

Pulse of Parkwood

May 2011

PULSE OF PARKWOOD IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please e-mail all submissions to
office@parkwoodchurch.ca

DEADLINE FOR NEXT PULSE

Monday, May 23rd (Summer issue)

The Pulse is always in colour online!

Parkwood Presbyterian Church

10 Chesterton Drive

Ottawa, Ontario K2E 5S9

613-225-6648 | office@parkwoodchurch.ca

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Life

John 10: 10 - "Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.""

Christians are twice-born individuals, and life is dear to us. We celebrate our lives as gifts from God, the author and giver of life. We celebrate new life, born anew as believers in Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit. Our hearts beat in tune with the living God.



Easter and spring coincide in our climate and culture. We are glad to look out on these post-Easter mornings and see green grass and yellow daffodils, and are looking at new life with joy: budding bushes, singing songbirds, and popping tulips.

On our calendars, May brings Mother's Day, which affords us an opportunity to be intentional about expressing our gratitude for the irreplaceable role each of our mothers has had in our lives. That gratitude may be expressed to our mothers in person, if still living; or otherwise in their memory if they have gone ahead of us from this life to the next. In either case, God is honoured when we honour our father and mother.

"Life is not a convenience; it is a sacred trust."

May is also the month in which we are reminded of our calling to stand up for the right to life, and to find our voice for the voiceless – the unborn children, developing in the wombs of mothers, who sometimes need special care and protection. To our shame as a nation, Canada is one of very few countries with no law clearly protecting the unborn child.

Life is not a convenience; it is a sacred trust.

It may be popular during election campaigns to avoid contentious or divisive discussions, but Christians should be prepared to speak up for those who are silent but whose cries do not and will not go unheard by the God who has numbered the very hairs of our heads and who knits each human life together in the womb of each mother.

Gracious, respectful, but clear and firm support for the protection of the life of each human being from conception to natural death needs to be communicated to those who are elected to public office, especially at the national level. Loving and practical support for those facing challenging pregnancies and those who have the care of children is a most appropriate investment of time, talent, and treasure for twice-born Christian believers who love life. Encouragement and support for those who in illness and amid advanced years find the burdens of life weighing upon its joys is also part of our calling to celebrate and advance the gift of life.

May God in this spring-time season of renewal be pleased to aid us in reaffirming our commitment to life, as His gift, and according to His design.

In Christ, and glad to be alive, and alive in Jesus,

Your pastor,

James T. Hurd.



Summary of the March Session Meeting of Parkwood Presbyterian Church

- The Session met on March 28, 2011.
- Parkwood has subscribed for 3 copies of *The Presbyterian Record*.
- It was reported that a letter and a gift had been presented to the Auditor, expressing thanks for service to the congregation.
- It was agreed that Parkwood would host the local World Day of Prayer service in 2012 on the first Friday in March.
- It was reported that the cabinet for the new soundboard and platform have been installed.
- The Eastern Ontario Regional Renewal Team of the Renewal Fellowship within The Presbyterian Church in Canada would like to have a day of prayer in the spring, with Calvin Brown, Executive Director, and Joshua Kang, Minister of York Memorial Church, Toronto. It was agreed that Parkwood Church would host this event.
- The Mission Team reported that the team needs additional members.
- A summary of component costs for the building project was presented on behalf of the Facility Planning Team; session agreed to receive this for information.
- A report on givings to date for 2011 was received.
- The session homologated the moderator's action in purchasing a case of Bibles.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:57 p.m.

A Mother's Prayer

by Arthur M. Pattison

My hands were busy every day,
I didn't have much time to play
The little games you asked me to,
I didn't have much time for you.

I'd wash your clothes, I'd sew and cook,
But when you'd bring your picture book
To have me read and hold you near,
I'd say, "A little later, dear."

I'd tuck you in all safe at night
And hear your prayers, turn out the light,
Then tip-toe softly out the door ...
I wish I'd stayed and played some more.

For life is short, the years rush past,
And little ones grow up so fast!
No longer are you at my side,
Your precious secrets to confide.

Now all your books are put away,
There are no children's games to play,
No good night kiss, no prayers to hear,
That all belongs to yester-year.

My hands, once busy, now lie still,
The days are long and hard to fill;
I wish I might go back and do.
The little things you asked me to.

I called you up the other day,
To see if you could come and stay.
"I'd be so glad if you could come..."
You said, "A little later, Mom."

"Dear Heavenly Father up above,
Assure me of your Heavenly Love.
Forgive me for my foolish ways,
And guide my children all their days."

For The Beauty of the Day

by Placid Akat

For the beauty of the day,
Lord, our thanks to Thee we say.

For the rain that makes me soaking wet,
For the people on earth whom I have met.

For the wind that blows on rainy days,
For the sun that glows in many ways.

For the morning birds that sing on trees,
For the children who chase on bumblebees.

For the ravishing shooting stars at night,
For the granted wishes that are a delight.

For the food we get from shopping malls,
For the Creator in heaven who made us all.

For the beauty of the day,
Lord, our thanks to Thee we say.



The Building Expansion Fundraising Committee is pleased to announce that there will be a concert *featuring...*

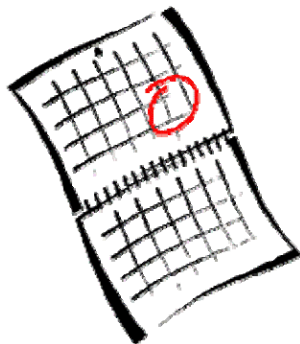
Glenn Hunter, Pianist/Organist



Saturday, June 18th, 7:30 p.m.
Parkwood Church
Refreshments afterwards

Glenn was our organist for a year and a summer. He has been studying music in the United States for several years.

We are very fortunate to have him as our guest.



Tickets will be available in May.

Please mark June 18th on your calendar as you won't want to miss this musical evening.

Evelyn Warburton and Anne Warburton
invite you to join them at...

The Oak Park 3rd Annual Art Show & Sale
Oak Park Retirement Community, 2 Valour Drive, Ottawa

May 13, 7 - 9 p.m. (Vernissage)

May 14, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

May 15, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Works of the Oak Park resident artists and family members will be exhibited.

We hope you can attend! If you can let us know in advance when you may be able to visit, we will make sure that Mom, Wendy, Stephanie or Anne are available.

Call Anne (613-835-3772) or send her an e-mail: warburton@hotmail.com

Evelyn Warburton

Evelyn has been painting for over 50 years, first in oils, then switching to watercolours. She was a member of the Nepean Fine Arts League during the 1970s and 1980s. She exhibited at various locations including the League's annual outdoor "Clothesline" Sale, at the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm Art Show and at St. Mark's Anglican Church Annual Art Show. Evelyn has several works in private collections. Several of Evelyn's watercolours from days past will be featured and offered for sale.

Anne Warburton

Anne has been involved in arts and crafts all her life, mostly painting in acrylics and coloured pencil drawings. She has exhibited for several years at the Ottawa Valley Decorative Artists Show and Sale. Most recently, she has been creating embroidered designs on greeting cards, and designing larger works using embroidery techniques on beautiful papers, often adding found objects and paint as embellishments.

She started exhibiting and selling her needle art designs in 2009.

Visit Anne's website: <http://www.needleartsonpaper.com/>

Blessings

Words and music by Laura Story



We pray for blessings.
 We pray for peace,
 Comfort for family, protection while we sleep.
 We pray for healing, for prosperity.
 We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering.
 And all the while, You hear each spoken need,
 Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things.

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?
 What if Your healing comes through tears?
 What if a thousand sleepless nights
 Are what it takes to know You're near?
 And what if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?

We pray for wisdom,
 Your voice to hear.
 And we cry in anger when we cannot feel You near.
 We doubt Your goodness. We doubt Your love,
 As if every promise from Your Word is not enough.
 And all the while, You hear each desperate plea,
 And long that we'd have faith to believe.

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?
 What if Your healing comes through tears?
 And what if a thousand sleepless nights
 Are what it takes to know You're near?
 And what if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?

When friends betray us,
 When darkness seems to win,
 We know that pain reminds this heart
 That this is not, this is not our home.
 It's not our home.

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?
 What if Your healing comes through tears?
 And what if a thousand sleepless nights
 Are what it takes to know You're near?
 What if my greatest disappointments,
 Or the aching of this life,
 Is a revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy?
 And what if trials of this life,
 The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
 Are Your mercies in disguise?



Blessings was written by **Laura Story**, who has been married for seven years to Martin. A year after their wedding, he started developing symptoms, such as forgetfulness and extreme sleepiness. When they went to the doctor, she explained Martin's symptoms (he would fall asleep on the couch watching TV, he would forget to pick something up at the store, etc.). Upon hearing that, the doctor said, "Well, you married a man, didn't you?", and handed them a business card for a marriage counselor. After a year of going to different doctors, they finally received the correct diagnosis, but not the one that they wanted to hear: Martin had a brain tumour. Numerous surgeries and many prayers later, Martin has recovered, although there are still some areas where he hasn't seen healing. He needed to relearn how to walk, and he has, although he still experiences some difficulty. He regained his mental capacity (he was at a Grade Six level for a while), and he still struggles with long and short term memory issues.

Laura has said that, for many years, her definition of 'blessings' was something primarily centered around health and prosperity. Throughout the ordeal with Martin's health, while praying for healing she saw that God does not always answer prayers the way we want Him to. Laura came to see that sometimes God blesses us through not giving us what we're praying for. She knows that there is blessedness that comes through waiting on the Lord, that there is an intimacy and a walk with Him that comes when we walk through that valley, there is a reliance on His Word that we only know when everything else in life fades away. That is where the blessings have been found.

There are still more questions than answers, and there are still bad days when they have cried out and asked why God didn't answer their prayers the way they wanted Him to. But they have realized that God is teaching them that, sometimes, He gives us what we need, rather than what we want. Sometimes, He lets us stay broken in ways that we might not feel comfortable with. But we are like that broken vessel that His light can shine through. Only when we are broken does the light shine forth.

Laura can see that God radiates His light through Martin and his disability, and, for her, it's almost like that perfect picture of faith.

2 Corinthians 4: 6-18 – For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we, who are alive, are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that His life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in His presence. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is *unseen*. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**"For what is seen is
temporary, but what
is unseen is eternal."**

Interesting items from the Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives

- The oldest document in our national church archives is a ten-page leaflet entitled “**Reasons for a General Assemblée**”. The leaflet was printed in Edinburgh on **June 29, 1638** - the same year that the National Covenant was signed at Greyfriars Kirk. [Reference #1973-1046-1-1]
- The oldest Canadian Presbyterian church record in the Archives is a baptism, marriage and death register for **St. Gabriel Street Presbyterian Church, Montréal**, which begins in **1796**. St. Gabriel Street Church was founded in 1786 by the Rev. John Bethune. The first building (constructed in 1792) was located on the southwest corner of Champ de Mars. In 1909, this historic congregation amalgamated with Chalmer’s Presbyterian Church and took the name First Presbyterian Church, which through further amalgamations is now part of Knox, Crescent, Kensington and First Presbyterian Church. [Reference #1976-4002-1-1]

The above documents can be viewed at <http://www.presbyterianarchives.ca/Interesting%20Facts.html>

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## Presbyterian Cross

Contrary to some people’s ideas, Presbyterians do not follow the teachings of ‘St. Presbyter’, since no such saint has existed. The term presbyter is Late Latin for ‘an elder’. (The prefix ‘pre-’ means ‘before’ or ‘leader’, and the Vulgar Latin gave us prester, meaning ‘priest’.) The name implies that the Presbyterian Church is governed by elders rather than bishops.

John Knox (1505-1572) is credited with starting the first Presbyterian Kirk in Scotland. The Church of Scotland itself was eventually reformed along Presbyterian lines and Presbyterianism spread throughout the world. (This worldwide evangelism has had some success. Now 60% of Christians live in developing countries – more Presbyterians go to church in Ghana than in Scotland!)

The national Presbyterian Churches in each country have their own logo or emblem, and often they feature two things: a burning bush and something to identify the country. In the case of the Church of Scotland (C of S), a Scottish St. Andrew’s Cross is used as the background of their main emblem. The motto of the Church of Scotland (and the Presbyterian Church in Canada) is *Nec tamen consumebatur*. This translates as ‘Burning but not consumed’ and is a reference to Exodus 3: 2.

In France, the Église Réformée de France (ERF) uses the burning bush and dove symbols found in the Huguenot Cross. The Free Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Ulster and other countries features a burning bush with the motto *Ardens Sed Virens* (Burning but flourishing). The Presbyterian Church of Australia (PCA) has a cross superimposed on the Southern Cross of the Australian national flag. A dove tops off the seal of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA); the red/white/blue colours match those of the Flag of the United States and the flames at the base represent the burning bush.



## Symbols of the Church

A symbol is a sign that reminds us of something or someone that is not visible to us. Symbols are often very familiar items but they can come from a different culture and from hundreds of years ago. A symbol can be an object, a photograph, a drawing, a pattern, a colour, or a letter. Symbols help us convey important messages without words – sometimes they convey feelings better than words. They can make us think and feel deeply. They can help us remember important events.

In The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we use symbols that remind us of the history of our faith and God's continuing presence in our lives. We see these symbols in our church buildings, on tables, on walls, on banners, in our worship materials, and in our ways of worshiping. These faith symbols help us see and feel and understand the invisible. Some of these symbols include:



The **burning bush** reminds us of the bush that Moses saw (Exodus 3: 2). It was burning but was not destroyed. Presbyterians are deeply committed to being the church, the Body of Christ, which can never be destroyed.



The **dove** is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove (Mark 1: 10). Presbyterians believe in the power of God's Spirit at work in our world and in our lives.



The **bread and cup of wine** are symbols of the Lord's Supper or Communion (Luke 22: 19-20). The loaf of bread symbolizes the one body of Christ from which we are all fed. The cup of wine symbolizes the blood of Christ that gives us new life. Presbyterians celebrate God's presence and feel nurtured through participation in the sacrament of Holy Communion.



The **empty cross** is a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus. Presbyterians believe that Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and then rose again. There is a large cross at the front of the sanctuary of most Presbyterian churches. The empty cross reminds us of the new life we have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



The **fish** is a symbol for the followers of Jesus Christ. Early Christians used this symbol as a secret sign to identify themselves to each other because it was dangerous to be a Christian. The first letters of the Greek words for 'Jesus', 'Christ', 'God', 'Son', and 'Saviour' spell the Greek word for 'fish'.



The **Bible** is a symbol of God's truth and instructions to us. Presbyterians believe the Bible is the authoritative source for our faith. In many Presbyterian congregations today, just before worship begins, someone will come down the aisle carrying the Bible. He or she places it on the lectern and then opens it. This practice began in the Middle Ages as a way for Christians to express respect for the one copy of the Bible available to their community. Today it signifies the centrality of the Bible to Presbyterian worship.



## The PPC Noteboard



I would like to thank the Easter Bunny, who left me a surprise in my folder, on Sunday. It was very special and thoughtful... Many thanks, Barbara.

**Also**, I have a **Kenmore washer & dryer**, 12 yrs. old, in working condition, *free*. Call 613-224-0886. Barbara Townsend

The **CANHAVE** Annual General Meeting takes place on **Tuesday, June 7, 2011**, at Parkwood Presbyterian Church (Meadowlands Drive East & Chesterton Drive) at **7 p.m. Everyone is welcome!**

**The Eastern Ontario Regional Renewal Team of**



*is sponsoring a*

## **Prayer Summit**

**Saturday, June 4, 2011 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Parkwood Presbyterian Church, 10 Chesterton Dr., Ottawa, ON**

The ACTS of prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication) give a basis for individual Christians and the Christian Church to come close to God to seek His enabling for the renewal of the church in our time.

Just as our bodies need regular medical check-ups and sometimes some medication in order to maximize health, so the church as the body of Christ needs check-ups and occasional doses of spiritual medicine if we are to be spiritually healthy.

We invite you to join us as we engage in giving special attention to how we pray, and as we join in praying together for the spiritual health of each believer, of the congregations to which we belong, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and of the whole Church of Jesus Christ.



Our special guests **Calvin Brown**, completing this spring his tenure as Executive Director of The Renewal Fellowship, and **Joshua Kang**, pastor of York Memorial Church, Toronto will lead us. Calvin will lead us in prayers of confession. Joshua will speak, giving his testimony, both in his coming to faith in Jesus Christ and in responding to God's call to come from his native Korea to minister in Canada, and calling us to intercession.



**Gord and Diane Walford** of Parkwood Church will lead us in adoration in song, and **James T. Hurd**, pastor at Parkwood, will lead our thanksgiving.

### **Please plan to join us!**

To register ahead (and make planning for a light lunch easier), please e-mail [office@parkwoodchurch.ca](mailto:office@parkwoodchurch.ca) or call 613-225-6648.

*A freewill offering will be received to defray the costs of the day and to support the work of the Renewal Fellowship.*