

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Custodian Khan Chao was honoured at the September 11 service (see page 16)

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WELCOME TO PARKDALE

A special 2011 (our 80th anniversary year) 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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Reflections on the Sunday School Room Renovations

On our first day of Sunday school this year, one of my preschoolers announced "I don't want to stay here. I'm scared of this room!" Thirteen children, an enthusiastic teenager, a handful of helpful parents and I were crammed into a corner of the Gladstone Hall ready to begin a new year together. I related to them the story of our Sunday school rooms.

When I was a little girl at Parkdale, I had classes in the Gladstone Hall, the stage in the Tape Hall (which is currently housing our nursery supplies) and in many other dark and dingy corners of our great big building. Then, in 1986, some wonderful and generous people turned a space that had been used for storage and a workshop into clean, modern and functional rooms. Looking at the dates, this renovation must have coincided with Parkdale's 55th anniversary. Just in time for the original members of the Sunday school to be nearing retirement!

Somehow, twenty-five years have passed and, as anyone who has spent time with children can predict, the rooms were looking a bit worse for wear. There is only so much glue, juice and popcorn a carpet can absorb...

This year, to celebrate Parkdale's 80th anniversary, some wonderful and generous people are again investing in our children by giving the Sunday school rooms a much needed facelift. The teachers and students alike are eagerly anticipating cheerfully painted walls, easy to clean floors, child sized furniture and noise containing room dividers.

The preschool class took a little field trip down the hall on our first day of Sunday school. The children, who were learning about The Light, each had a small flashlight which they shone through the windows on the empty rooms. Together we said a prayer for the gift of a place to learn and for the people who are making it all happen.

Donations to support the room renovations may be made through your envelopes. We look forward to a grand unveiling of our refreshed space within a few weeks.

Ellen Andrews
Parkdale Sunday School Alumnus, Mother, Teacher & Learner



Gardens

I am not as good a steward of God's good Creation as I could and should be. It takes a lot of work and intentionality. I admire people who not only do this well, but stridently advocate for more of us to do better. Sure, I kind of do my part, after all I practice the 3Rs – reduce, recycle, reuse. In our household, like most in Ottawa, we get our green, black and blue bins out to the curb on the right week – mostly - and on time and we do some composting. We pray before each meal, and at other times, thanking God for daily provisions and generosity to the world and to us. I suppose I also seek to educate myself on the theology and practice of stewarding God's Creation and help to conduct workshops on the same. That is all fine, but I think you feel like me that it's going to take more than that to change things around.

A few weeks ago, one of our neighbours brought over a basket of his delicious tomatoes from the garden he and his wife tend in their backyard. He does this each year around the same time. He apologized that he did not have more to give, remarking that somehow the yield was less stellar this year despite usual care of their garden. We thanked him as usual and assured

him again that not only were we grateful for the generous bounty, but that the tomatoes that he and his wife grow are the best we get to eat all year. This brought a big smile to his face.

As I sat one weekend afternoon savouring a plate of our neighbour's tomatoes, my mind began to reflect on the "garden" as a structured, elegant dance choreographed by the interaction of the seeds, soil, sun, water, wood stakes, and the gardener's skill and attention – all gifts of God. As well, I ruminated on the "garden" as a metaphor for how we are to view and to relate to God, Creation, one another, ourselves and our faith. I know what you are thinking, here he goes again with some bizarre non sequitur in thought, but bear with me a moment.

On two of the Sundays this month, we will have opportunities to corporately and personally give thanks, to reflect on our attitude and practice of gratitude, and to pray about and act on issues of food insecurity in the world. The two Sundays are Thanksgiving, where some will bring produce harvested from their gardens (Oct 9) and World Food Sunday, when we reflect on our garden planet (Oct 16).

Perhaps in anticipation of this time of worship, celebration, reflection and action, we could entertain lessons from the three most prominent

"Gardens" in the Scriptures. The Garden of Eden (Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; Gen. 2:8)

Here God the Creator created and imbued all Creation with goodness. It was a garden of beginnings and calling, a garden of freedom, delight and intimacy with God, as well as one of boundaries and command, as well as a venue of disobedience.

Questions:

- How are we welcoming and nurturing our delight and intimacy with God?
- How are we stewarding the freedom and partnership we have with God and all Creation?
- How have we broken covenant with God and Creation?

The Garden of Gethsemane (They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples... "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death...Father, take this cup from me, yet not my will be done, but thy will; Mark 32, 34, 36) This garden was a venue of agonizing discernment, questioning, suffering, cleansing, prayer and an anguished decision to trust God and to submit to God's will. This garden trial of faith and soul invites us in.

Questions:

- What suffering is found in the planet and in the multitudes of people and other living things?
- What agonizing discernment must we make?

- What would it look like, in our relationship to Creation, to trust God and submit to God's will?

The Garden of Resurrection (Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb...she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus... thinking he was the gardener; John 20:1,14,15)

This garden is pregnant with surprise and mystery, with the courage of the women first, with the presence of the risen Christ who speaks our name and vindicates the passionate commitment of God to redeem all Creation including humanity.

Questions:

- When we pray, how does God's care for the earth and enduring commitment to its (and our) redemption affect what we pray for?
- What in our lifestyles, our practices, our attitudes and our theologies need to die in order that our diligent and faithful stewarding of God's Creation may be resurrected?

Your fellow would-be gardener for God,
anthony



ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

Although a number of events are being held at various times throughout this year to mark Parkdale's 80 years of Christian service in the community, our "official" birthday was celebrated on Sunday, May 1, with an inspirational worship service, followed by a delicious catered buffet luncheon.

The morning worship service featured guest preacher Dr. Dale Skinner and his wife, Rev. Maryann Skinner, both of whom are alumni of our congregation. Dale is now Minister at St. Stephen's-on-the-Hill United Church in Mississauga, and Maryann is Associate Minister at Kingsway-Lambton United Church in Etobicoke. They were accompanied by their 14-year-old daughter Leah, who was born in Ottawa while the Skinners were active members of our congregation.



Maryann led the children in their brief worship time, and she recounted how she and Dale met while they were both attending Carleton University, and how they eventually became involved in activities at Parkdale, from where they launched their respective careers in ordained ministry.

The worship service was held on the day prior to the May 2 Canadian general election, and in his inspiring sermon, Dale drew an interesting parallel between how we have expectations and make choices in our daily lives, and how Jesus' Disciples also had expectations and made choices to "vote" for Jesus.

The Parkdale Orchestra added a touch of class, and provided uplifting musical selections during the service, and our choir loft was filled with our own members, augmented by a number of other individuals from within the congregation and some community groups and organizations.

A history of service

A testimony of faith was offered by long-time congregational member Dr. Norman Tape, who began attending Parkdale in 1936 at age five,

A history of eating

Our congregation has always been good at providing food for the soul – but we're also very good at providing food for the body, and this was amply demonstrated immediately following the worship service, when some 190 people participated in a catered sit-down luncheon. Chef Ric Watson and his team from The Mission served up a delicious meal, followed by anniversary cake.

The tables were beautifully arranged with linen coverings, and decorated with floral bowls featuring the purple anniversary theme colour. (At the worship service, participants also received a complimentary ballpoint pen in the theme colour.) Members of the congregation especially enjoyed the fact that they didn't have to supply the food, or wash the

dishes! A small working group coordinated by Barbara Hennessy and Faye Beaufort deserve our thanks for their hard work in orchestrating the arrangements for the luncheon.

Peter Meerburg

when the congregation had approximately 850 members. He outlined how the church has always been an important contributor to the community in Ottawa West. For example, under the leadership of Dr. Norman Coll, Parkdale's first minister, the Ottawa Neighbourhood Services was formed in 1932, and still continues to operate. Some 393 members of the congregation – including Dr. Coll – served with the Canadian Forces in world wars. The Parkdale Orchestra was formed in 1945; Memorial Hall was built and opened in 1950; the pre-school Headstart program began in 1969; and the Ottawa West Community Support organization had its origins in Parkdale in 1977. Norm also listed the *In from the Cold* program – which completed its 9th year in March – as another illustration of how Parkdale continues to be "alive and well."





NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Birthdays in October
Our warmest greetings to:

- 1st: Hannie Fitzgerald
- 1st: Lucienne Giroux Koch
- 2nd: Chris Wicke
- 2nd: Isaiah Duah
- 2nd: Alice Menzies
- 5th: Cora McQuinn
- 7th: Erena Duncan
- 9th: Alexander Shaw
- 9th: Lydia Ells-McLaughlin
- 10th: Amy Evans
- 11th: Arianne Epale
- 11th: Delphine Ahmed-Robin
- 14th: Cathy Lees
- 14th: Lois Shouldice
- 15th: Joyce Sibanda
- 16th: Mira Anne Hui Crew
- 17th: Madeleine Crabtree
- 23rd: Jessica Clark
- 25th: Hannah Johnston
- 25th: Dawn Walker
- 25th: Gael Rayes-Dominguez
- 27th: Tyrese Musenga
- 29th: Isabelle Duncan
- 30th: Nadine Ernest
- 31st: Chania Bailey

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.



Alma Hutton celebrated her 97th birthday on September 4. Alma has been living in Kanata at Garden Terrace Nursing Home since January 2009. The family went out for dinner to celebrate and she received her favourite things... flowers, clothing and jewellery. Although Alma has memory problems, she still loves

to go out for dinner and SHOP. Thanks to Barbara Faught, Muriel Bellman and the Friendship Circle for their continued loyalty and caring.

Wedding bells



Congratulations to: Kyle Van De Vooren and Jennifer Evanik, who were married on September 3,

Collin Cockburn and Amy Kudrinko who were married on September 10,

Aaron Stuart and Lyndsey Baird, who were married on September 10,

and David Perkins and Susan Stefko who were married on September 24.

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.)

Thanksgiving offering



A reminder from the Mission, Outreach and Justice Committee...

Our special Thanksgiving offering will be sent to the **Breakfast Programs at Cambridge and Connaught Public Schools.**

These school provide a nutritious breakfast to some of the vulnerable children in their care, helping them learn better with full tummies.

One in ten children in Canada lives in poverty and many kids throughout the country arrive at school with empty stomachs. Every child deserves an equal start in life. These breakfast clubs provide a place where children can share a good breakfast with their friends. Teachers tell us that their students are less frequently absent, they're less aggressive, they concentrate better and they're more creative.

Mark "**Thanksgiving**" on any envelope to contribute.

PARKDALE COMMITTEES

**Council Report
September 12, 2011**

Supporting Parkdale's visible ministries - Sunday service, pastoral care, Christian education, etc. - are a host of committees, task groups, and individual volunteers. Overseeing all of this work on behalf of the congregation is the Parkdale United Church Council.

The first Council meeting of the fall was held on September 12. Matt Baker filled the role of Chair in Ellen Andrews' absence.

The opening reflection and theme discussion highlighted "When Christians Get It Right", with a special focus on love. (Readers might recall that the devotional theme of the June Council meeting was "When Christians are Unchristian".) The reflection opened with two hymns, "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go", and "When I Needed A Neighbour", from the hymnal [Songs for a Gospel People](#). Council members then viewed a short video featuring Adam Hamilton of St. Louis, in which Pastor Hamilton explored what it looks like when Christians display the radical love that Jesus spoke about and modeled.



Pastor Hamilton highlighted Jesus' two greatest commandments: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. We cannot love God without loving our neighbour, and this commandment to love our neighbour underlies all Christian ethics. In illustrating love of neighbour, Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan, who asked not "What will it mean to me if I stop and help?", but rather "What will it mean to this man if I don't stop and help?"

Following the video of Pastor Hamilton's remarks, Council members considered in small groups what it means to "get the love thing right", using both Scripture lessons (from 1 Corinthians and Matthew) and a series

of focusing questions. In closing the reflection and theme discussion, Anthony observed that the commandment to love is situated in community, and noted the large numbers of people who are coming to Parkdale to explore who we are as a congregation and the extent to which we exhibit this core teaching of Christianity.

At both the May and June Council meetings, there was extensive discussion of the potential installation of solar panels as a means to better steward our energy use, as well as to realize savings in energy costs and achieve a financial return on our investment. A small working group, led by Garth McLeod, spent several months researching the issue and initiating the long approval process involving both the City and the Province. In the end, however, City permit fees, new underground supply lines, and upgraded connections would push the initial costs, before purchasing and installing the panels themselves, to some \$60,000 - \$70,000. The expenses related to the solar panels and their installation would be an additional \$70,000 - \$75,000. As a result, on the recommendation of the working group, Council agreed not to proceed with the project.

However, the working group was authorized to continue to investigate a much smaller-scale initiative to use solar hot-water heating for the church.

With Barbara's planned retirement at the end of 2012, Council briefly discussed the upcoming requirement to establish a Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) with Presbytery to examine the position and its role within Parkdale's various ministries. This would then be followed by a Joint Search Committee (JSC), again with Presbytery, to actually staff the position. Council agreed, as a first step, to assemble a roster of potential JNAC members for consideration at the next meeting in October.

Chair of Property Trustees, Ken Elder, updated Council on the extensive renovations underway within the Sunday School rooms. The aim is to freshen the space and create a better acoustical barrier among the classrooms. Carpeting originally laid down in 1986 has been removed, drywall repaired, flooring selected, replacement furniture purchased, new windows installed, and walls and ceilings painted. The last major piece of work will be installation of improved acoustical

barriers. Given existing cost commitments of some \$45,000, exclusive of the barriers (\$15,000), Trustees and the Christian Education Committee (Chair: Paul Crabtree) will continue discussions of next steps in the project.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee (Chair: Don Macpherson) reported that agreement has been reached with our Organist, Troy Cross, to renew his contract for two years, to August 2013. The Committee also thanked everyone involved in making the celebration of Khan Chao's 30th anniversary at Parkdale such a success. Don expressed his appreciation to Susan Yearwood, who has stepped down from the Committee, for her many years of service. Finally, Jeff Clifford has rejoined the part-time custodial staff, and Ryan Pascal will be working on the team with Carole Shaw.

Harry Allen, Chair of the Financial Trustees, provided a brief report on the church's financial situation to the end of July. At that time, our combined deficit for the year was just over \$37,000.

The Communications Committee

(Chair: Corey Syrnyk) noted that two bulletin boards have been placed at the front of the church, with a third to be installed soon. Committees and groups are updating their information on the Parkdale web site. As well, the Communications Committee is working on advertising approaches to publicize services, message boards for outside the church, a special outdoor service, mailing lists, and other initiatives to improve the reach and effectiveness of our congregational communications.

The Stewardship Committee (Chair: Barbara Hennessy) reported that the collection of clean outer milk bags for use in the production of bed mats continues to go well. Plans are underway for a targeted "God and Money" workshop, to be led by Scott Andrews. And a recommended list of faith and devotional books is now available on the Parkdale web site. (Look for the Stewardship link in the Ministries section of the site).

The 80th Anniversary Planning Group (Chair: Barbara Hennessy) is moving ahead on several fronts. The congregational photo directory will be available by the end of October. The Sunday

School's "80 Verses for the 80th", in which the children are learning 80 verses of Scripture to celebrate Parkdale's 80th anniversary, is raising money for the Benevolent Fund to support the Sunday-Sayer family in retrofitting its home for wheelchairs. The "Celebrating our Cultures" dinner on October 22 will provide an 80th anniversary intercultural retrospective and Canadian focus. And on December 18, Parkdale members will be singing Christmas Carols at Grace Manor.

The Pastoral Care Team (Chair: Mary McLeod) will organize a Fall Special Communion in October, and is in the midst of planning its other activities for the coming year.

The Mission, Outreach and Justice Committee (Chair: Faye Beaufort) continues to work closely with the 80th Anniversary Planning Group on a range of initiatives, such as the James Bartleman lecture, and the Celebrating our Cultures evening. As well, the Committee planned the first of the "Friday Night Images and Stories" events on September 30, featuring Gloria Goodine. The Committee is investigating the potential to build meaningful relationships with the Golden

Lake Reserve outside Ottawa, and how best to get involved in an Aboriginal youth-focused program in the North. The Sunday-Sayer and Abu-Nasar families remain a focus for the Committee as they adjust to their changing life circumstances. Finally, the Committee actively supported the September speakers evening and benefit concert to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the organization "Canada Without Poverty/ Canada Sans Pauvreté".

Melodee reported to Council on the success of the past summer's Camp Awesome. Some 34 children registered for the program, which was run as a joint effort of Presbytery and Parkdale. Plans for the Sunday School term are in place. Renovations to the Sunday School rooms mean that, temporarily, the children will be scattered around the church.

Anthony reported on the half-day retreat for pastoral staff in July, for the purpose of prayer, discernment, mutual support, planning for the fall, and "holy dreaming" about the renewal and spiritual strengthening of the Parkdale congregation. Anthony continued a busy schedule of counselling and marriage preparation sessions, as well as tar-

geted pastoral care visits and meetings with new attendees at Parkdale who wish to discuss their faith and potential involvement in the congregation. Anthony works closely with many of the church's Committees, including Communications, Worship, Mission, Outreach and Justice, Stewardship, and Membership. Plans are underway to have Committee members involved in designated worship services. Anthony noted that he and Barbara have reconfigured their primary fall faith formation offering into a five-week program on "Faith Foundations". Anthony is also starting a small-group initiative called "Unbinding the Gospel" to encourage congregational members to deepen and share their faith, practice prayer, and reach out to others with the good news of the gospel.

Finally, the three-month wait since the last Council meeting for renewed helpings of Helen Hayes' brownies, lemon cookies, and ginger snaps was long, but worth it!

The next meetings of Council will be held on Tuesday, October 18 and Tuesday, December 6. All are welcome.

Lectionary for October 2011

October 2

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19:1-14
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 9

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 16

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99:1-9
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 23

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

October 30

Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12



RECIPE



Peppermint Bark

Here's a lovely homemade candy recipe that would be a wonderful contribution to the bake table at our November Church bazaar

Makes 2 ½ pounds

2 lbs best quality white chocolate chopped into ½ inch pieces
12 large candy canes
½ tsp peppermint OIL available at specialty food stores

Line a 11 x 17 " baking sheet with parchment paper
Put chocolate into a heat proof bowl and set over a pan of simmering water. Stir constantly until melted
With a kitchen mallet pound candy into ¼" pieces
Stir candy canes and peppermint oil into melted chocolate. Remove from heat and pour mixture onto cookie sheet. Spread evenly with a spatula.
Refrigerate until firm (25 to 30 min). Break up pieces to serve or store. Store in airtight containers in the fridge for up to a week.

Martha Stewart, Holiday handmade Gifts, 2006, p. 103. Rosemount Library, 3 2950 02046 1644



A Well-Deserved Honour

Khan Chao received a standing ovation from the congregation during the September 11 worship service, when he was honoured for completing 30 years of service as Parkdale's Building Custodian. Council Chair Ellen

Andrews presented him with a framed certificate of appreciation, and an envelope containing a monetary gift contributed by members of the congregation.

The citation on the certificate reads:

*In Appreciation
Presented to Khan Chao in
recognition of his 30 years of
dedicated, loyal and faithful
service as Building Custodian of
Parkdale United Church.
Presented by the members of a
grateful congregation, on
September 11, 2011.*

In her remarks, Ellen referred to Khan's "legendary work ethic," and the fact that he knows literally everything about the church building, and how it functions. She said that she was in the kindergarten when Khan began his employment, and for a time she attended Sunday School with Khan's two daughters, Kim and Amy.

As an example of the high regard in which Khan is held, Ellen recalled a meeting with members of the United Church's Ottawa Presbytery, who had come to Parkdale as part of a regular "oversight" visitation, and virtually everyone in attendance had stories of Khan's hard work, integrity and honesty.

In his brief and heartfelt response to the standing ovation, Khan described Parkdale as his "new family." He thanked everyone for believing and trusting in him as

an employee. He said that when he commenced employment on September 13, 1980, he knew nothing about the building, and he essentially "learned by doing."

Immediately after the worship service, members of the congregation had an opportunity to personally convey their appreciation to Khan, during an informal potluck luncheon held in Memorial Hall.

The following day, during a meeting of Parkdale's Council held on September 12, Matt Baker, Vice-chair of Council, recalled the previous day's recognition ceremony, and referred to the faith and trust that had been exhibited by Parkdale's leaders in hiring Khan 30 years ago. He hoped that 30 years into the future, history would be able to show that the Council had also demonstrated faith and commitment to Christ in its deliberations and decisions.

More than an employee

Khan considers his employment to be more than just a job, but rather a labour of love. Other than regular vacations, he has been on duty almost every Sunday morning, and, of course, dur-

ing the week. A self-avowed cleanliness freak, he admits to being fussy about his work. (And, ironically, he is slightly allergic to dust!)

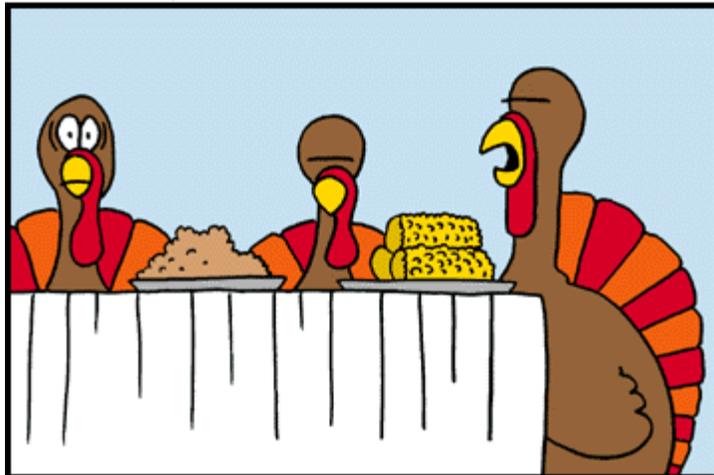
He is eternally and passionately grateful to Parkdale for having sponsored his family as Cambodian refugees, arriving in Montreal on October 17, 1980, with nothing more than their clothing. Three days later, they moved to Ottawa under the city's *Project 4000*, and the sponsorship of Parkdale United Church. Khan's first job was part-time as a baker with the former Buns Master plant on Carling Avenue.

IN FROM THE COLD MINISTRY



In From The Cold begins its tenth season Saturday, November 12. If you would like to join our enthusiastic, efficient team of volunteers as a NEW volunteer, please fill out a volunteer sign up sheet located at the four doors of the sanctuary and return it on the collection plate or to the church office.

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11-27-1997

WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THE BOUNTY THAT FARMER BOB HAS BLESSED US ALL WITH THESE PAST FEW MONTHS

Random notes of Thankfulness

CAMPBELLS LABELS

The Queensway Pre-school thanks you for your continued support through the Campbell's Labels for Education program. By dropping your labels in the box, located outside the main classroom door, the Preschool is able to turn labels into educational equipment. With the total number of labels collected from Kitchissippi United, St. Stephen's Presbyterian and Parkdale United, this year the Preschool obtained the "Hop Scotch Play Carpet". This carpet teaches about colours and numbers and helps develop movement. The children are enjoying this new edition to their play. Please continue to collect labels for this worthwhile project. A complete list of acceptable labels is located on the collection box, on the Community Event Board or on-line at www.labelsforeducation.com. The Pre-school is also looking for a volunteer to sort out the labels that come in at Parkdale, trim them and count them. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please speak with Jennifer (613-728-8656, x 221).



PARKDALE'S YULETIDE BAZAAR

Saturday, November 5, 2011
10 am

It's October and time to prepare for our **Christmas Bazaar!** This is our major fundraiser of the year and we need your help.

Can you help by contributing your time and/or talents?

- Jams/jellies and baking are always good sellers
- Crafts, knitting, and sewing are in demand
- Costume jewellery, scarves, linens sell extremely well
- Plants, dried flowers always needed
- Help before and on the day of the Bazaar is most appreciated.

Why not help by advertising this event to your friends, families and neighbours by phone or email or posting a flyer. Flyers can be picked up from the office.

For information, suggestions or to volunteer please call the church office at 613-728-8656

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO PARKDALE?

Helen Hayes and Jenna Lester - 1988

I was brought up in the United Church tradition and attended Shawville United Church from the time of my baptism until I went to university, at which point my church attendance petered off quite significantly, aside from visits home. In 1981, I moved to a house on Harmer Avenue North and every time my mother visited over a weekend, she wanted to hear whoever was preaching at Parkdale. My first experiences with Parkdale were therefore with Gervis Black and, thanks to my mother's urging, I experienced some, albeit very sporadic, of the infamous 'Black magic', not to mention the wonderful contribution of Ernie Cox, who was the organist at that time, and his wife Linda.

A few years later, after Jenna was born, I felt compelled to become a more regular church attendee. Jenna was baptized

on Mother's Day in 1989 by Reverend Ruggles Constant. I transferred my membership from Shawville United to Parkdale, and started attending church on a regular basis. Motivated by the invitation to participate in church activities during a wonderful New Members' Breakfast, I volunteered to be a chaperone on the church bus and I joined Unit #14 of the United Church Women.

More than 20 years later, I can say that Parkdale has become a huge part of my life. I would not still be here, however, were it not for the friendships that I established in this faith community. The wonderful women of Unit#14 have supported and sustained me through the years and I have many fond memories of our time together as a Unit. These women and others, the powerful preaching and leadership of Andrew Stirling and Sue Bodkin and, more recently, Anthony Bailey, Barbara

Faught, and Melodee Lovering have taught me much about Christian living and have challenged me to delve deeper into the challenges and opportunities of membership in the body of Christ.

Although Jenna and I now live further away from Parkdale, I am happy to make the trek because I know that the trip is well worth it, in terms of spiritual enrichment, fellowship, and connection to community. Many of my best friends are now Parkdale people and you have all enriched my life unbelievably. Thank you, Mom, for encouraging me to visit Parkdale all those years ago.

Deborah Bellware, since 2006

About 5 years ago in late fall/early winter, I remember the crispness in the evening air as I set out to enjoy a delightful night of inspirational song at a free gospel concert held at Ottawa's Library and Archives Building. I set out early because I learned through the media that seating was limited and would be on a first come, first serve basis,

guests to be turned away once seating hit full capacity. While patiently and excitingly waiting in the long lineup and quietly praying I would get a seat, I noticed a young family come tumbling into the lineup not far behind me appearing kind of anxious and fervently glancing at the clock. They proceeded looking about as if in search of someone. The head-of-the-family eventually caught the eye of that someone at the head of the line and proceeded to advance to the front while giving instructions to his clan to stay put while he went to investigate. A few moments later the head-of-the-family called out down the line and motioned his family to advance to the front. Immediately I felt miffed and began ruminating about just who did this family think they were that they could skip the queue because of special connections! Hmmph! Finally as ushers proceeded to move concert goers into seats, my miffed feelings of injustice quickly rolled away followed by a sense of deep gratitude that God had ordained a seat for me, alleluia. While waiting

for the concert to start I could feel God's presence and energy bubbling up in the air and I knew I was in for an evening of hearing the voices of some of the most amazing gospel artists from Ottawa and the surrounding area. Before the singing and shouting praises to God's Holy name began, the Master of Ceremonies announced that Reverend Anthony Bailey was 'in the house' and had accepted an invitation to open the concert with God's blessing. To my great surprise, there stood that same 'head-of-the-family who I moments ago had took issue with. Reverend Bailey's earnest blessing that evening felt akin to meeting a kindred spirit and because at that time I was looking for a new worship family, I knew in a heartbeat that God had led me to find that family through his very eloquent Reverend Anthony Bailey. I attended Parkdale United that following Sunday and I'm still here.

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

Dates to remember



- October 2:** Communion Sunday
- October 2:** Coffee shop open (serving paninis)
- October 9:** Thanksgiving service
- October 16:** Special Communion
- October 22:** International Dinner
- October 23:** Book club meets
- October 28:** Friday Night Images (Judy and Richard Hamley - Oberammergau).
- October 30:** 7.00 p.m. Evening Service:
- November 5:** 10.00a.m. Parkdale's Yuletide Bazaar
- November 12:** In From The Cold begins

THE LITERACY TABLE

There's a nip in the air and the leaves look gorgeous, so In From The Cold cannot be far behind! The Literacy Table has been fortunate to acquire an excellent variety of reading material throughout the summer, but we are always delighted to add to our stock. If you have books in good condition and "newer" magazines dated April 2011 onwards, please leave them in the drop box outside the Chapel or give them to a Literacy Table volunteer any Saturday between November 12 and March 31, 2012. (Please note that older editions of magazines such as National Geographic, Popular Mechanics and Popular Science are always in demand.)

In addition, please keep IFTC in mind if you would like to donate 2012 calendars. Our guests really appreciate them.

Many thanks for your continuing generosity. If you have any questions or wish to discuss volunteering at the Literacy Table, please call Brenda at 613-729-0705.

Book Club



Everyone welcome—come join us after church as we discuss the book that has been chosen for this month. We meet after the church service (bring a lunch) for approximately 1 ½ hours. Our next meeting and book is:

October 23, 2011 - *As Long as the Rivers Flow*, James Bartleman

The books we have already read and discussed are:

Suite Francaise, Irène Némirovsky

I Shall Not Hate, A Gaza Doctor's Journey, Izzeldin Abuelaish

Three Cups of Tea, Greg Mortenson

Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Hope to see you there!

PRESBYTERY REPORT

**Summary of the Meeting of
Ottawa Presbytery
September 13, 2011**

Ottawa Presbytery met at City View United Church on September 13, 2011 for its first meeting of the church program year. Those attended were graciously hosted and those barbecuing supper persevered during the downpour of rain!

Retiring Chair, Barbara Reynolds called the meeting to order and Craig Sutor, Vice-Chair of the Church Council of City View welcomed the court. A significant portion of the agenda was devoted to recognizing new positions of leadership and covenanting for the ministry of Presbytery during the coming year. Rev. Grant Dillenbeck was the worship leader and had created a frame of the United Church crest through which presbyters wove their strands of the covenant as they made their commitment to the work of the Presbytery. Following the act of covenanting with the new Chair, Rev. Dianne Cardin, Dianne assumed the chair for the meeting. Then, as the Chair, she presided over the recognition of Margie Ann Mac-

Donald as a Designated Lay Minister. This is a new responsibility of Presbyteries to be the court of the church to officially recognize those whom, according to United Church of Canada policy, are called and equipped to serve as Designated Lay Minister within the Presbytery. Margie Ann is currently beginning an appointment with City View United Church.

Rev. Carolyn Insley with the assistance of her daughters, Alyssa and Heather and a few members of Presbytery, extended appreciation to Barbara Reynolds for her time as chair. It was especially appropriate to have Heather and Alyssa's assistance since the theme of Barbara's time as chair was 'Celebrating Children's Ministry'.

Routine motions of business were considered. During correspondence it was noted that Montreal and Ottawa Conference had distributed some retained earnings to the Presbyteries, Ottawa Presbytery has received just over \$18,300. The fall budget discussions will include recommendations on the designation of the money.

Barbara Reynolds, in her capacity of co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for General Council 41 which will be held in Ottawa August 2012, invited Presbytery to volunteer to be a part of the support for the gathering and to share the opportunity to be involved with the wider church in their congregations. During 2011-2012, Ottawa Presbytery will be on a journey of discernment regarding the wisdom of identifying itself as an Affirming Presbytery. Rev. Susan Ivany from Thunder Bay was a guest of the Presbytery and was invited to share the process and learnings from Cambrian Presbytery which became the first Affirming Presbytery in the United Church. There will be a learning opportunity for members of Presbytery and all interested congregations on October 1, 2011 at Orleans United Church. Details are available at www.uccanottawa.org or from the Presbytery office.

A group has begun to identify the work of "mission strategy" within the Presbytery. Rev. Grant Dillenbeck, the Acting Chair, presented a proposed mandate for the working group as a way of informing the Presbytery and seeking their support. The mandate was accepted.

Outreach ministries and some pastoral charges receive financial assistance from the wider church. The main source of financial support comes from Mission Support Grants made possible through the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. A smaller amount of money (about \$16,000 in 2012) is made available through the Presbytery budget for supported ministries of the Presbytery. The Mission Support Committee presented its recommendations for the distribution of the 2012 grants, which are subject to approval by Conference Mission Support and the Presbytery budget process. Ministries recommended for grants include: Centre 507, Carlington Community Chaplaincy, West End Community Chaplaincy, Carleton University Ecumenical Chaplaincy, Algonquin College Chaplaincy, and the Aylwin Pastoral Charge.

Church in Society announced that the applications for a Street Related Seed Money grant are now available. Deadline for application for the \$5,100 to undertake an outreach project is October 15, 2011. Applications are available from the Presbytery office or www.uccanottawa.org.

Yuletide Bazaar



We have a wonderful and caring congregation at Parkdale and for many years a number of individuals and families have given of their time and talents every year to organize and convene tables at the annual Yuletide Bazaar.. However some of our convenors are retiring this year. I am pleased to report that we have a number of new convenors helping at this year's event and I would like to introduce these wonderful volunteers to the congregation.

But first, please mark your calendar. The Bazaar will be Saturday November 5, 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

After many years, (I am not sure the exact number), the Baird fam-

ily has retired as the co-ordinators of **Attic Treasures**. This particular area has always been a favourite location for people looking for bargains and unusual items and has been very successful from a financial point of view. However, to set-up, organize and manage this table is a big task and I would like to the Baird family for the many hours they have volunteered and served Parkdale in this capacity. Taking over for this table is **David Gibbs**. I would like to thank him for accepting this position and welcome him to our committee.

Another change this year will be at the **Crafts** and **Linen** table. Val Hum has for many years co-ordinated and contributed to the crafts table plus took on the busy role of volunteer co-ordinator. This year **Mary Sproule** will be the co-ordinator for crafts. There will also be a new co-ordinator for the **Linen** table, **Shirley Moore**. I would like to welcome these ladies and thank Val Hum, Lorraine Hanna and Kathryn Meerburg for their past leadership in these areas. Val will remain as volunteer co-ordinator.

Carol Elder is stepping down this year as the co-ordinator of the **greeters**. **Carolynn Trites** has



taken over that responsibility. The **plant** table will be managed by **Hannie Fitzgerald**. Thank-you to Mary McLeod for past contributions.

Table convenors returning for the 2011 Bazaar are:

Marg Eades, (Finance),
LuAnn Cunliffe, (Publicity),
Rosemary Gibbs, (Jewellery),
Beth Gutsell, (Kitchen & Bath),
Linda Dent, (Baking and Gourmet Foods),
Ken Elder (Books),
Helen Hayes, (Silent Auction),
Marilyn Follett (Choir CD's and Calendars),
Judy Hamley, (Antiques & Col-

lectibles),
Peter Meerburg, (Parking & Security),
Gail Blake, (Soup Table),
Val Hum, (Volunteers).

Please check the church website for further details regarding the Bazaar, how to donate, types of donations needed, how to volunteer, etc

Looking forward to seeing everyone on November 5th

*Ann Tompkins
Yuletide Bazaar Convenor.*

Rally Day displays



HOW ARE OUR FINANCES?

All donations are very much appreciated as we continue to fund the ministries of Parkdale United Church. We have an operating deficit of \$46,532 to the end of August, 2011

WOULD YOU LIKE GIVINGS ENVELOPES?

Parkdale United Church is financed by congregational donations. If you do not have envelopes and would like to, please contact the office and let Jennifer know. Using regular envelopes with your own number helps ensure that all your givings are included in one charitable tax receipt at year-end.

the Messenger



EDITORIAL BOARD

Debbie McGregor, Chair and Editor, Kathleen Stephenson (foreign correspondent), 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: **November 2011**
Please submit articles and materials to pdale@trytel.com or the church office
by **October 17**.