

Pulse of Parkwood

Summer 2010

PULSE OF PARKWOOD IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Foundation for renewal

Discussion of Landsdowne Park has dominated the news in Ottawa for months. Pictures of architectural drawings have adorned the front pages of the Ottawa Citizen for several days.

I drove past the old football stadium recently, and through the Glebe neighbourhood, a few days after the firebombing of the bank building at the corner of Bank and Glebe. It is so obvious that something needs to be done to renew the fabric of a crumbling, decaying part of the fabric of the city. Whatever one's opinion of the current proposal for a new stadium and redevelopment, or the merits or demerits -- and costs -- of the architectural designs under consideration, it is clear something needs to change.

Time, the effects of weather, and the consequences of ordinary but heavy use, all take their toll on the fabric of buildings and other human construction. Though we like the status quo and resist change, we need to continually renew the fabric of our homes and our neighbourhoods, for time and use wear them away. What was once new fades; what was serviceable at one time becomes an obstacle in a new time and amid a changed environment.

God called Isaiah to address a society that faced the need for change and renewal amid a crumbling neighbourhood and environment. Ancient Israel was set among neighbouring nations whose greatness and glory had turned to shame. Moral and spiritual decay had given rise to a loss of strength and beauty. Widespread decline was described in terms of the effects of a senseless rampage by those who were drunk, intoxicated with selfish pleasures and unaware and insensitive to the needs of those around them. Out of their minds, people contributed to the destruction, and were unable to grasp the need for a real change. They plodded along from one day to the next, with no vision or passion for a real renewal of their surroundings or civilisation. Their approach to life was summed up thus: "Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule, a little here, a little there." (Isaiah 28: 10, NIV)

To this scene and situation God speaks. His mouthpiece is Isaiah, whose voice thunders like a clear, unmistakable trumpet call, announcing his plan for radical change and renewal:

Isaiah 28: 16 - "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed."

He is foretelling the coming of the Messiah, the Saviour, who will make all things new. Jesus, who will save His people from their sins, will initiate the renewal of life, laying in his own life and death and resurrection the foundation for a new relationship with God for each individual who receives Him, and the foundations for building a new society, a new community of those who live by faith in God and in love with each other.

The foundation of personal renewal is a renewed relationship with Jesus. We need, each day, to recommit ourselves to loving the Lord our God with all our beings, and to loving our neighbours as ourselves. This is what following Jesus is all about; this is what professing to be Christians means.

We are also called to renew the fabric of our facilities at Parkwood, to provide for safe, healthy, and attractive space for Christian education and nurture for children and youth and fellowship for the congregation of a new and future generation.

We are called, too, to contribute to the wider renewal of the kingdom of Christ in our city, in our country, and to the very ends of the earth.

Isaiah spoke for God to the people of ancient Israel, who desperately needed to be renewed and to become agents of renewal in their day. By the Holy Spirit, he still speaks to us today, who equally need to be renewed so that we will be renewing agents within the church and community of our day, and for tomorrow's day, too.

May the picture of Jesus as the new foundation-stone capture our hearts and imaginations, far more fully than any architectural design, and inspire our labours for God in the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Your pastor, longing and building for renewal,

James T. Hurd.

Personnel Team

At its meeting 25 May 2010, the session of Parkwood Church approved the forming of a Personnel Team to provide a consultative and supportive group for teams with staff earning remuneration and for other volunteers. The team will consist of four members of the congregation who are not church staff, plus the minister.

Session will appoint the members of the team, with at least two members being elders. Membership on the team is for an indefinite term. If you are a member of Parkwood with skills in the area of personnel, please prayerfully consider joining this team. For more information or to volunteer please contact Duane Townsend (BDTownsend@ncf.ca, 613-224-0886) or Gord Walford (gord.walford@sympatico.ca, 613-225-1836). The team's Terms of Reference are posted on the church website at www.parkwoodchurch.ca/personnel/

Please e-mail all Pulse submissions to office@parkwoodchurch.ca
DEADLINE FOR NEXT PULSE
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The Pulse is always in colour online!



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Our Spiritual Compass

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. John 16:13a (NIV)

Based on John 16:12-15 (NIV)



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

SAY	KNOWN	BELONG	TELL	HEARS
GUIDE	COME	BEAR	FATHER	TRUTH
SPEAK	MUCH	GLORY	SPIRIT	MORE

Stop seeing RED

- Handling money as a couple -
by Suzanne Lesser

You've spent too much again, and now you're arguing with your spouse about how to pay the bills. At least you're typical – more fights revolve around money than around sex or in-laws. Finances are a source of friction in most, if not all, marriages. But they don't have to be.

Financial expert Howard Dayton, co-founder and former CEO of Crown Financial Ministries, spoke with In Touch about managing money God's way. Here's what he recommends for couples seeking biblical wisdom on this volatile subject.

1. Discover God's truth about money. One of the first principles Crown teaches is that *God is the owner of it all*. We are merely stewards (Ps. 104:24). While most Christians believe they should tithe, fewer realize Scripture is full of advice about money. The Bible describes how to earn it, spend it, save it, invest it, pay down debts, and teach children about it.
2. Don't let money divide you. Even when you're facing a financially challenging time, fight fair. Don't attack your spouse personally. Instead, brainstorm together about ways to solve the problem. Seek the Lord's discretion as a couple instead of allowing monetary hardship to drive a wedge into your marriage.
3. Have a "money date" each week. Avoid discussing financial worries as you're going to bed or just before one of you has to leave for work. Choose a time when you aren't tired, grouchy, or hungry. Review your finances, discuss your goals, and pray about your decisions.
4. Get on a simple spending plan. According to the US Commerce Department, the average American will spend \$1.22 for every dollar earned. So instead of wondering where you blew your money, plan ahead of time how you'll handle it. There are a number of budgets available – everything from a cash-based envelope system to online tools and software. "Pick the one that's most appropriate to keep the process as *simple* as possible," says Howard.
5. Build freedom into your budget. Agree on an amount that your spouse can spend without first asking you. How much you allot depends on a number of factors: How much is your housing? How much debt do you have? As you pay off what you owe and increase your savings, the allowance can get bigger. Howard says, "If a family has a lot of debt, I would minimize that amount, but I would still have something in there – even if it was \$5 a month – so that there's freedom."

6. Save for emergencies. When the refrigerator dies or the radiator explodes, your monthly budget will be ruined unless you have savings. Dayton recommends that people begin with gathering \$1,000 for their emergency fund. Once their consumer debts have been paid off, they should strive to have three months' living expenses readily accessible.
7. Don't make major financial decisions without your spouse's complete agreement. If either Dayton or his wife feels strongly about a decision, they go with that person's choice. If they both feel passionate about something but disagree, the couple will wait. "We'll pray together and take as long as necessary until we clearly hear from the Spirit of God what direction He wants us to take," says Howard.
8. Pray instead of debating. Many times, one spouse is ready to trust God with finances, but the other is not. Howard reminds people to keep their eyes on the big picture: Money should be used to develop a *closer* relationship with your spouse. He says, "If the wife wants to tithe but the husband is reluctant to give a penny, I would not make it a battleground. Often people will take counsel from someone other than their spouse. So I would be praying for the Lord to bring into your spouse's life somebody he or she will respect – a godly person who's handling money the Lord's way. The biggest single thing you can do is pray."
9. Celebrate progress. When couples discuss money, it can become a small scale war. "Celebrating your progress creates an environment of gratitude and encouragement within your marriage, which is important, because so many arguments are based on money," says Howard. These commemorations needn't be expensive – when the Daytons reached their first financial goal, they could afford only a trip to a nearby beach. Celebrations can also inspire others to reach their financial goals.
10. Balance savings with generosity. Decide together which charities you will support. As you choose to bless others financially, you'll grow closer not only to your spouse, but to Christ. "If we focus exclusively on saving and investing and are not generous, our heart is going to go toward those savings," Dayton says. "However, if you balance that and you're generous in your giving to the cause of Christ...then your heart can grow closer to the Lord, which is the name of the game."

Source: www.intouch.org, pp. 18-19.

Teddy Bear Delivery

Knitters have been prolific over the winter. Were they knitting during the Olympics? During the Stanley Cup playoffs? While travelling south?
Or just while waiting for appointments? Whatever!
More bags will be needed if they are all to be delivered to Toronto this summer.
Please leave your donations in the narthex clearly marked "Jan".
Some sick child in a Third World country will be glad you did.

CanHave News

Did you attend the CanHave Annual Meeting on Friday, May 28? If not, you should know that CanHave will be raising funds and awareness about its activities in Uganda at various malls and fairs during the summer season. We will be present at the Glebe Yard Sale on May 29, Herongate Mall on June 5, the Country Quilter Show in Richmond on June 19 and many others during the summer and fall. Volunteers to take a shift are always welcome. If you can donate a few hours, please contact Janet Castle at 613-730-1065 or email her at jcastle@ncf.ca.
New volunteers are paired with experienced workers.
CanHave's online address is: **www.canhave.org**.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

The annual congregational picnic will take place at General Burns Park on Chesterton Drive on **June 20th** after the service. Hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream and cold drinks will be provided. Potluck salads or desserts would be appreciated. There will be fun and games and prizes for all ages.

Come and have fun!

Parkwood Church Book Group

On May 10, the Parkwood Book Group met to discuss the book *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, by Mitch Albom. About ten people gathered to reflect and comment on the interesting theme and concepts presented in the book.

Are you looking for some summer reading? On September 13, at 7:30 pm, the Parkwood Church Book Group will meet for the next discussion of the book, *The Red Tent*, by Anita Diamant. *The Red Tent* will make an interesting summer read and is available through book stores, on amazon.ca and there are multiple copies at the Ottawa Public Library.

Please join us for what should be an interesting discussion!

All are welcome!

Parkwood's Annual Retreat Weekend at Gracefield

"Facing the Unknown"

Friday September 17 to Sunday, September 19, 2010

Once again you are enthusiastically invited to join us in our annual weekend at Gracefield Camp and Conference 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 kayaks 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 thereof. 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). Deadline: Sunday, September 5, 2010 - but sign-up your intention as soon as possible!

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Registration Form

Name: _____ phone _____

Children's names (and ages) _____

All prices include GST and QST (compounded)

Preferred Accommodation: 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

Accommodation 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)

Seniors' Spring Luncheon

On Saturday, May 1st, a luncheon was served to local seniors in the atrium of St. Maurice RC church. This ecumenical event featured volunteers and guests from St. Maurice, St. Richard's Anglican, City View United and Parkwood Presbyterian.

The goal of this *Faith Links* event was to provide a luncheon for isolated seniors (seniors with limited support and social contacts). Active seniors were encouraged to bring an isolated senior with them to join in the luncheon. Well, our prayers were answered! Over **120 seniors** attended the *Seniors Spring Luncheon*.

La Pieta Prayer Group and fellow members and the *Seniors, Service and Social* group from St. Maurice provided much assistance for this event. *La Pieta* took care of all the food and helped with set up and clean up. They paid and prepared a delightful lunch of quiche and salad, with refreshing trifle and assortment of sweets for dessert. Volunteers from the four community churches helped serve and clear tables. Volunteer seniors prepared homemade sandwiches, drinks and yummy desserts for over 50 volunteers at lunch.

Volunteers from the four churches took care of the transportation for participants who needed it, advertising of the luncheon, identifying places in the community where we could reach isolated seniors, organizing entertainment and obtaining 45 gifts for door prizes.

Volunteer greeters helped with the registration table and accompanied the seniors to their table. The tables were adorned with white tablecloths, yellow serviettes and vases of spring coloured carnations. Each senior went home with a carnation and organza bag filled with chocolates and many with one of the donated door prizes.

Our great emcee from City View United kept us all in order with pleasant and jovial wit. Other entertainment included, solos, keyboard presentations, dancers and violin and other musical instrument presentations.

Some funding for this event came from the *Help the Aged* organization. Our good will offering box of \$250 was given to *La Pieta Group* who will use the funds to feed the poor seniors in the Philippines.

Father Galen (St. Maurice), Rev. Michael Fleming (St. Richard's), Rev. Neil Wallace (City View United), retired United Church Minister Rev. Stanley Ralph, Dora Brown (*Faith Links* and Parkwood Presbyterian), Myrian Jamault, Public Health Nurse with the *Reaching out to Isolated Seniors* program, and Helen Smith, Pastoral Care Advisor from the United Church of Canada attended the luncheon to greet the seniors. Rev. James Hurd of Parkwood Presbyterian was unable to attend.

The luncheon ended with *Peace, Love and Joy* sung by all the volunteers. The combined efforts of representatives from the four churches weeks before the luncheon made this a successful ecumenical event. When speaking to some of the participants and volunteers after the event from the four churches comments included: "*It was so spring-like and colourful when you came into the room,..... this is a new beginning with other churches, ...the warmth, entertainment and door prizes were wonderful.....the volunteers were so helpful and hospitable.*"

So many people commented on how they would love to make this happen again. I hope this is a start to a combined inter-church effort to reach out to seniors in our community, especially those who are limited in social contacts and limited support.

- Dora Brown

All the Children of the World

Traditional verse:

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world,
Red and yellow, black and white,
All are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.



Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world,
Presbyterian, Baptist, Jew,
Catholic, Muslim, Buddhist too.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.



Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
English, French, and Japanese,
German, Dutch, and Vietnamese;
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
Plain or pretty, big or small,
Young or old, and short or tall,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus loves the little children,
And all people of the world;
Every second, day and night,
We're all precious in his sight.
Jesus loves me and all children of the world.



- Arthur Milo Pattison