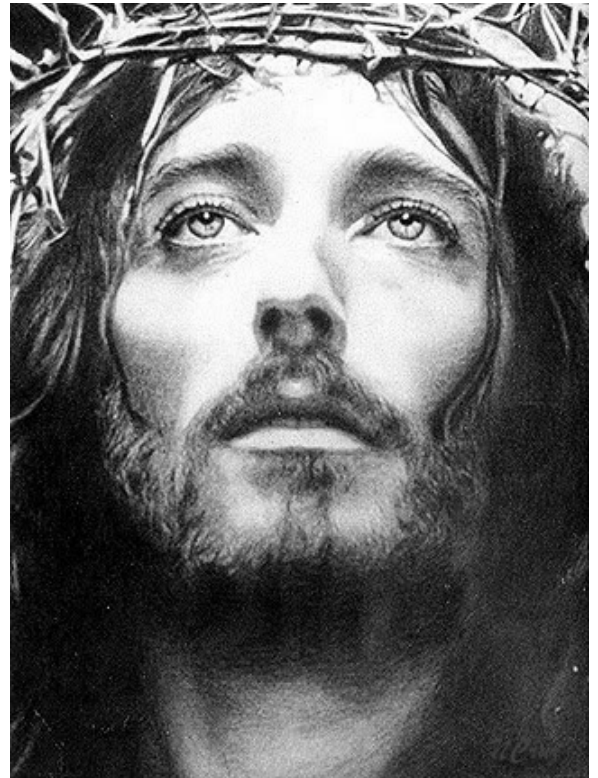
Honesty is not only the best policy, it is the will of GOD!

What does it take for God to get our attention?

You can't walk with God and hold hands with Satan at the same time.

Faith is a journey, not a destination.

When was the last time you told God you love Him? He is still listening.



ON COMMUNION



Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness;
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy thy praises render
Unto Him whose grace unbounded
Hath this wondrous banquet founded.
High o'er all the heav'ns He reigneth,
Yet to dwell with thee He deigneth.

Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray Thee,
Let me gladly here obey Thee.
By Thy love I am invited,
By Thy love with love requited;
From this banquet let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure.
Through the gifts Thou here dost give me
As Thy guest in heaven receive me.

Johann Franck (1618-77)



CORN BOIL

Everyone is invited to a corn boil after the service on **September 13th**. Hot dogs will also be served. This is to serve as a kick-off for the regular Sunday School classes and all the other programs which start up in September. Because Labour Day is so late this year we are having it somewhat later than usual, we hope there will still be corn available.

- The Fellowship Team



MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, September 26, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

State Fair – Part 2

No charge. Refreshments provided.
Free will offering.



Parkwood's Annual Retreat Weekend at Gracefield
“Encourage One Another”

Friday September 25- Sunday September 27, 2009

Once again you are enthusiastically invited to join us in our annual weekend at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre Join us for fun and fellowship, peace and reflection in God's Creation. There are opportunities for walking trails, the beach for swimming, fishing on the waterfront, use of the canoes and sailboats, or just taking time for yourself and family. There is lots of room for camping, cabins can be rented, and rooms in Beaver Lodge have been reserved for us. If you wish to have your meals in the dining hall at White Pine, indicate on the registration form and we will let Gracefield know, otherwise Beaver residents can use its kitchen and fridge for their meals (we are charged a catering fee for this, a share of which is included in registration), and cabins and campers are on their own. We will have a communal BBQ meal Saturday for supper. Whether a long-time friend of Gracefield or new to Parkwood or have never been to the camp, consider joining us for the weekend or any part there of. Please sign up by the poster in the Narthex and complete the registration form and return to Jean Sida. (Cheques **payable to Jean Sida**, the contact with the camp on your behalf). Any fundraising realized this year will be applied to subsidize our costs. **Deadline: Sunday September 13, 2009** -But **sign-up your intention as soon as possible!**

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Registration Form

Name: _____ phone _____

children names
(and ages) _____

All prices include GST and QST (compounded)

Preferred Accomodation: Beaver: adult \$56; Child \$25;
Cabin: \$200 (regardless of number of people)
camping: \$ 55 no electricity;\$60 with electricity if available

Beaver Lodge: no. of beds required _____ , any particular room? _____
Cabin? Y / N; Campsite?: Y / N (electricity needed?) Y / N

Accomodation Fees: \$ _____

Saturday Dinner \$8 per person(children <5 yrs free) for _____ people = _____
Subtotal \$ _____

Meals at White Pine Dining Hall:

lunch (\$9.50, child \$7.30) total of meals: _____ Total paid _____

breakfast (\$8.50, child \$6.20) total meals: _____ Total paid _____

Grand Total \$ _____

wanting archery _____ # Children 8+ (free) wanting canoeing: _____

*****Need a ride?** _____ **Have room to offer a ride?** _____

Additional equipment rentals: canoes etc, (see camp office, rent by hour, 1/2 day, full day)

Crown Financial Ministries Money Map - Your Visual Guide to True Financial Freedom**Part Three: Steps to Financial Freedom (continued from last issue)****7. Limit Time Involvement**

A Christian also must limit time devoted to business affairs when family involvement suffers. "Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies toward the heavens". (Proverbs 23:4-5) Many Christians are trapped in this cycle of over-commitment to business or money pursuits. It's important to remember that the priorities God sets for us are very clear and that every Christian who seeks God's best must understand God's priorities.

The first priority in a Christian's life is to develop his or her personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The second priority of a Christian's commitment is to family, which includes teaching them from God's Word. This training requires a commitment to the family unit, and that means a specific time commitment too. Christ deserves the best part of our day. If you study best in the morning, get up early in the morning and give time to the Lord. Sacrifice if necessary to do so. If you find that your family time together can take place best between 8:00 and 9:00 in the evening, commit that time to God. Turn off the television, have the children do their homework early, and begin to study the Bible together. It is important for the whole family to understand God and to pray together. Pray for those in need too. Help your children become aware that Christians, as intercessors, can pray for others and expect God to answer. The third priority in a Christian's life should be church activities, social groups, work, and all the hobbies that he or she might have.

8. Avoid Indulgence

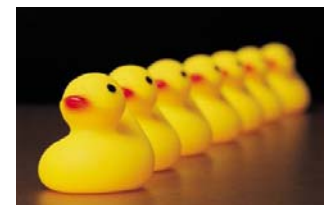
To achieve financial freedom, every Christian must avoid the indulgences of life. The range in which God's will can be found is between Luke 9:23 when Christ said, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me" and John 6:27: "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." Does your lifestyle fit within this range? Are you willing to trust God and deny yourself some indulgences? As you do, He will supply you even more. Unfortunately, most of us are self-indulgers rarely passing up a want or desire, much less a need. But, in light of the needs around us, it is important that Christians assess their standards of living. Most of us can reduce our expenditures substantially without a real reduction in living standard.

9. Get Christian Counseling

It is important to seek good Christian counseling. "Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed". (Proverbs 15:22) God admonishes us to seek counsel and not to rely solely on our own resources. Many Christians become frustrated in financial planning because they lack the necessary knowledge and then give up. God has supplied others with the ability to help in the area of finances. Seek Christian counselors.

Next issue: Steps to making a budget

With thanks to Tim Visser. Source: www.crowncanada.ca



Serenity Prayer Encore

God grant me . . .
The integrity to accept truth
from unfriendly critics,
The insight to see talents
in unlikely people, and
The grace to share with them.

God grant me . . .
The security to listen to
those who disagree with me,
The sensitivity to feel for
those who are hurting, and
The humility to serve them.

God grant me . . .
The power to accept
those who reject me,
The patience to work with
those who use me, and
The love to forgive them.

Amen.

Arthur Milo Pattison

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Parkwood E.Y.E. (Engaging Youth Everywhere)



What is God all about?

Jeremiah 29: 11-14

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me; and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord...

Philippians 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to god. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

James 2: 12-13

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Suggested further readings for the young and the young at heart:

Psalm 6

Psalm 18

Psalm 37

Proverbs 3

Proverbs 17: 26, 28

Proverbs 21: 21

Proverbs 27: 6

