

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

*Serving Parkwood for 51 years*



*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

January, 2014

## ***Epiphany: a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something***

When this newsletter is released, we will find ourselves between two sacred days of the Christian Year: Christmas and Epiphany. This may surprise some of you, but in many ways the more important day for us is Epiphany. For sure, the day love came down in the form of a tiny baby in Bethlehem is a very significant moment, but what happened next, the reason we celebrate Epiphany, is truly a revelation.

That is what an epiphany is...a revelation. I shared the definition above to help us understand that meaning. So what revelation occurred? What was the sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of Christ's birth? We realized that Christ was not only sent as Messiah for the Jewish people, but for the whole world. Even us gentiles, foreign to the message of Yahweh. This has come to be symbolized by three Magi (not kings) from the East who saw the birth of Jesus in the stars.

There is an interesting trend we see with the people of Judah who return from Babylonian Exile. What we see in Old Testament books of the Bible like Ezra and Nehemiah, is that they begin to fear losing their identity as a people. The very first thing they do is build a wall to protect themselves. We also hear of being forbidden to marry a spouse from a foreign land. Though that verse has sometimes been read as a commandment of God against interracial marriage, it is actually a reaction to the fears of a people who had almost forgotten who they were amidst a foreign land.

But Christ became a message that God intended the promise of Israel to be shared with the world. In the past, God taught that through Isaiah and the claim that Israel was to be a city on a hill, an example for all kingdoms. God also showed that he was not sitting idly in the temple when Ezekiel saw him in Babylon on a throne with wheels. And now, through the birth of a child in Bethlehem, a new Son of God, that message of hope and forgiveness from God has reached from a tiny manger to our own lives. What can we learn about Christ's availability to all peoples? Is the fear of others different than us, with unfamiliar cultures and customs, causing us to put up walls around our church? Or are we ready to go where we have not been, to places we might be afraid to go, for the sake of this message of love? Pastor Nathan



## Super Bowl Sunday Chili Cook Off Sunday, February 2nd, Right after church service.

Wear your favorite team colors!!!!!!

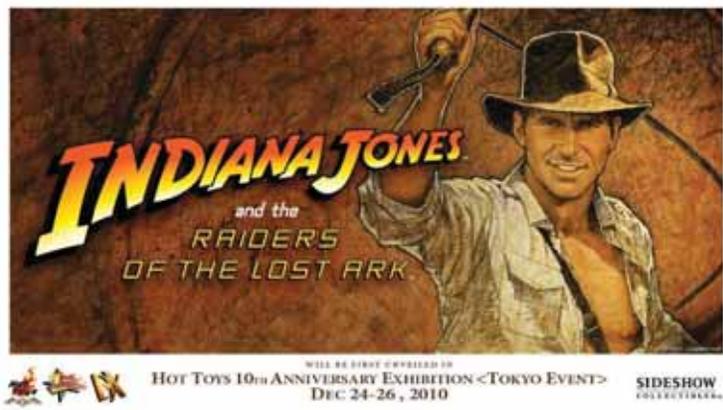


So much to be thankful for! Cheers! P. S. I don't know how something green (not covered in sauce) ended up on my plate! It was truly a mistake, I promise.



I kicked off the month of December by playing in the orchestra for a Christmas Carol service at the Cathedral Saint Sauveur. The choir sang traditional English Christmas carols, but the service was conducted in both English and French. The cathedral was packed, with close to 1,000 locals coming out to celebrate

**Friday Nite Movie Presents:**



**January 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2014 @ 7:30 pm**

Previews of Coming Attractions for 2014\*

Feb.	The Hiding Place	1975	Julie Harris, Arthur O'Connell
March	Grease	1978	John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John
April	12 O'clock High	1949	Gregory Peck, Hugh Marlowe
May	Arranged	2007	Zoe Lister-Jones, Francis Benhamou
June	Pajama Game	1957	Doris Day, John Raitt
July	Greatest Show on Earth	1953	Charlton Heston, Jimmy Stewart
Aug.	Dolphin Tale	2011	Harry Connick, Jr., Ashley Judd
Sept.	Rear Window	1954	James Stewart, Grace Kelly
Oct.	The Thing from another World	1951	Kenneth Toby, Margaret Sheridan
Nov.	The Mission	1986	Robert De Niro, Jeremy Irons
Dec.	Remember the Night	1940	Barbara Stanwyck, Fred MacMurry

\*subject to change

## **SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **The Seekers Class**

In January, the seekers Class will be continuing their Immersion Study with the Book of Numbers. Everyone is welcome.

### **the Jacob Class**

the Jacob class is doing a verse by verse study of the book of Acts. You only need to bring your Bible to class.

The Jacob class would like to thank Pastor Nathan for his advent study "Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam.

We meet in room 1 at 9:30 am.

### **Youth Class**

Attention, Youth!

We are continuing with our study of Great Figures of the New Testament this month.

January 5: Peter

January 12: James and John, Sons of Zebedee

January 19: Mary, Martha, and Lazarus

January 26: "Doubting Thomas"

We'll watch videos some and look at what is in the Bible about each of these topics.

See you Sunday morning at 9:45!

# **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**



**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.**





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU



## Birthdays

Bob Jones 1-14

Alexander Nelson Omburo 1-17

Susan Clark 1-28

Jandy Mooney 1-28

Laura Denny 1-29

Henrik Ronni 1-30

## Anniversaries

Bob & Betsy Newlin 1-2

Bill & Linda Youngblood 1-26

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



Submitted by Marie Porter

## Chancel Choir



You are cordially invited to join the Chancel Choir at Parkwood United Methodist Church. The choir meets weekly on Wednesday nights from 7:30



## What Our Country Needs.....

A father reading a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country.

Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to her and said, 'Go into the other room and see if you can put this together.'

After a few minutes, she returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together.

The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. 'Oh,' she said, 'on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together!'

Submitted by Jimmy Layman

## From our Former Lay Leader

**Church Family:** I want to thank everyone for the support you have given me during my time of being Lay Leader. The Parkwood family made things easier in both my spiritual development and personal crisis. I hope everyone the best for the year 2014. Eddie Hanson



## Membership Message.....

Members, Regulars and Visitors,

We love having you join us for Worship and we want to keep in touch with you! If you're a member and not sure your information is current, please see Margaret Eiland or the pastor to provide us the latest information. Regulars, if we have current information for you, thanks and keep us up to date. Visitors, we'd like to put some information about you in our church database so that we can let you know about important happenings. We'd like to make sure that we have address,

telephone (and cell phone) numbers and email addresses so that we can contact you about special services and opportunities. See Margaret Eiland (Membership secretary), Pastor Nathan, or Eddie to get the information to us.

## Our Next Hymn is Found on Page..... Submitted by Marie Porter

Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns  
Weatherman's Hymn.....There Shall Be Showers of Blessing  
Contractor's Hymn.....The Church's One Foundation  
The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy  
The Golfer's Hymn.....There is a Green Hill Far Away  
The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises!  
Optometrist's Hymn.....Open My Eyes That I May See  
The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All  
The Gossip's Hymn.....Pass It On  
The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light  
The Shopper's Hymn..... Sweet Bye and Bye  
The Realtor's Hymn.....I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop  
The Massage Therapist's Hymn.....He Touched Me and made me whole.  
AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:  
55 mph ..... God Will Take Care of You  
75 mph ..... Nearer My God To Thee  
85 mph .....This World Is Not My Home  
95 mph ..... Lord, I'm Coming Home  
100 mph ..... Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke, to get some humor out of life, and pass it on to other folks. If you cannot see the humor in life, you have missed one of God's great blessings and coping mechanisms!

# Uncle Eddie Strikes again!

A long time ago, I gave my 6-year old niece a teddy bear but I did not have a box to put it in so I used two grocery bags. What I got was an unexpected result when she could not figure out what it was and she had to **WAIT** until she opened it. Talk about excitement. Many years later, I did the same thing to her daughter.



**What is in this???**



**Opening the Christmas Package.**



**It is a Unicorn!**



**And it is very SOFT!!!**

As you can see, it was a hit, like the Christmas many years ago.



## The New Year is Here

For the last few weeks we have been enjoying the beauty of our sanctuary being filled with lovely poinsettias, greenery and candles.

Now we have to count on ourselves to keep our sanctuary decorated. Last year we were very fortunate to have many of you furnish beautiful flowers for our altar. I hope you will do so again this year. I am willing to help you if you wish. For around \$25 I can purchase lovely flowers from the grocery stores and make you a nice arrangement. Just call me or see me in church. I am here to help.

Thanks for caring, Betty Byrd, 544-1380

## Biblical-Era Town Discovered Along Sea of Galilee

**By Owen Jarus**

A town dating back more than 2,000 years has been discovered on the northwest coast of the Sea of Galilee, in Israel's Ginosar valley.

The ancient town may be Dalmanutha (also spelled Dalmanoutha), described in the Gospel of Mark as the place Jesus sailed to after miraculously feeding 4,000 people by multiplying a few fish and loaves of bread, said Ken Dark, of the University of Reading in the U.K., whose team discovered the town during a field survey.

The archaeologists also determined that a famous boat, dating to around 2,000 years ago, and uncovered in 1986, was found on the shoreline of the newly discovered town. The boat was reported on two decades ago but the discovery of the town provides new information on what lay close to it.

The evidence the team found suggests the town was prosperous in ancient times. "Vessel glass and amphora hint at wealth," Dark wrote in an article published in the most recent edition of the journal *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*, while "weights and stone anchors, along with the access to beaches suitable for landing boats — and, of course, the first-century boat ... all imply an involvement with fishing

The architectural remains and pottery suggest that Jews and those following a polytheistic religion lived side by side in the community. In addition, the researchers found that the southern side of the newly discovered town lies only about 500 feet (150 meters) away from another ancient town known as Magdala.

### **Architecture and pottery**

Fields between the modern-day town of Migdal and the sea coast contained hundreds of pottery pieces dating from as early as the second or first century B.C. to up to some point after the fifth century A.D., the time of the Byzantine Empire, the archaeologists found. The artifacts suggest the town survived for many centuries.

Also among their finds were cubes known as tesserae and limestone vessel fragments, which were "associated with Jewish purity practices in the early Roman period," indicating the presence of a Jewish community in the town, Dark told LiveScience in an email.

Some of the most impressive finds, however, were not made in the fields but rather in modern-day Migdal itself. The archaeologists found dozens of examples of ancient architectural remains, some of which the modern-day townspeople had turned into seats or garden ornaments, or simply left lying on the ground. In one instance, the researchers found more than 40 basalt ashlar blocks in a single garden.

After talking to the local people, and trying to identify the source and date of the findings, the researchers determined that many of the architectural remains came from the local area and likely were part of this newly discovered town.

These remains included a number of ancient column fragments, including examples of capitals (the top of columns) carved in a Corinthian style. "This settlement may have contained masonry buildings, some with mosaic floors and architectural stonework," Dark wrote in his paper.

The finds also included a pagan altar, made of light-gray limestone and used in religious rituals by those of a polytheistic faith, Dark said.

In the New Testament, Dalmanutha is mentioned only briefly in the Gospel of Mark.

The gospel says that after feeding 4,000 people by miraculously multiplying a few fish and loaves of bread, Jesus "got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha. The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, 'Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.' Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side." (Mark 8:10-13, New International Version)

Dark isn't certain the newly discovered town is Dalmanutha, but there is evidence to support the idea. From the remains found, researchers can tell the newly discovered town would have been a sizable, thriving location in the first century A.D., and the name Dalmanutha has not been firmly linked to a known archaeological site.

It's likely that the newly found town's name is among the few place-names already identified by other researchers relating to the Ginosar valley shore, and one of those places is Dalmanutha, Dark said.



The Sea of Galilee as seen from the hills overlooking Tiberius. Mt. Herman is in the background.

**UM MEN: Our next meeting for breakfast will be at 8am on Saturday, January 18th. at Beneties on Hwy. 55 at 8:00.**



LORD'S DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SABBATH
			<b>1</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>2</b> 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	<b>3</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise 7:30 Movie Nite Presents: "Raiders of the Lost Ark"	<b>4</b> 7 RTP Fellowship
<b>5</b> 8:30 Trustees 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	<b>6</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>7</b> 5:30-6:30 GS R5	<b>8</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>9</b> 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	<b>10</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>11</b> 9-11 Knit, Pur!, Pray 7 RTP Fellowship
<b>12</b> 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12 Finance 3-5 GS Rms 5,7 5	<b>13</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>14</b> 5:30-6:30 GS R5	<b>15</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>16</b> 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	<b>17</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>18</b> 7 RTP Fellowship
<b>19</b> 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12 Leadership 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	<b>20</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>21</b> 5:30-6:30 GS R5	<b>22</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>23</b> 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	<b>24</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>25</b> 9-11 Knit, Pur!, Pray 7 RTP Fellowship
<b>26</b> 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	<b>27</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>28</b> 5:30-6:30 GS R5	<b>29</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	<b>30</b> 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	<b>31</b> 9:30 Senior Exercise	
				Parkwood United Methodist Church	January	2013

<b>TASK</b>	<b>JANUARY 5</b>	<b>JANUARY 12</b>	<b>JANUARY 19</b>	<b>JANUARY 26</b>
<b>9:15 Greeters</b>	Ron & Betty Byrd	Marie Porter	Herb & Jan Schwarze	Jimmy & Florine Layman
<b>10:45 Greeters</b>	Wayne Abbott and Florine Layman	Charlotte Thompson & Marie Porter	David Thompson	Lauren & Andrew Key
<b>Infant Nursery</b>	Ron Clark	Dianne Mitchell	Dena Roberts	Betty Byrd
<b>Ushers</b>	Ron & Susan Clark	Ron & Betty Byrd	Andrew Key and David Thompson	Clint & Natalie Robson
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Marietta Abbott	Florine Layman	Margaret Eiland	Jan Schwarze
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Priscilla Thompson and Marietta Abbott			
<b>Altar Flowers</b>				
<b>Member Care Cards</b>	Betty Byrd	Pat Nestler	Jan Schwarze	Margaret Eiland
<b>Counters</b>	Ann Farmer and Frank Stephans	Frank Stephans and Herb Schwarze	Herb Schwarze and Ron Clark	Ron Clark and Margaret Eiland
<b>FT &amp; Lection Reader</b>	Priscilla Thompson	Ron Byrd	Betty Byrd	Bob Newlin
<b>Fellowship Refreshments</b>	Dena Roberts	Debbie Kavanagh	Pam Skidmore	Jan Schwarze
<b>Office Help</b>	Jan Schwarze	Peggy Moore	Andrew Key	Margaret Eiland
<b>Acolytes</b>	Beth Bradshaw	Tiffany Jackson	Caroline Mitchell	Hope Roberts

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

**SERVING ON A CHURCH COMMITTEE?  
IS IT A JOB OR A MINISTRY?**

Some people have a job in the church; others involve themselves in a ministry. What's the difference?

If you are doing it just because no one else will, it's a job. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you quit because someone criticized you, it was a job. If you keep on serving, it's a ministry.

If you will do it only so long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it's a job. If you are committed to staying with it even if it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

If you quit because no one thanked you or praised you, it's a job. If you stayed with it even though nobody recognized your efforts, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to be excited about a ministry.

It's been said that an average church is filled with people doing jobs. A great church and a growing church is filled with people involved in ministry.

If God calls you to a ministry, don't treat it like a job. If you have a job, give it up and find a ministry. God does not want us feeling stuck with a job, but excited and faithful to Him in ministry.



**THE PARABLE OF THE CHURCH THAT DIED**

*by Cornelius L. Henderson*

George W. Knight seems to put his finger on the pulse of some of our congregations. His words are applicable to most of our mainline denominations in his piece titled "The Parable Of The Church That Died."

I have taken the liberty to Hendersonize and modify this in order to make it gender inclusive and relevant.

There was a family that lived during the latter part of the twentieth century. They had a spacious home in an upscale neighborhood. Three cars and a bright, shiny boat filled the garage. Several color television sets were gleaming throughout the house. It appeared that this was a happy, healthy family.

Their custom - when they were in town, when the fish were not biting, when they were not on the beach or at the lake, when their favorite home professional team was not having a home game, when they had no guests, when they got up on time, when they weren't too tired or had nothing else to do - was to go to church. When they went, they spent their time deploring the decaying state of the church: declining Sunday School, scanty choir, low worship attendance, inadequate offering and a discouraged preacher. "Sad, sad," they mumbled.

Many vacations and days off came and went. The children grew up and became extremely negative toward the church. The father's health failed. He was admitted to the hospital and the church folk did not visit him. "Just like I thought," he complained to the nurses, "that bunch at that hypocritical church."

But being a greathearted man, he decided to forgive the church and give them one more chance. But behold, when he arrived at the church, there was no church. A large grocery store had been built on the spot where the church had been.

"Where is the church?" he demanded.

"Oh," someone replied, "that church closed its doors several years ago."

"Oh, no," he shouted, "they should never have let it die."

Does this parable speak to you? It certainly does to me.