



PARKSIDE STAFF & STUFF...

The Communiqué is a monthly newsletter of Parkside Church. Chris Bennett, Senior Pastor; **Josh Heimiller**, Associate Pastor; **Carol Wilcox**, Children's Pastor, **John Payne**, Pastor of Worship Arts/Youth Advisor; **Natasha Porter**, Director of Child Life Learning Center; **Fratima Romero**, Office Administrator; **Carol Alumbaugh**, Administrative Assistant; **Julie Barron**, Facility Coordinator; **Robert Contreras**, Facility Superintendent.

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Parkside Church Mission: Our mission is to help people to *connect* with God, *grow* with others and to *reach* the world.

Advent Highlights!

Saturday, Dec. 3—Mission CRAFT FAIR in the Fellowship Hall & Lobby from 9:00 am-3:00 pm.



Sunday, Dec. 4—2ND ADVENT SUNDAY, Communion & “CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY”

Friday, Dec. 9—Christmas Dinner Theatre @ 6:30 pm.

Saturday, Dec. 10—CHRISTMAS PIZZA THEATRE @ 5:00 pm.

Sunday, Dec. 11—3RD ADVENT SUNDAY—2:00 PM CHRISTMAS DESSERT THEATRE.



Sunday, Dec. 18—4TH ADVENT SUNDAY, Kidz Choir Presentation, Noon—Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday Dec. 21 & 28—No Big Wednesday Dinner or program

Saturday, Dec. 24—2:00pm & 5:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 25—CHRISTMAS DAY—ONE SERVICE @ 9:30 AM—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Friday, Dec. 30—Louis Knight & Ted Youman's wedding @ 2:00 PM.



Saturday, Dec. 31—New Years Eve! 5:00 PM Saturday Night Service.

Sunday, Jan. 1—New Years Day—Regular Sunday Services 8:30 & 10:45 AM, Sunday School @ 9:35 AM.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Advent Highlights
- A Christmas Prayer
- Note from Marcia...
- Shoe Box Gifts
- Mission Updates

A Christmas Prayer

Our Loving Father, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas season:

- * Give us the acquiescent faith of young Mary,
- * Grant us the courageous devotion of Joseph, and
- * Teach us to love and protect our children as they did the Christ Child.

As we read and hear the glad tidings of His birth once again:

- * May we worship with the unrestrained joy of the angelic chorus,
- * Feel the eager excitement of shepherds who heard their song, and
- * Bring the Blessed Son a gift more precious than Magi could offer – our very lives presented to Him as a living sacrifice.

As we gather with family, friends, and those whom we love most:

- * Let us celebrate the good fortune of the past year with thanksgiving and humility,
- * Help us to endure difficulty without anger, bitterness and blaming, and
- * Enable us to forgive others as you have forgiven us in Christ

For those disappointed over the absence of loved ones who will not be present this Christmas:

- * Comfort those who are grieving the death of someone they love,
- * Encourage those whose loved ones live far away or are stationed in distant places, and
- * Renew our hope for the end of conflict and war.

For those who are sick, hungry, homeless, or forgotten:

- * May the story of Christmas remind them that you have come to be with us in Christ,
- * May your generous love awaken our desire to help and bless those in need, and
- * Revive faith and hope in places where it has been scarce this year.

On Christmas Day:

- * Permit us to wake with the joy that comes of knowing we are your children,
- * Treasure the greatest Gift of all – the Lord Jesus Christ, and
- * Remember that Christmas is all Him – not us.

We pray this in the name of the Blessed One, Our Immanuel. Amen.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas,
Chris Bennett, *Pastor*



CANCER

- Dennis Owens:** (Greg Owen's brother) In hospice care with cancer.
Lloyd Poon: Home and having pain after his prostrate cancer surgery.
Patrick Smith: Getting discouraged over lingering issues caused by his surgery.
Andrea Oliver: (Submitted by Dona Cervantes) Waiting tests from a biopsy.
Sandy: (Jean Allsman's sister) Waiting biopsy results. Thanks for your prayers.
Dolly Krafve: Undergoing treatment for lymphoma.

MILITARY

- Pray for soldiers overseas and their families.
Larry Fife: (submitted by fiancée Brittainy Parker) Army stationed in Afghanistan. Pray for protection & wisdom.
Dustin Peterson: (Elsie Sutherland's nephew) Recently sent to Afghanistan.
Ben McCabe: (Judy Loos' son) Deployed to Afghanistan for a year.
Micah Gann: (Patti Knost's son) Deployed to Korea for a year.

VARIOUS

- Elaine Bierlein:** Recovering from brain surgery to remove a tumor from behind her ear. Would appreciate encouraging cards.
Mel McDowell: Recovering at home from angioplasty.
Fran Rash: Recovering from knee surgery at Memorial Hospital Room #593A.
Betty Duffel: (The Duffel's sister-in-law) In Memorial Hospital following a bad fall.
Aeriel Parker: To be able to get through the last few weeks of the 1st semester.
Cathi: (the Straw's friend) Been looking for a job for 2 years.
Betty Malamma: Breathing problems.
Nancy McCabe: Safe delivery of baby and smooth transition for family.
Paul: (Robin Jaske's brother) Pray for his

health and salvation.

- Frances Hurtado:** On waiting list for child care for getting back into school.
Krista Fisher: Recovering from back surgery.
Dean Duffel: Difficult recovery from surgery.
Woody: (Erin Carter's boss) Recovering from back surgery.
Darryl Baker: Pray for good prospects and real sales in remodeling company.
Rylin: (Sue Bosh's granddaughter) Pray for healing of a burn on her foot.
Orvel & Dorothy: (submitted by Mike Cervantes) He is a homeless WWII veteran needing prayer.
Justin Sanabia: (Submitted by Brian Corbett) 7-year-old facing surgery.
Ryan Decker: (the Fasulo's son) Pray that the Lord will give him wisdom with his work.
Rachelle Benthin: Prayer for the renewing of her mind.
Tony Manning: Continued emotional healing, blessing on job efforts and continued guidance from the Lord in wisdom, strength and comfort.
Marie Koch: Back is slowly healing. Pray for Karsie frail from last surgery and facing another. Pray for granddaughter and her as they travel to SD to specialists.
Nelson & Alecia Lewis: Both diagnosed with lupus.
Kate & Kent Kauffman: (submitted by Erin Carter) She has had serious medical problems and they need salvation.

Once a week, our church staff & church prayer group pray over each one of these requests and rejoices in answered prayers!

PRAISE

Together with our children
Louis Knight & Ted Youman
 Invite you to join us
 As we exchange wedding vows
 Friday, the thirtieth of December,
 Two thousand eleven
 At two o'clock in the afternoon
 Parkside Church, 2515 Church Ave.
 Bakersfield, CA
 In lieu of gifts please make a donation
 In our name to
 St. Jude's Children's Hospital
 Or to the charity of your choice.
 Reception following at the church.
 RSVP Louis, 661-837-1641
 by Dec. 23rd.

Sara Adams: White blood cell count is recovering. Her mouth sores are starting to heal. Thanksgiving Day was a big mile marker
Pat Hall: Thank you for your prayers. My back is better and my father is with our Lord now.
Forest Lind: (submitted by the Traywicks) Tumors are shrinking.
Paul Maxwell: (Debbie Newlen's father) is improved, out of ICU. Thank you for your continuing prayers.
Sarah Sanders: completed her move; pray for peace in this new home!
Sam Heimiller: Surgery went well and he is back to normal. Pray that his sleep will get better.
Mark Benthin: Praise God for new job with PG&E.
Mary: (Carole Huth's friend) Walking with a walker and able to attend her church.
Neal & Lena Pavletich: Thanks for your prayers for our vacation travel safety. We had a great time!
Dennis Owens: (Greg's brother) Cancer spreading has stopped.

Caring & Sharing...

The Parkside Care Team Meeting

The Care Team will meet on Sunday, December 4 @ 6:00 pm at Barbara Bilyeu's home.



Sunday Greeter Reminder

December 4

First Service:
 Jay & Mary Sweat
 Mike & Margaret
 Mara
 Dona Baker
Second Service:
 Clint & Cindy
 Blackhawk
 Sondra McKnelly
 Erin Carter

December 11

First Service:
 Cliff & JoAnne
 Harmel
 Larry & Susan Landis
Second Service:
 Alison Johnson
 Amber Beaman
 Chuck & Nancy Long

December 18

First Service:
 Walt & Jean Allsman
 Fred & Betty Kittredge
 Patti Knost
Second Service:
 John & Denise
 England
 Tod & Marilyn
 Weringer
 Sydney Harter

December 25

First Service:
 Greg & Andrea Owens
 Fred & Betty Kittredge
 Pat Ward
Second Service:
 Michael Kittredge
 Alison Johnson
 Larry Payne

Christmas Eve

This year we will once again have two worship services on Christmas Eve. We hope you will join us for a special time of celebration and reflection on the birth of Christ. Nursery care for children up to 3 years old will be provided for both services.

EARLY Service at 2 p.m.

Is an earlier service more convenient for you? Are you looking for a service that will engage your children? If so, join us for the early service! This service will include many of the same elements as our traditional service: great Christmas songs, readings, communion, and a candle lighting ceremony. We will also provide an activity packet for your children.



TRADITIONAL Service at 5 p.m.

This service focuses on the rich tradition of Christmas. Our traditional service consists of hymns, readings, communion, and a candle lighting ceremony. This is a great time to come and contemplate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Day: Combined Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. What a fitting day to celebrate the birth of our Savior! Join us for Christmas day worship on Sunday, December 25 at 9:30 a.m. To give you plenty of time with your family and friends we have cancelled Sunday school and grow groups on Christmas day.

Growing With Others in Groups: New Groups for a New Year Coming Soon!

The "Year of Grow" is well underway at Parkside Church. A great way to make this your personal "Year of Grow" is to join a Grow Group.

A Grow Group is a group of people who meet weekly to study the Bible and apply it to life. Grow Groups are also a great place to meet new people and develop friendships. These groups will challenge you to Connect with God, Grow with Others, and Reach the World for Christ.

We will have plenty of group options for you in the New Year. More information will be coming soon!

Contact Info for Carol Wilcox

By phone call the church office—661- 871-0840
By email—carolwilcox@connectgrowreach.org

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX SUCCESS

Parkside Church folk are so generous! It is no surprise we surpasses our goal of 200 boxes! What fun to engage in this intergenerational event on Sunday and pack 344 boxes. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matt 19:14 (NIV). Thank you, Parkside Church for reaching the world with the generous and simple act of a shoebox full of gifts and the Good News of Jesus Christ. God bless each of you!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR SING SUNDAY, DEC 18

The children Pre K – 5th grade are practicing for Sunday Dec 18, when they will help lead in worship. Children 2 yrs – 5th grade will sing during the 10:45 AM worship celebration. Children 1st – 5th grade will gather in Room 6 @ 10:30 to warm up and children 3 yrs – K will meet in Room #14. What do they wear? A bit dressier clothing is appropriate. Shirts, pants, dresses or skirts/blouses. If the boys want to wear a tie, great. Really, whatever they are comfortable in works! Contact Carol Wilcox if you have questions.

CHILDREN'S CALENDAR DEC 2011 – JAN 2012

Dec 7, 14 -6:15 – 7:30 PM Big Wave Wednesday

Dec 18, Sunday,10:45 AM – Children sing

Dec 24 - 2:00pm and 5:00 PM – Christmas Eve Services (nursery available through 3 yrs)

Dec 25 Christmas Day –Worship @ 9:30 AM No Sunday School (nursery available through 3 yrs)

Dec 21, 28– No Big Wave Wednesday – Christmas Break

Jan 1, 2012 Worship @ 8: 30 AM & 10:45 AM/ Regular Sunday School

Jan 4, 2012 – 6:15 – 7:30 PM Happy New Year Welcome Back to Big Wave Wednesday. Make a New Year's Resolution to attend Sunday School & Big Wave Wednesday every week!

Weekly Saturday Night Worship **Check out Parkside's Saturday Night Worship @ 5 PM where nursery care is available and Children's Ministry for 4 yrs – 5th grade is a happen' place to be!



(Continued from Page 8) Her parents died when she was young and she was sent to a refugee camp. She now lives close to the Candlelight Center where she shares her talent to do handicrafts, using her foot and left hand to make beads and cuts paper for making cards. This is dubbed a "quiet ministry" since both the culture and the government frown on such efforts, but Lea is enabled to help "the least of these" with your mission dollars.

God, absolutely, chose the right gift when He sent Jesus to be present in our world as a testimony of His grace and love. You, absolutely, chose the right gift when you gave to the World Mission Offering.

Gloria Marshall, Mission Board

We extend our sympathy to Leona Smith in the passing of her son Larry Long. May the Lord strengthen and comfort you during this time of sorrow and grief.

Staff Love Gift

The Trustee Board invites you to express your love and appreciation to our Pastors and Parkside Staff for their ministry in our lives through the year. Just mark your gift "Staff Love Gift." Thank You.



RETIRED MINISTER & MISSIONARY OFFERING

On Sunday, December 4, we will be receiving a special offering for the benefit of retired ministers and missionaries who have served American Baptist Churches. "Remember with Love— Give with Gratitude" is the title of this year's offering. It provides funding for "Thank You" checks that are distributed as an expression of appreciation to those men and women who have served so faithfully and well. Please consider prayerfully how you can show your appreciation. Mark you checks "RMMO."



December Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Joan Ingrum | 12 Joyce Mitchell | 18 Lloyd & Deonne Poon | 25 Diane Karch |
| 5 Ron Dill | 12 BreeAnn Johnson | 19 Carling Bennett | 26 Jerri Ashbeck |
| 7 Fred Chynoweth | 12 Caleb Hernandez | 19 Tanno | 26 Beth Samarripas |
| Brianna Hollingsworth | 13 Claudia Bautista | 19 Donna Beal | 27 Mildred Bunton |
| 9 Craig Barron | 14 Chloe Barron | 19 Jasmine Bonnet | 28 Rachel Wigent |
| 10 Fred Kittredge | 15 Dillon Wanner | 20 Stephen Rous | 29 Kelly Kobdish |
| DJ Balch | 16 Jacob Barron | 20 Norman Lewis | 29 Andrew Powell |
| 11 Grace Larma | 16 Nolan Porter | 21 Carl Reyes | 31 Mary Straw |
| Reagan Cervantes | 17 Annabelle Conklin | 21 Kaitlin Smith | 31 Zane Gabriel |
| | 18 Dave Ingrum | | 31 Gracie Sands |



FOCUS ON MISSIONS...

Choosing the Right Gift...

Does the term “Black Friday” fill you with fear and trembling or make you tremble with delight? Do you think a little “retail therapy” is just the trick for brightening your day? Are you a Christmas shopper who has all of your children’s and family gifts chosen, purchased and wrapped before Thanksgiving? Or, do you wait until Christmas Eve to start the process?

Why do I ask? All of the after Thanksgiving push by retail stores to get you to start shopping, shopping, shopping and spending your gift dollar at their store, should be calmer by the time you read this December column, but we all have to deal with the giving and getting aspect of this time of year, when we actually would like to just bask in the real reason for the season.

You Parkside folks really need kudos and congratulations instead of a quiz about your spending habits since you did some very early spending (giving) by responding so graciously and generously to the World Mission Offering taken in October. Altogether, the total given was **\$11,594.26**. So, take your right hand, stretch it over your head, and pat yourselves on the back. Feels good doesn’t it?

The other side of the story is....”What happens to the offering? Who gets the gifts? Who is happier and blessed because you gave sacrificially?” Consider these gifts that are being unwrapped and put to use:

HAITI: The first 5 classrooms are opening for the Grand Goave School Project. This gives students the first chance to go back to their educational processes since the devastating earthquake in January 2010. 6 more classrooms are under construction and all are being constructed to withstand high winds and earthquakes. Volunteers from

several mission organizations have worked with International Ministries to make this school a reality.

THAILAND: Human trafficking is being confronted by Jeff and Annie Dieselberg. As a pastor in Bangkok, Jeff encourages women to be liberated through Christ’s power from their past bondage, through a Biblical curriculum and sharing/support groups. Annie has founded NightLight, Intl. whose vision is to enable women and children to escape sexual exploitation and empower them to live and work in community. They focus on prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of these trafficked women. They recently helped 17 women from Uzbekistan and Uganda to escape and return home safely. They also partner with the churches of Thailand to prevent the flow of women and girls into the sex industry through awareness and intervention programs. Your mission gifts help support this work.

KWAI RIVER CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL: Because disabled children are often kept at home to avoid community shame, they do not receive care or encouragement. Lea Lindero, a missionary nurse from the hospital on the Burma border visits disabled children and adults in their homes doing physiotherapy and offering general support and advice.

She has also created a vocational training center named the Candlelight building where people can come for fellowship and training. Naw Kwae, now 22, was born in the jungle of Burma with physical disabilities in both her upper and lower extremities. (Continued on Page 9)

FROM OUR CHURCH MODERATOR

Dear Church Family:

Over the span of three years, the Executive Board has prayerfully and faithfully addressed the need to update portions of both the Church Constitution and the Procedural Manual to better reflect our identity as Parkside Church as well as to modernize language and better reflect the mechanics of our church government as it functions now at the beginning of the 2010 decade. You can pick up a copy of each of these documents from the church lobby in a strike-out version.

When you look over these, please keep in mind that this has been a synergistic effort by those you have trusted in leadership roles here at Parkside. We have considered each Article in the documents, carefully editing and amending, determined to maintain the integrity of the documents, but also carrying out the goal of simplifying language and structure. Once edited, each Article was accepted by the Executive Board with a unanimous vote.

The changes that are most significant include:

- Moving the start of the fiscal year from January 1st to July 1st beginning 2012.
- Inserting the Parkside Church Commitment to replace the UBC Covenant
- Eliminating Christian Education Board and Small Group Committee
- Replacing Music Committee with Worship and Performing Arts Ministry

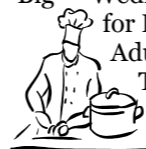
We look forward to meeting with you to discuss the acceptance of this revision **Sunday, December 4 @ 12:15 PM** for an informational meeting to answer any questions you may have. **Sunday, December 18 following 2nd Service** will be the Annual Congregational Meeting to approve the Proposed Officers and Budget for 2012, as well as these changes to the documents.

Sincerely,
Marcia Russell, Church Moderator

BIG WEDNESDAY...

Big Wednesday New Menus for December.

Adults—\$6.50; Children 10 yrs & under—\$2.50; Toddlers 3 yrs & under—Free. Reservations due by Tuesday Noon.



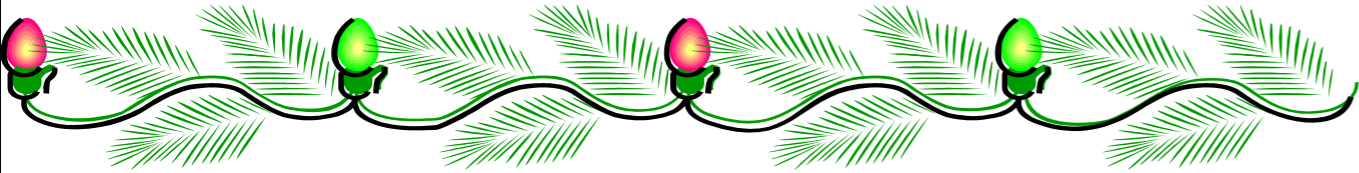
<u>Dec. 7</u>	<u>Dec. 14</u>	<u>Dec. 21</u>	<u>Dec. 28</u>
Chicken Fettuccini	Beef Tacos	No Big Wednesday	No Big Wednesday
Tomato Cream	Taco Salad		
Sauce	Pot Beans/Rice		
Vegetables	Flour Tortillas		
Rolls	Chips & Salsa		

Sunday Schedule

8:30 am-Classic Worship
 9:35 am-Sunday School
 10:45 am-Contemporary Worship
 6:30 pm-Prayer at Johnson's, 2813 Rice St.

December 2011

Deacon of the Month
Greg Owens
363-1238

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30am—Prayer Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall 6pm—Virtuous Women	2 Office Closed 3pm—Craft Fair set up	3 9:00 am Mission Craft Fair 3:00pm “Coffee on the Hill” 5:00 2nd Advent Saturday Service
4 2nd Advent Sunday Communion 1-4pm CDT 5pm—Church Info meeting 6pm—Care Team meets home	5	6 9:30am—Friends Bible Study	7 Big Wednesday Chicken Fettuccini 6:15 pm-1st Service WT rehearsal 7:00 pm-2nd Service WT rehearsal 7:45pm—Choir	8 6pm—Virtuous Women	9 Office Closed 6:30pm-Christmas Dinner Theater	10 3:00pm “Coffee on the Hill” 5:00pm Christmas Dinner Theater
11 3rd Advent Sunday 2:00 PM-Christmas Dessert Matinee	12	13 9:30am—Friends Bible Study 1:00pm—Helen Circle at Deanie Hogan's home	14 Big Wednesday Beef Tacos 6:15 pm-1st Service WT rehearsal 7:00 pm-2nd Service WT rehearsal 7:45pm—Choir	15 6pm—Virtuous Women	16 Office Closed	17 3:00pm “Coffee on the Hill” 5:00 4th Advent Saturday Service
18 4th Advent Sunday 10:45am—Kids Sing Noon—Annual Congregational Meeting	19	20 9:30am—Friends Bible Study 6:30pm-Boards Meet	21 No Big Wednesday	22 No Virtuous Women	23 Office Closed	24 2:00pm—Christmas Eve Service 3:00pm “Coffee on the Hill” 5:00 —Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas Day 9:30 One Service Only No Sunday School	26	27 No Executive Board Meeting	28 No Big Wednesday	29 No Virtuous Women Wedding Set up	30 Office Closed 2:00pm Louise Knight & Ted Youman Wedding	31 New Year's Eve 3:00pm “Coffee on the Hill” 5:00 Saturday Service