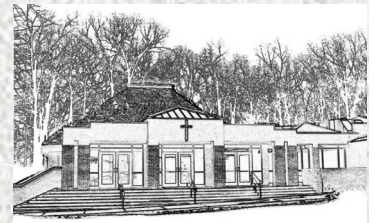


The Parkwood Connection

A monthly publication by Parkwood Baptist Church

Developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ,
fully involved in God's Kingdom work



DECEMBER 2013

THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING!

At this time of the year we celebrate something that is bigger than ourselves. We celebrate that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. The Gospel of John also tells us that the "Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Christmas is the perfect opportunity to give that extra gift that proclaims the message of Christmas around the world...the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

This annual offering was named after a missionary who gave her life to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Asia. Money given to this special offering goes directly to support over 5000 missionaries around the world. Churches all over the country cooperate together in this effort that is vital to the survival of our missionaries on the front lines.

Each year our family makes the Lottie Moon offering a part of our Christmas tradition. I want to challenge you to do the same. When you are thinking of that gift list add Lottie to it and give a gift that directly extends our reach as a community of believers! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Mike

Holiday Schedule

December 1
1st Sunday of Advent
PrimeTimers' Christmas Party
(following 11 AM service)

December 5
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 6
Parents' Night Out
6-9 PM

December 7
Angel Tree Party
9:30 AM- 12 PM

December 13
WEE Christmas Program
10:15 AM

December 14-15
Bethlehem Walk
4-8 PM

December 15
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 18
Bethlehem Walk
Volunteer Dinner, 6 PM

December 22
4th Sunday of Advent

December 24
Christmas Eve Services
5:30, 7:00, & 8:30 PM

*The Church Office will be closed
December 25 & 26 and January 1*

BETHLEHEM WALK 2013 DECEMBER 14 & 15

The time is near and all hands are needed to ensure that our 13th Annual tour will bring joy to children and inspiration to all! There are lots of things to be done before we open the doors - there's lentil soup to cook, construction to finish, crafts to make, props to gather, costumes to create...and much more!

Information can be found on the BW website www.bethwalk.info, the Facebook page "2013 Bethlehem Walk Volunteer," the BW Bulletin Board, and the BW info table in the Welcome Area. You can also ask questions of the team leaders:

Cookies: Lin Walsh, rwalsh2@cox.net; 703-690-6653

Sets: Pat Dozier, dj48@verizon.net; 571-643-8057

Costumes: Billie Chandler, billie24fan@cox.net; 703-354-8941

Props: Samantha McAskill, dsmcaskill@msn.com;
703-425-5924

Break Room Food: Bonnie Hopler, pbhopler@cox.net;
703-978-9381

Lentil Soup: Kay Donnelly, kdonnelly6002@gmail.com;
703-913-3515)

If you wish to appear as Citizens of Bethlehem, contact Bernice Maynard (bernicemaynard@yahoo.com) or Samantha McAskill (dsmcaskill@msn.com). To help in upstairs areas contact Mary Hill (marytoohill@yahoo.com). If you have signed up to volunteer on December 14 and 15 and have not yet received information about what to do, please contact us as soon as possible and we will make sure you have what you need.

There's a place for everyone who wants to help share the gift of Bethlehem Walk with our community. Haven't volunteered yet? No problem! But act quickly - on December 14 the curtain rises on this celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, so don't delay!

Be sure to INVITE EVERYONE!! Pass out Bethlehem Walk business cards to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and even strangers you meet. And post Bethlehem Walk flyers on Community Bulletin Boards everywhere. Let's be sure that everyone has an opportunity to receive Parkwood's special, annual Christmas gift to our community!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!





Eli Hernandez	12/11
Harper Smith	12/20
Caleb Heiserman	12/21
Garret Lytle	12/28
Kyra Lee	12/29
Arianna Velasquez	12/30
Emma Urton	12/31



Canned Meat
 Jelly
 Condiments
 Diapers (all sizes)
 Baby Wipes
 Infant Formula
 Baby Food
 Canned Beef Stew
 Tuna
 Canned Milk
 Rice
 Cereal
 Oatmeal
 Breakfast Bars
 Peanut Butter
 Instant Potatoes
 Spaghetti Sauces
 Pasta
 Soup
 Mac and Cheese
 Boxed Juice
 Juice/Drinks
 Canned Fruit
 Canned Vegetables
 Powdered Milk

Please remember to check expiration dates. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jr. FIRST LEGO League

Parkwood's own Jr. FIRST LEGO League robotic team is up and running with a full complement of creative and energetic budding scientists and engineers. They are learning engineering principles, teamwork, and communication skills founded on Biblical teachings through a research project about natural disasters. The team's capstone event will occur at Newcastle, DE Air National Guard base where they will present their Show-Me Poster and model amongst 40+ teams, after touring a C-130 and hearing how the Guard responded to Hurricane Sandy and other disasters.



MUSIC MAKERS

The Wednesday night Music Makers class (1st-6th graders) is doing well, learning songs and the language of music. They will perform at both worship services on December 1.

Jenn Heiserman
Director of Children's Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hey Parkwood! This month we will be changing our weekly activities a little in order to better serve and participate alongside the rest of our church family. In order to help with Bethlehem Walk and other church activities, there will be no Youth Wednesday Night Activities December 11-January 8.



On December 20, we will be having **Out from Bethlehem**, a progressive dinner for our youth! This is a special evening where we gather together, share a meal, and travel to several different houses celebrating Christmas. We will depart from the church at 6 PM and will return at 9:30 PM. Please contact me today if you'd like to join us!

Please email me at ReedB@parkwood.org or call the church office if you have any questions!

Reed Bradley, Youth Director

Parkwood wee center

The staff and children of the WEE Center are blessed to be a part of Parkwood Baptist Church. Daily we work together to praise Jesus and to share His love and teachings. Please continue to pray for the WEE Center staff as we minister to the children and families.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Friday, December 6
 6-9 PM

Cost: \$20/first child

\$10/second child & \$5/each additional child

Want a night out without the little ones? The WEE Center is hosting our annual Parents' Night Out on Friday, December 6 for children 12 months to 12 years old. Adult and Youth volunteers will provide pizza, games, crafts and a trip to our Christmas Boutique for all the children. Look for registration forms in your Sunday School class folders and on the website.

Don't have little ones at home? Spread the word to your family and friends—anyone from the community is welcome to participate. **Donations of wrapping paper and small, gently used items or trinkets are needed for our Christmas Boutique.** The children will pick out and wrap a gift for their parent.

Youth Group members are encouraged to volunteer for this event. Call Ann Lipton, the WEE Director, if you have any questions. 703.978.0640

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

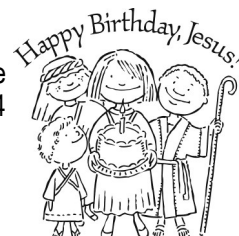
Friday, December 13
 10:15 AM

Please join us for the **WEE Center Christmas Program!** The children will lift their voices to the Lord in celebration of our Savior's birth. After the program we will have a birthday cake for Jesus in the Fellowship Hall.

PLEASE NOTE

The WEE Center will be closed December 14 through January 5.

Ann Lipton
WEE Center Director



FROM THE DEACONS

Congratulations to our new Deacons! We welcome:

Michael Carney	Bernice Maynard
Christina Chandran	Vickie Plunkett
Samuel Chandran	Bill Smith
Karl Jett	Ann Whitehead

to the Deacon Board. As some have been ordained at previous churches, our Deacon service on January 5, 2014 will be an Ordination & Installation Service. Please mark the first Sunday in January on your calendar so you will not miss this celebration.

All of the Deacons look forward to serving you. If there is any way we can be of help to you, please call any Deacon or the Church Office.

Doris Richburg, Deacon Chair



PrimeTimers' Christmas Party
Sunday, December 1
In the Fellowship Hall
Following the 11:00 Service

If you are 50+, we would love to have you join us! For more info, please contact Virginia Sandidge at vsandidge@aol.com or 703.323.7537.

WINTER 2014 CHRISTIAN YOGA SESSION

JANUARY 6-MARCH 13

FOR INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

PLEASE VISIT

WWW.PARKWOOD.ORG



WINTER IS COMING

During inclement weather, please call the Church Office at 703.978.8169 or visit www.parkwood.org for information about closings and cancellation of church services and activities. The office staff will also email church members if PBC is closed, so please let us know if your email address has changed.

Stewardship Report

Budget Needs thru Oct 2013	\$ 870,203
Budget Received	\$ 748,560
Budget Expended	\$ 722,098
Difference	\$ 26,462
2013 Building funds received thru Oct 2013	\$ 28,331



A fellow disciple on the Way...

Giving: A Supreme Christian Virtue

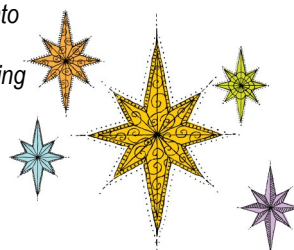
"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:19b-20 NRSV)

When the great Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther, described the nature of God's love, he used the metaphor of "flowing": God's love "flows forth and bestows good" (LW 31:57). The metaphor of flowing reveals the *outbound* and *unidirectional* movement of God's gifts to us: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

What happens to the flow when it reaches us? Does it stop? If the flow stops with us, we will then become what is uncharacteristic of God. But we are created to be and act like God (Gen 1:27). And so the flow of God's gifts should not stop when it reaches us! The *outbound* movement of God's gifts to us must continue. Indeed, giving to others is the very purpose for which God gives us the gifts. We are not simply the final destination in the flow of God's gifts. *The gifts flow to us, and they flow on from us!* We are simultaneously *receivers* and *givers*. We receive from Christ and we give to others, especially those in need.

Luther further used the imagery of a *conduit* to express the idea of flow: We are *channels* of God's gifts to others. However, we are not merely a conduit that conveys goods and does not benefit from them. We benefit from the goods that we convey as well as bestow them on others. Luther believed that Christ is the *source* of all gifts and the *model* for human giving. Again, Luther believed that Christ is the *agent* of our giving; our giving is an echo of His because He indwells us.

In Galatians 2:19-20, Paul writes that our lives as Christians are paradoxically both our own ("the life I now live in the flesh") and not ours ("it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me"). It is not just that Christ sends the goods to flow *into* us; Christ makes the goods flow *from* us as well by *indwelling*, *motivating*, and *acting through* us. May we give generously, and may our giving be Christ-like!



Pastor Daniel

december

Birthdays

12/1	Sabrina Sumner
12/2	Bryan Jefferson
12/3	Howard Kirkman
12/3	Jennifer Porter
12/5	Benjamin Buckley, Jr.
12/9	Madeline Moore
12/10	Barbara Jordan
12/16	Samuel Chandran
12/16	Roberto Lopez
12/19	Mandy Richburg
12/21	Ellie Barnett
12/21	Ashley Harris
12/22	Rommel Velasquez
12/23	Peter Benavage
12/23	Kellie LeGrand
12/23	Ali Schluter
12/24	Karl Jett
12/24	David Shade
12/25	Vera Duvall
12/27	Christopher Sanchez
12/27	Sharon Smith
12/28	Virginia Sandidge
12/29	Damon Godwin
12/29	Mike Stephens
12/29	Rebecca Watson
12/30	Anthony Jungen
12/31	Teresa Watson



PARKWOOD.....On Mission

KIDS' KONNECTION

Stockings are now being collected for Kids' Konnection! You can pick up empty stockings in the Fellowship Hall, fill them, and bring them back by December 7th. Red stockings are for girls and green stockings are for boys. For more information, please email Bernice Maynard at bernicemaynard@yahoo.com.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We filled 170 shoeboxes—thank you for the generous response! To read about how one shoebox can profoundly affect a child's life, please see Alex's story here:

<http://links.samaritanspurse.mkt5705.com/servlet/MailView?ms=Njg2OTlyOAS2&r=NTcxNjU2NDkwOTE1&i=MTcyOTUxNDY4S0&mt=1&rt=0>

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR LOCAL JAILS

Christmas greeting cards and postage stamps are being collected for distribution to the residents of our local jails. This program helps residents send their loved ones a greeting card during the Christmas season. Please send in cards and stamps no later than December 10.

Postage stamps must be kept separate (they cannot be affixed to the envelopes). For more information, please email Steve Gillen at steve.gill@verizon.net. Thank you!



Angel Tree

Each year Parkwood partners with Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church to purchase gifts for children in the Angel Tree program. Parkwood's Angel Tree was put up Sunday, November 17, and gifts are due back Sunday, December 1. The party for the children will be held Saturday, December 7, 9:30-12:00.

Volunteers are needed to help out at the party, and also to provide desserts. For more information, please email Courtney Ward at courtneyward15@aol.com.

Project Sandy Rebuild Mission Trip

New York/New Jersey

Sponsored by the North American Missions Board

May 14-17, 2014

We will help repair homes destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. There is a \$15 registration fee, and a daily cost of \$15 for food and lodging. Participants must be at least 14 years old.

For more information, please visit <http://www.namb.net/Sandy/> and contact Bryce Stokes at bstokes@cox.net.



PBC Healthy Corner

The Holiday D.I.E.T. Plan



D – Dedication - Commit to honoring God with your body and your choices concerning your eating and physical activities.

I – Inspire – Inspire to change the normal holiday behaviors of overindulgence and lack of physical activity.

E - Eat Less/Exercise More - Set two realistic goals that you can control over the holidays, e.g., I will half my dessert portions or I will walk 30 minutes, 4 days a week (remember, you can walk in place or up/down stairs in your house too).

T - Team-Up – Find an accountability partner to set goals and you can hold each other to them. Also remember your #1 teammate ...God. Talk to Him daily about your plans and ask for help meeting your goals!



***A Simple Christmas:
Twelve Stories That
Celebrate the True
Holiday Spirit***
by Mike Huckabee

Being home for Christmas is a pretty big deal to many of us. We have songs about it, we plan work schedules to allow travel time to accomplish this goal, and we pout about it when it doesn't happen. And, sometimes "home" has to take on a new definition when job, family and responsibilities require us to stay put.

Author Mike Huckabee has a high priority on being home for Christmas. And he shares examples of how he has learned to work around, through and with the obstacles that have hampered that effort over the years.

While Huckabee's stories are straight from his life, anyone can relate to the family chuckles of sneak peeks of Christmas surprises, annoying fellow passengers on the journey home, the first Christmas away from home as newlyweds and a sundry of other tales he shares with the reader. Don't deny yourself this light Christmas read—anytime of year. You will be sure to smile and even laugh more than once.

This book is in the Biography section of the Patterson Library here at Parkwood. Pop on in and ask Ali to help you find this or another selection that will be sure to delight you.

Reviewed by Mary Kelly

As an additional treat for the Christmas season, the CCL team has remaining copies of Eric Patterson's *Walking Toward Christmas* and three copies of Twink DeWitt's *The Trust Diamond*. Whether for yourself or for a gift, at \$10 and \$12 respectively, these are deals worthy of the season. See Mary Kelly for your copy.



Next Meeting
Monday, December 9
10:30 AM

Alabaster's Song
by Max Lucado

Prayer Breakfasts

Please note that there will be no Men's or Women's Prayer Breakfasts in December. We will meet again in January!



Illuminations

Illumination and Lyrics

Jesus chose to instruct his followers through the use of parables and everyday tangibles. Throughout 2013, I used secular song lyrics as a framework to make spiritual and practical points. For me, nothing highlights the many layers of the human condition and everyday experiences better than secular music. Obviously, such experiences are not limited to people of faith; we simply have a different approach to handling them.

As an inspirational writer, I often circle back to my own writings to get those application nuggets that I may have missed during the writing process. You can also gain useful information each time you revisit an article or a book. Therefore, I want to encourage you to gather up those old Parkwood newsletters and flip to the *Illuminations* column to reread the articles as the Spirit leads.

Here is a recap of the song titles that I used this year: in no particular order:

- When Somebody Loves You Back
- I Will Always Love You
- Apologize
- The Air That I Breathe
- Stairway To Heaven
- Man In The Mirror
- You've Got A Friend
- Who Let The Dogs Out
- Killing Me Softly
- I Won't Last A Day Without You
- Does Anybody Really Know what Time It Is?

I am closing out this particular theme, but as long as the opportunity exists, I will continue to send encouragement your way. Just know that every topic that I have written about was either something that I have observed or something that I have personally experienced. Therefore, we are growing together.

Whether we have personally met, or if we only know one another through my writing, I want all of you to know that you energize me. A writer is nothing without a connection to his or her readers, so feel free to email me your thoughts or questions about my articles.

Authentically, I can only write from my unique experiences. However, life grants each of us such experiences from which we can gain valuable lessons. Having been heavily influenced by many types of music, I simply used the medium of song lyrics with the intent to encourage us all to nurture an intimate relationship with Christ and with one another. I pray that you have enjoyed this journey as much as I have.

Keep Well, Everybody!

Denise Lewis Christopher

To comment on this or past articles,
email dlewchris@yahoo.com.





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Merry Christmas from the Church Staff

