



Super Senior Scoop

Parkside Bible Church

Summer 2020

A Message from Pastor Joe Johnson

One of the first activities I attended after coming on as Associate Pastor was the first Super Seniors summer meeting of 2017. That first Wednesday of June, someone asked, “is he old enough to be here?” Technically, I wasn’t old enough (I’m still not old enough), but you all welcomed me with open arms. That experience set the tone for a wonderful three years at Parkside and Super Seniors remains one of my most treasured ministries.



Usually, around this time, we’re making preparations for our weekly gatherings; however, this year has turned out much differently than we all expected. We’d all have to get take out from Wendy’s if we met now! It’s amazing to think how differently the world works this summer than last. As the world changes and moves toward even more change, we can rejoice in the truth and consistency of the gospel.

Last summer, during the teaching time in our weekly gatherings, we walked through those who were friends with Jesus during his earthly ministry. As we put these lessons together, it became apparent that there was a theme: all of Jesus’ friends focused their ministries on

being witnesses. As they interacted with people, they pointed to Jesus. John the Baptist’s famous words sum it up: “He must become greater, I must become less.” (John 3:30)

In this season of life, where everything that once seemed bright is now dark, our calling becomes a little more clear: bear witness to the light of the world. We cannot guarantee what tomorrow will bring. In fact, the days seem even murkier than they did before. The only thing sure and certain is Jesus Christ. He is the one we can focus on pointing others toward. How do we do this? Paul points to three things that are of utmost importance, three things that have come to be called “theological virtues.” These are character traits of Christ that we can “put on” (Romans 13:14) and by the Spirit’s work we actually become these things (2 Corinthians 3:18.)

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul declares quite boldly that, after all, “these three remain: faith, hope, and love” (1 Corinthians 13:13.) These are the three things that we can work on cultivating during this time. As we pray, meditate on scripture, and guard our hearts with the gospel, we can become people rooted in our faith. We can become people who are hopeful, secure in Christ’s sovereign reign. We can become people who sacrificially love in the pattern of cross. These are the things that we can develop, being in quarantine. When we’re all able to return, perhaps we’ll have an even bigger group for Super Seniors because others have seen your witness and your want to share in its true source: our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Thanks!

Reopening

As a Super Senior, you likely received an e-mail recently that outlined the plan for reopening Parkside Bible Church. The Elder Board has developed guidelines/policies to promote safety as the congregation returns to regular church activities. They were outlined during the live-stream service on Sunday, May 17th - that can be reviewed on the church website (www.parksidebibleholland.org). These guidelines may change with conditions as we maneuver through the phases described in that document.

Please note that the guidelines are provided to assist members through this uncertain time of re-opening, however they are flexible and are subject to change. If you have questions or would like to have some clarification of the information, please contact either the Board Chairman, John Tooke, or one of the pastoral staff members. They are available to assist with your concerns or questions.

The Parkside staff is excited about the future ministry at Parkside. While there are likely many challenges ahead, with the Spirit's leading, there is confidence the ministry will move forward with greater vibrancy than before. As our mission statement claims, we will continue to "passionately pursue Jesus Christ within community" and anticipate great things at Parkside Bible Church.

With all this in play and all the uncertainty regarding the future, it is not possible (or wise) to try making any "hard" plans for the Super Seniors. So, the best we can offer at this time is "keep tuned."

Parkside History* - The 1970s

The 1970 decade was a time of searching for Berean Bible Church. For a number of years the question of how to plan for future building facilities was an ongoing issue. Several options had been considered: building an addition to the current church on Maple and 19th Street,



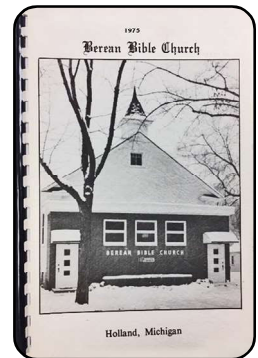
purchase an existing church building, or buy property at a new location and build a new church. Indeed, all of these had been pursued to one degree or another over the previous two decades. Architectural plans had been developed to construct an addition to the original church building, but was not followed up.

During the mid-1950s a serious bid was made to purchase the 14th Street Christian Reform Church and in early 1971 an investment plan was developed to buy the Church of Christ for \$25,000. However, both of these deals fell through. Moreover, the matter of purchasing property at another location was an ongoing topic debated over time. A number of sites around Holland were located and considered. One of these properties was actually purchased and later sold.



Arlan Mulford

Finally, by 1973 the decision to move had been made and plans were developed for a new church building. A Building Committee was formed to investigate the cost and design. The next year the committee received cost estimates for the sanctuary at \$130,000, education building at \$115,000 and pastor's study at \$33,000. Then, during the 1977 annual meeting, the congregation agreed to purchase several acres near the corner of James Street and 144th Avenue in Park Township.



1975 Membership Directory

Caronavirus Advice?

Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better.

Sydney J. Harris

A final Sunday Service was held in the old church on July 23, 1978. The church and education buildings on Maple and 19th were sold and services were held in the Woodside School for a period of time while the new church was being built. Construction continued throughout most of 1979 with the dedication service held on October 21st in the new building.

While the move from Holland to the north side of town occupied much of the attention of the congregation, it was not the only matters being considered. An inter-

esting issue was addressed at the annual meeting in 1970 - apparently some of the women were not eligible to vote. That matter was discussed, but no action taken. Later, during the 1971 annual meeting the congregation voted to change the name to Berean Bible Church.

In May the following year Girl Scout Troop 1542 "camped out" in the church basement while visiting Holland (Tulip Festival?). A number of "thank you" notes were received from the girls - they especially enjoyed the soft floor! Also, an experiment to divide the board into a Deacon Board and an Elder Board was tried. That plan lasted just three months. Pastor Maysick left and Arlan C. Mulford was called as the eighth pastor - he began in 1976.

BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH
1979
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*The original cornerstone
at the new church*



Don't be sad - the Parkside Super Seniors should be back soon!

Thanks to Leon Greisen for the cartoon

*The sixth in a series reviewing the history of Parkside Bible Church as it approaches its Centennial Celebration in 2020.

Super Seniors Planning Committee

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Please contact a committee member with your ideas/suggestions for future activities.