



Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church

7406 Ward Parkway • Kansas City, Missouri 64114

Ward Press October 2011



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

Dear Church Family,

Little children beg at bedtime, "Tell me a story!" Children love stories because stories capture their imaginations. They learn about how the world works from stories. Do you remember what you learned from your parents' or grandparents' stories? Rudyard Kipling said that "If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten." It is no accident that over half of the Bible is in story form - narratives of the lives of faith of men and women who went before us.

In the Bible, we read God's story—the greatest story ever told. As we read the Bible, we have the privilege and the responsibility of letting God speak to us through his story. In fact, often we can lay our stories beside the stories of scripture and hear God speaking to us. We sense when we, like Jonah, are trying to run from God's calling. Or when we are the paralyzed friend in the gospel story who is dropped down through a hole cut in the roof by faith-filled friends to see Jesus and experience healing. Or when we, like the Israelites, have made for ourselves an idol of gold, and we sense the Lord's displeasure. Just like Bible stories, our stories are full of ups and downs, triumphs and trials, exhilaration and disappointment. But one thing is for sure—there is no one else in this world who has your story. Your story is unique. Your story is God's gift to you.

Have you taken time recently to reflect on your story of faith? Do you remember the high points and the low points? Have you reflected on those to the extent that those life events give you faith and hope today? Have you ever taken the time to write down your stories? Often our stories are our greatest tool for sharing our faith with others. When we can place our own story alongside God's story, others learn about our faith in Christ in a non-threatening way.

In the *Help Wanted* column on the inside of this newsletter, I have asked that someone step forward to start writing a newsletter column that tells the stories of our members. The Ward Parkway Presbyterian community has a rich heritage of faith. I know that many of you have wonderful stories that would strengthen and encourage us in faith today. They might even make us laugh!

As I write, I am aware that we are embarking on a new chapter in the story of our church. You have a new pastor and a new choir director. Our fall activities are in full swing. We are getting ready to consider the challenges and opportunities that the Acts 16:5 Initiative will bring. We will soon elect new officers and consider our stewardship commitment for the coming year. Join me in trusting God to do great things among us and in our world in this new chapter of our story.

In Christ's love,

Connie

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)

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)

Sunday Morning Preparatory Prayer

Women of the Church Notes

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

Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, October 13 at Ruth Slagle's home.

Nightwatch will be held on the first Thursday of each month: October 6 at 7pm. Everyone is most welcome to join us for this evening of bible study, fellowship and prayer.

Chancel Choir Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

Men's Groups

Tuesdays Men's Study, Parlor 6:40 am
Fridays Men's Bible Study 6:30 am
First Watch, Fairway

Christian Education

Adult Education - at 9:30am Sunday morning Mike Montgomery leads a class in Room 2. For most of October the class will continue their journey through a study based on John Ortberg's book *When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box*. Join this lively group for study and prayer.

Children's Education - led by Lynne Crossette and Rosemary McDanel during services in the Junior Church room. *(See details on opposite page)* Child care is available at 9:30am for anyone who would like to attend an Adult Education class at this time.

Holy Grounds Gathering

Pastor Connie gathers with those who want to come for reflection on scripture and for prayer from 9:30 to 10:15 on Sunday mornings. Come by and spend some relaxed time with others in your Ward Parkway Presbyterian family and get your heart and mind prepared for worship. Coffee and treats are always served. Choir members are welcome to drop by for coffee before rehearsal!

P.S. If you would like an updated phone directory, copies are available on the stand in the narthex.



Fun and Games at WPPC

When the Game is Over, It all Goes Back in the Box!

Christian Education would like to invite all adults to read and study John Ortberg's book:

When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box.

*The book is offered to the entire congregation at the discounted price of \$10.

*Adult Education class has begun a 6 week, book and DVD course.

*Book/Leaders Guide will be available for other adult bible study groups.

"No matter how skillfully you play it, a time arrives when the game of life comes to an end. Now all the pieces have to go back in the box. No more game cards, no more tokens, no more promotions, no more RV's and vacation homes. Game Over."

With his trademark humor and gift for story telling John Ortberg shows what it takes to really win at the game of life. This study will help you live with eternal perspective, keeping your eyes on the true prize—the one that unlocks the gate to the kingdom of God. Please join us at the Christian Education Kick off to learn more about the fall class offerings for all ages! ~Lynne Crossette

Children's Sunday School

Choosing friends or people to be with is important. Jesus thought so. He was the Messiah; God's choice with His Seal of approval, to be here on earth as a person. Jesus went about as God's Son doing good, showing love, healing the sick and forgiving sins. Impressive! Crowds of people wanted to see him, talk or listen to him, touch him, or be healed by Him. He couldn't do any of these things to all people in the crowd. The Bible tells us some of the people he chose. Why did he choose that person? These choices of Jesus give us clues as to how Jesus worked on earth then and he works today.

We will be talking about Nathanael, Matthew, Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene, Thomas, a little boy, Peter and Paul. We will be playing games that help us learn about these people. We will read stories and plays, sing songs, and do crafts.

We hope that children from ages 4 to middle school will join us each Sunday during the worship service in the Junior church room.

We will divide the group into two groups of younger and older children with a teacher for each group. Hope to see you there each Sunday. Please contact Lynne Crossette for information.

Games Kids Play

We would love you to share a picture of your child along with a note about what games, sports, and activities they are involved in so we can make a bulletin board to share with our church family. Please submit pictures to Lynne Crossette.

Games and Granola

The Wengler Room next to Fellowship Hall is open and staffed from 9:30—10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings for kids to play and/or have a granola bar! This way parents can attend Choir rehearsal, Bible Study in room 2 or the Holy Grounds Gathering. Game On!

The Ward Parkway Homes Association will host their fall Dumpster Day at Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 15th from 8am to noon.

The WPHA will have a dumpster for Bulky Items and a dumpster for Yard Waste in the south lot and welcome church members to use the service regardless of residency.

Many thanks to the Ward Parkway Homes Association!

This and That at WPPC

WPPC's New Director of Vocal Music



We welcome Joe Hill as our Director of Vocal Music. Joe has been serving in churches for fifteen years in the Kansas City area, most recently at South Broadland Presbyterian. He has a love for leading others in worship through music. Joe has many musical talents, including voice, saxophone, conducting and composition. Joe has over ten years' teaching experience and currently serves as Director of Bands at Raytown High School.

Joe attended William Jewell College in Liberty, where he received a B.S. in Vocal and Instrumental Music Education. He is currently pursuing a Masters of Music with emphasis in Music Theory and Composition at the University of Central Missouri. Please take a moment to personally welcome Joe and his children, Katarina and Ben, to our fellowship.

~Connie

Paul Mesner Puppets at WPPC



The Outreach Committee is pleased to present the Paul Mesner theater company, and their production of *Anansi the Spider*, at Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church on **Friday, October 14th at 7pm**. This event is open to the community and free of charge!

Anansi the Spider is a lively telling of four classic folk tales from Africa and the Caribbean. All these humorous stories feature a trickster spider that sometimes gets tricked himself. In "How the Stories Came to the World", "Tiger Becomes a Riding Horse", "The Magic of Five" and "Dinner for Two." *Anansi the Spider* offers universal lessons of wit and cleverness. The show will include traditional African and Caribbean stories. adapted by Paul Mesner and live music by drummer Patrick Conway.

Remember to bring food for the



Harvesters Barrel in the narthex!

Items most needed are canned fruit, vegetables, meat, peanut butter, canned soup and cereal. Harvesters also receives donations of deodorant, shampoo and toilet paper.

Food is one of the most basic human needs, yet many don't know where their next meal is coming from. They are children, the elderly, the disabled, the unemployed and the working poor in our community — perhaps even in our own neighborhood.

Crosslines Volunteer Opportunities

The Outreach Committee is coordinating volunteer opportunities for Saturday, October 8th from 9 a.m. to noon at Crosslines.

We will be working at their thrift store and will leave from the church at 8:30 a.m. followed by lunch.

If you are interested in giving your time, please contact Jane Coleman at jc1volley@hotmail.com or 816.361.3030 asap. Please also bring any gently used clothing/household items to donate for their thrift store to the church.



The Singing Circle Is Moving!

The next Singing Circle will be on *Sunday, October 16* from 2-4 pm in the Parlor.

Please contact Jim Kurtz at 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.

Crop Walk, Sunday, October 9

Help this worthy cause!



The Crop Walk is sponsored by Church World Services to raise money to combat hunger at home and world-wide. Sponsor a walker or

walk yourself and make a difference in the lives of hungry people everywhere. Questions? Contact Shirley Lytle. 913.262.7515

Preschool

What a joy it was to welcome 88 preschoolers and their families when school started! We have been concentrating on getting to know each other and making new friends. All of the children are adjusting well to their new school routine.

We want to thank our preschool families and church members for their support of our "Back to School Night"/ Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser! We had a wonderful response to our evening and the fun and fellowship were terrific.

There are lots of activities planned for October, beginning with class pictures taken by Classy Kids Photography. The following week, the Jackson County Health Department will do interactive presentations on proper hand washing and germ prevention. We're also looking forward to the Paul Mesner Puppet show that the outreach committee will present on Friday, October 14th.

The Fire Department will visit on October 19th & 20th to demonstrate fire safety and to let the children see their trucks and equipment. On October 27th and 31st, our preschoolers will parade in costumes and have Halloween parties in their classrooms. The Halloween parades are always so much fun for the children and their families.

Enjoy the beauty and blessings of fall!

~Kathy and Kim

**Ward Parkway
Presbyterian Church Staff**

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August Session Notes

Pastor Connie Happell opened the meeting with prayer, and a devotional by Steve Nelson followed. The amended agenda was approved by consensus and the minutes of the previous meeting were revised and approved.

Pastor's Report

Connie asked session members to review their job descriptions and suggest any needed modifications. The Nominating Committee will use these as they consider a new class of elders. We need to begin budget planning for 2011. Connie asked session members to review budgets and consider needs for the coming year. Mike Lochmann will attend September session meeting to discuss financial situation of the church. Heartland Presbytery is meeting on Tuesday, September 13 at King City Presbyterian in King City, Missouri.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed and received by the session.

Council Reports

Fellowship: Harriet reviewed planned activities: Kickoff Luncheon September 11, Women's Night Out August 26, Commitment Sunday on 10/23, November Dinners for Eight and December Chili Dinner.

Outreach: Ashlea reported that the Ward Parkway Homes Association will have their picnic on our grounds October 9; Ward Parkway Presbyterian is signed up to help at Crosslines September 10; we will host the Paul Mesner Puppets October 14. We will host a Parents' Night Out on December 1. Plans for presenting the 13-week Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University in early 2012 were discussed.

Operations: Tree trimming is complete. Written bids for landscaping are being solicited.

Personnel: We have received 5 resumes for Choral Music Director and will begin interviews soon.

Old Business:

The Ward Parkway Preschool board members: Sean Stoy, Candis Lochmann, Ramona Nelson, Harriet Plowman, Kim Manford, Kathy Montgomery, and Connie Happell.

New Business:

Leigh Gillis addressed the session regarding the Acts 16:5 Initiative we have embarked on.

HELP WANTED

Paul Mesner Puppet Show: October 14th

2 Greeters for from 6:45 to 8pm.

2 Assistants to help with set up 5:30 to 8:30pm

If you can help, please contact Ashlea Wirken 816.526.7939

Fellowship Hosts—Provide food for fellowship hour after worship on Sunday morning. Includes preparing coffee and a cold drink and setting out mugs, cups and food. Hosts are responsible for clean up after fellowship time. Sign up in hallway outside church office.

Ushers—Hand out bulletins as people enter Sunday morning worship, count attendance and collect fellowship pad sheets. Sign up in hallway outside church office.

Greeters—Stand in the area outside the sanctuary from 10:15 to 10:30am to greet people as they come in to worship. Collect offering, sign up at the *Members Services Desk* in hallway outside church office.

Writer for a Newsletter Column—Pastor Connie would like to start a monthly column that would spotlight a member or family of our congregation each month. If you are interested in writing this column, please call or email Connie – pastor@wardparkway.org.

CALLED TO BE STEWARDS

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

A steward is someone who manages property or other affairs for someone else. The Bible tells us that we are stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us—our time, our gifts and abilities, our material goods and our money. We are also stewards of the precious gospel message. God has given us responsibility to manage God's gifts, taking care to honor God and our neighbors.

Beginning on October 23, I will begin preaching on being stewards of God's world, God's church and God's story. Stewardship is not just about money. Stewardship is about joyful, faithful living in response to what God has entrusted to us.

On October 30, we will have a brief meeting after church at which your session will share with you the highlights of 2011 with a look toward 2012. Our treasurer, Mike Lochmann, will share a financial overview of the church. On November 6, we will make a commitment to God and one another for how we will give and serve in the coming year. Please be attentive to God's voice as you pray and ponder how you might give and serve in 2012.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Connie

Ward Parkway Leadership

Elders

Worship:

Steve Guthrie (11)

Christian Education:

Lynne Crossette (12)

Fellowship:

Harriet Plowman (11)

Nancy Lusk (12)

Mission and Stewardship:

Jim Durig (11)

Outreach:

Ashlea Wirken (12)

Personnel:

Jim Durig (11)

At Large:

Diana Justus (13)

Operations:

Steve Nelson (13)

Clerk of Session: Karen

Wiederaenders

Presbytery Commissioner &

Communicator:

Dorothy Clarke

Treasurer:

Mike Lochmann

Deacons

Shirley Lytle (11)

Barbara Rohlfing (11)

Ryan Merrigan (12)

Jane Coleman (13)

Bob Rohlfing (13)

Rosemary McDaneld (13)

Trustees

Eloise Swalwell (11)

Bill Iler (12)

James Lusk (13)

Mike Lochmann,

Fund Manager (ex-officio)

Bob Skillman,

Scholarship (ex-officio)

Happy Birthday

October 3	Marlene Durig
October 3	Ramona Nelson
October 5	Margaret O'Brien
October 12	Nancy Lusk
October 15	Allan Dodge
October 15	Amelia Wiederaenders
October 18	Mike Lochmann
October 18	Grace Guthrie
October 23	Muriel Oldberg
October 28	Martha Lundhigh
October 29	Shirley Lytle



The Fellowship Committee would like to announce the following events:

On **Sunday, October 30**, we will have a luncheon after the review the 2011 budget. Lunch and salad from the session and dessert from the congregation. Watch this space for more details on the afternoon's entertainment.

We will bring back the *Dinner Eights* in **November**. This is a low key, friendly and relaxed evening together in members homes. We need *you* to volunteer as a host to make this event really fun!

In **December**, we will have a chili supper after church service and caroling that afternoon. Perfect your recipes now. Prizes for the best tasting, hottest and most original will be decided by our mystery chili evaluator. Questions? Please call *Harriett Plowman* at 816-753-4955 or *Nancy Lusk* at 913-648-2616.



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