

Parkway Presbyterian Church



HAPPENINGS!

SUNDAY, JULY 12

HYMN SING SUNDAY

Come join us for a Sunday morning worship filled with everyone's favorite hymns and scriptures. Our voices will be lifted to the Lord during this special worship service. Please make plans now to be here on the 12th to help us "make a joyful noise"!



**EVERY SUNDAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45
WORSHIP AT 11:00**

Be One Person - Yourself

We live in a world that places huge premiums on how someone looks and, beyond that, how someone performs. It is an unfortunate reality of the time we live in that there seems to be very little focus on who a person really *IS*.

On June 1st, I underwent gastric bypass surgery. I am grateful for all the prayers, cards, visits, and support from my church family, friends, and immediate family. However, I believe some folks see the great benefit of this surgery as enhanced physical appearance. Actually, five or ten years ago, I would have felt the same way. For years, I have loathed and ridiculed my appearance. It was an embarrassment to me. Nevertheless, I wasn't willing to undergo surgery to look better. Then a funny thing happened on my way to becoming content with myself... I adopted Elena.

Parents all over the world will tell you that "everything changes" once you have a child. I had no problem believing that. What I didn't realize was that how I felt about myself would change. Initially, I quit worrying about my wrinkles, fat, style, makeup... all those outward appearances. However, what I began to worry about was health: spiritual health, emotional health, and physical health... both hers and mine.

I will be the first to tell you that I am very blessed with a healthy daughter. She constantly amazes me with her resiliency, her insights, and her compassion. I began to realize as she was growing up that her continued health, in many ways, depended on my health. It was at that point that I knew it was time to undergo "the knife." Surgery was no longer about looking good; it was about being healthy for my daughter.

In her book of devotions, Joyce Meyer talks about being content because

she has become comfortable with who she is. She goes on to write, "People who long for their youth are never content, because every day that youth gets a little farther away. Don't despise getting old, because if you stay alive you can't avoid it. It's much better to enjoy who you are now and try to live and look appropriate for someone like you. It helps to find role models. We don't think of 50- or 60-year olds as needing role models, but they do! Everyone does."

Billy Graham is a good role model for me, and I can honestly say that I have never worried about how much he weighs or how many wrinkles he has. I admire him for his spirit, commitment, accomplishments, and dedication to God and his life's calling. Discontentment is one of the big giants we must conquer if we ever hope to enjoy life fully. Discontentment with looks, age, position, possessions, and anything else that makes us ungrateful for what we currently have.

We may not have all we would like to have, but we certainly have more than some people. No matter how you think you look, there is somebody who would love to look like you. No matter how old you are, there is someone older who would love to be as young as you. Love yourself and love your life; it is the only one you have!"

I would add to Ms. Meyer's thoughts that we are all children of God; he loves us just as we are... regardless of any flaws we have (or perceive ourselves to have). How can we not love what God loves. Be yourself. God only made one you, and that you has a purpose: to be yourself.

Blessings,
Sheila



SPECIAL DATES

JULY 1

Randy & Sue Owensby's Anniversary

JULY 6

Terry Baron's Birthday

JULY 9

Friendship Circle at 10:30

JULY 12

Session Meeting at 5:30

JULY 16

Annie Peretz's Birthday

JULY 20

Beverly Dunlap's Birthday

JULY 20

Mike & Cynthia Higginbotham's Anniversary

JULY 30

Mike Higginbotham's Birthday

Did You Know???

Elizabeth Peterson (Liz) has accepted the pastoral leadership of Parkway and will be starting at the beginning of August! Liz, a long time member of the Presbytery of East Tennessee, currently serves on its Commission on Ministry. She lives in Knoxville with her husband and two young children. If you were present on either of the two Sundays she has served as pulpit supply, you were blessed by her thoughtful and dynamic sermons. You probably also noticed her outstanding singing voice. Liz is a classically trained opera singer, too! While the grant from the COM requires that this call be listed as temporary and part time, we know that Liz can help lead us on our path of renewal. We are excited about having you, Liz! Welcome aboard!!!



Parkway Presbyterian Church

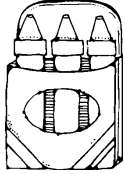
940 Sanctuary Lane

Knoxville, TN 37923



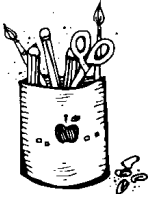
MISSION ACTIVITIES - *July/August*

Again this year, Parkway will be donating school supplies to the **Volunteer Ministry Center**. We would like to continue the giving effort started last year by asking members of the congregation to donate backpacks. The Mixed Nuts Sunday School will fill the backpacks with supplies. We intend to present the backpacks on **August 9th** so we need donations by **August 8th**. If you would prefer that we purchase the backpacks, we will accept financial contributions. This is one of Parkway's longest running mission activities and we are pleased to be doing it again this year.



In addition, we will provide supplies to Kristi's children (a kindergartner and a high school sophomore). For an update on Kristi, please contact Sue or Randy Owensby.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Kristi and her family over the Easter holiday. We delivered four large boxes of items to her; a thank you card is on the downstairs bulletin board.



Ministry Teams Need YOU!

Although we are taking a break from our July meeting, Ministry Team Meeting Night is scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month... that means our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, August 5th at 6:30. Each meeting night begins with fellowship and a light supper for all. After that, each ministry team gathers to discuss plans for upcoming events and/or brainstorm ideas or solutions to issues. There are several different ministry teams, so there's something for everyone -- that means you! The various teams are listed below, so see which one is your "cup of tea" and make plans now to come for cooking, conviviality and collaboration!

Worship Team - works on issues concerning Sunday morning and special worship services, including music, worship styles, etc.

Fellowship Team - works on activities which bring the congregation of the church together such as this past month's Father's Day Cookout

Mission Team - works on ways we can minister to our community and our world. The collection for the Volunteer Ministry Center is one example.

Building & Grounds Team - works on issues concerning our building and beautiful grounds here at Parkway

Christian Education - works on issues concerning Sunday School and other possibilities for learning and growing in Christ.

Regular Session Meeting Highlights - June 10, 2009, 5:40 - 6:40 pm

Members Present: Colleen Ferron, Jeff Carter, Brenda Owensby, Sheila Earl. **Also Present:** Cindy Turner (treasurer)

Moderator: Peg Brinck, appointed by Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM)

Meeting opened at 5:30 with prayer by Peg.

Treasurer's Report (Treasurer: Cindy Turner)

- Treasurer's report was received and approved as written. Cindy asked that she be replaced either as church secretary or as treasurer. She felt that the combined duties, along with changes in her personal life, had become too much to handle. She agreed to continue as treasurer for as long as she can. The Session agreed to begin looking for a replacement secretary.

Pastor Search

- Rev Liz Peterson has been offered the position of "Temporary Pastor" and Fred sent her a draft contract for review. We have not heard back from her, mainly because she has been at Montreat for the past two weeks and out of communication.

Ministry Team Reports

- Worship Committee – Plans to have Hymn Service on July 12th. Forms are being included in the bulletin for the congregation to submit their favorite hymns to sing. The service will consist of scripture readings and a selection of hymns. Mimi will be leaving for several weeks and we will need to find volunteer childcare while she is away. Brenda agreed to arrange this.
- No other Ministry Team reports were submitted to the Session.

Property and Grounds

- Moved to proceed with the repair of the roof using the estimate provided by the insurance company. The \$1,000 required for the deductible will be raised by a special collection from the congregation, and if necessary from proceeds from the yard sale, or from the general church fund. Any monies raised by the special collection or the yard sale in excess of the \$1,000 required will be returned to the general fund. All concurred.

Other Business

- Jeff Carter resigned as Clerk of Session and as a Session member (resignation letter read to the session and hard copy submitted). The session regretfully accepted the resignation.
- The existing nominating committee (Brenda and Mike Higginbotham) will begin the search for a replacement to serve out the remainder of Jeff's term. The congregation will also be canvassed for a new clerk of session. Peg pointed out that the clerk could be any elder and does not have to be someone currently on the Session. It was also pointed out that it is imperative that a new clerk of session be designated before the next Session meeting.

Next Meeting

- The July Session Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, June 12th at 5:30pm.

Meeting closed at 6:40 pm with prayer by Peg Brinck.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

- **Frieda Mae Boatman, Gail Dunagin, Ruth Oliver, and Lou Ross...** our at-home members and family.
- Jessica Turner's cousin, **Jennifer Braun** and newborn daughter, **Zaley**, who was born with deformed limbs.
- **Dan Widdows**, Colleen's brother, who had a stroke that has impaired his vision.
- **Haley Owensby**, who is adjusting to Celiac Disease
- **Julia Camargo** and her sister **Marie Quinn**, friends of Terry Baron. Marie is battling various health issues and Julia is doing all she can to help.
- **Francis Cleveland**, Barbara Edwards' mother, who is at Hillcrest receiving physical therapy and medical treatment.
- **Ella Barnes**, granddaughter of Randy Owensby's coworker. Ella is struggling with several health issues. For updates, access her blog at Ellafaithbarnes.blogspot.com
- **Walter Hawthorne**, a friend of Brenda Owensby. Walter is receiving treatment for cancer.
- **Charlene Walker**, a friend of Barbara Edwards. Charlene's breast cancer has returned in her liver and lungs, so she is again undergoing chemotherapy.
- The family of **Mary Elizabeth Williams**, cousin of Jean Peretz. Mary Elizabeth passed away from cancer June 22.



Rummage Sale Thanks

The last Saturday in June was a day to welcome bargain hunters through our doors for our summer Rummage Sale. However, preparing for all those visitors took some hard work before hand. Among those who helped were Terri Baron, Jean Peretz, Bud and Beverly Dunlap, Annie Peretz, Jessie Mae Parker, Maxine Rorex and her sister Ruth, Lois Rawlins, Cindy Turner and Rob Owensby who put up all the signs and delivered quite a few larger items to assist in the sale. I also want to thank Elena Earl who, besides testing out toys, showed a great deal of patience in waiting on her mother interminably.

If you are on Facebook and a member of the Parkway site, you may have received an invitation to the sale. There were plenty of items purchased by church members themselves. What started out last year as a mission project appears to becoming an annual (or even semi-annual) event! That means you need to keep collecting those odds and ends that seem to collect around the house. We'll be having yet another rummage sale next year.

This is a great way to "advertise" our presence to the community so they know we're here, and to provide items at very affordable prices during these difficult economic times. Items that were not sold are being donated to charity.

Thanks again to all those unpackers, arrangers, pricers, packers, sign posters, and shoppers for helping to make this another rummage sale success.