

# Pulse of Parkwood

December 2009 – January 2010

PULSE OF PARKWOOD IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Source: <http://breadsite.org>



## Value

**Leviticus 27: 3 - “Set the value of a male between the ages of twenty and sixty at fifty shekels of silver, according to the sanctuary shekel.” (NIV)**

The headlines and news reports during the past year have been dominated by stories about the state of the economy. Much of the news has been “bad”, and even as reports circulate about the “recovery”, the subjects of jobs, incomes, and taxes are still very much on many people’s minds. Even in Ottawa, insulated as we have been from some of the worst of the recession, there are still many who are painfully aware of hardships and cutbacks which have followed a downturn in business. Those who have lost savings through investments gone bad and who rely on fixed pensions for income are understandably wary about the future. Those who have lost the pensions they thought they had earned are even more understandably bewildered if not justifiably angry.

It is good for those who are called to lay up treasure not on earth but in heaven to consider what we value. Not only does such a valuation help us to keep a healthy perspective on material goods, but it also allows us to make a much-needed contribution to public debate on what things we should count as priorities. Where should we as a society be spending our collective resources?

My reflections today in part stem from two conversations. One involved a young woman caring for a family member. She is seeking to earn an honest, living income by working as a personal caregiver for others, and finds at the end of the month that too few hours at a minimal wage does not translate into enough to pay for the rent, let alone any food. The other conversation was a discussion at city hall about the perceived need to hire three more full-time garbage inspectors, at a total cost of a quarter of a million dollars per year.

A wage for someone to work as a caregiver -- providing personal help to someone who is unable to do basic tasks of washing, dressing and eating, starts at ten dollars an hour (\$10./hr). If one were to work forty hours a week for fifty weeks a year at such an honourable occupation, one would have a gross income of twenty thousand dollars a year (\$20,000./yr). Surely helping another living human being to attend to the daily necessities of life is something upon which we would put a high value. Yet if one were to be hired as a garbage inspector -- in part to ensure that what can be recycled is sorted and separated properly from what cannot be recycled -- one would make, with salary and benefits, something of the order of eighty thousand dollars in a year (\$80,000./yr). Which or whom do we value more: the individual who needs to be supported and assisted with the essentials of life, and the one who is willing to live and work to offer others such support, or the purity of our garbage, and the one who is content to tell the rest of us how to sort it?

I don’t need to extrapolate the scale and point out that by paying our average professional hockey players a “wage” of two million dollars a year (\$2,000,000./yr), we are placing on their “work” to “entertain” us a

value of forty thousand dollars a week (\$40,000./wk), or twice what we pay a caregiver in a year. Yet I will do so, to make the point that we are living in a society in North America which has completely inverted the value chart. The two million dollars paid to the average hockey player is more than ten times what the average family doctor earns.

The tax collector whom Jesus called to leave his tax collecting booth and to become a disciple seeking to draw others to follow in the way of Jesus ... the way God designed life to be lived ... the way of life in a loving, supportive community ... took down words Jesus spoke about God's value on "things" and "people":

Matthew 6:26 - "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" (NIV)

We are to remember first and foremost that our value is assigned by God, and He puts a premium on each man and woman who is made in God's own image. Furthermore, the comparison of our value is made in the context in which God reminds us that He supplies even the lowliest creatures with the necessities of life. Will He not much more clothe us of little faith? We are to be comforted by the fact that God cares and will provide for us.

We are also to remember -- and to help others to grasp -- that the values of God's kingdom are not the values of a fallen, selfish, pleasure-seeking leisure society.

Jesus demonstrated God's correct and correcting perspective in a human society that valued power and wealth and leisure much as we do. Amid the mighty modern Roman Empire, the Hebrew believers were marginalised and "tolerated". Yet in such straightened circumstances, the Saviour appeared. Jesus was born in a cold cattle-shed in a small village in the dark of winter. His Father owned the cattle on a thousand hills, but our Saviour would borrow a boat for a bed, a donkey for a ride, and a cross and a tomb to live and die for us sinful sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. His apprenticeship as a carpenter prepared him to walk among the common fisher folk, and to lead them to live to build a new kingdom -- one that would address the human needs of the present but which would finally be established in heaven for all eternity. The riches of his glory were laid aside for a short sojourn here on earth, to be restored upon his return to the throne of heaven.

How then shall we live for the few short years we have here? Let us, both in our approach to the celebration of Christmas and in our attitude towards resolutions for the New Year, seek to affirm the value of each person in God's sight, and strive to point the way to a biblical and God-honouring scale for priorities within the society among which we are called to be light and salt.

Valued by Jesus, and seeking to sort value from trash, while preparing faithfully to use my new green box,

Your Pastor,

James T. Hurd.



Please e-mail all Pulse submissions to  
[office@parkwoodchurch.ca](mailto:office@parkwoodchurch.ca)  
**DEADLINE FOR NEXT PULSE**  
(February Issue)  
**Saturday, January 23, 2010**  
**No exceptions.**

Parkwood Presbyterian Church  
10 Chesterton Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K2E 5S9  
[www.parkwoodchurch.ca](http://www.parkwoodchurch.ca)  
613-225-6648  
[office@parkwoodchurch.ca](mailto:office@parkwoodchurch.ca)

The Pulse is **always** in colour online!



Our 14 year old dog, **Abbey**, died last month. The day after she died, **my 4 year old daughter Meredith** was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so she dictated these words:

**Dear God,**

**Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to play with balls and to swim. I am sending a picture of her so when You see her You will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.**

**Love, Meredith**

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

**Dear Meredith,**

**Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help. I recognized Abbey right away.**

**Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in, so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by... Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find, I am wherever there is love.**

**Love,**

**God**

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

### **Are You Ready?**

**"Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!" Luke 21:27-28 (NLT)**



Do you have a smoke alarm in your house? I hope so. In the event of a fire, a smoke alarm could save your life and the lives of your loved ones by providing a warning that would give you the chance to escape. Smoke alarms don't cost very much, and they are easy to install. It is one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family, and your home.

A word of caution about smoke alarms -- some people think that once they have a smoke alarm installed in their house they are safe from the dangers of fire. They forget that their smoke alarm is only as good as the battery inside. If the battery has lost its power, the smoke alarm will not work and you will not receive the warning needed to allow you time to escape. As a guide, the batteries should be changed at least once a year, but you should check your alarm from time to time to make sure that the batteries are still good.

What if you are fixing breakfast and burn the toast which sets off the smoke alarm? Has that ever happened at your house? Well, it is actually a good thing because it shows that your smoke alarm is working. Some people get so used to hearing the smoke alarm give false alarms that they just ignore it, or even worse, they turn it off so that they won't be bothered by it. Then, when they need it, they are in serious trouble!

If you don't have a smoke alarm in your house, I hope you will get one. If you do have one, I hope that you will make sure that it is ready to protect you when the time comes. Just as we must make sure our smoke alarm is ready in case of a fire, Jesus tells us that we must be ready for him when he returns. We don't know when that time will be, so we need to make sure that we stay ready. We need to keep our spiritual batteries charged by regular worship, Bible study, and prayer.

Sometimes we hear people saying that Jesus will return on a certain day. That day comes and goes and Jesus does not return. We may hear so many of these false warnings that we begin to think that Jesus will never return. But Jesus said, "Keep alert at all times. Pray that you will be strong. Don't let that day catch you by surprise." Jesus may not come again during my lifetime or yours, but if he does, I want to be ready, don't you?

**Father, we thank you for sending your Son to earth to save us from sin. We are also thankful that he has promised to come again. We want to be ready. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### Parkwood at Algonquin College Exam Pause Break



On **Tuesday, December 15, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.** we have the opportunity to gather at Algonquin College at the top of the stairs on the second floor at the J Block intersection.

Approximately 200 to 300 students will visit the tables that have been set up and pick up a reminder (a muffin, cookie, fruit, coffee, juice, etc.) that they are encouraged during the stress-filled exam period. All volunteers will be welcomed.

If you cannot be in attendance at the event, perhaps you could contribute to the following needs:

- Muffins
- Cookies
- Fruit
- Store bought snacks
- Help the shopping with a vehicle
- Delivering the supplies
- Setting out the various food items on the tables.

If you can volunteer in any way, please contact **Linda Robinson** at **819-770-3983**.



### Preaching Outline - Advent and Christmas 2009

**Nov. 29** - "The gift of mercy"

**Dec. 6** - "Clear a path to the table" (Isaiah 40: 1-5)  
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**Dec. 13** - "Lasting joy" (Isaiah 35)

**Dec. 20** - "A picture of love" (Isaiah 11: 6-9)

**Thursday, Dec. 24th** - 7:00 p.m. - "The zeal of the Lord" (Isaiah 9: 2-7)  
Christmas Eve Family Service - Lessons and Carols

**Friday, Dec. 25th** - 11:00 a.m. - "Great is the Holy One" (Isaiah 12)  
Christmas Day Worship

**Dec. 27** - "His time on your hands? or My time in His hands?" (Psalm 31: 15)

**Jan. 3** - "The goodness of Lord" (Psalm 31: 19)

### **White Gifts – December 13, 2009**

On Sunday, December 13, White Gifts will be collected to help many individuals and families celebrate a joyous Christmas even though they continue to struggle with limited income. Three boxes will be depositories for the gifts which will go to The Mission, Ottawa Innercity Ministries, people in our congregation and the Carlington Community. If you are willing to help with Parkwood’s outreach ministry the following instructions will help you plan wisely for your contributions.

- Children’s gifts are to be unwrapped and accompanied with wrapping paper and ribbon so that a parent will have the pleasure of wrapping the gift for his or her child.
- A gift of money can be provided. Please place it in your offering envelope and mark it with “White Gift”.

#### **Suggested items for White Gifts:**

**The Mission:** gloves/mitts, hat, scarf, socks, underwear, shaving cream, toothbrush, tooth paste, soap, deodorant, towel, washcloth, etc.

**Ottawa Innercity Ministries:** gloves/mitts, hat, scarf, socks, clothing, underwear, sanitary pads, deodorant, sleeping bag, back packs, towel, washcloth, games, etc.

If you have any question, please contact Linda Robinson at 819-770-3983 or any other member of the Mission Team.



### **NEW BIBLE STUDY: Beacon Small Group Bible Study**

**IT IS ...** a discussion guide to help **small study groups** understand better the Word of God and relate its truth to their daily lives ... designed to help people discover God’s truth for themselves in a **supportive** and **encouraging** small group fellowship. The group will meet **every Sunday morning at 11:45.**



### **CanHave News**

**CanHave Christmas cards are available from Jan Sheridan: 613-224-5624**

**Appeal for Gently Used Goods:** The congregation of Parkwood Church is requested to look amongst their gently-used goods for the benefit of the CanHave Trade School, to fill a 20’ container is being sent from Ottawa to Uganda in December. Half of the container will transport gently-used tools gathered and packed by Lee Valley Tools. The items most needed are **1) Pots, pans and other kitchenware 2) Sports equipment: volleyball, netball, soccer balls & nets 3) Bedding: single sheets & pillow cases 4) Bicycles: simple, one or three-speed 5) Computers: laptops and desktops with licensed XP CDs for installation.**

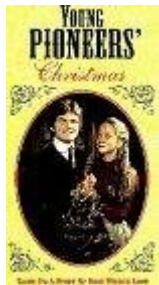
### Parkwood Presbyterian Book Group



Are you looking for some good books to read? The Parkwood Presbyterian Book Group is going to meet and discuss the following books. Come and join us the second Monday of alternate months. We meet at Parkwood Presbyterian Church from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. The dates and books for discussion are listed below. Books can be purchased or ordered through Salem Bookstore or Chapters. Most are also available at the public library.

Title	Author	Date
<i>At Home in Milford</i>	Jan Karon	January 11, 2010
<i>The Girl in the Picture</i>	Denise Chong	March 8, 2010
<i>The Five People you Meet in Heaven</i>	Mitch Albom	May 10, 2010
<i>The Red Tent</i>	Anita Diamant	September 13, 2010
<i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i>	Mary Ann Shaffer and Anne Barrows	November 8, 2010

Join us!!!



**Movie Night**  
Saturday, January 30, 7:00 PM  
**following the Bean Supper**

### **Young Pioneers' Christmas (1976)**

starring Linda Purl  
Roger Kern  
Robert Hays  
and Mare Winningham

A young couple and their neighbours celebrate Christmas in 1874 on the Dakota prairie. Despite tragedy and an ongoing battle with the Railway company, Christmas is a homespun and overly sentimental affair. This program was recommended by the National Education Association.

Located downstairs in the meeting area. Big screen and speakers. No charge. Refreshments provided. Free will offering.



# Parkwood Presbyterian Church's

## Second Annual Bean Supper & Movie Night



**GET YOUR TICKET!**  
**SATURDAY JANUARY 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Dinner at 5:30 p.m.**

See your Elder or call:

Jean Pierre 224-3792

Tim 825-3434

Don 226-3089

**Memorial Note - Tom Kennedy**

We mourn the passing of Tom Kennedy on October 27, 2009. Many of the congregation may not be aware that Tom presented us with the Bible which is carried into the sanctuary every Sunday. Tom served as an active elder at Parkwood from June 10, 1984, to December 17, 1991 and overall had been an elder in the Presbyterian Church for over 50 years when he retired at the age of 75. His wife Mary Lou sang in the choir for many years.

Though born in Glasgow, Scotland, Tom was a passionate Canadian and flew a large Canadian flag from a flagstaff on his front lawn on Woodmount Crescent. He had a life-long interest in ships, inherited from his father, who was a ship's captain. He worked as a naval architect and was involved with the design of some major Canadian ships.

Tom's funeral was held on Saturday, October 31st from St. Andrew's Church, Arnprior, where he attended in the last few years after moving to Arnprior shortly before Mary Lou's death in November, 2006. Burial was in the Admaston Cemetery, out of Renfrew.

Before Tom left Scotland, his grandfather gave him a Bible and directed his attention to Proverbs 3 as words by which to live. Tom never forgot those words, and carried them with him all his days, in all his many and varied travels.

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths." (Proverbs 3: 5-6)**



**Treasurer's Note**

Please note that all donations to be reflected on the 2009 receipt for income tax purposes must be in the hands of the treasurer on or before December 31, 2009. Please pick up your 2010 offering envelopes from the table in the narthex. Please note that for the convenience of those who either do not have or have left their offering envelopes at home, generic offering envelopes are provided at either end of the pews. An opportunity is provided on the generic envelopes to request offering envelopes. Please be sure to include your complete name and address including postal code. If you wish, your contributions to the church can be made by automatic monthly debits from your bank account. To request offering envelopes, or enroll in our automatic debit plan, or to request more information, please contact the treasurer, Lorne Roach at 613-224-3706 or by email lcroach@sympatico.ca



**Recent Acquisitions for the Church Library**

- E Kitz 1738 - Kitz, David - Psalms Alive: connecting Heaven and Earth (2009)  
An enlightening interpretation of many of our favourite psalms.
- H Wie 1734 - Wiersbe, Warren - 50 people every Christian should know: learning from spiritual giants of the faith (2009)  
Some very famous like Spurgeon & Newman. Others little known but with interesting stories.
- L Cha 1737 - Chan, Francis - Forgotten God: reversing our tragic neglect of the Holy Spirit (2009)  
The author tells of a life changing message about the power of the Holy Spirit and his desire to be in our daily lives.

**Recent Acquisitions (continued)**

L Gar 1739 - Garlow, James L. - Heaven and the afterlife (2009)

The author helps to sort out the fiction and facts about the afterlife. We do not become angels, alas!

L Jer 1736 - Jeremiah, David. - Living with confidence in a chaotic world: what on earth should we do now? (2009)

The author brings a message of hope and confidence on how to weather the storms of life with a calm heart.

L Llo 1735 - Lloyd-Jones, Martyn - Let not your heart be troubled (2009)

Sermons all on John Chapter 14 verses 1 to 12 given by the author just after the 2nd World War.

N Dob 1733 - Dobson, James - Love must be tough (2003)

The author's "tough love" principles have proved to be valuable and effective for marriages in crisis.

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**Crown Financial Ministries Money Map - Your Visual Guide to True Financial Freedom**

Steps to Making a Budget, Part III will be **continued next issue**.

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**Wonderful women (and men too!)**

She is a dying breed, wavering, but still on her feet, at depopulated church halls across the country. She will be right with you, once she trims the crusts from a plate of egg salad sandwiches.

The church lady has been, on occasion, an object of ridicule. *Saturday Night Live* dined out on her mannerisms for years with a highly popular skit. British novelist Barbara Pym poked gentle fun at the church ladies who populated her books.

But she has seldom been celebrated.

Ottawa artist Karen Bailey [did] just that in a series of paintings [recently] on exhibit at the Dale Smith Gallery in New Edinburgh titled *Blanche Dot Doris*, named after women the artist met through her mother, church ladies all.

Her works are imbued with the poignancy that surrounds the women who toil in church halls these days as membership slides and houses of worship close their doors. The women who have contributed thousands of hours to pouring tea and doing good works are disappearing and are not likely to be replaced.

Like volunteers in many parts of society – the people who form the backbone of religious institutions, social clubs and charities – church ladies have filled a genuine need. They have helped the sick and the frail, providing a social outlet for those with few others, raising money for worthy causes, knitting warm clothes for those who would otherwise go without.

Becoming a church lady, in all its many forms and religious connotations, is not something people aspire to these days. Our society is the poorer for it.

(Reprinted from the Ottawa Citizen)