

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Our Grade 1-3 Sunday School class, March 25, 2012

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WELCOME TO PARKDALE

Welcome to Parkdale United Church. We enjoy meeting you and being together in ministry.


Parkdale's congregation responds to God's call and Jesus' teachings by:

- a) **Uniting in joyful worship as an act of praise and gratitude, for inspiration and guidance**
- b) **Providing learning opportunities for the Christian way of life and to enhance Biblical literacy**
- c) **Supporting one another through pastoral care and concern**
- d) **Reaching out to people in need**
- e) **Promoting justice**
- f) **Praying for guidance, wisdom, and support.**

Visitors and newcomers to Parkdale, be on the lookout for our hospitality team on Sunday mornings. They wear pale yellow name tags and would be pleased to meet you and to answer questions about our worship service and about activities that go on through the week at Parkdale.

If you are visiting, please ask for a copy of the 'Welcome to Parkdale' edition of the Messenger. It has a striking goldenrod cover. Please take a copy home to read. We hope you will come again for worship and fellowship.

The Parkdale Congregation

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EASTER SERVICES

April 1, 10:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday service

April 5, 5:30 p.m.
On Maundy Thursday, Parkdale will have a Seder Supper and worship starting at 5:30p.m. in Tape Hall (church basement). If you are interested in attending, please sign the sign- up sheets located on the Church Events board in Gladstone Hallway.

April 6, 10:30 a.m.
Good Friday service at Parkdale
Rev. Scott Sinclair, the new Minister at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, will be the speaker.

April 8, 10:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday service

Easter Offering

The Mission and Outreach Committee is committed to supporting local charitable organizations. A special offering is collected at three Christian holidays throughout the year: Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving.

The 2012 Easter offering will be in support of Urban Christian Outreach (UCR). UCR staff engage in mobile outreach on the streets, and in the coffee shops, parks, and other communal places of the city of Ottawa. They especially (but not exclusively) develop ongoing relationships with those whose fragilities make it difficult for them to function in group settings. They seek to be present to their need, even when there are no apparent solutions, thereby offering hope, respect, and dignity to the individual.

Urban Christian Outreach works in co-operation with other agencies by referring clients to social, medical, shelter, educational, employment, and Christian organizations that will further expand the individual's personal network within the community, and that will serve his/her various needs.

Please give generously.

Your Easter offering can be placed in the special "Easter" envelope, or marked as "Easter" on any regular envelope or blue envelope.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

(A note to readers. I have found this Lenten season challenging. I have been carried to depths of reflection on and confrontation with growing edges in my faith and life, by the Unbinding the Gospel prayer and faith-deepening initiative in which I and many Parkdalers have been involved. I feel like God is gifting me with courage to face deep and important things within me. I feel at one and the same time invigorated and "spent". When it came time to write about Resurrection for this month's Messenger, I just could not. It seems as if I was in need of "Resurrection Good News" to be spoken into my life. As I was praying, I remembered the life and witness of Helmut Thielicke for some reason, and that I had written about him in the Messenger some years ago. So I offer this edited reprise of that essay; my own words from the past



ministering to me now in the present and hopefully to you as well.

Resurrection joy and blessings to you all.
Anthony)

Resurrection Living

"Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"

Helmut Thielicke was one of the theologians to whom I was drawn in my seminary studies. He was a great German preacher, scholar, and conscientious opponent of Hitler and his ideological and political project. However, it was not only Thielicke's theology that engaged me but also the tragedies of his life which gave rise to his understanding of God and of hope.

For opposing Hitler, Thielicke lost his university positions, was always under the threat of imprisonment, and was repeatedly subjected to humiliating interrogations by the SS. One day, as the war was coming to an end, he walked to his Church in Stuttgart and found it bombed to pieces,

then, making his way home, he agonized over the discovery that his house had been destroyed and there were his desperately hungry little children licking the pictures of food in recipe books. In the midst of all this, Thielicke stood week after week in his bombed-out church praying for his demoralized congregation and preaching to them of hope in God. On one such occasion he told them: "The one fixed pole in all the bewildering confusion is the faithfulness and dependability of God."

That is both the bold testimony of Resurrection Sunday (Easter) as well as its generous invitation – to proclaim and trust the faithfulness and dependability of God. God's raising of Jesus from the dead is arguably the signature climax of the Christian story. It is both an audacious witness to God's trustworthiness and a solicitous call to confidently surrender to God every detail of our lives.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the

scriptures...But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised then our preaching is in vain and our faith is in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:3,4,13,14)

While the Christmas carol proclaims, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight", in speaking of Jesus coming to live as one of us, it is the Resurrection event that provides the context for experiencing and making sense of what this really means.

We all have hopes. We hope to live lives of significance; we hope to be loved and to love; we hope to make a difference in the world; we hope for lasting joy; we hope that our suffering and the suffering of the world won't last, and perhaps may even mean something; we hope to live in peace and for all to have what they need; we hope for justice; we hope that each one of us is truly special and that we really do matter...we have hopes. We also have fears, lots of real fears. We fear that we might really be alone, we fear death, we fear that we will not be accepted, we fear that life really has no meaning, we fear for the lives of those we

love, we fear for the annihilation of our planet, we fear that our attempts at love will be rejected...we all have fears.

The good news of Resurrection Sunday embraces us with our hopes and desires, our fears and insecurities, and points us to the life, teachings, example, experience, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Resurrection whispers into our hearts and minds and bodies:

“You see all those fears, insecurities, desires, and hopes you have? Jesus knows them all, he understands them and, even more, understands the places in you from which they come. And not only in you but in all people for all time. Just pay attention to what Jesus said and is still saying, how he treated people, the spiritual disciplines he practiced, the kind of relationship with God he cultivated, the dimensions of God he revealed, the love and compassion he enacted, the warnings and judgments he issued, and the grace and forgiveness he abundantly deployed. When you keep on doing this with a worshipping community of faith, you will dis-



cover what needs to be let go, what needs to be kindled and grown, what sin to confess, what priorities to cultivate, what justice to seek, what peace to receive and

then make in the world, what life to live, and what spiritual gifts you have been given and how to share them in ways that bless the world. In short, you will be engaging in resurrection living.”

Easter takes utterly seriously the power of death. Jesus was crucified and did die. However, by raising Jesus from the dead, God declares that the power of death is no match for the power of God’s resurrected and eternal life; that the life, teachings, revelations, and priorities that constituted Jesus’ life are in fact vindicated and to be trusted, lived, and proclaimed; that that resurrected life is intended for and indeed offered to all of humanity.

Easter is about daily living courageously with faith and hope. It is about cultivating a deep, trusting relationship with the steadfast, trustworthy, mysterious God whom the resurrection event dis-

closes. This frees us up for all kinds of things. Not taking ourselves so seriously, risking confidently for the sake of others’ well-being, and committing to justice-seeking and peace-making. It also continues to free us as a community of faith to pray fervently, deepen and share our faith, serve our neighbourhood creatively and lovingly, and worship enthusiastically.

Thielicke once said, “Tell me how much you know of the suffering of your neighbours, and I will tell you how much you have loved them.” He also wrote,

“...as a Christian I go down into this death with the complete confidence that I cannot remain therein, since I am one whom God has called by name and therefore I shall be called anew on God’s day. I am under the protection of the Resurrected one. I am not immortal, but I await my own resurrection.” (Death and Life, 1970)

A blessed Resurrection celebration to you all,

Anthony

PARKDALE’S RUMMAGE SALE



Saturday, April 28,
2012
9 a.m. – 12 Noon

Donations: Good clean used clothing, kitchenware and household items, books, LPs, CDs, toys and games, can be dropped off at the church up to and including Thursday, April 26. This will give volunteers time to sort and arrange items. Mark items clearly ‘Rummage Sale’ and leave them at the door into Memorial Hall.

If you need help getting your items to the church or are able to volunteer with deliveries, or setting-up, or selling, or cleaning up afterwards, please contact the church office: 613-728-8656

Thank you for your support!

**He Used To Go To Church
On Sundays;
Now He Goes Every Day**

For more than fifty years of his life, Sunday morning meant going to church. His mother and father took him every Sunday from the week he was born. Now he goes to church every weekday also – Monday through Friday - in his new position with Parkdale United Church as Office Manager.

Don Mockett joined Parkdale’s team on Monday March 12. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new job after a number of years as Office Manager for an Ottawa-based international not-for-profit organization which cares for the destitute elderly in third-world countries.

His role at Parkdale includes a wide range of office management responsibilities such as:

- * meeting the administrative needs of the ministerial staff and the church;
- * receiving visitors, answering the telephone, responding to emails, managing incoming and outbound mailings; preparing Sunday worship bulletins;
- * coordinating the administrative aspects of baptisms, church membership, weddings, and funerals;
- * maintaining and updating databases and mailing lists, as well as records for the Benevolent Fund

- program;
- * assembling and distributing the Church Annual Report;
- * managing the booking of space in the building and maintaining the master calendar of bookings; coordinating evening custodians' schedules; serving as liaison between Trustees and groups using church facilities.

In other words, in the coming weeks Don will be a busy man handling virtually all of the administrative functions of Parkdale United.

Don't be a stranger! When you have a moment, welcome Don to Parkdale. You can reach him at 613-728-8656 or pdale@trytel.com. Or you can drop by the office Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to welcome him and see photos of Don and his wife Sandra, their two sons – John and Andrew - and six lively grandchildren.

Ruth Foster

BOOK CLUB

Next book club will be April 15 at 12:00 noon in the Ladies Parlour. The book title for April is: *The Book of Negroes* by Lawrence Hill. This prize – winning 2007 novel, astonishing in its scope, humanity, and beauty, explores issues of slavery and race relations.



AWARDED

On behalf of Parkdale United Church, on March 1, 2012, Anthony accepted the *OCISO Organizational Leadership Award of Excellence* given to the congregation for distinguished support and advocacy for new Canadians, refugees, and vulnerable people in the Ottawa community. Anthony is pictured here with Dr. Hamdi Mohamed, Executive Director of OCISO (Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization).



Charlie Hurst is pictured holding the OCISO award during a visit with Anthony. Charlie was very instrumental in advancing the outreach ministry of Parkdale United over the past decades.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Birthdays in April
Our warmest greetings to:

- 1st Geof Colley
- 2nd Allan Menzies
- 3rd Andrea Faught
- 8th Ellen McGuinty
- 8th Ellen Andrews
- 8th Peter Graham
- 9th Merle McCoy
- 11th Ike Goodine
- 11th Margaret MacPherson
- 12th Brock Muchison
- 12th Noah Linton
- 13th Lorine Clement
- 13th Myracle Charley
- 13th Andrea Nelson
- 15th Gloria Anderson
- 15th Agnes Heaslip
- 15th Elizabeth Cheesbrough
- 16th William Morris
- 17th Rosemary Gibb
- 19th William Fitzgerald
- 21st Beatrice Olson
- 25th Barbara Lawton
- 25th Susan Yearwood
- 29th Jacques Dicaire

If you would like your birthday to be a secret, please let the office know and we will leave you off the list.



On February 25, Parkdaler Seyi Malcolm, was an awardee of the **Global Community Alliance Community Builder Award** for her work with the Ottawa Young Black Professionals.

Welcome back to Kathleen Stephenson who has returned after 4 years in Brazil. Kathleen will be attending speaking engagements over the next few weeks to tell some of the stories of her work.



AWARDED

On February 25, 2012, Anthony was one of the awardees of the **Global Community Alliance Community Builder Award**. He is pictured here receiving the award from Mr. Phil McNeeley, MPP for Ottawa-Orleans.

Harry Whitehead was profiled in the February 12 edition of the *Forever Young* Newspaper. The article told us that Harry has been volunteering at the Ottawa Food Bank for the past 15 years. Jo-Anne Turple-Watson is quoted: "Harry is an invaluable member of the Ottawa Food Bank Family. His dedication and tenacity in his volunteer commitment to this organization is always held up as an example to others." It was also noted that he is in his 9th year of

helping with In From The Cold. Congratulations Harry.

Congratulations to Alexander and Shelly Jeglic on the baptism of their daughter Julianna Alexandra Jeglic, and to Stuart and Katherine Harman on the baptism of their son James Benjamin Wyatt Harman, and to Gavin and Lisa Harman on the baptism of their daughter Elsie Renee Harman, on Sunday March 18, 2012.

Our sympathies are with Marilyn Hahn and family on the death of "Mum" Hilda Hahn on March 8.

Michael Mailey, organist at Parkdale from 1975 to 1985, died in Toronto on February 10. Rev. Gervis Black wrote in a read eulogy "Parkdale church, year after year, basked in a reputation of up-lifting, often thrilling music. The variety was immense, with now a piece by Stuart Hamblen or John Peterson, and then a classical offering from Bach or Mozart. Michael was entirely at home with "my tribute" by Andre Crouch as well as "The Crucifixion" by John Stainer." "His dazzling gifts on organ and piano, coupled with a buoyancy of spirit and unflinching humour made choir rehearsals far from tedious, occasions the members looked forward to in fact." Michael's funeral was conducted by Rev. Ernie Cox.



Fourth Annual Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is a tradition, practised by many Christians, based on the passage from Matthew 26: 36-41, in which Jesus asks his disciples to stay awake with him, while he prays in Gethsemane. As Holy Week draws to an end, the Vigil provides a time for reflection and meditation, for taking a break from our busy schedules to focus on the significance of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, and for spending some uninterrupted time in quiet conversation with God.

Starting at 6 a.m. on Saturday, April 7 and lasting 24 hours, the 24-hour Vigil is divided into 24 one-hour shifts for 'pray-ers', who are invited to use the Chapel to spend a quiet time in prayer and meditation. If you prefer, you can participate in the Vigil with a 'watcher', or you can sign up for a shared hour of prayer with others. You will be surprised at how quickly an hour in prayer passes, so you are encouraged to sign up for an hour -or more- if you wish.

The sign-up sheet has been posted in the Gladstone Hallway. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Helen Hayes at 613-748-8367.

MISSION, OUTREACH AND JUSTICE *Friday Night* *"Stories and Images"* INDIA *(Presented by John and Elaine Butcher)*



The stage was set, the Ladies' Parlour beautifully decorated, tables spread with pastel-shade table cloths and glowing candles. BUT, Mother Nature was delivering a snow storm – lots of snow with blustering winds just when guests should have been arriving. Yes, this "Stories and Images" presentation should have been cancelled; but alas, too late to even think of that.

Would anyone brave this inclement weather? Part of our refreshment team phoned - "Can't make

it in from Orleans". How relieved and delighted we were when John and Elaine Butcher turned up followed by Richard Hamley. We now had the presenters as well as the equipment expert. There would be a presentation, but the question was, to whom? Would people show up in this snow storm? Val Hum soon arrived with baked treats; Anthony then came and boosted our spirits, then came Vita and husband with pastry.

We started half an hour late, being convinced that our brave group of 11 would be the final count. For the 11 of us it turned out to be a lovely living-room-type evening with John and Elaine Butcher sharing their impressions, stories, and pictures of this vast, diverse country of India with its varying cultures and intrigue. It was a relaxed atmosphere with back and forth conversation between John and Elaine and the group. No one seemed to be in a hurry to have the evening end.

John first delivered a gripping account of their five-week holiday during October and November 2011; somewhat of a welcomed tutorial on India. India being such a large country (7th

largest in the world with a population of over 1.2 billion) they decided to concentrate their travels on two areas – the Northwest and Southern areas. They visited about 24 places, travelling privately and seeing the people and their culture as they really are; not the usual tourist view. We heard of the poverty, the many religions, the cultural differences, the warmth and pride of country, the “sense of energy”, the “lack of hopelessness” and the entrepreneurial spirit they sensed in this vast land of so many contrasts.

Elaine, beautifully attired in her Indian costume, followed with an excellent and riveting slide presentation reinforcing John’s oral presentation. It is here that we saw some beautiful and striking pictures of the true faces of India: strong, vibrant colours of fabric and of its people, of the temples and art work, of flowers and animals, of the tea plantations with their varying shades of green in the valleys and sloping up the hillsides. One could not help but be moved on seeing the photos of the Ganges River and be struck by the religious rituals that are performed there. She ended, of course, with scenes of the revered Taj Mahal.

Our only disappointment was that more people did not have the opportunity to see and enjoy this presentation as we did. But, there is good news on two counts. Firstly, John and Elaine have graciously agreed to repeat this presentation in the Fall. Secondly, you must read John’s treatise on their trip to India on page 38 of the January 2012 issue of “*The Messenger*”. Having read this prior to the presentation, we knew we were in for a treat and they did not disappoint us. Thank you John and Elaine for a wonderful presentation – February 24, 2012.

Faye Beaufort, Chair, MOJ

SPECIAL CELEBRATION:

Please note that on Sunday, April 22, we will be celebrating a very special occasion when several of our youth will be confirmed and some baptised.

This is a time when the whole congregation will want to make sure to be in attendance as we support our young people in making this important step of faith. The service will feature drama and music led by the Worship Team and others.



RECIPE

Jamaican Easter Bun

Celebrate Easter Jamaican-style with this Easter bun recipe submitted by Gloria Anderson

- 3½ cups flour
- 1½ cups sugar
- 4 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup stout or beer
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 2 tbsp melted butter or margarine
- 2 tps vanilla
- 1 tbsp honey or molasses
- 1 cup raisins, mixed peel, glazed cherries*
- ½ tsp. ground allspice
- pinch of salt
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- ½ tsp. cinnamon



Method

In a large mixing bowl, mix together flour, salt, baking powder, spices and sugar. Mix thoroughly and add fruit. Make a well in the center of mixture and add melted butter and beaten egg. Mix again until like coarse bread crumbs. Make another well in center of mixture and add beer or stout and honey/molasses. Mix the whole thoroughly and turn into well-greased baking pans. Bake for 1¼ hours at 300 ° F. Makes enough to fill two meatloaf pans (5” x 8”). If desired, press a few whole cherries into the top of each bun. Glaze while still warm, using ¼ cup sugar mixed with 1/3 cup water (Optional)

* One cup total. Combine fruit as desired.

Lectionary for April

Passion/Palm Sunday—April 1

Liturgy of the Palms

Mark 11:1–11 or John 12:12–16

Ps. 118:1–2, 19–29

Liturgy of the Passion

Isa. 50:4–9a

Ps. 31:9–16

Phil. 2:5–11

Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark 15:1–39 (40–47)

Maundy Thursday—April 5

Exod. 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Cor. 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday—April 6

Isa. 52:13—53:12

Easter Vigil—April 7

Gen. 1:1—2:4a

Ps. 136:1-9, 23-26

Gen. 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Ps. 46:1-11

Gen. 22:1-18

Ps. 16:1-11

Exod. 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Exod. 15:1b-13, 17-18

Isa. 55:1-11

Isa. 12:2-6

Prov. 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6

Ps. 19:1-14

Ezek. 36:24-28

Ps. 42:1-11 and Ps. 43:1-5

Ezek. 37:1-14

Ps. 143:1-12

Zeph. 3:14-20

Ps. 98:1-9

Rom. 6:3-11

Ps. 114:1-8

Mark 16:1-8

Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter—April 8

Acts 10:34–43 or Isa. 25:6–9

Ps. 118:1–2, 14–24

1 Cor. 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43

John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8

2nd Sunday of Easter—April 15

Acts 4:32–35

Ps. 133

1 John 1:1–2:2

John 20:19–31

3rd Sunday of Easter—April 22

Acts 3:12–19

Ps. 4

1 John 3:1–7

Luke 24:36b–48

4th Sunday of Easter—April 29

Acts 4:5–12

Ps. 23

1 John 3:16–24

John 10:11–18

Ps. 22:1-31

Heb. 10:16-25 or Heb. 4:14-16, 5:7-9

John 18:1—19:42



MONEY SANITY IN THE CHURCH

This workshop will explore:
How we talk and feel about money

The link between our decisions on money and our values
How our decisions about money affect family relationships; and

The practical changes that we can make for the better

**Sunday, April 15, 2012:
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

at

Eglise Unie St-Marc
142 Lewis Street: *Corner of Elgin St. and Lewis St.,*
Ottawa, Ontario

FACILITATOR:

DENIS MARCOUX
Stewardship Consultant,
Montreal and Ottawa Conference

Recommended by the Stewardship Committee.

EVERYONE WELCOME: To register, please call Eileen Lavigne at 613-729-6307

ALL IN FROM THE COLD VOLUNTEERS POT LUCK SUPPER



To bring our **TENTH** year to a close (can you believe it?), **ALL In From The Cold** volunteers are invited to participate in a **POT LUCK SUPPER**,

Thursday, April 12, in the Tape Hall at 5:30 pm.

Please mark your calendars.

This gathering will give us the opportunity to meet together as a group and have as our guests our chef, Clay Cardillo, and our local merchants, without whose generous support this ministry would not be possible.

Please come and bring a Salad, Main Course, or Dessert.

TOGETHER, with our community, we have carried out this **MINISTRY** in **GRATITUDE** for our many blessings and as a way of expressing God's Love to others.

How and what brought you to Parkdale ?



John Harewood, since 2002

I could call it Serendipity, or one of those words which I can't pronounce without biting my tongue, but I wasn't looking for a church when I found Parkdale. Wiser people than I have said that looking for and finding a church is similar to the process of looking for and finding a house or even a wife or husband, so it's not a project which I would embark on any bright Monday morning or weekend for that matter.

I had been a member of another church in the city for several years, during which seven ministers had come and gone; some had retired, others had accepted other charges; while the attitude of one senior minister to the issue of the ordination of gay and lesbian individuals seemed to be more patronizing than compassionate or understanding and had actually resulted in the departure

of a few members. I had held my ground because the church's reputation for strong preaching and service pleased me.

Then came a minister whose sermons, to me at least, seemed overly simplistic and other-worldly. I had grown up in the church, but now thought that the familiar gospel stories required a new approach in a twentieth century world which had become more complex with religion and faith often under siege and sometimes appearing to be irrelevant to solving the problems of injustice, poverty, inequality, racial conflict, and incessant warfare. Gradually, I began to absent myself on Sunday mornings, finding more peace and hope in Bach's Cantatas, Kathleen Battle's and Jessye Norman's rendition of *Panis Angelicus*, African-American spirituals like "There is a balm in Gilead" or the Elora Festival Singers in concert.

That was until the Sunday that I visited Parkdale. I cannot remember the specific occasion, but I know that it was special because I heard Anthony for the first time. His sermon, delivered with eloquence and a passion and conviction which I hadn't heard for more than a year, had those rare qualities of being soundly-based on scripture, local and global outreach and a practical, personal and collective application to the

current and continuing problems around us and in our world. Above all, it made faith possible where it was fast becoming no more than a fairy-tale with Christmas and Easter as its most attractive highlight. In addition, there was Barbara's prayer, imaginative, inspiring, and thoughtful, always searching, as it were, for a path of light right here and now.

I liked the combination, came back a second time, and have been coming ever since. My enthusiasm increased even more when I discovered *In From The Cold*, a program which directly applies two of the Gospel's central teachings of *doing* to others what you would like done to you and *loving* your neighbour as yourself.

Lynda and Christian Boonstra, since December 2010

A missed bus, but not a missed opportunity.

My Mother had made me promise that I would get my daughter, Christian, to every Advent Sunday in 2010. Christian had gone with my Mother to her church for First Advent and now it was Second Advent. We were trying to catch the bus to Westboro, where a family friend was preaching, just before 10a.m. that morning.

As is usual with OC Transpo, we got to the stop just in time to see the tail lights going down the street. The next bus wouldn't get us there until church was half over. What to do? I decided to look around the neighborhood and see if anyone started at 10:30. We were glad to see that Parkdale's worship service started at 10:30. Years ago, in 2000, I was singing with the choir at St Stephen's and we had done a joint Good Friday Service at Parkdale, so I was not unfamiliar with the church.

We had rushed out the door with little breakfast that morning, so we stopped at Sunoco for a snack and still made it to church in plenty of time. I was delighted to see the improvements in the sanctuary since 2000. It was even more welcoming than it had been back then. Christian and I were immediately drawn in to the circle of warmth and fellowship that is the Parkdale congregation. It was a really tough time in our lives that Christmas season. Our family was under attack from Christian's school that November, and we were barely holding it together emotionally. Barbara gave me a wonderful shoulder to cry on, Anthony's words of wisdom gave me strength, insight, and a much-needed reminder of God's love for the week, and Melodee made Christian so very welcome in the

Sunday School. Christian was even there in time to join the kids for the pageant. My parents came down for pageant rehearsal night and were also welcomed with open arms. They saw that Parkdale's Sunday School was just the sort of safe learning environment that Christian needed.

In 2011 I joined Parkdale in a reaffirmation of faith, as I had not been formally a member of a congregation since 1995. Since then I have had a wonderful time joining in on the wide variety of activities that Parkdale is involved in. The Rummage sale and Bazaar were great fun, and I've served on the counting team and with the ushers. I've pitched in on doing dishes for Shrove Tuesday and IFTC. Christian went to Camp Awesome last summer and sang in the pageant for 2011. She was torn the other week because she couldn't decide which she liked more, the square dancing or the orchestra, which were both practising after our pancake supper.

We are looking forward to many years of being part of a great, growing, and lively faith community. This congregation is so blessed to have so many energetic and caring people in it. A treasure beyond all price, and a credit to God's will for the world.

**OTTAWA
PRESBYTERIAL UCW
ANNUAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2012
AYLMER UNITED
CHURCH**



The women of Parkdale United Church are cordially invited to attend:

Ottawa Presbyterian United Church Women's Annual Meeting

Monday, April 16, 2012

*Aylmer United Church
(164 rue Principale, Aylmer, QC)*

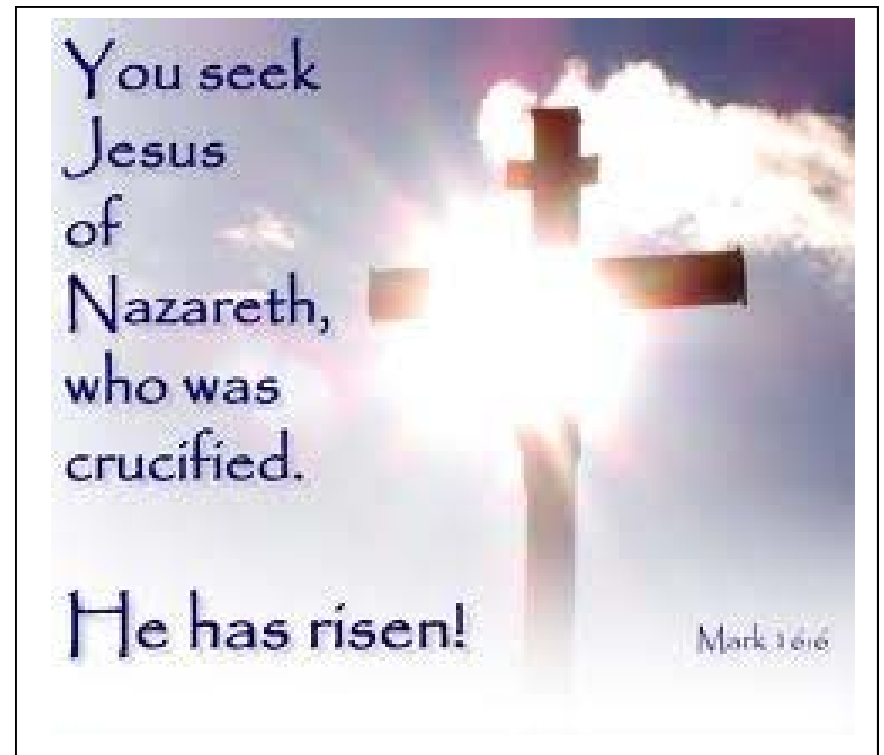
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with time to visit the book table provided by the Ottawa Presbyterian Resource Centre and the fair trade table, and enjoy refreshments before the morning session begins at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided by Aylmer United Church at a cost of \$10 per per-

son. Our guest speaker for the morning session is Parkdale member, **Kathleen Stephenson**, now returned from her four years as a United Church Global Partner with CESE, an ecumenical social justice organization in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. The afternoon session will be devoted to reports, dedication of the Executive, and the celebration of Communion. Friends from other denominations are most welcome to attend. If you and friends are planning to attend, please contact Beth Gutsell (613-729-8228) no

later than **Tuesday, April 10, 2012** to register and reserve lunch. Transportation is available to Aylmer for the day for those needing it.

Parking is available at Canadian Tire/Galleries d'Aylmer Shopping Centre across the street from the church. An elevator into the church for those requiring it is available through the Aylmer Arms Retirement Centre at the rear of the church where there is a passenger drop-off area, but no parking.



In brief...

Christian Meditation

You are invited to experience Christian meditation on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Parlour. This contemplative form of prayer is rooted in the early Christian church. It involves simply repeating inwardly a prayer-word or "mantra" so as to quiet our thoughts and be open to God's presence. As the Holy Spirit dwells within each one of us, the aim of meditation is to turn and experience the living Spirit of God dwelling in our hearts. All are welcome. For more information, contact Elise Mennie, 819-595-1294 or Jennifer Payne, 613-692-0876.

Stewardship (Cans)

The Stewardship Committee wishes to remind you that Habitat for Humanity collects and recycles aluminum cans. This helps them to raise money for their homebuilding efforts here in the Ottawa area. Doing this benefits the local community in many ways - it encourages recycling, it produces involvement and awareness of Habitat NCR's charitable practices in the Ottawa area, and it raises money towards desperately-needed affordable housing.

Recyclable aluminum cans can be dropped off at either of the two Ottawa ReStores (7 Enterprise Ave., off Merivale, or 2370 Walkley Road, near St. Laurent).
Garth McLeod

Parkdale Orchestra



Spring Concert, 2012

Heralding the Spring

Saturday, April 28
7:30 p.m.

George Enescu -
**Romanian Rhapsody No. 1
in A Major**

Alexander Arutiunian -
Trumpet Concerto (soloist
[*Karen Donnelly*](#))

Antonín Dvořák

**Symphony No. 6 in D Major
Op. 60**



Youth prepare for the Second Blessing Coffee Shop opening on Sunday March 25, and it was an active group, as usual, in the bright new Nursery (below).



PRESBYTERY REPORT



Ottawa Presbytery was hosted by Rideau Park United Church on March 13, 2012.

The worship time for the meeting was an act of covenanting with the newly-recognized Faith and Arts Ottawa mission. The experimental ministry received a grant from the New Ministry Formation Fund of The United Church of Canada. The Rev. David Sherwin, who made the application, has been appointed as ministry personnel for the initial period of its formation.

The Rev. Whit Strong, M&O Conference Personnel Minister, led the meeting in a time of memoriam for the Rev. Ben Lemay, who was a retired minister on the roll of Ottawa Presbytery. He served at Namur Pastoral Charge from 1970, until his retirement in 1981.

Barbara Reynolds, co-chair of the local arrangements committee for General Council 41, updated the Presbytery on the planning and asked that presbyters spread the word in their congregations that over 200 volunteers will be needed to ensure the smooth hosting of this national gathering.

Each year the Presbytery designates two of its meeting as educational program meetings. The March meeting was one of those designated. There were four workshops that people could choose from:

- a workshop exploring the KAIROS document "A Moment of Truth" which is a statement by Palestinian Christians about the relationship between Israel and Palestine;
- a workshop that shared information from the "Identity Survey" conducted by the United Church of Canada and its implications for the planning of the Church;
- a workshop that focused on the ongoing work of The United Church of Canada in building right relations with Aboriginal people and that outlined the work on the crest, the Basis of Union and the Aboriginal Ministries Circle coming to GC41;
- a workshop from Faith and Arts Ottawa sharing ideas for connecting the arts and spirituality.

The meeting reconvened following the workshops for closing prayer.

Rev. Lillian Roberts
Presbytery Minister

41ST GENERAL COUNCIL

**200 VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FROM LOCAL
CONGREGATIONS**

Ottawa Presbytery is hosting the 41st General Council of the United Church of Canada at Carleton University August 11 - 18, 2012. There are many ways in which members of local congregations can volunteer to help which were outlined in Parkdale's March edition of the Messenger. For more information or to volunteer, register at the Ottawa Presbytery website under General Council 2012 by selecting the volunteer tab at www.uccanottawa.org/GeneralCouncil_2012.html or by contacting Co-Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, Barbara Reynolds, at 613-836-1115 or by e-mail at barbara_reynolds@sympatico.ca

You may wish, too, to speak with Beth Gutsell at Parkdale at 613-729-8228 or megutsell@rogers.com

STORIES

**Barbara Faught's
retirement**

As previously announced, Minister for Pastoral Care Barbara Faught will retire at the end of this year. Do you have a story or testimony about Barbara? If you do, please feel free to share it with us through the church office, pdale@trytel.com or 613-728-8656. It can be published with your name, or anonymously if you wish. (but we need to know who it came from...)

Church bloopers..

Thursday night: Potluck Supper - Prayer and medication will follow.

Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement Saturday.

SPOTLIGHT ON



YOUTH FORUM DELEGATES WANTED

General Council 41 is Aug.11-18 in Ottawa. Consider applying for Youth Forum, where youth aged 15-20 have FUN, meet new friends, discuss important issues and share with the wider gathering. **APPLICATIONS AND INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT www.GC41.ca** . Ottawa Presbytery applications are due by April 20.



Conference Bike Tour this August - **Needed**: leaders, participants, host congregations , drivers for accompanying vehicles. Ottawa group will cover a circular route to join other groups in a ride ending with a visit to General Council. Cost: \$150. For more information and to register, contact your YAYA minister, Rev. Hilary Merritt, 613-224-5318, Ext. 17

*Young Adults, join us the last Sunday each month for a free, community meal at All Saints Anglican Church at Laurier and Chapel, just east of uOttawa. The **OPEN TABLE** is a partnership between Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United Church communities seeking to serve mainline young adults in the Ottawa area. www.theopentable.ca

living a healthy life with chronic conditions

Are you living with diabetes, kidney disease, respiratory disease, chronic pain, depression, or other chronic conditions?

**YOU are invited to...
A FREE educational workshop giving you the tools for LIVING A HEALTHY LIFE!**

The "Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions" workshop helps people to better manage their symptoms and their daily life. It is FREE and includes a reference book. Workshop groups meet once a week for 2½ hours, over six weeks. There are eight to sixteen participants in each workshop.

For more information call toll free
1-877-240-3941

Visit
www.livinghealthyhamplain.ca





Yes, the camp of awesomeness will again be coming to Parkdale the week of July 23-27. Children aged 4-12 years are welcome to enroll. Registration forms are available through Sunday school teachers, on the church website, from Melodee, or through the church office.

The cost is \$75/child but everyone is welcome, regardless of ability to pay. Please see the poster on the bulletin board for details or contact Melodee at: melodeelovering63@yahoo.ca.

If you would like to sponsor a child to attend Camp Awesome, or wish to contribute to this outreach project of our church, you may do so through your offering envelope by simply marking the amount for "Camp Awesome".

the Messenger



EDITORIAL BOARD

Debbie McGregor, Chair and Editor, Kathleen Stephenson, John Butcher, Valerie Hum, Peter Meerburg, Danica Rogers and you????

Call (613) 728-8656 to volunteer.

The Parkdale Messenger is published at Parkdale United Church, on the last Sunday of each month and includes a calendar of events and activities for the following month. We appreciate any submissions to the Parkdale Messenger. We reserve the right to edit, condense or reject submissions, but will try to find space for all.

Next issue: **May 2012**. Please submit articles and materials to pdale@trytel.com or the church office by **April 17**.