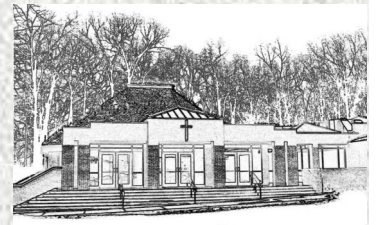


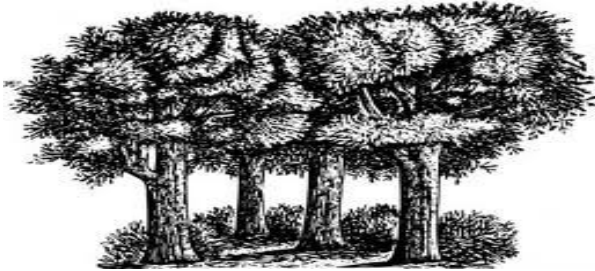
# *The Parkwood Connection*

**A monthly publication by Parkwood Baptist Church**

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



**AUGUST 2013**



## **Worship Under The Trees**

**Sunday, August 25, 2013**

**ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 FOR ALL CLASSES**  
**ONE OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:45**

Church Picnic will follow the service.

Bring your lawn chairs, side dishes, salads, and desserts to share (enough for your family plus eight)

The church will provide burgers and hot dogs.

Additional parking at Kings Park Shopping Center.

## *Keeping Parkwood Beautiful...*

### **A Gardening Opportunity For You The Adopt-A-Bed Ministry Continues**

God has blessed Parkwood with a beautiful setting: a park set in the woods. To care for the grounds, the adopt-a-bed ministry began last fall and has been very successful.

The grounds team broke the property down into nine manageable sections and made them available for adoption. Any class or group in the church, as well as any family, individual, or couple is invited to adopt a bed. Upon request, the grounds team will provide you with tools, fertilizer, weed killer, and other necessities for you to accomplish taking care of your bed.

**Contact Bonnie Hopler at [pbhopler@cox.net](mailto:pbhopler@cox.net)**



### **Grounds Clean-up Days Saturday Mornings August 24 and October 26**

Please plan to come out the morning of August 24 from 8-11 am to work on the grounds prior to the Church Picnic the following morning.

Mark your calendar to work in cooler weather the morning of October 26.

Please bring rakes, leaf blowers and chain saws.

**Contact Paul Hopler at [pbhopler@cox.net](mailto:pbhopler@cox.net)**



### **KITCHEN WORK DAYS August 21 and 24**

It's time to get our kitchen ready for the busy fall and winter seasons.

Please plan to help clean the kitchen either on Wednesday morning, August 21 or Saturday morning, August 24. On both days, we'll be working from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Cleaning supplies are provided ... just show up.

## **Pianist Retires?**



Yes, it's true, our beloved Barbara Brower has decided to retire as Parkwood's pianist after more than 19 years. She will continue to sing in the choir and bless us on occasion with her wonderful gifts on the keyboard, but this will allow her the freedom to take some weekends to visit family and enjoy life. Thank you, Barbara, for your beautiful contributions over the years that

have made our worship so exceptional. You have created through your music an atmosphere of grace. Your music has not only been appreciated...it has been anticipated! We come each Sunday looking forward to experiencing the warm fellowship of the Parkwood family amidst the sounds of music.

We love you and are thankful that you have shared your joyful heart with us through music! Blessings!



## Children's Ministry

### Rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders

We are having a special luncheon for rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders and their families on **Sunday, August 4 at 12:30 pm** in the Rec Room (C119/120). We want to let them know that they will be missed in their Sunday school class, and that we are also excited as they continue their Christian walk in the Youth Ministry. Please let Jennifer Heiserman or the church office know by July 31 if you plan on attending.

### Funtastic Friday

**August 16 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.** Parkwood will be hosting another Funtastic Friday which will include live worship, water games, volleyball, food, and of course FUN!!! Please RSVP by August 10. You may register online at [www.parkwood.org](http://www.parkwood.org), call the church office or email Jenn Heiserman at [JenniferH@parkwood.org](mailto:JenniferH@parkwood.org).

- 8/1 Audrey Valentine
- 8/15 Connor Lytle
- 8/15 Ryan Lytle
- 8/17 BB Guyton-Harris
- 8/20 Colin Hyde
- 8/26 Jonathan Isaac
- 8/27 Trevor Welly
- 8/29 Sara Crabill
- 8/29 Tommy Lockwood
- 8/29 Sarah Yost
- 8/31 Simone Ng



- Canned Meat
- Jelly
- Condiments
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- 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
- Infant Formula
- Powdered Milk
- Condensed Milk

**Parkwood Wee Center** The Weekday Early Education program has openings in all age groups for the upcoming school year. We serve children 16 months to 5 years. Do you know a family with preschoolers looking for an outstanding Christian preschool? Please invite them to learn about the WEE Center.

During the summer we continue to collect "trash for cash" items, including Campbell's Labels, Box Tops for Education, old cell phones, and printer cartridges. Please leave items in the receptacles downstairs or in the WEE Center Office door.

On August 3, our staff members will attend the Church Weekday Education Conference, sponsored by the Virginia Baptist Mission Board. We look forward to connecting with other WEE Centers and learning new ways to further Parkwood's Ministry of bringing Christ's message to preschoolers and their families.

We welcome April Shine back to the WEE Center staff. April took a leave of absence last year to spend more time with her family. She will be working with Sharon Gibson. April is a dedicated servant of the Lord, and we look forward to working with her again.

**Ann Lipton, WEE Center Director**

### M Group

**August 21 will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> M Group** meeting for the summer. It has been lots of fun learning about the ABC's of salvation. We will be studying "C" which represents "Confess." What does it mean to confess? When we confess we are admitting that we need God's help to cleanse us from our sin and help us choose His way, the right way. M Group meets in the Rec Room (C119/120) from 6-8 pm. We will be serving a light dinner at the beginning of class.

Fall is right around the corner which means we'll be returning to our regular Wednesday night schedule. Be on the lookout for some upcoming changes and classes that we'll be offering for your children. It should be a lot of fun!

**Jennifer Heiserman**  
**Director of Children's Ministries**



### August At-A-Glance

- August 3 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7-9 am
- August 4 Rising 7th Grade Lunch 12:30 pm
- August 16 Funtastic Friday 5:30-7:30 pm
- August 21 Kitchen Clean-up 9 am-12 pm
- August 21 Children's M Group 6-8 pm
- August 24 Grounds Clean-up 8-11 am
- August 24 Kitchen Clean-up 9 am-12 pm
- August 25 Outdoor Worship/Picnic
- August 31 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7-9 am

*Save the Date!*

**Stop Hunger Now**  
**Packaging Event**  
**on World Hunger Sunday**  
**Afternoon of October 13th**

*Details to follow in  
the September Newsletter*

*From The Deacons*

We are "officially" losing David Miles as a Deacon this month. He and Yolanda are moving to their new home in North Carolina. They have both been very active members at Parkwood over the years, participating in the Praise Band, Choir, and other areas of serving. Please thank them and pray for them as they make the move.

The Deacons are preparing for the Outdoor Service at the end of the month. We hope to have another great day of Outdoor Baptisms like last year! What a wonderful way to Praise God!

We ask that you be in prayer for the Deacon nomination process which begins next month. This is a vitally important area of Parkwood service.

*Doris Richburg, Deacon Chair*

*Welcome To Our Newest Members*

Jess Herrera  
 Alice Hudson  
 Scott Wade

Dear Parkwood Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards, emails, and beautiful flowers you sent after my mother's death. She had many fond memories of the Parkwood family and always kept our church in her prayers. Thank you for your caring and support over the past weeks and in the weeks to come.

*Mary Hill and family*

**Stewardship Report**

Budget Needs thru June 2013	\$ 522,122
Budget Received	\$ 455,456
Budget Expended	\$ 388,369
Difference	\$ 57,087
2013 Building funds received thru June 2013	\$ 17,846



*A fellow disciple on the Way...*

**Jesus, Our Savior**

*"He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins." (Ephesians 1:13-14, NRSV)*

The doctrine of salvation remains the central theme of the Bible. Biblical salvation refers to God's gracious action in delivering people or individuals from a threatening situation in which they are unable to rescue themselves. The threatening situation may range from political, social, or mental oppression or physical illness to a spiritual consequence of sinful behavior. The agent of salvation may be a human liberator, or the gracious outworking of God's own purpose through an event or situation in life. *Yet it is God who provides the agent, and it is God alone who ultimately saves.*

In the Old Testament, the concept of salvation is rooted in God's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage through Moses (see Exodus 1-13). In the New Testament, Jesus is the source of salvation. He is the **Christ (Messiah)** and **Savior (sōtēr)** of the world (Matt 1:21; Luke 2:11; John 3:16; 4:42). **Jesus is the ultimate agent of God's salvation** (Acts 4:12; Phil 2:9-11; Col 1:15-20). By faith in Jesus, believers are saved from bondage to sin and its physical and spiritual consequences and transferred to a new realm of existence (Rom 5:1-11).

The experience of salvation is a present reality, which begins the moment we accept God's **steadfast love, peace (shalom), righteousness, and truth** in Jesus Christ.

*"Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me" (Rev 3:20).*

*Pastor Daniel*



**Birthdays This Month**

- 8/1 Sandy Wood
- 8/1 Ken Kmiec
- 8/1 Stephen Begab
- 8/2 Rae Benavage
- 8/2 Kathy Schluter
- 8/2 Benjamin Amos
- 8/2 Rebecca Sanchez
- 8/4 Floyd Haywood
- 8/5 Linda Dapaah
- 8/6 Marty Valentine
- 8/6 Lauren Bowen
- 8/7 Mike Bradley
- 8/7 Austin Kirkland
- 8/7 Sara Bradley
- 8/8 Michael Carney
- 8/8 Ben Patton
- 8/9 Todd McCormick
- 8/10 Joe Swanson
- 8/10 Mary Kate Prather
- 8/11 Andrea Hall
- 8/11 Shannon Sgro
- 8/12 Ruth Hopkins
- 8/12 David Street
- 8/14 Don O'Brien
- 8/15 Tedd Ogren
- 8/15 Charlotte Poe
- 8/19 David, Kat, and Elise Miles
- 8/20 Ron Richburg
- 8/20 Meredith Brower
- 8/20 Elizabeth Gibson
- 8/20 Donte Guyton-Stukes
- 8/22 Bernice Maynard
- 8/22 Reina Medrano
- 8/23 Terry Hill
- 8/23 Megan Barger
- 8/23 Brendan Hull
- 8/24 Alli Harris
- 8/26 Patti Alexander
- 8/26 Andrew Hirsch
- 8/26 Georgia LeGrand-Carney
- 8/27 Barbara Crompton
- 8/27 Carolyn Bruce
- 8/30 Paul Goodin
- 8/30 Annette Maley
- 8/30 Nicki Caswell
- 8/31 Helen Ciuffreda

**PARKWOOD.....On Mission**

**Upcoming Missions Trips**

**Sept 3-7: Southwest Virginia Project, Nicklesville, VA, sponsored by Virginia Baptists.** We will help repair homes. Cost is \$15 per night for lodging and a nominal cost for food. For more information, please visit the website: [www.vbmb.org/Missions/Partnership-Missions/Southwest-Virginia-Partnership.cfm](http://www.vbmb.org/Missions/Partnership-Missions/Southwest-Virginia-Partnership.cfm).

**May 2014: Project Sandy Rebuild, New York/New Jersey, sponsored by the North American Missions Board.** Our trip next year will be to help repair homes destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. Cost is \$15 per night and includes food. Sign-up sheets will be available soon, and deposits will need to be made. For more information, visit these websites: [www.namb.net/uploadedFiles/namb1/content/Ministries/Disaster\\_Relief/Sandy\\_Response/LTR%20Info%20May%202013\(1\).pdf](http://www.namb.net/uploadedFiles/namb1/content/Ministries/Disaster_Relief/Sandy_Response/LTR%20Info%20May%202013(1).pdf)  
[www.namb.net/Sandy/](http://www.namb.net/Sandy/)

**For further information:  
Contact Bryce Stokes: [bstokes@cox.net](mailto:bstokes@cox.net)**

**Shop for School Supplies  
This Summer**

Please help children and teens start their school year right by donating backpacks and school supplies to FACETS.

Take a list of what is needed from the Welcome Center or Missions bulletin board. Leave supplies in the container in the Welcome Center. If you choose to donate cash or gift cards, please give them to Bonnie Hopler. Contact info: [pbhopler@cox.net](mailto:pbhopler@cox.net).

**Collection for the Lamb Center**

The Lamb Center is a daytime drop-in center for the homeless in central Fairfax County. When we help the people who go there, we also give encouragement and hope.

The first two Sundays of this month we will hand out collection bags and a complete list of items that are needed. [Return your donations to the box in the Welcome Center by August 25th.](#)

*Your prayers are always needed.*



**Fall 2013  
NAM Clothing Drive**

Every year your donations have made a difference in the lives of so many. Our collection this year will run from September 1 through September 22. In addition to used clothing, we will also be accepting donations of **new, unworn, and still packaged children's and/or teens socks and underwear.**

All donations of used clothing must be in good, clean condition. Rule of thumb...if you wouldn't wear it, then please don't send it. We cannot accept clothing advertising alcohol, containing morally questionable words or with the name/logo of Washington's professional football team.

We ask that you:

- Bag all clothing (please fold)
- Tag the bag "NAM Clothing" and bring it to the Welcome Area closet

Any questions can be directed to Tina Morris at [tmorris1@gmu.edu](mailto:tmorris1@gmu.edu)

If you prefer to make a financial contribution to Native American Missions, please make your payment to Parkwood Baptist Church and include "NAM" on the memo line and in the Designated Offering area of the offerings envelope. All financial contributions will be used to benefit a variety of needs of our Native American brothers and sisters.

If you would like to know more about NAM and the Native American Missionary we support, Rose Ignacio of Tinian Baptist Church, visit the Parkwood website at [www.Parkwood.org](http://www.Parkwood.org) and go to the Missions page.

Please continue to pray for Rose and all those who continue to minister to Native Americans in New Mexico.



***Not A Fan.  
What Does It Mean To  
Really Follow Jesus?***

By: Kyle Idleman  
Reviewed by Rae Benavage

“Are you a fan of Jesus?” What would your answer be? When I first started reading this book I thought, “Yes, I am a fan! I love Jesus.” However, is that really what Jesus wants?

You attend every movie featuring a certain actor, you know the stats of your sports hero, and you can recite lyrics from your favorite songs. In short, you’re a huge fan. But, are you treating Jesus the same as the other people you admire?

The truth is Jesus wants more than the church attendance, occasional prayer, and the ability to recite scripture – the fan response. He’s looking for people who are actually willing to sacrifice in order to follow Him.

What exactly does that mean? Is there a difference in making a decision for Him or a commitment to Him? Is it right to have knowledge about Him or to develop an intimacy with Him? Is Jesus one of many that you follow and admire or the One and only? Are you self-empowered or Spirit-filled?

The invitation to follow Jesus is complex in its simplicity, and this book, written for teens, lays out just what Jesus wants in a clear, easy to understand way. Kyle Idleman uses humor, humility, and a deep understanding of the Bible to “look at what it means to call yourself a Christian and follow the radical call Jesus presents.” Make no mistake, although the book’s message is simple, the invitation will take courage, daily sacrifice, and true commitment. Are you ready?

*This and many other fine Christian books, DVDs, and audios are available in the library. Open Sundays before and between services; Tuesdays-Thursdays: 10-2.*

***The Parkwood Book Group  
is taking a break in August.***



***Our next meeting will be September 9.***

***Illuminations***

***You’ve Got A Friend***

Friendship no longer carries the connotation that it did when Carole King and James Taylor simultaneously recorded their megahits four decades ago. Interestingly, some years back, I obliged my daughter when she suggested that I establish a Myspace account. However, the second I hit the submit button, the smiling face of a young man popped up in the lower right corner of the screen. Startled, I asked, “Who is *he*?” She replied, “He is your first friend.” I then retorted, “But, I don’t know him. Besides, I am old enough to be his mother, so, how he is my friend?” Clearly, my children and I were raised in different worlds. I know how real friendships are made, with real people who actually talk to each other in real life, and in real time. You see, the notion of friendship has been trampled upon by our modern culture.

*You just call out my name, and you know wherever I am  
I’ll come running to see you again.  
Winter, spring, summer, or fall, all you have to do is call,  
and I’ll be there  
You’ve got a friend.*

It is not easy to be a friend. Real friends support one another when they are down, but they also hold one another accountable when wrong. I worry that those of us who know better are slowly falling into the abyss of today’s idea of friendship.

The social media site, Facebook, makes it easy for us to “unfriend” people. However, in real life, we should think matters through before doing that. We should ask ourselves, *Has that individual betrayed me; are they trustworthy; do they deplete me, or do they add value to my life?* Now, with one click, we can simply dismiss people from our lives. Some have been “unfriended” because they have expressed different political views, religious views, “liked” a certain photograph on Facebook, or for other trivial reasons. Sadly, some of these people were friends in real life, but they allowed current social trends to influence them, without having exercised the benefit of talking through possible offenses as mature people should. Sadly, many Christians have also embraced that “just unfriend them” attitude. However, the Bible tells us that if we have an issue with someone, we are to go and attempt reconciliation.

I invite each of you to rethink the meaning of friendship. Does it have the same meaning to you as it did thirty years ago? Have you ever *unfriended* someone over a trivial matter, simply because it was easier than putting forth the effort to reconcile offenses? We can restore the real meaning of friendship by taking a few steps. Talk to people, visit them, write them in longhand, cry with them, pray with them, and lastly, hold your friends accountable when they are wrong, especially when they mistreat others. Let them do the same with you. Now, let’s take back the true meaning of friendship, everybody.

*Gracefully..... Denise Lewis Christopher*

To comment on this or past articles in the Illuminations column, email Denise at [dlewchris@yahoo.com](mailto:dlewchris@yahoo.com).



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Return Service Requested

**“THE MAN OF STEEL”**

*“...so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist” (John 13:4).*

When I was growing up I loved Superman. He was the ultimate hero. “Faster than a speeding bullet...stronger than a locomotive...able to leap tall buildings with a single bound.” I couldn’t wait for that moment in every show or comic book when Clark Kent would find a phone booth and tear off his outer clothes to reveal the suit with the “S” on his chest that showed who he really was. When playing around the house I would sometimes get a large towel and use it as a cape as I pretended to fly to rescue Metropolis from the evils of Lex Luthor. This year a new Superman movie has come out, “The Man Of Steel.” As I watch the trailers I am transported back to my days wearing a towel cape and dreaming of rescuing people. I also begin to think about my real Savior, Jesus.

The Scripture above is a moment in the life of our Savior when a true “hero” is defined and illustrated. The passage is literally moments before the ultimate battle for the salvation of the world. Our hero is in an upper room with His key followers. They are wanted men. It is time for Jesus to show all of His cards. “He now showed them the full extent of His love.” (Jn. 13:1). He gets up from the table and pulls off His outer clothes and grabs a towel. But, instead of using it as a cape and flying out the window, He ties it around His waist and begins to wash the disciple’s feet. Whoa. Not what they were expecting. Not what we would expect either. That’s because in God’s Kingdom men who “kneel” are men of “steel.” Jesus illustrates that true heroes are those who serve. They are those who lay down their lives for others.

In my life there have been many heroes. People who have been there to rescue me when I have been in trouble. People who have given me direction when I needed it. They have shown up to save the day in many ways. As we serve one another in Jesus’ name we are being a part of God’s heroic effort to save the world from death to life. So go and serve!

Blessings,