

# 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

the Messenger



## WELCOME TO PARKDALE

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

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

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

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

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

## The Parkdale Congregation



## Where to find it...

Minister's Message .....	3
Kim Vidal's covenanting .....	8
Lectionary .....	9
News from the pews .....	10
Youth and Children's Events .....	12
Book Club .....	14
Update on Right Relations .....	15
Poem .....	16
Ottawa Presbytery Update .....	18
World Day of Prayer .....	19
Recipe .....	20
Images and Stories—upcoming .....	21

**Cover photo:** The Imani Gospel Singers from Montreal's Union Church led us in music of praise and thanksgiving at the Martin Luther King service on January 19, 2014.



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### Four Years on...

On January 20, 2014, I was the emcee for the DreamKEEPERS 10<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day awards ceremony at City Hall. I had the privilege of introducing and helping to present a Life Achievement Award to the Rt. Honourable Michaëlle Jean, the 27<sup>th</sup> Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada (2005 and 2010). Currently, she is the UNESCO Special Envoy for Haiti, through which she is spearheading a multilateral initiative to overhaul the education system and protect culture and heritage in Haiti.

Before the event, I was part of the delegation that welcomed Madame Jean in the Councilor's Lounge. I had a brief conversation with her about the present situation in Haiti. While she acknowledged the generosity of many in the world who responded with various kinds of help after the 2010 earthquake, she said a lot more was still left to be done. Now out of the spotlight, the world has moved on to other

places of need and turmoil. She did laud the tremendous dignity of the people and saluted their resilience in the face of inordinately huge hurdles. She is a tireless worker and remains hopeful.

After speaking with her and hearing her acceptance speech that called us all to action in the spirit of Dr. King's legacy of a beloved world community achieved through courage, non-violence, and activist-like commitment to the common good, I was reminded of my reflections on Haiti and

Jesus' call for Jubilee back in 2010. I share this with you – again, for some, and for the first time for others.

Grace to you,  
Anthony

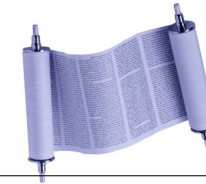


### How about a long overdue "Jubilee" for Haiti?

February is Black History Month: perhaps a combination of first century biblical history and Haitian history would be a timely way of observing the significance of this month.

On a Sunday in late January, I was sharing with the congregation here at Parkdale some re-

lections on the gospel text for the day, which happened to be Luke 4:14-21.



*<sup>17</sup>The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

*<sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to release the oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

*<sup>20</sup>Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, <sup>21</sup>and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

This was the mission statement of Jesus of Nazareth; it was his reason for coming, his reason for being and acting, and in the end, it became the reason – from the point of view of the Roman authorities with help from some of the Jewish elite leaders – for his death. By declaring that this composite scriptural quotation

from Isaiah 61 and 58 – which were summaries of the Jubilee tradition in Israel – was being fulfilled "today" in their hearing, Jesus was stating at the outset that he was sent and was being empowered by the Holy Spirit to enact reversal.

## Jubilee

When Jesus uses the phrase “the Year of the Lord’s favour”, he is talking about Jubilee. In ancient Israel, Jubilee – which in He-



brew literally means “the blowing of the Ram’s Horn” – was to be practiced every fiftieth year. There were four stipulations for the celebration of Jubilee. One, the land was not to be cultivated but be allowed to lie fallow. Two, all outstanding debts between Hebrews were to be cancelled. Three, all Hebrew slaves and indentured servants were to be set free. And four, land was to be released and the original inheritors returned to it. It was a legislated reversal of unbalanced economic relationships. Although there is much debate among theological and biblical scholars as to whether or not this was actually practiced, it certain-

ly was a yardstick against which many of the Hebrew prophets measured the standard of justice.

## Jesus born and raised in poverty

Jesus was born and grew up in a context of biting poverty all around Galilee and beyond. The tenant farmers and their families comprised 80% of the population and artisans and trades people (eg. carpenters like Joseph and presumably Jesus, leather workers) made up about 18%. All of these people were in deep debt because of the structure of the economy and the predatory tax system. Farmers paid 50% of their earnings to the landowner, 25% to Herod and the Roman government, 10% to the Temple and 3% to the local village or town – which would be held to run local affairs and serve as an emergency no-interest loan to the needy. This meant that the average family had to live off 12% of its annual income. The mission agenda of Jesus would sound pretty good to many of these folk.

## Haiti, Poverty and a History of Exploitation

Did you know that Haiti was considered the “jewel of the Caribbean”? How did it go from “jewel”

to what Mother Teresa called a “fourth-world” country, after she visited it? We often hear Haiti described as the poorest country in the western hemisphere....how come?

Haiti was lush and verdant and fertile, and it produced immeasurable wealth for France and later on the United States. But this came at a huge price. The enslaved population of Africans, who had been kidnapped and transported to the island, were literally worked to death. The average life expectancy of an enslaved African after arriving in Haiti was 7 years.

After several moderately successful to disastrously failed attempts at rebellion, a coalition of mulattoes and enslaved Africans managed to mount a protracted decade-long campaign and won their freedom from the French colonizers.

Following the lead of France – who refused to acknowledge Haiti’s independence in 1804 – the rest of the western world ostracized Haiti and denied it ac-

cess to financing, trade and institutional and infrastructural development. This included the United States, whose lofty and noble independence constitutional document crafted almost 3 decades earlier stated “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal”. Haiti declared in its 1805 constitution that any person of African descent to come to Haiti was free and an automatic citizen of the republic.



After twenty-one years of this international “embargo” of isolation and exclusion, and with a bankrupt economy and no possibility of participat-

ing in the Western trade economy, Haiti had no choice but to capitulate. In exchange for recognition of its independence and a chance to find a market for its exports, it struck a “gun-to-the-head” deal with France. It agreed to pay the French 150 million gold francs (which is estimated to be about US\$25 billion in today’s dollars). This was a way of punishing Haiti and ensured that it would never succeed. It took Haiti until 1922 to pay down this debt. But before it could do so, in 1910 the US State

Department and the National City Bank of New York bought the Banque Nationale d'Haiti, effectively transferring the country's debt to the Americans since this was Haiti's only commercial bank and its national treasury. US marines soon followed and, in 1915, a military occupation that lasted until 1934 ensured, through martial law and an iron fist response to protesters, that 40% of Haiti's GDP was diverted to U.S. banks.

The subsequent propping up by the CIA of predatory and dictatorial regimes like those of Papa Doc and Baby Doc Duvalier—who effectively guaranteed the U.S. access to Haiti's assets and markets in exchange for keeping them in power as well as arming and training their army and murdering thugs—extended the orchestrated descent of Haiti into poverty.

Our own nation of Canada is not off the hook either. Since the mid 1980s, Canada has pumped an enormous amount of aid into Haiti. Though some of it has no doubt helped in humanitarian ways, critics have pointed out that portions of this funding have gone to organizations hostile to democratically-elected former Haitian president Jean Bertrand Aristide.

Aristide was popular among the majority of Haiti's poor. He wanted reforms and change. Aristide was removed by the U.S. with Canada's help in 2004. Although both countries maintained that he left voluntarily, his departure remains shrouded in inconsistencies and many unanswered questions. It is of no surprise that as soon as Aristide "left", foreign multinational corporations, including Canadian mining companies, rushed in to exploit the country's resources of gold, copper and silver deposits, with the permission of the newly installed government.



The generosity of the world towards the relief of Haiti's recent disaster is admirable and to be commended. It is not however a substitute for repentance of the centuries-long exploitation of Haiti. Generosity is not to take the place of the present-day redress necessary for Haiti's rebuilding according to the mission agenda of Jesus. It is an agenda,

in the case of Haiti, characterized by economic justice, racial justice, compassion and healing, political transparency and genuine commitment to the people, debt forgiveness, deep reconciliation, reparation, peace, hope and joy. Idealistic? Tell that to Jesus!

This "missional" commitment of Jesus was 'Jubilee' news for many of the people of his time, and it is 'Jubilee' news for many of the people of Haiti. What will we do next?

anthony

### Rev. Kim Vidal, Bells Corners United Church



Justin, Rev. Kim, husband Kenny and Jacob

It is with great pleasure that Parkdale United learned of the covenanting service for Rev. Kim Vidal as minister of Bells Corners United Church on Richmond Road, on October 20, 2013. As many of you may remember, Rev. Kim spent part of her journey towards serving the Lord at Parkdale as our youth minister from September 2007 to June 2008. After being ordained in June 2009, she served the Osgoode-Kars Pastoral Charge putting her at St. James United (Osgoode) and Trinity United (Kars). We congratulate her on her journey and wish her many fulfilling years at Bells Corners.

## LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

### February 2 – Fourth after Epiphany

**Micah 6:1–8**

What does God require of us?

**Psalms 15** (VU p. 736)

Who may be a guest in God's house?

**1 Corinthians 1:18–31**

God's foolishness is better than human wisdom.

**Matthew 5:1–12**

Blessed are the poor in spirit.



### February 9 – Fifth after Epiphany

**Isaiah 58:1–9a, (9b–12)**

The fast that God chooses.

**Psalms 112:1–9, (10)** (VU p. 834)

Delight in God's commandments.

**1 Corinthians 2:1–12, (13–16)**

Wisdom through God's Spirit.

**Matthew 5:13–20**

You are salt; you are light.

### February 16 – Sixth after Epiphany

**Deuteronomy 30:15–20**

I set before you life and death; choose life.

**Psalms 119:1–8** (VU p. 838 Part One)

Happy are those who walk in God's ways.

**1 Corinthians 3:1–9**

Not ready for solid food.

**Matthew 5:21–37**

Teachings on anger, adultery, divorce, and oaths.

### February 23 – Seventh after Epiphany

**Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18**

Living the holy life.

**Psalms 119:33–40** (VU p. 839 Part Three)

Teach me, O God, your ways.

**1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23**

You are God's temple.

**Matthew 5:38–48**

Turn the other cheek; give your cloak.



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### Baptisms January 18th



*Congratulations!*

Aaron and Lyndsey  
Stuart with baby  
Addysen.



Danica Rogers and David Deschamps with young Emmett Deschamps.  
In attendance but not in the photo are big brothers Lucas and Elijah.

## Birthdays in February

### Our warmest greetings to:

Feb 1 Fincham-Dinsdale, Lexy  
Feb 1 Koch, Winston  
Feb 2 Yearwood, Richard  
Feb 2 Barbour, Aaron  
Feb 3 Yeck, Jordyn  
Feb 4 Andrews, Scott  
Feb 7 Mennie, Elise  
Feb 7 Crabtree, Hannah  
Feb 8 Drodge, Glen  
Feb 8 O'Neil, Jordan  
Feb 9 Linton, Angela  
Feb 9 Radstake, Martha  
Feb 11 Rutherford, Ian  
Feb 11 Phillips, Anna  
Feb 12 Epale, Cordel  
Feb 12 Amisi, Moriam  
Feb 13 Praamsma, Molly  
Feb 14 Taylor, Scott  
Feb 17 Méla, Anna  
Feb 17 Hilkes, Gabriella  
Feb 19 Bolt, Charlie  
Feb 20 Martin, Wendy  
Feb 22 Borden, Andrew  
Feb 23 Halkett, Carolyn  
Feb 23 Nasrallah, Keenan  
Feb 23 Valcin, Tyson  
Feb 26 Molson, Greg  
Feb 26 Molson, Steven  
Feb 26 Evans, Joshua  
Feb 28 Okumu, Valdengrave  
Feb 28 Plante, Noah  
Feb 29 Lu, Laura



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

## Youth and Children's Events

### Saturday, February 8 1-3 pm



Youth are invited to join Joanna Hamley, Jaclyn Robinson and

Melodee to **decorate cookies** for sale at the **Feb 9 coffee shop**. At this time we will also put together the personalized squares for our new quilt to be hung in Second Blessings coffee shop. Those who don't yet have an apron with their name on it will have a chance to make one.

### Sunday, Feb 9 2:30 pm

Those in grade six and under are invited to participate in a **scrap-wood puppet making workshop** led by the Rag and Bone Theatre Company. There is a fee for this event of \$15/child or \$40 for a family. Also, enrollment is limited to 20 kids so if you wish to participate, please contact Melodee at [melodeelovering63@yahoo.ca](mailto:melodeelovering63@yahoo.ca)



### Sundays, Feb 23, Mar 2 & Mar 23 5 to 8 pm

Senior youth (Gr. 7 and up) are invited to "**Project of Heart**", a three-part program on understanding Aboriginal history and reconciliation. First, we will experience an interactive 'Blanket Exercise' about the history of the relationship between Indigenous and Non-indigenous peoples, with the participation of Cree elder Mary-Lou Iatail. Then we will study Indian Residential Schools and, through an art project, pay tribute to the children who died there and to survivors. The last Sunday, we will cook a First Nations meal, invite Elder Iatail to receive our gesture of reconciliation and share her own story, and discuss how we might build future right relations.

**Sundays, Feb 23, Mar 2 &  
Mar 23**

**4 pm**

Junior youth (Gr. 4 to 6) will also be running a program, to be announced.

**Saturday,  
March 1**

**Afternoon**

Senior youth are slotted to serve at *In From the Cold*.

About 12 youth are needed and two adult volunteers, of which I will be one. We need a firm commitment from youth by Feb 9. Contact Melodee at [melodeelovering63@yahoo.ca](mailto:melodeelovering63@yahoo.ca)

**Tuesday March 4  
Evening**

A **pancake supper** will be held for the whole church family. Cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

**March 8  
to 15**

During March Break, Sarah Vidalin, Adrianna

McPolin and Melodee Lovering will be travelling to **Haida Gwaii** (formerly the Queen Charlotte Islands) for a cultural exchange trip with a Haida community of youth (organized by Ottawa Presbytery). Following our trip, the Haida youth will travel to Ottawa March 16 to 22. Please pray for us as we participate in this exciting exchange!

**June 21-23** we will be holding our **family camp** at Gracefield in Quebec. Further information and registration forms will be coming in the near future.

Submitted by  
Melodee Lovering



**Please do remember that you are always welcome and encouraged to invite friends from outside of Parkdale to attend any of our events!**

## Parkdale Bookclub

February 16

**Dear Life:** Alice Munro's 15th and latest short story collection. Among many other prizes, she won the Nobel Prize for Literature last year at the age of 82.

March 16

**Canada:** Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford's majestic novel chronicles the life of a young American boy who winds up in Windsor Ontario teaching American English literature.

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



## Update on Right Relations

Faye Beaufort and Elise Mennie attended a gathering at First United Church on January 16. It was a follow-up to last spring's visit to the Montreal **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)**, which was attended by 13 people from Parkdale.

The meeting began with a cultural presentation by a group of Inuit students from Ottawa's post-secondary training program 'Nunavut Sivuniksavut' (Our land, our future). This program trains young people in Inuit land claims, culture and governance to prepare them for public administration work in Nunavut.

Next, we saw a video of Jamie Scott who worked in the United Church of Canada's reconciliation efforts for the last 25 years. He reminded us that our church apologised first in 1986 for our role in colonialism, then in 1998, for our participation in the racist Indian Residential School

(IRS) system.

The main speaker was Viola Thomas of the TRC. She spoke of the importance of raising the awareness of Canadians about this recent part of our colonial history. The University of Manitoba will house the material and records of the IRS system for future researchers to consult. The commission's mandate has been extended to June 2015 in order to complete the research on missing children who died at the schools and to write its report. There will be a closing gathering in Ottawa and we are all called to join with many other groups in organising a Walk for Reconciliation. At the Vancouver event last fall, over 70,000 people from across BC joined in the reconciliation walk. Viola challenged us to double that number in Ottawa next year.

Katy Quinn from KAIROS (Ecumenical Justice Initiatives) then reminded us that truth and reconciliation de-

mand equity. The systemic racism that gave rise to the IRS system still shows itself today through the inequity in funding for schools on reserves and in the ongoing housing and water crises there. We can respond by pushing our government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and by raising awareness of the inequitable funding for services for First Nations, such as family and

child welfare services.

At Parkdale, the senior youth group (Gr. 7 and up) is embarking on a 'Project of Heart' at the end of February, to learn about Aboriginal history and Indian Residential Schools. For details on the three Sunday evening sessions, Feb 23, March 2 and March 23, see "Youth and Children's Events" on page 13.

Submitted by Elise Mennie

## THE GOOD NEWS

*By Charles Levy*

Three short years – but what a glorious time!

We went from drudgery to heights sublime.

'Twas Andrew saw Him first as I recall;

He found his brother Simon first of all,

And bade him come to meet the man that he

Believed might well the true Messiah be.

They told their fishing partners, James and John,

Who eagerly agreed to go along.

**"Come follow Me,"** was what He told them then,

**"And I'll make you become fishers of men!"**

But it was all at Cana it began,  
For there we first soon realized this Man  
Was not some sanctimonious egotist,  
Or just an arrogant polemicist.  
There at a wedding where we went to dine,  
The host unluckily ran out of wine.  
His mother turned to Him as if she knew  
Whatever needed to be done, He'd do.  
Don't ask me what that was, but all I know  
Is that the wine once more began to flow,  
After He bid the servants fill some firkins  
With water which they then poured into wineskins.  
Then at the synagogue next Sabbath day,  
He took the Book and this began to say:

**"Isaiah wrote, 'The Spirit of the Lord  
Appointed me to go and spread the Word -  
To go and preach the Good News to the poor,  
To heal the broken-hearted, break the door  
That keeps the prisoner captive, heal the blind,  
And free all those who have been bruised in mind:  
To preach the Year of Favour of the Lord.'  
This day hath God fulfilled His promised word!"**



## OTTAWA PRESBYTERY — JANUARY 2014

First United Church hosted the January meeting of Ottawa Presbytery with a lovely chili meal prepared by the J2A (Journey to Adulthood Youth Group). Chair Rev. Trisha called the meeting to order at 6:30 in the sanctuary and Jane Ellis, past chair of the Council of First, extended words of welcome. Worship on the themes of Epiphany, change and leadership was led by Chair-elect David Lee and Rev. Brian Copeland, who gave the reflection about offering leadership when you find yourself in a deep fog. Chair Trish then invited the presbyters to reflect on Brian's image of getting out of the vehicle and walking ahead in order to lead the way.



In December two members of Ottawa Presbytery died and the court remembered them: Roger Snelling, a former president of Montreal and Ottawa Conference; and Rev. Dr. Will Walker, a retired minister and spouse of serving minister Rev. Laurie McKnight Walker.

The routine administrative motions were considered and the work of the committees approved through the Consensus Packet.

There will be a number of remits regarding the polity and policies of the denomination over the coming months leading up to General Council 41 in August 2015. At the Janu-

ary meeting Ottawa Presbytery considered the first six of these remits and agreed to all of them:

**Remit 1** – permission for local governance bodies to fill vacancies between meetings of the pastoral charge

**Remit 2** – presbytery membership deletion regarding staff in administrative or program positions

**Remit 3** – presbytery membership inclusion of representatives from presbytery-accountable ministries

**Remit 4** – transfer & settlement – ability to transfer candidates to presbytery-recognized ministries

**Remit 5** – election of Commissioners by overseas personnel – a change in the number from formula to 3

**Remit 6** – presbytery membership change to include ministry leadership serving congregations with "Associate Membership" within the United Church

Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, the minister at Parkdale shared "C'est la vie!" for Ministries in French, focusing on

words and phrases of the season of Epiphany. Norma McCord drew the attention of the court to the Syrian Refugee Crisis and shared a handout of ways to be supportive. If congregations are contemplating sponsorship, Norma is the best person to contact.

The educational presentation for the evening was made by Alison Timmons, from the Nepean Rideau Osgoode Resource Centre Elder Abuse Response and Referral service. A copy of her PowerPoint presentation is available from the presbytery office and she showed a DVD depicting a situation of financial abuse. Copies of her presentation and contact information are available from the presbytery office.

Rev. Dr. Glen Stoudt, who is a member of the working group on the implementation of the new structure for the Executive of Ottawa Presbytery, presented the revised model and shared more information regarding the work of the Executive members. The presbytery approved the revisions to the original Core Model adopted in the Spring of 2013. The plan is to have the new model in place with the rise of the new pastoral year July 1, 2014.

The meeting closed with worship led by Chair Trish, who reflected on “chalking the door”, a European Epiphany tradition of blessing the home as sacred space and with the singing of ‘Would you Bless our Homes and Families’.

**The congregation of Parkdale United Church is invited to the**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**

**ST. MATTHIAS ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**555 Parkdale Avenue  
(parking lot on Warwick Place off  
Sherwood Drive)**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014  
5:30 PM**

The theme of the service, “Streams in the Desert”, was written by the Christian women of Egypt. Following the service, there will be a reception in the church hall at which a light soup supper will be served.



Participating churches include Parkdale United, Kitchissippi United, St. Matthias Anglican, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary RC, St. George’s RC and St. Stephen’s Presbyterian.

Come join your sisters and brothers in Christ, in solidarity with fellow Christians around the world.

For further information, contact Beth Gutsell at 613-729-8228.

World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement organized by Christian women each year on the first Friday of March. Their motto is “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action”.

**RECIPE**

**Cucina Povera: Tomato & Lentil Soup**

The original recipe by David Rocco appeared in The Globe & Mail in the spring of 2013; it has been adapted/ revised by Ruth Foster. At this time of year it is a particular favourite of her family.



**Ingredients:**

¼ cup olive oil  
2 garlic gloves, chopped  
2 fresh Thai chili peppers or ½ tsp chili pepper paste  
1 large container of baby spinach, washed and spun dry  
1 795 ml can diced tomatoes and juice  
1 540 ml can lentils, drained and rinsed  
freshly ground salt; freshly ground pepper, to taste  
½ tsp of medium curry powder  
water or tomato juice (optional)

**Directions:**

Heat olive oil in a soup pot.  
Add the garlic and chili peppers or chili pepper paste; sauté for a few minutes, until the garlic begins to turn golden.  
Add the baby spinach, sauté until it wilts.  
Pour in the tomatoes and their juice, then add the lentils, salt and pepper, and curry powder.  
Bring the contents to a gentle boil, then simmer for 15 to 20 minutes.  
The soup is very thick. Thin it by adding water or – preferably – tomato juice.  
To ensure the flavours “come together” let the soup sit on the stove – without a lid and with the heat off – for a minimum of 20 minutes before serving.

When serving the soup, finish the dish with a drizzle of good extra virgin olive oil and grate a little fresh parmigiano cheese on top.

The soup freezes beautifully.  
Serves 6-8.

Buon appetito!

Next "Images and Stories": Friday, February 28 at 7 pm  
**Southern Africa in 21 days**



Come join Jennifer, David and Marley as they share their trip through Southern Africa. Starting in Capetown, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, travel to the wild and beautiful Cape of Good Hope, then take in the Zulu cultural experience in Shakaland. Journey with them as they cross over to the kingdom of Swaziland, the land of the annual reed dance. You will feel the excitement going through the beautiful country towards Kruger National Park, a park the size of the state of Israel. At Kruger you will meet a variety of animals while on

safaris and a bush walk. You will take in the majestic views on the panoramic route through God's window to Johannesburg (Jo'burg), the bustling cosmopolitan city of gold at 5700 feet above sea level; visit captivating Soweto, and learn about the struggle against apartheid. The final leg is to Pretoria, the capital, and on to Botswana, a stable and modern country of proud and peaceful people. All this while indulging in the culinary delights of Southern Africa. Come and be enticed by the sights and tastes of Southern Africa.

**Saying Yes to Beginnings  
Without Ends**

By John Harewood

Namby: Pamby, Pamby, did you hear the news?

Pamby: No, but it better be good; we've had such bad news last year: earthquakes, massacres, typhoons, tornadoes, perverts keeping people as sex slaves for years, that we need to begin 2014 with a good story.

Namby: Well, I don't know whether it's going to be a good story, but we have a new neighbour.

Pamby: Really? I thought that our reputation scared people away.

Namby: Speak for yourself and not for me! Anyhow, we do have a new neighbour.

Pamby: So, what's he or she like?

Namby: It's a "she" and she tells you right away that she is not a "morning person", so don't think that you'll be able to chat her up when you are waiting for the bus as you do with me.

Pamby: Is she a night or midday person then?

Namby: She didn't really say but just said that she has never been able to cope with mornings ever since her

pet hamster died early one morning when she was ten.

Pamby: Okay, so that's why she isn't a morning person?

Namby: Well, it's more than that; she associates mornings with bad beginnings.

Pamby: Has she ever seen the sun rise? That's not such a bad beginning.

Namby: But, of course. It's not that she doesn't see the beauty of sunrise; she is just nervous about what will happen afterwards.

Pamby: So she didn't stay awake to see the New Year arrive?

Namby: Oh no! She told me that she is a good sleeper, so she slept until midday and the new year had been well on its way before she got up.

Pamby: And she was okay after that?

Namby: Yes, she thinks that people who watch the ball dropping in Times Square, sing "Should all acquaintance be forgot" and hug complete strangers at midnight are weird.

Pamby: Actually, I know a few people who don't like beginnings; whenever they read a story, they start at the end of the book. They don't like surprises or disappointments.

Namby: But suppose the story has a great beginning and a great end. Then, they would be missing a lot.

Pamby: Suppose it doesn't end at all?

Namby: I enjoy stories like that more; my imagination is still working when I have read the last page.

Pamby: Can you think of any story like that?

Namby: Sure! And now that I think about it, almost everybody I know has been talking about it for the past two weeks.

Pamby: You mean the one about the birth of a baby in a stall, animals, bright stars, gifts of gold, exotic visitors and all that stuff?

Namby: Isn't that one with a great beginning?

Pamby: It is; sounds like a good one to start the new year.

Namby: Better still, it doesn't have an end.

Pamby: So your neighbour won't have to get nervous about what happens after the beginning.

Namby: That's right! But I still won't recommend it to her in the morning.

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16.12.2013

## Canadian Centennial Choir concert

### This Is Why I Sing

Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014,  
3:00 p.m.

St. John the Evangelist Church  
154 Somerset Street at Elgin  
Ottawa

We present a diverse collection of choral music chosen by choir members, with Nick Rodgeron at the piano. Our director asked each member to submit two of their favourite pieces. From these submissions she has crafted a dynamic and cohesive program. What do we love to sing and why? Come and find out!

Save on advance ticket prices  
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Call Val Hum, 613-728-8830 or  
email [valerie.hum@rogers.com](mailto:valerie.hum@rogers.com)

At the door \$25/22.



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

Next issue: **March 2014.**

Editor next issue: **Danica Rogers**

Please submit articles and materials to  
[messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca](mailto:messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca)  
by Sunday **February 17\***

*\*3rd Sunday of each month*