



Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church

7406 Ward Parkway • Kansas City, Missouri 64114

Ward Press

May 2011



Remember - you are a child of God
Refresh - grow in mind and spirit
Renew - with God's hand in your life

Cultivating God's Garden

According to the Bible, the first human beings lived in a garden. In that garden, God provided food, beauty and activity for people. In John's gospel, Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener" (*John 15:1*). Perhaps I am stretching things a bit, but it seems to me that there is something about gardens that are close to the heart of God. In fact, I think that our life together in the church has a lot in common with a garden.

When we moved in to our house in Overland Park four years ago, it was winter. We looked around our yard and we were grateful for the sturdy blue spruce that anchors the southeast corner of the house and the maples and birch trees that are well established in the yard. Beyond these trees and some foundation bushes, we did not know much of what we had in the gardens that ring the perimeter of the house.

When spring came, a few lonely tulips and some flowering bushes declared spring's arrival, but vast spaces in the garden were bare. We went to work right away to populate the garden. Each year, we plant, fertilize, move plants to different places to help them thrive and divide plants that are too crowded to bloom. Last year, we had so many plants that we started giving away the extras. Four years out, the gardens are getting there.

Our garden reminds me of our life together as a church. Like a garden, the church is always a work in progress. To thrive, we must invest time, energy, patience and some good old fashioned trial and error. In the church, we love our foundation plantings—those of you who have a history of faith and service are the strong foundation we build upon. We tend our garden carefully as we discern together, under the leadership of our session, what should be added and when those additions will take place. We fertilize all things regularly with worship, prayer, study, service and fellowship. We identify the weeds and keep them from choking the life out of things that should grow. We share our bounty with our neighbors, understanding that all good gifts come from God for the benefit of our world.

Above all, we acknowledge that God is always at work among us as the master gardener. There may be surprises that seem perplexing at the time, but ultimately lead to our good. Other times, we will see such beauty and blessing that we gasp and say, "Only God could do that!" I am excited about sharing in the cultivation of God's garden at Ward Parkway. I anticipate that God will do good things in our midst as we seek to follow God's lead in our world. It is my prayer that next spring we will delight in the new life that is springing up in our garden!

In Christ's love,
Connie Happell

Rhythm of Grace

Feed Your Soul

Contact Craig Babb for more information:
Rhythmofgrace@aol.com or 913.221.7223

Morning Prayer

M-F, 6:30 am in the Prayer Chapel (Rm. 2)

Evening Prayer (self-directed)

M-F 5 pm-6:30 pm in the Prayer Chapel
(Rm. 2)

Sabbath at Sundown

A group experience reflecting on God's
presence in the past and coming weeks.
Sunday,

6 pm-7:30 pm in the Prayer Chapel (Rm. 2)

An Intimate Evening with Jesus

A group and individualized experience of
meditation on Christ 2nd Fridays,
7 pm - 9 pm.

Sunday Morning Preparatory Prayer

Join others in prayer in the Prayer Chapel
(Room 2). Prayer begins every Sunday
morning at 8:15 am. Feel free to join us if
you arrive later but have a few moments
for prayer.

Women of the Church Notes

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study 9:30am in the
parlor.

Women's Circle will meet 2nd Thursday of
each month. The May meeting will be at
church in the parlor at 10:00 am.

Nightwatch will be held on the first
Thursday of each month: **May 5** at 7pm.
Everyone is most welcome to join us
for this evening of bible study, fellowship
and prayer. Diana Justus will begin the
meeting with Jewish prayer, and Lynne
Crossette will lead a short DVD study on
Fruits of the Spirit.

Christian Education

Adult Education - led by Mike Montgomery,
Room 2

Children's Education - led by Rosemary
McDaneld during services in the Junior
Church room.

Nursery - Nursery caregivers are Jessica
Acord and Amelia Wiederaenders.
*Child care is available at 9:30am for anyone
who would like to attend an Adult Educa-
tion class at this time.*



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We welcome everyone to join us for Pastor
Connie's ordination and installation service
at 3:00pm on Sunday, May 22. The service
will be followed by a short reception.

Christian Education

ANNOUNCING A NEW ONLINE BIBLE STUDY:

A new **online bible study** will be offered in **April/May** of 2011 by the Christian Education Council of Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church.

This study will be "*Moses, the Reluctant Leader*".

This 9 week study will focus in large part on Exodus and Numbers in terms of Moses the follower of Yahweh and leader on His behalf, rather than as a history of the people of Israel. Our focus will be on what we can learn from Moses as a man of faith and as a reluctant leader of God's people.



Moses is awe-inspiring. From a distance he is a grand and epic figure. But close up, he can be studied as a somewhat reluctant leader trying desperately to learn to lead under God's direction.

NOTE: All currently enrolled online email participants will automatically be enrolled in this study.

If you wish to be added or removed from the study distribution list, please notify Mike Montgomery via email.

Thanks to ALL;
The Christian Education Council
(Ephesians 1:18-20)

Why I Love my Online Self Study Group

Ward Parkway recently started an online small group self study, and it's been an incredible experience. In a very short time it has become one of my favorite hours of the week. Thanks to the internet, small groups are no longer limited by geography.

Why I Love the online self study group:

1. *I get to do group study with church members, friends, family and neighbors.*
2. *It's simple. Study at your own pace and time.*
3. *We don't have to coordinate a snack schedule.*
4. *You can do the lesson study in your pajamas, or other comfortable attire.*
5. *You can read at your own pace.*
6. *You can forward the weekly lesson to others who are interested (friends, neighbors, business associates, etc.).*

If you would like to join the online self study group; contact:

Mike Montgomery, Christian Education Council

This and That at WPPC

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

College students who would like to apply for financial assistance for the coming year will need to file an application by June 1, 2011.

An applicant must have been a member of Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church for at least a year, have an acceptable grade point average, and plan to attend an accredited college.

Applications will soon be available in the church office and a completed application must be returned to the church office by the deadline. A personal interview with members of the Scholarship Committee will be held with each applicant. The final decision will be made by the Session of Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church.

*The Scholarship Committee
Kathy Montgomery
Shirley Lytle*

SUMMER BREAK AND WARD PRESS

Please note that Ward Press will not be published during June and July. The next edition will be published August 1.

Please email your Ward Press contributions for the August edition to the office by Monday, July 25.





The Singing Circle will not be held in May. The next Singing Circle will be on Friday, June 10. Please contact Jim Kurtz 816-444-9013 if you have any songs you would like to have included.

*A singing circle is a group of people who gather to sing songs together informally, sort of like the old tradition of folks gathering around the piano to sing together. Some accompaniment will be available, but some of the singing will be "a capella." Jim Kurtz will bring his guitar and a keyboard is available, and other instruments are welcome - however, this is not a jam session.

Preschool

We had a wonderful turnout at our Parents' Night on April 28th and we appreciate the enthusiastic support from our families. We also hatched eight chicks during our embryology project which was so exciting for our preschoolers.

During the month of May, we will be hatching and releasing butterflies. We have a special friend, Barbara Field, who will be coming to visit each classroom to teach our children about the butterfly's life cycle.

We will be celebrating "Thank the Custodian" Week beginning on May 9th to thank Scott Curry for all that he does for us. We will also have Chapel Services on May 10th & 11th and "Special Event" days in P.E. on May 17th & 18th. Our preschool year will close on May 20th.

We are now enrolling for our Summer Camp, which is being offered for 3 weeks in June and 1 week in July. Please contact the preschool office for more information, or visit our web site at

www.wardparkwaypreschool.com.

We want to extend a huge THANK YOU to the staff and congregation of Ward Parkway Church for their support during the past year. Our preschool teachers greatly appreciate all that the church has done to make each child's time here a positive, enriching experience.

Have a safe, happy summer!

~Kathy and Kim

**Ward Parkway
Presbyterian Church Staff**

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Preschool Co-Director
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913.209.9916 (h)

May 2011 Session Summary

Moderator Clay Cook called the meeting to order with prayer at 7:10pm and Lynne Crossette led a devotional on the prodigal son. A quorum was declared and the agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes:

The March 15 minutes and the March 8 minutes were accepted by consent without correction or addition. The minutes of the Congregational Meeting March 27 were also accepted by consent.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was received and reviewed as printed. As of the end of March we are \$3809 ahead.

Council Reports:

Operations: Steve Nelson reported that he has had some work done around the church. He would like a more formal way for people to come to him with problems in the building and grounds.

New Business:

Because of the tornadoes in Alabama, Connie will not be able to be ordained in Alabama. Instead she will ask the Committee on Ministry to ordain and install her on May 22. The service will be from 3pm-4pm with a short reception afterwards. Upon motion of Steve Guthrie and seconded by Steve Nelson, the session will approve Connie's request for a service of ordination and installation to take place at 3pm May 22 at Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church.

Upon motion of Lynne Crossette and seconded by Harriet Plowman, Amelia Wiederaenders will be allowed to put a flyer on the bulletin board.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:15 pm.

The Outreach Committee



is teaming with Habitat for Humanity for two new projects! The first project is a work day at the Re-Store in Waldo on **May 14th from 9am - noon.**

The second project is a Collection Drive for building materials at WPPC in the south lot on **June 11th from 9am-2pm.**

HFH will bring a truck where the community can drop off donations of new and used building materials such as appliances, furniture, light fixtures, doors and windows.

Please sign the volunteer list on the bulletin board if you would like to help. Contact Ashlea Wirken at 816-516-7939 or ashleawirken@aol.com for more information about these projects.

Ward Parkway Leadership

Elders

Worship:

Steve Guthrie (11)

Christian Education:

Lynne Crossette (12)

Discipleship and Spiritual Nurture:

TBA

Fellowship:

Harriet Plowman (11)

Nancy Lusk (12)

Mission and Stewardship:

Jim Durig (11)

Outreach:

Ashlea Wirken (12)

Personnel:

Jim Durig (11)

At Large:

David Anderson (11)

Diana Justus (13)

Operations:

Steve Nelson (12)

Clerk of Session:

Karen Wiederaenders

Presbytery Commissioner & Communicator:

Dorothy Clarke

Treasurer:

Mike Lochmann

Deacons

Shirley Lytle (11)

Barbara Rohlring (11)

Ryan Merrigan (12)

Jane Coleman (13)

Bob Rohlring (13)

Rosemary McDanel (13)

Trustees

Eloise Swalwell (11)

Bill Iler (12)

James Lusk (13)

Mike Lochmann,

Fund Manager (ex-officio)

Bob Skillman,

Scholarship (ex-officio)

May Birthdays

<i>May 1</i>	<i>Nicolas Wirken</i>
<i>May 3</i>	<i>Joe Wilkinson</i>
<i>May 5</i>	<i>Sarah Guthrie</i>
<i>May 10</i>	<i>Sam Dodge</i>
<i>May 11</i>	<i>Ken Bartlett</i>
<i>May 13</i>	<i>Eloise Swalwell</i> <i>Mardy Cottrell</i>
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Molly Stewart</i>
<i>May 20</i>	<i>George Horst</i>
<i>May 21</i>	<i>Steven Guthrie</i>
<i>May 28</i>	<i>Connie Card</i>
<i>May 29</i>	<i>Juanita Leonard</i>



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