

# the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



In From The Cold Volunteer Thank You Pot Luck

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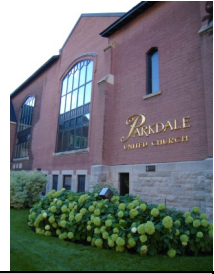
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# the Messenger



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**Many thanks and keep those contributions coming!!**

**We are always looking for new ideas, volunteers and submissions.** We reserve the right to edit, condense or reject submissions, but will try to find space for all.

Next issue: **June 2017**

Editor next issue: Elise Mennie

Send submissions to:  
[messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca](mailto:messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca)  
or the church office by **May 14th**

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**IMPORTANT:** When submitting photos to the Messenger, please ensure you have asked permission of the individuals if their faces are clearly recognizable. They should know that an electronic PDF version of the Messenger is posted to the Parkdale website.

See: <http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/connections/photos/permissions>



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

**Sabbatical:**  
**Experiencing Sabbath**

***"God rested from all  
God's work" Genesis  
2:2.***

***Jesus says: "Come to  
me and I will give you  
rest and you will find  
rest for your souls"  
Matt 11:28-30.***

'Sabbathing' and 'resting' are strong imperatives in the Bible. In Genesis, God rests and commands that rest be observed. It is for our well-being, particularly our relationship with God, others, the earth and ourselves. Jesus promises the kind of rest that restores the soul and grounds us in what is really real. This verse came home to me in a particularly profound way when we (*the Parkdale United and Runnymede United tour group that visited Israel and Jordan this past March*) visited the Garden of Gethsemane, at the base of the Mount of

Olives in Jerusalem. Jesus regularly retreated to this garden to pray and discern God's will. I am thirsty for a prolonged opportunity for rest, discernment and the restoring of my soul. Ministry undertakings have been fruitful, rewarding and full over the past years here at Parkdale United. My last sabbatical in 2007 afforded me an opportunity to visit, study and live in community with urban intentional Christian communities around North America. It was extremely rewarding, inspiring, energizing and faith-expanding. This time, I have discerned a need for pilgrimage and solitary prayer and spiritual renewal. The phrase that comes to mind from Psalm 23 is "...He restoreth my soul!" I was reading one of my favourite authors Eugene Petersen, and he writes this about sabbaticals:

***"If we are going to take  
sabbaticals, let them be re-***



*al sabbaticals: a willed passivity in order to be restored to alert receptivity to spirit-prayer, silence, solitude, worship...The original intent of sabbath is a time to be silent and listen to God, not attend lectures; a time to be in solitude and be with God, not "interact" with fatigued peers. If help is to be given to the pastor in mid-course, it is not going to come by infusion of intellect but by renewal of spirit."*

I am seeking a renewal of spirit.

The United Church of Canada has established a Sabbatical Policy with this rationale:

*"As the gospel story illustrates, Jesus experienced sabbatical when he sought occasional respite from the demands of his ministry (i.e. Matthew 14:23 et al). On mountaintops and by lakesides, Jesus took time apart to commune with God, to gain perspective, and to strengthen himself spiritually. In much the same way as Jesus benefited from such times of re-*

*creation, Ministry Personnel in pastoral relationships, and the congregations they serve, can too. For the minister, rejuvenation of spirit and clarity of purpose may be the outcome, while for the congregation sabbatical may occasion an increase in the level, and expression, of lay leadership."*

For my sabbatical, I will be away for the months of May, June and July, then I will add an additional two weeks of vacation, thereby returning to work on August 15.

The anchor piece to my planned sabbatical is the near 800 km. Camino de Santiago pilgrimage walk from St. Jean-Pied-du-Port near Biarritz in France to Santiago de Compostelo in Spain. (*an additional 60 km if I go on to Finisterre*). One resource states the origin of this particular pilgrimage route in this way: "The history of the Camino de Santiago goes back to the beginning of the 9th century (year 814) moment of the

discovery of the tomb of the evangelical apostle of the Iberian Peninsula. Since this discovery, Santiago de Compostela becomes a peregrination point of the entire European continent. The Way was defined then by the net of Roman routes that joined the neuralgic points of the Peninsula. The impressive human flow that from very soon went towards Galicia made quickly appear lots of hospitals, churches, monasteries, abbeys and towns around the route. During the 14th century the pilgrimage began to decay, fact brought by the wars, the epidemics and the natural catastrophes. The recovery of the route begins at the end of the 19th century, but it is during the last quarter of the 20th century when the authentic contemporary resurgence of the peregrination takes place. There is no doubt that the social, tourist, cultural or sport components have had a great importance in the “jacobea” revitalization but we cannot forget that the route has gained its prestige thanks to its spiritual value.” I will be departing for

France sometime around the middle of May and plan to be gone for about five weeks. I intend to keep a journal and will spent intentional time in prayer, reflection and discernment. I am so desirous of this anticipated time of spiritual refreshment. A spiritually refreshed, grounded and rejuvenated Anthony will be an asset to Parkdale United in terms of leadership, creativity, teaching and pastoral caring. I am trusting the Spirit’s empowerment.

As well, in addition to physically recovering from this pilgrimage walk (*I am told that one must build in some time to allow one’s body to physically recover from such an arduous walk; “O Lord help these blisters heal and these creaky old bones recover...lol”*), I also intend to read for pleasure and for the stoking of my creative imagination. I will resist digesting heavy academic and theological books in favour of novels and fiction and humourous literature. I may also investigate some short-term art

instruction. And then there is reconnecting with family members and friends; both those near and far. This will include trying to develop a healthier schedule for keeping in touch and organizing social gatherings. I have worked with the Ministry & Personnel and Worship Committees, as well as with my colleagues Barbara Faught and Melodee Lovering to ensure that there will be adequate preaching and pastoral coverage while I am away.

A full preaching roster for my time away has already been established. As well, neighbouring United

Church clergy will be on standby, if needed, for pastoral emergencies. By God's grace, all will be in good hands.

I ask that you would pray for me and my family and I undertake this sabbatical experience. I will be praying for you all as well. I am confident that by the grace of God, we will all continue to experience the blessing of God.

Anthony







## LECTIONARY FOR MAY

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter - May 7, 2017**

- Acts 2:42-47
- Psalm 23
- 1 Peter 2:19-25
- John 10:1-10

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 14, 2017**

- Acts 7:55-60
- Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
- 1 Peter 2:2-10
- John 14:1-14

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 21, 2017**

- Acts 17:22-31
- Psalm 66:8-20
- 1 Peter 3:13-22
- John 14:15-21

### **Ascension of the Lord - May 25, 2017**

- Acts 1:1-11
- Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Luke 24:44-53

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter - May 28, 2017**

- Acts 1:6-14
- Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
- 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
- John 17:1-11

### **Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth - May 31, 2017**

- 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Psalm 113
- Romans 12:9-16b
- Luke 1:39-57



## **Under a Galilean Sky    John 21: 9-14**

The stars, a crown, adorned the night,  
Tiberius sleepy, yet popping with light,  
Our voices, in harmony, mellow and clear  
    Worship the Spirit not far, but near  
    As our breath, like in days of old,  
Fishermen following Christ, so bold  
To leave their ships on this very sea  
To journey with Jesus from Galilee.

Where is Jesus? Why not here?  
I search for love, renouncing fear,  
    Will He not miraculously appear  
To greet us, break bread, serve fish,  
    Give an embrace, then a holy kiss?  
Under a Galilean sky, I have this wish.  
The shore is empty except for the ones  
Praising, rejoicing, as daughters and sons  
    Of Him, in whose spirit we are one.

Our hearts filled with joy we silently leave,  
A quiet understanding, in Him we believe  
    As He promised, He shall appear,  
To strengthen and love those He holds dear.  
Forever the memory of the blessed night,  
    Under the Galilean sky, so bright.

by Elaine West



## Birthdays in May

**Our warmest greetings to:**

1st Sarah Ursacki  
2nd Dian Morris  
2nd Emmanuel Okumu  
4th Kendra Huggins  
5th Annecy Adams  
6th Angela Christopher  
6th Evie Bosch  
6th Beth Hamley  
7th Curtis Cunliffe  
7th Benjamin McInnis  
8th Ruth Foster  
8th Isaac Barbour  
11th Alexander Fitzgerald  
16th Helen Fortune  
18th Udobong Akpan  
20th David Odumodu  
20th Anael Chimu  
21st Kerry Lynn Grozinger  
21st Marley Payne-Odumodu  
23rd Katrina Grozinger  
23rd Johanna Lace  
24th Deborah McGregor  
24th Mercy Lamunu  
25th Graydon Emberg  
29th Helen Hayes  
29th Adam Hinds  
31st Stanley Baird  
31st Judy Hamley



*If you would like your birthday to be a secret and your name taken off the list, or if your name was not included and you would like it to be added, please let the office know.*

## Living into Right Relations Odawa Native Friendship Centre



Do you know our neighbour, the Odawa Native Friendship Centre, whose main location at 250 City Centre Ave is next to the popular Art-Is-In Bakery? This non-profit organization is part of the national network of Native Friendship Centres that began across Canada in the 1970's to provide services to the increasing numbers of Indigenous peoples moving into cities. Many of them experienced the loss of family and community connection through

residential schooling or being adopted out during what's known as the "60's Scoop". Today, Friendship Centres continue to help new arrivals to the city, including young people who must leave their home community to attend high school, college or university.

The Odawa Native Friendship Centre aims to enhance the quality of life for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the Capital region, to maintain a tradition of community and an ethic of self-help, and to provide traditional teachings from elders. Odawa provides a wide array of services for all stages of life, in five locations around Ottawa. These include: healthy babies and children program, parenting groups, community kitchen, physical recreation, youth programming, alternative high school,

healthy living, lifelong care for seniors, community justice services and free legal clinic, men's group against violence, as well as homeless partnership and support at its 'Centre 510 Drop-in' on Rideau St. Everyone is welcome to Odawa programs, including the cultural events such as the children's Pow-wow in April and the traditional Pow-wow in May. Don't miss this year's Pow-wow on **May 27-28<sup>th</sup> at 200 Moodie Drive**, with its vibrant regalia, music and dance!

Odawa's Homeless Partnering Strategy Program, based out of the Drop In at 510 Rideau Street, serves the Aboriginal homeless or those at imminent risk of homelessness. Services include: referrals to counseling and legal assistance, Employment and Skills Training, Housing support, Wellbriety meetings, Men's group, Women's group, access to computers, laundry, showers and clothing donations, cultural workshops

and access to Elders. Breakfast and lunch are served Monday to Friday to around 60 to 100 people who visit the centre daily. It is a warm, welcoming place for those experiencing hardships. During the winter, the Centre's Bannock Bus brings soup, bannock and warm clothing to people on the streets.

When Centre 510 was threatened with closure in 2015, a community effort involving churches and other groups provided funding to keep it open. Parkdale joined in that effort and has continued to make an annual donation of \$1,000 since then, through our Mission, Outreach and Justice Committee. Some Parkdale members also help out occasionally as kitchen volunteers. This last fall and winter, the meals program was moved to St-Paul's United Church for a few months, while the kitchen at 510 Rideau was being renovated. Now the clients are enjoying their freshly painted

‘living and dining room’ and new chairs brought over from the main Odawa location.

Odawa’s Executive Director, Morgan Hare, says that the meals are the most challenging part of the Drop-In Centre program to fund. The government’s “Housing First” program provides funding for counsellors who help people get housing, but not for meals and other services at the Drop In. Even when vulnerable Aboriginal people have found housing, they still need a safe place in which to socialize, have nutritious meals and access culturally appropriate services. This is why Odawa is working to start up a social enterprise, a catering service, which they hope will financially support Centre 510 in the future. Until then, continuing donations are very much needed!

### **Fundraising concert for Centre 510 Drop-In**

You are invited to a fund-

raising concert on **Saturday June 17, at 1:30 pm at Parkdale United Church** for Odawa Native Friendship Centre’s Homeless Drop-In (Centre 510). The Statistics Canada Choir will present popular Canadian songs in French and English, including “La Suite Québécoise”, songs from Neil Young, Gordon Lightfoot and many others. Come and celebrate Canada in song while supporting the Indigenous community in Ottawa in the spirit of reconciliation.

Tickets are \$10 in advance (\$15 at the door) and free for children 12 and under. For tickets and information, contact Elise Mennie at [dunmenni@hotmail.com](mailto:dunmenni@hotmail.com) or 819-595-1294



41st Annual  
**Odawa**  
**Pow Wow**  
TRADITIONAL

**May 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Gates Open @ 10:00 am - Grand entry @ 12:00 noon

**MC:** To Be Announced

**Arena Director:** Greg Meekis

**Host Drum:** Ottawa River Singers

**Head Dancers:** to be decided each day

**FREE ADMISSION!**

(donations will be accepted at the Gate)

**Location:** same as last year

**200 Moodie Drive**

**South of the Queensway**

Vendor, Exhibitor and Volunteer applications can be found at [Odawa.on.ca](http://Odawa.on.ca)  
or requested by email: [odawapowwow@odawa.on.ca](mailto:odawapowwow@odawa.on.ca)

Find us on Facebook at 41st Odawa Pow Wow or [Tweet@ODAWA\\_NFC](https://twitter.com/ODAWA_NFC)  
Let Us know you're coming and give us a shout out on social media.



Odawa Native Friendship Centre  
250 City Centre, Ottawa, ON Tel: 613-722-3811

The Statistics Canada Choir presents



Famous Canadian songs and la Petite Suite  
Québécoise

Conductor : **Benoit Allard**

**Saturday, June 17, 2017 at  
1:30 PM**  
Parkdale United Church  
429 Parkdale Ave, Ottawa

*Benefit concert for :*



**Tickets:**

**\$10 in advance** (\$15 at the door)  
Free for ages 12 & under

**Available from:**

Elise Mennie (819) 595-1294  
Renée Vincent (613) 722-3811 x 260  
and choir members



# FOOD DRIVE



## Good Samaritan Inter-Faith Food Drive on May 14th

On May 14th, Mother's Day, Parkdale United Church and friends are invited to participate in the Inter-Faith Food Drive for the Ottawa Food Bank. Please bring to Sunday worship a generous mixture of healthy non-

perishable foods as well as securely packed fresh fruits and vegetables. The plan is to collect and deliver the food following the service to the Ottawa Mosque on North-western Avenue, where the Ottawa Food Bank trucks will be standing by to receive the donations. Dr. Bailey is part of the Leadership Mosaic that is sponsoring this interfaith initiative.

We will need volunteers to transport the food stuffs from Parkdale to the Mosque. Please contact Don in the office if you are willing to offer transport help.

A white Ottawa Food Bank truck is shown from a side profile. The side of the truck has text in English and French. The English text reads: "Good Samaritans Inter-Faith Food Drive", "WE NEED YOU TO HELP FILL PLATES.", "BRING A DONATION OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD TO YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP ON MAY 12, 13, OR 14 & WE WILL GET IT TO THE OTTAWA FOOD BANK". The French text reads: "AIDEZ-NOUS À REMPLIR DES ASSIETTES." Below the French text is the website "OTTAWAFOODBANK.CA". At the bottom of the image, there is a banner with the text "Religions United in Harmony For The Common Good".

Good Samaritans  
Inter-Faith Food Drive

WE NEED YOU TO  
HELP FILL PLATES.

AIDEZ-NOUS À REMPLIR  
DES ASSIETTES.

OTTAWAFOODBANK.CA

BRING A DONATION  
OF NON-PERISHABLE  
FOOD TO YOUR  
PLACE OF WORSHIP ON  
MAY 12, 13, OR 14  
& WE WILL GET IT TO  
THE OTTAWA FOOD BANK

Religions United in Harmony For The Common Good

Register your Place of Worship on our Facebook Page & Event  
Download a POSTER for your Place of Worship from the Ottawa Food Bank website @  
<http://www.ottawafoodbank.ca/wp-content/uploads/FOOD-DRIVE-POSTER-2014.pdf>



## Report of Council Meeting

**March 25, 2017**

Submitted by Julee Pauling,  
Council Secretary

A regular meeting of Council was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was opened with devotions, prayer and the sharing of favourite passages from Scripture.

The minutes of the last meeting held January 31st were approved as written. There was no correspondence for this meeting.

Continuing business remained concerning the United Church of Canada remits, which must be voted upon in June. A meeting of council has been set for April 25th at 7:00 pm in order to address outstanding matters concerning these items.

New business focused mainly on the presentation of the Joint Needs Assessment

Committee (JNAC), struck in January for the purposes of initiating the hiring process for a new pastoral care minister at Parkdale. The JNAC report and recommendations were presented to Council for information in anticipation of the congregational meeting of April 2, 2017, at which members of Parkdale would vote to approve the report. Although a somewhat recent needs assessment had been conducted in 2012, this JNAC had a new conference document to prepare, as well as some additional considerations raised since 2012. Ultimately, the JNAC decided to recommend a change of the pastoral care minister position from three-quarters time to full-time. It was noted this would add to the current deficit and also that Parkdale would be the only church in the Presbytery with three full-time ministers. The increased cost was considered appropriate given that Reverent Roi

had regularly worked over thirty hours a week, that the congregation wanted to expand its provision of pastoral care to people of all ages and circumstances instead of primarily seniors and people who were confined to the home; and, in addition, there was a desire to have the pastoral care minister more involved in small group ministry and capacity-building of the congregation to give pastoral care. Ultimately, Council voted in favour the report.

Other new business included the renewing of employment contracts for Carol Diamond and Jono Hamer-Wilson for one year starting April 1st. Johanna Lace's term was extended until December 31, 2017. Melodee Lovering was reappointed to her position as Minister of Youth and Families for a two-year term starting July 1, 2017.

Information was presented about Albert Dumont, leader of an Anishinaabe special in-

terest group. Mr. Dumont is speaking to various parties about the Algonquin Sacred Site along the Ottawa River, currently under development. An education session would be held here at Parkdale in the near future and is facilitated by the Ministry, Outreach, and Justice Committee as well as the Living Into Right Relations group.

A special Security Working Group has been created to continue to address security short-comings and planning required to meet the recommendations of a police-conducted security assessment for the grounds and property of Parkdale United Church. A grant proposal is being prepared. If approved, the grant would cover 50% of eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$100,000. Cost estimates are still being prepared.

The meeting was closed in prayer, with some baking offered to take home by those present.

## Congregational Meeting

**Held 2 April, 2017**

**Purpose of Meeting:**

A congregational meeting was called by Blaine Pauling, Chair of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC), to present the report and recommendations concerning the search for a new pastoral care minister.

**Attendees:**

Sixty members of Parkdale United Church cast their vote. There were other people present during the meeting; however, some left before the vote was taken.

**Proceedings:**

Beth Sweetnam, Presbyterian Representative, opened the meeting, explained her role, and she explained that only members of Parkdale United Church would be allowed to vote. She then handed

the meeting to Blaine Pauling, Chair of the JNAC.

Blaine made a presentation to the congregation outlining the role of the JNAC and the timelines in place in order to try to best meet the goal of having a new pastoral care minister in place this fall. Blaine then outlined in summary the recommendations of the report: to raise the profile of the position from three-quarter time to full time; for the pastoral care minister to have a greater role in cultivating small group ministry including lay leadership; and, that pastoral care is understood to be directed broadly towards all members and adherents, of all ages, in all contexts.

The floor was opened for questions and discussion.

The following questions and statements were made by individuals present:

Someone offered gracious words of thank you to previous pastoral care ministers.

Another person pointed to the skills/knowledge section and opined that there should be more emphasis on theology, knowledge and interpretation, as critical components of the job and of the incumbent.

One person asked if the proposed timelines were reasonable.

Someone picked up on the negative response to the Affirming Church question, wondering if this could have a negative impact on potential applicants. Another indicated that it's 2017, and perhaps time to revisit our stance on this important issue.

Someone asked for clarification of the issue related to international applicants.

One person asked about the process if we have 2-3 potential candidates; Beth Sweetnam responded that it is the role of the Joint

Search Committee to narrow this down to a short list and to come to a recommendation on one. There will be no opportunity for the congregation to assess the short list.

Another member felt that he had to read too far before he could figure out what we are looking for. John Butcher responded that the JNAC Report provides detailed information, but the national posting is what the candidate will see first, and the ad is very specific.

One person said that we should view the financial implications as an investment in the congregation, observing that pastoral care is at the very foundation of Parkdale as a church, and noted that the investment in a full time minister of children and young families has paid off in our "exploding" Sunday School.

Another member wanted to make it clear that the financial implications mean that there will be an increased

## Congregational Meeting Cont.

deficit and that we will be required to draw on the Memorial fund. We may also have to ask people to increase their givings.

One person asked for more precise information on the cost of a full time minister. She also emphasized that Ministers include the people of Parkdale. The Pastoral care Team is extremely dependable but Parkdale's pastoral care ministry goes far beyond the 'team'. The pastoral care ministry is major and wide spread and she thought the report should clarify this.

Someone else spoke to explain that she is only able to carry out her considerable involvement in the life and work of Parkdale because of the support she gets from the ministers. She takes theological questions, calls on them in moments of weakness and in general feels very well supported. She is therefore supportive of an

expanded role in the area of pastoral care and of a full time pastoral care minister.

***Motion:* The Chair of the JNAC moved that the report of the committee and its recommendations be accepted. Members present voted by secret ballot. The ballots were counted by a minimum of two representatives of Parkdale United Church and by Beth Sweetnam. The results were as follows: 57 in favour; 2 opposed; 1 declined to make a choice.**



## Parkdale Book Club



**May 28 - My Name is Lucy Barton**, by Elizabeth Strout

Pulitzer prize-winning author shows how a simple hospital visit triggers the powerful story of Lucy and her mother.

### All Welcome!

Meet in the Ladies Parlor after church on book club days.  
(You don't have to bring a lunch!)

## Calling All Gardeners!

Are you keen on gardening at the church this season through to autumn?

**Sign up to help May 7th and May 14th**

Meet at "Garden Table" in the hall by the Chapel door to select a garden area and sign up.

Thank you.

Hazel Bowen/ Elaine West



## EASTER

### Friday

The Light that made the universe:

Big Bang,  
Supernovas,  
Sun, moon and stars,  
Swirling might,  
Infinite glory,

Has come to rest just now-  
Chased by sin,  
Driven by unfailing love-  
In this body frail and broken,  
Suffering to the limits of its  
humanity-  
Tortured  
Torn-  
Is now shrunken to an infinite  
point of pain,  
Breath of Life scorned.

This Light is allowing itself  
To be extinguished.

### Saturday

And now for these hours is  
the Creator gone from Creation?  
Does the Voice still echo,  
Vibrations fading,  
Into silence?

And does the Earth  
That missed Bethlehem's cry

Note the vacuum where once  
was Grace?

The shattered friends-  
Who rejected him,  
Who denied him,  
Who buried him,  
Crawl to their hard beds and  
their restless sleeps.  
Now is there no one to hear  
their prayers?  
Condemned.  
Now has the Kingdom come  
And gone?

The flame is blown,  
The embers dark.  
There is nought but the cold-  
ness of the hollowed rock.

There is no Light left here  
with us.  
Alone we grieve.  
Orphaned.

### Sunday

Morning comes dim and grey  
And finds broken hearts still  
beating.

They go to tend the empty  
space, my sisters-  
The lonely tomb,  
The aching grave-  
Up the flame-less garden  
path.



And now, in this moment,  
The excruciating awe!  
Breathless.  
Nature rewriting before witnessing eyes.

Behold, my children! The  
yearning vacancy.

Oh! To find the tomb as  
A hatchèd shell  
A sprouted seed  
An opened womb  
A prism stretching rainbows.

My sisters, how can I, too,  
comprehend  
A teeming hollow  
Erupting into Infinity?  
A telescope?  
A microscope?  
Salt and yeast and wine and  
bread?  
Water and flame?  
Death's defeat?

The universe that was shrunk  
to this infinitesimal point of  
pain has now re-erupted  
With a bang of Spirit,  
The silent nuclear flash  
Of spontaneous re-ignition  
Of Eternal Flame.

So quietly has loss and death  
and life and salvation found  
us that we miss it in this moment.

Most of us.

The gardener had to roll the  
stone.  
The women declared it.  
Some doubters were convinced.  
Blinded eyes were opened.

### **Pentecost**

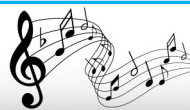
But that Light has chased me  
through two thousand years of  
history  
And now I see the power of it  
all:  
Driven to the dark point.  
Wait silently.  
Erupt.  
Save me and transform.

Easter.

Submitted by  
*Ellen Andrews*

## Musical Musings

By Jono Hamer-Wilson



Praying twice, and/or without ceasing!

As has often been mentioned – in this column, and elsewhere – music is a powerful medium for expressing and celebrating all that it means to be in God’s family, and to walk with Jesus. The vibrant interplay of melody, harmony and poetry in our psalms, hymns and worship songs connects us to the God of our physical universe, as well as the God of our own story, and that of many generations of faith that have preceded us. As Augustine famously said, when we sing, we pray twice!

For many people, the music of worship is not only for Sundays, when we gather as Christ’s people to celebrate our life together. I would, in fact, argue that church is the *most* appropriate place and setting for singing praises to God. But surely the songs of Sunday should resound in our hearts through all the days, and indeed every hour and moment, of our week: these are the truest truths, the ones

that put all others in context. One of my former pastors in his blog this morning shared the thought that we need more “Christmas and Easter Christians”. This phrase is typically understood in a negative sense; meaning, people who show up to church only twice a year. But we *should* be living each day according to this greatest of stories: that God came in the flesh; and was raised from the dead for our justification and eternal blessing: Christmas and Easter Christians in the best sense! So how do we maintain a life of praise during the week: when mundane, painful and urgent realities set in hard, and the lofty and harmonious sentiments of Sunday seem further and further away? There are many musical resources available of course: Christian radio (including many satellite radio options), CDs, youtube mixes, itunes, etc. And sing the songs from Sunday as you are driving, doing housework (or, even better, yardwork – as Anthony reminded us on Easter Sunday, gardens are places of God’s particular blessing

and presence!); and of course in the resonant splendour of the shower! Sing songs and enjoy music together with others; and talk about what the songs mean (to you; and to others). There are many genres of music which have praise and scripture at their centre: various folk, classical, and popular styles (especially gospel in its various formats), which can draw us close to God in ways distinct from that of hymns and popular praise songs.

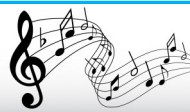
One way of making praise part of your, and your family's, daily life is the practice of *singing a blessing* at meal times. In our family, this goes back to years of camps and retreats in my own upbringing, Jill's time of service with Inter-Varsity, and our kids' many years at summer camp. We have a repertoire of a dozen or more graces that we sing, though usually we choose from a handful of favourites (I've listed them below). During special seasons we will sometimes sing a hymn verse or chorus that is appropriate to that time (on Easter Sunday we sang "Christ is risen, Hallelujah!"). Most meals that we're (almost?) all together, one of the kids chooses a grace for us to sing. (We even

do it eating out sometimes – it never fails to turn a head or two in our direction!) It's a way to be united in our prayers, and to bring a celebratory aspect to mealtimes. As we know – especially those who recently took Anthony's Bible study focused on "Eating with Jesus" – meals are an important part of forming communities of faith and justice, from a biblical and theological perspective.

Another way to incorporate music into your week is to subscribe to a blog from a Christian musician or pastor who has a musical emphasis. In Barbara's sermon on Good Friday, she quoted Canadian songwriter Steve Bell (in describing Holy Saturday as "the day of joyful sadness"). Steve is a gifted musician and writer, who has a broad and deep appreciation of many worship and faith traditions: from his own folksy Baptist upbringing, to the richness of Eastern Orthodoxy and the patristic tradition; including songwriting partnerships with various priests and pastors (particularly of the Anglican tradition). A passion for justice, and a concern for the poor and broken, is an important

## *Musical Musings Continued*

**By Jono Hamer-Wilson**



part of his faith; as is a lively appreciation for scripture. His blog is at <http://stevebell.com/blog/>

Regarding sung graces, there are not a lot of resources on the internet (a testament, no doubt, to the scarcity of the practice). A couple of sites that I found helpful are:

<http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/site/camp-activities/camp-songs-for-grace.page-1.html>

<https://sites.google.com/site/sunggraces/>

[http://www.stjohnosky.org/images/Tables\\_Graces.pdf](http://www.stjohnosky.org/images/Tables_Graces.pdf)

(the last one will automatically download a pdf; but the site is safe, as far as I know!)

Here are a few of our favourite family graces:

- For health and strength (sung in a round)
- Johnny Appleseed (Oh, the Lord is good to me...)
- “Beethoven” (we made it up, so you’ll have to ask to hear that one!)
- Praise the Saviour, ye who know him
- We thank thee, our Father, for all thou providest (for winter, for summer, etc...)
- Praise God from whom all blessing flow (traditional or new tune)
- “Oh Lord of lake and stream and wood” (from Ontario Pio-

neer Camp; sung to *Doxology*)

- God is great, God is good (12-bar blues grace)
- We thank the brown cow (for the chocolate milk, etc...)
- We don't often sing this; but probably the best known sung grace is "Be present at our table, Lord / Be here and everywhere adored / These mercies bless and grant that we / May love and serve thee faithfully" It's typically sung to the tune of the Doxology; but can be sung to others, including the old hymn "Beulahland", and "Fernando's Hideaway".

Bon appétit!

Grace



## Images & Stories

### **IMAGES & STORIES – *The finale... presented by Richard and Judy Hamley***

If you have been to Scotland, this presentation by Richard and Judy Hamley would certainly have stirred you to return. If you had never visited Scotland, you would have been lured by the vivid pictures of the lush landscape, of the rustic yet opulent splendor of some of the ancient castles; by the waterways and locks and, of course, by the cordiality of such gentle folks. Richard and Judy had joined the trip to Scotland headed by the Rev. Kim Vidal of Bell's Corners United Church. A couple of their travel-mates attended the presentation to give them morale support and to reminisce with them.

They spent much time going through the history of many of the beautiful castles reminding



us of our history lessons of Kings and Queens such as Mary Queen of Scots who was crowned in Stirling Castle in 1542. They visited the Scottish National War Memorial, the Royal Palace which holds the “Stone of Scone” upon which the monarchs of Scotland were traditionally crowned. They also got to recall their literature lessons in the Craignure Inn featured in Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Kidnapped” (referred to as the Inn of Torosay).

One outstanding church was St. Giles’ Cathedral in Edinburgh with its distinctive crown steeple. The group of 26 had hoped to take a ferry to attend church service at the Iona Abbey on the West Coast of Scotland. It is one of the oldest and most important religious centres in Western Eu-





rope. The Abbey was a focal point for the spread of Christianity throughout Scotland. Getting there was quite a test of the driver's skill because the roads are single lane and they were on a big bus. Trying to navigate the narrow streets was quite a task because the driver had to pull over each time he met a car. Unfortunately, when they got to the ferry dock, although in the distance they could see the Isle of Iona and the Abbey, because of the gale force winds, the Captain of the ferry would not take them over. But much was not lost as, to their enjoyment, they attended service in a small, very quaint church in Craignure - from where they had come - (the Church of Scotland: Torosay and Kinlochspelve) built in 1783. The 26 of them filled the small church that Sunday and were warmly greeted by an interesting couple: Liz, the

minister and her husband Martyn Gibson who was the "Beadle" at the church ensuring hymn books were out, helping with collection and greeting everyone on the way in. This couple also own the "Isle of Mull Teas" and Martyn also works as a seasonal tour guide three miles away at Duart Castle. Martyn, a man of many titles, does not mind dropping in at the 18<sup>th</sup> Century restored Craignure Inn for "a pint" after church; especially to have Richard join him and pick up the tab - understandably so since he had located Richard's lost camera. Of course, not to be forgotten is that this is the home of "Nessie" the monster said to inhabit Scotland's Loch Ness. Many a stories have been told since 1933 about this beast which has been seen in many shapes and forms. Fascinating too is the Falkirk Wheel which is the only rotating boat lift of its kind in the world and one of two working boat lifts in the United Kingdom - the other being the Anderton boat lift. The Forth & Clyde and Union Canals were linked by a staircase of 11 locks which took nearly a day to transit. These were disman-



## Images & Stories Cont.

tled in 1933. This Falkirk Wheel raises boats by 24 metres (79 ft); but then, the Union Canal is still 11 metres (36 ft) higher than the aqueduct which meets the wheel. Boats must also pass through a pair of locks between the top of the wheel and the Union canal. We were shown a video of the wheel at work. This is a must see in Scotland.

Despite Mother Nature's threat of foul weather on the night of the presentation, over 50 guests gathered in the Ladies' Parlour to celebrate the grand finale of our 6<sup>th</sup> year of Images & Stories. And, so it was. We were shown a video of the "Grand Finale" of the spectacular world famous "Edinburgh Tattoo" exhibition put on by the Scots each year. The Tattoo started as a form of military music, but it has evolved into a splendid theatrical performance. It was amazing to watch on video this grand spectacle of massed bands of pipes and drums, hundreds of marchers, Scottish dancers, musical bands - eleven regimental and Commonwealth bands comprising over 250 pipers and drummers, over

1,200 performers - all tuned to perfection. Of course, there were horses, carriages, fireworks, and a piper high on the castle walls. It was indeed a sight to behold.

Thank you Judy and Richard for an enlightening and wonderful presentation. As you could tell by the questions and fellowship, your presentation was very well received. Hope you will travel more and tell us about it.

Faye Beaufort for MO&J





## Christian Enrichment Committee News and Events

### Barbeque Lunch - Sunday, June 11

Please join us on June 11 for our annual beginning of summer barbecue, held after the service. The CE Committee is looking for volunteers to help with set up, tear down and collecting donations. If you are able to help, please contact Ellen Andrews at [ellenandrews@outlook.com](mailto:ellenandrews@outlook.com) (613-745-3564) or Melodee at [mmloving@gmail.com](mailto:mmloving@gmail.com)

### Reminder Sunday School Sign-in

Effective Sunday, March 26, you are asked to **sign in** your children to Sunday school **before** the service. Sign-in sheets are located on a table in Memorial Hallway prior to service. These lists will be taken to the teachers in the classrooms when the children go downstairs after the story. After service, the **same parent** should go downstairs to sign out their child (or children).

### Volunteers needed – Sunday School ushers

The Sunday school program is looking for volunteers to assist in directing families and children to the Sunday school classes, as well as to monitor the lower hallway during the service. If you are available to help, please contact the office, or Melodee.

### Gracefield Family Camp Weekend Friday June 23-Sunday June 25

Please plan to join us for a weekend of fun, family togetherness and spiritual reflection. See next pages for details.

## GRACEFIELD CAMPING WEEKEND

We invite families and friends of all ages to gather for a weekend away to relax and rest, to be refreshed and inspired. Join us at camp where there will be ample opportunity to explore, relax and enjoy the outdoors. We will also gather throughout the weekend for worship, teaching, campfires, games and activities. All meals are provided from Saturday breakfast to Sunday lunch.

### **Accommodations**

Various kinds are available: tenting, trailer sites, lodge and cabins. All have access to indoor plumbing and hot showers.

### **Location: Gracefield Christian Camp**

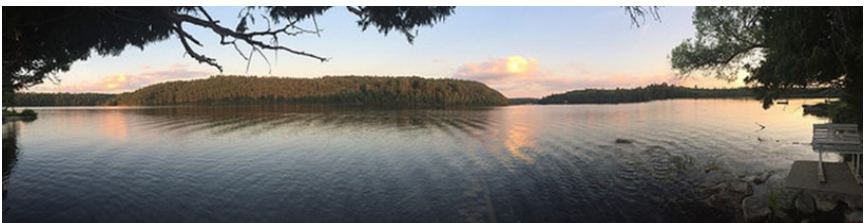
(37 Chemin des Loisirs in  
Gracefield, Quebec)

Located only 90 minutes from Ottawa, Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre is nestled within 280 acres of pristine wilderness, featuring two kilometres of Lac Castor Blanc shoreline.

### **Registration Deadline: Sunday, June 4**

A table will be set up near the coffee shop on Sundays after service starting Sunday, April 30.

**For more information,** please contact Melodee at [mmloving@gmail.com](mailto:mmloving@gmail.com) (or through the church office at 613-728-8656) or Camille at [camille4parkdale@gmail.com](mailto:camille4parkdale@gmail.com).



## Weekend Schedule

### Friday, June 23

5:00-9:30pm

Arrival and Registration  
(Please note that supper is NOT included  
on Friday evening)

7:30pm

Campfire at the Fire Pit

### Saturday, June 24

8:00-9:00am

Breakfast in Main Hall

9:00-6:00pm

Guided activities and free time. Rest and  
relaxation. Lunch at noon. All activities  
are optional.

6:00-7:00pm

Supper in Main Hall

7:30pm

Marshmallow roasting and sharing music  
together

### Sunday, June 25

8:00-9:00am

Breakfast in Main Hall

9:30am

Worship Service

10:30-1:30pm

Free Time, Site Clean-up, Lunch

1:30pm

Travel home

### *Note to the Congregation:*

Please consider making a do-  
nation in support of our camp,  
so that everyone who wishes to  
attend will have the opportuni-  
ty. Please put your offering in  
a collection envelope, clearly  
marked "Gracefield camp".  
Many blessings for your assis-  
tance.



**IN FROM THE COLD MINISTRY  
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON –  
FIFTEENTH YEAR**

**SPECIAL THANKS to ALL In From The Cold Volunteers who made our Pot Luck Supper another DELICIOUS and MEANINGFUL evening. During the evening, a \$500 cheque was presented to Shawna Blanchard for Habitat for Humanity in honour of all our generous merchants. The contribution of each volunteer who joined the IFTC TEAM is appreciated and valued. Together, with our generous merchants, our volunteer musicians and the faithful support and prayers of the congregation, we have made a positive difference in our Community.**

**TOGETHER WE SERVE.  
THANKS BE TO GOD.**

*If you are considering joining our Volunteer Team as a NEW volunteer, please contact CiCi, our volunteer coordinator in SEPTEMBER.*

[iftc@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca](mailto:iftc@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca)

**NUMBER OF GUESTS SERVED 2016-2017**

<b>November</b>	<b>380</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>311</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>455</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>489</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>502</b>

**Average for each week: 119**







## **Minister of Pastoral Care Search Is On**

In late February 2017, a Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) was established by Council to begin the process of finding a new Minister of Pastoral Care. The Committee's mandate was to outline the role and time requirements of the position within the wider contexts of Parkdale's evolving congregational ministries and the surrounding community. The Committee's members were Blaine Pauling (Chair), Mary McLeod, Irene Hilkes, Helen Hayes, John Butcher, Beth Sweetnam (Presbytery), and Rev. Robert Merritt (Presbytery).

The report of the JNAC was accepted overwhelmingly by Council on March 28 and by the congregation on April 2. The principal recommendation was that the position of Minister of Pastoral Care move to full-time (from three-quarters) to accommodate an expanded

role for pastoral care and its Minister. The full JNAC report is available on Parkdale's web site.

Presbytery's Pastoral Relations Committee approved the JNAC report on April 5. That evening, the Joint Search Committee (JSC) that had been approved by the congregation on April 2 met to begin its work. The mandate of the JSC is to bring forward to the congregation a recommended candidate for Minister of Pastoral Care. Its members are Lauren Barbour, Nigel Bell, John Butcher, John Harewood, Irene Hilkes, Mary McLeod, Julee Pauling, and Uchennah Samuel. Rev. Dianne Cardin and Rev. Robert Merritt serve as Presbytery representatives.

The advertisement for the Minister of Pastoral Care was placed on the United Church of Canada's National Vacancy List in early April. The deadline for applications is May 5.



In April, the JSC's work focused on prioritizing the selection criteria provided in the report of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee, and on developing the questions to be posed both to applicants who will be interviewed and to their references. In May, the Joint Search Committee will consider applicants' résumés and statements of faith, with a view to identifying a short list of candidates for interview.

The Committee is very hopeful that it can bring a recommended candidate to the congregation before the end of June. If the new Minister of Pastoral Care is currently serving a United Church congregation, that person might be required to give 90 days' notice, resulting in a start date at Parkdale in the early fall.

As can easily be understood, any deliberations by the Joint Search Committee that involve individual candidates are absolutely confi-

dential. It could be devastating to their relationships with their existing congregations if the names of candidates, especially those being interviewed, were revealed. The only name that will ever be published will be that of the successful candidate.

At the same time, the Committee will do its best to keep the congregation and Council up-to-date on its work and progress, including the number of applications received and interviews conducted. We trust that your prayers are with us in our work.

## BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Namby: Good morning, Pamby.

Pamby: And a very good morning to you, Namby.

Namby: Wow! You changed your words a bit.

Pamby: What do you mean?

Namby: Well, did it just come out like that or did you plan it?

Pamby: I'm still puzzled; I don't understand what you are getting at.

Namby: Well, not much, but much – just ONE word!

Pamby: Oh, that? Because I used the word “very”?

Namby: That's right. Shows how something which we don't expect can really affect us.

Pamby: You're telling me that a simple word like “very” affects you so much?

Namby: It does because you don't usually use it when you tell me good morning, so there must be something behind it.

Pamby: Well, yes, perhaps I wanted to see if somebody would feel like me; last night, I had my mind set on having the remaining sliver of butter-scotch ice cream for dessert only to find that the container had disappeared from the freezer when I went looking for it.

Namby: What happened to it?

Pamby: My eight-year-old son had a guilty look on his face when I checked. It didn't help that the rest of the family couldn't help laughing at me.

Namby: I'm sure that it's not going to help you either when I say that one great playwright warned us a long time ago that “*what is not expected happens*”.

Pamby: You are reminding me of those people who boast that they never have expectations, so they're never disappointed.

Namby: That's a lot of malarkey! I don't believe it a bit. Having expectations is as normal as going to bed every night and going to the bathroom in the morning.

Pamby: Well, some people

don't go to bed every night and some go to the bathroom before morning. I'm talking about getting your hopes up and then being disappointed.

Namby: Ok, but isn't that being negative? What about going home on your birthday and finding that your family and friends have organized "a surprise birthday party" when you didn't have a clue in the world that it was going to happen?

Pamby: Ok, I agree that's positive. Yes, I wouldn't have expected it.

Namby: I remembered that line from the playwright this past Easter weekend.

Pamby: What do you mean?

Namby: Well, the guys who went around with the fellow Jesus didn't expect to see him again.

Pamby: That's true. Almost all of them fled when he was arrested.

Namby: Yes; and, according to the story, they weren't to be seen either when he was strung up on a cross, died and was buried.

Pamby: What a way to go after you've been tramping around helping all kinds of people for three years!

Namby: Yes, his buddies thought that he was a goner and gave up on him for good.

Pamby: And then, all of a sudden, he turns up again. Must have blown their minds.

Namby: Not at all; they got a burst of energy stronger than they had ever felt.

Pamby: Strange, eh?

Namby: Well, not so strange after all! From that time, they knew that he was always going to be with them.

Pamby: Must have felt even better because they didn't expect it.

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We enjoy meeting you and being together in ministry. Parkdale's congregation responds to God's call and Jesus' teachings by:



uniting in joyful worship as an act of praise and gratitude, for inspiration and guidance

**Providing learning opportunities  
for the Christian way of life and  
to enhance  
Biblical literacy**



Supporting each other through  
pastoral care and concern

***Reaching out to people  
in need***

**PROMOTING JUSTICE**

Praying for guidance,  
wisdom, and support.

