

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 2014

Don't Bring it Up

Margaret Eiland did a great job sharing with you the happenings of Annual Conference 2014. The Call to Unity was a wonderful reminder of how important our connectionalism is as United Methodists, it was wonderful to see signs of growth in our Annual Conference, and the chance to see old friends and colleagues in ministry is always a blessing. But there was one moment that was disappointing to both my wife, Laura and I. Laura wrote up a resolution this year, along with Epworth UMC, requesting that we propose to General Conference in 2016 a change to the language of the Social Principles that, in its current form, could be considered hurtful to people of the LGBT community. When it was originally put into the Social Principles its main goal was to remind the church that persons who identify themselves as LGBT are of sacred worth, are also God's children and should be welcomed within our churches. However, that statement was voted in with a reminder that practicing homosexuals are incompatible with Christian teaching.

I love my two little boys so very much. On more than a regular basis I remind them of this fact. I say to them, "I love you," I give them hugs whenever they are still enough to receive one, I tell them they're precious, and I constantly remind them both how handsome they are. There are times, however, that I need to hide in a closet to get away from them. They have their seriously crazy moments where they frustrate me and that's when I use a different statement: "I love you, but..." I love you, but you're driving me insane. I love you, but you seriously need to calm down. I love you, but if you don't stop I'm going to ship you to Alaska! In those

moments, what I want them to hear isn't so much the "I love you." I want them to hear the part that follows "but."

This statement in the Social Principles is an "I love you, but..." statement. This was not the intention, but no matter how you slice it, that's how it comes across. So Laura and Epworth UMC suggested simply to omit that phrase, "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching," so that we could simply utter, "We love you." It needed to be said after so many of our friends from the LGBT community were hurt by the church. It needed to be said to remind us, the church, that sometimes Christ's message of love to the world can be distorted by our convictions if we're not careful. And so it was put before the Conference. We were given the chance to wrestle with this tough issue that every Annual Conference seems to be wrestling with...except we didn't wrestle with it. Another pastor put forward a motion that, for the sake of unity, we should postpone the resolution and its discussion indefinitely (or until it's brought up again next year). For this pastor, unity meant not talking about things that we disagree on. But that motion, which passed by a slim margin, doesn't keep us from disagreeing or casting anger filled glances at those on the other side of the aisle. It just means we'll disagree and not talk about it...officially. Later, a conversation with that pastor would reveal that this was, in fact, not about unity, and more about those opposed to the resolution, which was very similar to one that passed easily last year. It was simply an attempt to do anything and everything to prevent it from being discussed.

The night before that vote, I sat with a pastor friend at dinner who had read the resolution and struck up a conversation with me. His words of wisdom about the subject, "Sometimes it's best to just not bring it up." It's a fiery topic and people can get pretty passionate about it. So it's best to not even bring it up. Well...I don't know about that. Does Jesus call us to be "Go and tell" people or "Keep it to yourself" people? Does God call us to stay as we are or, through the blessing of God's sanctifying grace, go on to Christian Perfection? If we are going on to something greater, if our churches are growing into the kingdom, we won't get there if we don't face the world, face the tough issues, and disagree from time to time. We don't grow if we don't disagree, because without it we never know there is a problem or that we might, in fact, be wrong. As United Methodists we are connectional and as Christians we are called to community. We come from different places, conservative and progressive points of view, carrying our various favorite translations of scripture, and motivated by our own set of Christian and secular convictions. It is bound for us to enter into fisticuffs. It is a certainty that we will fight (as nonviolently as possible, I hope) like any other family. And so we will bring it up, because no one person in our congregation has all the answers. We will bring it up, because we aren't perfected yet and are seeking to be more like Christ.

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. That last part means that these conversations need to take place in our local churches. We need to be facing all the

tough issues and making the tough choices for the ministry of Christ’s kingdom in this world. So let’s not be afraid to bring it up, to treat others and their views with respect, and truly listen to one another no matter what side of the aisle we are on in our discussions. Because Parkwood UMC is truly unique in how different we all are, how different our positions look, and, yet, here we are together, truly unified by Christ’s mission in the Parkwood and Durham communities. There are no official dates to discuss, but our first opportunity to ‘bring it up’ will be during our fall study on Adam Hamilton’s newest book, *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*. For now, expect a September start date, but also anticipate some challenging discussions, both on how we view scripture and about several questions the church is wrestling with. In the meantime, pray for unity within our denomination, pray for the courage to carry Christ’s message and not our own into the world, and pray for the strength to look past ourselves for the sake of sharing God’s love with our neighbors. Peace. Pastor Nathan.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Seekers Class

We start Deuteronomy Sunday, April 27. This is the 5th book of the TORAH. Please plan to join us at 9:30.

Blessings, Bob

the Jacob Class

Over the summer, the Jacob class will be using the book by J. Elsworth Kalas “The Thirteen Apostles”. Herb Schwarze will be conducting this study.

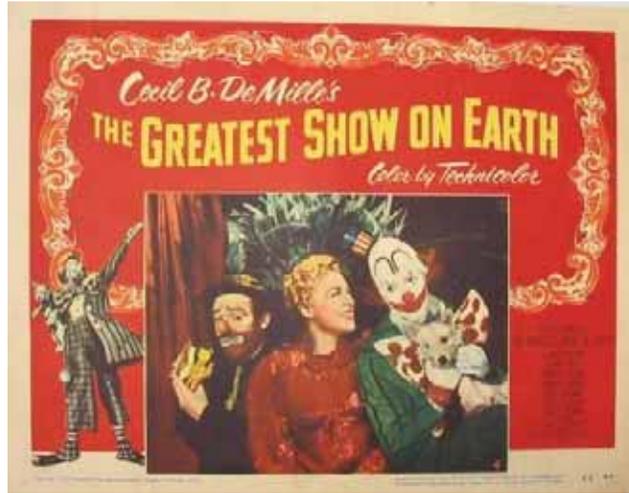
The Jacob class meets in room 1 at 9:30 am

Youth Sunday school

Youth Sunday School

The Youth Sunday School class will continue discussions of Great Figures in the New Testament by studying the Herodians, Judas Iscariot, Pontius Pilate, and James. This should take us into the early part of August. Please note that anyone middle school age up to recent college graduates are welcome to study with us.

Friday Nite Movie Presents: Greatest Show on Earth



July 11th. 2014 @ 7:30 pm

Previews of Coming Attractions for 2014*

*subject to change

Aug.	Dolphin Tale	2011	Harry Connick, Jr., Ashley Judd
Sept.	Rear Window	1954	James Stewart, Grace Kelly
Oct.	Pride of the Yankees	1942	Gary Cooper, Teresa Wright
Nov.	The Mission	1986	Robert De Niro, Jeremy Irons
Dec.	Remember the Night	1940	Barbara Stanwyck, Fred MacMurray

Coming in August





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU



Birthdays

Tiffany Jackson 7-11

Cam Wittman 7-12

Ron Clark 7-18

Eddie Hanson 7-20

Marge Potter 7-22

Rebecca Mitchell 7-26

Send birthdays and anniversaries to crabbyron@yahoo.com

Knit - Purf - Pray

Parkwood United Methodist Church

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

2nd. and 4th. Saturday



If you are an experienced knitter/crochet, beginner or a novice; you are welcome. We all have our own level of expertise and love to share.



The Parkwood UMM will meet on Saturday morning July 26th for breakfast at Beneties Reasturant in the Greenwood Commons shopping center off of Sedwick road at 8:00 am.

Leadership Team will meet Sunday July 20th after church.
Agenda to follow.



Parkwood United Methodist Women



Parkwood UMW met on Thursday, June 27th. in the Fellowship Hall at PUMC. Betty Byrd welcomed fourteen women this month. Members took a few minutes to share joys/health concerns. Refreshments were provided by Pat Nestler and Brenda Stephens and her granddaughter.

Betty turned the meeting over to Pam Skidmore for a program on “Human Trafficking. The program was very informative but very emotional at the same time.

Pam presented plans for a summer retreat. At this time the details are undecided. Look for more details in the next issue.

We will be having our annual “Dinner Out” on our regular meeting night, Thursday, July 24. Please meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. to carpool. We will be going to the Mayflower Restaurant. We hope many of you can join us. This is always a great evening.

Coming Soon!!!!!!!

A new photo directory!! The Leadership Team, recognizing that there have been a lot of changes in our congregation over the past several years, has asked that we produce a new directory this year. Instead of going to Olan Mills or some other company, we will produce this directory ourselves using our church software, Servant Keeper. Over the next few months we will be announcing dates for pictures to be taken by some of the best photographers around, who just happen to be members of our congregation. We will invite anyone who worships with us to be included. Watch for announcements in the newsletter, the bulletin, and during the worship service for dates and schedules. At the same time that you have your

pictured taken, you will also be given the opportunity to make sure that your information in the church database is up to date. We hope everyone will participate in this so that our new directory can be as complete as possible.

Celebrating Stewardship!

Steward: a person who acts as the surrogate of another or others, especially by managing property, financial affairs, an estate, etc.

Dominion. That's the word we hear in Genesis. The Lord brought order amidst the chaos, separating night and day, and waters from the dry land. He created the animals of sky, sea, and air, and then he created humanity. It was good and God entrusted us with dominion over God's new creation. In the Common English Bible our call is to, "take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth." It was my Old Testament professor at Duke Divinity who taught us that this word 'dominion' does not truly capture what God is calling us to. That word changes to dominate and it has been misconstrued to mean we should use up and manipulate creation to our benefit with no thought of the consequences. However, a better word is 'keeper.' We are to be keepers of the earth as God is our keeper. Another word that we are more familiar with is 'steward.' I put its definition up top to remind us that the most important thing about our stewardship of creation is that it still belongs to God. God entrusts us with all of creation, a lofty responsibility, and according to scripture and the life of Christ, there is a certain way in which God wants us to look after it...with the same sacrificial love that he looks after us.

In July, beginning with our Hymn Sing on July 13th, we're going to be celebrating this call to stewardship. For four weeks we are going to celebrate the great things Parkwood UMC has done to live out God's call to be a good steward within our community. For four weeks we are going to celebrate how our sacrifice of time, money and service has helped us to answer that call. We want everyone to know the good that we are doing and the ways that meeting our financial ministry goals can bring positive change to those within our church and those outside our walls. We also want you to know what that financial ministry goal is. Because of that, beginning in June we are going to include information in the bulletins that lets us know what our weekly and monthly financial goal is and how we are meeting it. Don't worry. I'll point it out to you when that time comes.

What trust God must have in us to place God's creation upon our shoulders! How awesome is it that God has given us each other to be the keepers of our brothers and sisters? If you want to celebrate stewardship with us, if you want to know the ways in which can more fully answer that call we have to our church, each other, and all of creation, please join us for four weeks of worship beginning on July 13th. While we sing God's praises during worship we will also prepare to sing that praise with our lives outside of the church doors. We will see you there!



This Day in Christian History

July 2, 1973, Lieutenant Florence Dianna Pohlman of LaJolla, California, is sworn in at Newport, Rhode Island, as the first female Navy chaplain. She was later assigned to the Naval Training Center in Orlando, Florida.

July 3, 1756, English Methodism founder John Wesley writes in a letter, "One who lives and dies in error, or in dissent from our Church, may yet be saved; but one who lives and dies in sin must perish."

July 8, 1835, The American Liberty Bell cracks while tolling the death of Chief Justice John Marshall. The bell had been cast in England in 1752 and bore an inscription from Leviticus 25:10: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

July 10, 1925, The Scopes Monkey Trial opens in Dayton, Tennessee. Clarence Darrow defends John Scopes from charges of teaching evolution in his high school biology classroom, contrary to Tennessee law. At trial's end, Scopes was found guilty and fined \$100.00.

July 25, 1968, Pope Paul VI publishes *Humanae Vitae*, an encyclical condemning all forms of birth control except the "Rhythm Method."

"When you listen to a witness, you become a witness." --Elie Wiesel

Famed Nazi hunter.



Greetings Parkwood Friends



Danielle Slomberg this is in France: Lac (lake) Sainte Croix in the Gorges du Verdon...about an hour and a half northeast of where I live.

WHAT DO YOU CALL AN
ALLIGATOR IN A VEST?



AN INVESTIGATOR.

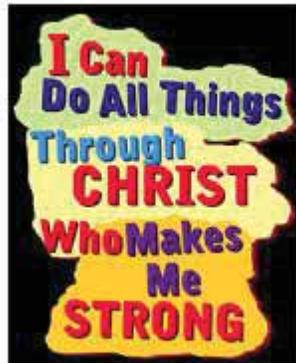


Chase Cameron Allman was born June 12th at 7:16 p.m.

7 lbs. 20 1/2 inches long

Derek, Jen and Chase are all going great!

Richard and Shari Allman (Grandpa and Grandma!!) also doing great!!!



A BUSY TIME FOR SCOUTS!

While this year's weather had most of us begging winter to "Let it go", spring has sprung and with its warmth came an exciting season of fun activities for PUMC's own Cub Scout Pack 495.

Our Blue & Gold banquet saw our Scouts earning their badges of rank, and also marked the graduation of several of our Pack family into Boy Scouts. Just two weeks later many of our Scouts, parents, and leaders spent a day volunteering at the Food Bank of NC. Monthly Pack Meetings included visits from everyone from mad scientists to mountain men. We also learned that our very own Cubmaster David L. Bailey had recently been awarded the Mawat District (Durham County) Cubmaster of the Year!



Pack 495 during Spring Family Camping at Jordan Lake.



Duke's Life Flight helicopter at Mawat Cub Scout Day Camp.

Pack 495 truly had a blast at our annual Rocking Rocket Reunion and even arriving to find a slowly-flooding campsite couldn't dampen our Spring Family Camping at Jordan Lake. With the humid days of summer approaching, many of our youth and adults participated in a week of space-themed Mawat District Cub Scout Day Camp. And most recently, Scout Night at the Durham Bulls allowed us to parade across the field and even camp out overnight at the ballpark.

Very soon we'll enjoy our annual Rain gutter Regatta and end of summer pool party. Just around the corner we'll see the beginning of a new Scout year, and with it, the fun and excitement of Fall Fishin' Frenzy, Halloween Hoot, and more. Planning is already well underway as we look forward to all the opportunities in 2015 and beyond.



If you have a boy interested in Scouting or for further information, please visit our website www.durhampack495.org or contact Pack 495 Cubm

Pack 495 at Scout Night at the Durham Bulls.



Mediterranean Dinner: An Evening at PUMC

Following up on the announcement about holding a catered Mediterranean dinner in PUMC's Fellowship Hall on Saturday date to be determined, in August, 2014:

Ron, Betty, and I are pleased to announce that PUMC can enjoy a Mediterranean dinner of chicken, salad, and rice; catered by our across-the-street neighbor, The Mediterranean Grill and Grocery.

Please sign up for the dinner via the list Ron will post on the bulletin board in the church hallway.

We need a minimum of twenty-five people to sign up to commit to coming to the dinner, before we can contract with the Grill owner for his catering.

We will ask for a minimum donation of \$8 per person, to offset the costs of the food and iced tea, drinks, etc. **Mediterranean Dinner: An Evening at PUMC**

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We will ask for a minimum donation of \$8 per person, to offset the costs of the food. Any money left after the caterer has been paid will go into the PUMC General Fund.

We will not be able to hold the dinner for less than twenty-five people, so please sign up soonest, and state the number that will be in your party

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June 17, 2014

To: All who have been called Lay Servants in the Corridor District or, seek to receive training in Lay Servant Ministry.

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ,

Lay Ministry is alive and well in our district. It is our privilege to serve our Lord and the Corridor district as Co- Directors of Lay Servant Ministries.

We want to encourage you to **“Save the Date”--- Saturday, September 6th 2014**, on your calendar. We will come together at First UMC in Graham, NC to study, pray, worship, and be in fellowship with one another in Lay Ministries training.

The following courses will be offered:

- 1-Basic Lay Servant Training (First time attendees)
- 2-Lay Servant Training for Youth (for Junior and High School students)

Advanced Courses -

- 3-Leading In Prayer
- 4-Life Together in the United Methodist Connection(Polity)

Also: An opportunity will be provided for attendees to have discussions regarding the call to Certified Lay Ministry.

We will sending you regular communications in the weeks ahead.

In His service,

Barbara Atkinson, habnc@hotmail.com
Sandy Quinn, fluffy11@ix.netcom.com

Corridor District Lay Servant Ministries, Co-Directors

LORD'S DAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SABBATH

1 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Vision and Mission 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	2 9:30 Senior Exercise	3 5:30-6:30 GS R5	4 9:30 Senior Exercise	5 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	6 9:30 Senior Exercise 7:30 Movie Nite Presents: "Pajama Game"	7 7 RTP Fellowship
8 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	9 9:30 Senior Exercise	10 5:30-6:30 GS R5 Pastor away at Annual Conference	11 9:30 Senior Exercise Pastor away at Annual Conference	12 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6 Pastor away at annual conference	13 9:30 Senior Exercise Pastor away at annual conference	14 9-11 Knit, Purl, Pray 7 RTP Fellowship Pastor away at annual conference
15 Father's Day! 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	16 9:30 Senior Exercise	17 5:30-6:30 GS R5	18 9:30 Senior Exercise	19 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	20 9:30 Senior Exercise	21 7 RTP Fellowship
22 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	23 9:30 Senior Exercise	24 5:30-6:30 GS R5	25 9:30 Senior Exercise	26 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	27 9:30 Senior Exercise	28 9-11 Knit, Purl, Pray 7 RTP Fellowship
29 9:30 Sunday School 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	30 9:30 Senior Exercise					
				Parkwood United Methodist Church	June	2014

TASK	JUNE 1	JUNE 8	JUNE 15	JUNE 22	JUNE 29
9:15 Greeters	Marie Porter and Priscilla Thompson	Herb & Jan Schwarze	Jimmy & Florine Layman	Margaret Eiland and David Thompson	Ron & Betty Byrd
10:45 Greeters	Betsy Newlin and Priscilla Thompson	Ron & Susan Clark	Florine Layman and Ann Farmer	Charlotte & David Thompson	Steve Jenkins and Aida Cancel
Infant Nursery	Betty Byrd	Ann Farmer	Ron Clark	Dianne Mitchell	Dena Roberts
Ushers	David Thompson and Ann Farmer	Ron & Susan Clark	Andrew Key and Linnie Skidmore	Frank & Brenda Stephens	David Thompson and Ann Farmer
Altar Guild	Florine Layman	Marietta Abbott	Margaret Eiland	Jan Schwarze	Pat Nestler
Communion Set-Up	Marietta Abbott and Betsy Newlin				
Altar Flowers	Betty Byrd			Sharon Shulze	Marge Potter
Member Care Cards	Pat Nestler	Jan Schwarze	Margaret Eiland	Betty Byrd	Susan Oglesby
Counters	Frank Stephens and Herb Schwarze	Herb Schwarze and Ron Clark	Ron Clark and Margaret Eiland	Margaret Eiland and Dianne Mitchell	Dianne Mitchell and Ron Byrd
FT & Lection Reader	Herb Schwarze	Pat Nestler	Margaret Eiland	Ron Byrd	Bob Newlin
Fellowship Refreshments	Lauren & Andrew Key	Betsy Newlin	Jan Schwarze	Pam Skidmore	Betty Byrd
Office Help	Jan Schwarze	Peggy Moore	Margaret Eiland	Andrew Key	Ron Byrd
Lead Armor Bearer	Beth Bradshaw	Tiffany Jackson	Caroline Mitchell	Hope Roberts	Beth Bradshaw

MINISTRY TEAM FOR JUNE 2014 *If you can't serve on your day, please arrange for a substitute. Thanks!

Report from Conference by Margaret Eiland

Theme of the conference was Strength to Strength - Thrive

Most important:

Call for Unity - presented by Paul Stallsworth and Laurie Hays Coffman, co-chairs of the Conference Unity Dialogue. Their plea was a response to the movement among some conservative members of our denomination to split over the issues surrounding the LGBTQ community that have arisen over the past few years and have become more prevalent as a result of church trials over the past year. In introducing their report, Rev.

Stallsworth used the metaphor of marriage and divorce, saying that it is far better to discuss our differences and attempt to resolve them than to end the marriage.

Rev. Coffman suggested that like her mother told her and her siblings as they squabbled as children, "I don't care who's right if you're acting like brats. Just wash your hands and sit down at the dinner table." The message was clear and the Conference adopted the Call for Unity overwhelmingly. Laurie's words were repeated often during the remainder of the meetings.

Resolutions

1. Concerning inclusive language and embracing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, questioning community. Presented by Epworth UMC, the aim of this resolution is to remove language from the Social Principles in the Book of Discipline that refers to the practice of homosexuality. When I read the paragraph in question, I felt that this language clearly did not belong in the Book of Discipline, for the very next sentence states "We affirm that God's grace is available to all." However, this has been a point of contention for many years. Interestingly, the very first person to speak after the resolution was presented was Vann Spivey, who spoke in favor of its adoption. This was the most contentious discussion, requiring a standing vote which resulted in the resolution being postponed indefinitely. This means that it can be brought up again at any time and probably will be brought up at next year's conference.

2. Protection of God's Creation

This resolution spoke to the problem of coal ash spills in particular and stewardship of the environment in general. The proposal called on Duke Energy to clean up and pay for the spills without passing the cost on to consumers and for the legislature to restore funding for staff positions so that our rivers are protected. This resolution passed.

3. As You Have Done to the Least of These.

This resolution called for the legislature to raise the minimum wage to \$10.50 an hour over the next five years, to return the unemployment benefits to the levels prior to 2012, and to restore the earned income credit. An amendment was offered to request that the minimum wage be raised to \$15.00; that amendment was defeated. A second amendment was passed to request that all N. C. Conference employees be given a minimum wage of \$10.50 an hour immediately and that all local churches do the same for their employees. This proposal passed.

4. Mental Health Care

This proposal addressed the issues surrounding the care given to those who suffer from various forms of mental illness. It was recommended to the Conference that this proposal be referred to the Disability Concerns committee for further study and action.

5. Fighting Hunger in Our Communities

Presented by the Youth of our Conference, it expresses support for ministries to help the hungry and homeless. Passed as amended.

The 4th at Durham Bulls Athletic Park

