

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Parkdale United Church

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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

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In brief:



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STEWARDING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

A few weeks ago I attended a day-long interfaith Colloquium at Carleton University entitled: *How Can One be a Person of Faith in the 21st Century*. The three main presenters were Dr. Ingrid Mattson (Muslim), Dr. David Novak (Jewish) and Dr. Mary Jo Leddy (Christian). It was engaging, stimulating, respectful and deeply affirming not only of the role, but also the necessary contributions of communities of faith to the common good and the public square. Among those elements addressed from varying faith and secular perspectives were values, virtue, witness, cooperation, justice and contributions to the common societal good.

The Season of Advent, beginning four Sundays before Christmas, signals the start of the Christian New Year. The Advent Season can be, and I believe is intended to be, an alternative way of living into these coming weeks. It is an alternative

way that resists the frenetic consumeristic wind-up to Christmas and beyond, that in many ways undermines the public good. There is so much stress and exhaustion, accelerated household indebtedness, increased anxiety and misplaced hope for some kind of 'magic' to fix, or at least ease, the year's woes and troubles. Not to mention the accentuation of the reality of the so-called "have-nots" and their dependence of the 'seasonal' charity

of the 'haves' to allow them to "have a good Christmas".



Somehow, especially as Christians, we can draw from the way God's Spirit can make use of our worship experiences and Scripture readings

during Advent to help us rededicate ourselves to awe and wonder and a peaceful receptivity to the holiness and mystery of God. We can recommit to the call of the texts to 'year-round justice' and not only seasonal charity. We can allow ourselves to prayerfully ponder how God's gift of LOVE incarnate (Jesus Christ) helps us to repair broken relationships, to be reconciled, to court repentance, to seek and offer forgiveness, to take steps towards

healing, to find our voice, to courageously stand up to the one who bullies others and ourselves, to resist addiction and embrace acceptance and sobriety.

Advent is a new year yes, but rather than thinking about making resolutions perhaps we are being invited to be counting God's blessings. At its heart perhaps that is what it might mean to be faithful stewards of the seasons of Advent and Christmas. That is, stepping back from all our wanting and grasping, epitomized by that line from a Christmas song: "All I want for Christmas...", and instead stepping into the joy of acknowledging and enumerating the blessings that this holy time of year reminds us we have already received by 'God's hand' – "How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given".

Could this Season be about counting the innumerable blessings that come from God's love for us and for all creation, and then living in joyful and generous response to these blessings? Deep down we long to give and to offer ourselves and our resources to good causes and noble pursuits. How can this offering and giving impulse be deployed to bless people's lives, to care for Creation and to support God's mission through our congregational life and witness?

A deep sense of awe, wonder and

gratitude to God positions us to drink satisfyingly from the well of joyful living and ecstatic giving. Above I mentioned Dr. Mary Jo Leddy. Seeing her and listening to her presentation reminded me of her book *Radical Gratitude*. In it she writes, "*Gratitude is the beginning of our faith and hope in the possibility of creating something new in the world, of becoming someone new*" (p. 69).

I think this is a faithful personal and congregational mission for the Seasons of Advent and Christmas. Because of our choice to be "lost in wonder, awe and praise" – as the hymn states – we are partnered with God in being a midwife to something new in our lives, in our congregation, in our neighbourhood, in our city and in our world.

Permit me to share this excerpt from one of Dr. Leddy's prayers. I



recommend the book – **Radical Gratitude**, published by Orbis Books, 2002.

ACTING ON GRATITUDE

*We are grateful,
You have given us this day
and have given us this way
to say Thank You.
We thank you for giving us
what we need to be grateful.
We offer back to You
all that we have
all that we are.
We know our thank you
is as fragile as we are
it can be crushed
by the care of the moment
it can disappear
in the heat of the day
it can be blown away
by the winds of suffering.
And so we ask you
to take our small thank you
into Your great act of
Thanksgiving...*

Friends, may we be thankful
'creators/stewards' of something
new and beautiful during these
Seasons of Advent and Christmas.
Only God knows what that will be,
but we get to be a part of it!

A blessed Advent and Holy
Christmas greeting to all of you,

Anthony

Second Blessings Coffee Shop

Please join our youth at
Second Blessings for great
food and fellowship after
church on the following
dates in 2013:

December 15

and in 2014:

January 12

February 9

March 23

April 27

May 25



LECTIONARY

First Sunday of Advent
December 1

Isaiah 2:1–5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11–14
Matthew 24:36–44

Second Sunday of
Advent
December 8

Isaiah 11:1–10
Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19
Romans 15:4–13
Matthew 3:1–12

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15

Isaiah 35:1–10
Psalm 146:5–10
or Luke 1:46b–55
James 5:7–10
Matthew 11:2–11

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22

Isaiah 7:10–16
Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19
Romans 1:1–7
Matthew 1:18–25

Christmas Eve/Day
December 24/25

Isaiah 9:2–7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11–14
Luke 2:1–14, (15–20)

First Sunday after
Christmas
December 29

Isaiah 63:7–9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10–18
Matthew 2:13–23





BIRTHDAY NEWS

Birthdays in December
Our warmest greetings to:

1st	Josee Mela	26th	Lily-Rose Fitzgerald
3rd	Ryan Goetz	26th	Auden Hall
5th	Nicholas McGregor	27th	Derek Fortune
6th	Stewart Drodge	27th	Rolland Borden
6th	Donovan Sealy	29th	Andrew Scott
7th	Karel Nelson	30th	Aiden Savill
7th	Rohan Bosch	31st	Daniel Laurin
8th	David Williams	31st	Doretta Charles
9th	David Smith	31st	Trinity McQuinn
9th	Andrea Harris	31st	Jeremy McLay
9th	Naomi McHenry		
9th	Olivia Fincham-Dinsdale		
10th	Joanna Hamley		
11th	Cara Lu		
13th	Nicole Greaves		
14th	Emily Bailey		
14th	Rosemary Andrews		
15th	Don MacPherson		
15th	Adelaide Koch		
15th	Rachel Case		
17th	Dorcas Labwon		
19th	Alex Ngwafusi		
20th	John Bailey		
20th	Noah Woeller		
22nd	Sawyer Scatcherd		
23rd	Marq Nelson		
25th	Larissa Sealey		



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

Melodee is now a Designated Lay Minister!

Congratulations to our Melodee Lovering, who has been officially recognized by the United Church as a *Designated Lay Minister (DLM)*. Her appointment was approved during the fall meeting of Ottawa Presbytery, held in our sanctuary on November 12. (The Presbytery is a United Church oversight and coordinating body which includes 48 congregations in Eastern Ontario and 13 in West Quebec.)

To become a Designated Lay Minister, an individual must complete a comprehensive program of learning, training and assessment prescribed by the United Church over a two- or three-year period. The DLM category of ministry replaces the previous role of Staff Associate, and is not an ordained position.

After Presbytery members voted unanimously in favour of **Melodee's appointment as a DLM, Presbytery Chair Rev. Trish Elliott** performed a brief ceremony in company with Presbytery Minister Rev. Lillian Roberts and Rev. Elaine Beattie, Chair of **Presbytery's Education & Students Committee, who presented Melodee with a Bible.**

Council Vice-Chair Blaine Pauling brought greetings on behalf of Parkdale, and he provided a brief overview of our congregation and its programs and activities. Both Dr. Bailey and Rev. Roi spoke briefly about parts of their faith journeys, and DaleSong offered some musical selections.

Prior to the opening of the Presbytery meeting, the approximately 130 members in attendance enjoyed a dinner in Tape Hall prepared and served by some members of our In From the Cold team.



Birth Announcements:

Congratulations to great grandparents Barbara and Len Baird on the birth of **Addyson Lee Stewart**, born September 28, 2013 at 8:44am, weighing 7 lbs. 13 oz.



Four Generations of Bairds!

Congratulations to Great Grandparents David and Marion Baird on the birth of **Sophie Ella Elaine** – born October 18th, lbs. 3 oz.



Proud parents Milissa Williams and Keyle Hamilin of Shaw Ville, Quebec and Grandparents (Carol Ann Bair) and Scott Williams

RECIPE

Water Chestnuts in Barbeque Sauce

A favourite appetizer recipe submitted by Judy Hamley which is easy, can be made ahead and always a hit at a party.

1 lb bacon
2 10-oz cans water chestnuts
½ cup chilli sauce
1 cup Catalina French Dressing
1 cup brown sugar

Cut bacon strips into two or three pieces. Wrap one piece around a water chestnut and secure with a toothpick. Place in a single layer in a medium-sized baking dish.

Combine chilli sauce, dressing and brown sugar and pour over bacon-wrapped water chestnuts. Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes, turning once. Cool, cover and refrigerate.

Last minute preparation: Reheat, uncovered at 350°F until hot and bubbling, about 10 minutes.





Silence and stillness

Do you ever yearn for a time in your busy day to just “be”, to be just as you are, to “rest in God”? The practice of Christian Meditation helps us be still and open our hearts to God’s presence at the centre of our lives. It consists in learning to still our mind, let go of our ideas, thoughts and images, and clear the clutter in order to let the light of God into our hearts.

“The important aim of Christian Meditation is to allow God’s mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality, but *the* reality in our lives; that reality which gives meaning and shape and purpose to everything we do; to everything we are.” – John Main, *Word into Silence*

We still our mind by repeating our prayer-word or mantra. John Main proposes as a mantra the word “Maranatha”, which means “Come Lord” in Aramaic, the language of Jesus. “Maranatha” is undoubtedly one of the oldest of Christian prayers. St. Paul uses it in his letter to the Corinthians and St. John uses it in his Revelation.

“St. Paul says “I live no longer, but Christ lives in me”. This is a great expression of the relationship of the Christian to the person of Christ. In other words, we move beyond and out of our own little ego-world and we move into the spirit, into the mind, into the person of Christ. There we find our identity completed and expanded.

The more deeply we enter into the prayer of Christ, into the silence and stillness at the centre of our being, we find that the other forms of prayer at other times become enriched. Our reading of Scripture, our prayers in community and celebration of the sacraments, all these different forms of prayer are transformed and deepened, and their spiritual meaning is enhanced by our practice of meditation.” – Lawrence Freeman, spiritual director of the World Community for Christian Meditation.

To find out more about Christian Meditation, see www.wccm-Canada.ca or come to one of our meditation meetings at Parkdale.



Christian Meditation at Parkdale

Join us in the Ladies' Parlour for a one-hour meeting, which includes prayer, readings, a recorded talk, and 25 minutes of silent meditation.

9:30 am on Sundays – led by Jennifer Payne, 613-692-0876, odumodus@sympatico.ca

5:30 pm on Wednesdays – led by Elise Mennie, 819-595-1294, dunmenni@hotmail.com

Occasionally, some meet to meditate on Fridays at 1:00 pm. If you're interested in this time slot, contact Faye Beaufort, 613-562-9677, fbeaufort2891@rogers.com



PARENTS AND TOTS

On NOW!
Wednesday mornings
10am to noon
Parkdale Nursery

Parents who are at home with children are welcome to join the Parkdale Parents and Tots group, which meets each week for fellowship, play, snacks and prayer. The group gathers in the church nursery. On October 30, the following individuals were present: Andrea with Evan and Tobin, Danica with Emmett, Camille with Tianna and left of Camille, Grandma, Theresa, and right, Mark with Maxim.

We have room for more and both Moms and Dads are welcome! It is always good to have a chance to share parenting ideas and stories with each other and for the toddlers to have a chance to play together.



Please contact Melodee Lovering (melodeelovering63@yahoo.ca or 613-728-8656) if you need more information. You are welcome to just take a chance and arrive but sometimes, due to circumstances we have had to cancel and it would be a shame to unload baby and all and then find that there is no group meeting that day.

In From the Cold Literacy Table

In From the Cold began its twelfth season on Saturday, November 9. Although the Literacy Table has acquired an excellent assortment of reading material over the summer, we are always happy to add to our stock! If you have "newer" magazines dated April 2013 onwards, or any books in good condition (particularly biographies, self-help, history, humour, coffee table books, nature, crafts), please leave them outside the chapel or give them to a Literacy Table volunteer any Saturday between November 9th and March 29th, 2014.

In addition, donations of 2014 calendars, Christmas and other greeting cards, as well as cloth, nylon and reusable plasticized bags are greatly appreciated by our guests.

Thank you for your continuing support. Please contact Brenda if you have any questions (613-729-0705).

Parkdale Bookclub

No meeting in December.

Titles for the new year, in no particular order, include: **'Things Fall Apart'**, **'Canada, The Purchase'**, **'Not in My Father's Footsteps'**, **'Death Comes to Pemberley'**, and **'Dear Life'**.



All Welcome!
Meet in the Ladies Parlour
after church

If you have any questions
please email either Marlene

<h.brophy@sympatico.ca>

THE POINT

On October 26, some members of Parkdale's current Confirmation class joined with about fifty other youth from Ottawa Presbytery at The Point. This is a yearly worship gathering of young people and this time was held at Rideau Park United Church. The band "Stream" led music and we were asked to reflect on the fruit of the Spirit as mentioned in Galatians 5:22 & 23 — "By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things."

The nature of this reflection depended on the individuals present. There was a music group, a drama group, a writing group, and two visual arts tables — the one presided over by Melodee Lovering created the banner shown in the photo. Pictured left to right with the banner are William Fitzgerald, Josee Mela and Hannah Crabtree.



Before The Point, the class had dinner together and even had a side trip to a thrift shop where Hannah was able to find the coolest item \$5 and under which was purchased for Second Blessings Coffee Shop. You'll have to ask her to show it to you.

The other pic shows the group at Bella Vista Pizza, where we all got enough food that we were able to lunch on it the next day before Confirmation. At that class, the focus was on a Holy Spirit so it tied in beautifully with the events of the previous evening.





IMAGES & STORIES – October 25, 2013

A visit by Jim Maxwell to Vietnam , Laos and Cambodia

For one and a half hours on the evening of October 25, Jim Maxwell gave forty-one of us a tour of some of the major sites and cities in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, interspersing his slide presentation with significant historical references and comments.

He and his wife Diane, part of a group of twenty-four, first braved the 15 1/2 hour non-stop flight to Hong Kong. Then, after a two-hour hop to Saigon (HO CHI MINH CITY), they arrived in the area formerly known as Indo-China, where they were to spend the next eighteen days.

Jim began by mounting a map which enabled us to visualize the topography of the countries and note that it would cover 70% of Ontario. The population comprised 113 million with Vietnam's 92 far outnumbering Cambodia's 14.6 and Laos' 6.6 million. The climate was tropical and subject to seasonal monsoons. Prominent physical features were the Red and Mekong Rivers, the latter being the 12th longest in the world, with its well-known Delta, and given to heavy flooding.

With Jim, we began in the capital city of Saigon, its population of 9 million served by 7 million scooters manoeuvring its jam-packed streets. He reminded us that the French had first come in the 19th century and some of the architecture, notably the Post Office (designed by Gustave Eiffel, after whom the Tower in Paris is named), City Hall and Notre Dame Basilica, still shows evidence of their presence.

Today, Western influence is marked by fast food outlets, high-end stores and five star hotels where he and the tour group could enjoy poultry, fish, beef and pork at every meal. But old traditions remain in Chinatown, where one could see a woman selling puppies for food, observe the entrepreneurial spirit of the people



in their craftwork, the Binh Tay (a wholesale market) and the burning of incense, paper houses and fake money to venerate the spirit of ancestors.

Next, Jim took us to HOI AN, once part of an empire from the 4th to the 14th century and a principal port for Chinese, Dutch, Japanese and Indian settlers. We saw rice paddies on the landscape of hills and lowlands, temples with impressive carvings built by the kings, evidence of religious practise in the happy Buddha, and learned about the very industrious people who live in what is now a tourist town where one may have a suit made in one day.

Still moving north and along the coast, we arrived at HUE in Central Vietnam, the imperial capital city from 1802-1945 and thought to be one of the most beautiful in the region; here, Buddhism is practised more seriously as may be seen from the large number of monuments and pagodas, including that of Thien Mu Pagoda, the largest and the Palace Museum, gold prominently featured in the elephant carvings.

After a two –night stay, we journeyed with him to Hanoi, the colonial capital from 1902-1954, a city built around lakes, laid out with well-constructed streets and home to 7 million. Historic



buildings abound. There is the HO CHI MINH Museum, constructed in the 1990's, the 1000 year old Temple of Literature dedicated to Confucius, the French neo-classical Opera House, a catholic seminary, a centre for training in arts and crafts mainly for those injured in war and the Hanoi Ceramic mosaic mural, created to celebrate the city's 1000th birthday. Jim emphasized that contrasted with such grandeur was the continuing presence of the traditional neighbourhood showing extended family life with the dominant two-house concept, the grandparent and son occupying the first floor and a watergarden in front of the pagoda.

A quick trip to nearby Ha Long Bay offered an opportunity to see the Cave of the Surprises and the Karst photography of its 3000 enormous boulders.

And then it was time to leave Vietnam for Laos, a country comprising 100 ethnic groups. Here, Jim highlighted the National Museum built to hold the Prabong Buddha, and a journey up the Mekong River, the core of commerce in bamboo, tilapia and textiles, to the Pak Ou caves, a place of worship for over 1000 years.

In Luang Prabang, once the capital of the country and known for its numerous temples and monasteries, Jim drew our attention to the TAK BAT, a traditional practise in which, very early every morning, monks walk the streets in silent lines collecting food from local people in insulated pots. The exercise is meaningful for Buddhists who gain points by making donations and worshipping at Wats (temples).

In the last segment of the trip, we entered Cambodia, a country whose population is still recovering from the Viet Cong and the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge, who seized power in 1975 and killed about two million people. Peace came only in the 1990's.

Jim quickly focussed on the resort town of Siem Reap in the north west, the gateway to the Angkor Ruins (8th to 14th century), with a complex of 1000 temples, the Angkor Wat, a series of five being the most impressive and the largest in the pre-industrial era. Another important site shown was Angkor Thom, an inner royal city, renowned for its temple grounds and including the Bayon, a Hindu and Buddhist temple built in the 12th century as the official state temple of the Buddhist King. Conspicuous here was the elephant terrace where the emperor reviewed the troops and was required to climb everyday to save his head and throne. The rice fields and houses on stilts confirm Cambodia's reputation for food production and water management.

Phnom Penh, the capital and the largest city and boasting the royal palace as its main attraction, is our final stop. Its high rise buildings indicate that the country, reunified in 1993, seeks to modernize itself, while the elaborate funeral, organized for the late Prince Sihanouk, reflects its ties to the past.

Our custodian Khan's brief recollection of his flight to escape the horror of the KHMER ROUGE'S reign of terror and brutality further illustrated how the same past still haunts the memory. It brought Jim's informative, detailed and engaging presentation to a poignant conclusion.

Reported by John Harewood
November 17, 2013

Why does God send bad storms?

A few weeks ago, one of the children of the congregation asked his mother why God sent bad storms; she asked Melodee for help and thought the answer would be helpful for other parents who have struggled with similar questions:

Start by saying that God created the universe to be in balance and to run following certain rules or cause and effect. God does not interfere directly with the natural order of things very often (the rare instances that God does intervene we call miracles). As human beings, though, we get out of sync sometimes and are not prepared for how things happen. Unlike animals, we don't sense when there are going to be earthquakes or tornadoes. Big storms help the earth make adjustments but we are not always ready for them. Also, of course, lately, we have been concerned with the way that human activity is upsetting the balance of nature.

Of course, that doesn't explain everything but it is a starting point.

The question is all part of the bigger one, probably, about why God lets bad things happen. My answer to this is that God does not send bad happenings but He does not always prevent them either and even those things, God ultimately uses for our best good.

“Religion is one of the biggest indicators of longevity...it’s not just enough to believe, you need to visit a place of worship at least 4 times a month for the optimal benefits.”

Dan Buettner
Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer
from the People Who Live Longest



OTTAWA PRESBYTERY MEETING

Summary of the November Meeting of Ottawa Presbytery

Ottawa Presbytery was welcomed by Parkdale United Church for its November meeting. Dinner was served by those who also cater the "In from the Cold" program, which serves those who need a warm, welcoming place to share a meal. This meeting was a modified program meeting with limited business. Following supper the presbyters gathered in the sanctuary and the chair, Trisha Elliott, called the meeting to order.

Words of Welcome to Parkdale were extended by Blaine Pauling, Vice-Chair of their Church Council. He talked about the historical roots of the congregation and the many changes that have and are taking place in the life of the congregation that reflect its vitality and commitment to mission. It was fitting that the presbytery was hosted by Parkdale as one of their ministry personnel, Melodee Lovering, was recognized as a Designated Lay Minister. After a motion to approve her designation, Melodee, along with her colleagues from Parkdale and DaleSong (Parkdale's Contemporary Music group), led in worship. The chair of presbytery and the chair of the Education and Student's Committee participated in the words of recognition and designation.

The business agenda focused on the financial life of presbytery. There was a motion to receive and approve the 2012 Financial Compilation Review and to engage the services of same accountant for next year. The 2014 proposed budget was then presented and approved, along with the assessments to the pastoral charges. Letters informing the pastoral charges of their 2014 assessments will be sent shortly.

Following the business, Chair Trish invited the court into a time of prayer for the people of the Philippines. It was noted that the United Church of Canada is channeling donations to our church partners in the Philippines. This is of particular interest to Montreal and Ottawa Conference, as the Philippines are our designated partner in mission and our Executive Secretary, Rev. Rosemary Lambie, is currently in the Philippines on a partner visit.

Chair Trish had introduced the "Try, Try, Try Again" trophy. The trophy will be given to those who share stories of something they tried but failed, and what was learned from the experience. Rev. Graeme Carruth shared his story of a failed "Blue Christmas" service.

The program part of the meeting was focused on "mission strategy"

within the presbytery. The presentation began with the Presbytery Minister, Lillian Roberts outlining some of the challenges and question that are part of the discussions between pastoral charges and presbytery. As a way of sharing information with the court, the game Mission Jeopardy was played. Three panelists equipped with buzzers and guided by a Jeopardy MC, answered jeopardy questions about the mission of the presbytery under the headings Mission Support, Property, Giving Trends, Ministry, and Partnerships/Community Engagement. The Mission Strategy Committee then presented a skit depicting the complexity of making presbytery decisions regarding future ministry directions. The Committee to Decide Everything had before it five scenarios of ministries asking for support and the mandate to make one choice.

Presbyters then moved to small group discussion about which ministry scenario they would choose and the reasons for making that choice. A summary of small group reporting sheets will be attached to the minutes for information.

Chair Trish then led the closing worship time by inviting presbyters to link arms first with someone next to them, then with someone they didn't know very well, and then with someone from a neighbouring congregation and finally to link arms in one big circle. Each time a link

was formed, the people were invited to say, "We are called by God to...". In the final circle time, presbyters turned outward towards the community and world in a gesture of connecting beyond our closed circle.

The next meeting of Ottawa Presbytery will be December 10, 2013 at Emmanuel United Church. The meeting will include the worship celebration of becoming an Affirming Ministry.



Celebrating our Cultures 2013

On Saturday, October 19, Parkdale United Church held its eighth annual *Celebrating our Cultures* international dinner, with its proceeds going to the Church's God Positioning our Souls Camp. It had poured rain earlier in the afternoon, but that certainly did not dampen attendees' spirits.

As always, the event took place in Memorial Hall, where the walls were adorned with colourful travel posters from around the world and the tables were decorated with flags from various countries. Approximately 100 guests attended the event and all were eager to sample the vast array of homemade international dishes.

Some of the guests wore international costumes in anticipation of the global fellowship experience that awaited us. Notably, in a display of their unique sense of humour, invited guests Kathryn McKinley and her husband P.K. Leung (pictured on p. 25) scored points for originality by dressing in an amusing intercultural "switcheroo." On a slightly more serious note, Parkdaler Uchennah Samuel was simply radiant in her traditional African dress (pictured here).



The event opened with a children's flag ceremony. The crowd chuckled empathetically as the youngest of the children, an adorable toddler, wandered slowly behind the older children. Then, as in the biblical story of the lost sheep, she was quickly shepherded back to the flock of parading children.

The master of ceremonies, Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, welcomed

everyone officially and invited guests at each table to welcome us in their mother tongue. I was truly impressed to hear so many new languages. Anthony then asked God for His blessing on the food and invited us to make our way to the buffet tables, which lined both sides of the hall. The buffet included a broad range of main courses, appetizers and desserts.

Corinna Anderson led us on piano with a moving rendition of Canada's national anthem, and the talented Harambee Choir of Ottawa won our hearts with its lovely music. As the evening progressed, guests chatted amicably among themselves and with visitors. One visitor commented that it was fun to try culinary specialties from different countries and exclaimed, "It would be nice to do this at our church!"

This year's honorary "ambassadors" were the Vidal family, who spoke enthusiastically about the family's life in the Philippines, and Lauren Barbour, whose presentation on Mennonites was particularly informative. Incorporating a new approach, two "travellers" posed their exploratory questions to the ambassadors.

As Mennonite ambassador, Lauren Barbour explained that Mennonites can define themselves by either religious affiliation and/or by their ethnic roots. She listed some Canadian Mennonite communities, including the geographic triangle of Mennonite communities in Manitoba, and pointed out that not all Mennonites live an ultra-simple lifestyle. We sang familiar hymns that are common within her Mennonite tradition and learned that many Mennonites speak a form of German. In closing her presentation, she offered us all a deliciously sweet sample of a



Mennonite-style fruit soup, called pluma moos. It was a thoughtful way to close the presentation, which allowed us to feel first-hand the warmth of Mennonite hospitality.

Next to speak were ambassadors Danielien and Daniel Vidal, who shared their culture as people from the Philippines. Their slides and descriptions of their picturesque homeland were very engaging. Their dance segment, which followed the slides, showcased their wonderful talent, and several people commented that they were polished and confident in their performance. As they danced the ceremonial stick dance, I noted how elegant they looked in their lustrous ivory-coloured pineapple leaf fabric shirts.

Later, Gloria Anderson led us in a touching rendition of Bob Marley's famous song, *One Love*. As many Parkdalers are aware, Gloria is well known and loved for her church solos and her singing in Ottawa's Ni Wewe Tu Choir.

The Harambee Choir and volunteer drummers from the congregation provided the grand finale. The audience's energy

level soared as they tapped out their rhythmic beats of the traditional South African hymn *We Are Marching (Siyahamba)* and it was not long before people began dancing in the aisles. Congratulations to all the drummers for leaving us with such a memorable last impression!

In closing, Parkdale would like to extend its sincere thanks to the International Dinner Planning Committee (Estelle Allen, Lenore Rayner, Jennifer Payne and Faye Beaufort), the master of ceremonies (Anthony Bailey), the Harambee Choir, Corinna Anderson (pianist), Gloria Anderson (singer), the honorary ambassadors (Lauren Barbour and the Vidal family), would-be travellers (Kathleen Stephenson and Jennifer Payne), the silent auction organizers, those who helped in the kitchen, the set-up and the clean-up and, of course, our guests and those who contributed delicious dishes.

Barbara Hennessy

Thank you Parkdale!

Dear Parkdale Congregation,

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity NCR, I would like to express my sincerest thanks for your unwavering support of our organization. In addition to your financial support over the years, it was so wonderful to see twelve people from Parkdale represented at their build during Faith Week in September.

On September 11th, Parkdale United worked at the build site on Nantes. Outfitted in their hard hats and steel toe boots, I heard later they did quite a bit of dry walling. The devotions, led by Anthony that morning, were as usual thoughtful, insightful, provocation and moving.

I am aware that there are many organizations seeking your financial support so it is not lost on Habitat that Parkdale has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us for the past 12 years. This last donation of \$434.88 collected by the congregation of Parkdale and dedicated on Sunday, November 3, 2013, was increased to \$500 through an additional offering by Anthony and Wendy. In addition, as I was preparing to exist the sanctuary, one of your generous congregational members matched the \$500 donation with an additional \$500, bring the amount to a generous \$1000.

I thank you for all your generous support in so many different ways. Habitat looks forward to many more years of partnership with Parkdale.

Yours in partnership,

Rev. Jocelyn Richard-Livingstone
Family Service and Faith Relations Manager,
Habitat for Humanity NCR



Thank you to the Staff of Parkdale!

All of the staff at Parkdale do so much for us - after all, the church could not function without them. Our Council's Ministry & Personnel Committee hosted members of the Parkdale staff for an appreciation dinner on November 15. Here are a few photos of the night....



Carole Shaw, Molly Shinhat, Khan Chao, Melodee Lovering, Anthony Bailey, Don Mockett
(Missing: Debbie Roi, Ryan Pascal)

Judy Hamley (M&P Chair),
Molly Shinhat, Ruth Foster
(M&P member), Pierre
Barbeau (M&P member),
Carole Shaw, Don
Macpherson (M&P member)





Wally Prater (M&P member), Anthony Bailey, Wendy Bailey, Danielle Gougeon



Khan Chao (Property Custodian), Richard Hamley (Donations Coordinator), Kathleen Stephenson (Treasurer), Sandra Mockett, Don Mockett (Office Manager)

Namby and Pamby Return, in...

RE-INVENTING CHRISTMAS

Both Namby and Pamby wonder about the so-called “signs of Christmas,” which they see all around them, and earlier, every year.

Namby: Good morning, Pamby.

Pamby: And a very good morning to you, Namby. You have that look about you which tells me that you are going to say something intelligent.

Namby: Don't be so sure! I may disappoint you. But maybe all the lights we have been seeing on the streets, on houses, in stores and wherever you go have left a halo on me.

Pamby: Oh, so that's what it is! Thanks for telling me. You told me long ago that you don't wear much makeup, so I was wondering where the glow came from.

Namby: Stop it! There is no glow and no halo on me, but perhaps all the lights are making me lighthearted.

Pamby: So that's the effect they have on you? Guess that's better than being lightheaded.

Namby: Maybe I am going to say something intelligent anyhow.

Pamby: So, what would that be?

Namby: I was wondering whether there is some kind of plan at this time of year, which we call the Christmas season, to dazzle our eyes with all kinds of stuff.

Pamby: And were you thinking that there would be a reason for that?

Namby: Of course, that we would go out and buy it because we would feel that it would make us, our family or friends feel good.

Pamby: It's strange that we should be thinking about the same thing! Maybe it's the Christmas bug bugging both of us at the same time.

Namby: Why does it have to be a bug? Well, it may be a bug for you, but the more stuff I see, the more questions I ask. Just yesterday, I saw a magazine advertising Christmas gifts.

Pamby: So, what's so strange about that? Stores depend on the

Christmas season for their best sales, so it makes sense to say what they have and encourage people to buy.

Namby: Yes, but the front cover of the magazine had the words “JOY and WONDER”.

Pamby: I think that I see where you are going with this. You see the words “JOY and WONDER” sending the message that if you buy what is advertised in the magazine, you will have feelings of joy and wonder.

Namby: Exactly; and I have to admit that it was a brilliant sales strategy to choose those two words.

Pamby: You are so right! They are so closely connected to the Christmas story. The chorus in “We three kings of Orient” goes “Oh Star of wonder”. And doesn’t that line in “Unto us a child is born” in Handel’s Messiah have the word “Wonderful” alongside “Counsellor”, “Everlasting Father” and “Prince of Peace?”

Namby: Yes, “wonder” would be a good “catch word”; it’s in our Christmas vocabulary; we think about the mystery in the story when we hear the word. But “JOY” caught my attention even more; I began to play a game with myself.

Pamby: Don’t tell me that this is another one of your “highfalutin’ ” tricks! So I was right when I said that you seemed ready to say something intelligent? What’s this game with yourself all about?

Namby: Well, first, you have to agree to play before I tell you.

Pamby: Okay, okay! It’s the season of goodwill, so I agree.

Namby: How many times can you say something about the Christmas story that has the word “JOY” in it? I’ll start, then you’ll be next and we’ll continue until one of us misses. Here we go!

“Joy to the world, the Lord has come!”

Pamby: Ha! Ha! Not bad at all. “O Come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant”.

Namby: “O Tidings of comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy”.

Pamby: “Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies”.

Namby: “O Christmas, merry Christmas, is it really come again?

With its memories and greetings, with its joy and with its pain”.

Pamby: You are cheating! You just made that up. How comes it that I recognized all the others as lines from Christmas carols or songs but don’t recognize that?

Namby: Now, isn’t it you cheating because you have run out of lines

with “Joy?” Those are lines from a beautiful but sad-sounding carol which I learned at high school years ago. True enough, we didn’t sing it often.

Pamby: “Fear not”, said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind”.

Namby: “As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright”.

Pamby: What a great game! Somehow, saying those lines and remembering the tune which goes with each one reminds me of the Joy which we have for years and years associated with Christmas.

Namby: Yes. They remind me that the “Joy and Wonder” promised on the magazine may be a brilliant sales gimmick , but they aren’t the real thing.

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11.11.13



Canadian Centennial Choir Christmas Concert

Marg Stubington, conductor

Rutter's *Magnificat* !

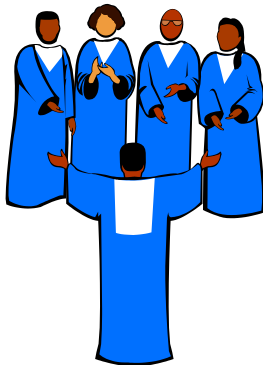
Tuesday, December 17th, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Woodroffe United Church

207 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa

We open our 46th season with John Rutter's *Magnificat* for SATB choir, soprano soloist and orchestra; a joyous celebration of the Virgin Mary, inspired by feast-day festivities in countries such as Spain, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Other works include *Serenity* (O magnum mysterium) and *Gloria* (with piano duet) by Norwegian composer Ole Gjeilo, and *Carols of the Nativity* by B.C. composer Stephen Chatman.

Tickets from Val Hum, 613-728-8830, Valerie.hum@rogers.com





STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Parkdale to Introduce Recycling Policy

A proposal will soon be submitted to Council requesting that it approve a policy that will include guidelines on recycling, as developed by the Stewardship Group. This planned policy is intended to guide groups and individuals in the use and recycling of various types of recyclable and non-recyclable products used or resulting from Parkdale-associated activities.

Some background...

As Christians, we are called on to steward the earth and all its resources. This is clearly set out in the New United Church of Canada Creed, which reads in part:

*... We are called to be the
Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
...*

In practical terms, this involves reducing our ecological footprint to the extent possible and practicable and taking whatever

steps are necessary to avoid adding to the burdens we now place on the earth and our natural environment.

What would this mean...

Provided the proposed policy is approved by Council, all Parkdale committees and organizations, as well as any outside organizations using the facilities of Parkdale United, will be asked, where feasible and practical, to observe a series of guidelines as part of their normal activities.

This will include such practices as avoiding the use of non-recyclable products, such as those containing Styrofoam, and recycling and composting those items of refuse that can be recycled or composted.

The most frequent occasions that will require this type of vigilance will be events where food is served. Event organizers will be encouraged, when purchasing supplies, to look for paper or otherwise recyclable or compostable products. A list of suggested sources where environmentally friendly products can be obtained will be available through the Church office.

How could my activity help?

As part of implementing these practices, event organizers will need to do additional pre-planning; this would involve the need to make provision for the types of receptacles required to allow for the sorting of various kinds of refuse into the appropriate streams—recyclable, compostable, non-recyclable, etc. and to ensure that participants/attendees dispose of their refuse appropriately.

What if I have more questions?

Additional information will be provided once the policy has been approved by Council.

Let's all try to be good stewards of the precious resources provided to us.



Making Parkdale more accessible...

As part of Parkdale's ongoing work to make the building more accessible for persons living with mobility challenges, we are accessibilizing the bathroom outside of Memorial Hall, and there are discussions afoot to put some pew cuts in the sanctuary so persons in wheelchairs can sit in the rows more easily alongside their friends and family without feeling like they are in the aisles.



the Messenger



EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor this issue: Blaine Pauling

Proofreader: Jaylyn Wong

Contributors: the Baird Family, John Harewood, Val Hum,
Elise Mennie, John Harewood, Camille Beaufort

We are always looking for new ideas,
volunteers and submissions.

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 reserve the right to edit, condense or reject submissions, but
will try to find space for all.

Next issue: January 2014.

Editor next issue: Danica Rogers

Please submit articles and materials to
messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca

or the church office
by Sunday December 15th*

**3rd last Sunday of each month*