

Pulse of Parkwood

February 2012

PULSE OF PARKWOOD IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please e-mail all submissions to

office@parkwoodchurch.ca

DEADLINE FOR NEXT PULSE

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The Pulse is always in colour online!

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Fountain of life

“The Lord, the fountain of living waters” (Jeremiah 17: 13, KJV)

Who is God?

The Bible, which offers us God’s self-disclosure, gives us many answers to the question, “Who is God?” Several of the answers provide vivid, concrete images. I propose to identify and reflect on some of these images in this space in the current and future issues of the *Pulse*.

The first image which catches my eye is from Jeremiah 17: 13. God is here revealed as “the fountain of living waters”.



When I first went to school, one of the most exciting objects was the water fountain. It was located in the hallway outside the classroom. Cold, clear water was always available. It was refreshing. Bottled water was unheard of in those days. Returning to class after vigorous, outdoor exercise at recess, we were eager to stop at the water fountain for a drink.

God is the One who satisfies our spiritual thirst. We long to be refreshed. We want to be invigorated — filled with strength, and energy, and purpose — to live. The prophet Jeremiah is commissioned to tell us — and show us — God as the fountain of living waters.

The NIV translation puts it this way: “the Lord, the spring of living water”. The picture of a spring, with its origin hidden deep in the ground, but bringing forth a stream of cold, crystal-clear water, supporting life, is a beautiful one. We associate such springs with the beauty of an unspotted, unspoiled creation. A mountain spring often feeds a natural lake or river. Such waters support life, for many kinds of creatures, and sustain and refresh us.

God invites us to know Him as the fountain of life. Jesus, who took on human flesh to show us God living among us, told the Samaritan woman at the well that “whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst”. He went on to explain that whoever welcomes and receives Jesus will receive “a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4: 14, NIV). In His great proclamation at the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus went on to say of the one who believes in Him that “streams of living water will flow from within him” (John 7: 38, NIV).

The great Puritan preacher and writer John Flavel sent forth a series of teachings in which he aimed to present “a display of Christ in his essential and mediatorial glory”. He called his work, “The fountain of life”.

Physical life cannot be sustained without water. Spiritual life cannot be sustained without God. “Blessed are those who ... thirst for righteousness”, said Jesus, “for they will be filled” (Matthew 7: 6).

Let us give thanks to God as the fountain of living waters; let us drink deeply of Jesus Christ, the fountain of life; and let us experience streams of living waters flowing from within us. Such will sustain us, and overflow to supply others.

Glad beyond measure that Jesus Christ is living water that cannot be bottled,

Your Pastor,

James T. Hurd.

Fountain of o'erflowing grace,
Freely from Thy fullness give;
Till I close my earthly race,
May I prove it “Christ to live”.
(Ralph Wardlaw)

I've got a river of life flowing out of me!
Makes the lame to walk, and the blind to see.
Opens prison doors, sets the captives free!
I've got a river of life flowing out of me!

Spring up, O well, within my soul!
Spring up, O well, and make me whole!
Spring up, O well, and give to me
That life abundantly.
(L. Casebolt)
CCLI #323205

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## ***The PPC Noteboard***

***Parkwood's Annual Congregational Meeting is on Saturday, February 18, 2012.*** As in past years, there will be a potluck supper at 5 p.m. and the meeting will start at 6 p.m. Everyone welcome. ... ***Pulse news:*** After three years on the job, the Pulse's esteemed editor, Duane Mayo, has decided it is time to step down, find a new challenge and a new way to serve the Lord. Thank you, Duane, for all your hard work. If you would like to be part of the new Pulse planning team, please speak with Rev. Hurd or Penny in the office.



## Website update

Ever wonder how things work at Parkwood, how we operate? Or ever have the same question about the Presbyterian Church in Canada? Well, we may not be able to answer all your questions, but our webservant Gord Walford has taken a stab at it.



A new page on “**governance**” is now available on our website, outlining the history of the committee structure at Parkwood up to the present time. There is also a section on governance “beyond the local church” at the local (Presbytery), regional (Synod) and national levels.

Understanding the way we work would be difficult without a picture of what the various teams do, so a page has also been created listing the most recent **Terms of Reference** of the various teams, clerks, etc. at Parkwood. This will be helpful if you’re considering helping out on a team — recruiting new members is often done at this time of year as we approach our annual congregational meeting.

For ease of access, a link to the “governance” page has been created on our website in the left menubar “SECTIONS of this site”. A link to the Terms of Reference for the teams, clerks etc. is at the bottom of the section on Governance at Parkwood. Direct links are

**Governance:** <http://parkwoodchurch.ca/governance.html>

**Terms of Reference:** [http://parkwoodchurch.ca/terms\\_of\\_reference.html](http://parkwoodchurch.ca/terms_of_reference.html)

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Teddy bear delivery



At Christmastime, 125 teddy bears were delivered to Toronto. Many thanks to all of the individuals who donated time, effort and materials. Imagine the smiles on the faces of sick Third World children when they were given their *own* teddy to hug in hospital and to take home when they recover!

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**The quest for authentic manhood**

**What:** A captivating journey comprised of 24 sessions (DVD and discussions). This series helps men understand their masculine identity and shows them how to make the pursuit of authentic manhood a lifelong priority.

*Topics include:* Seasons of a man’s life; uncovering a man’s wounds; defining manhood; deepening the marriage relationship; raising sons and daughters; and developing a manhood plan

**When:** Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Parkwood Presbyterian Church, Meeting Room

**To register,** call the church office at 613-225-6648 or Tim Visser at 613-224-3287(w)/613-825-3434(h).

## Summary of November & December 2011 Session meetings

### November 28, 2011

- Dennis Featherstone was appointed Interim Clerk until September 2012.
- The Rockland Upper Room wrote to thank Parkwood for its donation of \$1,000. In February, the congregation voted to send \$1,000 to this group as part of its mission "tithe" from the initial portion of the Cairns bequest.
- The final distribution of \$9,600.03 from the Cairns estate was received. Session asked the Budget Committee to prepare a motion for congregational approval on how to use the earlier receipt of \$20,000 and the final distribution.
- It was agreed that the interest accrued by the monies in the Building Fund be retained in the Building Fund. The Investment Policy is to be adjusted accordingly.
- Session approved Linda Robinson and Dianne Nickerson joining the P&P team.
- Session agreed that F&M could use up to \$1,000 from the Reserve for Capital Expenditures if they decide to purchase stones to extend the wheelchair ramp.
- Dennis Featherstone volunteered to be Interim Convener of the Facility Planning Team.
- Completed police checks are being mailed to individuals. People receiving them are asked to bring them to the church office so that a copy can be made. Rev. Hurd is willing to sign a letter saying you are a church volunteer if you are asked to pay a police fee.

### December 19, 2011

- Harry Van Dyk will return from leave in January 2012 and Kris Marion will return from leave in September 2012.
- The Photo Directory will be in hard copy form only and should be ready early in 2012. It will be made available only to those with their pictures in it. It was agreed that the names of youth would not be adjacent to their photos.
- The date of the annual meeting is Saturday, February 18, 2012.
- Space bookings are now done through the office.

*Submitted by Dennis Featherstone, Interim Clerk*

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Lunch and Learn



Lunch and Learn will be held at Parkwood Church on **Monday, February 20, 2012**. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and will be followed by a presentation at 1 p.m. This month's presentation features **Spect-act-ular**, a Senior-led drama group from Help the Aged Canada. They are a group of seniors reaching out to their peers through song, stories and laughter and they will remind us that there is a lot to enjoy while aging. If you wish, you may be given the opportunity to participate in their drama.

Please sign up in the Narthex if you can help with the lunch and setting up.

Parkwood Book Group

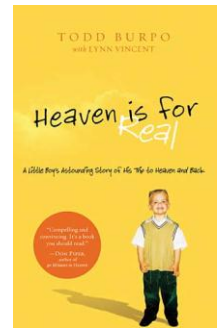
The Parkwood Book Group met January 9, 2012 for a discussion on the book *Have a Little Faith*, by Mitch Albom. Rev. Hurd led a thoughtful reflection and inspiring discussion, enjoyed by all.

The book that will be discussed at the next gathering is ***Heaven is for Real***. It is authored by Todd Burpo and Vincent Lynn Vincent.

“Heaven is for Real is the true story of the four-year-old son of a small town Nebraska pastor who, during emergency surgery, slips from consciousness and enters heaven. He survives and begins talking about being able to look down and see the doctor operating and his dad praying in the waiting room. The family didn’t know what to believe but soon the evidence was clear.

Told by the father, but often in Colton’s own words, the disarmingly simple message is heaven is a real place, Jesus really loves children, and be ready, there is a coming last battle.”

(heavenisforreal.net)



Heaven Is for Real was featured on *100 Huntley Street* in the month of January. The book is available at the Ottawa Public Library, Salem Bookstore, Amazon.ca, and may still be available at 100 Huntley Street.

The next Parkwood Book Group gathering is on March 5, 2012, the first Monday of March. We usually meet the second Monday but we are meeting one week earlier to accommodate March Break schedules.

All welcome!

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## Tour of Jordan and Israel 2012

The new dates for the tour are **March 12-26, 2012**. The tour will be led by Rev. Cedric Pettigrew. There are still some openings available should you wish to join the tour. For further information or to request a bulletin, contact Rev. Pettigrew at 613-843-1446 or send him an e-mail at [cedric.pettigrew@sympatico.ca](mailto:cedric.pettigrew@sympatico.ca).

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Canada Youth 2012

July 3-8, 2012 at Brock University in St. Catharines, ON



The Mission Track at CY 2012 offers you a chance to learn more about mission at our national youth conference. This is an excellent experience for youth who think they would like to start mission work in their own communities or become more involved in mission in the future.

If you have an open mind, a team spirit, a faithful and a loving heart, and a call to serve in mission, then this conference is for you. Space is limited so register early. **For more information**, visit: <http://canadayouth.ca>

Parkwood Youth: A subsidy towards costs is available. If you are interested in attending this event, please speak to Pastor James or any member of the Mission Team.

Unleash the power of tithing!

Harry Donovan had a 50-year career as a Certified Public Accountant. As a CPA, he counselled a lot of people on their finances. Often young couples would say to him, "After we pay the mortgage and the bills, buy food and clothes for the children, we don't have anything left over." He would ask them, "Do you want to know a sure-fire way to have money left over?" And he would explain to them about tithing.

"Try an experiment," he advised. "Your earnings are \$30,000. Take \$3,000 and put it into a separate account. The money in that account will be earmarked to go to the church or to do God's work through some other charitable organization. The reason for the separate account is so you won't be tempted to use that money to pay the heating bill. At the end of the year, see if you are better off. If you are not, well the money is still there. But if you are — and I guarantee that you will be — then you can go ahead and give that money to God. "

Then, as an act of confidence, Harry would make an offer: "If at the end of a year of tithing your finances are as much improved as I expect them to be, I will match that \$3,000, and you will have \$6,000 to give to God." Harry relates that no one ever took him up on the offer — they didn't need to. They tried the tithing experiment and the result was just as God promised in Malachi 3: 10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

One day a friend of Harry came to see him. His friend owns a paint manufacturing business, and three years ago business was pretty bad. He had cut his workforce to four employees, and the orders were coming in at a very sluggish pace.

Harry asked John, "Do you want to know how to revive your business?"

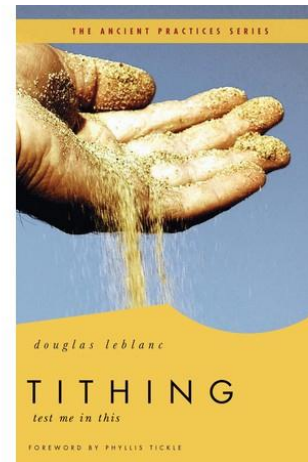
"Of course," he said. "How?"

Harry explained.

When they met each other sometime later, John told Harry, "After talking with you, I decided that from every sale I would take ten percent and put it into an account for God. When the account built up I would donate it to the church or to feed the poor. So that's what I did. And would you believe, even with the economy the way it is, I now have all my employees back to work, and we have so many orders we can't get the paint turned out fast enough?"

Harry replied, "Yes, I certainly would believe it. In fact, I have never known it to fail."

Learn more...



Tithing: Test me in this

By Douglas Leblanc

Published by Thomas Nelson
(February 16, 2010)

"Stories of people who live a generous and happy life (and why you'll want to live that way, too). Journalist Douglas Leblanc travels the nation to talk with believers whose lives have been enriched by the ancient spiritual discipline of tithing." (Amazon.ca)

The why and how of tithing.

Here are a few of the most common questions about tithing that Harry heard over the 50 years of his career, and the advice he would offer.

1. We don't have enough, and we're in debt to boot.

First, take a good, honest look at your expenses. Ask God for the clarity and discipline to cut out non-essentials. Once you have done that, go ahead, take ten percent off the top of your earnings and give it to God. Trust God enough to take this courageous step.

2. I believe in the philosophy of tithing and would like to try it, but my spouse is opposed. How can we reconcile this conflict?

If something is really important to one spouse then, as an act of love, the other should consider doing it. And remember how little money has to do with happiness. I've known more miserable millionaires than I can count. But sharing a walk or a pizza or a movie with someone you love — what can beat those things? If you focus on the simple pleasures and on loving relationships, you will be happier, and you will have more to give.

3. How do I decide which organizations will benefit from my tithe?

For everyone the answer is different. On average, each person tithing gives a part to the church and a part to other charities.

Giving to a Christian charity is one of the most meaningful ways you can put your faith into action, but how do you know the organization you're giving to is using the money responsibly? The Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC) provides help to donors by certifying charities that have met their standards of accountability. The Canadian Council of Christian Charities is a member-based association of over 3,200 Canadian faith-based registered charities. They check for you so that you can tell at a glance that the charity you are giving to is trustworthy. Look for their Seal of Accountability and you can give confidently and generously!

Their standards for the Seal of Accountability are the following — each Charity

- Has a declared doctrinal position expressing a commitment to the Christian faith
- Has an independent, active governing board
- Has an independent audit of their financial statements
- Will provide their financial statements to any person upon request
- Has an audit review committee that reports to the board
- Carry on their activities with the highest standards of integrity
- Has a declared stewardship policy which affirms, among other things, that no person receives a commission based upon gifts received by the ministry
- Has a program to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the organization's activities
- Respects the privacy of the beneficiaries of their ministry & has a Code of Ethical Fundraising

To anyone who hasn't experienced the overflowing abundance of joy that tithing can bring: What are you waiting for? Try it! Your life can be so much more than you ever dreamed, not just financially but in every way. God Himself has promised us this.

References: Donovan, Harry, 2010, *Guideposts* (guidepostsfoundation.org)
 The Canadian Council of Christian Charities (cccc.org/giving_to_charities)
 Accessed: January 21, 2012.

Submitted by Tim Visser.