

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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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 Park-

dale' 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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LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

March 4 — Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

The covenant between Abram, Sarai, and God.

Psalms 22:23–31

(VU p. 746 Parts Three and Four)

You have not hidden your face, O God.

Romans 4:13–25

God's promise rests on grace and faith.

Mark 8:31–38

Those who lose their life for the gospel will save it.

March 11 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1–17

The Ten Commandments.

Psalms 19 (VU pp. 740–741)

The heavens declare the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.

John 2:13–22

Jesus clears the temple.

March 18 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4–9

A bronze serpent heals the people.

Psalms 107:1–3, 17–22

(VU p. 831 Parts One and Two)

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Ephesians 2:1–10

We are not saved by our own doing, but by grace.

John 3:14–21

For God so loved the world.

March 25 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31–34

I will write my law on their hearts.

Psalms 51:1–12 (VU pp. 776–777)

Put a new heart in me, O God.

or

Psalms 119:9–16 (VU pp. 838–839)

Finding joy in God's commandments.

Hebrews 5:5–10

Christ did not glorify himself; rather, he suffered.

John 12:20–33

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

LENT, FAITH AND MONEY



During one of our worship services in February, Mr. Matt Baker – Chair-elect of our Church Council – shared a “Moment for Financial Stewardship”. At that time, he celebrated the various ministries in which Parkdale is involved and reminded the congregation that this is made possible by God who uses us and our various ways of giving to make it happen.

Matt went on to say that, like our household bills and costs, the amount of money needed to fund our congregational life and ministries is increasing every year. He said that he was particularly struck by the proposed deficit at a recent Council meeting at which the 2012 Congre-

gational Budget was prayed about and discussed. He confessed that he realized he had not raised his annual financial offerings to the life and ministry of the congregation in some years, and declared that in light of this he has increased his pledged givings for this year. Then, he strongly encouraged as many as possible in the congregation to do so as well.

After the service, a few individuals in attendance approached me and said varyingly: “You know, I am new to this church thing and I don’t know how much I should give”; “Could you help me understand why I should give and if so how much”; “Don’t we get grants from the government?”; “Why don’t you just tell us how much to give? I mean how much is enough?”

I thought this was very interesting and telling indeed. It revealed to me that Matt's presentation hit an important chord with a number of people. Also, the comments suggested that perhaps I and the leadership of the congregation are not communicating sufficiently explicitly to all what financial stewardship is all about. The messages in our worship, prayers, preaching, invitations to offering, and teaching on our response to God's generosity perhaps need even more clarity and emphasis.

Parkdale United Church is a committed and generous congregation. We are possessed by incredibly giving people. Speaking now only of financial giving, I mean the people of this congregation and those related to it generously gave \$630,090 in 2011. That is incredible and reason enough to give God thanks and to rejoice. Yes we had a deficit of \$6,849, but, considering that we

had projected a deficit of over \$36,000, the support of our life and ministry last year was simply awesome. Do we have room to improve? Yes. Do we need a significant number of people to give more this year? Yes we do. But let's not lose sight of how God has blessed us with a solid base and with some good momentum. But now, let's get back to the questions those worshippers had raised earlier.

Starting with "why" we give, the simple answer is: just try and stop a human being from giving. We are wired to give. We give in all kinds of ways. Specifically in our Christian context however, just try and stop a believer who is conscious of and grateful for the abounding blessings of God from giving generously. Just try and stop someone who believes in the "story" of the congregation's mission to share the gospel in word and loving deeds from giving. In other

words, we are also spiritually "wired" to give of our time, our money, our ideas, our gifts and energy for the work of God, when our hearts, imagination and lives have been captured by the magnificent grace of God through Jesus Christ. In other words, when our faith is alive and growing and engaging with life in the way of Christ, there is no dampening our generosity and commitment.

A United Church resource on financial stewardship reports some interesting research findings. It states:

"Generosity is a demonstrable dimension of faith formation, related to a biblically-grounded stewardship understanding that is reflected in every life decision.

Giving increases correlate with spiritual growth.

Stewardship involves getting values and money going in the same direction."

So, why do we give generously to the work of God mediated through the life and ministry of this congregation? Number one: for the sheer joy of it. It completes who we are humanly and spiritually. Number two: it is an act of faith and gratitude to God for God's faithful provision. Number three: it is a concrete and disciplined way of demonstrating our faithful commitment to those who are hurting, in distress, suffering injustice, experiencing poverty and oppression, and otherwise in need of a tangible expression of the accompaniment of God. Financial generosity is one of the ways we fulfil Jesus' commandment to love God and neighbour.

Well then, what about how much should we give. Before responding to that question, perhaps should "take a picture" first. That same United Church of Canada resource found this interesting pattern. "Correlation between income and giving trends:

People with higher family incomes give higher dollar amounts.

Givers with lower incomes are higher percentage givers.

Members of the middle class (most United Church members) give the least as a proportion of income.

For each group, it is important to encourage people to give their way into a new way of being, to take the next step. Effective stewardship education ministries address personal financial concerns."

The average United Church member gives

slightly less than 2% of their income to the ministry of God in the congregation.

Before laying out how much people should give, it is crucial to do two things: one, take stock of the global financial picture of a person and/or dependent family; and two, reflect on how aware they are of the biblical teaching around giving to God through the ministry of the local congregation.

Because of our society's growing tendency towards indebtedness, and the competence and persuasiveness of marketing messaging that gets us to spend and to cultivate cer-



tain values about our money, the "counter" messaging of biblical and Christian financial stewardship needs to be done carefully, yet boldly. At Parkdale, we have offered workshops on spirit-given gifts, on financial giving, and on God and Money where we offer teaching and host conversations about this messaging and "counter" messaging. Of course, some of this happens in our communal worship, Bible Studies and other faith formation initiatives.

Many people have heard of the biblical concept of tithing. A "tithe" means literally "a tenth part". In Christian parlance, this would mean that ten percent of a believer's income (some argue over whether it should be gross or net) should be offered to God by supporting the congregational ministries. Now hold on a minute. Before you turn the page to the next item in the newsletter and skip the rest of

this essay, just hear me out.

In the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) the tithe meant that one tenth of all property and crop produce was to be given to God by way of the priests. The tithe was actually widely practiced in other religions and cultures of the ancient near east. An interesting variation of the tithe, seemingly unique to the Jewish practice of it, is found in Deuteronomy 14:22-29. Here, God allows that, in some cases, honouring the tithe meant turning that property and produce into money and spending it "for whatever you wish – oxen, sheep, wine, strong drink, or whatever you desire. And you shall eat there in the presence of the Lord...as well as the resident aliens, the orphans, and the widows in your towns, may come and eat their fill so that the Lord your God may bless you." Now that would preach, don't you think! One understanding



of the tithe is to throw parties with such abundance that worshippers, and especially the poor, the immigrant, the vulnerable, the widows and orphans may all come and eat their fill.

There is a certain flexibility in the understanding of the tithe that includes sacrificial giving to the work of God, as well as generous partying celebration of God's good Creation, with the congregation and all kinds of vulnerable people coming together; building relationships, having a good time and expressing gratitude in the presence of God. WOW...WHO WANTS TO TITHE NOW? PUT UP YOUR HANDS!

You see what is really going on is a re-organization

of our financial values and priorities. If we grow in our love of God and of neighbour; if we help each other commit seriously and joyously to the way of Jesus Christ, who models that way and whose Spirit assists us to walk it; if we re-examine how self-focused so much of our spending is and trust God to instill a more Christ-like relationship with our money, then the "how much" would not be such a big deal really. This flexible understanding of tithing is really about an act that places us and sustains us in a special trusting relationship with God. And we would have more than enough to faithfully conduct the expanding ministry to which God is calling Parkdale United. It's about taking a step of faith and of more sacrificial giving. Take a percentage step of trust, whatever you are presently giving.

You see, the season of Lent is really about jour-

neying intentionally with Jesus in the "way of the cross"; the way of living and modeling the Kingdom (Reign) of God which is joy-filled costly, and shared with others and with God. Jesus never told his disciples how much to give. Jesus did challenge the oppressive use of the tithe to beat an already tax-burdened people into submission. But in teaching his disciples about giving and generosity, Jesus upheld the true spirit, discipline and flexibility of the tithe. Look at the stories of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) – giving so much of his money to look after a stranger; and the releasing (or confirming, depending how you read the story) of Zacchaeus' generosity (Luke 19). Look at the profligate party the father throws for the whole village to celebrate the return of his lost son (Luke 15); or the young boy who makes an offering of his whole lunch to Jesus, who multiplies it for everybody (John 6); or

recall the many times Jesus is accused of eating and partying with sinners. Jesus lived and taught the meaning of "tithe". Jesus always offered a compelling vision and a rationale for what it would mean to be a faithful follower of Jesus; a faithful and generous steward of our money in service to God's salvation dream for the world.

Let us journey together this Lenten season by the power of the Holy Spirit to learn and practice the scandalous ways of generosity and grace.

anthony



41st GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

Ottawa Presbytery is hosting the 41st meeting of the General Council of the United Church of Canada on August 11 – 18, 2012, at Carleton University. Held every three years, this meeting of Commissioners, both lay and clergy, convenes to pray, worship, discuss issues, make decisions, approve a budget, and elect a Moderator. The theme this year is “Seeking, Loving, Walking”, based on Micah 16: “What does the Lord require? Seeking justice, loving kindness, walking humbly.”

Hosting General Council 41 will ultimately involve 200 volunteers from our local congregations to support the 600 people coming to Ottawa from across Canada. This is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers and observers to learn more about how the United Church of Canada makes decisions and works as a conciliar church. Each congregation, through its Church Council, is being asked to identify one or two people to act as liaison with the Local Arrangements Committee of Ottawa Presbytery. In particular, there is a need to have a Hospitality Coordinator identified in each congregation to liaise with Beth Gutsell, Coordinator of the Hospitality Committee, who will be seeking donations of homemade cookies and muffins for snack breaks each day at General Council.

Parkdale’s Church Council will be bringing to its membership updates on volunteer needs. In the meantime, what follows is a preliminary outline of ways to participate:

Continued on next page...

1. Prayer
 - Pray for Commissioners who will engage in major discussions and decisions;
 - pray for General Council staff;
 - pray for members of Ottawa Presbytery taking leadership roles;
 - pray for volunteers and food donors.
2. Be an Observer
 - Attend part or all Council meetings, learning how the national church works; participate in opening and closing worship; watch proceedings live-streamed over the internet; attend various Presbytery activities and events during Church Council week.
3. Be a Volunteer

“Many hands make light work,” and there are many kinds of volunteer needs and activities, some requiring a greater time commitment than others. Listed below are some of the needs:

 1. registration desk
 2. airport/train station greeters
 3. transportation:
 - drivers to pick up Commissioners as they arrive at the airport, train station and/or bus station; departures to airport, train, bus stations
 - on site (Carleton University) drivers
 - miscellaneous drivers
 4. luggage handlers
 5. on-site welcome
 6. parking attendants
 7. information and message centre
 8. tour guides (local special events – Wednesday afternoon)
 9. Stewards: act as ushers for opening and closing worship; assist Commissioners. (Formal applications must be into

the UCC by March 23, 2012. There is still some need for bilingual stewards. Application information and forms are available on the United Church of Canada website and the Ottawa Presbytery website.)

10. Young Teen program
11. First Aid – appropriate qualifications required
12. Local media coordination
13. Site Facilities: manual tasks – set up of plenary hall and other meeting spaces
14. Hospitality
 - provision of snacks
 - congregational hospitality coordinator
 - district depot churches (5) with district coordinator
 - food handlers accepting donations and scheduling deliveries to Carleton University
 - on-site volunteers for 5 snack stations (Raven's Nest gym)
 - on site hospitality coordinator
 - cookie and muffin donors

Please circle the week of August 11 – 18, 2012, on your calendar, and consider how you might best use your gifts and time to support the work of the 41st General Council. It is an opportunity of a lifetime to be a part of this gathering of United Church folk from across Canada.

For further information, check the Ottawa Presbytery website at www.uccanottawa.org/GeneralCouncil201.html or to register as a volunteer by selecting the volunteer tab. At Parkdale, until a formal liaison coordinator has been identified by the Church Council, you can speak with Beth Gutsell at 613-729-8228 if you have questions.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



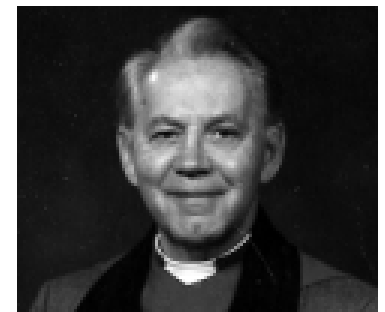
Birthdays in March
Our warmest greetings to:

2nd Richard Hamley
2nd Jillian McLaughlin
3rd Kaya Taite-Brisard
4th Thomas Cuhaci
4th Sofia McLean
4th Mackenzie Scatcherd
6th Ava Ahronson
6th Tyson O'Neil
6th Darcy O'Neil
7th Barbara Fought
8th Margaret Eades
9th Marguerite Brown
9th Samantha Tim
9th Sue Stefko
9th Isabella Altiparmakyan
11th Gabriella Jeglic
14th Sara Van Snick
16th Nicole Osterkruger
16th Adele Harman
18th Adam Drodge
18th Chantal Vargatoth
20th Neil Mason
20th Tristan Higham
22nd Donald Duncan
25th Sean Knox
26th Tom Grozinger
26th Alex Johnson
26th Jevon Small-Service
29th Shemond Charley
29th Asher Fincham
29th Dustin Rivers
30th Susan Pfister
30th Nea Powell

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

We mourn the loss of much-loved former minister of Parkdale United Church **Rev. J.A.O. "Ott" McKennitt**, who died on Wednesday February 1, 2012.

Ott served as a Chaplain during WW2 with the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa in the Germany Occupation, and then served as a Reserve Chaplain for 20 years. Served as Minister in the Sudbury area, London, Ont., and finally in Ottawa at Rideau Park United Church. Served at Barrhaven and Parkdale United Churches in retirement. Authored his autobiography and 11 other books of devotions. Devoted his life to the work of the church and his congregations and selflessly worked for the good of others in the service of God. Distinguished himself as a builder of new churches and halls in his early years. Introduced the "Minute for Mission" to the Canadian United Church and adopted the motto "as much for others as ourselves".





On January 29, eleven new members joined Parkdale by letter of transfer. Before the service, breakfast was served by the Membership Development Committee and the new members had an opportunity to meet and hear presentations by some members of Council.

Our new members are from left to right:

Standing: Romanie Manuel, Anthony, Doris Wilson, Shelley Craig, Dorothy Craig, Orion Clark, Sheila Clark, Arlene Harrison, Robert Harrison, Iona Callender

Sitting: Kim Hinds (with baby Adam and husband Chris), Pamela Gemmell



NEWS FROM THE PEWS CONT.



Baptisms February 12, 2012

Audrey Madelyn Ahronson
Elijah Lloyd Deschamps
Kaitlyn Karen Laurin





HUMOUR

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: 'Stop! Acts 2:38!'.

(Repent and be Baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.)

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar: 'Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you.'

'Scripture?' replied the burglar. 'She said she had an Ax and Two 38s!'



In From The Cold Literacy Table

The In From The Cold ministry team needs more reading material for their literacy table. All material should be dated back no further than April 2011. Both English and French magazines and books in categories such as nature, photography, sports, gardening, geography, biographies, history, inspirational, and Reader's Digest in good to fair condition are needed. These can be dropped off in the green bin located

outside the chapel or at the I.F.T.C literacy table on Saturdays.

For more info call Brenda Cardillo at 613-729-0705.



RECIPE

Irish Stew

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day

From my Irish ski friend, Mariette Kenney

2 tablespoons of olive oil
2 cups of onions-chopped
2 cloves of garlic-crushed
2 1/2 pounds of stew beef(not lean)
or lamb cut into cubes
1/4 cup of flour
1 1/2 cups of beef broth
12 ounces of Guinness Extra Stout
(not Guinness draft)
3 large carrots-sliced
2 bay leaves
1/4 teaspoon of black pepper
3/4 cup of prunes-pitted



1. In a Dutch oven, on med high heat, heat 1 tbl of the oil and saute the onions for 3-4 mins. Add garlic and cook for another 30 secs.
2. Remove them from pot and add remaining 1 tbsp of oil to the pan. Quickly sear the meat on all sides in several small batches.
3. Return all the seared meat to the pan. Reduce heat, stir in the flour until all the meat is coated.
4. Add beef broth and the Guinness and stir until mixture comes to a simmer.
5. Add onions, garlic, carrots, bay leaves and ground pepper to the pot. Stir.
6. Simmer gently for 1 hr, stirring occasionally. Cook the stew uncovered so that the gravy will thicken.
7. Chop the prunes and add them to the pot. Continue cooking for 1/2 hr. The gravy will develop a glossy finish.
8. Remove bay leaf. Add salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with chopped parsley.

Serve with boiled potatoes.

Submitted by Valerie Hum



RECIPE

5 MINUTE CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE

4 tablespoons flour
4 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons cocoa
1 egg
3 tablespoons milk
3 tablespoons oil
3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)
A small splash of vanilla extract
1 large coffee mug
(Microwave Safe)



- Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well.
- Add the egg and mix thoroughly.
- Pour in the milk and oil and mix well.
- Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla extract, and mix again.
- Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts.
- The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed!
- Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired.
- EAT !

This can serve 2 if you want to feel slightly more virtuous.

Submitted by Kathleen Stephenson



Friday Night "Images and Stories"



NEXT SCREENING...

March 30, 2012 (Friday) at 7 p.m.

Join us for the last presentation of
Season 1: Images and Stories.

Mary and Garth McLeod will present photos of their
trip to Sweden and Finland last summer.

Live like a local in Stockholm, travel by ferry to
Turku, Finland, and visit Helsinki.

Come at 7 p.m and linger afterwards for tea,
Swedish treats, and a chance to
chat with fellow travellers and friends.

Looking forward to seeing you!



Friday Night "Images and Stories"



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

QUEEN OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.

The congregation of Parkdale United Church is invited to attend the **World Day of Prayer Service** at **Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church** (20 Grant Street across from the Grace Manor).

The theme of the service, “Let justice prevail,” has been written by the Christian women of Malaysia. Following the service there will be a reception held in the church hall.

Parking is available on Grant Street which runs parallel to Wellington Street. There is limited parking in the church lot.

Participating churches are St. Matthias Anglican, St. George’s RC, St. Mary’s (Bayswater) RC, Parkdale United Church, Kitchissippi United Church, and St. Stephen’s Presbyterian Church.

Come join your sisters and brothers in solidarity with fellow Christians from around the world participating in the World Day of Prayer.

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

How and what brought you to Parkdale ?



Peter Graham, since 1995

After living for nearly 30 years in the old town of Gatineau, I moved into Ottawa. I had been a member of another Ottawa downtown United Church because it was the only church that had an evening worship service, and I am an active skier.

On an impulse, I dropped into Parkdale United one Sunday morning and met Kathleen Stephenson, whom I had known well when I worked for the Metric Commission. During the sermon, Andrew Sterling mentioned

that he was looking for teachers for the new Bethel bible study course. Kathleen said that we could do that. On an impulse I said OK, and we gave our names to Andrew. After two years training, Hazel Bowen and I taught the course for several years, in addition to about 8 other teachers. I found that I was doing more work at Parkdale than at my other “home” church, and enjoyed the worship service more under Anthony, and so I switched my membership over without any regrets.

Orion and Sheila Clark, since 2011

Although we thoroughly enjoyed living at our lakefront property in all seasons, an accident injuring Orion’s left shoulder made us realize that we would be unable, shortly, to care for our “estate” as we wished.

Because we love travelling, we decided Ottawa would be the logical place for us to be.

After scanning the Citizen for a few months, we noticed an article regarding a new condominium complex being built to be ready for 2011. It was located on Booth Street which seemed to be a Divine pointer because we had lived and taught in Campbellford for thirty years and our home was on Booth Street.

While we followed the development of the condo building we also checked out the area and noticed Parkdale United. In conversations with friends at St. Paul's United, our church in Perth, we found several had attended Parkdale in the past and found it to be a nurturing and welcoming congregation.

After a summer full of packing, selling, moving, unpacking, and taking an already planned trip to Italy & Sicily, we finally took a deep breath and on September 25 attended our first service at Parkdale. Wow! we were blown away (in a really good

way). I don't know if you all realize how warm, welcoming and caring you are to a newcomer, but after the trials and tribulations of the last few years at St. Paul's, Perth, this was like walking into a family event, not a war zone.

We attended the Images and Stories Evening in September and met a great group with a similar interest in travel, and they also provided nourishment.

What has brought us to Parkdale is in the past, but what will keep us here will be the Hamleys; Dr. Anthony's uplifting, thought-provoking messages; the music; ministries of caring and sharing; and, the children. These are the future of our lives with you at Parkdale.

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

WORSHIPLUDE 2012

A few Parkdale Youth attended Worshiplate with Jack and Melodee Lovering on February 12. Our group helped serve pizza to the 400+ youth from all over Ontario and Quebec. They were in town to take part in Winterlude activities and then to attend the Ottawa Presbytery youth worship event that was held at Dominion Chalmers United. Before the service started at 7:00 p.m., our kids also enjoyed taking part in some lively group games.

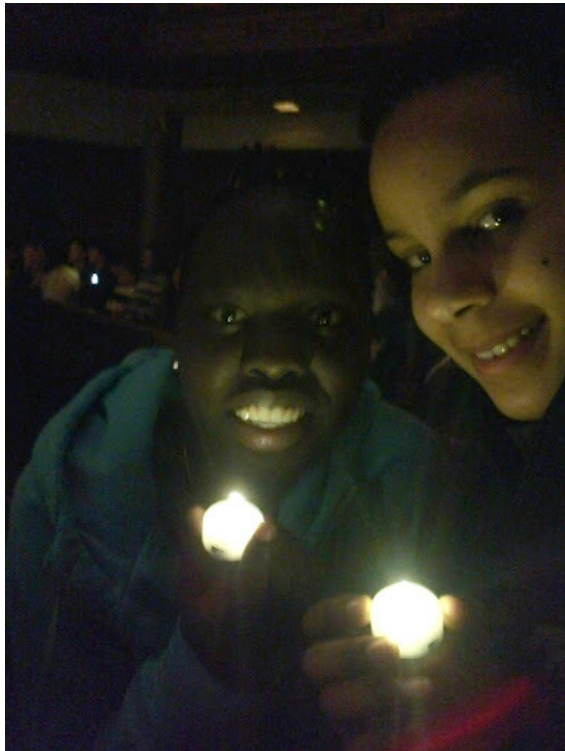
The worship itself was directed by Rev. Hilary Merritt, the new Presbytery youth minister, on the theme of "Lights Will Guide You Home" from the Coldplay song, Fix You. She told of an experience she had in Israel, going with a group of other young people to walk a twisty underground tunnel of 500 metres (Hezekiah's Tunnel) and their one flashlight giving out suddenly and plunging them into an experience of the entire absence of light.

Hilary told of how one friend had a single candle and some matches, and the difference that light made to guide them out, just as God's light will guide us when all seems hopeless.

The band, Stream, led in some great singing, and visiting groups performed skits to support the theme. All participated in Communion together and returned to their seats with flameless tealights so that the darkened sanctuary was filled with singing youth and waving pinpricks of light.

Daisy Kiden (below)





Worshiplude 2012

Daisy Kiden and Marley Payne-Odomodu (above), James Bell and Daisy Kiden (lower left), James and Julia Bell (lower right)



PRESBYTERY REPORT



Ottawa Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, was hosted by Emmanuel United Church in their newly retrofitted facility. Following a lovely dinner, Chair, the Rev. Dianne Cardin, called the meeting to order in the sanctuary. The Chair of Emmanuel's Council, Jeannie Page, welcomed the Presbytery and spoke about the work of the congregation as "the 3 Ps": Praise, Partnerships, Pilgrimage. Opening worship celebrating creation was led by Emmanuel staff and members, and the Junior Choir shared in the ministry of music. Rev. Elizabeth Bryce led the Presbytery in a time of "In Memoriam" for the Rev. Dr. Ott McKennitt.

The Rev. Kathryn Guthrie shared information about new regulating laws for those who are offering counselling services. It is important for ministry personnel to draw appropriate lines be-

tween pastoral care and psychotherapy.

The Mission Strategy Working Group reminded people of the upcoming event on March 24, 2012. This is an opportunity for members of congregations to engage in the broader questions about United Church mission in the Ottawa Presbytery. The Working Group also brought a motion to the floor, regarding guidelines for funds available through the Mission Strategy Fund, which was adopted. The Presbytery currently has a small fund of \$18,000 available.

Over the past thirteen months, Ottawa Presbytery had committed itself to considering whether it would be appropriate for the Presbytery to formally engage the discernment process towards Affirming Ministry. The working group that had provided leadership in the conversation brought two motions to the court. The first motion was to say the Presbytery had spent sufficient preparatory time considering whether to engage the process. That motion was adopted.

The second motion was proposing that the Presbytery actively engage the formal process of discernment towards Affirming Ministry. That motion was adopted through a secret ballot vote.

This vote does not mean that the Presbytery has decided to be an Affirming Ministry, but that it has decided to begin the steps of discernment as outlined in the Affirming Ministry Resource. This decision has no implications for pastoral charges.

Rev. Jack Lovering, who is chairing the committee conducting a review of the Resource Centre, talked about the work of the committee and urged people to fill out the survey being used in the review. Anyone interested can get a copy from the office.

The United Church of Canada is encouraging new entrepreneurial ministries through the New Ministry Formation Fund. Rev. David Sherwin made application and received a grant to seed a new ministry called Faith and Arts Ottawa. The Presbytery heard about the vision for minis-

try. It then approved a motion to name a ministry as a mission accountable to the Presbytery, establish a governing board, and appoint, for an initial five-month period, David Sherwin to the ministry position with Faith and Arts Ottawa. There was an information pamphlet about the ministry available.

David Stafford, Co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for GC41, which meets at Carleton University August 11-17, led a pep rally to engage enthusiasm for participation in hosting the event. There are lots of ways to share in hosting GC41. A letter with information was distributed in the congregational envelopes.

Rev. Jane Griffith, Chair of Nominations, outlined the process by which Commissioner to GC41 will be elected by M&O Conference.

The meeting closed in prayer led by Rev. Peter Loughheed. The Presbytery will next meet on March 13 at Rideau Park United Church for a program meeting.

Rev. Lillian Roberts
Presbytery Minister



COUNCIL REPORT

Council Report January 31, 2012

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 new governance system approved by the congregation in 2009 to integrate the functions of the former Session and Official Board.

The first Council meeting of 2012 was held on January 31, 2012. The wintry weather kept numbers down, but quorum was achieved.

Melodee led us in a short opening devotion focused on youth ministry, its importance and the challenge of finding youth leaders. Experts recommend a ratio of one adult per five children for effective youth programming. Council members were invited to think about ways to expand and enhance our youth ministry and to identify additional leaders.

Further to the Report of the Working Group on Accountability (Matthew Baker, Rob MacLachlan and Peter Meerburg) to the December 6 meeting of Council, each Committee is invited to reflect on its role and mandate, and to develop a one-pager on what it does and how, listing major projects and key partners, etc. Work on this effort continues, and will be tabled with Council when complete.

An update was provided on the state of the Sunday School renovations. The contractor will be coming in to repair the floors over coming weeks and Sunday School classes and the Nursery will be temporarily relocated while this work continues. Final payment has been withheld pending satisfactory completion of the work.

The work that is required to respond to the news of Barbara Faught's retirement at the end of 2012 has begun, with the recent establishment of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC); Committee members

are Mary McLeod, Muriel Bellman, Liz Harrison, Susan Yearwood, Claire McMenemy, John Harewood, Sue Sefko, and Rev. Isabel Black and Rev. Trisha Elliott as Presbytery representatives. The first task of the JNAC will be to consult within the Parkdale community to determine the 'needs' that will drive future programming and staffing decisions.

Anthony provided a brief update on 'Unbinding the Gospel', approved for roll-out to the congregation at the December 6 meeting of Council. Five groups are meeting between now and Easter, each for eight weeks. Progress reports will be provided in coming months.

At the time of the meeting, there were still some vacancies on the proposed 2012 Council, including Vice-Chair; Chair of Communications; Chair of Worship; and three vacancies on Property Trustees. If you are you feel called to serve in any of these positions, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Meerburg, Ellen Andrews or Matt Baker.

The most important agenda items of the evening were the

discussion of the 2011 financial statement and the 2012 budget. Debbie McGregor led us very efficiently though a discussion of these documents, which will be published in the annual report, now available, and discussed at the Annual General Meeting on February 26, 2012. At the end of 2011, we had a deficit of \$6,849.

With respect to the proposed 2012 Budget, a deficit of \$53K is projected. Overall, budgeted receipts are approximately \$50K less than actual receipts in 2011. Debbie pointed out that the projected congregational donations have been kept at the same level as last year, even though this target was not met in 2011. The budget asks all parishioners to consider a 3% increase in their annual givings.

Investment income has been adjusted to reflect changing market conditions affecting some of our investments and declining interest rates. Expenses are increasing: insurance, water, employee benefits and salaries have all increased. Attend the Annual General Meeting on February 26 and learn more!



COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED

As it does at all of its meetings, Council also received written reports from Committees as well as from staff.

The **Ministry and Personnel Committee** is undertaking efforts to staff the Office Manager position, which should be staffed by the end of February. The committee expressed its gratitude for the contribution of Janice Gray, Jeff Clifford and Faye Beaufort, with assistance from Melodee Lovering and Richard Hamley, among others, who have filled in so capably over the past several months.

The **Christian Education Committee** is discussing the possibility of convening two youth groups in the fall, on Sunday afternoons bi-monthly. The Junior youth group would include children in grades 4 to 6 and the Senior group would cover Grades 7 to 9. Teachers are being actively recruited to help with the programming, as are parent volunteers. If you feel called to assist with this critical ministry, please contact

Melodee Lovering or Paul Crabtree.

The **Worship Committee** is actively recruiting ushers and wishes to thank Ken Elder and Geof Colley for their faithful leadership and support over past years. A new system has been established for 2012 and some new 'team captains' have come forward; the Committee expressed its gratitude to David Odumodu, Len Baird, and Roger Coady. If this is an area where you think you could serve, please contact Jenni Troup. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet people and to reflect the 'face of Parkdale' to visitors and newcomers.

The **Pastoral Care Team** enjoyed an interesting discussion with Marie Hackett, a guest speaker, at its January meeting. Marie spent many years in Jamaica, first with CUSO as a palliative care nurse and then, independently, as a key contributor to the establishment of a home nursing care program. The next Special Communion will be held on April 15, and visiting with seniors and shut-ins contin-

ues on a regular basis.

Melodee reported on many exciting initiatives, a testimony to the vibrant youth engagement in the life of Parkdale: confirmation classes are underway, with actual confirmation to be held on April 22; the Coffee Shop will be serving quesadillas after service on March 4; an overnight event at the church on January 19-20, planned attendance at The Point at Dominion Chalmers on February 11, where Parkdale youth have volunteered to serve pizza to the 500 youth expected; children and youth participation in an intergenerational service on February 5. Parents and Tots continue to meet on Friday mornings and plans are underway for hosting Camp Awesome again this year

Anthony reported that, further to approval by Council, the Unbinding the Gospel project is well underway, with five eight-week sessions being offered. A Baptismal Renewal Celebration was held on January 7, with tremendous response from 2011 baptisands; a Marriage Education Seminar was held on January 14 for six couples planning

to get married this year, and follow-up with the individual couples has begun. The Martin Luther King Jr. Gospel Service was a huge success, with over 400 people attending worship. Tuesday morning Bible Study has re-commenced, with an in-depth study of the Lord's Prayer; and an Ash Wednesday service to launch our 40-day Lenten journey was held February 22. The Lenten Series this year, starting February 29, is **Sacred Movement**: an exploration of movement and personal prayer and liturgy. If you are interested in this initiative, which will explore a different way of prayer through movement, please contact Jennifer Payne.

All are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting on **February 26 (Sunday)**, in Tape Hall, after worship.



Parkdale Council Approves United Church of Canada Remit

Readers of the January and February editions of the Messenger will recall that the United Church of Canada is currently conducting a "remit" (vote) among Presbyteries and individual congregations around the possible addition of three more expressions of faith to those already contained in the United Church's Basis of Union (the formal document that created our denomination in 1925 through a merger of the Methodist and Congregationalist churches and a majority of Presbyterian congregations).

At a special meeting on February 21, Council endorsed inclusion of all

three items: the 1940 "Statement of Faith", the 1995 "New Creed", and the 2006 "A Song of Faith". Together with the original 20 Articles, these additional statements amplify the United Church's theological and doctrinal underpinnings - making explicit the diversity of expressions of our faith and the continuing evolution of those expressions.

The deadline for submission of the results of the remit is April 1, 2012. For the remit to be successful, 50% of all United Church congregations and Presbyteries must vote in favour (failure to vote is considered a vote against the remit).





ALL IN FROM THE COLD VOLUNTEERS POT LUCK SUPPER

To bring our **TENTH** year to a close (can you believe?!), **ALL In From The Cold** volunteers are invited to participate in a **POT LUCK SUPPER**,

Thursday, April 12, in the Tape Hall at 5:30 pm.

Please mark your calendars. This gathering will give us the opportunity to meet together as a group and have as our guests our chef, Clay Cardillo, and our local merchants without whose generous support this ministry would not be possible.

Please come and bring a Salad, Main Course, or Dessert.

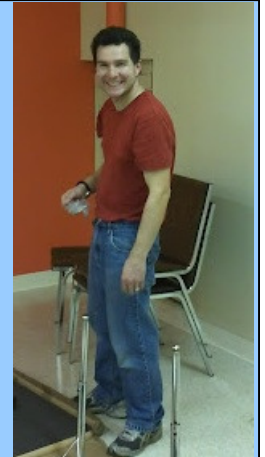
TOGETHER, with our community, we have carried out this **MINISTRY** in **GRATITUDE** for our many blessings and as a way of expressing God's Love to others.

*Thank
you*



Assembly Party

There were many gatherings to help get our newly renovated Sunday school rooms in order, including several sorting and throwing out events orchestrated mainly by Ellen Andrews, with assistance from many of the Sunday school families.



One evening in October was dedicated to the assembly of the new tables and chairs. Complete with power drills, extension cords, and measuring tapes, a group comprised of Paul and Hannah Crabtree, Scott Andrews, Dave Smith, Sarah Chen-Wing, and Melodee Lovering, managed to get feet under the ten new tables, while Barbara Faught put up the animal decals in the nursery. We managed to use all the legs and even most of the nuts and bolts.

*Dave Smith (upper right), Scott Andrews (lower left),
Hannah & Paul Crabtree (lower right)*



BAZAAR 2012 – PRESERVING JARS

Those who make preserves for the Bazaar appreciate very much those who returned washed jars and their screw bands to the church for re-use in 2012. It helps keep down prices because fewer boxes of Berberdin and Harvest Home 125ml, 250ml, and 500ml jars need to be purchased. We encourage everyone who purchased preserves at our November 2011 Bazaar to return emptied cleaned jars and screw bands to the church for the 2012 preserving season. Khan Chao will assist in accepting and storing jars at the church. For more information, please contact the Church Office at 613-728-8656 or Beth Gutsell at 613-729-8228.

TIP: CLEANING PRESERVING JARS

Soak emptied jars in hot, soapy water for 10 – 15 minutes. The label should slip off easily without leaving any adhesive residue behind. Jars washed and dried in the dishwasher will leave the label baked on, requiring the use of nasty petroleum distillate products (ie: Goo Gone) to remove labels and adhesives.



Canadian Centennial choir presents

Music from North America

Sunday, March 4, 2012
3 p.m.

Centretown United Church
507 Bank Street at McLeod

With Dvořák's *Mass in D major*, Matthew Larkin at the organ, and a selection of African-American spirituals

Adult tickets: \$22 in advance,
\$25 at the door
Seniors/students: \$18 in advance,
\$22 at the door

Valerie Hum,
613-728-8830



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