

PARKWOOD PULSE

PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Stay tuned to your Parkwood Pulse and email newsletters for updates on in-person events.

Your Parkwood Pulse is in print and also online. Submissions can be sent in to parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 26:41

Join us online for worship on Sundays at 10AM, or, if able, join us in person!

NOVEMBER 2024

Watch ... and pray

As I write this, I remember that those living in Ontario and Quebec are bid to change our clocks and watches backwards one hour on Saturday evening (November 2nd) before going to bed, as we return from Daylight Saving Time to ordinary Eastern Standard Time.

Last evening, however, as I was considering what might assist us in managing the gift of time, in what seems like an increasingly faster pace in our ever-moving world, I was led to think about “watches” and “watching” in a different way.

Charlotte Elliott wrote some memorable poetry, part of which (in slightly modernized language), reads this way:

Christian! seek not yet repose,
Cast your dreams of ease away;
You are in the midst of foes:
Watch and pray.

Gird your heavenly armour on;
Wear it ever, night and day;
Ambushed lies the evil one:
Watch and pray.

Principalities and powers,
Mustering their unseen array,
Wait for your unguarded hours:
Watch and pray.

Watch, as if on that alone
Hung the issue of the day;
Pray, that help may be sent down:
Watch and pray.

Her words are drawn from Jesus’ invitation to the disciples to keep watch with Jesus as Jesus prayed in the garden on the night before He was put to death. Jesus wanted friends to sit with Him while He struggled to embrace God’s will. Jesus was ready to engage in prayer, to commune intimately with His Father, in order to embrace His Father’s will to die for us and our sin, but Jesus knew that it would be a struggle. He said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” (Matthew 26:36, NIV) and then, to Peter, James, and John: “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” (verse 38)

The disciples, however, fell asleep, and Jesus more than once confronts and rebukes them. He said to Peter: “Watch and pray.” (verse 41) He then gives the reason, “so that you will not fall into temptation”, and then adds: “The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Jesus knows that our bodies are weak, and Jesus understands that our bodies need rest. Yet He also knows — and wants us to know — that we need, regularly, to sit and to keep watch, waiting on God in prayer. Life is full of temptations to do things other than God’s will, and we need to discern and embrace what is His holy, pleasing, and perfect will. Part of getting off the world’s ever-faster treadmill is to sit, quietly, in the presence of God, and to talk with Him. Praying and meditating on God’s word as we have it in our Bibles is a vital and essential part of living with and for Jesus.

Watch ... and pray

The “change of clocks” in the fall offers us an extra hour of sleep. Perhaps we might instead respond to Jesus’ challenge to sit with Him and pray, by investing the hour in praying. Jesus’ struggle in the flesh is over, past and done. Ours continues, and Jesus calls us to aid others to embrace and hold fast God’s will.

In the month of November, Christian churches around the world are invited to specifically remember and watch with those who are persecuted and who suffer for righteousness’ sake. Many suffer greatly for simply following Jesus instead of the principalities and powers of this world.

In our present context, the “powers” of this world are increasingly in conflict rather than at peace, and Remembrance Day bids us reflect on the sacrifice of those who laid down their lives for the sake of others. What freedom, peace, and time we are given is a sacred trust from them and from God.

Let us watch, and let us pray with Jesus,
Your pastor,
James T. Hurd

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Sunday, November 3, 2024 is a global day of prayer for the persecuted church. Please remember those Christians who suffer for their faith in Jesus in nations that are hostile to the Word of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There will be an online livestream event on the evening of November 3, 2024 starting at 7:00PM EST. The event can be viewed online at: <https://idop.ca/onlineevent> - the 2024 theme is "Remember Her" and centres around the Bride of Christ - that is the Church - and on how persecution impacts Christian women and girls globally. Please be constant in praying for persecuted Christians around the world.

- submitted by
the Mission Team

Lift Operator Training Available

Operating the lift (elevator) is a valued service for those attending Parkwood services and events. Every Sunday, the lift is used by anyone who may find the stairs a challenge; it is used to carry heavy equipment and supplies from floor to floor; special events are also enhanced by the availability of the lift. The lift at Parkwood must be run by a trained operator, so training is available either individually or in a group setting. Training will take place again this November - timing arrangements will aim to be convenient for both the trainer and trainee participants. If you would like to be trained as a lift operator, or would like a refresher training, please contact Marcia Harten or Elizabeth Mabie (church office).

- submitted by Marcia Harten

Financial Update

Donations as of September 30, 2024

This note is a look at how donations as of September 30, 2024 compare with donations for the same period in 2023. In general, donations are lower in 2024. The new initiative of fundraising has generated over \$1,800, which will help lower the shortfall for donations for current operations.

***There is an urgent need for more donations for current operations
in order to reduce the deficit for current operations.***

The Finance Team asks everyone to give special thought to this need when they prepare their financial donations for the remainder of 2024.

Comparison of Donations for First Nine Months, 2023 and 2024			
	2023	2024	Difference
Current Operations (Budget)	136,342	129,230	(7,112)
Fundraising		1,862	1,862
Loan Repayment	11,656	7,549	(4,107)
Missions, Appeals, Programs			
--Presbyterians Sharing, PWS&D	8,153	6,365	(1,788)
--Other Outreach/Appeals	1,830	5,425	3,595
--Parkwood Programs	14,875	14,380	(495)
Sub-total	24,858	26,170	(1,312)
Total Donations for Current Purposes	172,856	164,811	(8,045)

Note (1): Totals may be affected by rounding.

Note (2): A bequest of \$10,000 in 2023 and a bequest for \$5,000 in 2024 are not included.

Note (3): Donations of \$5,000 for Planned Giving in 2023 and in 2024 are not included.

From the Editor: **December/January Pulse**

The next edition of the Parkwood Pulse will be for the months of December/January. Send in your submissions by Sunday, November 24th to

parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca

Mission Team Special Appeal

Voice of the Martyrs Canada will be the focus of the Mission Team's fourth Special Appeal for this year. This organization was founded in the United States in 1967 by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned and tortured by Communist authorities in his native Romania for 14 years. While in prison, Pastor Wurmbrand envisioned a ministry that would focus on the plight of the persecuted Church, raise a voice on its behalf and provide encouragement and assistance to suffering believers. His 1967 book, *Tortured for Christ*, provided a firsthand account of the brutality he and other Christians suffered at the hands of Communist oppressors, and it opened the eyes and hearts of Christians in the West who had never before heard of the atrocities happening to believers living in Communist nations.

(<https://vomcanada.com/history.htm>)

The Voice of the Martyrs (Canada) mission statement is to actively remember and serve the persecuted church, so their organization aims to provide a voice for persecuted Christians around the world. They provide practical and spiritual support to Christians currently under persecution for their faith, for those who had formerly suffered persecution under previous regimes and now are attempting to rebuild their lives, and for the families of Christians martyred for their faith in Jesus.

Voice of the Martyrs uses various media (radio, monthly newsletters, books, Internet, television) to raise awareness of the plight of persecuted Christians. These Christians are equipped and enabled to share the gospel where they are. True liberation and freedom, as Pastor Wurmbrand knew it, is not to rescue these people out of their home countries to bring them to the West, rather it is found right where they are, in the liberation and freedom in Christ, which they can then share with those around them, even in nations hostile to the Word of God, through Jesus Christ.

There is a need to support these Christians so they can continue to evangelise and be bold for Christ in both the joys and pains of living out the gospel in these spiritually dark places. In particular, some ways to help ensure the light of Christ continue to shine in these dark places, through the services of Voice of the Martyrs Canada, can be found online at <https://www.vomcanada.com/> and Voice of the Martyrs Canada would benefit from our congregation's financial support as well as.



are above and beyond our regular givings that support Operations and Maintenance of Parkwood Church month by month.

Please mark your givings envelope "Voice of the Martyrs Canada mission". Online donations may also be made to donate@parkwoodchurch.ca, in the comments section, indicate "Special appeal Voice of the Martyrs Canada mission". Thank you for your generous support. Please note that donations to special appeals

- submitted by **Derek Newton,**
Mission Team

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

The season for filling shoeboxes is upon us. Important dates to keep in mind:

- **Sunday November 3, 2024** – first day that shoeboxes and additional materials (e.g. info brochures on what to pack, packing labels (Boy/Girl and age for child intended to receive it, prayer bookmarks) can be collected at church this Sunday morning and the following Sunday morning.
- **Sunday November 17, 2024** – filled shoeboxes can be dropped off at the church and will be safely stored.
- **Sunday November 24, 2024** – last day to drop off shoeboxes at the church (**before noon**). On this Sunday morning, shoeboxes will be dedicated during worship service and then sent to local collection point, and from there to children around the world.

Please pick up your shoeboxes at the church and have fun filling them and praying for those children who will receive them. A shoebox is a tangible gift to share the love of Christ and point children towards the “greatest gift” that we have, Jesus Christ.

More details about this shoebox initiative can be found online at: <https://www.samaritanaspurse.ca/suggested-gifts/>

- submitted by **Derek Newton,**
Mission Team



SEND
**GOOD NEWS
GREAT JOY**

PACK A
SHOEBOX



**PACK A
SHOEBOX
ONLINE**

Algonquin College Pause Table

Purpose:

- To give encouragement to students during the stressful examination period
- To help connect students with Algonquin Campus ministries and local Christian church programs

Date: Tuesday, December 10th, 2024

Time: 10:00AM-2:00PM

Place: Algonquin College E Building (Robert C. Gillett Student Commons Building)

- Front entrance of the Student Commons Building near Starbucks

Donations Needed! (for 300 to 500 students)

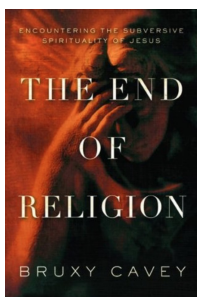
- **(NEW):** Prepackaged items (baked goods, granola bars, crackers etc.) with list of ingredients identified; fruit (e.g., bananas, oranges, apples); bottles of water, juice boxes (NO HOME-BAKED GOODS)
- Donations can be dropped off at Parkwood on Monday afternoon, Dec 9th, 2:00PM-3:30PM.

Volunteers Needed!

If you are willing and able to assist at the Pause Table during the day on Tuesday, December 10th, please contact John and Martha Fair at 613-823-9970 or fairmj@magma.ca. As well, please reach out if you are able to donate snacks or for more information about this cause.

New Books - Parkwood Library

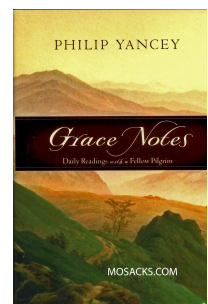
A number of illustrated children's Bibles in story format have been donated to the library. You are welcome to borrow them to read to your children for your family devotions. A number of new books have also been added that will be of interest to adult readers, such as the two featured below.

**The End of Religion Bruxy Cavey**

Bruxy Cavey, author of *The End of Religion* was the teaching pastor of The Meeting House in the Greater Toronto area, a church that did not put emphasis on tradition and ritual but rather on the importance of a faith relationship with Jesus.

Grace Notes Philip Yancey

Grace Notes by Philip Yancey is a book of daily heart-to-heart, down-to-earth conversations about God, yourself, the world, and more.



- submitted by Alta MacFie

Parkwood Church Activities November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Clocks Change Back 6:00pm Young Adults' Dinner & Discussion
3 Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Pick Up 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	4	5 1:00pm Pastoral Care Team (Zoom) 7:00pm Mission Team (Zoom)	6 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	7 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	8 7:00pm Youth Group	9
10 Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Drop Off Remembrance Sunday 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	11	12 7:00pm Facility Management Team (Zoom)	13 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	14 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	15	16
17 Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Drop Off 10:00am Worship & Mission Appeal & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	18 12:00pm Lunch & Learn. Topic: Paint Party	19 December Calendar Deadline 7:00pm Presbytery @ St. Andrew's Kars	20 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	21 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	22 7:00pm Youth Group	23 10:00am Renewal Fellowship Prayer Meeting (Zoom)
24 December/January Pulse Deadline Operation Christmas Child Dedication 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	25 7:30pm Session	26	27 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	28 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	29	30