



# Parkwood Herald

APRIL  
2017

NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH  
PARKWOOD ROAD LONGWOOD HD3 4T

School age children were asked to write a "Dear God" prayers:

7-year old Debbie prayed, "Dear God: Please send a new baby for Mommy. The new baby you sent last week cries too much."

Hank, 7 "Dear Lord: Thank you for the nice day today. You even fooled the TV weather man."

Lois, age 9 "Dear God: Please help me in school. I need help in spelling, adding, history, geography and writing. I don't need help in anything else."

David age 7 "Dear God: I need a raise in my pocket money. Could you have one of your angels tell my Dad? Thank you."

Diane age 8 "Dear God; I am saying my prayers for me and my brother, Billy, because Billy is six months old and he can't do anything but sleep and wet his nappies."

Thessalonians 5:17 calls us to "pray without ceasing." I could go on and on but the point is that God wants us to pray. He wants to hear from us. He wants to talk with us. He wants to speak His heart's desire to us but that can only happen when we pray. Jesus equipped us to pray through the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer appears in the Sermon on the Mount. In the middle of His sermon, where Jesus is focusing on teaching his followers how to live, He turns His attention to the subject of prayer. He not only begins to teach his followers how to pray but by interrupting his sermon, he's telling them that prayer is meant to be a part of how they live their daily lives. And so Jesus gives us a model for prayer. As we head through Lent to Easter, I often wonder about that night in the garden where Jesus goes to pray. Does he use the format he has taught through the Lord's prayer? Does he have a conversation as though speaking to his Dad or a close friend? Does he ask questions or plead

with God to change the path set before him? So many questions we will never know the answer to.

Prayer is what ensures the triumph of the Gospel and the establishment of God's kingdom here on earth. When God answers our prayers, we have been used as instruments in forwarding His purposes! It is not that our prayers change God's plans - but in a wonderful way, He uses them as a powerful means to accomplish them. God harnesses the prayers of His people to His unchangeable plans as one means by which He will bring them to pass! So it's through prayer, we become co-labourers and partners in His mission. Every great movement of the Gospel was bathed in prayer making prayer an invariable and necessary condition for any new initiative in the work of God.

Prayer develops an attitude of dependence and trust in God. Jesus, to follow the path God had set him on needed that dependence himself.

Prayer isn't just talking to God, it is also listening to the voice of God in our lives. Someone once said that the reason God gave us two ears and one mouth is that we are to listen to each other twice as much as we are to speak. The same should true in our relationship with God. We can hear God's voice in many different ways: through the words of Scripture, through our minds or impressions, through the words others like, writers, family, friends, and loved ones or even enemies. There are many ways of hearing the voice of God. Prayer is about opening oneself to that voice and allowing God to speak to us, wherever we are and whatever our needs may be.

Easter Sunday is probably my most favourite day of the year. We are reminded of the joy of the resurrection of Jesus. At any point in his ministry Jesus could have

**'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'.**

walked away from God, walked away from his vocation but he didn't because of the close relationship they had – that life of talking and listening. Sometimes we don't think we have the strength to fulfil what God calls us to, we don't need strength – we need to rely on God!

God is just waiting for you to talk to him. Yes, your God is just waiting for you to talk to him and he desperately wants to talk with you. God wants to your heart His healing words, His will, His hopes and dreams and His wisdom. And all we need to do is ask and he will not only guide us but he will change us. May the light of Christ shine on you this Easter.

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

3<sup>rd</sup> Bernd Heck  
18<sup>th</sup> Marie Lloyd

**Dates of 'Breakfasts' 2017**

15th April  
20th May  
17<sup>th</sup> June

**DIARY FOR APRIL/MAY 2017**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Saturday 1st</b>             | <b>Parkwood Spring Fair 10.00am 'til 2.00pm</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 2nd</b>               | <b>10.45 Lent Messy Church/All Age Worship Service</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday 5th</b>            | <b>Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 9th</b>               | <b>10.45 Service led by Mr Raymond Brook</b>  |
| <b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30am – 12.00 noon</b>                                       |
| <b>Sunday 16th</b>              | <b>9.30 Communion Service with Rev Jo- Breakfast - 10.45 Service led by Mr Matt Smith</b>     |
| <b>Wednesday 19th</b>           | <b>Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 23rd</b>              | <b>10.45 Service led by Mrs Liz Bishop</b>  |
| <b>Saturday 29th</b>            | <b>Anniversary Weekend : Celebrating the 148 years of Parkwood M.C.</b>                       |
| <b>Sunday 30th</b>              | <b>10.45 Service led by Mr David Harris +Faith Lunch + Anniversary celebrations still on.</b> |

**MAY**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>  | <b>Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome</b>  |
| <b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>L V G Coffee Morning@ Mechanics 10.00am-12noon</b>                               |
| <b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>     | <b>10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service led by Rev Jo Brown</b>               |
| <b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Parkwood Golcar Lily Day: Stalls, Hot Food, Entertainment 10.00 'till 4.00pm</b> |
| <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>10.45 Golcar Lily Service led by Mr John Oldham</b>                              |
| <b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome</b>  |
| <b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30am – 12.00 noon</b>                             |
| <b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>    | <b>10.45 Holy Communion Service led by Rev Jo Brown</b>                             |
| <b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>10.45 Service led by Miss Janice Leam</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome</b>  |

**Scouts**

It was good to have news from the scouts and to learn of their many activities and achievements. Congratulations to them and their leaders. We may not see them very often in our services but they are part of our church family and need our encouragement and prayers.

Perhaps we can have Brownie news next?

**Nora**

**THANK YOU**

Many thanks for an excellent Old Folks Party. Thank you to the transporters, caterers and entertainers.

Thank you to the team who, all year round, provide us with Wednesday Drop in Lunches and Saturday Breakfasts. Thank you for transport, food, fun and fellowship.

Our support, prayers and thanks also go to the group who are dealing with the practicalities of our move.

God Bless us All - Everyone.

**Nora**

**'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'.**

**For the Church Anniversary on 29/30<sup>th</sup> April we are arranging a special weekend of activity.**

**Anniversary Weekend – Saturday & Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**Parkwood Methodist Church - Celebration Concert**

**As part of the Anniversary Weekend, on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017, a special concert will take place in the School Room, commencing at 2-30pm.**

**Guest artists will include recent winners from local Music Festivals.**

**There will be instrumental and vocal performers, ranging in styles from 'popular' to 'classical'.**

**Proceeds from the sale of Afternoon Teas will be given to 'Cancer Relief'.**

**Additional donations, for the future work of the church and its journey to new premises, will be gratefully accepted.**

**There will be a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and we hope you can join us.**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**Special Service led by Mr David Harris followed by Faith Lunch and Anniversary Celebrations will continue afterwards.**

**It should be a fun weekend so do please try to join us.**