

Pulse of Parkwood

April 2010

PULSE OF PARKWOOD IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The death of death and the birth of life

The convergence of the celebration of Easter and the arrival of spring is a happy coincidence on our calendars. Rarely do the dates match exactly; but knowing that both come within a few days or weeks of each other is a great source of hope.

In the same way, the coinciding of the end of winter and the anniversary of the crucifixion also makes for a sombre but satisfying season. Dirt and death are swept away together.

It is wonderful when good things come together in our lives. For some it is graduation, marriage, and the start of a new job all happening at once, like a friend of mine for whom all of the above once transpired within the same two-week period. Others are overjoyed when a move to a new house, the arrival of a new baby, and a financial windfall from a tax refund are all logged on the same page of the calendar.

Some people are happy when good things come three at a time; others, though, are wary when it is bad things that come three at a time. It is not so wonderful when all the bad news comes at once. The death of a loved one, the loss of a job, the diagnosis of a serious illness can all pile up, and it seems the whole world is against us.

There are times when the March/April period has seemed to be the worst of seasons. When I lived elsewhere, I knew someone who used to plan to escape to Florida for about the first thirty days of spring while the snow was melting, partly because he didn't want to deal with the mud and the mess -- or the dirt and debris left over from winter -- until after the sun had done its work to warm things up and dry them out.

To escape the transition from winter to spring, though, is to miss the beauty and wonder of the signs of spring: the first robins playfully pursuing one another and beginning to build a nest, the first shoots of new life from the daffodil or tulip bulbs in the front garden, the joy of being able to navigate the sidewalks for the first time without boots. To step out and feel that "spring is in the air" is a wonderful feeling. It is invigorating and renewing, not only to feel and see the effects of the sunshine and longer days, but also to see and realise how closely spring follows winter. Darkness turns to light, cold is replaced by heat, and dead branches sprout new life.

The death of winter and the birth of spring go hand-in-hand. Likewise, the season of suffering and death which culminated in the bad news of Jesus' death on that first Good Friday is followed so closely by the good news of his rising again on that first Easter Day. The death of Jesus for our sin and the resurrection of Jesus as the firstfruits of all who believe are intertwined. We cannot have one without the other. The two go together.

George Matheson in his hymn, "O love that wilt not let me go" wrote:



O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

As we watch the wastes of winter being cleared away and the colours of the dead giving way to the vibrant hues of life, let us give thanks for the arrival of spring. As we mark the suffering and death of Jesus our Lord on that Friday we call rightly call good, and his irrepressible resurrection on the very first day of the next week, let us rejoice in the life and hope that spring from both His death and resurrection, and which He brings to all who will receive and welcome Him.

Psalm 30: 5 - "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (KJV)

Grieving in death but rejoicing in life and in hope,

Your pastor,

James T. Hurd.



Please e-mail all Pulse
submissions to
office@parkwoodchurch.ca
DEADLINE FOR NEXT PULSE
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No exceptions.
The Pulse is always
in colour online!



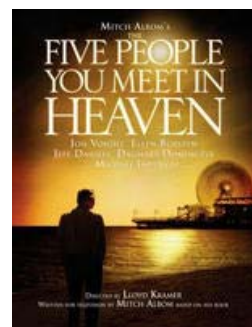
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Parkwood Presbyterian Church Book Group



On the evening of March 8, a group of readers met to discuss the book, The Girl in the Picture, by Denise Chong. It was a meaningful discussion of the book's skilful account about the life of "the girl in the picture" and her family. The book told of how war and faith shaped, and brought purpose into Kim's life. Thank you, Jean for suggesting this fascinating book.

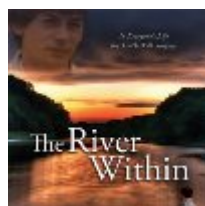
The next meeting of the Book Group will be May 10, from 7:30 - 9:00. We will be discussing The Five People You Meet in Heaven, by Mitch Albom. Anne Lamott, author of Travelling Mercies and Blue Shoes, says, "This is a lovely book, sweet, entertaining and wise. What a gutsy, surprising follow-up to Morie (Tuesdays with Morie)." The Five People You Meet in Heaven is available at bookstores and in many formats (book, CD, tape, large print, PDF file) at the Ottawa Public Library.



The Parkwood Book Group invites everyone who enjoys discussing books to the next get together.

All welcome!

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**Movie Night**  
Saturday, April 24, 7:00 PM

**The River Within (2009)**

Jason returns home to get away while he studies for the upcoming bar exam. After visiting his oldest friend, a "coulda-been-girlfriend" who is now engaged, and a pushy preacher, his easygoing summer becomes filled with unwanted drama. Over the few months he's there, he begins to question what life is about, and what his purpose is in it.

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

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Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.

If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!

Ladies Breakfast

The next meeting will take place on **Saturday, April 10th at 8.30 a.m.** Our speaker will be **Lynne Thibodeau** from **Spectrum Intervention Group**. This is a group that aims to help **children** diagnosed **with autism**. First and foremost is respect and dignity for the learners as individuals. Their aim is always to help each child reach his/her potential. Please join us for breakfast, fellowship and an interesting talk.



SENIORS' SPRING LUNCHEON - SATURDAY, MAY 1st. NOON TO 3PM

Local churches: St. Maurice Catholic, St. Richard's Anglican, Parkwood Presbyterian and City View United are working together to plan a spring luncheon for seniors in our neighbourhood to be held at St. Maurice Catholic Church (4 Perry St.)

The idea is for a senior to bring for fellowship and fun another senior who has limited social contacts.

Please call and reserve by April 19 as there is limited seating space.

This luncheon is organized and funded by volunteers. We ask for your help in reaching out to the isolated seniors in our neighbourhood by volunteering some of your time and talent.

We need drivers, entertainment (singers, dancing, instrument playing) and help on the day to set up and assist the seniors.

Your support would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Dora Brown at 613-224-9110 for registration and /or volunteering.



Lunch and Learn
Parkwood Presbyterian Church
10 Chesterton Drive off of Meadowlands Drive

Lunch at 12 noon followed by a speaker at 1:00

The topic for April 26th is Diabetes

Everyone is welcome.



The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.



© DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS / MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (MSF) – CANADA

In March 2006, in response to the high levels of maternal mortality and ongoing conflict between armed groups, MSF opened an emergency obstetric hospital in the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince. Jude Anne Hospital aimed to assist women who have little access to emergency obstetric care, who live in the poorest neighbourhoods of the city and are thus most at risk.

At the time MSF projected that it would handle 300 births a month. In September 2006, hospital teams delivered 1,300 babies, about one every half hour. This unexpected surge in births led the team to move to a new hospital structure in February 2009. The new hospital, called Maternité Solidarité, provides more space to improve the services and standard of care provided to women in need of emergency care.

To identify pregnant mothers who are potentially at risk, a team of outreach workers regularly visits the slums of Port-au-Prince. They teach expectant mothers how to look for signs, such as bleeding or unusual headaches, that might require emergency care. They sing songs in Creole and play games to communicate their message to attentive audiences.

Two mobile MSF clinics also visit the slums to offer antenatal care to expectant mothers in their own neighbourhoods. MSF also has a program to help prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child at birth by testing women for HIV and transferring them to a hospital that will provide medicine to protect the unborn baby. MSF offers psychosocial counselling to women as well as antenatal and postnatal care.

Since opening the emergency obstetric program in Port-au-Prince, MSF has delivered over 40,000 babies. These figures clearly indicate a massive and ongoing need for emergency obstetric care for women living in the slums.



God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

A "Rock Concert"

"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." Luke 19:40 (NIV)

Based on Luke 19:28-40



L M Z C L O A K S P D T Z L L
 G L O R Y N C V C D R Q B R K
 A L J E L A M T I O V A G N B
 R T O U J M J P C L L K I T M
 W C N R X E K L T S L T A S R
 I H E A V E N I J B O A U R E
 J N S I N T Y C N D K J G P V
 M E D J E P V F V G B W A E O
 Y L S C S T O N E S V E V E I
 X H A U R Q M B W D Z I X K C
 N E T X S O D T E P J W W N E
 P A P D O R W I V Q U I E T S
 A Y A T O W T D B L E S S E D
 G O V L W M I R A C L E S N Q
 R W S P R E A D I L B B Q J H

QUIET	ROAD	MIRACLES	HEAVEN	VILLAGE
VOICES	STONES	CLOAKS	GLORY	LORD
NAME	JESUS	PRAISE	KING	BLESSED
TIED	COLT	PEACE	CROWD	SPREAD

