

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Parkdale United Church

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Many thanks and keep those contributions coming!!

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

Next issue: **January 2019**

Editor next issue: Elise Mennie

Send submissions to:
messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca
 or the church office by **December 16**

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

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

Minister's Advent/Christmas Message

By Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey

"First keep the peace within yourself, then you can also bring peace to others."

-Thomas A Kempis, The Imitation of Christ

It is almost impossible to convey in literary form, but imagine with me that I am writing these words in a – shhh – whispering tone. I have been trying to learn from the story in I Kings 19:9-13 that tells of Elijah's experience with God's presence. Told to wait for a visitation from God, Elijah obeyed trying to discern the presence of God in a strong wind, in an earthquake and in fire. God's voice was in none of these. However, the voice of God came to Elijah in a "still, small voice." In another translation of the Hebrew, God was in the "sheer silence". Could this be a metaphor for the way in which the urgings, the promptings, the presence, yea the voice of God is trying to come to us? The presence and blessings of God can be found in "sheer silence".

(I'm still whispering here) Indian activist and author Arundhati Roy proclaimed at the World Social Forum in Brazil: **"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."** What could God be whispering to us this Advent season that the roar of frenzied preparations, shopping, buying, partying, visiting and traveling might be drowning out? How can we help each other

build in "quiet day" moments so that we can hear and experience the "breathing" of God's reign – which both is and is yet to come?

To remind ourselves, Advent is the season that begins four Sundays before Christmas day and signals the beginning of a new Christian year. For followers of Christ and stewards in the service of God, this season is both invitation and summons. We are invited to recommit ourselves to the wondrous story of God and God's relationship with creation as embodied and enacted principally in the birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. As well, we are summoned by the contagious grace and love of God to delve more deeply into the im-



plications of our formation as disciples of Christ and stewards for God.

The design of Advent is to intentionally permit us to choose to live time differently. Of course there are demands on our time over which we have little control. However, we do have great choice in many areas regarding how we live the time given to us. As a community of faith we are called to support each other's alternative preparation for the gift of mystery that Christmas day celebrates. Instead of concentrating on "x" amount of shopping days left before Christmas, we are being graced to anticipate, welcome and "listen" for the countless moments in each day when comes the whisper of God reassuring us of our belovedness, or nudging us into forgiving a family member or another who has harmed us, or challenging our lifestyle choices, or urging us towards promoting greater justice in the world community, or challenging us

to spend more time in prayer and other contemplative practices.

So perhaps instead of standing in line in the frigid cold for a new electronic gadget, we can stand together in the warmth of God's grace and love, and in fellowship with each other. We can sing, serve, and worship our way into a new listening posture that makes us more vulnerable to the embrace and love of God, to the needs and delights of each other and to the plaintive cries for peace and justice of our sisters and brothers in the world.

Shhh...can you hear it? It's already happening...God's whisper is becoming more resonant in our hearts, our lives and in our life together.

I pray for us all a blessed time of joyous Advent preparation and anticipation, and a rich Christmas celebration of the gift of Jesus.

Anthony

A SPECIAL REFLECTIVE CHRISTMAS SERVICE – December 19, 2018

The Advent and Christmas seasons are challenging for many people, who find they have trouble feeling "in the spirit" of things. This may be due to a recent (or anticipated) death of a family member or friend, the end of a marriage or a relationship, the loss of work or a move away from the place that has been home for some time. Often when people are focused on choosing gifts, planning meals, and singing Christmas carols, it can be hard to reconcile these activities with feelings of sadness and loss. Further, for many persons it seems as if there is nowhere that these difficult feelings can be acknowledged and validated. Once again, this year Parkdale United is offering a supportive and reflective worship experience that acknowledges this kind of emotional space and lifts it before God. All are welcome. If you would like to discuss what will be taking place at this service, please feel free to speak with Anthony (728-8656, abailey@trytel.com) The service will take place on Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00pm in the chapel. Special music and readings will be included.



PARKDALE
UNITED CHURCH
COME • GROW • SERVE



429 Parkdale Avenue

COME AND CELEBRATE ADVENT

With Our Renewed Rodgers Hybrid Organ

Dec. 2nd, 7:00pm – Concert of Praise and Dedication
Guest organists and community singing

Dec. 5th, 12:10pm - 12:50pm
Leora Nauta - "Advent Pilgrimage"

Dec. 12th, 12:10pm - 12:50pm
Alison Kranias - "French Noels and Baroque Christmas Treasures"

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Admission by freewill offering at the door





LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER

First Sunday of Advent - December 2, 2018

- Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- Luke 21:25-36

Second Sunday of Advent - December 9, 2018

- Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4
- Luke 1:68-79
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday of Advent - December 16, 2018

- Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Isaiah 12:2-6
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Luke 3:7-18

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 23, 2018

- Micah 5:2-5a
- Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

**Thanks and Merry Christmas to
our Parkdale staff**

For keeping the office Christmas Cactus blooming



Remembering

Please keep the families of
the following loved ones in
your prayers:

Passed away in November

Peter Graham

Rev. Barry Kennedy, father
of Ruth Kennedy

Janet Taylor

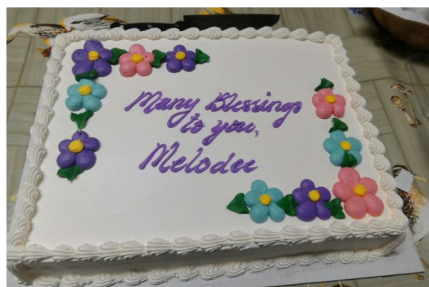


Melodee's Farewell

THANK YOU! My heart was very full upon leaving Parkdale on Sunday (October 28th). The kind words of my colleagues and friends were wonderful to hear and I am very grateful for the gifts of hand-painted rocks and the wonderful print, as well as all the sweet notes from parents, kids, teens and Sunday school teachers that were made into a little book for me. Many people left cards, notes and small personal gifts for which I am also thankful. Thanks to everyone who helped to lead in worship, the Junior and Senior Choirs, Dalesong, the youth players and readers, and of course, Anthony and Alcris whom I will miss working with so much! I will make sure to put all the kids' advice to good use. My prayers will continue for all of you in the days and years ahead.

Love, Melodee







Write for Rights on December 9

"When the first two hundred letters came, the guards gave me back my clothes. Then the next two hundred letters came, and the prison director came to see me. When the next pile of letters arrived, the director got in touch with his superior. The letters kept coming and coming: three thousand of them. The President was informed. The letters still kept arriving, and the President called the prison and told them to let me go."

—A released prisoner from the Dominican Republic

On December 9, the Mission, Outreach and Justice Committee welcomes you to participate in the biggest human rights event in the world, Amnesty International's "Write for Rights". The Write for Rights write-a-thon takes place on and around Human Rights Day every year. Last December, hundreds of thousands of letter writers all over the world wrote **five and a half million** letters and messages in support of those whose human rights have been violated. Some letters were sent to the governments that have persecuted or failed to protect their citizens and others to the targets of persecution, to express solidarity and support. Parkdale's write-a-thon event is open to the public and will take place on Sunday, December 9, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm, upstairs in the Ladies' Parlour.

This year's Write for Rights campaign will focus on courageous women targeted for their peaceful advocacy for human rights. Such advocates are under threat the world over. Here are three of the women who are part of this year's campaign:

Atema Daemi wants an end to the death penalty in Iran. To this end, she has written Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram posts, handed out leaflets, and joined peaceful protests. These actions were used as "evidence" to sentence her to 7 years in prison. Her trial took only 15 minutes and she has faced violence and degrading treatment in detention.

We will write to the head of the Iranian judiciary to demand that Atema be released immediately and to Atema to reassure her that we support her cause and have not forgotten her.

Pavitri Manjhi is the elected head of her village council in Bhengari, India, fighting against companies taking possession of ancestral land to make way for power plants. Pavitri helped to found an organization that helps people to make formal complaints around their rights to the land and as a result faces ongoing intimidation and threats of physical assault.

We will write to the Director General of the police to demand that he take effective and prompt steps to protect her from further threats and intimidation so that she can continue to fight for the rights of her community. We will also write to Pavitri to express our solidarity and support for her work.

Gulzar Dushenova is an advocate for people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan who works to increase accessibility through public advocacy, organizing training, meeting officials, and pushing for change on social media. Gulzar faces daily discrimination in a society where women aren't meant to speak out and where people with disabilities are seen as "invalids".

We will write to the speaker of the Uzbekistan Parliament to demand that he support her efforts and to Gulzar to let her know that we support her work towards a world where people with disabilities can live with dignity.

Your letters do have an impact! Case after case shows that these letters provide many benefits to prisoners of conscience, including encouragement, protection, medical treatment, prevention of torture, family visits, and release from detention, to name a few.

“Thank you for your hard work and your campaigns to secure my release from prison...Your letters, phone calls, and petitions were my protection during the months I spent in solitary confinement. You were my voice when I had none.”

– Birtukan Mideska, an Ethiopian judge and former prisoner of conscience

“Even when I was imprisoned in a dark cell, I knew organisations such as Amnesty International would be speaking out on my behalf. This knowledge was so important to me.

I received letters of support from Amnesty International through my family. It helped keep my morale up, and it lifted the spirits of my family....

In 2018, I was released. Not because the government changed its mind, but because the people demanded the release of detained activists, journalists and bloggers. It was the people that were mobilised on behalf of democracy.”

– Excerpt of letter by Eskinder Nega, former prisoner of conscience, to Amnesty International on August 2, 2018, following his release from prison earlier this year

Letter-writers will be provided with case descriptions, writing materials, letter writing guidance, and refreshments to keep their strength up. We will also have a children’s corner with writing materials and art materials so they can send pictures and letters to support prisoners and others at risk. Messages from recipients of children’s messages show how heartened they are by the contact from these young write-a-thon participants.

Lastly, we are looking for donations of cards, writing paper, and envelopes to use at the write-a-thon. We need both religious and non-religious cards since religious cards are not well-received in some contexts.

If you have any writing materials you would like to donate, would like more information, or volunteer to help run the event, please contact Gail at abigael@rogers.com or at 613-421-6629.

*Please join us to **Write for Rights** at Parkdale United Church on Sunday, December 9, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm, upstairs in the Ladies’ Parlour.*

REFUGEE FAMILY

Arrived Thursday, November 15, 2018 – Adjusting Well



It certainly did not help that **Mother** Elsa arrived with her 3 lovely children on the day of the snow storm, but **Daughter** Tadelechi, **Son** Yaret, & **Son** Temesgen are all doing very well adjusting to their boots, coats and gloves. Eleven year old Temesgen even played in the snow. With no English nor French, our type of sign language gets pretty amusing. However, we are blessed with help from 2 of Jenni Troup's lady friends and from our new friend – the cook from Abbeyfield House who made the signs in Amharic & the Tigrinya languages for the airport welcome and who had cooked them their first meal in Canada.

As they are Coptic Orthodox

Christians, we concentrated on finding them a church and they attended the Coptic Orthodox church on Sunday, November 25, 2018. We invited them to join us the following Sunday, December 2nd, for our Advent service and celebration of meal and sing song afterwards. We know they will experience our usual warm Parkdale welcome.

Thanks to each member of our group of 15 working behind the scenes. Special thanks for co-opting your friends who speak these languages. You know how meaningful this has been to them and to us for arranging banking, schooling, health, job search and much more. We are very grateful to all who have already made

donations to our “Refugee Fund”. Our group members are: Rev. Anthony Bailey, Faye Beaufort, Betty Hope Gittens, Danielle Gougeon, David Odumodu, Ed Ellis, Elaine West, Elise Mennie, Jenni Troup, Judy Hamley, Lori Pope, Mary Tsikouras, Pierre Barbeau, Ruth Foster & Wally Prater and ever-ready back-ups Darren Prater & Mark Bradley.

We are still in the continuing process of assessing their

needs; however, they are relatively comfortable – even cooking their favourite meals. We will certainly keep you informed. If you require more information, please contact Rev. Anthony Bailey at abailey@trytel.com or through the church office at 613-728-8656 or Faye Beaufort at fbeaufort@bell.net. We are so grateful for all your support and prayers. Thanks be to God!

Celebration of Cultures

Parkdale United Church, Oct. 20, 2018

On October 20, 2018, Celebration of our Cultures took place at Parkdale United Church. Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey gave a welcome from across cultures with Peter Meerburg being MC, and Rev. Alcris Limongi gave prayers and grace.

The Children's Parade to the tune of 'We are the World' delighted us all. When the International Buffet opened, there was an array of dishes featuring food from all over the world.

Three presentations helped to show some of the cultural mix at Parkdale United Church. The first was Becoming a Canadian with the Saleh family, where Rev. Bailey interviewed a family member.

The second was the Gift of Cultural Mix with Asokan Thurairajah, and the third was Gifts from our Cultures with Alcris Limongi and Latin American Parkdalers. Dance celebration was fun, with many of the Church family joining in the dance.

The MC kept us on our toes with a Cultural Quiz, and a good time was had by all. See a few pictures, right.

Celebration of Cultures photos



Oct 20, 2018



Oct 20, 2018



Oct 20, 2018

Holy Communion

A Special Communion Service was held for seniors on October 14, 2018 at Parkdale United Church in the Chapel. Dr. Bailey and Rev. Alcris Limongi conducted the Service. Gloria Anderson sang a beautiful solo, and she was accompanied by Freda Sutton. The Pastoral Care Team made sure that tea, sandwiches, and sweet pastries were plentiful.

Our seniors were very happy and enjoyed each others company. See the enjoyment reflected in the pictures.







Yuletide Bazaar-Great Success!



Our Yuletide Bazaar was held on Saturday, November 3rd and what a successful Bazaar it was! People were lined up well before the doors opened, eagerly anticipating what treasures they would find. The Yuletide Café offered coffee, tea & treats for sale to those waiting in line. Once the doors opened at 10 am we had a steady stream of shoppers right through until closing at 12:30pm.

We tallied up the funds received that day and it was \$14, 867. Since then, we've had more funds come in from items that were picked up and paid for post Bazaar (from the Silent Auction, "Bid or Buy Now" from the Antiques Table, Baking, and Kitchen & Bath). We are expecting the receipts to be over \$16,000! Well done everyone! The final total receipts and the net proceeds after expenses will not be finalized for a few more weeks. It is an excellent result!

Thank you to all the Table Conveners and Coordinators and all the volunteers that helped set-up, advertise, price, sell, and clean-up, we are so grateful. We are grateful to all those that donated items, whether it was antiques, attic treasures, books, plants, or vintage linens to name just a few of the variety of items. And thanks to those that baked and cooked soup. It is amazing how quickly these items sell out. We also want to thank the local merchants who helped in many ways, including donating coffee (Bridgehead Coffee), and all those merchants in the area that allowed us to put posters in their windows.

We had over 152 volunteers over the 3 days of setting up and working the day of the Bazaar! What an amazing effort by Parkdale folks and friends and family. Bazaars are wonderful events to bring people together and forge a sense of community toward a common good. I've heard feedback that those helping at the Bazaar really enjoy getting to know their fellow Parkdale community members. Working together forges stronger relationships, and we accomplish something that is helpful to others. During and after the Bazaar, people often feel a sense of belonging, a sense of team, and happiness in being part of such an event.

As we all rest from the big day, we are already thinking about next year. And there are ways that you can help already! Think of the bazaar throughout the year if you sew, knit, paint, sculpt, are a foodie, or have new ideas for us. Let us know.

Also, if you have any 125ml or 250ml mason type jars, we can use them for next year's preserves. Please drop them off at the church. And if you have any fine women's outfits or accessories, you can keep the Fashion Boutique in mind for donating to next year. We are also looking for those that can knit or crochet throughout the year to help supply the knitting table.

Thanks to everyone for the wonderfully successful 2018 Bazaar.

Judy Hamley, Convenor and Deb Paterson, Volunteer & Set-up Co-ordinator

*Scenes from the 2018 Parkdale
Bazaar held in November*



Remembrance Day Concert

A Matter of Spirit: 100 Years after the Great War

The Hypatia's Voice Women's Choir directed by Laura Hawley with Pianist Claire Stevens and Parkdale United Church Orchestra directed by Angus Armstrong presented A Matter of Spirit: 100 Years after the Great War - Musical Reflections on Conflict and Remembrance Saturday, November 10, 2018 at Parkdale United Church.

This wonderful concert was enjoyed by a standing-room only crowd.



The Literacy Table

The congregation of Parkdale has always been very generous when it comes to making donations to the Literacy Table.

As we embark on our seventeenth season, we are again appealing to you for reading material. Our greatest need right now is for "newer" magazines dated April 2018 onwards. Anything from The Atlantic to Zoomer magazine is appreciated. Please note that older editions of National Geographic, Popular Mechanics, Popular Science and any cooking and craft magazines are always in demand as well. We always remove address labels before putting magazines out on display.

Thanks to craft fairs, groups such as Beavers/Cubs and many individual donors, we have acquired an excellent assortment of books. However, given that our guests take home ap-



proximately 3,500 books between November and March, we are always happy to add to our rapidly depleting stock. Favourites include biographies, histo-

ry, humour, coffee table books, religion and anything pertaining to animals.

All reading material can be left in the green box labelled "Literacy Table" outside the Chapel or given to a volunteer any Saturday until March 23, 2019.

In addition, donations of 2019 calendars, Christmas and other greeting cards, jigsaw puzzles as well as cloth, nylon and reusable plasticized bags are greatly appreciated by our guests.

Many thanks for your continuing support. If you have any questions, please call Brenda at 613-729-0705.

Summary of Council Meeting October 23, 2018

Garth McLeod, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Alcris lead the devotion by inviting us to stay in silence in God's presence. Then we sang together "Where two or three are gathered, there I will be".

The minutes of the September 25th meeting were reviewed and adopted.

Garth read a letter from the Salvation Army requesting volunteers to assist with their Christmas Kettle Campaign. It was agreed to announce their request in the Sunday Bulletin.

1. Garth thanked Elise Mennie for stepping in as Interim Secretary to replace Julee Pauling while she is undergoing chemotherapy treatments. He asked us to keep Julee in our prayers.

2. Update on JNAC process: Camille Beaufort reported that the first meeting of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) was held on October 14th, with Matt Baker chosen as committee chair and Barbara Faught as secretary. Matt will discuss with Melodee the requirements for the position and other input will be sought through: a visioning exercise with the children and youth; asking congregants during a Sun-

day service to respond to the question: "What are your needs for a youth and children's minister?"; and looking at questionnaires used by other churches. Because Presbytery is transitioning to a new regional structure, this will affect the timing of getting a new minister in place in 2019.

3. Sunday School arrangements post Nov 1: Camille Beaufort reported that the teachers' roster has all Sunday school classes covered until the end of January. She is focusing on finding one or two leaders for the youth group after that time.

4. 2019 Council nominations: Peter Meerburg invited Council members to support him in recruiting new members to Council. He asked current members to tell him their intention of standing for re-election or leaving after the next AGM in February 2019.

5. Accessible washrooms and Property Development Working Group:

5.1. Helen Hayes reported that the Property Development Group will hold a first consultation with neighbourhood organisations on October 29th, from 5 to 7 pm in the Ladies Parlour. The purpose is to look for input, ideas and po-

tential future partnerships. Barry Hobin will present a short version of the presentation he made to the congregation. An invitation was delivered to each door on the inside block around Parkdale, including Parkdale Food Centre, Abbeyfield, and Connaught School. Helen invited Council members to be present so they could give tours of the building to the neighborhood participants.

5.2 At the end of the May 5th visioning exercise with the congregation, there was a request that the church look into creating an accessible washroom at the sanctuary level, in the vestry, as soon as possible. Barry Hobin provided a proposal and design for a washroom that would use only part of the vestry, cost \$35,000, and could begin being built in January 2019. The Property Trustees unanimously said no; they felt that it would be a waste of money to build this washroom now if we are going to undertake a major redevelopment of our building within a few years. The Property Development Committee asked them if they might reconsider if the cost was reduced to \$20,000. The Trustees still did not want to proceed because of possible additional structural issues such as asbestos in the walls and the need to connect to the original plumbing, which is already causing problems in the basement washrooms. The discussion also cov-

ered the church's ongoing accessibility problem and the timeline that would be involved in a complete building redevelopment, estimated to take 5 or 6 years in total. First the Property Development Committee will present a recommendation to the congregation in October 2019 – in a year's time. Then the congregation will decide whether to proceed with redevelopment at the AGM of 2020; if we go ahead, there would be another year of preparation before construction could start in 2021, with an 18 to 24 month building process ending no earlier than 2023. It was agreed not to proceed with the accessible washroom at this time.

6. Cannabis policy: It was suggested that Parkdale needs to amend its current policy on alcohol (no use of alcohol on church premises) to include cannabis. The current alcohol policy was adopted a few years ago because of liability and insurance issues. Property Trustees will propose an amendment to include cannabis in the current policy on alcohol.

9. Parking situation: Concern was expressed that the parking situation is getting worse. Several suggestions were proposed: having a map on our website of alternative parking areas; announcing these areas in the Sunday bulletin; and having volunteer parking

monitors on Sunday mornings to put out the "lot full" signs. It was suggested that the Men's Group might want to take the parking situation on as a project and the idea will be presented to their next meeting.

10. Ushers: There was a discussion about the need to support the Head Usher, Hugh Nelson, in the recruitment and training of ushers. Alcris mentioned a manual from another church that focusses on the "welcoming" aspect of ushering. It was agreed that Rev. Alcris, Kathleen Stephenson and Barbara Faught will invite Hugh Nelson and Chris King to work with them on a recruitment and training plan.

Written reports from staff and committee were submitted prior to the meeting. A summary of the reports follows:

Mission, Outreach and Justice:

Faye Beaufort reported on the formal approval of sponsorship of the refugee family from Ethiopia, with a government cheque expected to be received soon for \$18,000. The committee is exploring a possible two bedroom apartment and have various articles of furniture, linen and dishes. Arriving will be: **Mother** Elsa – 44; **Daughter** Tadelechi 20; **Son** Yaret 17; **Son** Temesgen 11. All Ethiopian citizens. **Languages:** Neither English nor French. Mother speaks Amharic/Arabic/

Tigrigna/Tigre. The children speak the first three. The committee has about 15 volunteers. Thanks to Mary Tsikouras for trudging through all the paperwork, and to Norma McCord of MacKay United Church, refugee lead person in Ottawa representing the UCC head office in Toronto. There will be no fundraising campaign, but members of the congregation are asked to prayerfully consider giving to our "Refugee Fund".

Faye thanked Elise Mennie for organizing reconciliation events on Sunday, September 30 with Elder Barbara Dumont-Hill: "Smudging" ceremony; conversation with Rev. Anthony and the "Blanket Exercise" after the service, attended by about 50 people. "Celebrating our cultures" was held on Saturday, October 20, featuring an interview with the Saleh family from Syria that Parkdale sponsored two years ago, and Parkdale members from Sri Lanka and Colombia sharing their culture and dances. "In from the Cold" held their organising meeting where Hazel Bowen officially resigned her coordinating role. Faye expressed deep thanks for all that Hazel has done for IFTC over the years.

Finance: Kathleen Stephenson presented the 4th quarter financial statements. She reviewed the market value of investments and how they had moved over the last decade, with a current value of close to

\$1.4 million, up from a million in 2009. This happened while income from investments has been transferred each year to operating funds (between \$50,000 and \$70,000 each year). For 2018, at the end of the 3rd quarter, we have an operating deficit of \$20,260 and the Finance Committee is cautiously optimistic that we'll break even by year's end.

Membership: Marilyn Hahn asked Council members to help her identify people who would like to have a name tag, including people who could benefit from having it donated.

Worship: Barbara Faught reported that Melodee's task of editing slides for worship services will be done by Jono, with Elise Mennie doing it once a month. Judy said that Don may agree to do the roster of slide preparers and projectionists.

Communications: Carolynn Halkett reported that Algonquin has given access to the new WordPress website; however, a lot of the content needs to be updated. Camille Beaufort has offered to help train committee members on how to use Wordpress. Requests for volunteers who know WordPress have been put in the Sunday Bulletin; as well as for people who know Facebook and could replace Irene Hilkes. Thanks to Irene for all her work on Facebook!

Faith Formation and Christian

Enrichment: Camille expressed thanks to Melodee for ministering to the children, youth and families over the past 9 years. She thanked the CE Committee, Godly Play teachers and youth leaders who have met to discuss and facilitate the support of this ministry. The roster of teachers is filled until the end of January and teachers are still needed for the youth class after that time. Initiatives are being looked into and developed for youth and young adults: a mentorship program, mini-retreats and establishing small groups for College and careers both in person and online to include those away. The University and College Student Care Packages will be assembled in mid-November. The Ignite! group is interested in having someone coordinate regular gatherings. There is interest in restarting the Parents and Tots playgroup and advertising it to the community through social media. Stories covered in Sunday school will be announced in the Messenger starting in November and there is interest in a secure BLOG or Facebook page for children and youth families. Volunteers are needed for: Junior and Senior Youth Groups (assist with activities); youth mentorship; pancake breakfast (cooks and setup/clean up crew), Christmas Pageant (drama production).

Pastoral Care: Mary McLeod reported that on November 6, several committee members will attend an event of Ottawa Pastoral Care's education program on "The Impact of Suicide on Families". Meals have been provided to several families impacted by grief or illness through the Caring Kitchens Program. Special Communion for our seniors was held on October 14, a wonderful time of Communion and fellowship. Visiting continues and cards continue to be sent in sympathy, for "get well" wishes, or just "thinking of you". Several prayer shawls have been given, including Baptism shawls at the two most recent baptisms. The next meeting of the Pastoral Care Team will be on November 27, 2018.

Property Trustees:

Helen Hayes reported on the special meeting of October 9, 2018, to discuss the possibility of constructing an accessible washroom off the sanctuary. The Trustees felt that any decision with respect to an accessible washroom should be put on hold until the receipt of the recommendation from the Property Development Working Group on redevelopment, which is hopefully expected in October 2019. They felt that any major redevelopment of the property would include accessible washrooms, including on the sanctuary level, and that it would

not make sense to spend money on a washroom at this time. There was further discussion of this by the Property Development Working Group when they met on October 16, and additional questions were put to Trustees. The matter was referred to Council for discussion.

The steps at the north entrance off Parkdale to the sanctuary have been replaced at a cost of approximately \$5,500. The fence running along the walkway to the Preschool playground is leaning to an extent that it may become a safety issue. This is being looked into and the repair can probably be put off until Spring 2019. There was an unfortunate spray-painting issue, which appears to be mischief, not racist or hate-related: the sign in the garden was spray-painted as was the brick to the left of the south door to the sanctuary off Parkdale.

Staff reports

Rev. Anthony Bailey: Anthony reported that three persons from the Faith Formation and Membership class will be formally joining Parkdale on November 25. Communion chapel services were conducted at Westwood with the support of Elaine West and Dian Morris, at Carlingview Manor assisted by Hazel Bowen, Barbara Faught (filling in for Anthony) and Jane Barbe; and at

Carlingview Manor, assisted by Kathryn Meerburg. Anthony conducted a funeral service for Gray Knight (October 6); a committal service for Matthew Richardson (October 19); and a two-part celebration of life for Carrie Ann Burns (October 20 and 25). He conducted a wedding on September 29 and is preparing one for December 31. Anthony reported on the meaningful reconciliation service and Blanket Exercise of September 30 and the public forum with Hon. Frank Iacobucci on Oct. 1. He met with several committees, especially working with Faye Beaufort and Mary Tsikouras on preparing for the refugee family; also worked with the Property Development Committee, delivering invitations with Helen Hayes to Parkdale's neighbours on the block for a meeting on October 29 on possible collaborations. The Barbados Association will participate in worship on November 25. Anthony's community ministry recently included: being guest speaker at the Anglican Diocese's Community Ministries fundraising breakfast on September 27, attending the Board meeting of Crime Prevention Ottawa at City Hall on October 1; and emceeding the 10th Annual Marion Dewar Scholarship Fundraising Gala at Algonquin College on October 18, where Parkdale United Church was acknowledged for being a consistent supporter of the Scholarship. There was a disappointing cancellation of the interfaith Habi-

tat build which had been rescheduled for November 7. The group of faith leaders will revisit this possibility in the Spring. Anthony will take study leaves on November 11 to 13 for a preaching conference in Toronto and on November 27-29 for a stewardship conference in Tampa Florida.

Rev. Acris Limongi: Acris reported that second Advance Care Planning workshop will be held on October 25 as well as discussions to involve Parkdale in the HELP (Healthy End of Life Project), coordinated by the Elisabeth Bruyere Centre, to offer support and education on end of life issues. Acris helped plan the successful "Celebrating Our Cultures" event, led by Faye Beaufort with creative contributions from Jennifer Payne, John Harewood and Estelle Allan. The Thanksgiving Special Communion Service on October 14 was cheerfully organized by the Pastoral Care Team and very meaningful for our elderly saints. Acris attended the Montreal and Ottawa Conference Orientation in Alexandria, allowing her to connect with colleagues and discuss the transitioning into Regions. Acris was involved in evaluating the current Anti-Racism mandatory training and designing its second part. She attended the Queen's Annual Theology Conference, where she was a panelist in the session on "Multicultural Ministry in Canada-

Transitions and Challenges". The Prayer Group "Living with Cancer" has been very well received and is addressing an important need in our congregation. Richard Hamley is helping with an app to allow people who cannot attend to join the group on the phone. Alcris met with Camille Beaufort concerning the transition from Melodee's portfolio, to identify gaps or areas of concern where pastoral support might be needed. A mini retreat will be offered to the Senior Youth Group, which is closely connected with Melodee, to acknowledge their grieving for her departure and identify expectations for the next stage. Alcris will support other CE initiatives, including a Mentorship program for the youth group starting in January. Planning is underway for the Women's Retreat in January. Alcris will attend the Conference "Widening the Welcome" from October 31 to November 3. Carling Kitchen added two more people on call and provided two families with meals. Small group sessions are starting in November: The Cup of Life (day session), Pre-Advent Life Groups, and a Grieving Support Group. Pastoral Visits, supporting Parkdalers through life and/or health challenges, personal counselling, praying and connecting people to the congregation continue. The Prayer Group and Prayer Shawl Group are meeting on alternate

Wednesdays. Alcris was pleased to announce that she had passed the road test and now has her driver's license!

Other business:

Melodee's potluck: Camille is organising the speakers, including some of the children, and Faye is organizing the potluck.

Next steps in the property re-development process: After the Block partners consultation and the Youth Photo Voice activity in November, there will be reports to the congregation.

Committee budgets need to be submitted to Finance before December 4. The Annual General Meeting will be held on February 24, 2019.

Next Council meeting: January 28, 2019, chaired by Scott Andrews in Garth's absence.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Anthony closed with the song "*Where two or three meet in my name*".

Submitted by Elise Mennie, Interim Secretary



Thanksgiving.

In everything give Thanks!

On Sunday, October 7, 2018, Parkdale United Church celebrated the festival of Thanksgiving and joined in celebration of world-wide Communion. 'Thank You' was expressed in many different languages. A delightful Procession of Children with their vegetables and fruits took place (see the picture below).



NAMBY PAMBY: LIGHT AND LIFE

Namby: Good morning, Pamby.

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

Namby: Guess we are both glad to say it after the scare yesterday.

Pamby: You mean the tornado?

Namby: Yes, we were lucky; some people lost their homes in seconds.

Can you remember what you were doing when it struck?

Namby: I couldn't possibly forget. It was very different from the earthquake some years ago; I was sitting with the newspaper and there was this unusual whistling sound and the walls and the furniture began to shake.

Pamby: So, how was the tornado different?

Namby: I was again sitting and watching the news on TV when, suddenly, everything went dark. It was as if my life had stopped and I had become helpless with no way to turn and nothing to do to help myself.

Pamby: I was eating supper and, in a flash, couldn't see my food. You are going to laugh, but do you know what I thought immediately when the lights went out?

Namby: About your daughter's pet cat and your son's pet parrot?

Pamby: You know me; I'm not capable of being cute like that. Not at all! I thought about a saying that my mother used to repeat whenever she ran out of sugar.

Namby: What would she say?

Pamby: "You never miss the water until the well runs dry."

Namby: You are a case. There you were, without light, and remembering some wise-crack about water.

Pamby: Yes, but come to think of it, I wasn't so "off track" after all.

Namby: I'm not so sure. Perhaps you are the only guru I know who would think about water when he is in the dark.

Pamby: You are missing the point. My mother's wise-crack was another way of reminding me not to take her for granted, not to wait until she is not around to appreciate her.

Namby: Actually, I'm not missing the point. I said earlier that I felt helpless and as if my life had stopped when the lights went out. That was another way of saying that I suddenly realized how important light was in my life.

Pamby: I would add to that and say how important light was and is for life.

Namby: Trust you to bring in the heavy stuff.

Pamby: Don't blame me! Stuff about Light was around long before me—and you too.

Namby: Where are you going with this now?

Pamby: Come on, Namby. You are the one who used to talk about the “Creation Story” when God is supposed to have said “Let there be light” and there was light.

Namby: Ok, Ok, I suppose that you are soon going to remind me that since then, all living things need light.

Pamby: And that there could be no life on planet Earth without the sunlight.

Namby: It's funny that we should be talking about Light at this time.

Pamby: Not at all. We haven't forgotten the trauma of the tornado and what it did to the lights.

Namby: That's true, but you, I and everybody are thinking about Christmas these days .

Pamby: I know what you are going to say.

Namby: Oh! So you have developed a new skill, Mindreading?

Pamby: Nothing so smart. By now, everybody knows that Christmas is the season of Lights. Weren't you going to make that connection?

Namby: Yes, I was recently reading that some people call it so because they think that the lights had been out but came back on again. Something to do with the story of the birth of a baby, the appearance of a star and stuff like that.

Pamby: So that's the connection you were going to make?

Namby: Yes, when that baby grew up, one writer said that “there was light in him and that light was the life of humankind”.

Pamby: Are you kidding me? Somebody actually said that? About one fellow who started out as a baby just like you and me?

Namby: It's more than that. A small group of people believed that about him two thousand years ago, began to tell others about it and were willing to die for it.

Pamby: From the looks of it , I mean ,from all the celebration that goes on at Christmas, a lot of people still seem to believe it today.

Namby: Yes, apparently, he was quite a guy. These days, some people even call him a Superstar.

Pamby: With all that light in him, he's got to be.

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November 19, 2018

IMAGES & STORIES HAS LOST IT'S ANCHOR

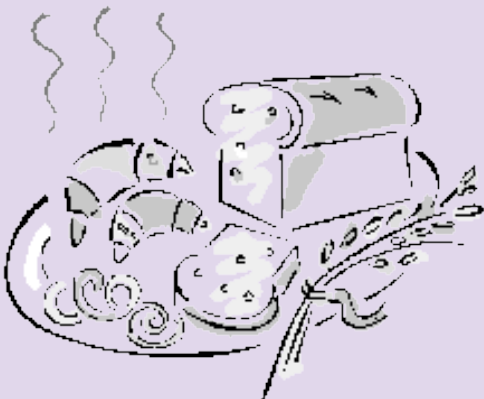
Janet Taylor had been the anchor for Images & Stories ever since she envisioned it in early 2011. She passed away on Friday, November 23, 2018. September 2011 we did a trial run of Images & Stories with the thought that it would perhaps be of interest to others for only a year. Well, here we are well into our 8th year with Janet leaving us a vibrant record of her passion and stamina in more ways than one. She was the anchor that held our team fixed firmly together, ensuring proper set up of the room - with a touch here, a touch there, a no it can't go there; ensuring that everyone knew what refreshments to bring, and so on. That was our Janet. People that went on their trips saw her coming and knew she would be asking them to do presentations of their trips or tell their stories. We have been treated with so many excellent presentations of countries all over the world and also personal journeys of a few people. We knew by our

pretty steady numbers of 25 - 40 (a couple times 60) guests that people really enjoyed the evening entertainment. Janet was pleased. She had been at every presentation except for the October 2018 presentation when she was not well enough to attend. However, her husband Ned and son Scott attended.

Out of respect for Janet's passing, there was no Images & Stories on Friday, November 30, 2018. However, we know she would expect us to be up and running for the new season **starting Friday, January 25, 2019**. We will honour that and remember the joy she got from Images & Stories. Please keep Janet's husband Ned and all her family in your thoughts & prayers. (*Faye Beaufort - MO&J Images & Stories - fbeaufort@bell.net*)

IN FROM THE COLD MINISTRY The Start of a New Season

November 10 saw the season opener of In From the Cold, the **seventeenth season** of this great initiative. It was an unusually cold day so the guests were anxious to come in to the warm welcoming room all set up for them. Many, as usual, headed right away for the Beverage Table. Others sought out the book table or the craft table. There were 97 guests in all that first day, a number that will undoubtedly increase as the season continues. As usual, the guests (and volunteers) were entertained by wonderful, enthusiastic musicians. That week the group was Patrick Attwell and his Muddy Boots Minstrels. Before the meal, Anthony gave his usual introductory welcoming remarks. After inviting any veterans who were among the guests to join him at the front, three came forward to stand with him and Anthony marked Remembrance Day (the 100th Anniversary) with



a reading of *We Will Remember Them*, as everyone stood. After grace, the four-course meal was served - this week the main course was Cornish hen and was, I am sure, enjoyed by all.

**FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN,
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS**

For additional information regarding these programs, please contact Camille Beaufort (ce@parkdaleunited.ca)

Parkdale's Sunday school welcomes children ages 3 & up and invites them to engage with scripture through readings, videos, activities, crafts and discussions. Children head down to their classes part way through the service, after the children's story.

YOUNG ADULTS IN FAITH (ages 17-24ish) and **IG-NITE!** (ages 25ish+) invite Parkdale's young adults to study God's word, support one another in our faith journey and be inspired to grow and serve the Lord.

Sunday School Stories
Godly Play Class (ages 3-6) – Blue room

December 2	Advent II
December 9	Pageant – children participate in the pageant during the worship service
December 16	Advent III and IV
December 23	The Mystery of Christmas
December 30	No class

Grades 2-6 – Orange Room

Date	Lesson Title	Focus Test	Theme

Youth Class – November scripture passages

Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5 & 6

Sunday, December 2 (after service)- Advent Luncheon, Wreath making and Carol singing

What to bring for Wreath making: We will have supplies to make wreaths. If you have glue guns please bring them, and any favourite decorations you would like to use on your wreath (e.g. bells, ribbon).

Sunday, December 9 (after service) - Second Blessing Coffee Shop
Please visit our youth-run coffee shop for treats and snacks.

Christmas Party for Young Adults in Faith (ages 17-24ish)

Hang out with fellow Parkdalers both present and past. Food, Christmas exchange, and all that jazz. **December 21 or 22.** Contact Camille or Zaya (zkuyena@gmail.com) for more information.

Children's Christmas Pageant

It's a favorite every year: children and youth acting out the Christmas story for us in worship... as worship! The Sunday School classes will begin preparations in November.

Please mark your calendars:

- **Sunday December 2:** (During service) All speaking roles
- **Friday, December 7: Dress rehearsal & Pizza Party!**
- **Sunday, December 9 during service - Children's Christmas Pageant:** Children should plan to arrive at 10:00am

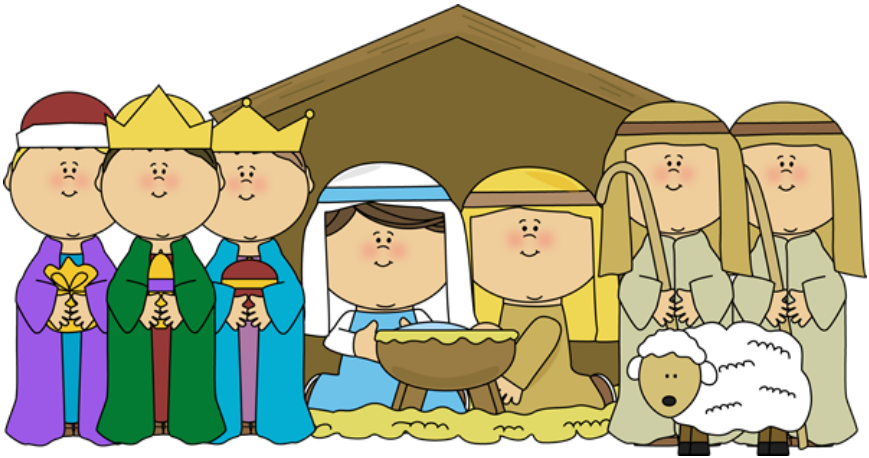
Worshiplude – February 1-3, 2018

Participate in this CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP experience with several hundred other youth and young adults. As activities are announced, Parkdale will be arranging for senior youth (grades 7+), Young Adults in Faith (ages 17-24) and IGNITE! to participate. Stay tuned...

Ontario Youth Parliament (OYP) is a for youth, youth run, leadership organization and a registered charity. The primary activity of OYP is our annual four-day model parliament, typically for youth aged 14 to 21. This February 15 -19, 2019, OYP will be hosted at Rideau Park United Church. Parkdale will be arranging for senior youth (grades 7+), Young Adults in Faith (ages 17-24) to participate. Contact Ellen Andrews (ellenandrews@outlook.com)

Billets needed: OYP is looking for people to billet at least two delegates or adults over 3 nights. This would involve providing bed and breakfast over this same time period. Preferably, billets could drive their delegates to the host church in the morning at around 8 AM each morning and pick them up at around 10 PM each night. For more information, please go to oyp.on.ca/billeting or email billets@oyp.on.ca

Parkdale contacts: Camille Beaufort or Ellen Andrews (ellenandrews@outlook.com)



Upcoming Activities and Christmas Pageant

There are many activities and events coming up over the next few weeks. **Please see the following "Children, Youth and Young Adult" Bulletin** for all the details. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Camille by email or phone (H: 819-455-9281 cell: 613-292-0233).

**Parkdale's Children and Youth: Christmas Pageant 2018 -
December 9, 2018**

(Please see Cast, below, for 2018 roles)

This year, our Christmas Pageant has been written by Parkdale's own Dennis Van Staaldin, who has kindly agreed to Direct as well. During the past couple of weeks, we have been speaking with the children and youth about the various roles for the pageant. They have shared with us their top 3 preferences, and we have been working on casting this year's pageant.

Rehearsal Schedule:

- **Sunday, December 2:** (During service) All speaking roles
- **Friday, December 7: Dress rehearsal & Pizza Party!**
- **Sunday, December 9: PAGEANT SUNDAY!!** (Please plan to arrive by 10am)

Please ensure that your children attend BOTH the dress rehearsal AND pageant Sunday. If you cannot attend, please let me know.

Upcoming activities: See following pages for details

- University Care packages
- Advent Luncheon - December 2
- IGNITE! Life Group - 7pm Wednesdays in early December
- Coffee Shop - December 9

Parkdale United Church Children, Youth & Young Adults

For additional information regarding these programs, please contact
Camille Beaufort (ce@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca)

Junior and Senior Youth Group - Photo Voice activity

Sunday, November 18 (12:00-2:30pm)

Attention Children and Youth grades 4 and up! Bring your phones and cameras so you can take pictures of your favourite places and parts of the church. Roam the halls, take pics of those secret passages, then gather to share highlights and insights with your friends.

RSVP – pizza lunch will be provided.

University and College student care packages

(donations gratefully accepted by November 25)

Please help lift the spirits of our young people living and studying away from home. Each November, Parkdale sends care packages to remind them that they are prayed for and thought of during what is often a difficult time, with the stress of deadlines and exams.

In order to prepare these boxes we are in need of:

1. Donations of non-perishable snacks and goodies (e.g. candy, hot chocolate, apple cider)
2. The names (and addresses) of Parkdale members attending college or university away.

Cooking with Paul and Rob and Zaya!

Sunday, November 25, 4-7pm

Calling all Parkdale Senior Youth (Grades 7 and up)! Join us for our cooking evening for the 2018-19 season. Enjoy food, fellowship and games. RSVP with Rob at r.hilkes@gmail.com

Advent Luncheon, Wreath making and Carol singing

Sunday, December 2 (after service)

Please join us as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season



Children's Christmas Pageant

It's a favorite every year: children and youth acting out the Christmas story for us in worship... as worship!

Please mark your calendars:

- **Sunday, November 18:** (During service) rehearsal for Mary, Joseph, Donkey, Soldiers, Innkeepers
- **Sun November 25:** (During service) rehearsal for Shepherds, Angels
- **Sun December 2:** (During service) rehearsal for All Speaking roles
- **Friday, December 7: Dress rehearsal & Pizza Party!**
- **Sunday, December 9: PAGEANT SUNDAY!!** (Please plan to arrive by 10am)

November Sunday School Stories

Godly Play Class (ages 3-6) – Blue room

November 4 - The Ten Best Ways
November 11- The Exile and Return
November 18- Pageant preparation
November 25- Godly Play's Advent Story (I)

Grades 2-6 – Orange Room

Date	Lesson Title	Focus Text	Theme
November 4	Ruth and Naomi	Ruth 1	Loyal
November 11	God Calls Samuel	1 Samuel 3:1-20	Listen
November 18	David is Anointed	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Heart
November 25	David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17: 1-49	Fearless

Senior Youth Class – November scripture passages

Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5 & 6



Please join our youth at
Second Blessings for
great food and
fellowship after church on
Sunday, December 9



Parkdale
Junior Choir

(Children and Youth ages 7 & up)
Sundays after service from 12:15-1:00pm
Please contact Carol Diamond: simodiamond@gmail.com

Parkdale United Church _YOUNG ADULTS IN FAITH (ages 18-24ish) IGNITE! (ages 25ish+)

Advent Life Group for IGNITE! – 7pm on Wednesdays in November and into December
Gather as spiritual companions with a common desire to explore a deeper life of living in love with God, self and others. Experience the power of listening and sharing of stories as a way of supporting each other to grow in our awareness of God in all of life.

Parkdale Young Adults Reunion - Christmas holidays 2018

Did you attend Parkdale Senior Youth class? Are you in town over the holidays? We are planning a reunion, so let us know if you can attend.

Winter Retreat (January 2019) If you are interested in attending, or know someone who might be interested, please contact Camille Beaufort or Rev. Alcris.

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2018

Readers	Sahana, Destin, Rachel, Callum
Angel Reader and Trumpeter	Freddy and Jonah
Youth Helpers:	
Angels	Elizabeth, Sophie
Sheep	Elliot
Soldier	Isaac B.
Villagers	Emily B.
Inn Keeper	Levi B.
Musicians	Marianne, Tavian, Isaac A., Surian
Mary	Helen
Joseph	Felix
Angel Gabrielle	Laitys
Star	Owen
Donkey	Ben
Angels	Naomi, Rosemary, Leila, Evie
Head Shepherd	Eliana
Shepherds	Solan, Carl , Kendra, Elijah
Grumpy Inn Keepers	Archer, Savani
Tired inn Keepers	Theo, Tristan
Friendly Inn Keepers	Sivani, Aaron
Villagers	Camrynn, Vivica, Marin, Kemba, Mirriam, Serena, Dorcas, Sophie, Martha, Daphne
Village Animals	Azalea, Felix, Riley, Elodie, Emmett
Soldiers	Maxim, Adam
3 Magi	Luke, NoraLyn, Tianna

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us...

Coordinator: Camille Beaufort 613-292-0233

Director: Dennis Van Staalduinen denvan@gmail.com

Uplifting thoughts

What a wonderful poem by the late Spike Milligan about smiling...let's share this around and give out some smiles 😊😊😊



Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too
I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin
When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him
I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth
A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth
So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Start an epidemic
And get the world infected.

Canada and Indigenous People: Toward A New Relationship



Rev. Anthony Bailey, Elder Albert Dumont, Elder Barbara Dumont-Hill and the Honorable Frank Iacobucci.

On October 1, 2018, Parkdale United Church hosted a speech by the Honourable Frank Iacobucci, C.C., Q.C. on "Canada and Indigenous People: Toward A New Relationship". Some 125 people attended from across the National Capital Region. The event was co-sponsored by Parkdale's Men's Group and the Living In Right Relations Group of the Mission, Outreach and Justice Committee. Well-known local Algonquin Elder, Albert Dumont, opened the event with prayer.

During his distinguished career, Mr. Iacobucci has served as Dean of Law at the University of Toronto, Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General for Canada, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Canada, and member of the Supreme Court of Canada (1991-2004). Mr. Iacobucci was Federal Representative to negotiate the settlement of the Indian Residential Schools litigation. He remains active in the practice of law and continues to work in areas affecting Indigenous People. While

living in Ottawa, Frank and Nancy Iacobucci were active members of Parkdale United Church. Below are some of the highlights of his address. A recording of Mr. Iacobucci's remarks is on our web site: www.parkdaleunitedchurch.ca

Mr. Iacobucci described relations with Indigenous people as “the most important societal issue facing Canada.” Many of Canada’s 1.4 million Indigenous People live in communities where conditions are comparable to those of Third World countries: widespread unemployment, undrinkable water, inadequate housing, poor health and education services, high costs for food and amenities, drug and alcohol addiction, abnormal rates of suicide, an entangling welfare system, and a justice system that fails them. While the federal government has legislative authority for Indians and lands reserved for them, provincial governments are also involved in many issues affecting Indigenous people.

By way of background, Mr. Iacobucci reviewed a range of issues, including the differences of opinion around treaties made between Indigenous

people and Canada (while under the British Crown) that have been an obstacle to harmonious relations.

“Indigenous people view the treaties as a sharing of the land and resources between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples; the non-Indigenous opinion has traditionally been that the treaties represent the surrender by Indigenous peoples of the land and resources to Canada.” Court cases continue to revolve around these divergent interpretations. Interestingly, Canada is the only English-speaking country with specific constitutional provisions dealing with Indigenous people, with an express affirmation of treaty and aboriginal rights.

Much attention has been paid to the actions and legacy of what were known as Indian Residential Schools (IRS), set up late in the 19th century. The 130 schools were established by the federal government, but operated by major Christian denominations. “The policy involved the taking of children, often far away from their parents, for periods of up to 12 years with little contact with their families.... The children were treated inhumanely,

often given numbers not names, their hair cut short, and forbidden to speak their native language or practice their traditions. And worse, many were brutalized either physically or sexually.” But, Mr. Iacobucci went on to say, “ironically, the legacy of IRS is both a major contributor to the terrible treatment and existing circumstances of Indigenous peoples, but also a major inspiration for a hopeful future.”

One positive development was the Indian Residential Schools litigation, which consisted of over 20 class actions and some 15,000 – 18,000 individual actions that were settled by an Agreement approved by both the Martin and Harper governments. The settlement was the largest in Canadian history - over five billion dollars. The settlement did not, Mr. Iacobucci reminded us, erase the Indian Residential Schools from history. But that settlement, along with the apologies of the federal and provincial governments and the churches, and the various forms of compensation and other components, such as admissions of wrongdoing and requests for forgiveness, constitute positive developments.

The most important of those was the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which Mr. Iacobucci feels “has the potential to be transformative in our search for a new relationship.” The Commission encouraged and enabled former students and others involved in Indian Residential Schools to recount their stories and experiences at the schools and how these affected their lives. From these narratives, the Commission “has written an authoritative account of a tragic chapter in Canadian history as a prelude to recommending ways and means to achieve reconciliation between Canada and Aboriginal Peoples.” Specifically, the Commission’s 94 Calls to Action are “comprehensive, courageous, and challenging.” The summary report of the Commission contains what Mr. Iacobucci considers “a persuasive discussion of Reconciliation - which is the main pillar for a hopeful future for Aboriginal Peoples and Canada.” In all, he feels that the Commission “has done a superb job in producing a thoughtful, challenging, comprehensive, well-reasoned discussion of what Reconciliation is and what it entails.”

Building on his own observations and experiences, as well as the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Mr. Iacobucci highlighted six components to guide a way forward into a new relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples.

1. Let history serve as an incentive to fair and honourable progress (rather than something to be either forgotten or dwelled on in ways that impede such progress).
2. The relationship must be principle-based and long-term.
3. Changes in attitudinal culture for both non-Indigenous and Indigenous people will be needed for such a relationship. This will require commitment and effort from all.
4. Mutual respect and trust must be the foundations of a new relationship. Both words and, more importantly, conduct and action will be the measures.
5. Of fundamental importance is the need for

“government to government” relationships between federal and provincial governments and each Aboriginal community.

6. “Partnership”, based on mutual respect and trust, and rejection of the adversarial nature of past relations, must be the model used by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples as they act through their respective governments. “[A] genuine partnership means sharing and working together to achieve progress.”

Mr. Iacobucci emphasized that “there is no magic formula or a quick fix to achieve a new relationship.” But, even with all of the obstacles, complexities, and expense, “the costs of doing nothing are even higher since in humanity terms we are talking about the lives of a million and a half people who have been disadvantaged since European contact. We cannot afford to do nothing simply because the tasks are enormous.... Together we can succeed - and when we do, we will have an even better country.”

Report on October 29 Block Party

On October 29, 2018, Parkdale hosted an event for our neighbours on Parkdale, Wellington, Rosemount and Gladstone.

Although some of our immediate neighbours were unable to be with us, it is our intention to keep in touch with all and we will, as promised, plan another get-together as we clarify our plans and our mission as a Christian church and neighbour at the corner of Parkdale and Gladstone Avenues in 2019 and in years to come.

In his presentation at our “Block Party”, Barry Hobin identified some of the difficulties posed by our aging facilities:

- Original almost 90-year old building has had more than one significant addition and various interior renovations and upgrades creating an odd building “footprint”.
- We have some 10 or so entrances but none that stands out as the main entrance or front door.
- All but one door (off the Gladstone parking lot) lead to at least a few steps or to a full staircase before you are anywhere.



- There are 15 or so sets of stairs serving the too-many-to-count levels in our hallways and multiple meeting spaces.
- A recent audit of our 40,000+ square feet – how spaces are used, by whom and when – indicates that 20,000 would be enough if it were appropriately arranged and designed.

The Block had a rich discussion and guests offered lots of comments and suggestions:

- * Cars create challenges for all of us, for those who drive and walk and cycle! So

much traffic, so little parking, such narrow roads and narrow sidewalks, little children seem especially at risk.

- * Our church parking lot has one single-lane driveway for entering and exiting.
- * Parkdale and Abbeyfield House are “unfenced neighbours”.
- * We could all share in an “urban forest” or green space at the centre of the block, a shared space onto which we all back.
- * Parkdale is the emergency centre for Connaught Public School children should the school need to evacuate for any reason.
- * In this block, we’ve got a range of social services: library, food centre, public school, Post Office, long-term care facility, men’s transition house, a Christian church which is home to a Headstart pre-school. We also have a few new shops and purpose-built rental apartments.
- * If Parkdale were to incorporate social housing in its new building, maybe Abbeyfield could have a couple of floors.
- * One participant wondered what other properties and institutions around here are also in transition?
- * Could Sunday morning church parking be moved off-site? A shuttle bus to Tunney’s Pasture? Or valet service?
- * It is really encouraging, said one participant, to be talking about getting rid of fences (and cars), maintaining sacred spaces and green spaces and building community. All so positive!

A second get-together, on November 26, will include several of service institutions in Hintonburg and the Ottawa west area, political representatives, and interested individuals. The purpose is to identify current local issues that will or could affect us and also, importantly, to share the more specific issues facing Parkdale United Church and some of the options we are considering which may affect others. A report on this second meeting will be included in the January Messenger.

Note: Large portions of this report were lifted from the thank you letter, drafted by Kathleen Stephenson, which was sent to participants.

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.

