

# ***BELIEVE...BELONG...SERVE...***

*Serving Parkwood for 51years*



*Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"*

*Mark 1:14-15*

The Newsletter of Parkwood United Methodist Church



**July, 2013**

## **Seventy Times Seven**

By now you have heard that during our June 23<sup>rd</sup> luncheon someone walked out of our church with the bank bag holding our tithes and offerings. A day of celebrating the joys of VBS and amazing fellowship came to close around disbelief and police reports. I'm sure there are quite a few emotions floating around amongst our congregation at Parkwood UMC. Some of us are still wrapping our minds around it, some of us are angry, some of us are hurt, and some of us are afraid. In many ways, we are powerless to decide what happens next as our future rests in the hands of the more than capable Durham Police Department, but what are we as Christians supposed to do in the meantime.

Our Methodist friend, Adam Hamilton, has a book on the shelves called *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go*. I decided it might be a good time to pull it off the shelf and share some words of wisdom from it. In his chapter "Seventy Times Seven," he shares some questions from his congregation around the issue of forgiveness and his responses. I will be rephrasing those questions to fit our current circumstance and paraphrase Pastor Hamilton's responses:

*If we forgive the person who wronged us is it the same thing as condoning?*

No, forgiveness is not the same as condoning. When we choose to forgive another person we are choosing to let go of retribution, a word defined as punishment that is considered to be morally right and fully deserved. In other words, when we forgive we're letting go of notions like revenge and letting go of the pain inflicted upon our own lives. Adam Hamilton likens it to letting go of stones that represent all the hurt others have placed upon us. The weight of carrying those stones is relieved with forgiveness. It also means letting go of the stones we would use to cast at the person who wronged us. We choose to keep the wrongdoer from having any more power over us.

*Does forgiving dismiss the consequences?*

Even though we set aside our want for revenge, there are consequences involved because of our justice system and laws. In the case of the person who stole money needed to finance the ministries of this church and elsewhere, forgiveness means we will empty ourselves of any hate or rage we feel and give up notions of seeking revenge. However, because he has broken our laws, if the person is caught, they must face the consequences of doing so.

*Do we forgive someone who has done something serious and who hasn't repented or asked for forgiveness?*

I think this question looms the most over us. We don't know if the person responsible will be caught or if we'll ever be given the chance to see their repentance or request for forgiveness. Why forgive this person without truly knowing whether or not they are truly sorry for what they have done? Adam Hamilton writes that there are two dimensions to our forgiveness. "There is your internal release of bitterness, anger, or desire for revenge, and there is the extension of mercy toward the one who has wronged you." For the first dimension, though it may take some time for the wound to heal, failure to do so gives power to the one who wronged you. It is ourselves who are hurt and not the one who wronged us. As for the second dimension, we stand the chance of actually harming wrongdoers if we extend mercy too quickly. The process of wrestling with the hurt they have caused us is a big part of the redemptive process. We do not want our

robbers to suffer needless pain, but we do want them to see the error of their ways so that they can move past committing these types of crimes in the future.

We are hurt, we are shaking our heads, and we ask the question, “Why?” But in the midst of times like these, hold fast to the blessings of God. We are a blessed church and I am a blessed pastor to be a part of it. There is a love and a friendship here that continues to reach others within our church and without, and I know that God can take a truly unfortunate incident like this and use it towards some good. So what are we to do as Christians in the midst of an event like this? We are to pray. We will pray for our church, we will pray for the ministries affected by the theft, and we will pray for the individual(s) responsible. We will pray that they realize the wrong they have committed and we will pray that they move past the need to commit such crimes. We will pray that they find redemption, because, as a church, that is what we are about. Our church is God at work in the world and God is about grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness, even if it takes seventy times seven times.

## **SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **The Seekers Class**

**The Seekers will be studying the book of Genesis using the Immersion series.**

### **the Jacob Class**

**the Jacob class will begin a study of the book of Acts. There is no study book other than your Bible and, if you want one, a commentary of your choice. The class will start promptly at 9:30 am. the Jacob class meets in room 1.**

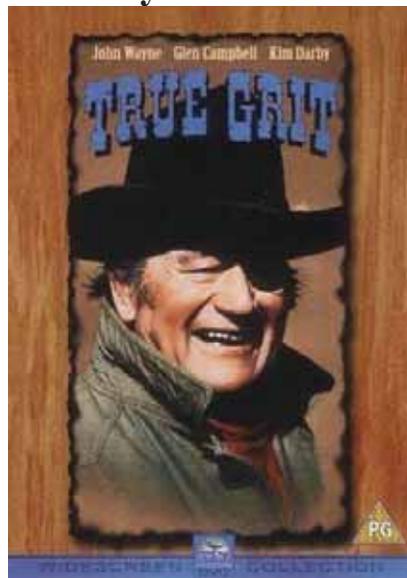
## **Make Every Day Count: Youth Sunday School**

**Attention, Youth. We've started a new study just for you called Make Every Day Count. This study talks about ways that you can make each day count whether it is a peaceful day or a sour day, a grateful day or a stressed out day. This study is written by Max Lucado, a minister from San Antonio, Texas. There is a book that might be available but we will discuss the points he makes and some questions that have been prepared just for young people. The end of each chapter has a Daylifter page that will give you something to think about and take with you as you start your week.**

## WHY? Making Sense of God's Will

"When the ground shakes, and a poor nation's economy is destroyed; when the waters rise, washing away a community's hopes and dreams; when a child suffers neglect and abuse; when violence tears apart nations; where is God? If God is all powerful, and if each one of us is a beloved child of God, then how can God allow tragedy and suffering to infest his creation? When we lift our prayers to God, and no answer seems to come; when we earnestly seek to know the will of God for our lives, yet can't seem to discern it; when God seems far away; where is God? If God counts the hairs on our head, and knows every sparrow that falls, why is finding and understanding God's will so difficult at times? In *Why? Making Sense of God's Will* best-selling author Adam Hamilton brings fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, Hamilton addresses how we can comprehend God's plan for the world and ourselves. Chapters include: 1. Why Do the Innocent Suffer? 2. Why Do My Prayers Go Unanswered? 3. Why Can't I See God's Will for My Life? 4. Why God's Love Prevails."

### Friday Nite Movies



Friday, July 12th. @ 7:30 pm

#### Previews of Coming Attractions

Aug. 2 To Sir With Love  
Sept. 6 The Preachers Wife  
Oct. 4 Dam Yankees  
Nov. 1 Captains Courageous  
Dec. 6 Meet Me in St. Louis

1967  
1996  
1958  
1937  
1944

Sidney Poitier, Judy Green  
Denzel Washington, Whitney Houston  
Tab Hunter, Gwen Verden  
Spencer Tracy, Freddie Bartholomew  
Judy Garland

\*subject to change



**UM MEN: We will not meet in the month of July. Our next meeting for breakfast will be at 8am on Saturday, August 17 th. at Beneties on Hwy. 55 at 8:00.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**



**Birthdays**

Matt Muse July 5  
Tiffany Jackson July 11  
Cameron Wittman July 12  
Ron Clark July 18  
Eddie Hanson July 20  
Marge Potter July 22  
Rebecca Mitchell July 26

**Anniversaries**

Roger and Janice Jarrell July 31

Send birthdays and anniversaries to [crabbyron@yahoo.com](mailto:crabbyron@yahoo.com)

## Knit – Purl – Pray



**Parkwood United Methodist Church  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup>. and 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday**

**PURPOSE**  
OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

## *United Methodist Women*

The Parkwood UMW held their monthly meeting on June 27. The program was a special mission project led by Jan Schwarze. Jan instructed us on how us to make \*Prayer Bead Bracelets. These creative bracelets will be presented to those in need of spiritual enlightenment; guest speakers at our meetings and others as suggested. Those interested in purchasing bracelets for their self or as a gift can contact a member of UMW for details.

The cost is \$10.00 and the proceeds will go towards other future mission projects.

Among the discussion items were-

.-Sunday July 28th at 3:00pm the ladies will host a baby shower for the expected new addition to the Whitman family. Pastor Nathan & Laura are expecting another baby boy and we would like share in the joy. All ladies are invited to

participate.

July is our designated 'vacation' month so we will not hold a meeting. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for dinner-out on Thursday evening August 22nd. Look for more information about this meeting and restaurant location in the next newsletter.

Our nominations team (chair: Natalie Robson) is now taking suggestions / recommendations for officers in 2014. Also, if you currently hold a position and would like to continue in that role, please let the team know as soon as possible.

As always all are welcome to join us for our meetings held the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Please stop by and check out updates on the UMW bulletin board to get more information about the mission work and service projects the Methodist women are involved in. If you need child care, please contact Pam Skidmore prior to each meeting to allow coverage by our youth group. Wishing you All a safe & fun summer!

## *Cub Scout Pack 495*



Pack 495 Rain-Gutter Regatta will be held at the church on July 27 @ 9:00am - 11:00am. Any kid who is an upcoming first grader or are in the grades 1-5 are encouraged to join Pack 495 Cub Scouts.





Parkwood United Methodist Men  
Presents:

A Summer Cookout to Remember

July 14<sup>th</sup> right after Church  
services

The men will be cooking there famous Hot Dogs and  
Hamburgers



Ice Cold Watermelon



We ask you, the congregation, to bring your favorite Covered  
Dish and or Dessert to share with others.



.....and a Stellar time will be had by all.....

Believe.....Belong.....Serve... is usually published on the 30th of the month.  
Please have all newsletter information to Ron Byrd at [crabbyron@yahoo.com](mailto:crabbyron@yahoo.com)  
By the 25th of the month.

<b>TASK</b>	<b>JULY 7</b>	<b>JULY 14</b>	<b>JULY 21</b>	<b>JULY 28</b>
<b>9:15 Greeters</b>	Margaret Eiland and David Thompson	Ron & Betty Byrd	Marie Porter	Herb & Jan Schwarze
<b>10:45 Greeters</b>	Charlotte Thompson and Marie Porter	David Thompson	Lauren & Andrew Key	Ron & Betty Byrd
<b>Infant Nursery</b>	Dena Roberts	Betty Byrd	Ron Clark	Dianne Mitchell
<b>Ushers</b>	David Thompson and Andrew Key	Clint & Natalie Robson	Ron & Susan Clark	Ron & Betty Byrd
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Margaret Eiland	Jan Schwarze	Pat Nestler	Charlotte Thompson
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Pam Skidmore and Betsy Newlin			
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	The Skidmore's	The Abbott's	Jan & Herb Schwarze	
<b>Member Care Cards</b>	Jan Schwarze	Margaret Eiland	Betty Byrd	Pat Nestler
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Eiland and Dianne Mitchell	Dianne Mitchell And Eddie Hanson	Eddie Hanson and Bob Newlin	Bob Newlin and Ron Byrd
<b>FT &amp; Lection Reader</b>	Herb Schwarze	Pat Nestler	Margaret Eiland	Priscilla Thompson
<b>Fellowship Refreshments</b>	Jan Schwarze	Florine Layman	Ann Farmer	Lauren & Andrew Key
<b>Office Help</b>	Ron Byrd	Marietta Abbott	Jan Schwarze	Peggy Moore
<b>Acolytes</b>	Caroline Mitchell	Hope Roberts	Beth Bradshaw	Tiffany Jackson

**MINISTRY TEAM FOR JULY 2013 \*If you can't serve on your day, please arrange for a substitute. Thanks**

LORD'S DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SABBATH
	<b>1</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>2</b> 5:30-6:30 GS R5 6:30 "Why?" Bible Study	<b>3</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>4</b> 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	<b>5</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise 7:30 The Friday Nite Movie presents: "True Grit"	<b>6</b> 7 RTP Fellowship
<b>7</b> 8:30 Trustees 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7 5-7 UMYF	<b>8</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>9</b> 5:30-6:30 GS R5 6:30 "Why?" Bible Study	<b>10</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>11</b> 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	<b>12</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>13</b> 9-11 Knit, Pur1, Pray 7 RTP Fellowship
<b>14</b> 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Hymn Sing and Cookout 12 Finance 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	<b>15</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>16</b> 5:30-6:30 GS R5	<b>17</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>18</b> 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	<b>19</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>20</b> 7 RTP Fellowship
<b>21</b> 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12 Leadership 3-5 GS Rms 5,7 5-7:00 UMYF	<b>22</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>23</b> 5:30-6:30 GS R5 6:30 "Why?" Study	<b>24</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>25</b> 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	<b>26</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>27</b> 9-11 Knit, Pur1, Pray 7 RTP Fellowship
<b>28</b> 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	<b>29</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>30</b> 5:30-6:30 GS R5 6:30 "Why?" Study	<b>31</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise			
				Parkwood United Methodist Church	July	2013

# Tickle My Funny Bone

**Most of our generation were HOME SCHOOLED...at least in some ways.**

1. **My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.**

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

2. **My mother taught me RELIGION.**

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

3. **My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL.**

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

4. **My father taught me LOGIC.**

"Because I said so, that's why."

5. **My mother taught me MORE LOGIC.**

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

6. **My mother taught me FORESIGHT.**

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

7. **My father taught me IRONY.**

"Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."

8. **My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.**

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

9. **My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.**

"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck?"

10. **My mother taught me about STAMINA.**

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

11. **My mother taught me about WEATHER.**

"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

12. **My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY.**

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!"

13. **My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.**

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out..."

14... **My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.**

"Stop acting like your father!"

15. **My mother taught me about ENVY.**

"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

16. **My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.**

"Just wait until we get home."

17. **My mother taught me about RECEIVING.**

"You are going to get it when you get home!"

18. **My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.**

"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."

19. **My mother taught me ESP.**

"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

20. **My father taught me HUMOR.**

"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

21. **My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.**

"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

22. **My mother taught me GENETICS.**

"You're just like your father."

23. **My mother taught me about my ROOTS.**

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

24. **My mother taught me WISDOM.**

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

25. **My mother taught me about JUSTICE.**

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

Submitted by a congregation member who will remain anonymous.