

Pulse of Parkwood

May 2010

PULSE OF PARKWOOD IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Foxes and rabbits ... and love in action

“Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.” (Song of Songs 2: 15, NIV)

I am usually a peaceful man, who enjoys the wildlife -- birds, squirrels, and the like -- which frequent our yard. Last Saturday, however, I was heard to say,

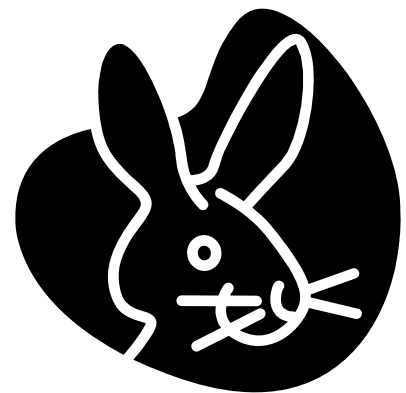
“I would like to shoot that rabbit!”

The problem was that I went looking for tulips in our garden. Having added last year two dozen new bulbs to the previous dozen or so that graced our yard, I was looking forward to a bright swath of colour in both the front and back flower beds next to our house. To my dismay, however, I found only a baker's dozen of flowers scattered in the front bed, and one, single, solitary tulip in the whole of the back yard.

When I lamented to my wife, “Where are our tulips?” I was quickly informed, “Oh the bunny rabbit ate them!” Now I do not begrudge the neighbourhood rabbits their share of green food, but I do not willingly offer them my finest fresh tulips! Hence my comment to the effect, **“Down with the rabbit!”** At the very least, there are a multitude of leafy, green, flowering weeds which he would be welcome to chew to his heart's content -- but not my tulips.

Hence verse 15 in chapter 2 of the Song of Songs caught my attention in my daily reading this morning: “Catch for us the foxes ... that ruin our vineyards that are in bloom.”

Solomon in the Song of Songs writes a poem depicting love. Offering vivid descriptions of a lover and his beloved delighting in each other, the Song of Songs has been understood and interpreted as an allegory describing the love between Christ and his beloved Church.



To catch the foxes that ruin the vineyard is important to ensure the health and beauty of the garden in which the lovers live and rejoice together. Solomon is telling us that love in action works decisively to remove what is harmful, in order to promote the health of our relationship with our Lord and Saviour.

In the same way, a shepherd is called to watch and act against anything which might invade or harm or destroy the flock of God. God also calls all of us to be on the alert against the devices of Satan who seeks to tempt, sidetrack, and ruin our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Now, I might not shoot the rabbit -- but if I am to promote the health and beauty of the garden, I had better plug the hole in the lattice work under the back porch which is an attractive hiding spot -- and fill in the hollow under the gate to prevent the rabbit from gaining entrance.

Watching for things that seek to destroy the flock of God, and praying for faithfulness to act to address effectively the dangers,

Your pastor,

James T. Hurd.

The 2010 Iceland volcano eruption (in colour online).



Please e-mail all Pulse submissions to office@parkwoodchurch.ca
DEADLINE FOR NEXT PULSE
(Summer Issue)
Monday, May 24, 2010
No exceptions.
The Pulse is always in colour online!



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Highlights of the March 22nd, 2010 Session Meeting

- Our minister attended **Margaret Williams’ 102nd birthday** celebration. Her birthday was March 22nd.
- **Rawan El-Komos and Kamal Doumit** are to be married at Parkwood Church on August 21st, 2010.
- Seventh Day Adventists moved into their new church. Rev. Hurd participated in their first service, extending Parkwood’s best wishes to them.
- Our website and e-mail system is being upgraded for better communication electronically.
- A Pastoral Care Communion Service took place at Parkwood on Tuesday April 27th. These services are held in April and October. Those who are unable to attend regular services are encouraged to attend these special services.
- The “No scents make sense” message has been included in the Sunday bulletin.
- Once again, Parkwood Church has again applied for a grant for a summer student.



Rejoice with CanHave

Finally, the shipping container which left Canada in December and arrived in Uganda in February, was released from customs and reached its intended destination amid great rejoicing (drumming, singing and dancing). Board member Father Emmanuel had written “Every day we storm heaven with prayers to let us see the product that comes from the golden hearts of the people from Canada and their friends and neighbours everywhere to help the people of Uganda through CanHave”.

Caroline Nakayenga and documentary photographers Dave Depper were unable to extend their visit until the arrival of the container. But you will be able to see highlights of their time at the CanHave Trade School on Friday, May 28. The CanHave Annual meeting will be held in Parkwood’s Fellowship Hall.

Caroline brought back a couple of dolls made by the girls in the sewing class at the trade school. If anyone would be interested in making similar dolls for sale, please contact Jan at (613) 224-5624.

During the spring to fall season, CanHave volunteers take shifts at various locations to raise awareness of CanHave by selling young Joseph’s cards, raffle tickets for a wonderful queen-size hand-stitched quilt, and other fundraising items. This is a great volunteering opportunity if you have more time than money. The contact number is above.



For all youth grades 6 and up!

LASER QUEST

Laser Quest
Saturday, May 8
Leave Parkwood Church at 6:30 pm

- Free pizza before we play!
- Please RSVP to the church office at 613-225-8535 or email Pastor James at jthurd@sympatico.ca
- Located at 1800 St. Laurent Blvd.



A Day at the Beach

Sharbot Lake
Saturday, June 26
Leave Parkwood Church at 10:00 am
Returning in the evening



- Lunch on the trip there
- BBQ in the evening
- Arrive at around 1:00 pm
- Bring sunscreen, lunch money, and a choice of sports gear and safety equipment
- Located off Hwy. 7, 100km from Ottawa, 1½ hour drive
- Please RSVP Holly MacDonald at 613-592-8893 or hamac@rogers.com



untitled

He was born in a manger
Threatened and exiled
He tried to teach the Word of God
Instead he was defiled.

He was abused and beaten
And thrice he was denied
Then tortured on a wooden cross
Where he was crucified.

Deserted by his very own
And duly criticized
Made to carry his own cross
While being tantalized.

And when he said `I thirst`
The water was denied
Forgave us all – gave up the ghost
While mother Mary cried.

He rose again to show the way
To enter God`s domain
And if we will just follow him
We all will live again.

- Noreen A. Wadman

Dearest Mother

You brought me up so lovingly
With so much thought and care;
You set a fine example
To follow everywhere.

You did the things that counted,
The things I'm thankful for;
You've given so unselfishly
I couldn't ask for more.

You've given me such confidence
With all your wise advice;
The values you've instilled in me
Come from your sacrifice.

Whenever things did not work out
And filled me with regret,
You inspired me to start again
And taught me not to fret.

You understood and gave me hope
As no one else could do;
In times of change, your love remains.
I owe my life to you !

- Arthur M. Pattison

Hey Grandma

Hey Grandma, can I visit you,
And bring with me Winnie the Pooh?
I like when you hold me,
And the stories you told me
That help me to know what to do.

Hey Grandma, please help me to grow,
And learn what direction to go,
So I can be strong,
When things seem all wrong,
From all of the things that you know.

Hey Grandma, I'd like your advice;
My girlfriend sure looks pretty nice.
I'd like you to meet her,
She'd like you to greet her;
Assure us true love will suffice.

Hey Grandma, now that I'm grown,
With children all my own.
I help them be strong,
When things seem all wrong,
In just the same way I was shown.

Hey Grandma, come live with us too,
And bring back my Winnie the Pooh.
We all want to hold you,,
We all want to love you
And help you to know what to do.

- Arthur M. Pattison



A CUTTING STORY

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed.

As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: 'I don't believe that God exists.'

'Why do you say that?' asked the customer.

'Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. If God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be any abandoned children? If God existed, there wouldn't be so much war, suffering and pain in the world. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow any of those things!'

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't know how to answer those often heard questions.

The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop.

Soon after leaving the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. The customer thought for a moment and then ran back and to the barber shop again and said to the barber: 'You know what? I've just concluded that Barbers do not exist.'



'How can you say that?' asked the surprised barber. I am here, and I am a barber. I just cut your hair and trimmed your beard !'

'No!' the customer exclaimed. 'Barbers don't exist because if they did exist, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside.'

'Aha!' said the barber. 'Barbers DO exist! And that's what happens when people do NOT come to me.'

'Exactly!' affirmed the customer. 'You're right ! And in the same way God, too, DOES exist! The human problems that you mentioned occur when people ignore God's commandments, get into trouble, and don't go to Him for help. THAT'S why there's so much sickness, abandoned children, war, suffering and pain in the world.'

The barber had no answer and could only shake his head at how unreasonable his customer was being, (and how scary his answers were!).



TABLE GRACES

After He had said this, He took bread; and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, He broke it and began to eat.

- Acts 27:35 (NRSV)

Be present at our table, Lord;
Be here and everywhere adored.
These mercies bless, and grant that we
May feast in fellowship with Thee.

(This was sung at our annual Family Reunions- to the tune of "Old Hundredth")

Bless, O Lord, Your gifts to our use and us to Your service; for Christ's sake.

God is great, and God is good,
And we thank Him for our food;
By His hand we all are fed;
Give us, Lord, our daily bread.

For health and strength and daily food,
We praise Thy name, O Lord.

God, we thank You for this food.
For rest and home and all things good.
For wind and rain and sun above.
But most of all for those we love.

Give us grateful hearts, our Father,
for all Your mercies, and make us mindful of
the needs of others; through Christ our Lord.

Dear Lord, thank you for this gift of food
You've placed upon our table.
And help us all to do Your work
In any way we're able.

Lord, make us truly grateful for the blessings
of this day.

We thank You, Father, for this food
And pray You'll bless it to our good;
Help us live Your name to praise
In all we do through all our days.

This food, which You have already blessed in
the giving, so further bless in our partaking.

We thank Thee, God, for milk and bread
And all our daily food; These gifts remind us
day by day, Our Father, thou art good.

Almighty God, You open Your hand, and we
are fed. Be at this table, we pray, and bless
our family.

We thank Thee, Lord, for happy hearts,
For rain and sunny weather.
We thank Thee, Lord, for this food,
And that today we are together.

Praised be Thou, O Lord our God, King of the
universe,
who causes the earth to yield food for all.

Heavenly Father, great and good,
We thank Thee for this daily food.
Bless us even as we pray;
Guide and keep us through this day.

