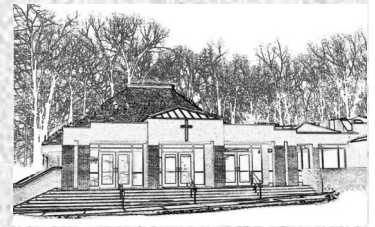


The Parkwood Connection

A monthly publication by Parkwood Baptist Church

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



FEBRUARY 2013

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another."*

John 13:34



sharing your time and talents

PARKWOOD TO HELP WITH HYPOTHERMIA MINISTRY

The hypothermia prevention response program provided by FACETS, local churches, and Fairfax County, to provide a warm, safe location for homeless people during the winter, will continue through March.

We will serve on Monday, March 4, and Friday, March 8, by preparing dinner during the afternoon in our own kitchen. Then, at the host church— St. Stephen's United Methodist just west of us on Brad-dock Road—we will assist with:

- staff registration (5:30-6:15 pm)
- serve dinner (6:00-7:30 pm)
- present and supervise a social time (7:30-10:00 pm)

To help with one or more of the above tasks, just sign up on the bulletin board.

Contact: Bonnie Hopler
pbhopler@cox.net

A Time-honored Parkwood Tradition

love a hungry world



Sunday Morning, February 10

Calling all bakers! You can do your part to help raise funds for much-needed hunger relief through the sale of delicious baked goods and other treats. Please plan to bring goodies for the sale and let the Hunger Committee know what you'll be bringing by signing up in the Sunday School class folders or on the bulletin board in the hall.

Don't forget to purchase some goodies to take home to family and friends.

**ALL proceeds go to hunger relief
locally, nationally, or internationally.**

Contact Rae Benavage:
rebenavage@hotmail.com



Sibril Bangura	2/14
Abby Bills	2/25
Maddy Bills	2/25
Angel Hernandez	2/22
Calla Murphy	2/8
Thomas Prather	2/22
Emma Regling	2/27



- *Canned Meat
- *Canned Beef Stew
- Tuna
- Canned Milk
- Rice
- *Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Breakfast Bars
- Peanut Butter
- Instant Potatoes
- Spaghetti Sauces
- Pasta
- Beefaroni
- Soup
- Mac and Cheese
- *Boxed Juice
- *Drinks
- *Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Diapers
- Infant Formula
- Powdered Milk
- Condensed Milk
- *Urgent needs

Children's Ministry on the Move!

We are continuing to grow in our children's ministry, and that always brings changes and transitions. First, we want to welcome Jennifer Heiserman to our staff as our new Children's Director. She has agreed to oversee our Sunday morning ministries and our Wednesday night programming. Her responsibilities also include special events like Funtastic Fridays and VBS this summer!

Secondly, this is a great time to be involved in the children's ministry, and you may want to take this opportunity to jump in. We are providing training for all levels of involvement and looking for volunteers in a variety of areas.

We will be having regular parent meetings where families can get information about upcoming activities and get up-to-date info on procedures in the different aspects of our ministry. This year we are even more committed to providing a safe and encouraging environment for our children at every activity. Children are more than the "future" of our church...they are the church today!

Stepping Up Security

Additional steps are being taken to ensure the safety of the children. Similar to before, parents/guardians must pick up their children from Sunday School. Children will not be released on their own or to an older sibling.

We appreciate your support and cooperation. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the Director of Children's Ministry, Jennifer Heiserman.

Parkwood wee center

The Weekday Early Education (WEE) Center is a ministry of the church and serves about 100 children between the ages of 16 months and 5 years. We have an excellent reputation within the community, and our classes fill up quickly. Please visit the WEE Center during our regular school hours, Tuesday – Friday from 10-2 or speak to a WEE Committee member to learn more about our program. More information can be found at www.weecenter.com.



**Tuesday,
February 5,
5-8 pm**

Take a night off from cooking and come join the fun and fellowship at the Kings Park McDonalds. McDonalds will donate 10% of the proceeds from Spirit Night to the WEE Center. You can even use the drive-through!

Registration for 2013-2014 begins Tuesday, February 5 6pm Kings Park McDonalds

Any Parkwood member may register their child at that time or Tuesday – Friday from 9:30-3:00. Forms must be turned in directly to the WEE Center director. Registration forms may be picked up from the WEE Center Office, Church Office or the WEE Center Bulletin Board across from the Prayer Parlor.

Open registration for the community at large begins on February 26 at 9:00 am and will continue during our regular business hours. If you have a preschooler or know of one, tell them about Parkwood's WEE Center.

Silent Auction is coming!!!

Join other Parkwood members on March 15th for an evening of fun, while supporting the WEE Center Ministry.

How can you help make the evening fun and successful?

- ♦ **Solicit a local business in your area for a donation.** Donation agreement forms are located in the Church and WEE Center offices.
- ♦ **Donate an item for the silent auction.** It could be a gift card; a professional service you can provide; or a gift basket. Anything you can donate is always appreciated. Bring the items to the WEE Center or Church office.
- ♦ **Volunteer!** Help on the night of the event or help organize the auction items and gift baskets. We always need an extra hand or two.
- ♦ **Join together with friends** on March 15 for fun, food, fundraising, and fellowship!!

For questions about any of these events, contact Ann Lipton, WEE Center Director, at 703.978.0640.

From The Deacons

The Deacon Ordination & Installation Service Was Awesome!

We ordained five new Deacons – Jennifer Heiserman, Evaristo Rosales, Vilma Rosales, Chongkin Chin and Mary Hill – and installed Sam Ferguson back on the active board. Jennifer gave an inspirational talk on why she felt led to accept the call into the Deacon ministry, and Sam shared his thoughts on returning to the active board. Our Deacon Board now has 20 members, the largest board in the history of Parkwood. A Deacon training day was held in late January, and we are now ready for whatever service God has planned for us at Parkwood. This is an exciting time in the life of our church!

We said goodbye to Sharon Gibson (who served this past year as our Chair), Jim Schluter, Bernice Maynard and Doris Sutphin, all of whom rotated off the board. When you see them, please thank them for their continuing service to Parkwood.

Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers. Remember, we are here to serve you, so feel free to contact any of your Deacons if you have needs or prayer requests.

To God be the Glory!

Doris Richburg, Deacon Chair

Kids Only Social (KOS)

Yes, the children of Parkwood have their own social every Sunday! This is a time for socializing, playing games, snacks, and just hanging with friends. If you're looking to pick up your children between 10:30-11:00, you'll find them having fun in the Rec Room!



Stewardship Report

Budget Needs thru Dec 2012	\$ 978,916
Budget Received	\$ 916,975
Budget Expended	\$ 882,492
Difference	\$ 34,483
2012 Building funds received thru Dec 2012	\$ 32,734

Thank you from Your Staff

The entire Parkwood staff would like to express their appreciation for the love gift received at the end of the year. It is truly a pleasure to work with such a loving and caring church family. We are looking forward to serving you in 2013 as God continues His Kingdom work among us. Thank you!

- Your Parkwood staff

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve children and the Lord at Parkwood over the last 12 years. After much prayer and contemplation, I have decided to pursue a career as a public school teacher in Fairfax County. I believe this move will still allow me to be obedient to my call to ministry, while being able to take care of my family. I will continue to serve in the mission field, as well, and will appreciate your prayers as I continue to carry on God's Kingdom work.

I will be forever grateful for the relationships I have developed and the support I have received here at Parkwood. Things are always changing, but one thing remains constant: God's ever-present love. I pray for God's richest blessings for all of you and please know that you have a special place in my heart.

His servant and yours,

Ed Windhausen



2/1	Blanca Alonso
2/1	Nadine Duke
2/1	Yovanda Miles
2/1	Edith Moreno
2/1	Lori Vera
2/2	Ed Fry
2/2	Doris Sutphin
2/3	Rita Smith
2/4	Jennifer Heiserman
2/4	Marvin Russell
2/5	Patricia McCormick
2/5	Ruth Nefflen
2/6	Duncan DeLoach
2/6	Mike Gibson
2/10	Scarlett Alexander
2/10	Twila Lytle
2/10	Jim Scroggin
2/13	Karen Ly
2/16	Mary Anne Love
2/16	Carolyn Purdy
2/16	Charlotte Riester
2/17	Lori West
2/20	Vicki Herrington
2/21	Brittany Vera
2/22	Victoria Benavage
2/25	Jessica Caballero
2/27	Michael Barger
2/27	David Buffington
2/28	Elizabeth Bowen
2/1	Addison O'Donoghue

Parkwood Youth Ministry!

The youth ended 2012 with a New Year's Eve party hosted by the Phillips. They rang in the new year with games, good food, and a great devotional challenge from Adam Bradley.

Wednesday Nights have resumed, and we are planning some Spring activities in the near future. A calendar will be available soon with upcoming events!

New Sunday School Opportunity!

We will be starting a youth Bible study class on Sunday morning during the 9:30 worship for those who attend the 11am worship service. More info will be coming soon!

PRAYER! PRAYER! PRAYER!

We are beginning the process of looking for Summer youth interns, as well as, an interim youth director. Please be praying for our youth workers and our youth as they seek God's direction!

In View Ministry at GMU

The ministry to GMU and NoVa campuses has started again! Deitrich and Carlie Linde will be leading this ministry.

The students began this semester with a "Stop Hunger Now" event where they partnered with the Northstar Women's network to prepare 10,000 meals.

They are also continuing with the Monday night fellowships and the weekly Bible study groups that meet at the Crosspoint House on Roberts Road.

We want to celebrate the Kingdom work there and continue to pray for the students and the leadership.

Staff Updates! Welcome!

Sam Ferguson has just come on board as our part-time facilities manager. Sam is a long-time member of Parkwood and currently serves as a Deacon. He will be handling the scheduling of the building and coordinating maintenance, as well.

We also welcome **Jennifer Heiserman** as our part-time Children's Director. Jennifer will be coordinating our Sunday morning and Wednesday night programs and special events for our children.



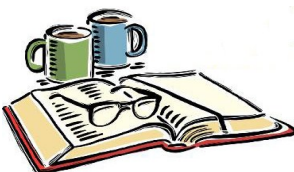
**Next Meeting
Monday
February 25
11:30 am**

For more information, please contact:
Virginia Sandidge,
vsandidge@aol.com.



**Next Meeting
Monday, February 11
11 am**

Who Do I Talk To?
by Neta Jackson



**Men's Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, February 23
7-9 am**

The Horror of Sins-
"Big sins or Little sins"
it does not matter-James 2:1-13

February Book Bite

House of Hope, Books 1 and 2

By Neta Jackson

A Review by Virginia Sandidge

Even if you have not read the Yada Yada Prayer Group series, which I highly recommend, you will love Neta Jackson's *House of Hope* series.

In the first book, *Where Do I Go?*, Gabrielle Fairbanks finds life very different when she moves to Chicago with her husband, Philip, to further his career. With the move, she hopes to find real purpose in her life. They leave their two sons in Virginia with Philip's parents, supposedly until they get settled in their penthouse apartment.

Shortly after moving, Gabby meets a homeless woman and helps her find shelter in the Manna House Women's Shelter. She discovers that Manna House needs a Program Director, and that she has the right credentials. When the Shelter Director tells her that she feels God has led Gabby to the Manna House, she has a hard time understanding this. She later learns through a song that when you think there is no one else to turn to, you can always go to the Rock. She is introduced to several of the members from the Yada Yada Prayer Group and finds real friendship and strength with these women.

In the second book, *Who Do I Talk To?*, Gabby finds herself and her mother--and her mother's dog-- thrown out of the Penthouse by her husband. Her husband "kidnaps" their sons to go live with their grandparents. Gabby has no place else to turn except to the homeless shelter where she has just resigned from her job. The only way she can expect to have her children returned is to find a place to live, but how does she do this? Extraordinary things happen as Gabby is re-introduced to God.

It is so interesting how Gabby, with her reaffirmed trust and belief in God, picks herself up, dusts herself off and becomes a stronger individual. The next two books in the series, *Who Do I Lean On?* and *Who Is My Shelter?* demonstrate how you can survive when you feel that you have no one to turn to, and find that God has never left you.

The Parkwood Book Group will discuss *Who Do I Talk To?* at our February 11 meeting. Please join us even if you have not had a chance to read the books (which, by the way, are all in the Parkwood Library). We have a great morning of friendship and fellowship once a month while discussing God-centered books that speak to each of us in our own different lives.

Illuminations

When Somebody Loves You Back

I have decided to use the titles of popular songs for my articles this year, and since February is known as the month of love and romance, I'm going to flow with that theme.

When I was in high school, there was a popular R&B song called *When Somebody Loves You Back*, performed by the handsome Teddy Pendergrass. There's a part in the song where Pendergrass is strongly advocating what he calls a 50/50 love, where each person gives 50 percent to make a relationship whole. Even back then I wondered about that expression, but after having an encounter with Jesus, I definitely disagree with Pendergrass. The Bible teaches that *God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)*. That sounds like God gave 100 percent, even when we gave zero percent to him.

If you have a relationship with Jesus, then you know that he always loves you back, even if you're not giving him one hundred percent. We should certainly strive daily to give the Lord full devotion, but if we slip, we know that we have "an advocate with the father" (1 John 1:9). If you do not have a relationship with the Lord, don't allow guilt or shame to keep you away from his love for you. If you open up to him, he will receive you just as you are. If all you have is 30 percent, then offer that to him. Commit to a regular Bible study and fellowship with other believers, and pretty soon that 30 percent will grow to 100 percent devotion.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. - Deuteronomy 6:5

I believe that each person involved in an intimate relationship should give 100 percent. Love can seem so elusive; as often one party feels that they are 100 percent devoted to the relationship while the other party is skating through without any commitment. Conversely, we don't have that concern in our relationship with Jesus because he is fully committed to us.

A few years ago, Britain's Leona Lewis had a hit song called *Bleeding Love*. That title reminds me of the special privileges we have through the blood of Jesus. Hebrews 10:19 says, *We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us*. The blood of Jesus is our ticket to an intimate love relationship with the God of the universe. And he keeps on "bleeding love" for us. His love covers a multitude of sins, because it is unconditional. When we fall short of 100 percent devotion to him, he still bleeds love towards us every day of the year and not just on Valentine's Day. Finally, just remember that in contrast to Pendergrass' hit song, Jesus remains 100 percent committed to loving us back.

Be blessed~Denise Lewis Christopher

To comment on this or past articles in the *Illuminations* column, you may email Denise at dlewchris@yahoo.com.

Look up and Look Around

"He (Jesus) entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus...When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, 'Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house'." (Luke 19:1, 5)

The other day I was walking on a path through beautiful Burke Lake Park and saw someone approaching from the opposite direction. They were looking down at the path watching where they were stepping but not looking forward. I could see that a collision was inevitable if they were not going to look up. I waited until the last minute before making a noise which startled them but avoided the oncoming crash. I turned and watched as they continued past me and saw that they returned to looking at the ground oblivious to their surroundings.

As I thought about this fellow traveler, I realized that they were not only unaware of the obstacles that could have been in their path, but they were also missing the beauty of the park around them. They were so intent on their steps in front of them that they were unable to experience all that was around them. Hmmm.

I began to think how many of us do that on our daily journeys. We are so intently focused on the moment-to-moment details that we sometimes miss the bigger experience of life itself. Looking at our calendars on our phones or daytimers making sure that every moment is carefully planned, we put our heads down and watch every individual step and miss the "forest", so to speak.

Jesus was a busy man. His itinerary was quite full, but it seems He was never so busy that He wasn't aware of His surroundings. Jesus was not too busy to notice a short tax collector in a tree near the road. And, by the way, He is not too busy to notice you. The question is, are you too busy to notice Him? God is here. God is with you. Just look up every once in a while, and you will be surprised at what you'll see!

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



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Accounting Assistant

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