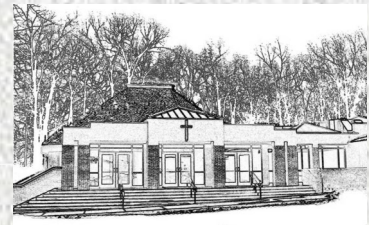


The Parkwood Connection

A monthly publication by Parkwood Baptist Church

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



JANUARY 2014

Happy New Year!

It seems like only a year ago we were doing the same things. Setting ambitious goals for the coming year and kicking ourselves for coming up short on the goals for last year. Why do we do it? Sometimes it seems like a n exercise in futility and frustration.

The truth of the matter is that regular evaluation is a vital part of a healthy life. Our physical well being is kept in check through regular check ups. Our personal relationships are made stronger through regular communication. Likewise, our spiritual life must be attended to on a regular basis so that it can also remain strong and grow.

The Bible tells us that we should "examine ourselves" and that we should "be careful" which are clear indicators that, if we are not careful, our spiritual walk (health) could be affected. Jesus said that following Him was a daily decision that demanded our attention on a consistent basis. So how do we do that?

First, we need to have a regular habit of meeting with Jesus in prayer and personal Bible reading. Second, fellowship with a Christian brother or sister in Christ is essential for accountability. Third, a steady diet of worship and teaching in a community of faith.

Let me challenge you, again this year, to renew your commitment to Christ and His mission to reconcile this world to Himself. There is nothing we will do in 2014 that is more important than that! In fact, everything we do as individuals and as a church should be done to the glory of Christ that the world might see the love of God through us.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



**NEXT PARKWOOD
QUARTERLY BUSINESS CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, AT 6:30 PM
PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!**



COMING IN JANUARY!

New Year's Day (Church Office closed)

January 1

Deacon Ordination Service

January 5

Women's Prayer Breakfast

January 11

Christian Book Group

PrimeTimers' Luncheon

January 13

Combined Adult Sunday School

January 19

ML King Day (Church Office Closed)

January 20

Parent Program—Kindergarten Readiness

(sponsored by the WEE Center)

January 22

ESOL Registration

January 23

Women's Ministry Fellowship

January 24

Men's Prayer Breakfast

January 25

Quarterly Business Celebration

January 26

Youth Midwinter Meltdown Retreat

January 30-February 1

ESOL Classes Begin

January 30





Lauren Kim	1/3
Jackson Whalen	1/7
Christopher Parker	1/11
Anthony Acevedo	1/14
Jose Vela	1/17
Melany Nichol	1/18
Lucas Hanline	1/25



Canned Meats
 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
 Soups
 Canned Ravioli
 Boxed Dinners
 Macaroni and Cheese
 Boxed Juices
 Juice/Drinks
 Canned Fruit
 Canned Vegetables
 Powdered Milk

Please remember to
 check expiration dates.
 Thank you!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to make November's Funtastic Friday FUN!!! A special thank you to Mary Lindsay and Al and Betty Royer for their hard work in the kitchen, making sure everyone had plenty of food. It truly is a blessing to be such an outreach church to our community. I know Annandale believes and knows that Parkwood is their neighborhood church.

Child Protection Training

The next Child Protection Training will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 12:15 in the Conference Room.

Wednesday Night M Group/Music Makers

We know that not everyone worships the same way; some sing, play instruments, write, act, etc. We want to teach the children that there are many different ways to worship and glorify our Lord. We will have TeamKids from 6:00 to 7:00 PM and then offer two options from 7:00 to 7:30. The first option is Music Makers, which will continue to meet in Room A100-102. In Music Makers, the children will learn basic music theory and enjoy singing. The second option is an extended Bible study; this will be a continuation from what the children learned in TeamKids. They will be learning through arts, crafts, skits and Bible trivia games.

CentriKid – Ridgecrest, June 29 – July 3

CentriKid is a Christ-based, fun, spiritual summer camp for young Christians to grow closer to God. Some of the children's Sunday school teachers will be attending this camp with the children. This is a special time that they can bond and create lifelong relationships with their teachers and other children. The camp is for children Grades 3 (completed 3rd) through 6 (completed 6th). If your child would like to attend, or if you'd like more information, please contact Jenn Heiserman. The cost is \$294/child, which includes lodging and meals for the week. A \$50 deposit per child is needed by February 7. We have reserved 10 spots but can always add more!

VBS 2014 Preview – Agency D3

A group of volunteers will be attending the Lifeway Preview for VBS 2014 - Agency D3, January 9– 11. Please keep this group in your prayers for safe travels and a fabulous experience that they can bring back to share with Parkwood.

If you are interested in helping out with our Children's Ministry either on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings or for VBS, please contact Jenn Heiserman at JenniferH@parkwood.org or call the Church Office.

Jenn Heiserman
Director of Children's Ministries

Parkwood wee center

Parents' Night Out Was a Huge Success!

A great big thank you to WEE Committee members, Parkwood youth members and WEE Center Staff who provided a fun-filled evening for more than 50 children. The children thoroughly enjoyed making Christmas crafts, "shopping" for someone special, eating pizza, watching Christmas movies and creating Christmas cards to send to soldiers. Thank you for your donations to the Christmas Boutique, and to Bernice Maynard, Teresa Watson, Elizabeth Gibson, Mike Astin and youth members Sara Bradley, Mariel Brown, Danny West, Cora Astin, and Caleb Astin, who volunteered alongside the WEE Center teachers.

Upcoming Events Sponsored by the WEE Center

Parent Program: Kindergarten Readiness, Wednesday, January 22 (open to all parents)

This is a great opportunity for parents to learn about the Kindergarten curriculum and expectations in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Open House, Tuesday, January 28, 6:30-8:00 PM

Come see what is happening in the Weekday program! Children will be singing and light refreshments will be served. If a friend or family member is looking for an exceptional Christian Preschool, tell them about your WEE Center and invite them to the Open House.

Spirit Night, Tuesday, February 11, 5-8 PM

The WEE Center is hosting a Spirit Night at the Kings Park McDonald's. Take a night off from cooking and come join the fun and fellowship! McDonald's will donate 10% of all their proceeds from Spirit Night to the WEE Center. Don't have time to sit and visit? You can use the drive-through!

Registration for the 2014-2015 School Year

Registration for next year begins Tuesday, February 11, 6-8 PM at the Kings Park McDonald's for **church members and current WEE Center families**. Any Parkwood Church member may register their child at that time, or Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM, beginning February 6. Forms must be turned in directly to a WEE Center administrator.

Registrations will be available in mid January. If you have questions, please contact Ann Lipton at 703.978.0640.

A Very Special Thank You

This past year, your weekday program brought the message of Christ to more than 100 families. Thank you for your prayers, assistance and financial contributions. We are grateful for your continued support as we strive to carry out Parkwood's Mission.

Ann Lipton
WEE Center Director

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello Parkwood Family and Happy New Year!

We are super excited about this coming year of Youth Ministry! Please join us for our Youth Ministry Informational Meeting on Sunday January 12 at 12:30 PM (after Sunday services) in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great time to hear about what will be happening over the next year, and to learn about how you can get involved! If you are interested in helping, we would love to have you as we celebrate what God will be doing over the next year!

This month we will also be going on our Mid-Winter Meltdown Retreat January 29 through February 1. This is our short Winter Retreat where we will be snow tubing and studying the book of 1st Peter!

If you have any questions or need more information on how to get involved, please email me at Reedb@parkwood.org or call the Church Office!

2014 At-A-Glance

January 12	Youth Ministry Informational Meeting
January 29-February 1	Mid-Winter Meltdown Retreat
February 21	Tribal Game Night
March	Spring Retreat
May 2	Tribal Game Night
June 8	Senior Recognition
July 5-9	Youth Mission Trip (MFUGE)
August 15	Tribal Game Night /Welcome upcoming 7 th Graders
September 24	See You At the Pole
October	A-mazing Fall Festival
November 14	Tribal Game Night
December-	Out From Bethlehem Dinner

Reed Bradley, Youth Director

PRIMETIMERS' LUNCHEON

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

12:00 PM

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

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.

Upcoming Prayer Breakfasts

Women's Ministry—January 11, 9-11 AM

Men's Ministry—January 25, 7-9 AM



**Christian Yoga
Winter Session
January 6 - March 13**

For information and registration,
please visit www.parkwood.org

Stewardship Report

Budget Needs thru Nov 2013	\$ 957,224
Budget Received	\$ 820,016
Budget Expended	\$ 802,097
Difference	\$ 17,919
2013 Building funds received thru Nov 2013	\$ 2,061



A fellow disciple on the Way...

What Does It Mean to Have Faith in God?

"Yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law" (Gal 2:16 NRSV).

If we asked Christians to define faith, we would receive a variety of answers based on Hebrews 11:1-3: *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible."* The answers might include "trust," especially in something unseen, or perhaps "conviction," a firm belief in spite of evidence to the contrary.

However, faith is a complex human experience that is more than merely an intellectual affirmation or even simply an act of trust. The apostle Paul recognizes this complexity by first connecting faith to Christ's death on the cross. The cross signifies the ultimate covenantal expression of Christ's obedience and faithfulness to God as well as His self-giving love for us (Rom 3:22; 5:18-19; Gal 3:22; Phil 2:6-8; 3:9). While Christ's obedience constitutes the *objective* basis of faith, there is also a *subjective* (or *existential*) basis in the believer's experience of *sharing* or *participating* in that death (Rom 6:1-11).

In practice, faith is the way we, as recipients, relate appropriately to God and His special gift of Jesus our Lord. Faith acknowledges our nothingness before God and affirms our dependence on Him. Faith beckons us to respond positively to God's generosity and grace. By faith we understand that we do not simply exist to live our lives with ease and enjoyment, to accumulate possessions and power, to receive accolades and enlarge our egos. This is how faith lives: *"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"* (Gal 2:19b-20).

To have faith in God is to allow Him to work in and through us for the well-being of all creation. In sum, faith might be defined as *"empty hands held open for God to fill"* for His own purposes (Martin Luther). May we experience this life of faith as we enter the New Year!

Pastor Daniel

january

Birth -

days

1/1	Jill Bowen
1/2	Stuart Rust
1/3	Virginia Burk
1/3	Melody Cannady
1/3	Harvey Poe
1/4	Siggy Bladen
1/4	Silas James
1/6	Thomas Bland
1/6	Kathy O'Donoghue
1/7	Peggy Helms
1/7	Jessica Stokes
1/10	Andrew Alexander
1/13	Linda Figley
1/13	Chelsea Rushbrook
1/14	Daniel Dapaah
1/15	Agnes Davidson
1/15	Karen Rust
1/16	Bonnie Hopler
1/16	Russell Myers
1/19	Tania Hernandez
1/19	Patty Jett
1/20	Heather Hull
1/21	Cheryl Maynard
1/21	Norma Peterson
1/21	Joyce Remington
1/25	Wendy Burns
1/26	Carol Buckley
1/26	Robert Sanchez
1/27	Sabrina Valdivieso
1/29	Ann Kreiser
1/29	Susan Lippolis
1/29	Madeline Moore
1/30	Silas Ben-Zoheth
1/30	Chad Jones
1/31	Corey Donnelly
1/31	Mary Lou Fry
1/31	Steve Gillen
1/31	John Riester

PARKWOOD.....On Mission

Thank You!

Angel Tree - Thank you to everyone who participated in the Angel Tree Prison Ministry Program this year. We had many donations of gifts, desserts, and time to help with various tasks, all of which were greatly appreciated! The families enjoyed the party and will had a special Christmas because of your support!

Kids' Konnection - Thank you to everyone who helped fill stockings! We had many extra gifts and were able to fill even more stockings. We love the ingenious ways people had to include more items in their stockings. Thanks to all who helped spread the word in DC!

Women's Craft Night - We had a small group in November and had a great time making Christmas cards. Many thanks to Cheryl Maynard who provided supplies and helped demonstrate how to use them. We sent several cards to a unit in Afghanistan, where Pat Purvis' son is stationed, and also to the Wounded Warriors organization.

HYPOTHERMIA PREVENTION MINISTRY

January 28th & February 1st

Each winter, we participate in a county-wide ministry to shelter the homeless during the winter months. We will be preparing and serving dinner and hosting a time of fellowship on Tuesday, January 28th, and Saturday, February 1st, at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church. If you would like to help, just sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. For more information, please email Bonnie Hopler at pbhopler@cox.net.

Project Sandy Rebuild Mission Trip

New York/New Jersey, May 14-17, 2014

Sponsored by the
North American Missions Board

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 info, please visit <http://www.namb.net/Sandy/> or email Bryce Stokes at bstokes@cox.net.

FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons started the Christmas celebrations early with our annual Fellowship at the Richburg home. Everyone enjoyed the food and fun. Instead of exchanging gift cards this year, we all brought bags of groceries to replenish the Parkwood Food Pantry, and a donation for the F.I.S.H. (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) mission. God has richly blessed us, and we want to share those blessings with others.

The 2014 Deacon Officers were announced: Stuart Rust-Chair; Mike Bailes-Vice Chair; Tricia Barnes-Secretary. With eight new Deacons joining the Board and only one rotating off, we will have a total of 27 Deacons serving the Kingdom! Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 5 for the Ordination & Installation Service – you don't want to miss this!

It has been my honor to serve as the Deacon Chair this past year. I couldn't have done it without your prayers, help and support. Thank you and God bless.

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 1 Timothy 6:18

Doris Richburg, Deacon Chair



Caroline Lessick
& family





Walking Toward Christmas

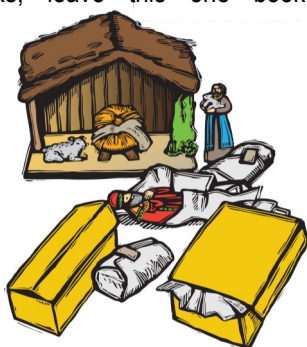
by Eric Dean Patterson

As Proverbs 19:21 states, "many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Such is the case on this rainy December day as I wash dishes after doing some Christmas baking and pondering what I shall submit for the January newsletter Book Bite. Plans A and B have hit a brick wall. Do I force either of these just to meet the deadline? No. The Lord knew all along what I should tell you about.

You have heard about this book since last April and now you are going to hear about it in detail. This book is truly a gift from God. Last January I sat down and started reading *Walking Toward Christmas: Devotions for Advent* by Eric Dean Patterson and it became obvious that the Lord wanted him to be a guest author at our Celebrate Christian Literature event. And so, last April, he was. If you didn't get your own copy of his book, the library has a copy to borrow. If you missed reading it at Christmas, it is still a great read.

Eric Patterson is quite candid in the preface when he states that he found "Christmas to be spiritually passé." Yes, there are plenty of activities, "programs," and busy-ness of the season, yet it lacks the spiritual depth found in Lent leading to Easter.

Eric uses his talents and his desire for something more and has given us this gift of a spiritually rich history lesson leading us to the heart of Christmas. This Advent devotional stirs the heart and the mind. As you pack away the Christmas decorations, music and books, leave this one book accessible. You will want to be "Walking Toward Christmas" more than just at Advent. And, you will find yourself walking toward the Christ Child, walking toward your Savior.



Reviewed by Mary Kelly



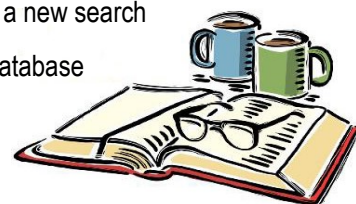
Next Meeting
Monday, January 13
10:30 AM

Madman
by Tracy Groot

LIBRARY NEWS

Run out of time on Sundays to see everyone and still get to the library? Fret no more! Browse the library catalog over a cup of coffee -- or tea -- from home now with our new Our Library Online. With a trip to the Parkwood website and a few more clicks, you are "in" the library viewing a vast array of titles of books, DVDs, CDs, children's books, study materials, Bibles in various versions, biographies, fiction, non-fiction, etc. So where you are looking for a subject, such as family life, or an author, such as Max Lucado, or a specific book, such as "Undaunted," you will learn whether we have it, and if so, whether it is available or currently checked out. Follow these step-by-step instructions and you will be on your way to adventure and learning in the library!

- Go to www.parkwood.org
- Click on RESOURCES at top right of the home page
- Click on OUR DATABASE or PBC LIBRARY DATABASE in the Parkwood Patterson Memorial Library section
- Type in word(s) you are looking for in a title, author, subject, or series
- Click the respective box to search for your title, author, subject, or series (EXAMPLE: Miller is author's last name; then click on AUTHOR)
- Scroll through listing for entry you are seeking; if checked out, it will say OUT in far right column
- Click the back arrow to start a new search
- Click on the X to close the database at the end of your search



Dear Parkwood Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers as well as the many expressions of condolences that were sent after the death of my Mom, Dottie McDowell. Your love and concern means so much to me and my family. While we remain saddened by our loss, we rejoice that Mom is now worshipping at the feet of the Almighty God and is free from pain and sorrow. What a comfort that has been.



In Christ,
Joyce Hanline and family



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Thank You From The Hunger Committee

The Hunger Committee would like to thank everyone who brought in extra food for Parkwood's food pantry during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Our pantry provides food and baby items to several needy individuals and families in our community, as well as to families we sponsor through the Angel Tree Prison Ministry Program.

A special thanks to Girl Scout Troop 3549, who collected food to donate to our pantry as their service project! Because of the generosity and support of the Girl Scouts and many members of our Parkwood family, we are able to help feed many in our community who are less fortunate. Thank you so much!



Thank you, Girl Scouts of Troop 3549!