

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Parkdale United Church

429 Parkdale Ave.

Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 1H3

Telephone: (613) 728-8656

Fax: (613) 728-9686

E-mail: pdale@trytel.com

Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey: abailey@trytel.com

Rev. Alcris Limongi: alcris@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca

Melodee Lovering: mmlovering@gmail.com

Website: www.parkdaleunitedchurch.ca

the Messenger



EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor this issue: Danica Rogers

Proofreader: Jaylyn Wong

Contributors: Elaine West, Val Hum, Jill Hamer-Wilson, Carolyn Halkett, Gloria Goodine, Kathryn Meerburg, Peter Meerburg, Judy Hamley, Hepsy Grigffiths, Elise Mennie, John Harewood, Camille Beaufort, Beth Gutsell. Chris Hinds, Mary Mcleod, Faye Beaufort

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: **October 2017**
Editor next issue: Elise Mennie

Send submissions to:
messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca
or the church office by **September**

Where to find it...



Message from the Minister	3
Lectionary.....	6
Bible Study.....	7
Our New Pastoral Care Minister	8
Rev. Limongi is here!.....	16
Images and Stories.....	18
Refugee Family Update	19
Fall Rummage Sale.....	20
Kids Clothing and Toy Swap.....	21
Fall Children and Youth Programs	22
Christmas Pageant	23
Dalesong Picnic.....	24
Prayer Shawl.....	26
September Birthdays.....	28
Recipe.....	29
Living into Right Relations.....	30
Yuletide Bazaar	34
Namby Pamby	36
Book Club	38

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>

Pilgrimage

By Anthony Bailey

*God is with us in every
pass, Jesus is with us
on every hill,
Spirit is with us on
every stream, headland
and ridge
and lawn;
Each sea and land,
each moor and mead-
ow,
Each lying down, each
rising up,
In the trough of the
waves, on the crest of
the billows,
Each step of the jour-
ney we take.*

(Adapted from Carmina
Gadelica)

The whole notion of pilgrim-
age is not new; it is an ancient
human tradition. It is an inten-
tional act of departure from the



ordinary into an experience
that may be called sacred, or
significant, or reflective, or
cathartic; perhaps all of these.

Pilgrimage is embedded in the
Christian faith tradition
and in the traditions of our
neighbours of other faiths.
Sacred pilgrimage is a form of
faith development that
involves both spiritual dis-
cernment and action. As such,
it is both a destination and a
process.

*(World Council of
Churches)*

My near 900 km pilgrimage
on the Camino de Compostela

in northern Spain was a sacred time of reflection, wrestling, prayer and embodied awareness of the splendour, mysteriousness and humour of God. The Spanish vistas were breathtaking. The physical challenge was real and near constant (especially walking with a slight injury). The people I met and the hosting of one another's stories turned out to be sacred and profound encounters. I am still relishing, reminiscing and discerning the experiences and reflecting on their significance. I am feeling that it is still premature to speak in detail about my journey and what I am still experiencing and reflecting on.

I am grateful for having in some way accomplished one of my other sabbatical goals which was to reconnect with and in some cases spend more time with close and extended family and friends. This included trips to Toronto, Montreal and a vacation in Newfoundland. In the case of the latter, it was the only province that Wendy and I had not visited. We enjoyed the wonder-

ful people of that province, the puffin and whale-watching, and a number of the historical sites around St John's as well as in the central and western regions of the island.

The truth is however, we do not have to go away to be on a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage can be any journey that is intentionally put in God's hands. In can be an internal intentional reflective exercise that is undertaken by an individual or even a community of individuals. As a Parkdale United community of faith, the idea of journeying together in worship, fellowship, study, prayer and outreach in step with the way of Jesus, can be another kind of pilgrimage. Walking with God and finding God in our conversations, activities and reflections as we do life together can be a way of growing in Christian maturity, in love and support of each other, and in faithfulness.

May I invite all of us, as we commence another ministry and program year, to intentionally – as a community of faith

and as individual members of this community – place our journey of faith, study, mission, outreach, prayer and witness in God’s hands. Like the disciples both on the Emmaus Road and in the subsequent meal with Jesus (Luke 24:13-31), let us be open to encountering a surprising Jesus; let us return again to Scriptures and see what Christ is disclosing; let us pray, worship, fellowship and reach out together and behold what wondrous things God has in store for us and for our contribution to the blessing of our neighbourhood and our city.

As a congregation, we are grateful to receive Rev. Alcris Limongi, our new pastoral care minister, into this fellowship of Parkdale United Christ-followers, and look forward to how God will use her and her leadership here to advance the faithfulness and reach of our ministry in service to God’s Mission. While away, I became even more persuaded of how special this Parkdale community of faith

is, and how important our presence, and our ministry is. I have also heard repeatedly in my Camino walk and prayer times: GET GOING (*and no this wasn’t a prompt to get up in the morning lest I oversleep in the hostels*). We are so blessed with the resources of location, faith, people, gifts, leadership, commitment, and joy, that I believe much is expected of us as we serve God’s purposes in our neighbourhood, city and beyond. “To whom much has been given...and entrusted with much, much more will be required.” (Luke 12:48)

So let us prayerfully discern in what way (s) we are to GET GOING!

Peace and Joy
Anthony

PS. I give God thanks for all of you who in large and small ways contributed to and sustained the ministry and witness of our congregation while I was away. I am not surprised at this, I am grateful.



LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Proper 17 (22) - September 3, 2017

- Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
- Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8
- Romans 12:9-21
- Matthew 16:21-28

Proper 18 (23) - September 10, 2017

- Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149
- Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40
- Romans 13:8-14
- Matthew 18:15-20

Holy Cross - September 14, 2017

- Numbers 21:4b-9 and Psalm 98:1-5 or Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
- John 3:13-17

Proper 19 (24) - September 17, 2017

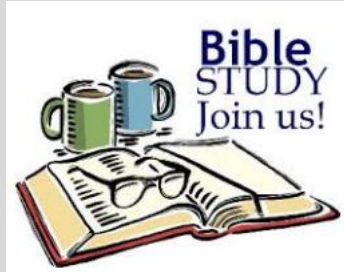
- Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
- Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
- Romans 14:1-12
- Matthew 18:21-35

Proper 20 (25) - September 24, 2017

- Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
- 

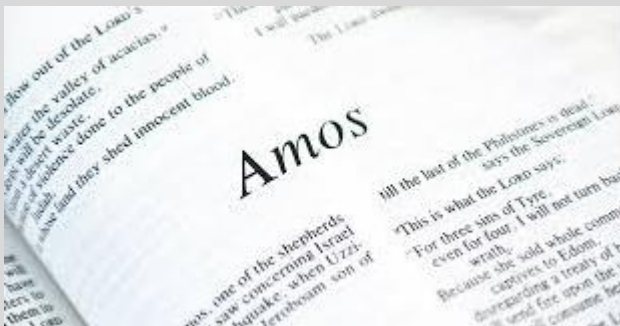
Tuesday Morning **Bible Study**

Engaging the Book of Amos: Its significance then and now



Beginning Tuesday September 19, we will be explore the powerful prophetic book of Amos. Speaking of behalf of God, as he discerns God's intentions, Amos delivers a strong, unpopular, courageous and necessary message not only to the nations of Israel and Judah, but also to the surrounding nations. Injustice was rampant and there was great moral corruption. Social conditions were appalling. People did not take their religious covenant responsibilities seriously. It was a time of growth and wealth and their hearts clung to worldly things, the rich took advantage of the poor. (Amos 2:6 8) Amos does not only condemn their wrongdoing and misplaced priorities, he casts a poignant vision of

God
in the
faith-
and
com-



ant vi-
what
desires
way of
fulness
the
mon

OUR NEW PASTORAL CARE MINISTER

Rev. Alcris Limongi joined Parkdale as Minister of Pastoral Care in July. In this interview with *The Messenger*, she discusses her background, her faith journey, and her initial impressions.

Tell us about yourself and your background, your family and growing up.



I was born in Caracas, Venezuela as the eldest of five children. My grandfathers came to South America from Europe, and they both married Venezuelan women. The one from my father's side came from Maratea, in Northern Italy; and the one on my mother's side came from Barcelona, Spain. I know my name may sound difficult, but it is actually quite simple. It is a combination of my mother's name (Cristina) and my dad's

(Alfredo), so I am *Alcris*. My sister's name is the opposite to mine: *Crisal*. The other two of course also carry our parent's names: Alfredo and Cristina. The youngest one's name is Olga Cristina.

I grew up in Caracas, and then we moved to Maracay. My mother was a teacher while I was in elementary school, then she taught History and Geography when I went to High School, and she subsequently moved up to be a College principal. She was

a hard worker, strong, loyal, and showed us how to love and care for each other. Therefore, I have the blessing of a very close family. My dad died when I was 16. He was a caring, charismatic, creative and studious man with a big heart and a great sense

of humour. He always looked for the positive and compassionate side of things. I grew up with my grandmother (La Titi) living with us, and enjoyed my great-grandmother until I was 18, and my great-great grandmother until I was 5. This meant extra love and fun in my life because of them.

I was married for 16 years, then divorced. I have no children, but I am the favourite aunt to eight nieces and

nephews, back in Venezuela. We recently added a new baby in our family from one of my nieces. His name is Fabriccio Alejandro, and he is a cutie!

What influenced you to embark on a spiritual/faith journey?

I was raised in the Roman Catholic Church. When I was very young, I used to attend mass with my great grandma, and I vividly remember that as a 5 or 6 year-old, I used to think that I wanted to be like the priest one day: wearing that white robe and being close to God. Years passed, and when I was 19, a call to ministry became clear to me, and I immediately made a radical u-turn in my life. I quit my job and went from Engineering to a theological seminary. In the admittance interview, the Principal asked me what was I doing there, going for a degree in theology since I was a woman, and as such I could only be a pastor's wife or to teach children. I knew in my heart that God had called me, so I took up the challenge and said "Don't worry, there will be a space for me to serve God." And here I am today, following that dream. Since I responded to my call, an amazing journey began for me. With this deep sense of call in my heart, I have followed God to spaces and places that I would have never imagined. As I go, each stage has shaped me, taught me skills that I'd need along the way, and refined my God-given-gifts.

What has been your church-related experience, and how did you come to the United Church of Canada?

I came to Canada in September 1994. I came as a Presbyterian; on our first weekend in Canada we worshipped at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at King and University in Toronto. Soon after that I joined the United Church of Canada - I think I became a member in 1996. I was introduced to the United Church through a chain of events, connections, and the book "This United Church of Ours" from Ralph Milton. It was an easy read in English, and painted a picture of a church that I wanted to be part of. In particular, I was very attracted to the United Church New Creed, which many years after still continues to affirm my faith and my identity as part of the United Church of Canada. My first job in Canada was as a program coordinator with Senior Adult Services, a non-profit organization, and Bloor Street United became my home congregation.

I have served in the United Church in different capacities and contexts. My first sermon in English was at a World Day of Prayer service (as a UCC representative) in a Roman Catholic parish in Toronto. I have served as pulpit supply in different cities in Ontario, Sunday School Coordinator, Youth Coordinator, Nursery teacher, volunteer in an Out

-of-the-Cold program, and Refugee Outreach Committee member. I have served at different ecumenical tables representing the UCC, and collaborated in writing pieces and facilitating Bible studies and training workshops.

I was employed in the UCC's General Council Office as the Program Coordinator for Racial Justice, Gender Justice and Sexual Minorities during a unique time for the church, at a time of stretching boundaries and seeking transformation. Let me expand on this: for the very first time the UCC had integrated these pieces of work in the same portfolio; it was new and holy ground for me, as it was for the church. One of the core parts of my job was to animate the General Council decision of Commitment to Inclusion for the triennium (2009-2012). I was also the program staff for the National UCW. This particular experience was enjoyable and fun, but also full of learning and inspiration, as I journeyed with the national presidents and had the privilege of being part of the UCW 50th Anniversary. Great friendships and good memories remain from that time.

My time at the General Council Office was an intense time of work, moving into different geographical areas, work spaces and courts of the United Church. It was a time of deep reflection, big challenges and great learning for me, and themes such as: radical welcoming, equity, inclusion,

institutional change/transformation, courageous conversations about differences, and celebrating our God-given diversity and uniqueness were at the center of my biblical inquiry, spirituality, theological reflection and praxis in this stage. In order to deepen this vision, besides digging and reflecting on the Scriptures, I sought to further my training in the areas of listening, conflict resolution, coaching and facilitation skills to enhance my pastoral care skills. As a result, I am familiar and comfortable with personal and institutional changes and transitions.

What gifts do you bring to ministry?

I bring all my life experiences and studies, my gifts and abilities, my strengths and growing edges. I bring a perspective from my brown-eyes, a second language that is not only words, but a world view that in its diversity contributes to the whole. I bring my reality of living between worlds, and in two worlds simultaneously, experiencing reality from different cultures and social locations of privilege and marginality. In the journey, I have experienced God's amazing love and grace... I have developed a pastoral heart to walk with people... a long journey behind me ... and a new journey ahead in the Parkdale family.

Besides a strong and personal faith, some of the many experiences I bring to Parkdale are:

Bilingual and bicultural: My cross-cultural personal experiences help me to understand the complexity and wealth of diversity, and the value of theological differences within the unity and diversity in the Holy Spirit. In hindsight, I see a pattern of navigating in two worlds simultaneously, in different geographic areas and contexts, experiencing reality from different cultures and social locations of privilege and marginality, in order to articulate them together. As I look back, I see how my personal journey has helped me to strengthen my faith and develop new sensibilities, social justice commitments, and inspired me to serve the ones in the outskirts of society and open paths for others. In the process, I have developed a pastoral heart.

I have unique mentors in my formal theological education, my ministers at Bloor Street United Church and my former supervisors both at the General Council Office and the United Methodist Church. Each one of them has been an instrument of God's grace for me. They intersected my life, contributing to enrich my vocation, and have been exceptional role models of intercultural leadership within their own ministry contexts, and have challenged me to become a biblical and compassionate life-reflector.

A solid Biblical theological education: I studied five years of theology in Venezuela. I majored in New Tes-

tament, and my thesis was a Greek-Spanish Exegetical Tool. I did my MDiv at Emmanuel College in Toronto. As the only Latin-American student at Emmanuel College at the time, I was granted permission to participate each year at the Hispanic Summer program in the US, to complement my ministerial and theological formation. It was a privilege for me to take courses in highly accredited universities in the US with several of the most renowned theologians/ministers in the Hispanic/Latino theological ecumenical community in North America. I received many scholarships and academic awards in the Masters program, I believe 22. After graduation I was accepted into the Toronto School of Theology as a candidate for Doctoral studies in New Testament. I put my doctoral studies on hold when I went to work at the National Church office. Studying and researching are two of my passions, I am a lifelong learner.

A broad ecumenical exposure: My ecumenical experience comes from being exposed to and having served in different Christian denominations, i.e., the United Church of Canada, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the *Seminario Evangelico Asociado*—where I did my first theological degree, and the Roman Catholic church where I grew up. I have participated in numerous ecumenical events and/or facilitated in shared work spaces with the Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network, Women's Inter-

church Council of Canada; as representative of the Canadian Council for Theological Students' Association; shared work projects with the United Church of Australia and the United Church of Christ; and participated as well with the United States Presbyterian Church and the World Council of Churches. This exposure has added wealth to my faith and has also broadened my vision to the diversity of contexts, faith experiences, theological journeys and social realities of other groups within our Christian tradition.

With regards to ministry with women, an area that is very close to my heart, I assisted the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada in various programs: Brown Bag Bible Studies, the World Day of Prayer liturgy, the Last Coin, in the design of the December 6th services and International Women's Day events. At Church House I was part of the staff team to participate in the last Sounding the Bamboo – the UCC ethnic minorities women's biannual event. The theme was "Eve, Mary. White Feather and Us..." I also coordinated the International Women's Day worship and celebrations, as well as the December 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. I have been on the organizing team for women's retreats, small groups, as well as community action, leadership development and ministry groups.

Your job responsibilities with Parkdale focus mainly on pastoral care of the congregation. What is pastoral care, and what does that involve?

I will start by saying that I believe in the *priesthood of all believers*: we all are gifted, called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness the amazing, inclusive and unconditional love of God and to announce the Good News of the kingdom of God. The church, as the Body of Christ, is called to bear witness of Christ and continue the work initiated by him. The Biblical image that I would use as a reference comes from the Gospel of Luke 4: 18-19, as Jesus initiated his public ministry: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: because the Most High has anointed me to bring the Good News to those who are poor. God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive, recovery of sight to those who are blind, and release to those in prison – to proclaim the year of God's favour". I understand ministry as service, *diakonia*. The whole people of God are invited and gifted by the Spirit to serve God through serving the church and the world in multiple ways. As I understand, the areas and scope of ministries are not restricted, but led by the Holy Spirit, and shaped by the gifts and needs of the context. Some in the Body have been called (and equipped and em-

powered by the Spirit) to the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, which is for the nurturing of the Church (the Word and Sacraments), sustaining (worship and pastoral care) and equipping (teaching and coaching) for God's mission in the world.

Reflecting now on what is my theological understanding of pastoral care ministry, I would take it primarily from Jesus as our good shepherd. According to the Gospel of John and Psalm 23, the shepherd walks with the flock. In this action of taking individual care and walking, many different circumstances arise: ones of joy and celebration, others of concern, danger and crisis, others of drastic change and others of transition. Therefore I see it as *caminando* (walking with) people in all the stages of life, nurturing their faith, equipping them for their service, being a presence in their day-to-day, in the gray and sometimes messy areas of life. These are the uncomfortable and not-always-clear zones, but it is where grace, growth and transformation happen.

This walking is built upon a relationship of trust, confidentiality and mutual respect. It involves listening, praying, counseling and/or coaching as people discover/affirm their gifts, articulate their own place in the Body of Christ and untangle/strengthen their own particular journeys of faith as they follow Jesus. Within this pastoral relationship, we

walk life together, worshiping, sharing, serving, praying, learning, laughing, crying, seeking justice and resisting evil as we follow Jesus and are transformed by the Holy Spirit. I do pray and hope that the unconditional love and grace of God, and God's open table are the markers of my ministry.

I see the potential of doing Pastoral Care through small groups and developing a culture of care in the congregation – which personally I think it is already there... This could be an outlet for those who would not see themselves in a one-on-one session with the minister or lay person, but connect better with the group and the Body of Christ at large. It is a way for outreach in the community, it could serve others who are “unchurched,” and attract those in need to work on a specific area. This is one of the ministry areas that give me life and energy. I like visiting people, especially the elderly. I have good rapport with all age groups, and I try to be aware of some generic different generations' spiritual needs and values.

Some of my strengths are: I care about people, and honour their experiences. I approach pastoral care aware of the responsibility, confidentiality, privilege and sacredness of the task. I believe we are fellow journeyers – human beings and equal children of God. I am warm, patient, thoughtful, engaging, caring and creative. I enjoy listening to people,

and it comes naturally to me to offer feedback and affirmation. I am an encourager and easy-to-relate-with. I am an intentional listener – always in the hopes of improving this skill. According to the Myers Briggs evaluation framework, I am almost in the middle of introverted and extroverted, leaning towards introverted. I am a processor, sometimes I need time to come back with an answer, but we are all different and unique. Also I try to be aware of my own needs, wants and personal processes when in a pastoral care situation. I feel a special connection to those who are most vulnerable or going through difficult paths.

What led you to Parkdale United Church?

Definitely I think God, no doubt about it. Here are some clues: I was very serious in applying for a congregation. It was a prayerful discernment process for me. My prayer was to find a congregation that could be the perfect match for me, and I for them. I wanted to be called where I could offer my gifts, experiences and who I am in a meaningful way. With this prayer in my heart, I went through many JNACs in the United Church of Canada Leadership Network website, where congregations post their vacancies. Parkdale's post caught my attention because of the description of responsibilities, the possibility of being on a team ministry, and the cultural diversity of the congregation.

You have been a part of our Parkdale family for only a few weeks. What are your early impressions?

My first direct encounter with Parkdale was through the Search Committee. I faced a group of warm, grounded and very focused people, who were very committed to their task and content about their church. There, in that first interview, I experienced for the first time Parkdale's flavour: a commitment to social justice – not from an activist point of view, but from Christian compassion and discipleship; a biblical/theologically-sound congregation, well rooted in faith, with a spark of enthusiasm about possibilities, eager for more of what they experienced with the Unbinding the Gospel, a diverse and harmonious group who, as a whole, bear a strong witness to the Lord in the community and the world. I encountered a healthy congregation of multiple generations, who after many years are still excited about the past, happy about the present, and expectant about the future. Another good sign for me was that at the end of an exhaustive and focused interview, with well-planned and direct questions, I was not tired and easily could have stayed a couple of more hours with them!

Since then, I have experienced Parkdale in different settings and occasions. Let me tell you of some: The family camp at Gracefield in June allowed me to get to know peo-

ple in a relaxed setting as we shared a meal, a walk or a craft-making activity. You must know that I also had my first-ever canoe trip! Andrew took the risk of being tipped by me... but I didn't ... I paddled nicely! I also was invited to the DaleSong BBQ at Melodee, Jack and Tanzie's.... This was another special sharing time for me. I connected in some more depth with a few and listened to personal stories on the beginnings of DaleSong. Then I was welcomed by the Pastoral Care Team a week before my official start on July 15th. This is how thoughtful and welcoming you are, I loved it!!! Barbara Faught offered a lovely luncheon at her home for me to get to know the team. This was an opportunity, in a beautiful garden setting, to enjoy conversation, be together for the first time, and even get to know more of one another through a game. I experienced my first Parkdale potluck and was generously given leftovers for my first week in town. Thanks Barbara and the team!

The following week, I attended my first Sunday worship service, and I was welcomed personally by many at the end of the service. Many pictures were taken spontaneously by Hepsy and, along with new names and faces, some already familiar faces came to greet me – some conversations were even sprinkled with a few words in Spanish from several of you who know my native language. I heard about personal stories

on beginnings at Parkdale, comments on the various tasks and committees you participate in, and how welcomed you made me feel. I am blessed and affirmed that this is my new family.

I need to highlight that members of the Pastoral Care Team, along with others from the congregation, including Barbara Faught, and Peter Meerburg (from the Ministry & Personnel Committee) have showered me with expressions of practical care. In a few days I went from having piles of boxes to having a home! I also want to mention the staff: Melodee, Don, Johanna and Norman who from my very first day have been more than helpful, caring and supportive to me in this first stage of my ministry here. Melodee has been instrumental in welcoming me and introducing me to the congregation.

At the time of this interview, I have not yet met Dr. Bailey (who has been on sabbatical and vacation), but I am very excited and expectant about the upcoming opportunity and enormous privilege of serving together in God's ministry among you. I am happy to report that I feel as if I have been here for a long time....I have been meeting new people during the weekdays, or deepening conversations that had started on Sundays. I have received emails and visits in the office to talk about ideas, dreams and gifts. I have been visiting with the Pastoral Care team the elder saints they individually

“Alcris met some of the congregation for Parkdale’s annual family camping trip in late June and did some canoeing.”

Rev. Limongi is here!

By Chris Hinds with input from
Mary Mcleod

After a few months of intensive searching and interviewing, the Joint Search Committee (JSC) recommended Rev. Alcris Limongi to the congregation earlier this summer and she began as Parkdale’s new Minister of Pastoral Care in late July.

As part of the application process, the JSC asked all the applicants to submit a statement of faith. Alcris’ statement was clear and unequivocal. She believes in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the authoritative and relevant role of Scripture, both personally and for the church. She understands ministry as service. She says at the end of her statement of faith that, “I am God’s child and I have the enormous privilege of being called to serve him, his church and his world.”

Alcris attended the Roman Catholic Church as a child. She had a deep sense of wanting to be like a priest—closer to God. This feeling never left her. Alcris left the Roman Catholic

Church when she was told that if she wanted to serve God she should become a nun. That didn’t go over well with her.

“I was born and raised in the Roman Catholic Church in Venezuela. In my late teens I felt I was called to ministry. Since then an amazing journey began for me.

With this call in my heart I have followed God to spaces and places that I would have never imagined. As I go, each stage has shaped me, taught me skills that I’d need along the way and refined my God-given-gifts,” Alcris notes.

She went on to study engineering but still felt the call to serve the church. She attended a Pentecostal seminary in Venezuela but again was told if she wanted to serve the church she should become a pastor’s wife. Alcris then joined the Presbyterian church because they were the only denomination in Venezuela who would ordain women.

When she came to Canada in 1996 she was put in touch with Reverend Linda Butler then minister of Bloor Street United Church in Toronto. Linda had served in Buenos Aires and was fluent in Spanish. The two women have been friends ever since.

“As a retired ESL teacher, I can tell you that her spoken English is excellent and her written English remarkable for someone who came to English well into her adult years,” re-

marked Mary McLeod, Co-Chair of the Joint Search Committee and Chair of the Pastoral Care Team.

In 2006, Alcris received her M.Div. at Emmanuel College University of Toronto and then became a doctoral candidate in New Testament studies at the Toronto school of theology. In addition to her work at General Council Offices, Alcris has served as pulpit supply to many congregations across the country. Her references remarked that she is a fine preacher and that her sermons are creative and scripture-based.

In her work as Racial Justice, Gender Justice and Sexual Minorities Program Coordinator at General Council Offices of the United Church of Canada (UCC) from 2009 - 2013, she provided leadership and helped the UCC become an anti-racist, anti-sexist, welcoming denomination. During her time there, she had extensive experience designing programs for and facilitating small groups, in addition to designing a curriculum on *Courageous Conversations about Differences*.

Alcris sees Pastoral Care as one of the main pillars of ministry. Although she has not served specifically as a pastoral care minister, she has a wealth of experience to bring to the position. For example, she served as an associate pastor for the Latino community at Millbrook United Methodist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina in 2015-16. During her

interview with the JSC she gave several examples of very difficult situations where she was in fact providing excellent pastoral care including through prayer and reading of scriptures.

Alcris has a solid academic background, including PhD studies. She has an in-depth knowledge of the scriptures (more than most, according to one of her references). She has organized English reading classes for children, worked with seniors and developed an on-line theology course.

"I believe we have found in our process, a person who sees pastoral care as sacred. She is able to engage fully with the people she is speaking with. The Joint Search Committee saw this in our interview with her and I observed this personally when Alcris and I spent some time together one afternoon," concluded Mary.

As she begins her Ministry at Parkdale, Alcris hopes to demonstrate her love for God through her ministry - "One of my strongest gifts is in teaching and preaching. I have been exposed to a great variety of theo-



IMAGES & STORIES



Returns **Friday, September 22** - the 2nd to last Friday of September. Please note that this is the only month I&S will be held on the 2nd to last Friday of the month. For the rest of the season we will return to our regular time slot on the last Friday of the month - October 27, November 24, January 26, February 23 and March 30, 2018.

You will not want to miss our September 22nd opening night featuring our new **Pastoral Care Minister - Rev. Alcris Limongi**. Come travel along with Alcris on her life's journey from Venezuela to Parkdale. You will also have the unique pleasure of wishing her a happy birthday as we enjoy fellowship and refreshments after her presentation which goes from 7:00 - 8:00pm in the Ladies' Parlour.



Can you help our Syrian refugee family?

Zuhir Saleh, father of the Syrian refugee family sponsored by our church, is doing very well in his English language class. He now needs to spend more time speaking English outside of the classroom and is looking for a part-time job in the east end of Ottawa (for easier transportation) where he can talk with workmates and customers. It will also provide valuable work experience in a Canadian setting. If you know any possible job, please contact Faye Beaufort at 613-562-9677 or Ed Ellis at 613-406-8722. They will connect you or the prospective employer with Zuhir.





#WelcomeRefugees

REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE - Zuhir, Ftmeah, Mustafa, Tuka, Mahdi, & Mutassem are all adjusting very well to their new home and also progressing very well in their English language skills. The father, Zuhir, as you have seen in the Sunday Bulletin, is looking for a part-time job where he will be able to practice speaking with people. Ftmeah, his wife, also goes to English classes and has a small job teaching Arabic for a few hours starting September. Mustafa works part-time in a grocery store but needs a job with more hours to raise money as he is planning to go back and complete his pharmacology 3rd year studies in Jordan. Tuka has passed her ESL exam and will now do regular classes to complete Grade 12 and hopefully be ready to enter university September 2018. The two small boys 12 & 13 continue to be model students at Terry Fox School - Mutassem in Math and Mahdi in soccer. Both are now really good in English.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Ed Ellis for working regularly with Zuhir on his English and other community matters, Nesta Scott for working with Tuka on her ESL progress, Wally, Danielle and others who have been helpful in so many ways. Although our legal responsibility for the family ended June 2017 and they now have some financial assistance from government programs, we continue to monitor them as they may well need a little help from us - their sponsors. Thanks to your generosity we still have money left in our refugee fund.

They continue to express their gratitude to their Parkdale family and want to help in whatever way they can. The father is anxious to help at our In From The Cold as he did at the end of the last season. Thank you all for your continued support. They are extremely grateful to you. (Faye Beaufort, Chair, Mission, Outreach & Justice Committee)



PARKDALE'S FALL RUMMAGE SALE

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016
9AM to 12 NOON**

HELPERS WOULD BE APPRECIATED

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

Mark items clearly "Rummage Sale" and leave them at the door to the Memorial Hall. Please drop items off by Thursday, September 28, 2016.

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

If you need help getting items to the church, please contact Don in the office at church at 613-728-8656.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





Parkdale Kids Clothing and Toy Swap – Everyone welcome!

The Swap will be held after the service on Sunday, September 24 in Memorial Hall. People are invited to put out clothing, shoes, toys, books, equipment, etc. for babies, children and youth before the church service, from 9:30-10:30 AM. All interested people may come and take the items they want for free after the service, from 12:00-1:00 PM. Drop by on your way home! Invite a friend, or pick up some items for someone you know!

All items should be in good condition. Leftovers can be left for the rummage sale the following week. If you have questions or can help with set up or tear down, please contact Jaylyn Wong (jaylynanddave@rogers.com).



Parkdale's Children and Youth programs - Fall 2017



Welcome Back

Sunday, September 10: Barbecue & Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 17: First Sunday of Sunday school

Confirmation programme

Sunday, October 15: First week of a six-week programme

Saturday, November 18 Confirmation Retreat

Events and Activities:

Friday, October 20: Sports night for senior youth (grades 7 and up)

Sunday, November 12: Family Games Night and potluck

Christmas Pageant

Saturday December 9: Dress Rehearsal and Family Carol Sing

Sunday December 10: Christmas Pageant

Coffee Shop

After service on Sunday October 1, November 5, and December 17

Volunteers Needed

We invite parents to volunteer as an aide in their child's classroom to find out what and how they are learning. You may even consider whether you might like to participate in the awesome joy of being a Sunday school teacher! For more information or to volunteer, please contact: Melodee Lovering, Minister to Youth and Children, 613-728-8656, mmlovering@gmail.com

Christmas Pageant

It is never too soon to start working on the Christmas Pageant — at least this is Melodee's philosophy. This year's ideas came to her in January. Since then we have been recruiting people to sew and help build a puppet stage for the 2017 pageant. Hannie Fitzgerald (shown) has done the lion's share of the puppet construction, by taking an existing puppet, making a pattern and constructing two full muppets. Additionally she has made kits for the remaining eight and these will be distributed to other sewers, including Jane Barbe, Barbara Faught, and Johanna Lace. Wenxi Chen is working on another huge sewing project which shall remain relatively secret until Christmas. Thanks to everyone who has offered to help. There will be more to do in the fall.



the Messenger





DaleSong Picnic

Twenty-four members of DaleSong, their friends and family members, met at the Loverings for the annual picnic on July 23. We were happy to be able to welcome Rev. Alcris Limongi to the event as well. The rain held off so that we were able

to have a fire, roast hotdogs, blow bubbles, and reconnect. There were great conver-



Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Group will start up again on Wednesday, September 20, at 10:00 in the Ladies' Parlour. All are welcome. If you don't know how to crochet, we will teach you. It is a very easy skill to learn.

The prayer shawls are given to people who are having a difficult time for any number of reasons. We also present shawls to children who are baptized. Everyone who receives a shawl is most grateful.

If you would like to participate in this ministry but are unable to attend the group, you could make shawls independently. The yarn must be machine washable and dryable and synthetic yarn is preferred to wool because of possible allergy issues.

Please contact **Mary McLeod** if you would like more information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry.



::Needed::

500 ml Mason Jars for canning peaches
and beets for the bazaar

Please leave them in front of
the chapel marked attention to
Val Hum Or they may be
dropped off at 13 Hutchison
Ave off Parkdale Ave

Thank You Barbara Faught!

On behalf of Parkdale United Church, we would like to thank Barbara Faught for providing pastoral care to our congregation since February 2017. Barbara willingly agreed to take on this role until we hired a new Pastoral Care Minister. Now that Rev. Alcris Limongi has joined Parkdale, Barbara is now able to re-retire! We thank you Barbara for your continuous help each week for the past 7 months and we are happy that you have more time now to enjoy your retirement. Blessings to you with thanks.



Birthdays in September

Our warmest greetings to:

3rd Camrynn Haynes
5th Liam Praamsma
5th Tianna Beaufort-Bradley
8th Liz Harrison
9th Maxim Beaufort-Bradley
10th Marion Baird
11th Kevin Bosch
16th Miriam Lanyom
16th Freda Sutton
20th Mike Ubong Akpan
21st Samantha Larabie
22th Maija Duncan
22th Elsie Harman
22th Riley Strangemore
28th John King
29th Gail Thain



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.



Recipe

This recipe is not original, but has received rave reviews from those who have shared it with us. It can be used with any white fish i.e. haddock, cod. Submitted by Mary Turner and Peter Graham.

COD AU GRATIN



3 Tablespoons flour
3 Tablespoons butter
2 cups milk
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup dry breadcrumbs
1/2 cup grated Cheddar cheese
3 cups cooked, cubed cod
2 Tablespoons butter

- Prepare a white sauce with butter, flour, milk and salt.
- Add grated cheese to white sauce and mix until well blended.
- Set oven at 400°F. to preheat.
- Arrange alternate layers of cooked cubed cod and cheese

Living into Right Relations

Faith and the Algonquins' right to their religious site

On Tuesday June 20th, Algonquin Elder Albert Dumont invited some faith leaders to attend a prayer circle on Victoria Island; Barbara Faught and Elise Mennie attended on behalf of Rev. Anthony Bailey. Elder Dumont asked those present if they would support the Algonquin peoples' right to their sacred Chaudière Falls area (Akikodjiwan) and if they would encourage participation in the 'Faith is Peace' Walk the following Friday. *(In the June 20th photo on Victoria Island, surrounding the peace tree, are Daniel Stringer of the Ottawa Peace Council, Judith Matheson of Heart and Soul Light Centre, Maureen Stark, chair of the Right Relations Ctee of the United Church's*

Ottawa Presbytery, Imam Samy Metwally of the Ottawa Mosque, Algonquin Elder Albert Dumont, Elise Mennie and Barbara Faught of Parkdale.)

About 150 people of different faiths participated in the 'Faith is Peace Walk' to Parliament Hill the following Friday, in support of protecting Akikodjiwan. Several Algonquin elders spoke of their historic dispossession of the sacred site, its spiritual and



© DrPeterStockdale

cultural significance, and how crucial its protection and renewal was to the revival of their people. They came from Algonquin communities in Kitigan Zibi (Maniwaki QC), Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake, ON) and Barriere Lake (Lavérendrye Park, QC). Following the Algonquin elders' testimonials, several faith leaders spoke of respecting Indigenous spirituality and protecting the sacred site in the spirit of reconciliation. Maureen Stark read a letter of support from Rev. Glen Stoudt, acting minister for the United Church's Ottawa Presbytery (see his letter below).

Other United churches besides Parkdale were represented at the walk, including St-Paul's Eastern, Rideau Park, Kitchissippi and First United, as were Unitarians, Quakers and Muslims. Faith leaders who spoke words of support included: Father Goeff Kerslake of the Catholic Archdiocese, Rev. Shane Parker of Christchurch Anglican Cathedral, Cantor Daniel Benlolo of Beth Shalom Synagogue, and Amena Nabi of Ottawa Valley Unity Mosque. *(In the June 23rd photo at Parliament Hill, local religious leaders show their support for protecting Akikodjiwan, the sacred Indig-*



enous site at Chaudière)

Article 12 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states their right to practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies, and their right to maintain, protect and have access to their religious and cultural sites.

Here is the letter by Rev Glen Stoudt of the United Church's Ottawa Presbytery:

June 23, 2017

Dear Anishinabe Sisters and Brothers,
Dear National Capital Commission Leaders,
Dear Windmill Developments Management Team,
Dear Ottawa City Council,

I write as a fellow citizen of this community and a person of faith within the United Church of Canada in support of today's Faith Is Peace Walk for Akikodjiwan. Through Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we have all humbly pledged to work to-

gether to heal the broken relationship between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians and specifically, to respect Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in spiritual matters. This promise is the common bond we all share here today, as Algonquin people, as civic and business leaders, and as faith communities. Today's walk is a renewed invitation to take seriously the enduring question of sacred land, especially regarding the value of these islands and falls to the Anishinabe People. We share a moral obligation to sit with our Indigenous neighbours, to understand the cultural importance of this land, to respect their spiritual affinity to it, and to consider anew meaningful ways to honour its historic sacredness. Now is the time to return to the table for deeper, more substantive consultation before any development plans continue. To you who walk here today, and to those who observe this ceremony from a distance – before us all is our collective opportunity to listen more attentively and carefully to each other, for as long as it takes, so we can do what is

right. As a faith leader in our community, I would feel honoured to share in such a valuable conversation and humbled to work toward the goodwill it promises. To such hope, I believe, the Sacred Presence encourages every one of us.

Respectfully,

Benefit Concert

The Statistics Canada Choir presented a benefit concert in the sanctuary last June, with the net proceeds going to the Odawa Native Friendship Center (510 Rideau Street).

This drop-in centre provides services to First Nations, Inuit and Metis individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Thanks to a successful concert, a donation of \$1,045 was given to the centre. Parkdale's Elise Mennie is a member of the Statistics Canada Choir, now in its 20th year.



(In
the

Parkdale United Church
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, November 4

10:00 am - 12:30 pm



Great Products, Great Prices
A large selection of goods including:

Baking & Soups

Jewellery

Specialty Crafts & Handmade Items

Antiques & Collectibles

Kitchen & Bath Boutique

Old Linens

Books, Plants

Fashion Boutique

Attic Treasures

Silent Auction

and

Coffee Shop



429 Parkdale (at Gladstone Ave.)

Free Parking: Gladstone Lot & Memorial Hall Lot off Parkdale
613-728-8656

Donations accepted any time at the church.

Contact judy.hamley@gmail.com to help out.



Annual Yuletide Bazaar

Saturday, November 4, 2017

Greetings from the planning committee for this year's Yuletide Bazaar. It may seem early to be reminding the congregation of this event, but Parkdale continues to be a very active congregation and it is important to provide advance notice of this major fund-raising event. So please mark your calendars! This year's Bazaar will be held on Saturday November 4, 2017. Doors will open at 10:00am.

Set-up for the Bazaar will happen on Thursday November 2 and Friday November 3. Your participation and support would be most appreciated. It is a great time of fellowship and fun and an opportunity to renew friendships and meet new members of the congregation.

Last year, the Bazaar was one of our most successful yet, with net sales totaling over \$16,000. The Bazaar continues to be a significant fund-raiser for the church. It is successful because of the generosity of the congregation. Donations are the key to our past and future success!

Donations for the Bazaar can be made at any time. So if you are thinking of cleaning out a closet or downsizing this summer, please consider Parkdale as you decide what to do with your special items. **We are looking for jewelry, antiques or older items of interest, china, collectibles, knitting, attic treasures, books, plants, linens, ladies' fine accessories, Christmas items and children's toys. We are also looking for donations of 250ml glass jars with lids for preserves.** Please remember we do not take clothing at the Bazaar. All donations can be left at the church office during regular business hours or on Sunday before or after church.

If you have any questions or would like to join our great group of volunteers, please contact me at judy.hamley@gmail.com.

Thanks,

Judy Hamley - Convenor
Deb Paterson - Volunteer & Set-up
Co-coordinator

BUILDING BRIDGES

NAMBY: Good morning, Pamby.

PAMBY: And a good morning to you as well, Namby.

NAMBY: So, how goes the battle?

PAMBY: What an aggressive question so early in the morning!

NAMBY: What's aggressive about it? Haven't you been asked that question before ?

PAMBY: Yes, but I'd rather not think about a battle or battles this morning.

NAMBY: You don't have to take it literally, you know. It's just another way of asking you how things are going.

PAMBY: Well, why not say that? There is too much about fighting in our talk, such as "beating the competition, "getting ahead", "cornering the market", "pay back time" and all that stuff.

NAMBY: Well, for crying out loud! One little six-letter word certainly bugs you. Something else must have been bugging you before I said it.

PAMBY: Of course; just look at the headlines in the newspapers, turn channels on the TV or look at the biggest hits at the cinema and

its all about fighting and violence. We're in the 21st century and the biggest sales are arms sales.

NAMBY: Sounds as if you've been hanging around with peaceniks or reading pacifist literature.

PAMBY: You're missing the point. I don't have to do anything that special, nor do you. It's all around us.

NAMBY: It is, when I listen to you . You make the world sound even gloomier than it is. Give me a break this morning! Just everybody isn't out there fighting or preparing to fight.

PAMBY: Of course, nobody is. They try to persuade us that they are making more sophisticated weapons for our security. If you don't have your own gun, you're in trouble, so the gun- lovers tell us.

NAMBY: So, what's wrong with self-defence? The Law permits it. There is even are a Law of War.

PAMBY: Of course. It's as if countries know that they are going to fight, so they'd better have rules to do it properly. And didn't one of the Church Fathers, St. Augustine, argue in support of "The Just WAR?"

NAMBY: Maybe he was a realist and knew what we were like.

PAMBY: I have heard talk like that before. For Christ's sake, even some church people think like that. I often wonder how they can do so and yet stand and sing solemnly, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me". Hypocrites! And they claim to worship a fellow whom they call "The Prince of Peace".

NAMBY: Gees, man! You're tough on the whole world this morning.

PAMBY: No, no, just on the hypocrites who like to quote what the same guy said about "Peacemakers" in one breath, and make a big sale of arms in the next. What the dickens do they think that the people to whom they sell arms will do with them? Look at them and say how pretty they are? And why do they continue to build them?

NAMBY: Look, I don't have the answers to your questions. What I do know is that, as human beings, we are complicated; we often say one thing and then do the opposite. But there are always voices for Peace.

PAMBY: Yes, they are often called "Wimps" and sometimes we can hardly hear them above the noise of the warmongers who, by the way, are often diehard supporters of the arms industry. And yet, some of these people will tell you

that they are Christians, willing to fight for Christianity.

NAMBY: Perhaps they forget that the same fellow Jesus said that it is he who gives "peace" and that it's not the kind of peace which we think comes when we aren't fighting.

PAMBY: One thing is sure; it doesn't come from the possession of arms or from fighting.

NAMBY: Doesn't seem so. Maybe we should check out the fellow Jesus about it.

PAMBY: Maybe, but remember that even he got into a lot of trouble because he rejected the fighting among people in his time.



NAMBY: Yes, but they couldn't and still haven't gotten rid of him.

Copyright@ John Harewood
May 2017



The Memorial Garden
in full bloom thanks to
the generous rain and
sunshine!

Parkdale Bookclub

2017—2018 Selections

Sept 17: Good to a Fault

by Marina Endicott

Oct 15: February by Lisa Moore

Nov 19: Unless by Carol Shields

International Prize Winners:

Jan 21: Everything I Never Told
You by Celeste Ng

Feb 18: The Sense of an Ending
by Julian Barnes

Mar 18: Secondhand Time by
Svetlana Alexievich

Apr 15: No Great Mischief by
Alistair MacLeod

May 20: Moon Tiger by Penelope

All creatures great and small enjoy the gardens and lawns at the church. Many thanks to all the volunteer gardeners, pruners and lawn maintenance folks who enjoy this hobby and are keeping our Memorial Garden, grounds and grass looking beautiful. Many passersby have commented on how nicely it is kept. Let's keep making the weeds disappear until after Thanksgiving.



SECRETARY'S REPORTS OF COUNCIL

May 11, June 6 and June 18

By Julee Pauling

This is to notify the congregation of three meetings of Council held since the last issue of the Messenger. These meetings included: a Special Meeting of Council, held May 11th; a Regular Meeting of Council, held June 6th; and, a Congregational Meeting, held June 18th.

Special Meeting of Council, May 11, 2017

A special meeting of council was called at the request of Joint Search Committee (JSC) Chair, John Butcher, to address an administrative situation concerning an applicant's ability to be interviewed in the JSC Selection Process for Minister of Pastoral Care.

This difficulty arose on account of the fact that the United Church of Canada has nine occupational categories of minister; however, the Joint Needs Assessment Report had been prepared outlining only three of those occupational categories. The JSC had received an application, screened in by Presbytery, that in fact had not fallen

within one of the three categories, even though the candidate appeared to meet all the screening criteria otherwise.

In order to allow the candidate to be interviewed, Presbytery required the candidate to occupy one of the occupational categories named in the Joint Needs Assessment Report and as stated in the job advertisement. The categories were ordained, diaconal, or designated lay minister. In this case, the job candidate was a candidate for ordination but could not be ordained without an existing call from a congregation. (Yes, this is kind of like "the chicken and the egg.")

There was a precedent for this situation in the Toronto Presbytery. The congregation in that case that had wished to interview the candidate was given the option to make a temporary appointment of the candidate to a position of interim minister so that the candidate could be ordained. The Presbytery representatives to the JSC, Reverend Rob Merritt and Reverend (retired) Dianne Cardin, recommended this option to Parkdale, particularly since it

seemed that the prospective candidate would be a good fit.

Council was asked to vote on making an offer of temporary appointment of the candidate to a position of interim pastoral care minister. This action would enable the interview process to continue. Members voted by secret ballot. The ballot was favourable, approving an offer of temporary appointment to interim minister of pastoral care for a period of no more than 30 days. Since the JSC selection process is strictly confidential, the name and any details about the prospective candidate could not be given to council for the purpose of the vote.

Regular Meeting of Council, June 6, 2017

A regular meeting of Council was held on June 6, 2017.

1. JSC co-Chair, Mary McLeod, gave an update to Council on the status of the selection process. She submitted a Report to Council and stated that, following the interview process of three applicants, a successful candidate had been selected. The committee intended to present the candidate to the congregation at an upcoming congregational meeting, expected to be called for June 18th. The congregation would vote to accept the recommendation and whether to issue a Call to Ministry. Council thanked Mary for the work of the committee in this process.

2. Chair of Property Trustees, Helen Hayes updated Council on several matters. These included: the repaving of the Gladstone parking lot and replacement of concrete steps on the Parkdale side; installation of air conditioning for second floor offices; renovation to provide an accessible washroom for the children of the daycare, which will remain in the current coffee shop location; and, removal of unsafe playground equipment and installation of a paved area for bikes. Following discussion of the approval process for Property Trustees, it was agreed that Finance Committee will make a presentation at the next meeting in September regarding the expenditures approvals and authorities process.

3. Melodee Lovering, as lead for the Safety and Security Review working group, reported on a successful evacuation drill held May 28th. The working group is moving ahead with an application and proposal for a government grant which covers costs associated with installing deterrents of hate crime, covering items such as LED lights and cameras. Parkdale would be expected to fund half of the deterrent items recommended. Council approved an expenditure of \$11,000 to support the grant application with all members in favour.

4. Glad gifts were offered during a worship service earlier in 2017. Johanna Lace has since prepared a spreadsheet tallying all that congregants and adherents had offered or requested. The spreadsheet was

shared with council so that committees may make use of the talents available.

5. A request was received from a local Collaborative Justice Program with respect to the perpetrator of hate crime who had targeted Parkdale's building with graffiti last year. The accused was still awaiting sentencing; however, the Court was seeking to sentence him as an adult for his crime. The collaborative justice group works with the Court using a restorative justice model that allows victims to communicate the impacts of the crime to the persons who had committed them. The process is a mediated one, with parties not meeting face to face until some later time and upon their agreement. Kimberley Mann, Executive Director wanted to offer Parkdale this opportunity with the possibility of withdrawing participation at any time. Volunteers would be identified; so far, Camille Beaufort and Alexandra Stockwell have offered to participate. More information about the time commitment is forthcoming. As Dr. Bailey was away on sabbatical at the time of the invitation, it was thought that he would want to participate upon his return.

6. The Chair of Ministry, Outreach, and Justice Committee, Faye Beaufort, informed Council that the committee had approved the Honey-A-Thon proposal. Sale of Crerar honey products would be offered to the congregation with 20-25% of the selling price of any products sold

being donated to Camp Kallala. Further business of the committee included an update on the Multi-Faith Housing Initiative. The committee has prepared a recommended donation to The Haven project of \$15,000, to be approved at a congregational meeting, to the initiative. This was based on a suggestion made by Orion Clark at the last Annual General Meeting in February. The amount and details would be presented to the congregation at the congregational meeting planned for June 18th. Finally, Faye reported that members of the sponsored refugee family from Syria are doing great. Parkdale has fulfilled its financial commitment, in that the family received their last cheque on June 1, 2017. Additional funds that had been raised will be held, should the family need further support. Currently, the family members continue to work on English language acquisition and employment.

Congregational Meeting, June 18, 2017

The Chair Council, Scott Andrews, called the meeting to order at 11:45 am with approximately 80 people present in the sanctuary.

The first item of discussion was the proposed contribution of \$15,000 to The Haven from the Memorial Endowment Fund, moved by Kathleen Stephenson. Kathleen provided some background information, including the increase from the initial proposed \$10,000 at the last Annual General

Meeting to the present recommendation of \$15,000, to be supplemented by individual donations. Congregational approval was required, since this allocation was not included in the 2017 budget. Marianne dos Santos seconded the motion.

Kathleen then read from the preamble to the recommendations of the Memorial Endowment Fund Working Group. The original purpose of the fund was to be a living and enduring legacy fund used to support projects in the community and the world. It was not intended to be a perpetual growth fund; however, it was thought that the Memorial Endowment Fund likely would be replenished through future donations.

The motion passed unanimously.

The second item concerned the Minister of Pastoral Care; and, particularly, congregational approval of the recommendation of a candidate to the position of Minister of Pastoral Care. Beth Sweetnam, Presbytery Representative to the Joint Search Committee (JSC), opened this part of the meeting with prayer and confirmed the presence of a quorum. An agenda and the Report of the Search Committee to the Congregation were distributed. The agenda was approved.

David Mason stood as official scrutineer, assisted by his wife Diana. David then presented a series of slides identifying the members of the Joint Search Committee, noting

the good representation of age, gender, life, work experience, and theology of the members. The work of the JSC started on April 2nd and culminated on May 25th with the unanimous endorsement of Reverend Alcris Limongi.

David briefed the congregation that four applications had been received. One was screened out at the review stage, and the three remaining candidates were interviewed by the committee. Two candidates were screened out after the interviews. References were checked on May 29th of the remaining candidate, and Melodee Lovering and Barbara Faught met with her on June 1st. Council was briefed on June 6th of the successful completion of the selection process. A congregational meeting was called in due form for June 18th to present the recommended candidate to the congregation for decision.

The focus of the pastoral care ministry is threefold: pastoral care across the congregation; small group ministry; and, pastoral care as a collective and shared responsibility, not just of the pastoral care team.

The motion presented to the congregation was stated as follows: **That the Parkdale Pastoral Charge transmits with approval to the Ottawa Presbytery its request to call Rev. Alcris Limongi as Ordained Minister effective July 1, 2017 with the following terms: full-time with an annual salary of**

\$55,076.00 plus 5% (total salary \$57, 982.90); telephone allowance of \$500 per annum; continuing education expenses reimbursed at a minimum \$1374 per pastoral year; minimum one month (five Sundays) annual vacation in each pastoral year; application of the sabbatical policy; participation in the Centralized Payroll Service; pension and group insurance payments as assessed; shared office assistance described as 30 hours per week; travel as logged at the General Council rate, currently at \$0.39 per kilometre; Category A COL4.

Mary McLeod, as JSC co-Chair, elaborated on the JSC written report. She stated that one of the things that impressed the JSC most was Rev. Limongi's written statement of faith, which was very clear about Alcris's personal beliefs. She also sees pastoral care as one of the main pillars of ministry; and, although she has never served specifically as minister of pastoral care, she served as an associate pastor for a Latino community in Raleigh, NC. Alcris provided many excellent examples of pastoral care during her time there. She also has a solid academic background and knowledge of scripture, having specialized academically in the New Testament. Alcris also worked as Racial Justice, Gender Justice, and Sexual Minorities Program Coordinator at the General Council Offices of the United Church of Canada. It is

thought she will be a very good fit at Parkdale.

Additional information concerning Alcris's life and background were provided.

Beth Sweetnam offered thanks to all who participated in the JNAC and the JSC.

Ballots were distributed and collected, the results of which were 60 voting YES and 5 spoiled. David Mason therefore declared the result unanimous, in favour.

The JSC will remain in place until the covenanting service, to be determined at a later date.

Peter Graham moved and Liz Harrison seconded a motion that the ballots be destroyed. Don McPherson expressed an enormous debt of gratitude that the congregation owes to all those involved in the selection process.

Following applause, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

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.

