

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Parkdale United Church

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WELCOME TO PARKDALE

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

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

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

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

If you are visiting, please ask for a copy of the 'Welcome to Parkdale' edition of the Messenger. It has a striking goldenrod cover.

Please take a copy home to read. We hope you will come again for worship and fellowship.

The Parkdale Congregation

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In brief:

Habitat for Humanity
Wed Sept 11th
Parkdale team build (pg. 30)



Book Club
Sunday Sept 15th
"The Inconvenient Indian" by Thomas King (pg. 24)

Images & Stories
Friday, Sept. 27th (pg. 28)
"Walking The Camino"



Rummage Sale
Saturday Sept 28th
Come find a great deal. Can you donate anything? (pg. 19)



Movie Night
In September, we will be showing *The Mission*. Watch the bulletin for date. (pg. 18)

Faith Formation in Small Groups

Starting mid-September: opportunities for small group and/or individual faith formation, prayer and discussion. (pg. 20)



Second Blessing Coffee Shop
After church Sunday Sept 28th



Parents & Tots
Starting September, we will be gathering again in Nursery (pg. 35)



Cookie Jam
Saturday, October 5th (pg. 43)

Celebrating our Cultures International Dinner
Saturday, October 19th
6:00 - 9:00PM



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

...From the Pastor's time of Reading and Prayer
What does it mean to be Pastor and Congregation?

Well what do you know, September is upon us already. I trust that whatever you have experienced this past summer, you felt the accompaniment and blessing of God. Some have had a chance to go away on holidays, some to a cottage, some have been preparing to go off to College or University, some have experienced reunions of various kinds, some have had very happy family events take place (ie. marriages, births, baptisms, birthdays etc.); others have met with sadness and tragedy (ie. death and loss of various kinds), illness, frustrations and disappointments. In all of these, I know that God has been present and active, albeit at times mysteriously.

I was grateful for the total of three weeks off over the summer and did experience a sense of Sabbath rest, relaxation and

'perspective adjustment'. I took along some books to read on my vacation; one being the latest offering from renowned pastor, author, professor and theologian Eugene H. Peterson simply titled *"The Pastor: a Memoir"*. He is perhaps best known for his paraphrase of the entire Bible called *"The Message"*. His book *The Pastor* had been recommended to me by a good friend and colleague in ministry out West.



This book was exactly what I needed and I thank God for the conspiracy of events that brought it to my attention. It is a well-written, cogent and evoca-

tive disclosure chronicling the emergence of Dr. Peterson's identity, call and vocation as *Pastor*. I found it to be resonant with my soul's longing for a reboot of my once profound clarity surrounding my understanding of myself as a God-appointed pastor to a community of people whom God loves and whom God has called me to serve in the name of Christ.

Over time, my own shortcomings, distractions, sin, and ego

have at times distorted and eroded the clarity and urgency of this call to be pastor. In response to the insights proffered by Dr. Peterson's vulnerability and transparency, I found myself varying in prayer, confession and meditation. I am still 'digesting' the import of the book and seeking to metabolize what I have already been 'chewing' on. I am seeking the Spirit's guidance to help me more fully live into what it means to be a pastor in service to God and in servant-leadership to the congregation of Parkdale United Church.

I want to offer you a few quotes – some short and one extended one – that convey a couple of re-orienting affirmations and challenges.

Regarding one of Dr. Peterson's understandings of what exactly is "church", he writes: "...***the Holy Spirit forms church to be a colony of heaven in the country of death...Church is a core element in the strategy of the Holy Spirit for providing human witness and physical presence to the Jesus-inaugurated kingdom of God in this world. It is not that kingdom complete, but it is that kingdom.***"

With respect to a more faithful understanding of who is the 'congregation', he contends: ***"Congregation is a company of***

people who are defined by their creation in the image of God, living souls, whether they know it or not. They are not problems to be fixed, but mysteries to be honored and revered". Then he proceeds to speak about the privileged task of the pastor vis-à-vis this company of people. ***"Who else in the community other than the pastor has the assigned task of greeting men and women [and I would include young people and children] and welcoming them into a congregation in which they are known not by what is wrong with them, but by who they are, just as they are?"***

And now the quote that at one and the same time challenged, blessed, released, humbled and convicted (in the sense of call to account, not condemn) me. Speaking of the difference between vocation and job and the pressures on pastors to distort and/or confuse the two, Peterson writes:

"But a vocation is not a job...my primary responsibility is not to the people I serve but to the God I serve. As it turns out, the people I serve would often prefer an idol who would do what they want done, rather than do what God, revealed in Jesus, wants them to do. In our present culture, the sharp distinction between a job and a vocation is considerably blurred.

Debbie and John have two Golden Doodle dogs, and Debbie has occasionally taken one of the specially-trained dogs with her on visits to seniors' homes, although she does not plan to continue this in Ottawa because of certification/regulatory issues.





GOD'S PLEASURE

*When it's morning in the countryside and dew is on the grass,
And the sun makes little rainbows on what looks like beads of glass,
As I walk for miles with cheerful smiles for everyone I pass,
I feel my Father's pleasure and I praise Him.*

*When I'm reaching down the harbour or when close-hauled to the cays,
While I revel in the sunshine and a steady favouring breeze,
And my boat is like a dolphin as it plunges through the seas,
I feel my Father's pleasure and I praise Him.*

*When I'm hiking up a hilly trail in blazing sun or rain,
And I'm far above the bustle of the noisy, steamy plain,
As I eagerly inhale Blue Mountain's misty air again,
I feel my Father's pleasure and I praise Him.*

*When the twilight's glow has faded and the brilliant stars appear,
And the whistling frogs' cacophony is music to my ear,
When I smell the jasmine's fragrance drifting on the cool night air,
I feel my Father's pleasure and I praise Him.*

- Charles Levy



LECTIONARY

September 1—Fifteenth after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4–13 and Psalm 81:1, 10–16
or Sirach 10:12–18 or Proverbs 25:6–7
and Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16
Luke 14:1, 7–14

September 8 – Creation Time 1 in the Season of Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1–11

God is the potter; we are the clay.

Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18 (VU pp. 861–862)

God has searched me and known me.

Philemon 1–21

A plea for Onesimus, the runaway slave.

Luke 14:25–33

You must give up your possessions to be my disciples.

September 15 – Creation Time 2 in the Season of Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28

The land shall be desolation; the earth shall mourn.

Psalm 14 (VU p. 735)

The foolish say, “There is no God.”

1 Timothy 1:12–17

Christ came to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.

Luke 15:1–10

The parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.

September 22 – Creation Time 3 in the Season of Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18–9:1

Is there no balm in Gilead? No physician there?

Psalm 79:1–9 (VU p. 793)

We are mocked by our neighbours.

1 Timothy 2:1–7

Offer prayers for those in high positions.

Luke 16:1–13

The parable of the dishonest manager.

September 29 – Creation Time 4 in the Season of Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15

Houses, fields, and vineyards shall again be purchased.

Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16 (VU pp. 807–809)

God will raise you up on eagle's wings.

1 Timothy 6:6–19

The love of money; fight the good fight.

Luke 16:19–31

The rich man and Lazarus.



BIRTHDAY NEWS

Birthdays in September Our warmest greetings to:

3rd	Camrynn Haynes
5th	Liam Praamsma
8th	Liz Harrison
10th	Marion Baird
15th	Don Walker
16th	Freda Sutton
16th	Miriam Lanyom
20th	Mike Akpan
21st	Samantha Larabie
22nd	Maija Duncan
22nd	Alice Macdonell
22nd	Elsie Renee Harman
27th	Charles Noir
29th	Gail Thain
29th	Heather Clark
29th	Andrew Matthews



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



Baptism

Nicholas, the 15-month-old-son of **Gayle** (Meerburg) and **Markus Altiparmakyan** was baptised during the July 14 worship service.



Birth announcement:

Matt and Jess Baker welcomed Lincoln James into the world in August



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Submitted by Lorraine Hanna:

Janet Taylor learned that her great nephew, Allister Mason, was recently featured in the local newspaper in her home town of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

Excerpt from Nova Scotia local newspaper:

NEW GLASGOW – Allister Mason was the top award winner at the North Nova Education Centre graduation ceremony on Wednesday night, winning the Queen Elizabeth II Medal and the Governor General Medal.

Mason, who plans on attending Dalhousie University, was also awarded a renewable entrance scholarship valued at \$5,000 per year for four years for a total of \$20,000 and the Judge Kimball Student Athlete Award valued at \$500.

He was also the recipient of the Churchville Women's Institute Memorial Bursary valued at \$200, the Danny MacLeod Memorial Award valued at \$200, the Valedictorian Medal and the Carmichael Scholarship valued at \$1,500 renewable for four years. He was also awarded the Calculus 12, Advanced Physics 12 and Pre-Calculus Mathematics 12 subject prizes valued at \$50 each.

Outside of North Nova awards, he also was awarded the NSSAF Ron O'Flaherty Scholar Athlete Award certificate and the provincial Scholar-Athlete Scholarship valued at \$750 in recognition of his outstanding ability to combine excellence in academics with excellence in athletics.

Al is on the left in the photo below, shown after accepting the North Nova Athletic of the Year award. His brother Layton, on the right, won the award two years previously. Allister will be going to Sherbrooke, Quebec as part of the 2013 Nova Scotia Canada Games team.



A FOND FAREWELL TO SHELDON MUNRO

(September 5, 1936--June 20, 2013)

As I write, it is a little less than two months since Sheldon passed away, but for all of us who loved and now miss her, she has already been away far too long.

With one glance at Sheldon, you knew that she was a person whom you would like to meet. She had that friendly look which told you that you were welcome. She had a presence without attempting to be conspicuous.

That's why I was encouraged to introduce myself to her shortly after I arrived at Parkdale. We became firm friends (she would often drive me home after church), especially within the Singles' Fellowship which, for many years during the past decade, would meet for discussions on Faith, topical books or simply fun. We met either in the Friendship Lounge (now The Second Blessings Coffee Shop), the Ladies' Parlour or the homes of individual members. Sheldon hosted at least two of our

meetings, one of which was a Christmas party memorable for the warmth of her reception, elegant napkins, heritage keepsakes and delicious cupcakes.

In fact, she was an eager and reliable participant in all of the group's "off-site" activities including picnics in Vincent Massey Park, excursions to Cathy Geiger's cottage in Kingston or the exploration of a cave in the Gatineau where she opted to be our official photographer. Later, when our formal meetings became less frequent, she, Cathy Lees and I could be found many a Sunday after the worship service lunching at "Thyme and Again" or patronizing the bagel shop farther along Wellington.

Sheldon had become more interested in Parkdale as a result of Anthony's ministry to her father in his last days. A keen observer of personality, she never hesitated to let you know that she was aware of her own, was restless if she didn't have a task to perform and was a fixer. She felt that governance at Parkdale demanded her attention, so it wasn't surprising that she served for years on the Ministry and Per-

sonnel Committee (which she forever referred to as M and P), ensuring that the job descriptions were regularly updated. When an opportunity arose to count the Sunday offering, she did that too. She brought the same diligence to her role as Coordinator of the Advent congregational luncheon, where her accounting was meticulous and food bargains sought out but still with an ever watchful eye on quality.

We also saw her unfailing commitment to service in her contribution to the *IN FROM THE COLD* program, whether she assumed responsibility for the weekly cleaning and delivery of T-shirts, acted as a security agent or served meals to the guests. Sheldon's curiosity about other people, other cultures and her faith never left her. It took her to Jamaica and places on the island which would be visited only by a person with daring and self-reliance. It took her to the Holy Land in 2005 with some Parkdale members and a group from Temple Israel. That first-hand experience of the environment in which Christianity originated strengthened her faith.

You couldn't miss her excitement about spending time at her cottage on Prince Edward Island, and while she was happy to have travel companions, she would just as easily jump into her car and brave the trip alone. Undoubtedly, it was that independent spirit and courage which made her so stoic and serene when the cancer returned and quickened her resolve to stop the chemotherapy.

In addition to her devotion to Parkdale even during her illness, three things in her later years remained an enduring passion--her love for her daughters and grandchildren, especially William, the youngest, her job at Lee Valley about which she agonized deeply before leaving and, of course, her pets, Tucker and Eddie. They sat so quietly during her funeral service that one wondered whether, like the rest of us, they weren't simultaneously mourning her loss and giving thanks for her life and release from pain.

John Harewood



A veritable “church lady”

Marilyn Noble was sometimes described as an example of a true “church lady,” because of her career as an administrative secretary to three different Ottawa congregations. Her death in late June recalled memories of having served, successively, St. Stephens Presbyterian, Parkdale United (for part of the 1980’s and early 1990’s), and First Baptist churches.

Marilyn and her husband Gordon were long-time Parkdale members and steadfast participants in many congregational activities. Her memorial service was conducted jointly by former Parkdale ministers Rev. Gervis Black and Rev. Ernie Cox. During the service, Rev. Black – who referred to her as “Noble Marilyn” – said she was the face of the congregation, who, among other attributes, helped to mentor and teach English to Cambodian refugee Khan Chao when he was hired in 1980 as Parkdale’s property custodian. Rev. Cox remembered Marilyn’s efficiency, smile and friendly demeanour, which put everyone at ease and gave the congregation a welcoming quality.

Our condolences to Gordon, daughter Deborah and son Walter and their families.



SPECIAL THANKS
to everyone who
trimmed, planted and
weeded. Our Memorial
Garden and
other beds
are looking very well cared
for. Let's continue to keep weed-
ing until after Thanksgiving.



Marriage Announcement & Thank You!

It is a bit late for a marriage announcement, but I hope not too late for a heartfelt “Thank You!” to members of my Parkdale family for their participation in the celebration of my marriage to Kevin Stirling on May 18, 2013. It was a beautiful, sunny spring day and a perfect day

to be married. First and foremost, we want to thank Dr. Bailey for his support and guidance in the marriage preparation courses, which truly did help us

to engage with important issues for our lives together and, we believe, have helped us form a good foundation for a loving marriage. The message during the wedding ceremony was inspiring and engaging, delivered with sincerity and humour. Many of our guests commented on how moved they were by the ceremony.

Next, thanks to my fellow chorists/singers at Parkdale: we were blessed with strong musical leadership by Susan Mailer, Beth Gutsell, Kerri-Lynn Grozingar, Joan Scott, Nicki

Mayville, Elise Mennie, and Shirley Moore. Their melodious voices guided us through some of my favourite hymns: “How Great Thou Art”, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”, “Joyful, Joyful” and “The Servant Song”. The organist was the talented Larry Kempffer, Parkdale’s regular wedding/funeral organist, who played and extemporized masterfully.

Thanks are also due to Richard Hamley, who stepped in on short



notice on Friday evening to lead the rehearsal when Dr. Bailey’s flight was delayed in Texas! On a similar note, Ryan Pascal was called in to operate the sound

system when the scheduled operator fell sick, and didn’t miss a cue. We also thank Don Mockett for his help with the forms and paperwork, and his patience with our many questions.

Thank you, Parkdale family, for supporting us and celebrating with us on a day we will remember with joy for the rest of our lives.

Alexandra Stockwell



Nepean teen wows mayor with rail plan

Posted Feb 21, 2013

[By Laura Mueller](#)



Thirteen-year-old Michael Bailey has his own designs for Ottawa's transit system. He has built dozens of models of aspects of the system including future light rail.

EMC news

Ottawa has received a lot of advice on what its future light-rail system should look like, but never from a teenager – until now.

Thirteen-year-old Nepean resident Michael Bailey showed off his vision for "MB Rail" to Mayor Jim Watson on Feb. 15 at city hall.

The Grade 8 Alta Vista Public School student has been obsessed with wheels "since birth," said his mother, Joan Bailey. In the past couple of years, Michael has built dozens of paper models of bus and rail transit systems from across the globe, but he recently turned his attention to creating

his own transit systems.

"I said to myself, 'why am I making merchandise for transit systems when I can just create my own?'" Michael said.

Michael came to city hall hoping to sell his idea for an east-west and north-south dual rail line to the mayor and Matt Eason of the city's rail implementation office, but Michael's mother simply hoped the meeting would inspire him to work towards an education in engineering after his high-school career at Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School starting next year.

By that time, Michael will be able to hop on the city's Confederation Line, a light-rail system that will connect Tunney's Pasture to Blair Station and include an underground tunnel in the downtown portion.

Until then, he'll have to settle for twice-weekly journeys around the city on various buses and the O-Train. It's Michael's favourite summer activity, his mother said.

"I just get on and say (to the driver), 'We don't have a destination, so don't be surprised if we don't get off,'" Joan Bailey said. "The drivers have been so good to us."

Michael prefers the rare buses,

such as the one remaining old chrome Flyer that's still on the streets, or the three early edition double-decker buses the city used for a pilot project. The family's record is rides on 11 different buses in one day.

The mayor was particularly impressed by Michael's detailed understanding of the transit system.

"He knows more about transit than I do," Watson said, only half in jest.

(Michael Bailey is the son of Joan and Mike and nephew to Anthony Bailey)



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN PRESBYTERIAL FELLOWSHIP DAY

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
SHAWVILLE UNITED
CHURCH**

SHAWVILLE, QUEBEC

The women of Parkdale United Church are cordially invited to attend the UCW Presbyterial Fellowship Day

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. followed by refreshments and time to peruse the UCRD Book Table and the Fair Trade Table before the program begins at 10:00 a.m..

Lunch will be provided by Shawville United Church at \$8.00 per person.

Come join us for worship, fellowship, and faith formation.

Transportation to Shawville is available.

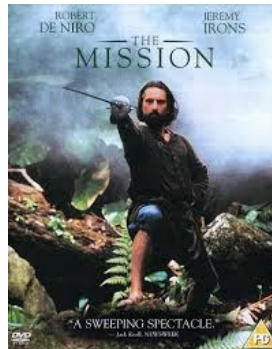
Please contact Beth Gutsell ([613-729-8228](tel:613-729-8228)) for more information or to register, no later than Tuesday, September 10, 2013.



The Start of Monthly Movie Night at Parkdale!

Would you enjoy an evening of movie watching and discussion? Beginning in September, Parkdale will host Monthly Movie Nights! Each movie night will feature a movie with Christian messages -- obvious or subtle -- followed by a group discussion led by a fellow Parkdaler. We hope that you will take the opportunity to connect with other movie lovers and discuss Christian questions and issues in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere -- and perhaps bring a friend that you've been meaning to introduce to Parkdale! If you feel like it, you can also bring a favourite movie-watching treat to share.

In September, we will be watching *The Mission*, which is set in 18th century South America. In *The Mission*, mercenary and slaver Rodrigo Mendoza agrees to aid Father Gabriel, the leader of a Jesuit mission in the jungle, as an act of penance for his past actions. When the mission is threatened with attack from slavers, Rodrigo and Father Gabriel must discern how to serve both God and the people of the mission.



Please keep an eye out for an announcement in the church bulletin with the date and time of the September screening!

Jaylyn and Dave



Parkdale's Fall Rummage Sale



Saturday September 28th

9am to noon

Helpers would be appreciated.

We are also looking for: good clean used clothing, kitchenware and household items, books, LPs, CDs, toys and games. 'No TVs or computer equipment please'.

Clearly mark items "Rummage Sale" and leave them at the door into Memorial Hall. Please drop off items by Thursday, September 27.

If you need help getting your items to the church or are able to volunteer with deliveries, setting-up, selling, or cleaning up afterwards, please contact the church office:

613-728-8656



Opportunities for Faith Formation in Small Groups

As we kick off our fall program year, you will be pleased to know that we will be resuming our small group faith formation ministry. We have been so blessed by God over the past two years as a congregation, through our Unbinding the Gospel, Heart and Soul initiative. Over and over again, we have heard of the deep value of small group sharing and prayer, and the deepening of faith and friendships in the congregation. As well, many have been inspired and encouraged to invite family, friends, neighbours and colleagues to worship and fellowship at Parkdale, as well as to become involved in our advocacy, outreach and justice work.



Starting the week of September 16, we will be offering a variety of opportunities for small group and/or individual faith formation, prayer and discussion.

There will be some flexibility in these offerings as the duration of each session will be from 6 to 10 weeks. Those interested can sign up through the Parkdale website as well as via the Church office. Further, during the Welcome BBQ on September 8 in Memorial Hall, which follows our intergenerational Rally service, there will be a display of the various small group possibilities. Below is a list of those being

offered as of the deadline for the printing of this month's newsletter.

1. **Unbinding Your Soul:** (could be more than one group as numbers warrant)
2. **The Purpose-Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?** By Rick Warren (revised edition)
3. **Devotional Classics : Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups**
4. **Tuesday Morning and Evening Bible Study**

For more information, please consult our website, or contact Don in the Church office (613 728-8656; pdale@trytel.com) or Anthony (abailey@trytel.com)

COMMUNICATIONS IS LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER WEB DESIGNER



The Communications Committee would like to update Parkdale's website with the use of free software, to better reflect our dynamic nature and increase our appeal to a diverse audience. If you have appropriate web design skills and experience and would like to volunteer your time, please contact the office at 613-728-8656 or email pdale@trytel.com.

Where are they now and what are they doing.

Frank and Nancy Iacobucci

Frank and I attended Parkdale from about 1987, soon after we had moved to Ottawa from Toronto, until 2004, when we moved back to Toronto. I joined the choir quite early on and enjoyed it immensely; I was always impressed with the ability of the choir, even though it was never very large, to sing quite complicated pieces of music!

The first year we were back in Toronto, Frank was unexpectedly asked to fill in for the academic year as Interim President of the University of Toronto, because of the unanticipated departure during the summer of the previous president. Although I had some doubts about this change in “retirement” plans, it was in fact an excellent way to feel “at home” again, since Frank had spent some 20 years at the U of T before, including holding various administrative positions. At the welcoming reception for him, he joked that it had taken him almost 20 years to be promoted from Vice President and Provost to President!

At the end of his term (summer of 2005) Frank joined the Torys law firm as Counsel, and also became the Chairman of the Board of Torstar Corporation (which publishes the Toronto Star and several community newspapers), until

2009. As well, he became the Conduct Review Advisor for the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board, a position he still holds. In 2006, he was the founding Chair of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (a research group arising out of Bob Rae’s 2005 report on higher education). When his terms for that group were over in 2012, he was given a huge treat (for a baseball fan): his colleagues arranged for him to throw the first ball at a Blue Jays game! In 2006 he also joined the General Motors Advisory Board and the Board of Tim Hortons. On the non-profit side, he is on the Board of COSTI Immigrant Services and the IC Savings Foundation. He has also been involved with various other organizations, such as the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee for Ontario and the Trudeau Foundation, as well as university committees (U of T, McGill, and his alma mater, UBC).

In his work with Torys, he has especially enjoyed his involvement with aboriginal projects: the Residential Schools settlement (Federal Government), the question of aboriginal representation on juries (Ontario Government), and his new appointment as the lead negotiator for the Ontario Government in the “Ring of Fire” project. He has also served as an advisor to both governments on other issues involving First Nations and natural resources. Further Federal Government work has included chair-

ing an Inquiry regarding alleged terrorists, and examining the treatment of Afghan detainees. Other work at the firm has included mediations, as well as mentoring younger lawyers, a role he very much enjoys, particularly since he spent many years as a law professor before going to Ottawa.

I’m afraid that I don’t have much to say about my activities since our return, but that doesn’t mean that I have been idle! My main regular activity, which I enjoy immensely, is singing in (and serving as librarian of) a 100-voice seniors community choir, average age approximately 77. As well I am in a small book club, spend time with friends (old and new), keep the household going, and work on various family archival projects when time allows. Ironically, I walk a lot more than I ever did in Ottawa, partly because traffic and parking were so much easier there, and partly because we now live very close to places I need to go (even our doctor’s office is nearby!); and if I need to go further, we are very close to a subway stop.

Those of you who know me are probably wondering when I am going to get around to writing about the family. Our grandchildren (and their parents!) are our pride and joy! When we left Ottawa, we had three grandchildren (born in 2001, ’02 and ’03), and now we have eight! The “new” ones were born in late 2004, ’05, ’06, and—most recently—February 2013. Three are in Illi-

nois (our daughter’s children), four are in Toronto (our sons’ children, including a stepdaughter), and one (unfortunately) commutes between our son’s home in Toronto and his mother’s home in Washington DC. We see them all as often as we can and as fits with the families’ very busy schedules. The activities of the “grands” include a variety of sports (baseball, basketball, cross country running, karate, lacrosse, skiing, soccer, swimming, tennis), music (piano lessons, choir), and musical theatre (regular musicals arranged for younger participants). We attend as many events as we can, including in Illinois, where in February we saw two of the grandchildren in their school’s grade 4/5 musical, ‘Once Upon a Mat-tress’ (aka The Princess and the Pea)—amazingly well done for that age group.

As is obvious, our post-Ottawa life has not exactly been the quiet retirement that I anticipated, which probably says more about how unrealistic my expectations were than it does about any real surprises! However, much as we miss Ottawa and our friends there, our return to Toronto has been easy, enjoyable, and fulfilling. So to paraphrase, you *can* go home again!

Parkdale Bookclub

- Sept 15 **The Inconvenient Indian** by Thomas King, 2012. "Every Canadian should read (this) book. It's funny, readable and it makes you think"-Toronto Star. A timely read.
- Oct 20 **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** by Mark Haddon, 2003. Narrated by an English teen who describes himself as a "mathematician with some behavioural difficulties". A charming read.
- Nov 17 **And the Mountains Echoed** by Kahled Hosseini, 2013. Afghan author of *The Kite Runner*. A heartbreaking read.

No meeting in December.

Titles for the new year in no particular order include: 'Things Fall Apart', 'Canada, The Purchase', 'Not in My Father's Footsteps', 'Death Comes to Pemberley', and 'Dear Life'.

If you have any questions please email either Marlene MacLean <marlenemaclean@gmail.com> or Heather Brophy <h.brophy@sympatico.ca>

All Welcome!

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



The Blanket Exercise: a powerful experience of First Peoples' history



On June 16th after the service, a group of 56 people had lunch together then re-enacted 400 years of Canada's history. Mostly Parkdale members, they also included some youth and a few visitors from other churches and the community. Algonquin Elder Annie Smith-St. George started by thanking the Creator for bringing us together. Ed Bianchi of KAIROS then invited participants to represent the First Peoples; when they stepped onto the blankets, they were taken back in time to the arrival of the Europeans. The blankets represented the lands of what is now Canada and the distinct nations that live on these lands to this day. He led participants through the history of treaty-making, colonization, and resistance, which form the context of today's relationship between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Canadians. Elder Annie was very touched that so many had come to learn about what her people had been through and to walk alongside them. She closed with a prayer of thanksgiving and hope for future right relations.

"I found the exercise to be truly revealing of a part of our history that has been hidden from us (my perspective as a new Canadian). I think I can empathize (just a little) from my own background as a mix-race person born in Shanghai and raised in the UK, and the racial comments, etc., and the feeling of exclusion/not belonging/lack of identity. All that to say, the exercise had a big impact on me, to be able to experience physically standing on blankets that represent land and play acting various roles -- it was all so powerful, and something I will remember for a long time."

Gloria Goodine

"I found the Blanket Exercise truly moving, insightful and informative about the origin and evolution of Canada's First Nations. It truly served to re-sensitize the group around the risks of becoming desensitized towards First Nation rights and relations. It was truly an honour to participate in this sacred ceremony and I am grateful to have had the privilege."

Deborah Bellware

"



"Elder Annie Smith-St. George, accompanied by her husband Robert, closed with a prayer of thanksgiving"

From a distance, I actually observed everyone who participated as they



started out in large communities represented by blankets. People seemed very content and relaxed while mingling with others that were close to them as in families. What struck me is that as the blankets were folded up and eventually disappeared, the people did not know where to stand; they became confused, stressed, and disoriented. It would be like trees that were pulled out with roots being totally exposed or like being separated from family and friends and then being stranded somewhere far away."

Lenore Rayner

"I attended the blanket exercise as an observer, and was impressed by the wide cross-section of participants in terms of age, cultural background and ability, including an aboriginal member of our congregation. The exercise reinforced the extent of the injustices endured by our First Nations people who welcomed the colonizers with open arms. As a Jamaican-Canadian, it gave me a clearer perspective on the struggles of the Tainos – the original inhabitants of Jamaica – who eventually became extinct. For me, it was a thought-provoking eye opener."

Gloria Anderson

"Participating in The Blanket Exercise on June 16th was a surprising experience for me. Of course, I expected to learn something new about the treatment of North America's native peoples and of England,

France, and Canada's policies and decisions following which the negative consequences are still felt. What I did not expect was that it would not simply be an intellectual exercise: no, indeed, this truly was experiential learning. I left those blankets with insights I could not have prepared for.

It is difficult to articulate the transformation in awareness, sorrow, regret, and compassion. Like many, I have to trust that this process of reconciliation will lead to a place of healing for all. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to participate in finding that act of love which is witness, hosting, and making space for Christ's suffering in the lives of our Aboriginal sisters and brothers."

Julee Pauling

This was a powerful experience for me. It brought home some of what I had already learned about the oppression of our First Peoples, and a lot more, but from a new perspective. Walking in their shoes, I learned just how pervasive and invisible the injustice is within our country's very fabric and laws. I am better able to acknowledge this and thus, to be attuned to what Aboriginal peoples are telling us and to be inspired by their resilience and hope.

Elise Mennie



"Parkdalers who participated in The Blanket Exercise, led by Ed Bianchi of KAIROS (first on left)"

Next Friday Night "Images and Stories"

Friday, Sept 27th
at 7:00 PM

"Walking The
Camino"



If you do not want to have blistered feet and tired bodies from walking The Camino, then we have the answer on September 27, 2013.

Jim Gemmell has walked 7 Caminos and over 3000K and has graciously agreed to share his experiences about the Camino Way with all our Images and Stories friends. We get to experience this world wide inspirational challenge in the comfort of our Parkdale surroundings.

The presentation starts at 7 p.m., followed by beverages, treats and fellowship at 8 p.m.



Nursery & Toy Cleaning

We are looking for volunteers to occasionally take one bin of toys home to wash in warm soapy water, do a small load of laundry, or wipe down the mats in the nursery after service. All the toys have been cleaned this summer and we hope to clean the nursery and toys regularly throughout the year.

October 26 from 9:30-11:00

Toy cleaning in Tape Hall kitchen; Volunteers are needed to help wash the toys, wipe down the chairs, cribs, and do a general clean up of the nursery.



RECIPES

Golden Graham Squares

- ◇ 5 cups miniature marshmallows
- ◇ 1/3 cup corn syrup
- ◇ 6 tbsp butter or margarine
- ◇ 1-1/2 cups (1 pkg - 270) chocolate chips
- ◇ 1 tsp. vanilla
- ◇ 8 cups golden graham cereal
- ◇ 1 cup miniature marshmallows



1. Butter 9" x 13" pan. Put cereal in large bowl.
2. Use a double boiler and melt butter, 5 cups marshmallows with corn syrup and chocolate chips.
3. Remove from heat and add vanilla.
4. Pour over cereal, add other cup of marshmallows. Mix and put in pan and refrigerate till cool.
5. Cut in squares.

NOTE: Muriel and Ted Bellman's grandchildren – Gabriela and Sebastian – really love these yummy treats!

Angel's Dream

Meringue:

- 4 egg whites
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cream of tartar

Beat above 3 ingredients until soft peaks form
Gradually add **1 cup sugar** and beat until stiff peaks form
Spread in glass pie plate – grease first with butter
Bake 1 hour @ 275 degrees F.
Shut off oven and leave for another 15 minutes

Filling:

Beat 4 egg yolks, add 1/2 c. sugar and 1 large lemon (both grated rind and juice); cook in top of double boiler stirring constantly until thick
Cool ---then whip and spread over warm meringue

Topping:

Whip 1/2 c. whipping cream with 2 tbsp sugar and 1/2 tsp vanilla and spread over dessert.
Chill 24 hrs.

Serves 10 -12

NOTE: Katie Keys tells The Messenger that she obtained this delicious recipe many years ago from Charlie Hurst's late wife, Freda.

Second Blessings Coffee Shop

Please join our youth at **Second Blessings** for great food and fellowship after church on the following dates in 2013:

September 29
October 20
November 24
December 15

and in 2014:

January 12
February 9
March 23
April 27



Faiths Build Week

Habitat for Humanity NCR is inviting members of all faiths to come together and demonstrate faith in action during the Faiths Build Week in Orleans, September 9-13, 2013.

Parkdale will be sending a team to the build on **Wednesday Sept. 11** and Rev. Dr. Bailey will deliver the morning devotional that day. If you would like to participate, please contact the Parkdale office at 613-728-8656 or email pdale@trytel.com.

The fee is \$25 per person per day which will be used towards the build. There is a need for a great variety of skills so everyone is welcome!

Annual Yuletide Bazaar: Saturday, November 2



September is always a busy month at Parkdale United Church with many activities starting up again and new activities and programs being announced. It does seem very early to be thinking about Christmas but we hope that you will have time within the month to consider helping with the Annual Yuletide Bazaar in a way that compliments your time and talents.

This year's Bazaar will be held on **Saturday November 2**, (the first Saturday of the month), starting at 10:00 a.m.

We are always looking for volunteers and, this

year in particular, for persons who might like to convene or co-convene tables. We also love to have donations of pickles, salsa, jams, preserves, etc. If this is a fall activity at your home, please consider making a few extra jars.

More details about the Bazaar will be on the Parkdale website, posted on the bulletin board and in future weekly order of service announcements.

Ann Tompkins,
Yuletide Bazaar
Convener
ann.tompkins07@gmail.com



Many Hands, Many Friends
Many Hearts



In From The Cold (IFTC) Ministry

**Saturdays from
November 9, 2013 to
March 29, 2014**

From November to March each year, members of Parkdale United Church, with the help of many, many volunteers from the wider community, provide a warm, friendly environment where guests who are experiencing a variety challenges can come together and enjoy a delicious meal, lively conversations and caring support.

RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

Welcome back! If you are interested in returning to help again this season, please contact Cynthia or Camille by email (see next page) or sign up on the IFTC Volunteer sheet in the Gladstone hallway. Scheduling will begin in early October, so please let us know about your intentions of returning by September 30, 2013.

NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to work shifts from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Shifts are 2-3 hours in length. This includes set up, kitchen work, serving, cleanup, security, laundry and shift coordinators. There will be a new shift supervising the operation of the lift. Sign- up sheets will be available at the entrances of the church.

Other IFTC opportunities

VOLUNTEERS FOR ADMINISTRATION

Do you like working with Excel spreadsheets? Checking email? Volunteers are occasionally needed to help with administrative roles during the week. Help is also needed to coordinate the groups that volunteer throughout the season.

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS

IFTC volunteers help the central Ottawa Food Bank one or two mornings a week for approximately 2 hours. IFTC food items are chosen at this time. The shift can be done on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday mornings.
(Located on Michael Street)

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Volunteer hours with the *In From the Cold* ministry can be used towards community service requirements for high school graduation.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments. Email Cynthia or Camille at in-fromthecold_parkdale@yahoo.com. Phone messages can also be left with the office at 613-728-8656.



OTTAWA PRESBYTERY MEETING

Summary of the June Meeting of Ottawa Presbytery

Ottawa Presbytery gathered in an extra meeting on June 11, 2013. Riverside United Church graciously hosted the meeting, which included a time of saying farewell to Judy Lawson, who has served as Administrative Assistant for fourteen years, and thank you to David Stafford who has been the recording secretary since 2005. At the conclusion of dinner, Isobel Eastman on behalf of the presbytery and staff committee made the presentation to Judy, and Barbara Reynolds made the presentation to David.

Chair George Hermanson called the meeting to order and began with worship and celebration of holy communion. Following worship, guests were welcomed including most of the working group for the West Quebec collective. Roger Snelling, a former president of Montreal

and Ottawa Conference, who along with his wife Sheila have moved to Ottawa and are members at Riverside, was acknowledged and it was noted that Roger as past-president is an automatic member of Ottawa Presbytery. Heather Smith from Riverside welcomed the presbytery.

The presbytery minister updated the court on the search of a new administrative assistance and noted correspondence received.

Members of the working group for West Quebec presented the report and recommendations regarding the formation of a collective group of congregations who would share resources and work cooperatively to enhance ministry opportunities. Five congregations have indicated their desire to enter the collective: Wakefield, Rupert, Chelsea, Cantley and Gatineau. The presbytery gave approval to the project and will be working with the congregations to give birth to this new initiative.

The call of a June meeting allowed the presbytery to give a longer agenda time to the discernment of whether to proceed to become an Affirming ministry. The Very Rev. Peter Short, who is currently serving as supply minister at Emmanuel United Church, served as facilitator for the conversation. After an hour long facilitated conversation and time to speak to the motion, the presbytery voted in favour of being an Affirming Ministry. A pastoral letter accompanies this summary to communicate this decision to the congregations of the presbytery.

The meeting concluded with an expression of appreciation to George for his leadership as chair, with singing and prayer led by Rev. Lillian Roberts.

Rev. Lillian Roberts
Presbytery Minister
Ottawa Presbytery
[613-224-5318](tel:613-224-5318) ex 11



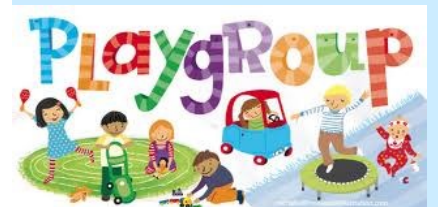
Parents and Tots

**Wednesday
mornings*
10am to noon
Parkdale Nursery**

Those with infants and pre-school children are welcome to join us for play time, adult conversation, snacks and opportunities to get to know other Christian parents with kids of the same age.

Moms and Dads welcome!!!

** We will discuss over the first meetings if Wednesdays are the best date for those able to attend. Please email Melodee (melodeelovering63@yahoo.ca) if interested in attending or looking for more information.*





COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 28, 2013

Parkdale Council met on May 28, 2013 for its last meeting before the summer break. Council Chair, Matt Baker, welcomed Blaine Pauling who was attending his first meeting as Vice-Chair of Council.

Melodee led the devotion, Reflections on Time, focusing on Psalm 139:16. She noted that it has been a wonderful year for Parkdale on many fronts but that it has also at times seemed a bit hectic. She challenged us to ask ourselves “how can we offer the gift of time” rather than “where will we find time?”

In small groups, we considered the following questions:

- What could we add, take away, or change about the life at Parkdale that would help people to live “the days that were ordained to me” (Ps. 139:16) in ways that are attentive to God and that help us to be present and fully alive in a particular moment?
- As a Council, what could we be doing to make sure that we use the gift of time well?

Back in plenary, members heard the summaries of group discussion, with some interesting and useful ideas, such as creating a Parkdale calendar for the year and developing a daily devotional resource. Melodee closed the time of devotion with prayer.

Business items included a discussion related to how Parkdale can work with Presbytery to reconstruct its membership list by sorting through and cataloguing material in the Archives. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Matt Baker or the church office.

There was a brief discussion of the draft material for the proposed Parkdale 101 workshop that would provide information on how Parkdale works, especially in relation to Presbytery. Matt Baker offered to lead this workshop; it was subsequently held on June 19, with a few interested and appreciative Parkdalers in attendance.

Council members also considered options for sharing the responsibility for hosting luncheons, many of which fall between February and May, with a view to providing some assistance and support to the Membership Development Committee, to which this responsibility often falls. The discussion focussed on responsibility for the luncheon provided in advance of the Annual General Meeting (AGM); it was agreed that a strategy for the AGM lunch would be developed by January 1, 2014, with a view to soliciting volunteers for this via sign-up sheets.

Ken Elder, Chair of Property Trustees, provided updates related to

upgrades in the Tape Hall kitchen, including new gas stoves with electrical starts and new ducts over the stoves. It was believed that the cost of these items could be covered from the current year budget, and would be shared by In from The Cold, a significant user of the kitchen. A new fire alarm panel will also be installed, on the recommendation of Chubb Edwards.

Council members proceeded to a discussion of our potential participation in Doors Open Ottawa – June 2014. It was noted that there had been some discussion of Parkdale’s participation in the 2013 event but our interest was discovered too late. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that if someone offers to coordinate the volunteer effort, then we would proceed; if no one volunteers to lead a working group on this, we will not. Application for this event has to be submitted in September 2013; if the Spirit is calling you to lead this project, please contact Matt Baker or the church office.

There ensued a vigorous discussion on accessibility, in particular the need for increasing the accessibility of the washroom outside Memorial Hall. It was noted that the renovation of this washroom is on the agenda for 2014, to be undertaken after the replacement of the stoves in the Tape Hall kitchen. There was a request to have this made a higher priority, with some interim measures taken in the short term, specifically the mounting of grab bars and the installation of push

buttons at the top and bottom of the ramp.

The Joint Search Committee, represented by Mary McLeod, reported that Rev. Debbie Roi, currently the incumbent at Pakenham United Church, has been offered the position of Pastoral Care Minister at Parkdale. Rev. Roi was an occupational therapist for many years before responding to the call to ministry, worked on the spiritual care team at the Queensway-Carleton Hospital, as well as in the perinatal bereavement unit, and will assume her duties at Parkdale in early September.

As at all Council meetings, Committee chairs provide written reports on recent activities and upcoming events, as well as a verbal update on the highlights of their work. A summary of these reports follows:

The Worship Committee has a wide-ranging mandate and is seeking to expand its current membership; support is specifically sought for implementation of the Worship Arts vision and for communion arrangements. If you feel called to respond to this request for support, please contact David Odumodu.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee reported that members would be meeting during the month of June with staff to conduct the semi-annual reviews.

The Christian Education Committee sought and received the support of



COUNCIL MEETING REPORT CONTINUED

Council for a new 'cinema group', which would meet monthly to view a movie with a religious theme, followed by discussion/fellowship. In addition, the Committee will be exploring ways of incorporating the 'Project of the Heart', a project in which a specific residential school is studied, into youth programming, with a view to stimulating discussions on the Christian perspective on justice. A new Sunday school curriculum is being evaluated, with the objective of finding something that would enable teachers to prepare a lesson in 30 minutes. Parkdale is blessed with a booming Sunday school and additional teachers are required. Plans are in the works for a Sunday school workshop in the fall to encourage and support new Sunday school teachers as they assume this important children's ministry.

Our Presbytery representative, Beth Gutsell, advised of upcoming issues to be discussed by Presbytery, including a request that Aboriginal people be referenced in the Parliamentary prayer, discussion of a motion to become an affirming Presbytery from the Affirming Discernment Committee, and a comprehensive review of structures and processes, with a view to proposing new models for church in response to concerns about loss of membership and the struggle to keep the national office open.

The Mission, Outreach and Justice

Committee reported on several activities, including a trip by 13 Parkdale members to Montreal on April 26 to attend Truth and Reconciliation hearings; a Blanket Exercise on June 13 - a dramatic display of the introduction over time of the various treaties which, in effect, reduced the lands of Aboriginal peoples; our support for and planned participation in a Habitat for Humanity build in Orleans on September 11; the return of Images and Stories on Friday, September 27; and of the Celebrating our Cultures event on October 19, 2013.

The Pastoral Care Committee reported a well-attended Special Communion on April 7 and is considering options for some congregational events in the fall. The Caring Kitchens ministry is in need of small casseroles, soup or muffins; if you like to cook or bake, your very welcome contributions can be left in the freezer in the Tape Hall kitchen.

The Stewardship Committee reported a successful Spirit-Given Gifts Workshop, held on May 4, during which about 20 people identified their gifts and where these might be put to use at Parkdale. The Committee continues to work on a Green Garbage policy for Parkdale.

The Finance Committee reported that, although the overall situation looks good, donations are down by about \$5K compared to last year.

Proceeds from use of premises are significantly higher than they have been in the past and it was noted that the use of premises needs to be looked at in terms of leaving enough space for our own programming. Anthony expressed some concern about the fact that increased revenue coming from use of space is offsetting the lower envelope givings, and reminded us that our disbursements will increase in the fall with a new staff person. The Finance and Stewardship Committees will work together to make current financial information more visible to the congregation. Also, in response to a recommendation from Council, a review of Parkdale's financial policies and controls will be undertaken by a contractor during the summer.

Questions were raised with respect to the possibility of conducting capital fundraising projects for specific purposes. Improved accessibility was recognized as a high priority for Parkdale, admittedly very costly. The Memorial Fund Working Group will be considering accessibility issues during its discussions.

Ministers' Reports were also provided to Council; highlights follow:

Melodee advised that well over 70 people have signed up for the Family Camp in June. She also advised that staffing of Sunday school teachers continues to be a challenge. We have more children and fewer teachers and she asked Council members to keep this challenge in our prayers over the summer.

She also noted that assistance was still required to supervise the children during summer Sundays. The Youth groups have been very active, with coffee shop proceeds of \$60 from smoothie day sent to Habitat for Humanity. The senior youth have been getting some cooking tips on Sunday evenings from Rob Hilkes and Paul Crabtree and met to wish a fond farewell to Liese Manchester, whose family is moving to PEI. Junior youth have also met regularly and planned a puppet show, The Old Rabbits' Home, which was performed on April 14 during the intergenerational worship service. During Thursday evenings in June, Melodee and Troy led a small group session catering to those interested in the arts, music, dance, writing and drama, using the book "The Worshipping Artist". Melodee continues to be an active participant in DaleSong and took both DaleSong and an intergenerational service to Russell United Church in April. On a more personal note, both sympathy and congratulations are offered to Melodee: sympathy on the passing of her father in early May and congratulations as she successfully continues her studies with the Princeton program and on the news that Presbytery will 'recognise' her as a Designated Lay Minister at their November meeting, which will be held at Parkdale on November 12, 2013.

Anthony reported on a wonderful pilgrimage to Greece called "In the footsteps of the Apostle Paul". Nineteen people in the Parkdale group were joined by members of a

Baptist church from Georgia and a United Methodist church from Texas. There will be a presentation to the congregation on this in the Fall. Anthony also reported on Parkdale's 82nd Anniversary celebrations on May 5 that had a Habitat for Humanity focus; the Faith Relations Officer of Habitat for Humanity, Rev. Jocelyn Richard-Livingstone, was the guest preacher and the service was followed by a luncheon and a panel discussion on Habitat for Humanity. Anthony spoke of the two Unbinding workshops that he had recently led, supported by David Odumodu and Helen Hayes – at St. Paul's University on May 4 and at the Mission Strategy Group of Ottawa Presbytery on May 25, and noted that there appears to be a lot of interest in contributing to ways of revitalizing congregations. He also highlighted that the interest in small groups has inspired the continuation of several groups, using different resources, in the Fall.

The Council meeting adjourned with a meaningful prayer, led by Matt Baker.



PARKDALE BAZAAR 2013/2014 PRESERVING JARS

Those who make preserves for the Bazaar appreciate very much all those members of the congregation who returned washed jars and their screw bands to the church for re-use in 2013/2014. It helps keep down prices because fewer boxes of Bernardin and Harvest Home 125 ml, 250 ml and 500 ml jars need to be purchased.

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 strong chemicals, like petroleum distillates, to remove the labels.



The Craft and Ministry of the Pastoral Prayer

For the last eight months, six individuals have blessed the congregation with their pastoral prayers. Gloria Anderson, Matt Baker, Hazel Bowen, Ruth Foster, Don MacPherson and Julee Pauling have provided us with a rich variety of prayer offerings. While Gloria and Hazel have been long-time members of the Parkdale Prayer Group and have had previous experience leading the congregation in prayer, for the others, it was a brand new venture. Everyone has expressed gratitude for the opportunity and found it to be a faith building one. Below is some of what they wrote when asked how the experience had been for them.

"Writing the pastoral prayer once every six weeks or so has given me greater appreciation for people who do it every week. Sometimes the inspiration for a prayer was right there; sometimes I had

to search hard for it. Participating in *Unbinding* was a big help as I was able to reflect back on conversations during the week and incorporate some thoughts. I also listened to the others who prayed and thought about the differences in styles and structures and appreciated the variety". (Matt)

"The prayers were on the back burners of my mind each month. At times I felt like the lone debutante at a Cowhands Ball – overwhelmed by the number of ideas which came a-courtin'. News headlines. *Unbinding your Soul* discussions. Scripture readings. Sermons. Blessings. Illnesses. Graduations. Baptisms. Marriages. Deaths. Vacations. Families. Celebrations. All struggled for a place in the prayers. All were part of the precariousness of being alive.

Who was I to raise these matters to God? Who was I to determine the prayers of the people that week? So I prayed. I prayed a lot about praying. And I grew in faith.... Though I stumbled and faltered through the prayers, I learned and grew and was blessed. I can respond to this opportunity in only one way: with awe and gratitude". (Ruth)

Hazel too wrote of the prayer that proceeds the crafting of the prayer. "Preparing the prayer has been challenging. Through time spent in prayer at my computer, slowly the ideas and the words came". Don, like Matt, alluded to the *Unbinding* experience and how he sought to share in a wider way the experiences of the discussions and of praying with his prayer partner. While preparing the pastoral prayer, he had to consider and learn about structure and what should be addressed and what to leave out.

Julie wrote: "I was glad to be asked to offer the pastoral prayer and to participate in worship in that way. I treasured the opportunity to be creative and expressive in my love of God, our church, and in service, and I felt this offering would be a wonderful bouquet of possibilities.

It was that and more. (It led to a desire to) be involved in pastoral service in a greater capacity. I also notice how the preparation and offering of the prayers was an exercise with the ego. I want-

ed the prayers to be *good*, I wanted them to be all things to all people – meaningful at many levels, and all the rest of it. It was interesting how much the nature of the doing can become for the sake of itself and for the form, rather than for the love of God and God's people. There is a temptation there to not offer just out of love for God but for what pleasure it brings you. The concomitant joys and struggles of offering the pastoral prayer was a good reminder to me of how we should never stop finding new ways of offering service, for the reflection it provides us of ourselves and our spiritual journey is abloom with suggestions of what to work on next. Thank you, Church, for allowing me this opportunity".

The congregation has been blessed indeed as our hearts and minds have been lifted up to God through these individuals and their prayers, which have been, as they are, honest, passionate, thoughtful, insightful, varied, and creative. Thanks be to God.



COOKIE LOVERS UNITE!

On the afternoon of October 5, the Memorial Hall at Parkdale will be filled with folks gathered to share their love of cookies and to raise money for *In From the Cold*. We are anticipating that many people will take part in the event as bakers, tasters, and volunteers.

The Cookie Jam is part cookie sale, part cookie competition. Bakers bake 26 cookies and bring them to Cookie Jam, ready to give away. In return, they get to browse the offerings of other bakers and fill a container with 8 cookies of their choice. For \$6, tasters get to help themselves to 8 delicious cookies also of their choice and to watch the drama of the competition unfold.

Bakers participate in the cookie competition by sending two of their cookies to the judge's table. They can enter their tasty treats into one of six categories:

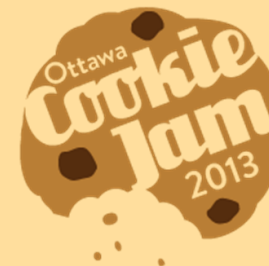
- Best Twist on a Tradition
- Best Gluten Free Cookie
- Best Sandwich Cookie
- Best Unexpected Ingredient
- Best Family Recipe
- Best Chocolate Lover's Cookie

The cookie competition will be adjudicated by three teams of judges. Each team will have three judges and will be responsible for two categories. Judges include local bakers, food writers and bloggers, community members, and Parkdale's own, Anthony Bailey. Winners and runners-up in each category will receive a prize. There will also be a grand prize for best overall cookie.

Beyond supporting *In From the Cold*, Cookie Jam provides the perfect excuse to get back into cookie baking or to try your hand at a new recipe. It is also a wonderful opportunity to share your cookie baking skills with someone you love: a sibling, a parent, a grandchild, a friend...the possibilities are endless!

Both bakers and tasters must register in advance. To register or to learn more about Ottawa Cookie Jam 2013, please visit www.ottawacookiejam.wordpress.com. You can also find us on Twitter: @ottawacookiejam #ottcookiejam2013.

Any questions can be directed to Jess Dunkin (613.656.5504 or dunkin.jessica@gmail.com)





EDITORIAL BOARD

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Proofreader: Elise Mennie

Contributors: Helen Hayes, Carolynn Trites, Elise Mennie, John Harewood, Barbara Faught, Elizabeth Gutsell, Hazel Bowen, Lorraine Hanna, Kathleen Stephenson, Valerie Hum, Charles Levy, Faye Beaufort, Jessica Dunkin, Alex Stockwell, Jaylyn and Dave Smith, Peter and Kathryn Meerburg, Camille Beaufort, Lorraine Hanna and Ann Tompkins

We are always looking for new ideas,
volunteers and submissions.

The Parkdale Messenger is published at Parkdale United Church
on the last Sunday of each month and includes a calendar of
events and activities for the following month.

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

Next issue: **October 2013.**

Editor next issue: **Blaine Pauling**

Please submit articles and materials to
messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca

or the church office

by **Sunday September 15th***

***3rd last Sunday of each month**