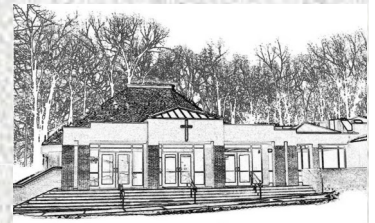


The Parkwood Connection

A monthly publication by Parkwood Baptist Church

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



SEPTEMBER 2013

WHAT'S NEW!

A NEW COOK FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS!

One of Parkwood's favorite traditions, Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners, resumes on September 11. At that time, we'll welcome our new cook, Mr. Johnnie Lawton.

As always, you can sign up by noon on Mondays. Please remember that dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:45 pm. The price for the kids' meals will stay the same at \$3.00. The price for adults will be increased to \$6.00.

Just to tempt your taste buds, some of our first menus will include barbecued chicken, ham with a peach glaze, and spaghetti.

To be good stewards, limited carry-out will be available to those taking dinner to people who are sick or otherwise home-bound.



New Staff Member Carlie Linde

Carlie has joined the Parkwood staff as a part-time administrative assistant in the Church Office.

Carlie and her husband, Dietrich, graduated from Virginia Tech in 2011, got married, and moved to Fairfax. Carlie and Dietrich met Pastor Mike and the Parkwood family in August 2012 when they started to help lead the campus ministry at George Mason.

Before coming to Parkwood, Carlie was a preschool teacher in Sterling and, most recently, a research analyst for the HIV/AIDS Bureau.

Carlie is very excited about the opportunity work part-time at Parkwood and have the ability to work more closely with the campus ministry at George Mason.

Please extend a warm Parkwood welcome to her!

New Wednesday Night Bible Study Begins September 4

Christ is All You Need: A Study of Colossians

The apostle Paul offers us a way out of the desperate human situation of self-reliance with the refreshing and liberating truth that Christianity is not about *doing* things for God; it is about *being* with God. When we are with God, in intimate relationship and fellowship, God lives His life in and through us.

If you're tired of performance-based religion, if you are overwhelmed by fruitless, religious routines, then we invite you to take this journey with us through Paul's Letter to the Colossians. Paul encourages us to focus on the sufficiency of Christ for salvation.

New M Group Program

On September 4 we will have our "kickoff" for M Group! We will meet in the Rec Room (C120) from 6:00 to 7:45 pm. M Group is for ages 4th – 6th grade. During our first 45 minutes we'll be using the TeamKids curriculum: learning about God, using the Bible and living for Jesus. The last 45 minutes of M Group will be devoted to our Music Makers program, led by George Scutt. Please contact Jenn Heiserman if you'd like to help out. We're looking for individuals who love children, have a relationship with Christ, are fun-loving, are willing to try new things, treat children with respect and who are team players.

Sunday, September 8

***Teacher Commissioning and
Sunday School Promotion***

unified **SEPTEMBER 15
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Willetts
Senior Pastor, Calvary Hill Baptist Church
Academic Dean, John Leland Center

TOPIC: ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

New ESOL Classes

Teacher Training @ Parkwood

Tuesday, September 4, 6:30-9:00 pm

Registration

Thursday, September 5, 7-9 pm

Classes Begin

Thursday, September 12, 7-9 pm



Lucas Holden	9/6
Sophia Golden	9/9
Jesse Smith	9/10
Emma Prather	9/11
Deshanae Wright	9/12
Conner Breeden	9/13
Jasmin Harris	9/13
Naomi Golden	9/20
Tyler Brandt	9/24
Will Gallagher	9/28
Thomas Figley	9/29
Maria Zimmerman	9/29



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

Children's Ministry

VBS

This was the largest VBS for Parkwood: 230 children and 90 volunteers! The children learned about Paul and how he had to trust God and face his fear. We raised over \$1700 to build water wells in Africa through World Vision. Our Missions Committee matched dollar for dollar; that's over \$3400! God is so good! Thank you to everyone who supplied food and prayers and volunteered to make this a memorable VBS.

Sunday School

Sunday School promotion will be on September 8. Your child's teacher will provide you the information



We're ready for another wonderful school year!

The teachers are excited to be back. The classrooms look new with freshly waxed floors, and the playground and sand house got makeovers by some Scout volunteers. What an inviting place to learn about God!

The WEE Center Committee welcomes two new members, Bernice Maynard and Shirley Readyhough. Bernice was a teacher at the WEE Center for many years, and Shirley has been a volunteer for countless special events. They will be wonderful additions to the Committee and will further the mission of this ministry.

On August 3, six teachers traveled to Richmond for the annual Church Weekday Conference sponsored by the VBMB. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn new ways to reach children and spread the message of God.

We will be selling Claire's Gourmet products again this year to support the WEE Center. Beginning September 5, brochures and order forms will be available. You will have opportunities to sample the goodies between services and during Wednesday night dinner in early September. Please consider supporting this fundraiser.

Spread the word that we have space for children ages 1 ½ to 5 years old in most of our classes. We look forward to the Teacher Commissioning on September 8 and our classes resuming on Tuesday, September 10.

on what class they will rise to. We continue to look for Sunday School teachers, Security Desk volunteers, and substitute teachers. If you would like to know more, please contact Jenn Heiserman.

Thank you

I want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated Children's Sunday School team; without you it would be difficult to reach the lives of our precious children! Thank you so much, we really appreciate all that you do!

Jennifer Heiserman
Director of Children's Ministries



Hello Parkwood Family!

The fall is already here! This summer has been great, and we are looking forward to seeing how God will bless us as the school year starts back! Our Wednesday night study will be changing gears as we begin our study of the book of 1st Samuel on September 4.

Appreciation Dinner September 6!

We will be hosting an appreciation dinner for those who supported the IMPACT VA mission trip to Fredericksburg in July. Please plan to come out on Friday, September 6 for dinner.

God has been blessing us abundantly in answer to our prayers! Please continue to pray for His movement as we enter into the school year!

In Christ,

Reed



Prime Timers'
Annual Picnic

September 16 @ 11:30
Burke Lake Park

Bring a sandwich
 Drinks and dessert provided

In case of rain, meet in Fellowship Hall

Contact Virginia Sandidge,
vsandidge@aol.com

From The Deacons

It's time to start praying about Deacon Nominations!

Starting September 1, materials providing the scriptural requirements of a Deacon, the characteristics a person should exhibit warranting consideration as a Deacon, and a description of the Parkwood Deacon Ministry will be available on the Welcome Desk for you to take home and study.

Nomination forms will be on the Welcome Desk in the Lobby for 3 consecutive Sundays: 9/15, 9/22, and 9/29. Please be in prayer concerning the people you wish to nominate. Any person who has been a member of Parkwood for one (1) year may be nominated. A Nomination Box will be on the Welcome Desk in which to place your forms. You may also place them in the offering plates or hand them to any Deacon.

You can nominate more than one person, and you can nominate yourself. We ask that you prayerfully consider each person. Talk to your friends and discuss this in your classes. A Deacon is first and foremost a servant; we do Kingdom Work by serving and give God the Glory.

If you have any questions concerning this process, please feel free to ask any of our Deacons. We currently have 19 Deacons on our Board; one will rotate off at the end of the year. Parkwood does not have a set number for our Board; we feel that God gives us the people we need.

Doris Richburg, Deacon Chair

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Emma Urton

Gaye Vaughan

Upcoming Prayer Breakfasts

Women's Ministry-September 14, 9-11 am

Men's Ministry-September 28, 7 am



Becoming A Contagious Christian

Six-week class resumes Sunday, September 8. For more information, please contact the Church Office
ChurchAdmin@parkwood.org

Thank you for your continued prayers and "surprises" along the way - food, flowers, prayers, etc. Your prayers have been holding us up. A multitude of thanks!

Ingrid and Roger Larson

Stewardship Report

Budget Needs thru July 2013	\$ 609,142
Budget Received	\$ 505,585
Budget Expended	\$ 468,319
Difference	\$ 40,466
2013 Building funds received thru July 2013	\$ 20,789



A fellow disciple on the Way...

Encountering God's Presence in our Lives

"Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world'" (John 4:39-42 NRSV)

In John Chapter 4, Jesus encounters a lonely, outcast Samaritan woman at a well. Through a series of questions, Jesus engages her in a conversation around the metaphor of "the water of life" that He offers. Jesus connects with her right where she is and helps her to see how He is the answer to her greatest need. That brief experience redirected her focus in life, resulting in her leading her entire village to faith in Jesus.

God extends endless invitations to us to encounter Him, yet too often we fail to notice them or ignore them altogether. Unconscious of what God expects of us, we often pay no attention or sleep in the presence of the divine as Peter, James, and John did (Matt 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46). Inactive and inattentive, we become sleepyheads, unable to experience God's presence in our lives and miss many opportunities to touch other lives with the fragrance of His love (2 Cor 2:14).

May we not absentmindedly shush His still small voice or allow our discipleship to be reduced to smothering distractions and become ineffective. Rather, let us open ourselves up to Him and experience His many gifts of love, as the unnamed Samaritan woman did, and become a blessing to others.

Pastor Daniel

Birthdays This Month

9/2	Janice Lott
9/4	Amanda Alexander
9/4	Mandy Roberts
9/6	Patricia Purvis
9/8	Vilma Rosales
9/9	Evan Isaac
9/9	David Mendoza
9/9	Faye O'Brien
9/10	Robert Figley
9/13	Katie Hansen
9/13	Charlotte Roberts
9/15	Michaela Furnia
9/15	Bill Kobren
9/15	Kenny Ly
9/16	Michelle Street
9/17	Ashley Lippolis
9/17	Tina Morris
9/18	Dawne Ward
9/19	Sharon Gibson
9/20	Larry Barnett
9/20	Jeanine Hyde
9/20	Jeff Love
9/20	Kevin Ly
9/20	Susan Vandersluis
9/23	Marianne Helms
9/23	Abraham Nichol
9/24	Ginny Hansen
9/25	Linda Clark
9/25	Jousselin Nichol
9/27	Allen Wood
9/28	Emily Benavage
9/28	Kelsey Pope
9/28	Sam Roberts
9/28	Jillian Vera
9/29	Alice Hudson
9/29	Amber Simcic
9/30	Billie Chandler
9/30	Dick Chandler
9/30	Caitlin Murray

PARKWOOD.....On Mission

**NAM Clothing Drive**

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.**

Rule of thumb...if you wouldn't wear it, then please don't send it. No clothing advertising alcohol, with morally questionable words, or with the name/logo of Washington's professional football team.

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

For financial contributions, 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.

Questions can be directed to Tina Morris at tmorris1@gmu.edu.


**Packaging Event
Sunday, October 13
World Hunger
Sunday**

Are you ready to again package 20,000 meals in one afternoon? You did such a great job last fall that we've scheduled another packaging event on Sunday, October 13. That also means we've committed to provide a quarter per meal. Yes, that does equal 20,000 quarters or \$5,000.

On Sunday mornings, September 8 and 15, stop by the table in Fellowship Hall to pick up a bank for your quarters—free to the first 200 people or families.

Go to www.parkwood.org, then to your pcb.me account to register. You can register to work the first shift (1:00- 2:30) or the second shift (3:00-4:30). When you sign up for the first shift, you can also choose to sign up for lunch at the church. The cost will be \$5.00 per person, payable at the door.

Plan to participate in World Hunger Sunday with worship services in the morning and helping to feed 20,000 people in the afternoon.



The Northstar Sewing Group will meet at Parkwood on September 19 in Fellowship Hall from 10 am to 12 noon.

This starts our year of sewing for community and worldwide missions, including making heart pillows for patients and receiving blankets for new mothers at Fairfax Hospital, and rolling bandages and crocheting sweaters for the Navajo children.

Bring your scissors and needle and thread and join us for fellowship and prayer for missions. Newcomers are welcome.

Operation Christmas Child

When you're shopping for school supplies this summer, why not pick up some additional items to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child? Through this mission, boys and girls in over 130 countries experience the power of God's love through the shoebox gifts that you fill. Please consider participating in this very worthwhile project.

**For further information,
contact Bernice Maynard**


**Grounds Clean-up Day
Saturday, October 26**

Plan to come out 8-11 am to work on the grounds. Please bring rakes, leaf blowers and chain saws.

**Contact Paul Hopler at
pbhopler@cox.net**

May 2014 Mission Trip

Project Sandy Rebuild, New York/New Jersey, sponsored by the North American Missions Board. We will 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.

**Contact Bryce Stokes:
bstokes@cox.net**



Saved By Her Enemy by Don Teague and Rafraf Barrak

Jesus said, "love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44).

This command can leave a believer with a lot of questions – questions like: How do I love someone who hates me? How do I reach out to those who wish I wasn't around or may even mean to harm me? Is there a way I can share the love of Christ with someone who wants nothing to do with Christianity?

In ***Saved By Her Enemy***, loving your enemy is put into action with subtle answers to those challenging questions. The book is the story of two very different lives. Rafraf Barrak is a young college student in Iraq and a Muslim. Don Teague is an American correspondent covering the early months of the Iraqi War and a Christian. Rafraf, under the rule of Saddam Hussein, grows up being told that Americans are the enemy. But these two lives are brought together in the middle of this conflict when Rafraf is given a job as translator for Don's news organization. Working together, they face life-threatening dangers. When terrorists try to kidnap and kill Rafraf because of her work with the Americans, Don and his colleagues begin searching for a way to safely get her out of Iraq and into a new life in the United States.

In America, Don Teague, his wife, and their two daughters open up their lives to Rafraf and to a life-changing journey for them all. Imagine going from the culture of Iraq to the college culture of America, or from living with your Muslim family in a country ruled by a dictator to living with a Christian family in a democracy. Rafraf would leave behind her family, her community, and her country in conflict and discover the love of a family and a community in the freedom of the United States. This is an inspiring story that I would recommend reading.

Reviewed by Karen Rust



Next Meeting
Monday, September 9
10:30 am

Wrapped In Rain
by Charles Martin



Christian Yoga
Fall Session

September 30-December 12

For information or to register:
www.parkwood.org

Illuminations

Killing Me Softly

Brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! - 1 Corinthians 15:31

Have you ever gone to church simply out of habit, knowing that you were not interested in being there? Then the pastor started preaching, and you were convinced that he had peeked into your soul while you slept the night before. It was as if he had found all of your private letters and read them to the entire congregation; and you just had to sit there and stomach it. You prayed that he would just hurry up and finish because he was telling your whole life with his stinging words. Truth is, they were not the pastor's words; they were God's. Still, you just wanted him to stop so that you could beeline it to the nearest exit. You felt shamefully vulnerable. However, no one noticed you, because God had custom-fit that same sermon for each of them. They, too, had some things to think about.

It has been said that the day we are born is the day that we begin to slowly die. That might not be a comforting thought, but spiritually speaking, our liberty is embedded in that truth. Yet, we don't like the idea of death, even though we know that dying ushers us into new life and greater enlightenment. That said, only God can help us to submit to dying on his terms.

Strumming my pain with his fingers, singing my life with his words

Killing me softly with his song, killing me softly with his song

Telling my whole life, with his words, killing me softly with his song

I felt all flushed with fever, embarrassed by the crowd

I felt he found my letters and read each one out loud

I prayed that he would finish but he just kept right on

Strumming my pain.....

Remember the woman who had five husbands? Jesus privately spoke to her at a well, when the townspeople would have publicly humiliated her. She was so shocked that Jesus knew her life story that she literally ran into the city to tell everyone about it. He looked into her hurting soul and exposed her life with his discerning words, and she was ready to submit to His will.

The apostle Paul said that he dies every day. I guess that is the best way to look at it, but we don't like to die. At times, our flesh will kick and scream rather than submit to God. But, why die hard? God only wants to make some attitude adjustments that could only benefit us. We all know that we need to start doing some things differently. We accepted Jesus and then we squatted in our ways. I struggle with this all the time, but I know that the smart thing to do is to simply yield to the ways of God and die, softly.

Gratefully..... Denise Lewis Christopher

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



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"Houston, we have a problem."

These familiar words from the movie "Apollo 13" have become the common catch phrase whenever we find ourselves in a bind that seems insurmountable—when things do not go right, and we fall short of what we expected. At this time of year it can be heard in the parking lots of the local shopping centers uttered by frustrated parents searching for the required school supplies. It's a parent telling their up and coming 4th grader at the checkout line, "when I was in school we used a pencil for everything!" "They don't have any more glue sticks. You can just squeeze this out on your finger and 'boom'...glue stick."

Yes, it's a terrible feeling to get close to something and come up short. You did your best, but the list was too long. There is no way you can do all that is required. It doesn't take long to realize that you have a problem.

According to the Bible, this is the problem of every imperfect human being. We all have sinned and "fall short" of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). No matter how hard we try, we can never fulfill the requirements to become the people of God. "Humans, we have a problem."

But, God...because of His love for us took the list of requirements and filled it for us. He did what we couldn't do, and through His grace and mercy we can experience abundant life. Our fate is no longer determined by our ability to fill the "list." Paul writes, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." (Galatians 5:1).

Blessings,

Pastor Mike