

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Parkdale United Church

429 Parkdale Ave.

Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 1H3

Telephone: (613) 728-8656

Fax: (613) 728-9686

E-mail: pdale@trytel.com

Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey: abailey@trytel.com

Barbara Faught: ken_barb@sympatico.ca

Melodee Lovering: melodeelovering63@yahoo.ca

Website: www.parkdaleunitedchurch.ca



WELCOME TO PARKDALE

A special 2012 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. Please take a copy home to read. We hope you will come again for worship and fellowship.

The Parkdale Congregation

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In brief...

ANNUAL MEETING

February 26, 2012 is the date of Parkdale's Annual Congregational Meeting. Make a plan to attend and hear about some of the great work that has happened over the past year, and be prepared to vote on the budget for 2012. The 2011 Annual Report will be available two weeks prior to the meeting.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Youth in grades eight and up are invited to participate in these special faith formation classes which are now being held on Sunday afternoons at 3pm. Please contact Melodee if you are interested in participating (melodeelovering63@yahoo.ca)

PANCAKE SUPPER



Join us on Tuesday evening, February 21 for the Pancake supper. This year there will be a special gluten free station, separate from other cooking. If you

are planning to attend the supper and would like the gluten-free option, please call the office (613-728-8656) to let us know.

SACRED MOVEMENT

An exploration of movement in personal prayer and liturgy. This free five-session series will now begin on February 29. Experienced liturgical dancer Wendy Morrell, Program Director of the Sacred Dance Guild, will lead the session. For more information feel free to speak with Jennifer Payne (613-692-0876)

IMAGES AND STORIES

February 24, 2012 at 7 p.m. Come travel with Images and Stories and experience the visual delights of India with John Butcher and Elaine Sullivan Butcher. They will share stories and photos of their recent journey to this land of many contrasts. Everyone welcome. Come at 7 for this presentation and stay afterwards for treats and conversation.

2011 TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts for 2011 will be available in the Sanctuary in mid February.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**Black History Month
and Lenten
Transformation**



The Season of Lent begins on February 22 this year. The month of February is widely recognized as Black History Month. What correspondence might these two observances have?

Origins

In the United States of America black history has been celebrated annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month."

It was started by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, born to two former slaves, who as a child worked in the coal mines, only able to enrol in high school at age twenty. Graduating within just two years he later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. During his studies he was deeply troubled that the history books largely ignored the presence and contribution of blacks to the human family

Woodson decided to embark on writing the history of Blacks into the nation's history. He estab-

lished the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915,

and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Here in Canada, Black History Month (BHM) was established by an Act of Parliament in December of 1995, and has been celebrated formally since 1996. Like Asian Heritage Month in May, Aboriginal emphasis in the month of June and other observances of various cultural and ethnic communities in Canada, BHM attempts to provide all Canadians with an opportunity to reflect upon the reality of Canada's diverse people— in this case those of African heritage – and

celebrate their past and present contributions to the well-being and growth of Canada.

The Invitation

Black History Month is an invitation to become informed about the heritage of Black peoples and the significant contributions they have made in the world. This comes through participation in the various cultural, artistic, religious, musical and academic events offered throughout the month (and at other times of the year). For a comprehensive list of events and activities around the region, check out www.blackhistoryottawa.org.

On a deeper level, it is also an invitation to be transformed in ways that support the peaceful, celebrative and respectful coming together of peoples from varying ethno-cultural heritages.

The Season of Lent

The Lenten season is also an invitation to be transformed. Although the origins of the season of Lent do not go back to the early Church, over the first three to four centuries of the Church's history it became fixed as a time of penance and deep spiritual reflection that preceded the cruci-

fixion and resurrection of Jesus. The forty days preceding Easter (excluding Sundays) is set aside, partly in commemoration of Jesus' forty days of temptation in the wilderness before his public ministry. You might have observed that the period of forty days is very significant in the Jewish and Christian scriptures. (Although it has mythic and religious significance, periods of 40 days are used in the measurement of the solar year).

Lent invites us like Jesus to wrestle with who we truly are; to reflect on our spiritual relationship with the One to whom we ultimately belong; and to seek the Spirit's power and guidance to be continually transformed into a faithful missionary in God's loving work in the world.

A Lenten Meditation on a Saying of Jesus
(~ transformation ~)

"No one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says the old is good." Luke 5:39

I don't know very much about wine, but I know people who do. It can be fascinating to listen to folks – "in the know" – talk wine. Once at a function, I overheard a

conversation that began as an exchange of mutual admiration for vintage wines with each person submitting reasons for their favourites. Soil, grapes, aging processes, storage...you know how it goes. Soon however, the conversation turned into a trivia contest.

Did you know that 20 million acres worldwide are planted to grapes? Or that it costs about 95 cents per bottle to age wine in vintage French oak barrels, but about \$2.60 to do so in new French barrels? Who knew?

When Jesus was talking about old wine and new wine and the old being preferred, he was not really talking about wine. Sure every one of his hearers, as well as those of Luke's community, would know that putting new wine into already stretched and brittle old wineskins would jeopardize both. And that, customarily, aged wine was preferred to fresh wine not yet fully fermented.

The question is: did they and do we realize that Jesus is really talking about a certain kind of transformation; a rigorous and joyful dance of giving up some things in order to embrace some-

thing new? Here he invites the kind of change that radically challenges some of our religious assumptions, our attitudes, our customs, our theologies, our politics, our spiritual practices, our prejudices and even our beloved notions of what constitutes true justice and right relations.

This sweeping comprehensive-ness of proposed transformation is necessary if we are to appreciate the kind of challenge the new way (new wine) of Jesus posed to first century hearers who privileged the old way (old wine), and if we are to grow in the joy and summons of our common discipleship.

Fundamental transformation is hazardous for all, those who seek it and those reluctantly precipitated into it, those who just want a little of it and those who don't feel they have any need of it. Yet the prized and vintage good news of God is spilled 'wastefully' whenever and wherever the new ways of Jesus are drunk.

Blessings and Peace
anthony

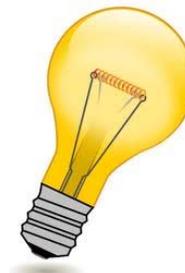
A Black History Month Contribution

Inventions by Peoples of African Descent



- Stethoscope
- Ironing board
- Baby buggy
- Bicycle frame
- Guitar
- Almanac
- Traffic light
- Blood plasma bag
- Pencil Sharpener
- Lawn Mower
- Self Lubricating cap
- Electric lamp bulb
- Cellular phone
- Spark plug
- Automatic gear shift
- Fire extinguisher

- Imhotep – Ancient Egypt
- Sarah Bone – December 30, 1887
- W.H. Richardson – June 18, 1899
- L.R. Johnson – October 10, 1899
- Robert F. Fleming Jr. March 3, 1886
- Benjamin Banneker (approx 1791)
- Garrett Morgan - November 20, 1923
- Dr. Charles Drew – approximately 1945
- J.L Love – November 23, 1897
- L. A. Burr – May 19, 1897
- Elijah McCoy – November 15, 1895 (the “real” McCoy)
- Lewis Latimer – March 21, 1882 (colleague of Thomas Edison)
- Henry T. Sampson – July 6, 1971
- Edmond Berger – Feb 2, 1839
- Richard Spikes – February 28, 1932
- T. Marshall – October 26, 1872





NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Birthdays in February
Our warmest greetings to:

- Feb 1 Winston Koch
- Feb 1 Lexy Finchman-Dinsdale
- Feb 2 Richard Yearwood
- Feb 3 Jordyn Yeck
- Feb 4 Scott Andrews
- Feb 6 Uchenna Samuel
- Feb 7 Elise Mennie
- Feb 7 Hannah Crabtree
- Feb 8 Glen Drodge
- Feb 8 Jordan O’Niel
- Feb 9 Angela Linton
- Feb 11 Anna Phillips
- Feb 13 Molly Fraamama
- Feb 14 Scott Taylor
- Feb 17 Anna Méla
- Feb 17 Gabriella Hilkes
- Feb 19 Charlie Bolt
- Feb 20 Wendy Martin
- Feb 22 Andrew Borden
- Feb 23Carolynn Trites
- Feb 23 Keenan Nasrallah
- Feb 23 Tyson Valcin
- Feb 26 Greg Molson
- Feb 26 Steven Molson
- Feb 26 Joshua Evans
- Feb 27 Ethel Evans
- Feb 28 Valdengrave Okumu
- Feb 29 Laura Lu

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



THE WALK

is a new production dealing with the stark reality of human smuggling and trafficking. Much of the play outlines real-life struggles and stories, which adds a very special authenticity. Our own Rachel Eugster (choir member) is a cast member in the play.

Dates: Feb 3-5; 10-12.
Time: 8 pm.
Location: The Natalie Stern Studio Theatre, 294 Picton Ave., (Westboro) Ottawa.

Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door.

Ticket locations: Mother Tongue Books 1067 Bank St; The Collected Works Bookstore



RECIPES

Faux Fudge

Try this simple recipe for Valentine’s Day. So quick and easy that a child could make it successfully.
From the Ottawa Citizen



- One 3.9 ounce/120 g package of chocolate pudding and pie filling (not instant)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ¼ cup milk
- 1 ½ cups confectioners’ sugar, sifted
- ¼ cup nuts, chopped

Combine pudding, butter and milk in a saucepan. Bring to a full boil over medium heat, boil gently for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Quickly blend in sugar, add nuts. Pour into a greased or wax paper lined 8 x 4 inch pan. Cool, cut into squares. Store covered in the fridge. Makes 1 pound

Auntie Evelyn’s fudge

This recipe is a best seller at school fundraisers in Australia
From the Green and Gold Cookbook, 1923



- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 4 oz butter
- 2 teaspoons cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup milk
- Vanilla

Gently heat milk and sugar in saucepan until sugar is dissolved. Add butter and cocoa. Cook gently for 30 minutes and then, take off the heat, add some vanilla and beat together until thick. Pour fudge onto buttered plate, and leave until set. Cut into small squares.

Melts in your mouth!

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO PARKDALE?

Allan and Emily Menzies, since the 70s

Allan and I grew up in the church, Baptist and United Church and a Brethren Sunday School. After our marriage in 1970, we were looking for a church and having visited a number of churches in the west end we ended up at Parkdale where Jim Lawson was the minister. In the first years we attended sporadically as we usually returned to Perth on the weekends. After our children, Ellen and Jeffrey, arrived, we settled into Parkdale and before long were recruited to various positions. I helped in the Nursery and taught Sunday School for many years before I returned to teaching for the Ottawa Board. Belonging to Unit 4 was great fun and led to many happy hours of making Christmas crafts and working at the bazaar in addition to the monthly meetings where wonderful friendships developed. Over the years I participated in a number of church organizations, particularly Christian Education which led to helping Andrew Stirling bring the Bethel Bible study to Parkdale. The bible study ran for ten years.

Now I am teaching Sunday School again and have the great pleasure of having my grandsons, Freddy and Isaac Andrews in my class.

Allan, being a hands on person, joined Trustees and has repaired, built, painted, assembled and generally helped to keep an old building going for a little longer. The improved sound system in the sanctuary was one of his big projects. He has also been a member of the Worship Committee and we were members of Session for many years.

It has been a particular joy to see our children grow up at Parkdale. Ellen married Scott Andrews in 1997 and Jeff married Leigh Melanson in 2007 at Parkdale. All the grandchildren, Freddy, Isaac, Theo and Rosemary Andrews and Alice Menzies have been baptized at Parkdale.

Although we moved back to the Perth area in 2003, we still find ourselves on the road to Ottawa most Sunday mornings.

The participation in committees is important and satisfying but it really is the ongoing message of the Gospel that sustains and comforts us through the years. We thank our faithful parents for setting the foundation for us many years ago and for caring and supportive staff and friends of Parkdale United Church.

Orpha Fenton, since the 1950s

My husband and I used to live on Powell Ave in the Glebe attending St. James United Church. Sixty years ago Harvey and our four girls and two boys moved to the Civic Hospital area. With the merger of St. James and Glebe United congregations in 1965 we felt that it would be more convenient to attend Parkdale United, which at that time was under the ministry of Dr. Coll.

Compiled by Valerie Hum. If you would like to share your story, please contact Valerie at 613-728-8830 or Email: valerie.hum@rogers.com

Lectionary for February 2012

February 5

Isa. 40:21–31
Psalm 147:1–11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16–23
Mark 1:29–39

February 12

2 Kings 5:1–14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24–27
Mark 1:40–45

February 19

2 Kings 2:1–12
Psalm 50:1–6
2 Corinthians 4:3–6
Mark 9:2–9

February 22, Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians. 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26, First Sunday in Lent—

Genesis. 9:8–17
Psalm 25:1–10
1 Peter 3:18–22
Mark 1:9–15

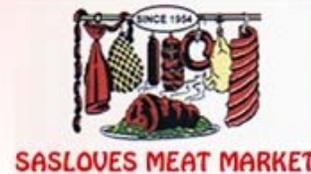
**IN FROM THE COLD
MINISTRY
SPECIAL THANKS**

The **tenth** year of our In From the Cold ministry will be drawing to a close at the end of March. Special thanks to the Ottawa Food Bank and all our local merchants whose loyal and generous support help make this ministry possible.

Please take time to express your appreciation to the following merchants as you shop:

- Bridgehead Coffeehouses,**
- Giant Tiger Express,**
- Harvest Loaf Bakery,**
- Herb and Spice,**
- Morris Home Hardware,**
- Ottawa Bagel Shop and Deli,**
- The Table Vegetarian Restaurant,**
- Saslove's Meat Market,**
- Three Bakers & A Bike Bakery and Café,**
- Trillium Bakery.**

The number of guests in January continues to be high 125 , 127, 127 for the first three weeks. Many thanks to all of those who contribute to this wonderful and meaningful ministry.



YAYA

Youth and Young Adults

UPDATE

Youth & Young Adult Minister
Ottawa Presbytery

Application forms are now available for staff positions and host congregations for Camp Awesome 2012. The sooner applications are received, the better, so step up and apply to be part of the excitement this summer. Visit our newly-updated webpages at http://www.uccanottawa.org/Youth_and_Young_Adults.html

If interested, send an application, a resume, a cover letter and a letter of reference from your minister or church council chair no later than March 1st 2012 to...

Rev. Hilary Merritt (Youth & Young Adult Minister), Ottawa Presbytery, 6 Epworth Ave., Suite 1, Nepean, ON, K2G 2L5
Phone: 613 224 5318 ex. 17
Email: hmer-ritt@uccanottawa.org

Get set for a fun 2012 WORSHIPLUDE

weekend Feb. 10 to 12, as we host visiting YAYA groups, join in Winterlude activities and top it off with our awesome "Worshiplude-THE POINT" celebration on Saturday night! This year, for safety reasons, we're asking hosting groups to complete registration forms. Speak to your youth leaders and/or minister(s) and encourage them to have your group get involved. For more information, and hosting registration forms check out our web pages at http://www.uccanottawa.org/Youth_and_Young_Adults.html

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

General Council 41 is happening Aug.11-18, 2012 in Ottawa. GC is the big triennial gathering of United Church delegates for discernment, governance and decision-making at the national level. Young people engage General Council in different ways - sometimes as volunteers, sometimes as Youth Delegates, and sometimes with Youth Forum (a parallel stream where young people engage each other around important issues and inform/witness to the wider gathering). Rev. Adam Hanley, who was one of the HGL Coordinators at Rendez-vous, is helping to coordinate Youth Forum this summer. He's looking for people to serve as Home Group Leaders and Chaplains. Please consider applying to serve this summer: <http://www.gc41.ca/youthforum/youth-forum-leadership/> Youth and Young Adults interested in participating as GC commissioners or Youth Forum delegates are encouraged to contact me, your YAYA minister at hmer-ritt@uccanottawa.org.

There is an upcoming **Youth Study Tour to Nicaragua** in May for young adults (ages 18-

25). The tour is open to any young adult who wishes to participate, although they particularly encourage young adults who are connected to Foodgrains Bank member organizations to apply. While in Nicaragua participants will visit some projects and also learn about the larger context in which the projects operate. They will explore various issues dealing with food, farming and agricultural production in Nicaragua. There will also be a homestay (2-3 nights) and a chance to meet with Nicaraguan youth. Ultimately, the intention is that the participants will come back inspired to start/continue working for a more just world through Foodgrains Bank and its members. The website states that the cost is \$3,000 but there are a few possibilities to help lower the cost per participant. All pertinent information can be found on the website: http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/upcoming_food_study_tours.aspx

Go to our webpages at http://www.uccanottawa.org/Youth_and_Young_Adults.html to join us on facebook



DISPATCHES FROM BRAZIL

Why We Should Still Give to Rich Brazil

Loretta Minghella

Reprinted with permission from: The Church Times, 6 January, 2012 Available at: <http://www.churchtimes.co.uk>

The {British} Government is expected to enshrine in law its commitment to 0.7 per cent of gross national income for overseas aid. As a result, the brickbats have been flying in the tabloid press, most notably the *Daily Mail*.

UK aid to India was the paper's first target. Notwithstanding the fact that a third of the world's poorest 1.2 billion people live in the sub-continent, the country has a space programme, and is officially rated middle-income. Why should it continue to receive handouts from the hard-pressed UK taxpayer?

The news last week that Brazil, another recipient of aid from the Department for International Development, was now rated wealthier than the UK sparked more outrage. "Britain must put its own vulner-

able first," the paper demanded in its leader comment.

It was left to *The Sun* to sound a less strident note. "Brazil's population is around 190 million," a spokes-man from the Centre for the Eco-nomics and Business Research is quoted as saying. "They may have a bigger economy, but living standards here [in the UK] are still far higher than over there."

That is the heart of the issue. I have no desire to minimise the daily struggle of the poor and vulnerable in this country. But, on a recent visit to Christian Aid projects in Brazil, I saw for myself the way in which new-found economic wealth can go hand in hand with abject need.

The face of global poverty has changed in recent years. Whereas, 20 to 30 years ago, the vast majority of the world's poorest people were found in poor countries, today, 75 per cent of those in extreme poverty — earning less than a \$1 a day — live in middle-income countries.

Despite its growing economic power, Brazil remains one of the most unequal countries in the world: three per cent of the population owns two-thirds of all arable

land. Millions have no access to land, and a third of the people have no access to clean running water.

The reasons for this unequal picture include an extremely regressive tax system. In 2005, Brazil collected nearly 34 per cent of its GDP in tax, only to invest just 9.5 per cent in basic services such as education, health, housing, and sanitation. The reason for this is a combination of the country's heavy debts, and the fact that the IMF requires Brazil to maintain a four-per-cent budget surplus.

One Christian Aid partner I visited, the Gaspar Garcia Centre for Human Rights, works with the homeless and dispossessed in the centre of São Paulo, the largest city in the Southern hemisphere. São Paulo's evident affluence is in sharp contrast to the conditions for those who live on the streets, or in the run-down tenement-shacks known as cortiços.

I visited one of its projects at a waste-recycling centre, where people are given the chance to acquire skills such as making and selling products from recycled materials. Another partner, MST (the Landless People's Movement), has successfully settled 400,000 landless families in areas across the country.

I was also able to travel into the mountains around Rio to witness the devastation left by the floods of January 2010, in which at least 1000 people died. Government help in remote areas was minimal. Another partner, Koinonia, provided blankets and food rations for 6000 people, and is helping the displaced to rebuild their lives.

To abandon countries such as Brazil at this stage of its development would be extremely short-sighted. National growth on its own in the developing world is not enough. It is essential, of course, in helping people move out of poverty, but can all too often occur at the expense of the poor.

Loretta Minghella is the director of Christian Aid, UK





and Music Director
Angus Armstrong present...

Classic, Germanic and Romantic

Johannes Brahms: **Academic Festival Overture Op. 80**
Franz Liszt: **Hungarian Rhapsody #2**
Ludwig van Beethoven: **Piano Concerto #3 In C minor, Op. 37, soloist Frances Armstrong**

A reception will follow the concert

SATURDAY FEB 25, 2012 7:30 p.m.

Parkdale United Church
(Parkdale and Gladstone)

Tickets at the door: \$15 for adults,
\$10 for students/seniors, free for ages 12 & under
For info: (819) 778-3438 www.parkdaleorchestra.ca






Design by: HGF Design Studio • www.hgf-design.com

Parkdale Council considers whether to support a “Remit” to the General Council

Note: The information summarized in this document was obtained from the United Church of Canada resource Our Words of Faith – Cherished, Honoured and Living (Feb 2, 2010) which is available from the United Church of Canada website. All resources may be found at www.united-church.ca/beliefs

We, together with the Congregations and Presbyteries of the United Church of Canada, have been asked to vote on three parts of **Remit 6** by April 1, 2012.

This process occurs when there is a desire to change the **Basis of Union**, which is the United Church of Canada’s (UCC) constitution. The Basis of Union can only be changed when there is support from more than 50% of **each** the Presbyteries and the Sessions (to which our council is held equivalent). Therefore, if Parkdale fails to respond, this is equivalent to a vote of “no”.

When the UCC was formed in 1925, 20 articles were included in the doctrine of faith. As the primacy of scripture is recognized, these articles are termed **subordinate standards**.

Formally, we can say that a subordinate standard is a statement of faith, one that is “in substance agreeable to the teaching of the Holy Scriptures” but subordinate to scripture, broadly consistent with other faith statements acknowledged by the Reformed tradition, and reflecting the Reformed commitment to engaging the present time and age. (*Our Words of Faith*, p 5)

From the time of union, certain understandings have existed:

- The church is always renewing itself
- Subordinate standards are “in dialogue” with each other
- The UCC is open to affirming other subordinate standards in the future (“It will be the duty of those who come after us to find a more fitting intellectual expression for the unchanging and inexhaustible truth of the Gospel.” *T Kilpatrick, Our Common Faith*, 1928)
- Confessional statements are never entirely consistent

In 2009, at the General Council, the addition of 3 additional expressions of faith to the Doctrine Section of the Basis of Union, was considered. The result of this process is the remit currently before us for our prayerful consideration.

We have been asked to consider the addition of the following to the Basis of Union:

- 1940 Statement of Faith
- The New Creed (1968, 1980, 1995)
- A Song of Faith (2006)

1940 Statement of Faith*

This statement was approved in 1940. There was a desire to create a statement of faith that was more concise, more intelligible and briefer than the 20 doctrines.

A New Creed*

Credo are brief expressions of faith that can be recited, often from memory, in worship or baptism. A New Creed, which was approved in 1968 and modified in 1980 (inclusive language) and 1995 (“to live with respect in creation”), was written to be a more modern expression of faith than the Apostles’ Creed. It is familiar to us at Parkdale as it is recited during the sacrament of baptism.

A Song of Faith*

A Song of Faith is intended to be a verbal picture of what the UCC understands its faith to be at the beginning of the 21st century within the current *theological, social, political and historical context*. It was composed over 6 years in wide consultation with all bodies in the church. It is a “song”

because in the UCC, people tend to “harmonize their points of view rather than sing in union”.

It is intended to be timely and contextual, part of the whole of who we are. It is not a statement for all time, but for this time.... it was never intended to replace the United Church Creed, which remains our common liturgical expression of faith.

The genesis of this 2006 statement was threefold:

- The doctrinal section of the Basis of Union was intended to be a “piece of time” and subsequent generations were expected to craft statements for their own time
- Questions about the relevance of earlier statements had arisen with respect to contemporary formulations of faith
- The UCC had made statements about many things (sexuality, scripture, interfaith relationships, etc.) that had not been summarized in one place

While *A Song of Faith* maintains “an orthodox understanding” of the faith, it includes many theological perspectives that “not all people of faith see... in the same fashion”. The UCC has a long tradition of “spiritual freedom” and “relationship, conversation, understanding and growth are held to be significant outcomes of a church

that embraces diversity.” *A Song* does attempt to articulate in an orderly and evocative way what the church believes, based on its actions, its discourse, and its relationship to the Christian tradition in general and its own history in particular.

The Process

Each of these 3 expressions of faith needs to be considered in turn. They will be voted on at Council during a special meeting on February 21 (after the pancake supper) . The Council chair (Ellen Andrews if prior to the February 2012 AGM), will then submit Parkdale’s vote to the United Church of Canada. **This process must be completed by April 1, 2012.**

*These can be reviewed at: www.united-church.ca/beliefs



PRESBYTERY REPORT

Ottawa Presbytery met at Woodroffe United Church on January 10, 2012. The congregation provided a wonderful supper and gracious hospitality. Chair, Rev. Dianne Cardin called the meeting to order and Ralph Curtis,



make a decision to say that it is time to move through the process to actually become an Affirming Ministry.

Youth and Young Adult Minister, Rev. Hilary Merritt updated the Presbytery on the a number of upcoming opportunities includ-

ing: Worshiplude; Camp Awesome; and General Council Youth Forum. Worshiplude is attended by youth groups from across the province and there is still need for host congregations. Camp Awesome staff applications are available, as are site requests.

Application was made by Rev. David Sherwin to the New Ministry Formation Fund of The United Church of Canada for a new initiative called Faith and Arts Ottawa. David has received funding for the initial phase of this project and asked that the Presbytery recognize and establish the ministry in a formal way. A notice of motion to do so was presented and will be acted on in February since the Presbytery must also allow pastoral charges and ministries to raise any questions or concerns. In the meantime, a working group was established to work with Rev. Sherwin on next steps.

Chair of the Woodroffe Council welcomed Presbytery and shared some highlights about the life and work of the congregation. Patricia Trites, President of the Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality, told the Presbytery about the present program of the school which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2013. It is the only "Lay School of Theology" left in Canada, of the 19 that were planted during the 1960's. Presbyters were invited to share the story of the School with their congregations. Worship was led by the French Ministries Working Group of Ottawa Presbytery. The bilingual worship utilized the themes of "Words of Faith".

The working group related to the discernment regarding Affirming Ministry gave notice of motion for the February meeting. In summary, the motions recommend that the initial time of discernment began in January 2011 be concluded; and secondly, that Ottawa Presbytery

There was motion that Ottawa Presbytery, through the Chair, write to the Gatineau Islamic Centre to express our concern for the community and to share our disgust regarding the acts of vandalism against the Islamic centre that defaced public worship space and conveyed attitudes of racism.

Rev. Angelika Piché, Director of continuing and lay education at United Theological College and a member of the Theology and Faith committee of General Council, led the court through a discussion of Remits 6a, 6b, and 6c, which address questions of doctrinal statements to be included in the Basis of Union. The introductory powerpoint presentation is available from the Presbytery website. The study document "Words of Faith" is available to borrow from the Resource Centre in quantities large enough to facilitate congregational study. The table groups also shared ideas for engaging congregations in talking about the Remit. The possibilities include:

- a Lenten Study series exploring the evolution of particular doctrinal understandings/ beliefs (eg. God, Sin, role of scripture etc.) from the Articles of Faith through to the Song of Faith (Kanata UC);
- a series of four 20-minute sessions over the next 4 meetings with the Council, with the vote being taken following the last session;
- a youth group wrote out the Song

of Faith on newsprint and illustrated it on a church hallway;

- a three hour long workshop looking at the 4 statements considered in the remits as vital elements of the church's current faith (Orleans UC);

- request that Presbytery hold an educational event for all congregational members who would like to attend;
- put a basic introduction on the agenda of the congregation's Annual Meeting;
- do a survey in the congregation asking about their opinions of the each of the statements;
- an expression of concern that the nature of the theological discussion is or could be overwhelming for many lay people.

The Stewardship and Mission Strategy committee shared information about upcoming events. The Stewardship Staircase is scheduled for February 11 in Kemptville and an open space forum on "Our passion for God's mission is..." is planned for March 24th at Dominion-Chalmers United Church. The French Ministry working group updated the Presbytery regarding the ongoing consultations at all levels of the church regarding the future directions of it work.

Rev. Jacques deReland and Nicole Beaudry closed the meeting in Bilingual prayer.

Rev. Lillian Roberts
Presbytery Minister
Ottawa Presbytery

When arriving at church on Sunday mornings, please consider leaving the Gladstone lot for those who



need to be near the door (those who are frail or who have young children, strollers, bags, canes, walkers, etc.) .

WOULD YOU LIKE GIVINGS ENVELOPES?

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the Messenger



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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: **March 2012**
Please submit articles and materials to pdale@trytel.com or the church office
by **February 17.**