

Pulse of Parkwood

September 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, September 24 (October 2012 issue)

The Pulse is always in colour online!

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The great King

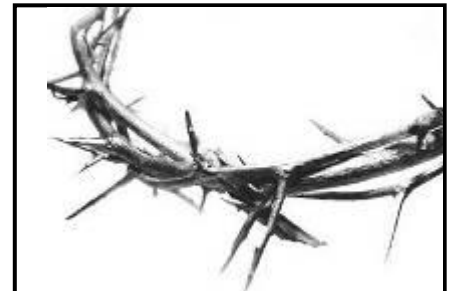
Psalm 47: 7 - "God is the King of all the earth."

The climax of the opening ceremony of the recent Olympic Games showed a pair of stuntmen playing the Queen and James Bond parachuting down into the stadium, just before Queen Elizabeth II herself, flanked by Prince Philip, declared the games of the 30th Olympiad to be open. The crowd was wild with joy, and the commentators eager to affirm the Queen's openness to "act" in a film for the first time, and generally acclaimed her for being "with" it and with the people.

The image of the Queen coming down to the people is very powerful. Yet in some significant ways, the mindset of those who, like the director of the opening ceremonies, Danny Boyle, strive to bring her "down" to the level of the people is at odds with the biblical mindset, which celebrates more the lifting "up" a monarch, especially of the Lord, the great King.

The psalmist in Psalm 47 is full of praise when he says in verse 5, "God has ascended amid shouts of joy." When he summons the people (including us) to praise God by clapping our hands (verse 1), he immediately affirms the height of God's kingly majesty and rule in verse 2: "How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth." He celebrates (in verse 5) God's going up, rather than his coming down: "God has ascended amid shouts of joy."

The Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ is our Prophet, Priest, and King. The shorter catechism question and answer #26 reminds us that Jesus fulfils the role of a king in these three ways: "Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies." A sovereign conquers, rules, and defends. C. H. Spurgeon in his masterful commentary on the Psalms says, "Our God is no local deity, no petty ruler of a tribe; in infinite majesty he rules the mightiest realm as absolute arbiter of destiny, sole monarch of all lands, King of kings and Lord of lords."



***"To be conquered by
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To be ruled by Jesus is
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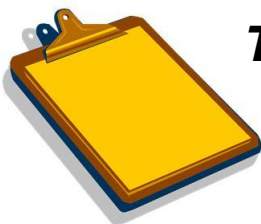
To be conquered by Jesus is to be free of tyranny of self and sin. To be ruled by Jesus is to be under the royal law of love. To be defended by Jesus is to be safe forever from the devil and all in league with him.

To be subjects of the great King of all the earth is to be citizens of the kingdom of God, which is the greatest and most enduring entity that ever was or is or shall be. "Kingdoms wax and wane; but the Church of Jesus constant will remain": so wrote Sabine Baring-Gould.

God has indeed come down to us in the person of Jesus. He became one of us, identifying with us so that we could identify with him. Yet we must never be trapped in the worldly mindset of desiring our sovereign to come "down" and be "with" it, on our level. In this year marking the diamond jubilee — the sixtieth anniversary of the ascension and coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, let us give thanks and honour where it is due, but let us even more fix our gaze firmly on our ascended King Jesus.

Let us aspire that our King continue to be lifted "up", so that he will draw all to himself. Our God is the great King — King of **all**.

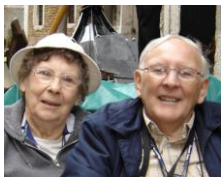
Looking up, and looking to see Jesus lifted high,
Your pastor,
James T. Hurd.



The PPC Noteboard

A special thank you... I would like to thank my church family at Parkwood for your concern and support during my recent surgery and recovery. Your caring, loving prayers, cards, visits and telephone calls provided me with the necessary confidence that brought about continuous healing, comfort and strength. I thank God for you and His wonderful and continued blessings during this difficult time. — Syvelyn Gayle

Teddies for Tragedies update... Teddies for Tragedies recently received 140 colourful bagged love gifts from Parkwood and friends, including fabric from the Ottawa Smockers and a friend of several Parkwood women. As I delivered them in Toronto, I was told of a little girl in Toronto whose home was destroyed by fire. That night one of the firemen gave her one of the teddies. Even today, as a teenager, she cherishes that teddy. This was confirmed by our own Rev. Linda Robinson who has worked with Emergency Measures Organization. So who knows which child, in Canada or elsewhere, will hug your special teddy. The next delivery will be at Christmastime. — Jan Sheridan



Circle the date #1... Our next Lunch and Learn will be held on **October 15, 2012**. Lunch will be served at 12 noon, followed by a speaker at 1:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Rev. Cedric Pettigrew, a retired Presbyterian minister. He will feature photos and comments about his recent trip to Jordan and Israel. Please let a member of the Pastoral Care Team know if you are willing to provide sandwiches, sweets or soup for the lunch and/or help set up the tables and chairs. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex. — Dora Brown

Circle the date #2... Friday, **October 26, 2012** is the date for the annual CANHAVE fundraising dinner. More information, including where to buy tickets, will be available later in September. — Jan Sheridan

Summary of the May and June 2012 Session Meetings

MAY MEETING

- On May 24, F&M authorized the consulting mechanical engineer to proceed with setting up the process to solicit bids on replacing the furnace.
- A policy on overspending in the Budget was passed:
 - a) In case of an emergency, as defined below, the Finance and Maintenance Team is authorized to spend up to 5% of their annual Team budget to deal with the emergency without obtaining approval from Session or the congregation. Such expenditures are, however, to be reported to the Clerk of Session as soon as possible.
 - b) Session is authorized to spend up to 10% of the annual congregational budget to deal with an emergency situation where time does not permit calling an emergency congregational meeting. The congregation should be informed of the expenditure at the earliest opportunity and Session should seek homologation of the spending at the next congregational meeting.
 - c) An emergency is defined as a present or imminent situation which requires prompt action to prevent or limit risks to health and safety; damage to church property or facilities; or disruption of essential church activities, in cases where there is not time to call a meeting of the Session or the congregation.
- The policy on the Storage of Team Minutes and Correspondence was amended:

Copies of Team minutes and important correspondence must be filed in the Church office. Documents must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant in either paper or electronic form. To facilitate coordination between Teams, Team representatives on Session should report to Session any activities or plans which would affect or be of interest to other Teams.
- Anna MacDonald was appointed as Church Historian.
- In the report on Facility Planning, it was indicated that in response to our request the architect prepared a re-design of the parking lot. The architect estimates the cost associated with the re-design would be \$50,000 *plus* whatever work the civil engineer requires to be done to the area. Dale Tuck and Dennis Featherstone will meet with the architect to better understand the details of the re-design. The slow progress in getting re-designs from the architect means the Team would be unable to present meaningful options at a congregational meeting in June.
- The Ottawa Police are no longer accepting batch applications for security clearance for church volunteers. The new requirement is to take a letter from the Minister certifying that the person is a volunteer and the application form to a police station.
- Roger MacPherson asked for and received his demit as elder, effective June 30, 2012, because of family health and travel difficulties. Session expressed its appreciation for Roger's long period of contribution to the life and work of the congregation.

JUNE MEETING

- The summer student selected after interviews of four candidates was Mikaela Berg.
- A motion that Dennis Featherstone be the Clerk of Session was sustained.
- No applications have been received for the position advertised by Christian Education. The application deadline was extended.

Summary of June Session meeting (continued)

- A letter was received from Saint Peter and Saint Paul's Anglican Church announcing the formation of the Ottawa Theological College. It was agreed that the Moderator should send a letter of encouragement to the church and college.
- The next pastoral care communion is October 23, 2012.
- The Facility Planning Team reported that the responses to the questions to the architect and to the estimator continue to be very slow. It was agreed that the team should discuss with the appropriate folk at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Stittsville their experience in choosing an architect and construction management firm.
- Jean Pierre Bernard volunteered to be the new coordinator of Leading with Care and was so appointed.

Submitted by Dennis Featherstone, Clerk of Session

Summer report of the Facility Planning Team

As noted in the May/June Session summaries, some progress was made on the project. A re-design of the parking lot was prepared by the architect but the cost estimates to do this re-design suggested we could still be looking at upwards of \$150,000 for external sitework. While this would be lower than our previously-estimated \$250,000, the total project costs would still be well beyond the funds we have or could borrow.

The team acted on the Session proposal to discuss with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Stittsville their experience in choosing an architect and construction management firm. A discussion was held with both their Clerk of Session and Construction Project Leader. As well, Alta MacFie, Dale Tuck and Dennis Featherstone met with the architect St. Andrew's chose to develop their building plans. The architect provided some guidance on why and how to choose a construction management firm to prepare estimates of the probable cost of a specified building.

The team is planning to prepare options for consideration by Session at its September meeting.

Submitted by Dennis Featherstone, Interim Leader, Facility Planning Team

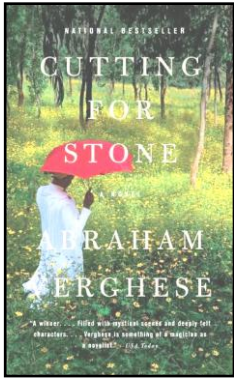
**Corn Boil 2012**

Sunday, September 9, 2012

**Please join us after the worship service
for corn & hot dogs in the Fellowship Hall.**



Everyone welcome!



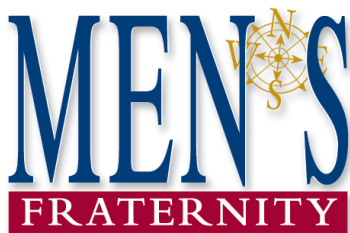
Parkwood Book Group

The Parkwood Book Group will have its next discussion on September 10, 2012.
All are welcome!

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.



Men's Fraternity Bible Study

The Men's Fraternity Bible Study begins on **Tuesday, September 18, 2012** at 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. All are welcome; men and women, single or married, old and young. Please register well in advance so we can order the necessary course material. To register, call Tim Visser (613-825-3434 - home / 613-224-3287 - work).

Here are a few comments from the men:

"A very important seminar for people contemplating marriage and understanding the role partners play in later life." ~Albert Deboer

"A fantastic program, great video, I wish I had seen this many years ago." ~Tim Visser

"Quite engaging and enlightening" ~Asuquo Eniang



The Outreach Team's KUMON program needs you...

After 9½ years of serving our community by welcoming children and parents coming into our church for the KUMON program, the time has come for additional help.

There are many ways you might be able to help on a part-time or full-time basis:

1. Could you pour drinks and be welcoming on Monday and/or Thursday from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. or for part of that time?
2. Do you have some craft ideas — mainly for ages 6-10 — which can be completed in 15 minutes?
3. Would you consider teaching crafts or needlework occasionally or frequently?
4. Would you be able to drive on Thursday afternoons to bring a leader to/from the church?
5. Could you set up tables and mix the frozen drink on Monday and/or Thursday mornings?
6. Could you purchase the drinks (at the Outreach expense) each month and sort into the freezer?

For further information about needs and responsibilities, please call Jan (613-224-5624).

— Sunday, September 23, 2012 —

3rd Special Mission Appeal: The Voice of the Martyrs

In preparation for Parkwood's third Special Appeal focus on September 23, 2012, and the Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church which takes place on Sunday, November 18, 2012, the mission team hopes the following information on the Voice of the Martyrs Christian Organization might prove helpful.

Registration: The Voice of the Martyrs is a registered Canadian non-profit charitable organization dedicated solely to serving persecuted Christians worldwide by raising awareness of their plight and providing practical assistance. It has a Business Registration Number of 107534307RR0001.



Key Scripture: Their scriptural base is found in Hebrews 13:3.
 "Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. Remember those who are suffering, as though you were suffering as they are."

Mission Statement: "The Voice of the Martyrs exists to glorify God by serving His Persecuted Church."

The four main purposes of the Voice of the Martyrs:

1. To preach and advance the teachings of Christianity and the religious tenets, doctrines, observances and culture associated with the faith where Christians are being persecuted.
2. To support and maintain Christian Missions where Christians are persecuted.
3. To provide for relief to impoverished Christians and their families who are persecuted.
4. To educate the Canadian Public regarding the experience and religious teaching of persecuted Christians ... by means of monthly newsletters and participating in meetings in cooperation with sister missions around the world to contribute funds to international committees with respect to projects in keeping with the above purposes.

Eight Assistance Funds established by the Voice of the Martyrs:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Underground Church Fund | 5. Raising a Voice Fund |
| 2. Families of Martyrs Fund | 6. OPERATION Christmas Blessing Fund |
| 3. Relief and Development Fund | 7. Legal Defense Fund |
| 4. Equipping the Saints Fund | 8. Bibles Fund. |

Further details can be found on the Mission Team Bulletin Board downstairs or by speaking to a member of the Mission Team.

Contact information:

The Voice of the Martyrs

P.O. Box 608

Mississauga, ON L5M 2C1

Tel: 905-670-9721 or toll free in Canada 1-888-298-6423

Fax: 905-670-0246

E-mail: thevoice@vomcanada.org

Website: presecution.net

Hours: 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday to Friday

Canada Youth 2012 engages with the concept of mission

How does the church in Canada do mission? This was the question with which I grappled during the Mission Track at Canada Youth 2012. From July 3-8, 2012, 27 young adults from across Canada as well as five guests from Malawi and six visitors from Taiwan undertook work projects in Southern Ontario and listened to Presbyterians explain how Canadians contribute to overseas mission projects.

Prior to Canada Youth, I had heard many messages about mission. However, I was still uncertain about the concept and how it related to me. I went into Canada Youth looking for answers to these two key questions.

As a participant, I was exposed to a Christian view of mission. Mission Track leader Matt Foxall shared with us an excerpt from Tim Dearborn, "It's not the Church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of Mission who has a church in the world."¹ This quote clearly stated that God was at the heart of our mission experience. For a week, God used us, a group of ordinary youth, to help people in the Southern Ontario region in extraordinary ways.

In particular, I experienced God's sense of mission as I spent a day gardening for Start Me Up Niagara, a non-profit organization whose goal is to help the region's needy become self-sufficient. Start Me Up Niagara grows produce to feed the hungry and to raise money for its programming. In the scorching heat, other mission track participants and I pulled giant weeds from a field of half-grown corn stalks. These weeds, some bigger than the corn stalks, were jeopardizing the crop's chance of survival. After a morning of hard work, we finished weeding the entire corn field. Only later did the group learn that Start Me Up Niagara lacked the volunteers to look after all their crops. Initially, they had chosen to focus on other vegetables instead of corn, but the Mission Track provided the necessary manpower to tend to the corn, ensuring that it could later be harvested. God worked through the mission track to provide hope where there had previously been none. In so doing, we left the organization with a powerful testimony of God's provision.

God also worked through the Mission Track at Crieff Hills Community in Puslinch, ON. Our group was tasked with moving a 400 lb. cross from the parking lot to the top of a hill where it was to be mounted. We needed to transport the cross with each member bearing an equal portion of the cross' weight and synchronize our movements — lifting, shifting and dropping the cross in unison. This challenge was no small task, but the Mission Track rose to the occasion slowly delivering the cross to its final destination. God revealed to me through this experience that being His church requires collaboration among its members.

However, Canada Youth's greatest faith impact occurred outside of the community projects. I volunteer as a mentor with my church's youth group. Before Canada Youth, I sometimes wondered if my efforts actually helped the youth to grow in faith. However, this viewpoint was challenged during the conference by the testimony of three teenagers who, as part of the Friday evening worship service, recounted how they had encountered Jesus. The three youth explained how Christ had been shared with them by ordinary people: a grandmother, an elderly congregation member and the participants in a Presbytery of London youth mission trip. These experiences of Christ's love encouraged me in my own mission work. They reminded me that the Holy Spirit can use my efforts in relating to the youth of my congregation.

My experience at Canada Youth 2012 prompted me to take a serious look at missions. The conference answered my questions and sent me back to my home congregation with a better sense of my place in God's mission. — *Philip MacFie*



¹ Tim Dearborn, *Mission Shaped Church*