

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

Melodee Lovering: melodeelovering63@yahoo.ca

Rev. Debbie Roi: debbie.roi@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca

Website: www.parkdaleunitedchurch.ca



WELCOME TO PARKDALE

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

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

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

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

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



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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Crucifixion and
Resurrection:
The Drama of God's
Love and Solidarity

Life is not fair. Evil exists and is formidable. At our worst we humans can be savagely brutal, deceptive and willfully hurtful. We all know this and we all have experienced some of this; some more of it than others.

Life is filled with beauty, grace and enchantment. Good is an unstoppable present force with which to reckon. At our best we humans are practitioners of profound love, generosity, mercy, justice and compassion. We give our lives for others and go out of our way to help neighbour and sometimes even foe.

The stark contrast of these two descriptions of human reality

is the source of much bewilderment, reflection, argument, confusion, theologizing, prayer, theorizing, conversation, meditation, cynicism...

These realities, however, are enfolded in the potent drama,



mystery, shock and awe of crucifixion and resurrection. In the crucifixion, there is an unflinching refusal to ignore or gloss over suffering and the unfair,

savage brutality that is present in shared human living. In fact, it is met head on. In the cross Jesus demonstrates that God has not abandoned us to our pain, suffering, evil and violence. No! In Jesus, God takes it into God's self; God shares and endures the "wrong that often seems so strong". This is after all the world that God created and deemed good; this is the world that God chooses and commits to

love. We humans – at our worst and our best – are part of God’s creation which God chooses and commits to love. So you know God could not allow unfairness, and brutality, and evil, and wrong, and violence and death to have the last word.

The Resurrection of Jesus is a vindication and a privileging of the very vision and quality of life, faith, love, hope, mercy, joy, justice and compassion that Jesus lived, taught and commended to all who would believe and embrace this. God has spoken. God has acted. God has confirmed the revelation of the truth of things to which Jesus pointed and embodied.

Is there still unfairness, evil, brutality, wrong and violence? Oh yes there is. But from the perspective of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, they can all be resisted and engaged with courage, imagination, faith, prayer, solidarity, peace, activism and justice. Why? Because we know God’s resurrection verdict on all that undermines

and brutalizes life and by God’s grace and through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we will not be intimidated into silence, inaction, or despair. The very



“gates of hell” shall not prevail against the Resurrection community called the Church. *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade...

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief of all kinds of trials...”
1 Peter 1:3-4, 6

There are large and small examples in human history, both then and now, of how ordinary followers of the way of Jesus contend with all that “wrong that seems so strong”. In terms of brutality, bloodlust and the institutionalization of violent killing, there was a follower of Jesus who took this on and is credited with halting it. Consider this true story:

The story of Telemachus is the story of extreme courage in the face of evil. Telemachus was a Christian monk who, in 391 CE, went on a pilgrimage to Rome. While there he noticed crowds flocking to the Colosseum to see gladiators do battle. He followed them in, only to witness a sight that repulsed him.

Emperor Honorius was celebrating his triumph over the Goths. Gladiators armed with spears and swords re-enacted the battle. After their re-enactment the bodies of the dead were dragged from the arena and its bloodied surface covered with a fresh layer of

sand.

In came a new series of gladiators. Some were armed with swords and spears, others with nets. The crowd watched with excitement as they sought to outdo each other. When a gladiator was wounded, his opponent would loom over him, waiting for the crowd’s verdict on whether to slay him or let him live. So great was the bloodlust that at times wealthier spectators would climb down to get a better view of the executions.

Telemachus watched with horror as people died, battles raged and the crowds cheered. Prompted into action, this bald, robed figure found his way onto the arena floor. He ran toward two gladiators locked in battle, grabbed one of them and pulled him away. He exhorted the two gladiators to abandon their murderous sport. It is reported that he cried out to the gladiators (translation): “In the name of Jesus, forebear (stop).” He then appealed to the crowd not to break God’s law by

murdering.

The response was anything but favourable. Angry voices drowned out Telemachus, demanding that the spectacle continue. The gladiators prepared to do battle again, but Telemachus stood between them, holding them apart, urging them to reconsider. Driven by the anger of the crowd and their rage at Telemachus' interference, the gladiators cut Telemachus to the ground, as the crowd threw missiles at him. Telemachus was killed.

But his death was not in vain. Some fourteen years later in 405, Emperor Honorius declared gladiatorial battles were to end at the Colosseum. Tradition tells us that it was Telemachus' brave protest that helped move him to do so.

Then, as we have considered before, there is the story of Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Tutu. We are reminded that by his own words, Mandela credited the

teachings of Jesus regarding loving and forgiving your enemies, as his inspiration for choosing the way of peace and reconciliation when he emerged from twenty-seven years in prison. On the occasion of his becoming the first Black President of South Africa, Archbishop Tutu organized a worship service at which this prayer was prayed:

“Throughout the land we stand on the threshold of a new experience of national unity. We are a people composed of many races, many languages, many religious traditions, many political parties, many cultures. We are poor and rich, women and men, young and old. We have emerged from a history of strife and death to seek a future of life and health.

We struggled against one another: now we are reconciled to struggle for one another.

We believed it was right to withstand one another: now we are reconciled to

understand one another.

We suffered a separateness that did not work: now we are reconciled to make togetherness work...

We set the Church at odds with itself: now we are reconciled to sharing the mission of Christ... We are reconciled to the patience and persistence that make peace; to the transparency and fairness that make justice; to the forgiveness and restitution that build harmony; to the love and reconstruction which banish poverty and discrimination; to the experience of knowing one another; to the spiritual strength of the one God who made us of one flesh and blood, and loves us. So we bring together our races, languages, traditions, politics and cultures."

Resurrection faith and Resurrection living do not ignore the suffering, the hardships and the wrong. They engage them and confront them from the perspective of God and the transformation that God sponsors. Throughout the Lenten season this year, our midweek series focused on "Courage": the courage to forgive...to trust...to

grieve...to pray and so on. The Drama of Holy Week – including Good Friday – and the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus the Christ (Easter), weave into our lives and our faith, patterns and rhythms that testify to the way things really are – struggle, pain, hardship, injustice, violence, mixed together with joy, courage, faith, beauty, and faithfulness – as well as offer hints about the way things can be – a world just and redeemed with new life together in Christ, imbued with the fullness of the presence of God.

Praise be to God!

A Blessed Easter to you all!

Your Partner in Resurrection life and witness,

Anthony





Seder Supper on Maundy Thursday

April 17 at 5:15 pm.

As part of our Holy Week observance, Parkdale's pastoral staff will be hosting a Christian Seder Supper on April 17th.

Please gather by 5:15 pm and we will start formally at 5:30 pm.

The Jewish Passover meal was the last one shared by Jesus

with his disciples. He reinterpreted the symbols of bread (matzah) and wine to represent his 'body' and 'blood' being offered for the forgiveness of sins for all.

The Passover symbolizes the time of liberation of the Jews from oppression in Egypt. In a Christian Seder gathering, we also celebrate God's liberation of the world from the power of Death and Sin.

All are welcome. There will be an opportunity to make a contribution towards the cost of the supper. For more information please contact Dr. Bailey (abailey@trytel.com or 613 728-8656)

EASTER FLOWERS

If you wish to place an Easter lily in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday morning, in memory of a loved one, please call the church office with your request. Following the Easter service, the flowers will be delivered to home-bound persons. Suggested donation. is \$15.00.



JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK



Sunday, April 13th @ 10:30 am Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 16th @ 7 pm: "Courage to Forgive"
workshop

Thursday, April 17th @ 5:15 pm: Seder Supper (Christian
Passover Celebration)

Friday, April 18th @ 10:30 am: Joint Good Friday Service
St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, 579 Parkdale Ave.

Saturday, April 19th 6:00 am to **Sunday**, April 20th, 6:00 am:
Twenty-four hour Prayer Vigil in the Chapel (Please sign up for
1 hour slots.)

Sunday, April 20th @ 10:30 am: **Resurrection Sunday** (Easter)

Easter Vigil

Again this year, we at Parkdale will join Christians from many traditions in keeping a vigil of prayer in the Chapel on Holy Saturday, as we await the joy of Easter morning.

Our vigil begins at 6 am on Saturday and runs for 24 hours till Easter morning. Each participant signs up for a one hour time slot. This is a time for prayer, reflection and meditation, a break from our busy schedules and some uninterrupted time in quiet conversation with God.

The sign-up sheet is in Gladstone hallway.



Lenten series

Courage to...

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

The Christian season of Lent in an invitation to take an intentional journey of faith; it is a spiral-like journey that moves like a dance with God, inward then outward, then inward and outward... It is an opportunity to welcome the support of God to help us look inward at our spiritual lives and outward at our actions and spiritual practice. God's promises of grace, healing, love, faith and joy are claimed in this time of journeying together.

This year's Lenten series explores the faith/life dimensions of "courage". The

first two of five Wednesday evenings were held in March. The series continues in April for three more evenings at **7 pm. in the Chapel.** Rev. Anthony Bailey and Rev. Debbie Roi share the leadership of these evenings.

Here are the scheduled themes in April:

April 2 Courage to Pray

April 9 Courage to Hope

April 16 Courage to Forgive

All are welcome. For further information please feel free to contact Rev. Bailey (abailey@trytel.com)

or Rev. Roi (debbie.roi@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca)

Forgiveness Workshop Sunday, April 6



The Pastoral Care Team has invited **Darlene Garner** to present a workshop on the many aspects of forgiveness. Darlene has presented this workshop at Parkdale in the past and it was very well received.

The workshop is open to the congregation and will be held in the Ladies' Parlour after the service on Sunday, April 6. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy a bowl of soup. All are welcome.

This workshop is a psycho-spiritual exploration of forgiveness. According to the teachings and life of Christ, forgiveness is at the centre of our Christian faith yet there can be a lot of misunderstanding around what forgiveness entails. This workshop covers various aspects of understanding forgiveness such as: influences

and attitudes towards forgiveness; what forgiveness is and is not; a psychological process model of forgiveness; and obstacles that can block the forgiveness process. The content of this workshop will help participants to better work through issues of forgiveness in their own lives and will provide insight that will help participants to be empathically present to others who are dealing with the pain of violations and loss as they work towards healing.

Understanding the nature of forgiveness can help heal broken relationships and enrich our lives. We hope as many of you as possible will plan to attend this workshop.

Mary McLeod,
Chair, Pastoral Care Team

LECTIONARY

April 6 – Lent 5

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Valley of dry bones.

Psalms 130 (VU pp. 852–853)

My soul waits for God.

Romans 8:6–11

Life in the Spirit.

John 11:1–45

Jesus raises Lazarus to life.

April 13 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1–11

Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Psalms 118:1–2, 19–29 (VU p. 837)

The stone the builders rejected.

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a The suffering servant struck and insulted.

Psalms 31:9–16 (VU p. 758)

My times are in your hand.

Philippians 2:5–11 Let the same mind be in you as was in Jesus.

Matthew 26:14–27:66

or **Matthew 27:11–54**

The Passion of Jesus.

April 17 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–4, (5–10), 11–14

Instructions for the first Passover.

Psalms 116:1–2, 12–19 (VU p. 836)

How can I repay you, O God?

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

An account of the Last Supper.

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Jesus washes the disciples' feet.

April 18 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13–53:12 The suffering servant despised and rejected.

Psalms 22 (VU pp. 743–746)

Why have you forsaken me?

Hebrews 10:16–25 Provoke one another to love and good deeds.

or **Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9**

Jesus, the high priest who knows our weakness.

John 18:1–19:42

The Passion narrative.

April 20 – Easter

Acts 10:34–43 Peter's account of Jesus' death and resurrection.

or **Jeremiah 31:1–6**

God's everlasting love.

Psalms 118:1–2, 14–24 (VU p. 837)

God is my strength and my song.

Colossians 3:1–4

Set your mind on things above.

John 20:1–18

or **Matthew 28:1–10**

Mary and the empty tomb.

April 27 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22–32

Peter preaches on Pentecost.

Psalms 16 (VU pp. 737–738)

In you, God, I take refuge.

1 Peter 1:3–9 Salvation is the outcome of faithfulness.

John 20:19–31

Jesus appears to the disciples and to Thomas.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Birthdays in April



Our warmest greetings to:

- 1st Sawyer Pinheiro
- 2nd Allan Menzies
- 3rd Eleyana Molepo-Stearns
- 7th Ellen McGuinty
- 8th Ellen Andrews
- 8th Peter Graham
- 10th Nicholas Altiparmakyan
- 11th Ike Goodine
- 11th Margaret MacPherson
- 12th Noah Linton
- 12th Tristan Dos Santos
- 13th Myracle Charley
- 13th Andrea Nelson
- 13th Karen Laurin
- 13th Benjamin Bosch
- 15th Gloria Anderson
- 15th Agnes Heaslip
- 15th Elizabeth Cheesbrough
- 16th William Morris
- 19th William Fitzgerald
- 19th James Parent
- 25th Barbara Lawton
- 28th Miranda Carey
- 29th Jacques Dicaire

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

Parkdale Bookclub



April 13

The Purchase:

Shot through with religion, Linda Spaulding's fascinating 18th century Virginia novel explores the consequences of an exiled Quaker's purchase of a slave.

May 4

Not in My Father's

Footsteps: Author Terrence Rundle West will lead our discussion of his compelling novel of the '30s stretching from hobo jungles of Canada to the Spanish Civil War.

June 1

Things Fall Apart:

Chinua Achebe fused European literary and Nigerian oral tradition in this first novel, which became the most famous in English by an African writer (1958).

All Welcome!

Meet in the Ladies Parlor after church on book club days
Bring a lunch

Member Profile

Blaine Pauling

Danica Rogers asked our new Council Chair, Blaine Pauling, a few questions....

1. What is it about Parkdale that brings you to continue attending?

The people, the chance to contribute and having my world-view challenged.

2. What key skill do you feel you bring to the position of Council Chair?

Not really a skill, but a disposition: a democratic instinct.

3. Are you from Ottawa or away?

Born and raised in Ottawa

4. How do you spend your leisure time? (Hobbies / Interests)?

Reading (constantly), anything outdoors, storytelling and attempting to learn guitar!



5. What are the three most important things in your life? Knowledge, service and friendship (not necessarily in that order).

6. If you could snap your fingers and change one thing about Parkdale what would it be?

I am not wise enough for such power.

7. What have you given up for Lent this year? (What percent of success do you give yourself?)

I gave up sugar, McDonald's and wasting time. I failed on

the first within 4 days, am succeeding brilliantly on the second, and doing fairly well on the third.

8. What is the importance of the Council Chair role to the Parkdale congregation?

The role of Council Chair is important in how it enables Council to best serve its people.

9. Can you in 3 lines summarize your spiritual journey?

I can do it in three words: Openness, skepticism and struggle.

10. Your favourite meal and dessert?

Does it have chocolate in it?
The rest are details.

Membership Sunday, May 4

Our next opportunity to receive new members here at Parkdale will be during our Anniversary Service on May 4, 2014.

Formal Membership in the United Church is undertaken in three ways:

1. Baptism and Affirmation of Faith
2. Re-affirmation of Faith
3. Transfer of Membership (i.e. transferring in good standing from another United Church or Christian congregation)



If you are interested in becoming a member and have not yet spoken to and prepared with Dr. Bailey, please contact him as soon as possible (abailey@trytel.com), so that the necessary steps may be taken.

If you were part of the Faith Exploration sessions held in January and February and intend to join Parkdale, please contact Don in the Church office to complete the registration form if you have not yet done so.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Rev. Andrew Love and family

I still fondly recall my student placement at Parkdale United in 2006-07, while I was working through studies at Queen's University. The counsel and support from Anthony and Barbara has served me very well in ministry. Parkdale United struck me as a church where God's Spirit was doing some interesting things; rooted in Christ and open to new cultures and new people.

From Parkdale, I served as a student minister with three churches around Alexandria, Ontario. While Parkdale speaks to the multicultural reality of Ottawa, the churches of Glengarry Pastoral Charge lift up the great tradition of the United Church and its proud Scottish Presbyterian heritage. As

small churches structured around a few families, these churches had a vibrant music ministry with some amazing Celtic musicians. Our hymn sings were something to behold.



From left to right: Andrew, Denese, Zachary, age 8, Ryan, age 11.

After graduation and ordination, I served a rural pastoral charge south of Kemptville called Brinston. Surrounded by large and

complex dairy farms, Brinston has been home to farming families for many generations. The church is literally the last community building still in operation. So it was a crash course in farming life and I enjoyed it immensely. Genuine people with a strong work ethic and conservative values. And, getting to drive a big combine was pretty cool!

Like so many rural churches, Brinston Pastoral Charge was not a full-time ministry and, after years at school, I wanted to lessen the financial burden on my wife Denese. So an opportunity to be called to Grace St. Andrew's United Church in Arnprior was presented in 2011 and I have been with them since. Folks at Grace St. Andrew's have been wonderfully welcoming to me and my family. We have been exploring some innovative ideas to better use the abundance of property that God has provided us (two side-by-side churches—Methodist and Presbyterian). And, we are starting to work with other United churches in the area by connecting with video-conferenced worship services. This year, we are sponsoring a pastor and his family from Uganda who are victims of religious persecution. We have also been building a wonderful relationship with Temple Agudath in Ottawa and strengthening our ties to the Jewish community.

Through all of this, God's

constant presence has nurtured and shaped the different church cultures and traditions that I have experienced. I thank Parkdale United for giving me that start. May God continue to bless you in your ministry.

Baptism

May 14th will be our next baptismal Sunday.

For parents who wish to have their baby baptized, the next **baptismal seminar** will be on **April 7 at 7 pm** in the Ladies' Parlour.

This is a requirement for all parents of those being brought for baptism. Please contact Dr. Bailey.



Annual Yuletide Bazaar

Saturday, November 1, 2014

Greetings from the planning committee for this year's Yuletide Bazaar. It may seem early to be reminding the congregation of this event, but Parkdale continues to be a very active congregation and it is important to give advance notice of this major fundraising event. So please mark your calendars/planners. **This year's Bazaar will be held on Saturday November 1, 2014. Doors will open at 10:00 a.m.**

Set-up for the Bazaar will happen on Thursday Oct 30 and Friday Oct. 31. Your participation and support would be most appreciated. It is a great time of fellowship and fun and an opportunity to renew friendships and meet new members of the congregation.

We want to welcome and recognize new members of the organizing committee: Nancy Hobin will co-convene Attic Treasures with Shirley Rey and Elise Mennie will co-ordinate our greeters. At this time we are looking for someone to help Val Hum with Volunteer Set-up.

Last year's Bazaar was a very successful event, **sales totalled over \$13,500.** The Bazaar continues to be a significant fund-raiser for the church. It is successful because of the generosity of the congregation. Donations are the key to our past and future success.

Donations for the Bazaar can be made at any time. So if you are thinking of cleaning out a closet or downsizing this spring, please consider Parkdale as you decide what to do with your special items. In particular **we are looking for antiques or older items of interest, china, silverware, collectibles, jewelry, 250 ml glass jars with lids and cotton material.** Donations can be left at the church office during regular business hours.

This year there will be a couple of table location changes. Books will come upstairs to Memorial Hall and Jewelry will go downstairs. This change is being made in order to limit the number of people trying to purchase jewelry at any given time. As you may recall, this area is very busy, often 3 or 4 people deep, all wanting to look, purchase, ask questions etc. It is hoped that having jewelry in a

specific location will allow us to control the number of shoppers in the room, make the shopping experience more pleasant for our guests and make working at this table less stressful.

Another idea being discussed by the committee is having a shopping afternoon on the Friday before the Bazaar for persons with special needs or senior members of our congregation. There have been

occasions, because of crowding, that guests with walkers, balance issues, etc. have had some difficulty negotiating crowds and getting to specific table areas. Your feedback on this item is welcome.

If you have any questions or would like to join our great group of volunteers, please call the church office, or contact me, Ann Tompkins, at ann.tompkins07@gmail.com or Val Hum at Valerie.hum@rogers.com

In from the Cold

VOLUNTEERS' POT LUCK SUPPER

To bring our **twelfth** year to a close (can you believe it?!)

ALL In From The Cold volunteers are invited to a **POT LUCK SUPPER**



Thursday, April 10 at 5:30pm in the Tape Hall
(Please mark your calendars.)

This will give us the opportunity to meet together as a group and have as guests our local merchants. Without their generous support this ministry would not be possible.

**Please come and bring a
salad, main course or
dessert.**

Action and contemplation: the two halves of our soul

In the first chapter of the book *“Journey to the Heart: Christian Contemplation through the Ages”*, Laurence Freeman explores the centrality of contemplation in the life and teachings of Jesus. One example is the story of Mary and Martha, where Martha represents the active life and Mary the contemplative life – “not just two personality types, but two halves of the human soul.”

Responding to Martha’s stress, Jesus calls her back into touch with herself, saying her name twice and telling her that while she has become unmanageably stressed by her many tasks, only one thing is necessary. “Surely,” writes Freeman, “the ‘one thing’ is to be one, to re-integrate the divided self, whose internal fracture has led her to anger and violence.”

When Jesus says that Mary has chosen the better part, “he is saying that being comes before doing and that the quality of our being determines the quality and effectiveness of all our actions”. We are all Martha and Mary and the one thing necessary is to get the two halves of our soul back into friendship and balance. We

can do this by recovering the work that Mary is doing. “Even though Mary seems to be doing nothing, she is working, listening and paying attention and being still.”

Laurence Freeman points out that when we meditate, we are putting into practice the teachings of Jesus on prayer:

—Interiority: ‘go into your inner room and close the door’

—Silence: ‘do not go babbling on, thinking the more you say, the more likely you are to be heard. Your heavenly Father knows what you need before you ask’

—Calmness and freedom from anxiety: ‘do not worry about what you will wear or what you will eat’

—Mindfulness: ‘set your mind on God’s kingdom before all else’

—Living in the present moment: ‘do not worry about tomorrow’

If we put these elements of meditation into practice, we are praying as Jesus taught.

Reference: *Journey to the Heart: Christian Contemplation through the Ages*, an illustrated guide edited by Kim Nataraja, Novalis, 2011





Parkdale's Spring

Rummage Sale

Saturday April 26
9 am to 12 noon

HELPERS would be appreciated! We are looking for: good clean used clothing, kitchenware and household items, books, LPs, CDs, toys and games, sports equipment.

No TVs or computer equipment please.

Mark items clearly "Rummage Sale" and leave them at the door to the Memorial Hall. Please drop items off by Thursday, April 24, 2014.

If you can help with setting up, selling or cleaning up afterwards, please contact Valerie Hum at 613-728-8830 or valerie.hum@rogers.com

If you need help getting items to the church or are able to help with deliveries, please contact Helen Hayes at hayeshelen8@gmail.com
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Christian Meditation at Parkdale

You are invited to learn about Christian Meditation and practice this form of prayer with our small group. Our meeting lasts about one hour and includes listening to a taped talk about meditation and being silent in God's presence together for 25 minutes. Beginners and experienced, young and young at heart, all are welcome!

In the **Ladies Parlour**

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm I

Info: Elise Mennie dunmenni@hotmail.com 819-595-1294

Sundays at 9:30 am

Info: Jennifer Payne odumodus@sympatico.ca 613-692-0876



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — 2014

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 23, 2014

Approximately 50 people attended Parkdale's Annual General Meeting on February 23, 2014. After a light lunch provided by the Membership Development Committee, Matt Baker, Council Chair, welcomed those assembled and invited Rev. Anthony Bailey to lead us in an opening prayer. There followed a short time of remembrance and thanksgiving for Parkdale members and affiliates who had passed away during 2013.

A time of small group reflection and discussion followed: in groups of four, participants spent a few minutes in silent prayer and then entered into quite a lively conversation based on the following questions:

- What are you passionate about in the life and ministry of Parkdale?
- In what ways are we supporting one another within the congregation and encouraging our growth in prayer, faith and service?
- Are there new initiatives that have been undertaken – or need to be undertaken – to remain faithful to our call as a congregation in this neighbourhood and beyond?
- Are there things that we might be called to let go at this time?

- Are we being faithful in our use of resources: gifts/talents (people); financial; spiritual (prayer); building/physical space? If so, in what ways; if not, what are we being called to do differently?

Many thoughtful ideas were reported, including the need for: a long-term strategic plan for Parkdale to help us invest our resources wisely; increased awareness of the use and advantage of social media among non-users; a program of some sort to keep 18 to 30 year olds engaged; improved outreach to new members; closer linkages with other neighbourhood churches and community organizations for shared events; promotion of legacy gifts to the Memorial Fund; a concentrated effort to address accessibility issues; increased support of children's ministry; and enhanced efforts to promote the growth of Parkdale's choirs.

Peter Schamerhorn provided a brief update on the work of the Memorial Fund Working Group, whose objective is to create a framework and provide policy for the use of the Memorial Fund. The Group held consultations with Council and the Finance Committee, with feedback to date revealing a wide variety of views. An initial report to Council is anticipated for March 31, 2014.

Debbie McGregor gave an overview of the 2013 financial situation and outlined the Budget for 2014. The 2013 year-end deficit of \$9,508 was significantly less

than that budgeted of \$49,914; this is largely a result of lower than anticipated expenditures on contracts and honoraria, music and Council, and higher than expected revenue from rental of the premises, notably parking spaces. It is also worth noting that the deficit figure of \$9,508 reflects a transfer of \$54,647 in investment income from the Memorial Fund, without which it would have been \$64,155.

The Budget for 2014 projects a deficit of \$114,250 (\$60,250 after the proposed transfer of interest from the Memorial Fund) which is of significant concern. Several members expressed concern about the financial situation and the potential need to eat into the capital of the Memorial Fund to finance our operations. There was a call for a long-term plan, coupled with a review of programs and an assessment of whether objectives are being achieved. It was further agreed that the congregation should be reminded on a regular basis of our financial obligations.

The Annual General Meeting approved the following slate of officers for 2014:

- Council:

Chair: Blaine Pauling

Vice-chair: Vacant

Secretary: Helen Hayes

Treasurer: Kathleen Stephenson

Members at Large: David Odumodu, Faye Beaufort

- Committee Chairs:

Communications:Carolynn Halkett

Faith Formation and Christian

Enrichment: Paul Crabtree

Finance: Harry Allen

Membership Development and Rolls:

Marilyn Hahn

Ministry and Personnel: Judy Hamley

Mission, Outreach and Justice: Vacant

Pastoral Care: Mary McLeod

Presbytery Representatives: Beth

Gutsell , two other vacant positions

Property Trustees: Ken Elder

Recruitment and Succession Planning:

Peter Meerburg

Stewardship: Samantha Tim

Worship: Barbara Faught

- Property Trustees:

Warren Creighton, David Baird, Khan

Chao, Rick Cunliffe, Ken Elder

(Chairperson), Janice Gray, Richard

Yearwood, Don Mockett, Orion Clark

- Financial Trustees:

Harry Allen, Richard Hamley

Committees are always looking for additional people to provide new ideas and to support their efforts. Please contact the appropriate Committee Chair for more information if you would like to become more engaged in one of the many ministries that Parkdale supports.

As the meeting drew to a close, Matt thanked retiring Council members for their dedicated contribution to the work of Parkdale and offered a gracious word of appreciation for our wonderful staff, both lay and ministerial. Matt then introduced Blaine Pauling, the incoming Chair of Council. Welcome, Blaine! Melodee thanked Matt for his dedication to duty during the past two years as Chair of Council, especially for his unflinching support of staff. Matt closed the meeting in prayer.

Helen Hayes

The Messenger

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

2290 Bloor Street West, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario
M6X 2Y4 Canada



416-231-5831 1-800-268-3781
F: 416-231-3703
www.united-church.ca

November 19, 2013

E. Mennie
73 rue des Pinsons
Gatineau, QC
J9A 2V6

Dear E Mennie:

Thank you so much for taking the time to get signatures for the petition for the National Inquiry into the missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Cañada.

These signatures will be passed onto the Native Women's Association of Canada. Prayers are needed now for this inquiry to be passed by the voices of NWAC to the government December 6, 2013.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to call me.

Meegwetch,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Monague".

Peggy Monague
Healing Programs Coordinator
Aboriginal Ministries Circle of the United Church of Canada
pmonague@united-church.ca
1-800-268-3781, Ext. 4485

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

**Operation
Come Home**

Preventing Homeless Youth
From Becoming Homeless Adults



**Operation
rentrer au foyer®**

Éviter que les jeunes sans-abris d'aujourd'hui
deviennent les sans-abris adultes de demain

December 12, 2012

Dear Members of Parkdale United Church,

We would like to thank you for your generous donation in support of Operation Come Home. Your thoughtfulness and support of our youth are appreciated.

We work with street involved youth from the Ottawa community and across Canada. Operation Come Home provides these youth with school, work, and housing opportunities, along with resources, and crisis and emergency services. We also continue to assist youth to return home to their families.

As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on donations from supporters in the public. We thank you for your support of Operation Come Home and our work in the community.

Sincerely

E. McKay
Executive Director

Board of Directors 2013

Staff Sgt. Dana Reynolds,
Chairperson
Ottawa Police Services

Frank P. Lambson, Vice Chair
Investment Advisor, Macquarie
Private Wealth Inc.

Warren Schoen, Treasurer
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Eric Bolzman
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Phil Wasserman
Owner, Courtyard Restaurant

Mary Ellen Hurd
Retired,
Vice President, Account Director
Berfield Seguin Ltd

Graham Bird
President
GBAssociates

Daniel Valle
Director of Operations
Canadian Wildlife Federation

Michael Church
Bishop
Principal, Managing Director
Arkon Young

John May
Owner, Jack May Chevrolet Buick
GMC Ltd

Tom Gougash,
Macquarie Private Wealth, Banking
and Financial Services



The Caring Kitchen

Have you ever been to dinner at a friend's house? Have you ever invited a guest over to share a meal? If you answered yes to either question, then you have experienced a special kind of hospitality that evokes deep nurturing in both the giving and receiving.

Through The Caring Kitchen, our church is able to extend this special hospitality. Gifts of frozen food are taken to those experiencing challenging times as a result of grief, hospitalization, or any number of reasons. Sharing food with one another is a wonderful way to share Christ's love. Food received is always received with deep gratitude. Thank you to each of those who make this ministry possible.

At this time our kitchen is in need of replenishing. If you are able to cook an extra serving at meal time and place

it in a freezer- safe container or if you are able to prepare a meal to serve four people, all donations would be gratefully received. Not a cook? Prepared frozen dinners are very much appreciated. And, of course desserts and goodies are also welcome!

When bringing food, please provide a label with ingredients. Food can be brought to the church any time and given to a member of the Pastoral Care Team or to Rev. Debbie Roi. Thank you so very much for sharing in this ministry.

For more information please call Debbie at the church office, extension 224.

RECIPE

Chicken Medallions

Most meals I serve are plain/ordinary.
This recipe has pizzazz - more class!! J
Janice Gray

Ingredients:

Boneless chicken breasts
Peach or apricot jam
Havarti cheese
Prosciutto ham

Instructions:

Pound chicken breasts - cut in strips.
Spread jam over strips, then havarti
cheese.
Roll up strips, secure with skewer.
Roll slice of ham around each
chicken strip.
Cook in fry pan - sear both sides.
Cook in oven at 350 for about 15 min.



Great for entertaining as the meat can be prepared ahead of time, refrigerated, then cooked at the last minute. They taste and look delicious!

Family Camping Experience!

Last June many members of the Parkdale family headed north to Gracefield to enjoy two days and two nights of fun in a beautiful woodsy setting on Lac Castor Blanc. We played, talked, swam, canoed, prayed and laughed together.

It was so wonderful, we are determined to do it again.. So please reserve the weekend of **June 21-23, 2014** to join us. Registration forms coming soon.



Fred Andrews enjoying kayaking.



THANK YOU In From the Cold volunteers!



Images and Stories—Southern Africa

It was the last Friday of the month and, once again, the Ladies Parlour was buzzing with the voices of 30 guests who had come to hear David Odumodu and Jennifer Payne present their experiences on their August 2013 trip to Southern Africa. Accompanying them on the trip were their daughter Marley and six other travellers. Claudia, a travel companion, attended the session to offer support and reminisce with them.

South Africa has been the country most often presented in our *Images and Stories* series – three times. And yet, as Janet Taylor mentioned in her opening remarks, each presentation is different, holds our interest and brings out the uniqueness of Southern Africa. This held true, and those present who will be travelling with Rev. Bailey to South Africa this October were certainly fascinated and convinced to continue their plans for the trip.

These vacationers were adventurous. They explored the cities on their own during the day and met every evening. They delighted in using the “Hop on – Hop off” buses in order to



David Odumodu with Janet Taylor (left) and Faye Beaufort (right).

experience the real life and culture of the people and their cities. The audience enjoyed our first language lesson in the Zulu language, learning to say “Sawubona” (Hello) and “Unjani” (How are you?)

The trip started off in modern and beautiful Cape Town – the legislative capital of South Africa – where they spent four days. (Pretoria is the administrative capital.) They explored Cape Town on their own, visiting the waterfront development, seeing the old ships and delving into a bit of history. This was where Bartholomew Dias – a

Portuguese – was the first European round the southernmost tip of Africa in search of India. Dias was the captain but Vasco de Gama was on the ship with him. This is the Cape of Good Hope, then called the Cape of Storm, which saw many shipwrecks as explorers searched for the way to the East. Also of historical interest: Cape Town was where Dr. Christian Bernard – the celebrated white South African heart surgeon – did the first human heart transplant, in Groote Shuur hospital. This was in 1967 and it was of particular interest, given the apartheid issues at that time, to know that he had been assisted by Hamilton Naki, a black South African laboratory assistant, who was never mentioned at the time.

Our travellers had fun shopping in the Green Market Square in Cape Town where artisans and others market their wares such as jewellery. It is a place where you are expected to bargain but sometimes, knowing or understanding the financial needs of the people, they found it difficult to do serious bargaining.

A major disappointment was that the weather did not cooperate for them to go to Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned; however, they



Jennifer Payne and Joyce Sibanda

visited Mandela Rhodes' Place, a hotel/shopping/restaurant complex where a timeline of Mandela's life was displayed. Of course, there were many prayers posted everywhere for "Madiba" who was held in very high esteem and was ill at the time of their visit.

We saw pictures of the towering "Table Mountain" and they paused to explain the unique landmark called "The Three Tampons" – three high-rise buildings just below Table Mountain which were built in contradiction of the Government's restriction of building near the mountain. The high rise buildings stick out like sore thumbs in the area.

The flora and fauna of South

Africa are many. The King Protea is the national flower and it is seen all over. The beautiful Flame of Africa tree is also ubiquitous. South Africa is known for its vineyards and our travellers had the occasion to visit one of the oldest vineyards in Stellenbosch and eat at its restaurant.

It was interesting to learn that there are Penguins in South Africa, at Boulder's Beach. These penguins are unusually tiny. The group also saw ostriches in the nature reserve which includes the Cape of Good Hope and they could confirm that ostriches are not known for their memory – they immediately forget what they have seen when they blink!

It was also very interesting to learn of their stay in Shakaland hotel and resort, depicting Zulu life. For example, a red hat woven into a woman's hair indicates she is married; ladies fully clothed are married, those engaged are not so covered. They explained the traditions and certain cultural aspects of the Zulu's life. Shakaland is a heritage village in the manner of Upper Canada village. The Chief and his wives live there but there are several actors to help act and

explain traditional Zulu life. Shakaland served as the set for the movie "King Shaka".

Our travellers visited Kruger National Park where they stayed two nights in the Skukuza camp right in the Park and went on three safaris, including a night safari and a bush walk. Kruger was the President of Transvaal (in the apartheid era) in whose honour this vast game reserve is named. Here, they hoped to see the famous Big 5 (most prized): the elephant, the lion, the white and black rhinoceros, the water buffalo and the leopard. They saw all but the leopard. They also saw giraffes, zebras, hippopotamuses, alligators, hyenas, many monkeys, baboons, warthogs, impalas and kudus. The impalas are considered the lions' McDonald's due to how numerous they are, and the marking on their behind which resemble an M. It was interesting to note that the smaller animals take refuge in the electric-fenced camp site before the gates close at dawn.

On the way to Johannesburg through Swaziland, our travellers were fascinated with the rock formation of the Drakensburg Mountain Range. Its stupendous,

breath-taking sights through Bourke's Locke, God's Window, viewing Blyde river canyon and lofty peaks, remain etched in their minds. Soweto township is a city where many expensive homes do not have the big electrified walls surrounding them, as do similar homes in Johannesburg, since, as they were told, Sowetans, rich and poor, look after each other. In the one shanty town they visited near Soweto, they were struck by the innocent playfulness of the children who seemed oblivious to their poor living conditions. They visited Freedom Square. Here, inside the building, there is a monument of the declaration of the freedom charter – twelve goals identified (during the apartheid era) as desired in South Africa. Here they explained the meaning of the colours of the flag. Inside the Apartheid Museum they

viewed the stories of the apartheid system South Africa once had. Towards the end of their trip, David, Jennifer and Marley visited David's nephew and family in Botswana, where they explored the history and culture of the country. Of note is that Botswana is a politically stable country with modern infrastructure and with a population of more cows than people.

Unfortunately, Jennifer and David did not have enough time to describe in detail their trips to Swaziland and Botswana. However, we all admit it was a very informative evening that left the next Parkdale travellers to South Africa anxious to be on their trip in October this year.

Faye Beaufort

Seeking Right Relationships

An invitation from fellow United churches to learn, engage and make connections with Canada's Indigenous Peoples. The last presentation of this five-week series: **Idle No More**.

Gabrielle Fayant, vice president of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre, will speak on the topic "Sit-in: Idle-No-More: The Past - The Presence - The Future."



Monday, April 7 at 7 pm at Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer Avenue at Bank Street (entrance at Galt Street), 613 -730-6874.

The Ottawa Area Christian Meditation Community
presents

A Distracted Age: How a new understanding
of prayer can save our world

With Dom Laurence Freeman, osb, Director of the World Community
for Christian Meditation

Friday May 30, 2014, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Saint Paul University, 223 Main Street, Ottawa
Guigues Hall Auditorium (2nd Floor)

The big choice: distraction or attention? The Christian today is like anyone today facing this crucial decision concerning their lifestyle and their style of mind. But in our contemplative tradition, we have a treasure that can transform this choice for ourselves and for the world.

Hosted by St Paul University's Anglican Studies Program
\$25 per person payable at the door. **Please reserve by email** or get more information at: silentretreat2014@bell.net



Laurence Freeman, OSB, is the spiritual successor of John Main and director of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM). Father Laurence is a Benedictine monk, international speaker, retreat leader, and writer active in inter-religious dialogue and peace initiatives as well as encouraging the teaching of Christian Meditation to children and students. He is dedicated to working for the recovery of the contemplative wisdom tradition in the Church and society at large. In 2009, Father Laurence was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada “for his contributions as spiritual leader and director of the World Community for Christian Meditation and as a proponent of peace and inter-religious dialogue and understanding.”

**A HARD LOOK AT LOVE
(PART 11)**

Pamby: So have you been loving your enemies and your neighbours?

Namby: Well, my enemies haven't admitted that they are enemies and I have a long way to go with my neighbours. Anyhow, I'm working on it.

Pamby: But there is still another piece of the puzzle, one that, at least for me, is the toughest part.

Namby: What's that?

Pamby: When the same fellow, Jesus, said that we should "love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength".

Namby: Wow! That's even more than a double whammy! Loving enemies, neighbours, and now God?

Pamby: And the problem here is how he tells us to love God.

Namby: Yes, it sounds abnormal and unnatural again.

Pamby: That's what I have been thinking about. At least enemies and neighbours would be persons whom we could see and touch, like you and me.

Namby: Yes, they are part of the physical world in which we live.

Pamby: Of course, so you are saying

that God is different?

Namby: Exactly! We don't think about God as human .

Pamby: That's right! Nor do we think of him as part of the physical world.

Namby: That's true. We can't see God, we can't touch God as we do with our fellow human beings.

Pamby: Now you see why I am puzzled. How can we love someone or something which we can't see or touch?

Namby: And with all our heart, soul, mind and strength to boot.

Pamby: Yes. It doesn't seem as if there will be any love left for anybody or anything else.

Namby: But there must be because the same Jesus taught that we should love our enemies and our neighbours, so he must have thought that there was enough love to go around for them.

Pamby: But suppose that by "loving with all heart, soul, mind and strength", he was using these words to mean "focus".

Namby: We have been hearing a lot about that word and, as well, about time recently. Have you heard about the writer who says that, to be really good at anything, you have to spend

10,000 hours at it?

Pamby: Yes, but that's a long time to focus on anything.

Namby: That's true, but I suppose that if you really love somebody or something, you really don't count the time that you are spending in giving them your attention.

Pamby: That's true too, but it doesn't mean that you don't think of other things or other people and give them time as well.

Namby: Ok, so you must still tell me what you think this stuff about "loving with all heart, soul, mind and strength" might mean, especially when you can't see and touch what you are supposed to be loving. It can't mean that we shouldn't be interested in loving other people and other things at all, for we have already agreed that, according to what the same Jesus taught, we have to make room for enemies and neighbours.

Pamby: Suppose we look at it this way. I may have a hobby, a friend or



a relative whom or which I love and focus on much of the time.

Namby: So, would there be anything wrong with that?

Pamby: No, but I would say that it could become a problem if I began to love it so much and treat it with such attention that I related to it as if it were a God.

Namby: So, where are you going with this?

Pamby: Perhaps Jesus was really teaching that there should be nothing that we love as much as God, that nothing should take God's place.

Namby: You think that he was teaching that when we love God, we shouldn't allow anything to distract us from loving him.

Pamby: Or that we shouldn't allow anything or anybody to compete with him for our love.

Namby: That seems to make sense. It allows us to love enemies and neighbours and other people as well but to make the quality of our love for God much greater and timeless.

Pamby: I still don't think that's normal, but perhaps the fellow Jesus could show us how to do it.

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16. 03.14

the Messenger



The Parkdale Messenger

Editor this issue: Elise Mennie

Proofreader: Isabelle Duncan

Contributors: Anthony Bailey, Valerie Hum, Helen Hayes, John Harewood, Elise Mennie, Hazel Bowen, Ann Tomkins, Mary McLeod, Faye Beaufort, Debbie Roi, Danica Rogers, Blaine Pauling, Melodee Lovering

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 appreciate any submissions to the Parkdale Messenger. We reserve the right to edit, condense or reject submissions, but will try to find space for all.

Next issue: **May 2014.**

Editor next issue: **Danica Rogers**

Please submit articles and materials to
messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca

or the church office

by **April 15.**