

Pulse of Parkwood

Summer 2012

PULSE OF PARKWOOD IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please e-mail all submissions to

office@parkwoodchurch.ca

DEADLINE FOR NEXT PULSE

Monday, August 27 (September 2012 issue)

The Pulse is always in colour online!

Parkwood Presbyterian Church

10 Chesterton Drive

Ottawa, Ontario K2E 5S9

613-225-6648 | office@parkwoodchurch.ca

Website: parkwoodchurch.ca

A righteous judge

Psalm 7: 11 - "God is a righteous judge." (NIV)

In recent meditations in this space, we have reflected on different answers to the question, "Who is God?" *A fountain of living water* is an appealing image, especially on a hot, dry summer's day. *Your refuge* is a great blessing when one is being attacked or pursued. *My rock* is a tower of strength when change and decay are all around us, and everything in life seems to be slipping away.

This time, though, we consider God as "a righteous judge". The image of God as Judge is sometimes fearful or foreboding. For anyone who has been in court, charged with an offence, standing before the judge who has power to declare the accused either guilty or not can be frightful. If found guilty, one is then often required to face the judge again, and learn what the consequences will be.

Yet the image of God is as a "righteous" judge, and it is one that David welcomes and celebrates. David is willing to accept that if he has done wrong, he should face consequences; but, if he has been falsely accused or if he has been mistreated, he is eager that God mete out justice and set things right.

In fact, in the first book of the Bible, Abraham in Genesis 18: 25 (NIV) asks the question, "Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Abraham is confident, and pleads before God, that God's judgement and action will be right.

God's righteous judgements stem from His perfect knowledge of the world and all that is in it, since He is the Creator. When Isaiah describes the ministry of the one who is announce the coming of the Messiah, he asks: "Who... has weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?" (Isaiah 40: 12, NIV) The answer is none other than God Himself.

God's vast knowledge of the mountains is equaled by His intimate knowledge of the minds and hearts of those who are made after His own likeness. The psalmist says, "Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord." (Psalm 139: 4, NIV). The apostle affirms that God knows and is therefore able to judge "the thoughts and attitudes of the heart". (Hebrews 4: 12, NIV)



"Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"
— **Genesis 18: 25**

Well, therefore, is the psalmist able to celebrate: "The judgements of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether." (Psalm 19: 9, KJV)

It is for our good that God is the righteous judge. He can be trusted to judge all things and all people rightly, and we can have confidence and peace in His judgements.

We can also therefore leave to Him the work of judging. We are called to testify, to witness, but not to judge. Let us take to heart Peter's advice: "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, 'Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.'" (1 Peter 3: 9-10, NIV)

Let us practice what Paul says, "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12: 19-21, NIV)

When Paul is looking forward to his departure from life on earth, he says: "Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing." (2 Timothy 4: 8, NIV)

Let us know our God as the righteous Judge, and join Paul in looking forward to meeting Him, because we have first come to know and trust Jesus Christ the Lord as our Saviour.

Praying for the righteous Judge to come and judge all things rightly,

Your Pastor,

James T. Hurd.



The PPC Noteboard

Giving thanks with a grateful heart... Scott and I would like to thank our church family for your love, prayers, cards and visits during Scott's surgery and long stay in the hospital. God in His mercy has provided, and continues to provide, healing, comfort and strength to Scott as he grows stronger every day. I have also been blessed with His love and strength through this very difficult time. Indeed, God has answered your prayers! With grateful hearts, Scott and Dianne Nickerson

Thanks for the contribution toward Algonquin College Pause Table... On behalf of Algonquin College Campus Ministry, please accept our gratitude for your participation in the April Exam Pause tables. Your provision of food and words of encouragement during a particularly stressful time for our students was very much appreciated. It also helps to promote a Christian presence on campus and raises awareness of campus ministry's existence. We wish you and the members of your church all the best for the summer season. Take care and God bless, Jack Wilson, Vice Chair, Campus Ministry

Teddy bear update... Teddy bears will be delivered to Toronto in July/August. Please leave bears and/or bags in the narthex clearly marked 'Jan'. Also, please include the donor's name so I can thank you personally. Thanks, Jan



International Potluck Dinner

Our first International Potluck Supper was held on Saturday, May 12, 2012, with great success! 66 people were in attendance and among the countries represented were Finland, Hungary, Germany, Scotland, Great Britain, Ukraine, Cameroon, Congo, Iran, Nigeria, USA, the Netherlands and, of course, Canada.

In addition to eating, we introduced ourselves (name, birthplace, ethnic background and identified our flag). Some people talked about some of their customs and/or explained their flag's colours.

Congratulations to Graham Walford, the winner of our mystery flag contest. Graham was the first to call the office and identify our mystery flag. In addition, he gave a thorough and interesting account of the history of the West Indies Federation.



The variety of food brought in was incredible. People I have spoken to in the days since the event recall, in particular, the Ginger Beer (that's what's in the jug in the photo, below right), the Haggis and the twisty deep fried bread. I do know that there wasn't much food left at the end.

More than one person came up to me and asked whose idea the supper was and that we should do it again. Giving credit where it's due: It was Rev. Hurd's idea and I need to point out that he emceed the evening fantastically.

Another highlight of the night... While I was doing the dishes, I heard Gord Walford and guests singing *This land is your land, this land is my land* and *Four strong winds*.

Many thanks to Holly MacDonald and Pamela Pestaluky for decorating the Fellowship Hall, Bill Zylstra and Allen Pestaluky for setting up the tables, Bill Zylstra, Jim MacDonald, Alice Visser and Christina Kritsch for their work in the kitchen and Asuquo Eniang and Allen Pestaluky for taking pictures.

And a **BIG THANK YOU** to all who participated and attended the evening. I hope we can do this again!

Submitted by Don Pestaluky



Summary of the April 2012 Session Meeting

The Session retreat has been postponed until after the selection process for new elders is completed.

Session received a description by F&M of the furnace problem and various options to deal with this problem. In response, Session recommended that F&M contract with a consulting mechanical engineer who would:

- Develop the necessary and appropriate specifications to meet our heating objectives
- Prepare a document to be used to solicit comparable bids from potential suppliers
- Advise on the preferred bid
- Negotiate on our behalf for any unforeseen changes
- And inspect, test and verify the installation work.

Submitted by Dennis Featherstone, Interim Clerk of Session

May Report of the Facility Planning Team

Dale Tuck and Dennis Featherstone met with Susan (architect) and Robert (of ROJO Construction) on the morning of April 27, 2012.

We were assured by Robert that he could get costs for the current plan for the parking lot down by about \$100,000 to roughly \$150,000. Our response was that we needed to see options which would bring costs down more than that.

We asked Susan to prepare a re-designed parking lot which might provide even greater savings than \$100,000.

We also indicated to Susan that we should consider the option of locating the expansion on the current footprint of the Mulvagh wing, if the above re-design of the parking lot does not present significant reductions from the current cost estimate. As of May 21, we have not yet received a response from the architect.

Submitted by Dennis Featherstone, Interim Leader, Facility Planning Team

Update on Furnace Replacement

The “dead” furnace is a large model which is no longer manufactured. To replace the heat formerly generated by the dead furnace, it will be necessary to install two smaller furnaces. The use of two smaller furnaces provides the option of pursuing an installation which enables separate controls to heat the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. This would be a major advantage over the previous system.



F&M contacted four suppliers to provide quotes on replacing our dead furnace. The proposals were quite varied and did not provide a straightforward “apple to apple” comparison. As a result, Session recommended that F&M contract with a consulting mechanical engineer who is to develop the necessary and appropriate specifications to meet our heating objectives. These specifications would then be provided to potential suppliers who would offer comparable bids on the project. Once the bids are received, a decision will be made and the new equipment installed.

Submitted by Dale Tuck, F&M and Dennis Featherstone, Interim Clerk of Session

***Don't forget to attend the Annual Congregational Picnic
after the worship service on June 24, 2012!***

2nd Special Mission Appeal for 2012: June 10, 2012

The Mission Team presents the 2nd Special Mission Appeal – **Amethyst Women’s Addiction Centre, in Ottawa** — for your prayerful consideration and donations on Sunday, June 10.



Helping women build healthier lives — A central task of Amethyst is to help women take charge of their lives by ending substance use and/or problem gambling and by making changes that enhance their strengths, their freedom and their choices.

The average age of their clients is 37.

Primary addictions identified

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Alcohol | 8. Benzodiazepines |
| 2. Tobacco | 9. Amphetamines and other stimulants |
| 3. Cannabis | 10. Other psychoactive drugs |
| 4. Crack | 11. Over-the-counter codeine preparations |
| 5. Cocaine | 12. Heroin/Opium |
| 6. Prescription opioids | 13. Hallucinogens |
| 7. Ecstasy | |

In a study of 50 alcoholic women, it was found that:

- 76% had suffered either physical, sexual or emotional abuse as children;
- 42% had suffered physical abuse as children;
- 36% had suffered an incestuous relationship with a father or stepfather

Amethyst Women’s Addiction Centre was the first addiction treatment centre of its kind in Canada when it opened its doors in 1979 in Ottawa, Ontario. The centre, a non-profit charitable organization, was founded in order to provide community-based treatment service that addresses the unique issues affecting women coping with substance abuse. A bilingual addiction services and day treatment program supports women individually and together to take control of factors affecting their health and well-being. The centre is located at 488 Wilbrod Street, Ottawa.



Please give prayerful consideration to this special mission appeal. On your offering envelope in the ‘Other’ space, write ‘Amethyst’ and include a cheque payable to Parkwood Presbyterian Church for the offering on June 10, 2012. Your contribution can be delivered to the Church Office if you are going to be away on the Sunday of the Special Mission Appeal.



When you dig another out of their troubles, you find a place to bury your own.

- Author unknown

Parkwood's Annual Retreat Weekend at Gracefield Christian Camp

Friday, September 14 to Sunday, September 16, 2012

This year's theme: Exploring God's Wor(l)d

You are invited to join us for our annual weekend at Gracefield Christian Camp. We will enjoy fun, fellowship, hiking, games, swimming, fishing and reflection on God's Creation. There is room for camping, cabins can be rented, and rooms & the kitchen in Beaver Lodge are reserved for us. People in cabins and tents can prepare their own meals outdoors. For an extra cost, prepared meals are available at White Pine Lodge. We will have a communal BBQ meal Saturday for supper. For an extra cost, those who wish to rent canoes or kayaks can do so directly from the camp office.

Children will need to be supervised at all times. Those bringing young children will need to assist with their supervision during the Saturday morning Bible study.

Please consider joining us for the weekend or any part thereof. Complete the registration form and return it and your payment to Jean Sida. Prices are for two nights and include GST and QST.

Deadline for registration is Sunday, September 2, 2012

Registration Form

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Children (names and ages): _____

Transportation: I need a ride Yes No
 I have room to offer a ride to others Yes No

Preferred accommodation:

- Beaver: \$56/adult # _____ / \$25/child # _____ \$ _____
- Camping (no electricity): \$55/family \$ _____
- Cabin: \$200 (regardless of number of people) \$ _____

Total accommodation \$ _____

Prepared meals at White Pine Lodge:

Child breakfast (\$6.30)	# _____ Sat. a.m.	# _____ Sun. a.m.	\$ _____
Adult breakfast (\$8.65)	# _____ Sat. a.m.	# _____ Sun. a.m.	\$ _____
Child lunch (\$7.50)	# _____ Sat. noon	# _____ Sun. noon	\$ _____
Adult lunch (\$9.75)	# _____ Sat. noon	# _____ Sun. noon	\$ _____

Total White Pine meals \$ _____

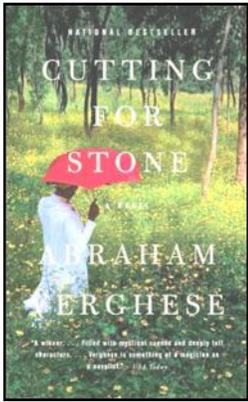
Activity fee (includes BBQ) \$8/person, children under 5 years free: # _____ \$ _____

Total BBQ \$ _____

Please make cheque payable to Jean Sida.

Total enclosed \$ _____

Parkwood Book Group



The Parkwood Book Group is scheduled to have its next discussion in September. **All are welcome!**

The books we're discussing will provide some great summer reading! In September, we'll talk about **Cutting for Stone**, by Abraham Verghese. *Cutting for Stone* was on the bestseller list for 44 weeks.

It is the story of two brothers, born as conjoined twins, in Ethiopia in 1954. The boys are adopted by two mission doctors. Told through the eyes of one of the twins, the story tells of growing up on the grounds of a mission hospital during Ethiopia's revolution.

Cutting for Stone is available at the Ottawa Public Library in print, electronic and audio format. It is also found at book stores.

The book proposed for the November gathering is **The Devil in Pew Number Seven**, by Rebecca Nichols Alonzo. This isn't your typical true crime story: It's a story about the power of forgiveness.



Grandma's visit



My mom lives in another province and she came to visit us for a week.

When she arrived, my four-year-old son, Andy, told her, "I sure am glad to see you, Grandma. Now Daddy will do the trick he's been promising us."

Grandma was curious. "What trick is that?" she asked.

Andy replied, "He told Mommy that he'd climb the walls if you came to visit."



The last word

Submitted by Flora Brown

I would rather see a sermon than to hear one any day
 I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way.
 For the eye is a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
 Fine counsel is confusing but example is always clear.
 And I too could learn to do it if you let me see it done,
 For I can see your hands in action though your tongue too fast may run.
 And best of all the preachers are the ones who live their creed,
 For to see good put into action is what everybody needs.
 For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
 But there is no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

— Author unknown