



### GIFTS

Pastor Lorne

One of my challenges this time of year is providing family members with ideas for what to get me for Christmas. This week my son texted me, *"Dad, do you have anything specific you want for Christmas?"* I mentioned his text to Heather and she reminded me that she asked first. Oh yeah. I don't need one idea; I need to come up with several ideas.

Last year I received a fit bit, which was a good balance to the many gifts of chocolate. So, what do I want this year? Well, I saw an ad for a Lexus with a big bow wrapped around it. Okay, I know that's not happening. I am to be a person of faith, but I don't have that much faith. Although Heather, if you are reading this . . .

I admit I am a hard person to shop for. It makes me think of why we give gifts. Not that I'm complaining. We give gifts because God first gave to us. Consider three passages on giving.

First, God gave to us. 2 Corinthians 9:15, ***"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"*** God gave us Jesus, not only as a baby, but as the Son who died on the cross. God gave

the gift of salvation to those who believe in Jesus. Receive his gift.

Second, wise men gave gifts to Jesus. Matthew 2:11, ***"they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."*** They worshipped by giving.

Third, we have the opportunity to be givers. In Acts 20:35, the Lord Jesus himself said: ***"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*** There are many ways we may give to God, as well as have much joy in giving to others. We worship through giving. We love one another through giving.

Christmas is a great reminder that God gave us the greatest gift. I hope you find much joy and blessing in giving and receiving this season.

Merry Christmas,

### GOD'S GRACE AT WORK IN LIFE AND MUSIC: DEREK ENNS

Duncan Ledsham

In early December 2005, Derrick was



having a coffee at a local restaurant when he slipped into a coma. He was rushed to ICU and declared legally dead.

He had accidentally overdosed on the pain medication he was taking to deal with the severity of his MS symptoms. God interceded! God had plans for Derek. He came back to life to the absolute surprise of his doctor and the

nurses who kept saying **“We can’t believe you are alive!”**

Derek accepted Christ at the age of 19. The Christian kindness and example of his coworkers at the time were crucial to his decision. **“I was making some bad life choices ....but they were very accepting and encouraging”.**

He had a thriving career as a machinist and welder and ended up making thermo-electric generators for the military. After twenty-two years in this high stress job he was diagnosed with MS and advised to stop work. In a blink his life had changed. No job, uncertainty, big medical challenges and some excruciating pain was pulling him into depression. He took pain meds and ended up addicted. His enrolment in NA, a twelve-step program, was a big part of his road back.

Derek loved the guitar and decided to pursue music. He studied and took instruction for nine years. He was quite surprised when he was invited to play at the church and came for a practice session and an *“interview”*. He has a passion for blues style music but loves his time worshipping with the team on stage on Sunday mornings. **“It is God’s grace that has allowed me to live, move to Lethbridge, find a church and supportive people to worship with. I have learned so much. Praise and worship is an extension of His grace with others with a similar passion for God!”**

He finished our interview by saying: *“It’s not about what I can do...it’s about God’s grace and it’s amazing!”* Thanks Derek for doing this interview and your example and faithfulness using your gift for Christ at Park Meadows Baptist Church!

**“It’s not about what I can do...it’s about God’s grace and it’s amazing!”**  
*Derek Enns*

## MEET THE KELLAR FAMILY

Terry Bannerman

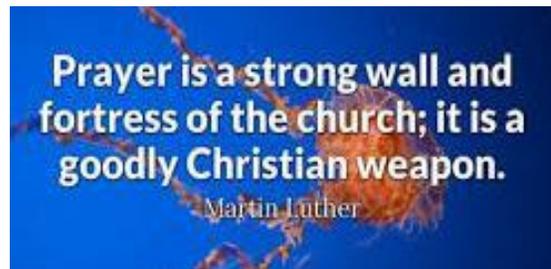


**Alex and Amber Kellar** came to us from Calgary only a year ago and are now part of our PMBC church family! You will see them each Sunday along with their children: **Curtis, Elias, Maya and Sophia.**

Amber and Alex presented their children to the Lord in the child dedication ceremony last month and faithfully bring them to church so they can all grow in love and faith in Jesus. The children are home schooled.

As I had time to talk with Amber she shared that the next months will be exciting as they will welcome a new baby at end of January. Amber attends the Wednesday morning ladies Bible study and is encouraged and blessed as she walks along side the other young mothers who attend.

I love that the Kellars have such joy in the Lord! Praise God for families.  
Psalm 139





## NEWCOMERS

Pastor Lorne

At Park Meadows we are glad to welcome new people to the family. We seek to do this in various ways. We encourage everyone to watch for guests and welcome them warmly. We offer new persons a welcome gift. We have periodic newcomer lunches.

These lunches are an opportunity for Heather and me to become acquainted with those new to our church, and for them to get to know us and other leaders. We always invite a board member and his or her family to participate. In our conversations, we get to know one another and to share a little about the church and ministries they may want to connect to.

**Evelyn Pealo, Betty Riemann** and **Glenn Sunderland** prepare the meal. We are grateful to them for this wonderful service.

On November 5 we hosted a newcomer lunch in the Upper Room. Thirteen newcomers attended along with **Ryan and Heidi Seifert** and their children. There were two families of four, a couple, and three singles. It was a good time of visiting over lunch. We hope they felt warmly welcomed and will become part of this church family.

As mentioned above, welcoming newcomers happens in various ways. We hope everyone will participate in loving newcomers into the church family.

## AN ORPHAN'S CHRISTMAS BY DEANNA STORFIE

Marge Williams

Oh, what a night at the 50+ Christmas pot-luck celebration and performance.

And, oh, what a true life story from the 1890's about the ministry of George

and Mary Muller as written and told, by Deanna Storfie.

Storfie, in the role of an Irish woman, was able to talk first hand about her experience with poverty, leading to the loss of her father, mother and brothers, and her life growing up in the Muller orphanage which brought her to faith in the Lord. It was a very powerful performance.

Deanna got her start in drama at aged 18 with Covenant Players out of Los Angeles then in 2006 with her own company "Acting Up!" out of Lethbridge. She performs in churches, Christian schools and to women at the Lethbridge Correctional Center. She has researched, written and acts in 10 true life stories of others in Christian history.

Her life verse is **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"**. Philippians 4:6

Her prayer request is for the opening of hearts to hear the message within her stories which should be God's love actively involved in the world through Christians.

The picture is of her with an apple in her hand... didn't she tell us she was partial to apples?



## YOUNG ADULTS

Pastor Patrick

The Young Adult's ministry here at Park Meadows is a place where connections are made and community is found! Since September we have been discussing the topics in conjunction with the Sunday morning topics. There is a depth of conversation and journeying together that is truly life giving. It is a place where a person can be themselves and accepted for who they

are. There is a significant amount of laughter and even some tears as we walk with one another through the ups and downs. One highlight this fall was our serving time at the Interfaith Foodbank where we sorted through their entire inventory of fresh produce to clear out anything that had gone bad. It was messy but fun! Another highlight was our 12+ hour movie marathon. Events in the near future for young adults include volunteering at the Soup Kitchen to prepare and serve a meal to the homeless and a progressive supper as part of our Christmas party.

We are also looking forward to one of the young adults being baptised soon. I really believe that Young Adults is a place where, through Jesus, we are a family of love, care, acceptance and growth

#### FALL CLOTHING DRIVE



**Natasha Schneider** and **Bernice Mayeske** folding clothing in preparation for the free clothing give away held November 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who folded and helped with this wonderful gift to the community.

#### 2018 DEACON BOARD

Marge Williams

Thank you to everyone who agreed to serve on the Board for the 2018/2019 term.

**Jacky Ketel** will be returning for her second term of 2 years. Returning after

a break are **Randy Ohlmann, Barry Bannerman, Al Fritz** and **Marion Price**.

Board members who still have one year left on their term are:

Moderator: **Jeremy Poettcker**

Treasurer: **Marge Williams**

Deacons: **Dallas Thomas, Ryan Seifert, Andy Reeves, Rodie Sheridan, Keith Miller, Kellie Wirzba,** and **Graeme Roset**.

Let's not forget to pray for the Board. And, please take the time to thank **Dave Rowland** who has served two terms on the Board and must now take a break.

#### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



**Glenda Neufeld** and **Connie Boulton** filling Christmas boxes with love, gifts and practical hygiene articles for shipping and distribution overseas. These boxes are delivered to children who may never have received a gift or heard that Jesus loves them. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

#### GLITZ AND GLAM...

...due to unforeseen circumstances has been postponed to February 9, 2018. You can either keep your ticket or get a refund from the church office. Watch the News and the Bulletin for more information.

**NOTICE  
INCOME TAX RECEIPTS**

The last day to donate to the church for a 2017 Income Tax Receipt is Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. Sorry no backdating cheques. Any offerings received after this date will be counted as being received in 2018.

**WE ARE PMBC NEWS**

We would love to hear from you:

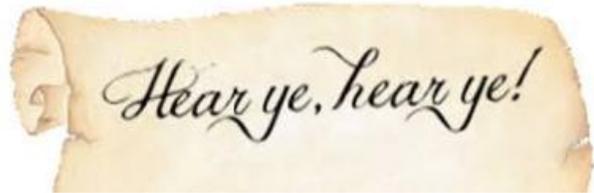
- Help us cover all church events. When you attend a church function take some pictures, do a little write up and send them in.
- Share your thoughts and comments regarding any of our articles. Although we love to hear positive reinforcement we would also like to hear what you would like to see in the news and, yes, your constructive criticisms as well.

Please send everything you have to [news@parkmeadows.ca](mailto:news@parkmeadows.ca). Thank you.

The “NEWS” is available for free by e-mail, at the Information Desk and on our website: [www.parkmeadowschurch.ca](http://www.parkmeadowschurch.ca)



To subscribe send your name and e-mail address to [news@parkmeadows.ca](mailto:news@parkmeadows.ca)



**DECEMBER**

- 4 – Regular Board Meeting
- 8 – Lethbridge Christian Men’s and Ladies Christmas Choir at St. Andrews Presbyterian 7:30
- 10 - Christmas Family Movie Night Showtime: 6:00 pm. Free
- 11 – Board Budget Meeting
- 12 – Young Adults Progressive Supper
- 17 – Christmas with the Kids – *The Cost of Christmas* 10:00 a.m.
- 24 – Regular Service 10:00 a.m.
- 24 - Christmas Eve Family Activities from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 24 - Candlelight service 5:00 p.m. (*Offering distributed between Streets Alive and Food Bank*)
- 25 – Christmas Day, no service
- 25 – Church office closed
- 31 – Last Sunday for 2017 Tithing/ Giving (*see notice this page*)

December Events Calendar and Birthdays/Anniversary Calendar is available at the Information Desk

