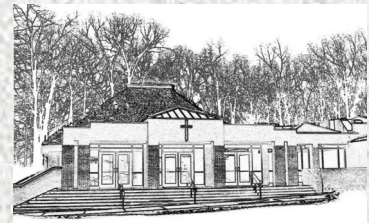


The Parkwood Connection

A monthly publication by Parkwood Baptist Church

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



APRIL 2013

Funtastic Friday



April 12, 2013

5:30-7:30 pm

Come for dinner and then enjoy
"Clowning Around"
a puppet show performed by
Bob Brown Puppets

This popular production will leave you shouting with laughter as Bob's merry marionettes perform feats of skill and daring usually found only "under the big top"! Fun and fantasy, mirth and merriment, laughter and amazement all mixed together to the sound of a jolly circus band. **Fun For All Ages!**

You may register online or by calling the church office at 703-978-8160. For questions please contact Jennifer Heiserman



Celebrate Christian Literature

Eric Patterson

Author of

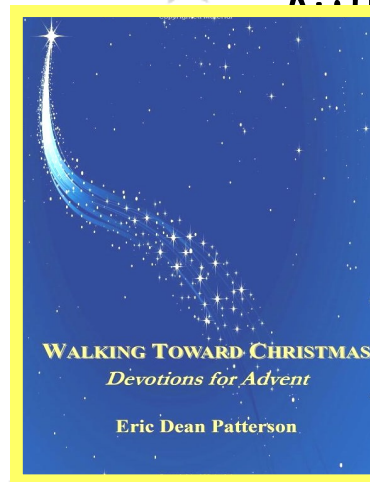
Sunday, April 14

★ 12:30 pm Lunch
(optional/\$5)

1:00-2:00 pm Program

Call 703.978.8160
for lunch reservations

Last day to sign up
is April 7.



Ministry Fair

Mark Your
Calendars!

Parkwood's
Ministry Fair
Sunday, April 21

*Find out about our ministries and how
you can get plugged in!*

For information contact Patty Jett:
pjett@verizon.net

Parkwood's Quarterly Business Celebration

Sunday, April 28 at 6:30 pm

Featuring special reports from:

- ★ Associate Pastor Search Committee
- ★ Parkwood Youth Ministry
- ★ Inview (College Ministry) Testimonies

AND



Summer Event Preview



| | |
|------------------|------|
| Bella Hite | 4/1 |
| Miki Carney | 4/1 |
| Gianna Golden | 4/2 |
| Jacob Hamacher | 4/7 |
| Lana Livingston | 4/9 |
| Laura Livingston | 4/9 |
| Leland Rushbrook | 4/10 |
| Addisen Madden | 4/14 |
| Isabell Byun | 4/16 |
| Damarys Vela | 4/19 |
| Bryant Park | 4/24 |
| Leo Miracle | 4/26 |
| Paige Vasser | 4/27 |
| Jack Worosz | 4/28 |
| Riley Welly | 4/28 |
| Keegan Sgro | 4/29 |
| Chloe Dapaah | 4/29 |
| Zachary Hamacher | 4/29 |
| Jax O'Donoghue | 4/30 |
| Harrison Winters | 4/30 |

Food Pantry Needs

*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

*Urgent needs

Children's Ministries

VBS

Thanks to the ten volunteers who attended the preview event in Fredericksburg for VBS 2013! There were lots of great ideas! We got to participate in the worship rally and had a mini training of what the week will entail.



Mark your calendars
VBS 2013

July 22 – 26

Register online at:
www.parkwood.org

New Teachers

We'd like to welcome Daniel and Amanda Kelly to our Children's Ministry. They will be teaching Kindergarten – 3rd grade at the 11:00 hour.

Please contact Jennifer Heiserman if you are interested in helping out with our Children's Ministry. Our Security Desk seems to be getting busier as classes continue to grow.

M Group

M Group had another opportunity to help out with FACETS in March. The children decorated lunch bags and made small crafts with goodies that FACETS gave to children during spring break.



Thank you, thank you, thank you for the tremendous support of the Silent Auction on March 15th. The beautiful baskets full of goodies were a big hit, and the desserts were delicious. The WEE Center raised \$7,914 to provide tuition assistance to families seeking a Christian Preschool Program. The evening was enjoyed by all who attended.

This year's event was successful due to the outpouring of support from the Parkwood congregation. The Deacons, Children's Sunday School Classes, and PrimeTimers donated bountiful baskets of goodies for the drawing. Several Sunday School classes and the Choir, as well as many individual Parkwood members, donated wonderful items and services to the Silent Auction. Members of the WEE Center Committee provided delicious desserts and worked tirelessly in countless other ways throughout the evening. Thank you for all your efforts.

Openings for 2013-2014

We have openings in most of our classes for next year. Please share the news with your friends who are looking for a Christ-centered developmental preschool program.

Ann Lipton
WEE Center Director



Did you know that this vital ministry to our George Mason college students also includes the campuses of Northern VA Community College and other area colleges? They are continuing to host weekly Bible studies on Tuesday evenings and occasional fellowship events, as well.

This college group joined forces with the Northstar Women's Ministry to pack 10,000 meals for the "Stop Hunger Now" organization last month.

Continue to pray for the student leaders and those who are reaching out to the thousands of college students in our community!

From The Deacons

For the Easter Sunrise Service, the Deacons present ***I Saw Him – Inanimate Objects Tell The Easter Story.*** Deacon readers give voice to objects and locations that played key roles in Christ's crucifixion.

The presentation features mini-monologues from each of ten characters: Cup (from the Last Supper), Gethsemane, Caiaphas' house, Whip, Scarlet Robe, Crown of Thorns, Stone Pavement, Golgotha, Tomb, and Cross. Each character speaks in vivid images of the tumult surrounding those dark days in Jerusalem: the indignant Scarlet Robe, the busybody Garden of Gethsemane, the ashamed Tomb and others....it gives an entirely new perspective on the events of those days.

Following the service, the Deacons host an Easter Breakfast fellowship for everyone to enjoy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Deacon Board for their hard work and commitment to this very special service.

Doris Richburg, Deacon Chair



A fellow disciple on the Way...

Intentional Relationships

A church deficient in discipleship is deficient in its fundamental reason for existence (Matt 28:19-20). The church exists to reach people with the message of God's love, and we have a frame of reference for what disciple-making looks like in the ministry of Jesus. A relational approach to reaching and developing people is woven throughout the ministry and practice of Jesus. Jesus met people where they were and ministered to them (e.g. Mark 6:30-44; John 4). A disciple-making church is intentional in fostering relationships while allowing the Holy Spirit to lead people to Christ. **Relationships are the substance of church culture.**

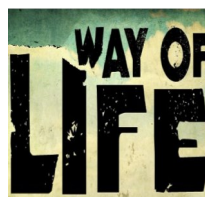
Jesus, our example in building intentional relationships, expects us to be loving and gracious in our interactions with others. An intentional relationship is **God-focused, Christ-centered, Kingdom-minded, and self-denying.** Our goal is to **make disciples**, not just add members.

Dr. Daniel Dapaah

Stewardship Report

| | |
|--|------------|
| Budget Needs thru Feb 2013 | \$ 174,041 |
| Budget Received | \$ 133,175 |
| Budget Expended | \$ 103,819 |
| Difference | \$ 29,356 |
| 2013 Building funds received thru Feb 2013 | \$ 5,403 |

New Adult SS Classes Begin This Month



This **9:30 class** is for both old and new believers who are earnestly seeking to live the Christian life with purpose; to discover their God-given talents through interactive Bible study; to advance God's kingdom on earth; and to serve others. **Class begins April 7.**

Engaging Difficult Questions



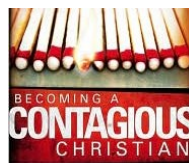
This new **11:00 class** is designed for the curious minds who want to wrestle with some of life's more difficult questions, such as:

What does God have to say about the evil in the world?

What happens when we die?

Is God against science?

Come and discuss



Coming to Wednesday
Nights
at 6:00 pm
beginning April 13, 2013

Class dates are: April 3, 10, 17, and 24
May 1, 8, 15



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- 4/1 Mrs. Guillermo Sarvia
- 4/2 Trevor Young
- 4/3 Gary Lindsay
- 4/4 Lois Runaldue
- 4/5 Tricia Barnes
- 4/5 William Rust
- 4/6 Kim Damico
- 4/7 Sara Higgins
- 4/7 Brian McCauley
- 4/8 Danyel Chaney
- 4/9 Aden O'Donoghue
- 4/9 William Wynia
- 4/11 Todd Buffington
- 4/12 Krista Caswell
- 4/12 Ruby Duran
- 4/15 Lori Taylor
- 4/17 Chelsea Chin
- 4/18 Donna Gibson
- 4/18 Samantha McAskill
- 4/21 Debi Buffington
- 4/23 Alicia Lippolis
- 4/24 Ann Whitehead
- 4/25 Mayra Mendoza
- 4/26 David Plunkett
- 4/27 Justin Duke
- 4/27 Jonathan Figley
- 4/27 Kristy Weirsky
- 4/29 Dana Beales
- 4/30 John Ng

Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program Met Real Needs for Real People in our Community

Thank you to everyone who helped with the hypothermia prevention and response program in March. Whether you helped cook dinner, register volunteers, serve dinner, gave small items for game prizes, or spent time talking with people, your service was needed.

A special thanks to the children's "M" group for the placemats for the dinner tables.

This program works because it is a cooperative effort among FACETS, Fairfax County, and 34 churches. Anytime you wonder what difference one person can make, come volunteer in this ministry and you'll see.

Thank you to each of you who put another person's need ahead of your own.



Next Meeting
Monday, April 15
11:30 am

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



SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

Needs two volunteers to help the first Sunday of each month, starting in September.

If interested, contact
Lin Walsh
or call the Church Office.



Operation Christmas Child Making An Impact Worldwide

It's not an overstatement to say our partnership and ministry with Operation Christmas Child is having a global impact. Millions of children are hearing the Gospel all because of a simple and powerful gift-filled shoe box! In 2012, 6.5 million shoe boxes were sent to children in approximately 101 countries.

Thank you to everyone at Parkwood who participates in this annual ministry. We look forward to making the 2013 collection next fall the best one ever!



Disaster Relief Training

**First Baptist Church
of Alexandria
2932 King Street**

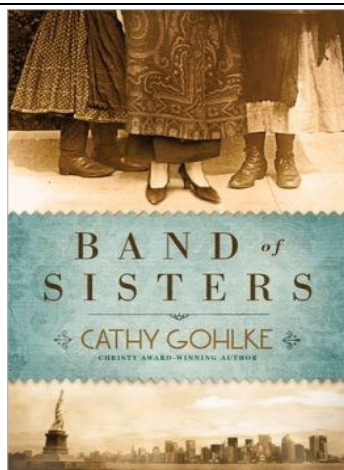
May 17
6-9 pm

May 18
7:30 am-3:30 pm

Cost is \$25 for first time volunteers and \$15 for returning volunteers.

For details and to register:
www.vbmb.org/Ministries/Disaster-Relief/Training.cfm

**Deadline to register
is May 12.**



Band of Sisters

by Cathy Gohlke

Reviewed by
Sandy Stephens

This two-time Christy Award-winning author is no stranger to Parkwood. Cathy was the guest speaker at our Celebrate Christian Literature Luncheon in 2012.

In Cathy's latest book, Maureen O'Reilly travels to New York in 1910 with her 14-year-old sister, Katie Rose. What Maureen has experienced in the past in Ireland makes it very difficult for her to have trust in anyone.

Maureen and Katie Rose clear Ellis Island, but Maureen finds that the O'Reilly family benefactor, Colonel Wakefield, has died, and she is turned away by his son-in-law. Maureen finds work in a department store where she begins to notice that young women clerks are mysteriously disappearing.

Colonel Wakefield's daughter, Olivia, and her friends have created a circle to be a force for good and try to do what Jesus would do. Olivia tries to find Maureen to help her and finally succeeds. Maureen comes to trust Olivia and her friends enough to go on a very dangerous undercover mission to save the young women who are disappearing and have become victims of the sex trade. If only she can find them in time.

Human trafficking is still an enormous problem worldwide. This novel asks if we can band together to save these victims, and do what Jesus would do.



Next Meeting
Monday, April 8
10:30 am

Who Do I Lean On?
By Neta Jackson



Christian Yoga
Spring Session

April 1-June 6, 2013

**For information, registration, and
contacts visit:**

www.parkwood.org

Illuminations

Stairway To Heaven

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. - 2 Kings 2:1

For many years, the rock band Led Zeppelin's hit song, *Stairway To Heaven*, has been a source of much discussion and even controversy. Some of you might remember the big commotion surrounding someone's attempt to prove that the lyrics contain a satanic message when the song is played backwards. I don't know about that, but I will put my spin on one line of the song's lyrics.

Some like to say that God is "the man upstairs"; an expression I never appreciated, although I understand that it is figurative. It is fine to say that about a roommate or even about a landlord, but about our God? Perhaps the subconscious implication is that one has to work to make it up those steps. So, would the number of stairs one has to climb depend on how good they have been on earth? If so, then what's the point of grace and mercy? You see the problems we run into when we try to relegate our God to being "upstairs"?

**"There's a lady who's sure all that glitters is gold
and she's buying a stairway to heaven."**

Since Jesus has already paid for our salvation, we don't need to buy a stairway to heaven, nor do we need to climb our way to get there. Some have bought their way into personal relationships. Others have bought their way into lofty positions in the corporate world, in the government, and even into positions in ministry. However, we cannot buy our way into God's presence.

There are more interesting biblical insights that come to mind when I consider this catchy metaphor. For instance, as referenced above, when God decided Elijah's work on earth was finished, he simply took him up to heaven in a whirlwind. And Enoch definitely did not need a stairway to get to heaven. God just snatched him up. (Genesis 5:24). Even those who are still alive when Jesus returns won't need a stairway to get to heaven. They will just be "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air to be with him forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

Of course we need to be active participants in our relationship with Christ after we've been saved. The apostle Paul said, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Philippians 2:12).

In closing, just remember that because of Calvary, heaven is a place that offers free admission. It is fine to use figurative speech, as long as we understand that there is nothing we can do to earn our way into the pearly gates. We can only be saved by the gift of grace through faith in Christ. (Ephesians 2:8)

Wishing You Grace and Light~Denise Lewis Christopher

Spring Training

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." -Proverbs 3:5, 6.

Spring is a wonderful time of year and provides a great opportunity for renewal and rededication to the things that matter most. In the world of baseball this time of year is called "spring training." The teams take the time to get away from the hustle and bustle of life and focus on the basics. They use this preseason event to build teamwork and set goals for the season ahead. As Christians we need to take regular times to do the same thing. We need to periodically review the basics and remember who we are and to whom we belong. This involves preparation and commitment.

First, we must prepare by reviewing the basics. The verses from Proverbs above are always a good reminder of a basic fact of life. We must trust in the Lord who has a purpose and a plan for us. The warning is clear...if we lean on our own understanding or our own strength we will fall short of the grand things that God wants to accomplish through us this year.

Second, we must make the commitment to the Lord wholeheartedly! Too many times we give halfhearted efforts and wonder why we get lukewarm results. Jump into the pool! There are enough people standing around the side making excuses of why they shouldn't get in. God is looking for Kingdom workers that are fully committed. They are committed to acknowledge Him in all they do.

We are committed to provide you every opportunity to learn, grow and serve in your walk with the Lord. It is my prayer that you join us for a time of Spring training at Parkwood!

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



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