



PARKWOOD ECHOES

Worship Committee

We want to thank everyone who took part in the Christmas Sabbath Celebration, as well as those who helped to prepare the wonderful breakfast. It is always a pleasure to see our little ones take part in our church programs, and it is a blessing to see that we have so much willing talent within our church.



Although it was a break from our usual service, we hope that you found a blessing for this special season and that you will continue to be blessed in the coming year. It is our prayer that each of us will continue to grow in Christ and that we will each use our time and talents to bless others and to welcome new members as we plan our outreach for the coming year.



From the Pastor

“The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

(John 6:63, NLT)

As the new year dawns, our hearts are quick to turn to new possibilities, goals, and new year’s resolutions. We long for a life well-lived, time well-spent, and a call faithfully fulfilled. And as we settle on strategies or new year’s resolutions, we must ask ourselves simple but significant questions: what is absolutely essential? What is vitally important?

In John 6, a multitude seek Jesus for what seems to be of basic necessity — bread. However, Jesus turns their pursuit from satisfying their physical hunger to satisfying their soul hunger, and this not through the bread that He can multiply in His hands but the living Bread that proceeds from His mouth: “And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

Do we know how absolutely essential the very Word of God is to life itself and the abundant life we all seek in 2015? It’s by the power of God’s Word that the very universe is upheld (Heb. 1:3), including your heart and mine. It’s this Word that testifies of Jesus (Jn. 5:39), and, by thus extending the knowledge of God to us, the Word leads us to life eternal (Jn. 17:3).

When we have the Word, we have life! But the opposite is true as well. When there is no prophetic revelation, we are a lost cause (Prov. 29:18). To experience a famine of the Word (Amos 8:11) is to literally be destroyed (Hos. 4:6). But praise be to God that there needn’t be a famine of the Word in our day!

As we plan and plot our goals for 2015, let us resolve to be immersed in the Word so we can live by the Word. If you don’t have a daily reading plan, make one. If you need ideas, check out these online resources: biblegateway.com/reading-plans/ or



PATHFINDER Updates

This month we have been preparing for the PBE which will be held on January 31st, here at Parkwood. Please come and support our youth. See if you can answer the questions.

We also had our Christmas party and our planning for our New Year's Eve Party. In addition to the PBE the New Year will find us preparing for The Valentine Dinner, the Bike-A-Thon and Pathfinder Fair. We hope you will plan to attend some of these activities and see what your future leaders are all about.

Fellowship Luncheon Committee

Please remember as you attend the fellowship luncheon held each week, that the scheduled groups are not responsible for providing all of the food for all of our visitors and regular members.

Each person attending should bring food or the necessary products for example; plates, bowls, napkins and utensils this would help to reduce our church expense budget. An entrée, salad or dessert would be greatly appreciated, some of the following suggestions would help as well bread, juice, vegetable or fruits.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration in continuing to help us enjoy our fellowship luncheon meals each week.



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bible.com/reading-plans. I urge you to join me in making specific plans and strategies to daily read and meditate upon the wonderful words of life found in Scripture. And may we be able to testify that Jesus' words are indeed "spirit and life" (John 6:63).

OshKosh Bound (The continuing story) (part 5)

Well, Monday night turned out to be a long night of wind and rain. We decided that at 7:30 am we would call the travel agency to see if other arrangements could be made for our river float as no refunds are available. But at 7:00 clock we received a call from them asking if we would like to change our date. We knew we were scheduled to teach our honor on Wednesday morning and the Pacific Union Parade would be in the afternoon and Friday morning was our Community service, so we scheduled Thursday for our river float.

The weather dried out and warmed up. Mike, his wife, Karen, and his mom went to the store for some much needed supplies. Eleanor got a ride to the Laundry mat to dry out all her clothes and sleeping bag which had gotten thoroughly soaked as she had wanted to sleep in a tent.

Pathfinders traded pins, scoped out honors and sights and went to the first evening meeting Tuesday night. Everyone was well impressed and couldn't wait for the next evening's meetings. Each day consisted of like activities, meeting new people from around the world and trading pins. Eleanor taught her honor, letter-boxing, with a good turnout. Mrs. Herman transported people in her golf cart, and the staff and pathfinders prepared and devoured three good meals each day.

Thursday morning we were up early and off to the river to collect our inner tubes for a fun day on the river. Some of us floated separately and some of us tied ourselves together so that we might be of assistance to the others. Some of us stayed on our inner tubes and some of us got dumped and needed help to reclaim our position on the inner tubes. All in all it was a fun day, but we returned to late to go to the honor we were signed up for, but we found other things to occupy our time and of course pin trading was a high priority for many of the pathfinders. When you have a chance ask Lodi how she likes the zip line. Friday was another busy day. There was a mix-up in the bus scheduling for community service and we ended up taking a long bus ride to nowhere and back. Such was out community service. Sabbath morning everyone was up and into Class A Uniforms for Sabbath services.

We have really enjoyed the Pastor who has been speaking to us this week. Saturday evening was a great meeting, but we were warned that the rain was about 30 minutes away. So we all huddled in our ponchos and sure enough it came.

Parkwood Pathfinder's as well as many other clubs are a hardy lot and we stayed through the rain and enjoyed the meeting and the fireworks display at the end. When the meeting was over we drank hot chocolate and broke down camp and loaded up as our plan was to get an early morning start for our trip home. Check here next month for the conclusion of our Oshkosh experience.



Upcoming Events

Happy New Year

- All about Peanuts - January 5th-
George Washington Carver
- Preschool will be **CLOSED** on:
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19th
- Parent & Teacher Conference
week - January 20th — 23rd
- Hand Writing Da - January 29th
- Baseball Day (Jackie Robinson) -
January 29th
- “Happy Birthday”
Jackie Robinson-January 30th

Welcome

Paige - January 2015



HAPPY BIRTHDAY'S

Clarissa January 1st
Kaitlynn January 4th
Javier January 9th
Emma January 25th
Leilani January 28th

Parkwood Christian Preschool (Focus on Writing)

*And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.”
Revelations 21:5*

“Happy New Year” everyone! The old things of the past year have passed away but God has promised to give us new blessings every morning.

The preschoolers are getting ready to experience new and exciting learning concepts and activities in preparation for first grade, Kindergarten and the next level of development.

The Beginners, 2's & 3's will enhance their skills in memory development through listening to stories, songs and finger plays. They will learn the alphabet, practice counting sort and match manipulative and many more readiness activities.

The Pre-K 1's will do short stories recite zoo phonics, days of the week, months of the year, memory verses, Bible stories and much more.

The above average Pre-KII's are learning fractions using graham crackers, reading and memorizing Bible stories and memory verses, learning problem solving and other special activities.

Yours in Service for Christ

Ms. Margie, Ms. Irene, Ms. Mary, Ms. Salyna and Ms. Eva

Have a Happy and Blessed New Year



Community Service

by Mary Ann Green

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving we delivered 15 food baskets to whose names were turned in to us. Each recipient who received a basket was very appreciative for the food they received

Thanks to each Church Member who donated food or money to purchase the necessary items to make the baskets complete.

We will continue to have a quilting class the first and third Monday of each month. We meet at 6:00pm., or whenever you can get there. You can



learn how to decide on a pattern, cut out the material, sew the pieced together and tie the quilt. You can also come and observe the process.

Feel free to join us on Wednesday mornings at 9:00am or on Monday evenings.

Evangelism & Outreach Calendar

- Jan. 4 - Feb. 15 – Eight Weeks to Wellness
- Jan. 7-16 – Ten Days of Prayer
- Jan. 10 & 17 – Visitation outreach
- Jan. 24 - Feb. 19 – GLOW-a-thon (more info coming!)
- Jan. 31 – Calvin Taylor Concert
- Feb. 20-Mar. 7 – Discover Prophecy Seminar

Celebration of Lights Parade

by Debbie Miranda

Celebration of Lights Parade - On December 6, Parkwood was well-represented in the Modesto Christmas Parade. By the grace of God, it was a mild evening for the first weekend in December. Thousands of people gathered downtown to watch the displays and hear sounds of the season. The theme of the parade this year was "Rockin' Holidays." Our entry was entitled, "Rocking Baby Jesus." Ken and Samantha Dalton transformed a truck and flatbed trailer into a lighted float for the Praise Warriors Children's/Youth Choir. The kids were in costume as wisemen, shepherds, angels, and even animals that might have been in the stable. And of course, we had Joseph (Matt), Mary (Genna), Baby Jesus, and even a star (Rohan).

That was just the beginning, though. The real reason for our parade participation was to have an opportunity to pass out GLOW. At the Fourth of July Parade, we grossly underestimated the amount of GLOW we would need, merely raiding the church's supply in the lobby. This time, Health Ministries and the choir ordered 3000 GLOW to pass out. A plethora of volunteers put two stickers on the back of the GLOW - one with Parkwood's information, and one advertising the Eight Weeks of Wellness. They also stuffed the 1000 health themed GLOW with flyers about the upcoming Eight Weeks of Wellness program. Special thanks to everyone who helped in this way.

On Saturday night, the Pathfinders, the Praise Warriors choir, as well as choir family members and church members converged at the corner of 16th St. and H. St. Brooke led the GLOW charge, and the team passed out all the GLOW probably in the first half to two-thirds of the parade. Next time, we'll have to order more! The choir sang their hearts out on the float or just looked cute. The rest of us sang along here and there too. We all had a great time, and the songs and GLOW were well-received!

It was wonderful to see several ministries and members come together to accomplish this outreach project. We can definitely do much more when we work together! Plus, it is way more fun! Way to go team!

Recipe: White Bean/Avocado Club

Ingredients

- 2 15-ounce cans white beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 12 slices multigrain bread
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 cucumber, preferably hothouse (seedless), thinly sliced (peeled, if desired)
- 1 4- to 5-ounce container sprouts (such as alfalfa, radish, broccoli, or a combination)
- 2 avocados, pitted and thinly sliced

Directions

1. In a medium bowl, combine the beans, oil, salt, and pepper. Roughly mash the mixture with the back of a fork.
2. Place 8 of the bread slices on a work surface. Divide the mashed beans among them. Top with the onion, cucumber, sprouts, and avocado.
3. Stack the open-faced sandwiches on top of one another, avocado-side up, to make 4 double-decker sandwiches. Top with the remaining 4 slices of bread.
4. Slice each sandwich in half, if desired, and serve.