

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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We invite your contributions to YOUR Messenger. Please share conversations and thoughts that inform, uplift, entertain and connect us during these strange and challenging times. Your poems and prayers are welcome. And please send photos that touch you.

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

Next issue: May-June 2022

Please send submissions to:
messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca
by May 1, 2022

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Thank you to this issue's contributors:

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Anthony Bailey, Helen Hayes,
Susan Mailer, Wally Prater,
Gail Taylor, Camille Beaufort,
Alcris Limongi

IMAGES & STORIES ENDS FOR THE SEASON

Because people have not been travelling for a while, we have had to cancel the March 25, 2022 presentation of *Images and Stories*. We have received many accolades for the January 28th moving presentation on St. Michael's Residential School by Nancy Dyson and Dan Rubenstein, as well as for Ed Ellis' fantastic presentation on Denmark. I hope you will take the opportunity to read up on these splendid presentations in this and the May/June issue of the Messenger.

Our committee looks forward to entertaining you again when we start up our monthly Friday presentations in the Fall, on September 30th, October 28th, and November 25th. Wouldn't it be lovely if we can meet in person at that time? In the meantime, we wish you a blessed Easter and a carefree summer. God Bless you all, especially in these troubled times.

From members Marilyn Hahn, Lorraine Hanna, Helen Hayes, Carolyn Halkett and Faye Beaufort.

IMPORTANT: When submitting photos to The Messenger, please ensure you have asked permission of the individuals if 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>

Jesus Laments



The liturgical season of Lent invites and accommodates
LamentATion.

Throughout this Season of Lent, let us receive the grace
and the courage of God, to allow us to pay attention to
what in the world and within us cries out for
Lamentation.

*(use this space—or write in your own notebook
to name our lamentations)*

ANTHONY'S MESSAGE

The Good News of Jesus' resurrection enfolds our lamentations.
Anthony

Dear Parkdale United Church Friends,

We thank all of you for praying, crying with us, and sending cards with your thoughts and prayers about the unfolding tragedy in Ukraine. Thank you also for your willingness for understanding. We are watching, debating, and coming to the understanding that we need to do some actions. Previously we did not want to support calls for revolution in Russia.

Every hour the situation becomes worse, and we have written an appeal to the people of Russia:

"Dear people of Russia! Our beloved relatives, friends, employees, scientists, writers, and artists! All those whom we were lucky to meet in our eventful life!

We were against the Maidan (big crowd in 2014, which led to a coup), and we considered the entire Western world was responsible for inflating the internal contradictions in Ukraine and the contradictions between Ukraine and Russia. Omitting the details of previous years since the 2014 events, no one expected, even in nightmares, the tragedy now happening in Ukraine. The Ukrainian army is face to face with one of the strongest armies in the world. ALONE. Ukrainians are sitting at best in the subway and mostly in basements (in Soviet buildings, basements are not even good for a short time stay), expecting even worse, and hatred is already seething in their hearts. Ukraine is on the active defensive, contrary to the expectations of many. Ukrainians are going to the militias and fighting the Russian army, protecting their own land, homes, and families.

Everyone is calling for Putin to be removed. But the **WHOLE COUNTRY OF RUSSIA** is at war with the **COUNTRY OF UKRAINE**.

Citizens of **RUSSIA!** YOU must stop this war! If everything collapses, everyone will suffer, both the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia."

With Love,
Vita and Leo Saveliev



Vita pictured during her last trip to Ukraine in a shopping centre that was recently bombed.

REMEMBERING...

We offer our condolences to the families of



Johanna “Hannie” Fitzgerald

Reena Kalloo

Gregory Christopher (Angela Christopher’s father)

Please keep them in your prayers

IFTC Random Act of Kindness

On February 24th I was purchasing 35 lbs of baby potatoes as part of the IFTC grocery list for the next Saturday. I had selected Sobey's on March Road in Kanata because of the price and quality of their potatoes. As I was filling my shopping basket with 12 bags of potatoes, a well-dressed elderly gentleman approached me and we struck up a conversation, mainly about where we both had travelled throughout the world. He was curious about buying so many baby potatoes and I told him about Parkdale and their IFTC program. He was suitably impressed. We continued talking for a few minutes and as we were about to part, he pulled out his wallet and gave me a \$50 bill as a donation for our program. I thanked him greatly and said it was really appreciated by Parkdale and their clients as he had paid for over half the baby potatoes.



Wally Prater



My name is Gemma Lavender (3), great granddaughter of Janice Gray. I was visiting my Nana and told her I wanted to go to Ol-donalds for lunch. When we got there I said I wanted a hangaburger. When it came I lifted the lid and told Nana I didn't like the meat part so I took it out and enjoyed the bun. I don't know why Nana laughed at me and said Gemma you make me chuckle.

*(P.S. I've okayed this with her mom.)
Janice Gray*

**United Church of Canada
Mission and Service Fund**

Excerpts from a letter from the Mission and Service Fund:

Thank you [to the Parkdale congregation] for your generous gifts to Mission & Service. Your gifts are building a better world through our shared Mission & Service.

Your gifts for Mission & Service help transform and save lives. Locally, your gifts help people in need. You reach out to young people on campuses and at camps. Your generosity cares for people who are sick or at the end of life. Globally, your gifts help people access clean water, food, medical care, and skill training. You support vital economic development, peace-making, sustainable agriculture efforts, advocacy and disaster relief, and so much more. For example, our partner Women for Change in Zambia is creating opportunities for girls to become part of the next generation of leaders by supporting them to stay in school.

Your gifts for Mission & Service inspire meaning and purpose. Locally, your gifts train ministers and strengthen all church members by supporting theological schools, education centres, and retreat centres. You support new and innovative ministries and communities of faith that are remote or in need. Globally, you sustain churches, student groups, theological centres, and others doing important outreach work, such as Program for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA), where Christians and Muslims in Africa work and study together to develop understanding between the people of each faith.

Note from Parkdale's Treasurer:

In 2021, Parkdale gave \$29,961.25 to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service Fund. This amount came from the donations made to Parkdale's Mission, Outreach and Justice Fund. Each year, Parkdale fully distributes donations made to this fund, first giving to various local charities according to recommendations from the M, O and J committee, and then sending the remainder to the United Church's Mission and Service Fund..

Debbie Sarre-McGregor

FEAR NOT

(based on Psalm 27)

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND THE ONE WHO SAVES ME.

Have comfort and faith in God, as I pray and know He is with me.

BE STRONG AND LET YOUR HEART TAKE COURAGE

Afraid of the storm and I was sleeping.

The joys of a new puppy, when he was so small and cute.

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND THE ONE WHO SAVES ME.

My mom, my dad, my sister, my brother, my friends make me feel safe.

Protected in my house, my bed, outside or driving with my family

BE STRONG AND LET YOUR HEART TAKE COURAGE

Remember to have faith, courage and love in YOU, LORD

I go to a place where I feel safe to think and focus on GOD.

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND THE ONE WHO SAVES ME.

BE STRONG AND LET YOUR HEART TAKE COURAGE

Created by Sunday school members:

Aurea, Edith, Kemba, Tianna, Maxim, & Noralyn
Parkdale United Church

March 13, 2022

LECTIONARY FOR MARCH AND APRIL, 2022

MARCH

First Sunday in Lent, March 6

Deuteronomy 26:1–11
Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16
Romans 10:8b–13
Luke 4:1–13

Second Sunday in Lent March 13

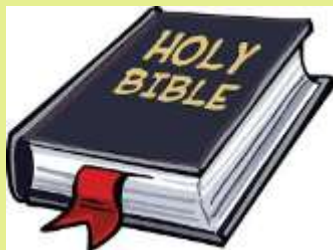
Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17–4:1
Luke 13:31–35 or Luke 9:28–36,
(37–43a)

Third Sunday in Lent, March 20

Isaiah 55:1–9
Psalm 63:1–8
1 Corinthians 10:1–13
Luke 13:1–9

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 27

Joshua 5:9–12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16–21
Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32



APRIL

Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 3

Isaiah 43:16–21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b–14
John 12:1–8

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10

Liturgy of the Palms
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29
Luke 19:28–40
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4–9a
Psalm 31:9–16
Philippians 2:5–11
Luke 22:14–23:56 or
Luke 23:1–49

Good Friday, April 15

Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16–25 or Hebrews
4:14–16; 5:7–9
John 18:1–19:42

Resurrection Sunday/Easter April 17

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 65:17–25
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24
1 Corinthians 15:19–26 or Acts
10:34–43
John 20:1–18 or Luke 24:1–12

Second Sunday of Easter April 24

Acts 5:27–32
Psalm 118:14–29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4–8
John 20:19–31

Abbeyfield Update

by *Camilla Amundsen*

Note: Our next-door neighbour, Abbeyfield House, provides accommodation and companionship for senior citizens within the local community. Up to 10 senior citizens live like a large "family" under one roof, each with their own bed-sitting room with en-suite bathroom and sharing facilities such as a communal living room and dining room.



limiting visitors and having weekly rapid tests.

Accident

A large delivery truck ran over the garden and smashed into our patio deck pushing it

off its foundation. Fortunately, no one was hurt but the damage to the deck is considerable and is being assessed by insurance representatives. We won't know till Spring how this will affect our garden and planter boxes.

Thanks

Thank you to Parkdale friends for many kindnesses over this period of isolation due to Covid. We have appreciated and enjoyed everything from help in the garden to holiday treats and masked chats on the patio deck. We particularly appreciated the support we received from clergy and parishioners to commemorate the passing of one of our residents, J.J. (Josh) Moskau, in June 2021.

Health

We are happy to report that all residents and staff are fully vaccinated and there has been no sign of illness so far. We continue to follow a preventive routine, using masks, sanitizing,

New Staff

A newcomer to our staff is Joseph (Joey) Massie. Joey has been our Kitchen Manager at Abbeyfield House since Nov. 2021. He owes his interest in cooking to his father and paternal grandmother. They encouraged from-scratch cooking using fresh ingredients as much as possible. Joey considers that he has had the best of both worlds by inheriting an interest and experience in French cuisine from his grandmother, and Canadian cooking from his dad, as a basis for his professional training and experience.

Outside of his work, Joey enjoys reading history, training in

weight lifting, riding his motor-cycle and spending time with his four granddaughters, who range in age from newborn to 11 years old.

The recipe Joey chooses to share is *Pico De Gallo*, a Mexican salsa. He chooses this for its versatility, adding zing to a

wide variety of dishes, including black beans, chicken wraps and corn chips, as well as grilled steak, fish or chicken breasts. Joey values this recipe not just for its health benefits from fresh ingredients but also for its inexpensive basis in garlic.

Pico de Gallo

Preparation: 20 minutes
Refrigeration time: 3 hours
Servings: 12
Yield: 3 cups

Ingredients:

6 roma (plum) tomatoes, diced
½ red onion, chopped
Fresh cilantro
½ jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
½ lime, juiced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 pinch garlic powder
1 pinch ground cumin, or to taste
Salt and ground pepper to taste



Directions:

Stir the tomatoes, onion, cilantro, jalapeno pepper, lime juice, garlic, garlic powder, cumin, salt and pepper together in a bowl. Refrigerate at least 3 hours before serving.

Nutrition Facts: Per Serving: 10 calories; protein 0.4g; carbohydrates 2.2g; fat 0.1g; sodium 15.2 mg.

Recipe credit: Rachel Love, <https://www.allrecipes.com>

SHROVE TUESDAY SUPPER



Our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who made this gathering possible. We played fun games and the pancakes were so yummy!



the Messenger



the Messenger



Birthdays



Warm birthday greetings to:

March

2nd Richard Hamley
4th Sofia McLean
4th Thomas Cuhaci
5th Zoe Harewood
6th Ava Ahronson
7th Barbara Faught
9th Marguerite Brown
9th Samantha Tim
9th Felix Dos Santos
10th Nancy Hobin
11th Gabriella Jeglic
15th Pierre Barbeau
16th Nicole Osterkruger
16th Adele Harman
19th Jonah Hamer-Wilson
20th Neil Mason
20th Tristan Higham
26th Tom Grozinger
26th Alex Johnson
29th Asher Fincham
29th Shemond Charley
30th Susan Pfister

April

1st: Sawyer Pinheiro
2nd: Allan Menzies
2nd: Hugh Nelson
3rd: Eleyana Molepo-Stearns
7th: Ellen McGuinty
8th: Ellen Andrews
10th: Doris Wilson
11th: Ike Goodine
11th: Margaret MacPherson
12th: Noah Linton
12th: Tristan Dos Santos
13th: Myracle Charley
13th: Andrea Nelson
13th: Benjamin Bosch
15th: Gloria Anderson
15th: Elizabeth Cheesbrough
16th: William Morris
19th: William Fitzgerald
23rd: Viola Menzies
25th: Barbara Lawton

If you would like your birthday to be a secret and your name taken off this list or if you have a name to add, please let the office know.



A Stony Road for Women: Reality, Resistance and Resilience

By Alcris Limongi, Minister of Pastoral Care



On this International Women's Day 2022, we took a pause in the busyness of life to remember that *We are Women*, daughters of God, part of the eternal love of God's story. (*The power point of our celebration on March 8 is available upon request*).

A stony road for women. It has always been...

I was born in Venezuela, into a family of strong, courageous and professional women, ones that open spaces for their dreams and commitments in a society where the gender roles and expectations did not align with theirs. It has been a stony road for us, as it has for countless women. This road has also been rewarding, adventurous and always blessed.

Along this journey, I have met amazing women whose determination, faith, and courage have inspired me to uphold, and build bridges for, other women. I have found faithful and awesome men who have been allies in this stony road of being a woman in ministry. I give thanks to God for all them!

For women:

How do you tell your story as a woman?

What hurdles and what blessings have you encountered? What inspiring women and men have you found along the way?

For men:

What stones in the road have you witnessed for the women of your life? If you haven't noticed any, ask them. (Any women: mother, partner, wife, daughter, aunt, co-worker, friend)

The stony road of our foremothers

Gender discrimination, resistance and resilience are not new in women's lives. They don't have geographical locations or borders and are not confined to a certain time in history.

The stories of women in *The Book that Reads Us (the Bible)*, have not been smooth either. We begin with Mary, a very young woman whose

life plans were interrupted by a sudden life vocation: becoming the mother of the Saviour, Emmanuel. Mary defied society's conventions to surrender her life to God and accept her call. She rebelled in obedience to God.

We remember the Syrophoenician woman (Mark 7:26; Matthew 15:21-28) needing to use what I call *strategies from the margins* to get Jesus' attention for the healing of her daughter. The disciples tried to stop her because of her racial identity. She was so persistent that they had to ask Jesus to stop her himself, and he couldn't either. She was heard.

We remember the woman who had a hemorrhage for 12 years, also in the margins, daring to go through the crowds to touch Jesus' garment to be healed. Maybe she felt unworthy (internalized oppression) to even speak directly to him. Because she was considered unclean, it was very risky for her to even touch someone passing by, but she did it and was healed.

We can think of the woman caught in adultery, who was brought to public judgment for execution, *without her partner in crime*. She was expected to pay herself, with her own life, for a sin committed by two. The man was not seen, no one took any interest in him. She was the sinner, but contrary to the expectations and desires of all, she was forgiven.

What about the woman with the expensive perfume in the fine alabaster vase? She was scolded for wasting something so expensive and precious just to pour it on Jesus. Her own expression of love for Jesus was publicly criticized. She stood her ground and broke the vase to anoint Jesus. She was praised by Jesus and is remembered by all generations.

How to forget that Mary was challenged by her sister Martha because of her choice to sit and listen to Jesus. In my opinion, this was her vocation, her call in life, but she was opposed because her choice did not fit with role expectations for women. Jesus supported her and her courage and clarity have inspired many who have a call from God.

We remember the Samaritan woman, the one who had to come by herself to get water, as she was ostracized because of her love life and choices.... She was the first evangelist, as Mary Magdalene was the first Apostle and witness of the resurrection.

For women:

What women in the Bible resemble you?

What struggles have you had as a woman in your career, your life choices, your expressions of faith, that mirror theirs?

For men:

What woman from Scriptures challenges you about the stones in women's lives back then and today?

A stony road, and a pandemic came...

Covid-19 has been a mirror to see who we are as a society. The last couple of years uncovered the specific impact on women of this global pandemic. These issues have always been there, but now the silence of isolation, of being confined at home and the expanding social media have forced society to focus on the voices of those suffering from gender oppression.

- * Domestic violence skyrocketed during the confinement. The victim had to co-habit with the abuser 24/7 with no rest. Domestic violence has always been a way to dominate and legitimize power abuse and gender superiority. The Me-Too movement, Thursdays in Black (the World Council of Churches' movement to raise awareness of violence against women): these action-provoking movements of witness got the attention and solidarity of women and men. Every story encouraged another woman to stand against violence, and demonstrated the resilience of women and the power of naming and interrupting oppression.
- * Mental health issues - depression, anxiety, stress, isolation - have surfaced in high numbers.
- * The *doble jornada de la mujer*- double work load of women - (especially single parents), having to work and shoulder the full responsibility of home and children, converted into women's *triple work load*, adding home schooling or the worry for essential workers of having to leave children alone at home.

The global crisis of political abuse of power in some countries, and the uneven distribution of resources among others, have caused huge waves of immigration and displacement that not even the Pandemic could stop.

- * Women that walk with their children, or alone, from one country to another. For example, in the last few years almost 6 million Venezuelans (including single women and mothers with children) have left their homeland, fleeing political persecution, unrest, government violence, hunger, unemployment and one of the highest inflation rates in the world.

- * Some have been forced to leave their kids back home with grandparents or partners. The separation of families leaves a sad and powerful imprint in the lives of children, women, and the elderly - especially **abuelas (grandmas)**, who at an advanced age become mothers of small children again.
- * These women **Caminantes (Walkers)** are easy prey for human trafficking, prostitution, kidnapping for selling their organs, and horrific murders. The ones who make it to Mexico, the US and Canada join the lowest tier of society: living in extreme poverty and isolation, with no family or community support.

Stories that, sadly, are still not so visible are those of Indigenous women and transgender women.

- * Indigenous men have always had the right to marry non-Indigenous women and retain their “Indian status”. It took many years of resistance and protest to win the basic right under the Indian Act for women to be allowed to retain their treaty status when they marry a non-Indigenous man.
- * Violence and the homicide rate for Indigenous women has been found to be 6 times higher. After years of protesting and raising the issue, the final report of the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls was released in 2019. It noted that the root causes behind Canada’s staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls included persistent and deliberate Indigenous rights violations and abuses. The report also made a finding of “genocide” under international law.
- * Indigenous mothers, grandmothers and community women have been experiencing again the pain of losing their children for a third time. The first separation when the children went to Residential school, the second when they were informed that children had died or simply never returned, and now with the unearthing of unmarked graves, the pain is raw again. They resist having their voices silenced and continue to tell their truth and build communities of solidarity and dignity.
- * For transgender women, their visibility and social stigma make them a default target for discrimination (housing, job market, etc); but also many are murdered just because of extreme bullying and hate. Their voices and experiences continue to interrupt the silence...

For women:

How can you see yourself standing side by side with other women whose reality is different than yours?

For men:

What ways do you find in your life to contribute to and support women in their homes, communities, in the world?

For all genders :

What do we do with all these stories?

What inspiration and ideas for action do you get?

What prayers do you find in your heart?

War: the stoniest road

Days ago, war came to Ukraine, Russia... and women are proving that they are resilient, resourceful, strong and faithful even when treading the stoniest roads. As in other war-torn countries, their lives are fully disrupted, they are responding from their different roles and capacities as mothers, wives, fighters, humanitarians, faith leaders, workers... What we hear from news and social media challenges once more the stereotype that women are passive victims. Surely, they are doubly exposed, because they are vulnerable to sexual violence and may be forced into prostitution, as happened in past genocides and wars. In war, they suffer, they grieve, they protect, they fight, they flee as refugees, they pray.

For All:

What stereotypes about women come to mind?

What do we learn from women in situations of war?

How can we support and pray for women in wars all over the world that God so much loves?

Pray with me...

Gracious God, Our Guide and Sustainer, we stand side by side with our sisters. embracing the transformative vision of Your kingdom. A vision where no one is valued more than another because we are all made in your image, with dignity and uniqueness. Ignite our passion and encourage us to grow in sensitivity, to listen to others' voices and stories, to engage from our different places in society and gender identities, to be in solidarity with the ones who have no voice and no means. Help us to facilitate and live out your vision, so that each one can become the full and whole human being that You intend us to be. Amen.



Recently, Rev. Bailey was pleased to pop by the Carleton Tavern to accept a donation for ***In From the Cold***.

The very generous donation was presented to Reverend Bailey by Rob Saikaley (who co-owns the Carleton Tavern with his brothers Sam, Simon and Bill Saikaley) and Cheryl Parrott and Shelley Callaghan of the [Hintonburg Economic Development Committee](#) (HEDC). Sam Saikaley is the one who said to the HEDC, about 21 years ago, "we should do this". What was 'this'? - an annual Christmas dinner provided to the city's less fortunate on Christmas Day. HEDC organized volunteers and the Carleton took care of getting food and other donations and cooking all the food.

In 2020, due to the pandemic, they partnered with Parkdale to offer pick-up and delivery meals on December 25th, which were prepared in our larger church kitchen. In 2021, they were able to provide a Christmas Day meal for 400 people in Parkdale's Tape Hall (70 more than were served in 2020).

The donation was an expression of gratitude to Parkdale for providing the facility and some extra volunteers.

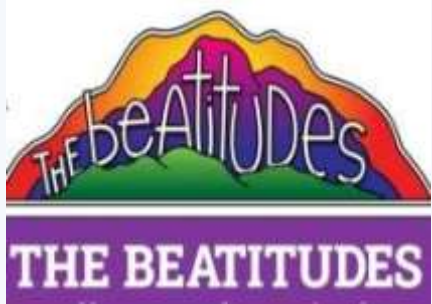
IGNITE!
Marzipan Baking Night for Valentine's



Sunday School

The online Sunday school's focus for the months of January and February was on the Beatitudes from Matthew's gospel. We had a lot of fun learning songs, playing games, and listening to stories!

Thanks to our awesome teachers. If you would like to know more about Sunday school or to volunteer, please speak with Huda.



STOP the WAR

Tal king to Your Kids About War

By Huda KaNdaI aft

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” **John 16:33b**

“Daddy, why do countries fight?” “Mom, what’s happening in the world?” “Are we safe?” “Why there is no Peace?” “Why doesn’t God help them?”

My children asked me these questions many times during the war in Syria. They had many questions about war and peace, God and power.

With all the recent news, our children may have lots of questions. What should we do when we hear about wars or persecution that is happening in the world? How do we learn about our neighbors around the world and how do we advocate for justice and equality for all? How do we pray for those in trouble?

Sometimes children do not express their thoughts and do not ask their questions but that doesn’t mean that they do not think about these issues or hear about them from school friends. When discussing difficult topics with our kids, we should be sensitive to their ages. It is important to keep them informed because this is how they learn about the world. Their awareness

will create empathy, understanding, and knowledge, and they'll learn to seek out and pray for God's justice. The best way to know our neighbors is to learn about them; and the best way to love our neighbors is to pray for them and walk alongside them.



Try these ideas to help your family stay informed, talk openly, and think about the news using a Christian worldview:

- What are important international stories of the day? What countries do we need to pray for? Go to a trusted news source and pray for the people and places involved in each headline you see. (For younger kids, you may want to choose the news stories ahead of time to screen out things that may be too hard for them to hear or watch.) This helps open kids' eyes to what is going on in the world around them, helps develop Jesus-like empathy for others, emphasize their role as peacemakers, and shows them that we believe in the power of prayer to help a hurting world.
- Bring a world map to the dinner table, and choose a country for each week or month. Ask questions and explore the country. Where is it? Who are its neighbors? How do you spell it? Learn about its geography, the people, their culture, and problems. Is the Christian church growing there? As a family, pray for God's justice and mercy in the country every day.
- As a way to pray for each country, trace your finger around the borders and ask God to protect the people within those borders.
- Though God is just, his mercy triumphs over judgment. When a person or group is considered an "enemy," pray for them. Jesus told us to pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:43-48). Why do you think he said that? Is it challenging to possess that depth of mercy? How deep is God's mercy? How deep should be our mercy?

- Make a list of places, then write the names of people to pray for who live in these places in the world: for example, people whom you may know, church leaders, singers, composers, authors, government leaders, human rights or land protectors. Tape the list in your kitchen. Before meals, pray specifically for someone on that list.
- Point out those organizations that help people internationally (Canadian Food Grains Bank, Kairos, Amnesty International, etc.). Pray for their staff. Pray for those they meet. Research organizations that help spread the gospel globally or deliver Bibles to persecuted Christians, support refugees, human rights or environmental justice.
- If your child would like to become a pen pal with a child from Syria, I will be more than happy to connect them. It is a great way to make friends and learn about our cultures and pray for one another.

Finally, never cease praying. Prayer is the best way to show us God's will. After all, God wants us to ask for help, "You will turn back to me and ask for help, and I will answer your prayers" (Jeremiah 29:12). Remind your children that God is always in control, and because of Jesus there is always hope.

**"The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be
afraid? (Psalm 27)**



Why Write

by Gail Taylor

From childhood and continuing vigorously into my mid-seventies, I have written and I write. My journals date from 60 years ago and fill bins, but I also write in other forms and genres, and currently I'm working on a poetry manuscript, a disciplined labour that saw me through cancer. Writing orients, grounds, and enhances my life, and while I want to be careful not to sound hyperbolic, it is true that writing has at times saved my life.

With the encouragement and support of Rev. Alcris, a few of us launched the Parkdale Writers Group in late 2020 when everyone was pivoting online, meeting at 3-week intervals from 5 to 7 pm on Thursdays. For me, it's another opportunity to think about and practice my belief that writing is healing, to say nothing of intellectually and emotionally stimulating.

I enter my day with writing and music, reflecting on the tumultuous world, the beautiful and beleaguered earth, my own smaller but dedicated life (also tumultuous and in its way beautiful). By intuition I follow what arises, making meaning from raw experience, naming what I see and hear and discover by walking with my senses attuned. Images rise up, and refrains I might carry from dream, or prayer, or memory. Often I'm amazed and humbled that at some point in

even the most mundane observations, if I let myself follow my cursive, a breakthrough will come, insight will eddy out, and I'll be faced with something more layered and even paradoxical than I started with. It is a rich practice, writing.

It's not that I solve or even resolve everything, but that new questions and fresh vantages on old conundrums emerge. Writing practice opens me to accept myself and others, and quietens that habitual critical vein of cognition that can only find fault and judge before seeing the whole.

Writing is useful in times of conflict or impasse, for it accommodates everything, even bewilderment, and in gusts of blessing performs the alchemy of understanding when I'm lucky. So I can discern what to let go, and when to work harder in the face of my own resistance. It's a spiritual practice, at heart.

The writing we do in Parkdale Writers is inflected with different perspectives, for we share the research and facilitation of exercises and exploration of form. Just this week, one of our members gave us home writing on the Villanelle form of poetry that produced some fascinating poems. We're not professionals, only people dedicated to the adventure and open to hearing each other as we read; a writing community.

On Writing

by Camille Beaufort

I enjoy reading, but I've never considered myself a "writer". During the pandemic, I've found myself with less time. I took on the task of home-schooling my two children, and over the past two years, I have gained a new perspective on writing and reading.

I've seen my youngest learn to read in both languages. The process and transformation is quite amazing and awesome. And my son learned how to craft stories. In the Quebec system, grade 4 was all about writing "un récit", a story. He has a very mathematical and logical mind, and could not figure out how to create and craft a story with a beginning, middle and end. So I went about it like a mathematical equation – who, what, when, where, why, how for the beginning, middle and end. Then for each, he would expand and find descriptive words and phrases. Lo and behold, he had little stories. The wonderful part is that I was learning how to write little stories too. And Tianna is now starting this journey.

I joined the Writing Group at Parkdale with some hesitation. First, I didn't have a lot of experience

writing. But no worries, because a new type of writing is introduced and explained each time. We learn and then we write within the meeting. Which leads to my second reason to hesitate to join. I don't tend to have much time to write in between meetings. But that's okay, because there is time to craft during the meeting.

What I have enjoyed most about the writer's group, is that I am able to "come as I am". There are some days that I just listen. Other times I share. It is a beautiful and supportive group. It has been a blessing during covid.

I drafted the beginning of a children's story during one of our recent gatherings. It's not done, but I am pleased with the start. And one day, when I have some time, I'll finish it!



Images and Stories – January 28, 2022

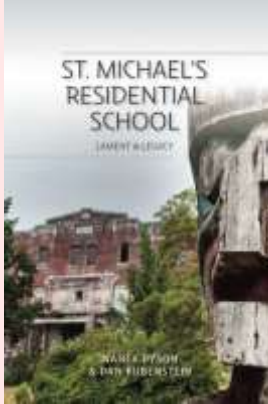
St-Michael's Residential School in Alert Bay, BC

It was -19° outside, but thanks to the convenience of Zoom, about thirty-five Parkdalers and friends were able to attend the first of the 2022 series of *Images and Stories* in the comfort of their homes.

Faye Beaufort welcomed Nancy Dyson and Dan Rubenstein, whom she had invited as guest speakers after hearing the story of their experience at Alert Bay Student Residence (formerly St. Michael's Residential School) in British Columbia at one of her Kiwanis Club meetings.

It began with their desire for adventure. Married on March 6, 1970, and planning to explore Olympic peninsula in Washington State, they took Nancy's father's advice to make the trip via the Rockies and Vancouver.

Armed with flexible tickets, bikes and camping equipment, they decided to stay for a while in peaceful Canada until the end of the Vietnam war, to which they were conscientious objectors. In the meantime, they applied for jobs and permanent residence. Although without experience, they replied to the advertisement for caretakers at the residence



and were hired after one interview. Dan was to look after 25 boys between ages five and six, and Nancy, 18 teenage girls. They were responsible for their charges before and after school as well as on Sundays. They lasted four months. The topic of their talk for the evening was

their book, *St. Michael's Residential School : Lament and Legacy*, which they began writing together in 2015 and published in 2021.

At the outset of the book, Nancy tells us that she and Dan had rarely talked in the previous forty-five years about what they had seen at the school.

Hence, she thought it pertinent to ask: Why now? Why did it take so long? How do we feel now that we had all those years to reflect?

The answer is that “when we read the survivors’ statements and realized the lasting tragic legacy of the schools, we felt compelled to share our story”.

So, Nancy pointed out that the purpose of the book was “to apologize for their ignorance of the trauma”. The first part of the book ‘places the reader in the story’. It

is the story of survivors based on their experience as children and the story of two of the adults who were there.

She hoped that “in adding our voice to the voices of survivors, the history of residential schools will not be forgotten or denied.”

It is not that they were unaware of abuse. They saw it in the conditions in the residence, such as the barren dorms with no books, no toys, no photos, no drawings, no mementos, rusty radiators, meagre meals, and in the sombre and distant faces of the children. In fact, they were shocked from their first encounter with some of the children when the matron took them to the basement, chopped off the hair of two boys and two girls and threw it into the boiler together with their clothes, explaining that the Indians come to the school with lice, while emphasizing that they were tough and needed to be disciplined.

Deeply perturbed, Dan requested that the Elder of the community petition the Department of Indian Affairs to send representatives to see the conditions. When the Department responded by sending three officials,

Dan presented a list of complaints including:

- the punishment of the children for speaking their own language
- poor nutrition

- no medical records, no data files
- and the lack of connection between children and their families.

The Principal argued that Dan should not be allowed to speak. But Dan continued undeterred, calling the school's policy ‘cultural genocide’. The officials terminated the meeting and the Principal called Dan to his office the next day and fired him.

Nancy and Dan soon left for a community nearby. Looking back, Nancy states that “the four months we had spent there felt like a jagged piece of time separate from the rest of our lives.”

They finally left the area in 1972 and Nancy described her feelings: “When we left, I naively believed that the children's trauma had ended. Decades later, I realized that what Dan and I had witnessed was a tragedy that would impact present and future generations”.

Years after they left, the school came to Dan's attention again only after the following incidents:

- He met an Indigenous woman from Alert Bay at Health Canada in 1995. When he asked about the children he knew, she told him that many had died, some by suicide, in all, a lost generation.
- The school was demolished in 2015.

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) presented its findings in Spring, 2015.



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

At the release of the TRC Summary Report on June 2, 2015 at the Delta Hotel in Ottawa, as Dan was making his way to the top floor to make a statement, he met Ry Morand, Director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba, who assured him that his story would contribute to the reconciliation process.

Dan was also encouraged by Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, Ambassador for Reconciliation Canada and a St. Michael's school survivor. He also consulted with Mark MacDonald, the first National Indigenous Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada, to find out why the church had pursued a policy that effectively sought to destroy Indigenous cultures. The Bishop replied that it was based on the Doctrine of Discovery, whereby nations had the right to colonize territories which they discovered and establish sovereignty.

Dan also wondered what ordinary Canadians knew about the schools and the abuse. The answer was that they did not know

about the existence of the schools and, if they knew, they heard nothing about abuse. Complaints were never consolidated, nor were they treated seriously by the Press or acted upon. Neither did churchgoers question what they read in a 1930 pamphlet that praised the church's work in "the improvement of the Indian".

As to whether there was dissent, Dan remarked that a 1906 report about the high rate of mortality in residential schools by Dr. Peter Bryce, Chief of the Department of the Interior and Indian Affairs, and the concerns raised by parents and former students, were ignored. Also, on July 14, 1970, a group of 25 First Nations people began a sit-in at Blue Quills School to express dissatisfaction with the policy of integration and the Anglican Church of Canada rejected the Doctrine of Discovery in 2010.

Dan wished to get the story right and not offend Indigenous people. He emphasized the importance of facing the hard truths, that no one is exempt from the conversation but "*I still struggle to reconcile what I witnessed and the Doctrine of Discovery, with the image of Canada as a just and compassionate country.*"

However, he sees Reconciliation as necessary to define the nature and soul of the country but cautions that it will not happen suddenly. It will require a reframing

of understanding by some who think that residential school children were not treated differently from others and that the government was well-intentioned. But his hope is strengthened by the views of his grandchildren and the resilience of Indigenous people. He is grateful for the sense of purpose in writing, the appreciation of Chief Joseph and the small role they were able to play. To non-indigenous people who ask what can we do? he suggests:

- Believe what Indigenous people say
- Show up at Indigenous events
- Educate yourself
- Befriend an Indigenous person

Nancy remarked that the book was published at the same time as the discovery of the children's unmarked graves and has received more attention than expected. She is glad for the opportunity to tell the truth.

John Harewood

Property Development Working Group

Your Property Development Working Group last met on February 15, 2022. We have been fairly busy over the opening months of 2022, focusing our discussions on our church and our position in the neighbourhood.

In January, we agreed that it could be very useful to have representation from Abbeyfield Ottawa and Abbeyfield Canada on our Working Group. After meeting with them and learning of their willingness to join us, we are pleased to report that Jim Galloway will represent Abbeyfield Ottawa and JP Melville, ED, and/or Rhonda Flanagan, Administrator, will share the responsibility of representing Abbeyfield Canada.

We also received a positive response to our request for representation from IGNITE and two

young adults will be joining us: Michelle Bailey and Zaya Kuyena. We are delighted to welcome these new members to our Working Group and look forward to interesting conversations and fresh perspectives.

In early February, we reached out to United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) and had a meeting with its CEO, Tim Blair, who shared an interesting Power-Point presentation that outlined the aspirations of this relatively new organization, incorporated in 2020. The Working Group reviewed this presentation in detail and had many questions, which have been forwarded to UPRC for response. When we have a better understanding of UPRC's relationship to the United Church of Canada (UCC), its fee and

Trust structures, we may want to engage them for some specific work, but we will proceed cautiously given UPRC's lack of track record.

We had a brief meeting with the owner of 430 Parkdale, who wants to keep abreast of our re-development discussions and who has expressed a preliminary interest in exploring the affordable housing opportunities that might be possible for his property when it is sold down the road. There are no immediate plans for this, but he and Barry have agreed to discuss the ramifications and the potential.

We have received a draft space needs analysis from Rosaline Hill and Barry Hobin, which we are in the process of reviewing. It is expected that this analysis will assist in design considerations for any new or renovated building down the road.

We look forward to the next iteration of Barry's PowerPoint presentation, which will serve to help orient new members of the Working Group at our March 16 meeting. We continue to refine our vision and look forward to the input of some new voices in coming weeks and months. We hope to convene another Block Party in coming months, to reassess the level of support of our neighbours and to re-engage with City officials and political representatives.



Last but certainly not least, we ask for your continued prayers as we journey forward on this adventure.

Helen Hayes



Parkdale United Church
We respond 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

Promoting justice



*Reaching out to
people in need*