

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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the Messenger



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

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

Next issue: **Jan/Feb/Mar 2024**

Editor next issue: Danica Rogers

Send submissions to:
messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca
or the church office by **Feb 9th**

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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>



LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER

First Sunday of Advent

December 3 B2141

Isaiah 64:1–9

Psalms 80:1–7, 17–19

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Mark 13:24–37

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10 B2142

Isaiah 40:1–11

Psalms 85:1–2, 8–13

2 Peter 3:8–15a

Mark 1:1–8

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17 B2143

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Psalms 126

or Luke 1:46b–55

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

John 1:6–8, 19–28

Fourth Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Eve/Day

December 24/25 B2144

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Luke 1:46b–55

or Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26

Romans 16:25–27

Luke 1:26–38

Christmas Eve/Day

Isaiah 9:2–7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11–14

Luke 2:1–14, (15–20)

First Sunday after Christmas

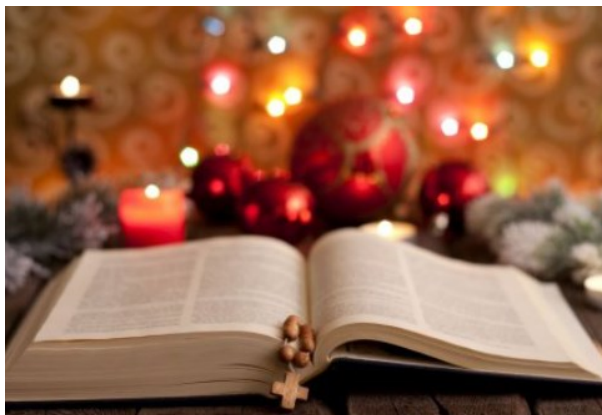
December 31 B2049

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4–7

Luke 2:22–40



CAMINO ARTICLES

EARLIER REQUESTS FOR 2024 LENT SEASON

We will be working on requesting and receiving all Camino articles before February 14, Ash Wednesday. The articles will be ready and published during Lent, as usual.

More details to follow at the beginning of January

Danielle Gougeon
Camino convenor



REMEMBERING

Please keep in your prayers the families of the following persons.

- **Clare Daniels** who died on on August 6, 2023
- **Ruth Bush** who died on October 20, 2023
- **Chris Halstead** whose uncle died on September 23, 2023 in the USA





News from the Pews and Community:



Three generations of Beauforts



Recent recipient of the Order of Ottawa, Nov 16

Marking his 35th anniversary with Giant Tiger Stores Limited, serving almost entirely as Owner and Manager of the Wellington Street West location, **John Ferguson** exhibits outstanding leadership as an executive and community leader.

Leading a successful business, Mr. Ferguson is committed to do the greatest possible good, for the greatest number of people in his community, supporting food security, physical and mental health and empowering and supporting youth. Mr. Ferguson supports community outreach partnerships through his Giant Tiger store such as the

Parkdale United Church as well as other community churches and health centres to support residents experiencing food insecurity and homelessness. Generously supporting his community, he also supports children's sports, local parks and playgrounds, community events, and facilities.

A Champion Among Us!

On the evening of Friday, September 29, approximately 40 Parkdalers and friends from around the world joined Marianne Dos Santos over Zoom as she opened Parkdale's 13th season of Images and Stories with exciting tales of her journey from Ottawa to "contestants' row" of the Jeopardy television show in California.

As many people know, Jeopardy is a famous television quiz show that has survived for several decades; its most longstanding host having been the late Canadian Alex Trebek, who earned the show its prestigious reputation as a respectful nightly show with knowledgeable contestants and intelligent questions.

Marianne began her presentation by displaying a tall stack of general knowledge books that she studied over the preceding years in preparation for her eventual call to be a contestant. Marianne endured a multi-step assessment process that took several years so her dedication and patience were a real testament to her determination.

Marianne and her good friend enjoyed their trip to Culver City,

California, a city of movie studios, evocative lilac-coloured jacaranda trees and boulevards lined with beautiful palm trees. Once they arrived at the filming studio, all contestants and their guests, including Marianne and her childhood friend, were obliged to adhere to strict security rules, avoid taking photos in restricted areas and sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Later, we were treated to a viewing of the highlights of the episode in which Marianne appeared. Marianne has a real stage presence. Indeed, she was poised, polished and professional in providing her responses under an incredible amount of pressure. Most of us attending her presentation could not imagine standing in front of a televised audience and remembering historical facts that we learned in university or high school. Of course, the Jeopardy rule of providing the answer in the form of a question left us even more impressed by Marianne's accomplishment.

Truth be told, Marianne was up against extremely stiff competition! The reigning champion at the time, a gentleman from the United States, had lightning-fast reflexes and had mastered the art of buzzing to answer at precisely the correct moment. In some cas-

es, it did not matter that Marianne and others also knew the correct answer. The gentleman was a force to be reckoned with - a bit of a David and Goliath competition that would have necessitated a miracle for any other human to surpass him.

In this context, when Marianne seemed a bit unsettled by her wonderful runner-up status, we all reassured her that we were mightily impressed by her success! After all, she had made it to the top **one percent** among thousands and thousands of people who had applied to be considered as a contestant. In fact, we were unanimous in crowning her as Parkdale's reigning celebrity champion even though she humbly questioned her celebrity status.

Being somewhat of a Jeopardy super-fan, Marianne was positively beaming as she told us how elated she was to meet and be photographed with the show's host, Ken Jennings, who defeated 148 opponents on the Jeopardy stage in 2004 prior to his promotion from contestant to host.

In closing, thank you, Marianne, for your excellent presentation! We, your church family, are so proud of your accomplishment and your hard work to win a spot on this highly competitive television show. Long may you reign as Parkdale's very own Jeopardy champion!

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hennessy
(for Images and Stories)



Bazaar & Online Auction: A Big Thank You!

A big thank you to all those that helped with the Bazaar, held on Saturday, November 4th! We are so appreciative of all the table convenors & coordinators and each of the volunteers, over 100, who faithfully came out and made the Bazaar possi-



ble. And we are grateful for all the generous donations of things to sell and the contributions of baking, soups and preserves. And of course for all those that came out and shopped and enjoyed the Bazaar!

Our Bazaar receipts with post-sales included total \$15,935! Well done everyone! We are very pleased with the amount



raised. And we are also very pleased with the joyous atmosphere of the Bazaar, with many shoppers winding their way through Parkdale's passages and finding treasures that they didn't even know they were looking for! The Bazaar is not only a great fundraiser but a time for the community to come together and have fun.

Our **Online Auction** ended on Thursday the 16th to a flurry of last minute bidding! The total amount raised by the auction including post-auction sales



is **\$5,087**, exceeding our goal of \$3,500, and represents the highest auction receipts yet.

We are truly thankful for all the support, donations of goods & services for the auction, and all the participant bidders. We had 137 registered bidders, including many from

the surrounding community.

Together the in-person Bazaar and online Auction

receipts totaled over

\$21,000! A record amount for Parkdale.

Thanks and well done everyone!



Judy Hamley – Bazaar
Convenor
Auction Team (Helen,
Marilyn, Linda & Judy)



PETITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

In response to Mayor Mark Sutcliffe's appeal to The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada, and The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship for \$30 million dollars to end homelessness in Ottawa, Rev.

Bailey submitted a petition with 68 names of concerned Parkdale United Church members and supporters. It is our hope that this will help to bolster their decision in granting the \$30 million requested by the Mayor. Thank you Parkdalers and friends for lining up on one Sunday to support this worthy cause. (*MOJ Committee*)



A healthy edible nativity to tell the Christmas story. Good for snacks or Christmas breakfast. Take a picture of your creative creation and share the Christmas story with your family or friends. You can use food or any other material. Use your imagination!

Growing up in Syria, I had no idea what an Advent calendar was until I was studying theology and was introduced to the idea at seminary. The practice of building expectation by marking the days leading up to Christ's coming is something my kids look forward to every year. They compete about who will be the one to wake up first and read the biblical question of the day and win the piece of chocolate in the little pocket.

Advent calendars and similar traditions can be helpful tools for faith formation at home. There are many ways to make an Advent Calendar. Here are some ideas.



In this link <https://www.episcopalarkansas.org/lego> you will find free printable sets of prayers to accompany the Lego City Advent Calendar. The prayers for each day of the calendar from December 1 – 24 connect with the brick builds and lift up various members of our wider communities, like musicians, farmers, grocery workers, and firefighters.

2. Advent Word

Advent Word is a global Advent Calendar offering images and meditations for reflection every day of Advent. You can download it here <https://adventword.org/resources/>. This calendar is for children and youth who can read. It is great for concentrating on specific terms pulled from the lectionary readings.

3. Praying in Color

“Praying in Color” creator Sybil MacBeth offers free printable Advent calendars for “doodling” prayers, as she describes it, each day of Advent. She also provides guidance on how to introduce “Praying in Color” as a practice. You can access her Advent Templates at the Praying in Color website <https://prayingincolor.com/resources/advent-christmas>.

4. Way of Love Calendar

“Journeying the Way of Love” Advent Calendar 2023 is free from The Episcopal Church via download. It is particularly good for older children, teens, and adults. There are prompts for reflection

and conversation. Examples include “set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you” and “as you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass.” It is available in English: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/09/EN-2023-Advent-Calendar-for-Design-2.pdf>

and in French: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/09/FR-2023-Advent-Calendar-for-Design-2.pdf>



5. Advent Calendar Cards

The SALT Advent Calendar features printable cards with illustrations for each day of the season. The cards include activities to do on weekdays and scriptures and meditations to read on Sundays. You can put the cards in numbered envelopes, as SALT suggests, hang them up, or use them

in another way. <https://www.saltproject.org/advent-printable/printable-advent-calendar-individual>

6. Rituals & Prayers

This one offers cards for each day of the Advent and Christmas seasons with illustrations, short reflections, practices, and prayers. These are great as they incorporate rituals or activities into the day-to-day lives during these seasons.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781506495415/Families-Celebrate-Advent-and-Christmas-2023-24>

7. Scripture Advent Calendar

This one includes daily scripture passages to read with your family and questions for reflection. These are great ways to start daily faith practices at home. The December calendar isn't out yet, but you can see previous months to get an idea. <https://blog.cph.org/serve/jesus-bears-our-burdens-everyday-faith-calendar-december-2023>

8. BIPOC Leaders Advent Calendar

This one is my favorite. It is an interactive online calendar. For Advent 2021, the Episcopal Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham, Massachusetts published a “BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) Leaders Advent Calendar.” Each day gives people an opportunity to learn about a different leader. The calendar is ordered from December 1 – 24, so it can be adapted to this year's Advent season as well. You can check it out here: <https://www.stjohns-hingham.org/arm-advent-calendar>



9. “How Does a Weary World Rejoice?” Calendar

“A Sanctified Art” has released their 2023 Advent resources, and the collection includes printable calendars. Their 2023 focus is “practicing joy in a weary world.” The children's calendar involves coloring a part of the calendar for each day of Advent, and both the children's and adult's calendars

suggest daily activities to invite joy into the season. Both calendars are sold together. Copies for personal use can be purchased for \$5 each <https://sanctifiedart.org/how-does-a-weary-world-rejoice-advent-calendar-tiered-listings/1-copy-for-individual-use>

10. Illustrated Advent Calendar

Illustrated Ministry is the publishing group we use for our Sunday school curriculum. They developed “*An Illustrated Advent Calendar*” as a digital printable calendar for families. The calendar begins on December 1 and ends on Christmas and involves coloring and other activities. Pricing is \$5 for a household. <https://store.illustratedministry.com/collections/advent/products/an-illustrated-advent-calendar>

11. Outdoor Advent Calendar

This one is not your traditional Advent Calendar. It is an outdoor one and involves creation care into your Advent celebration. It is not religious but incorporates an action similar to fasting which is 1000 Hours Outside, a practice launched by Ginny Yurich to pro-

mote time outdoors for children and families. A free outdoor Advent Calendar was created which includes 29 activities to do outside, and two different versions are available: one tailored to warm climates (which we could theoretically use during Advent) and another for cool areas like here in Ottawa! <https://www.1000hoursoutside.com/blog/free-outdoor-advent-calendar>

Enjoy searching for your favorite calendar. I hope that you will find one that works for your family. You can try more than one so long as you take the time during Advent together with your family to prepare, wait, and expect the coming of Jesus Christ into your home.

Huda Kandalaft

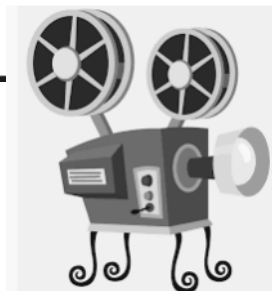




IMAGES & STORIES –

“Naturally, Norway”

October 27, 2023



About 30 guests

zoomed-in to hear Barbara Hennessy’s presentation on her dream-of-a-lifetime trip to Norway.

Norway is a long and narrow country bordering on Sweden and northeast of Scotland. It has a

surface of 386,000 square kilometres. It is the most mountainous, scenic and prosperous of the Scandinavian countries. The

Kingdom of Norway’s five and a half million people are mainly of Nordic and Germanic heritage,

with a small Indigenous population of 40,000 Sami people in the northern areas. More than

600,000 people live in the capital of Oslo and approximately

260,000 people live in Bergen, Norway’s second-largest city which was the former capital.

Stavanger is Norway’s third largest city: a waterfront festival city

with a population of 230,000.

Norway’s Viking past, one millennium ago, can still be seen

today in the two dozen wooden-stave churches and a Viking ship

that is housed in a museum in

Oslo. Norwegians are friendly

and very helpful if you approach

them for directions or assistance.

The languages are Bokmal and

English. Most Norwegians consider themselves to be Lutheran.

The country has a constitutional

monarchy. It is not a member of

the European Union. The currency

is the Norwegian Krone. Because

debit and credit cards are

the preferred method of payment,

travelers only require a small

amount of paper Norwegian currency.

Norway has a high standard

of living because people pay

reasonably high taxes. Norwegians

receive excellent cradle-to-

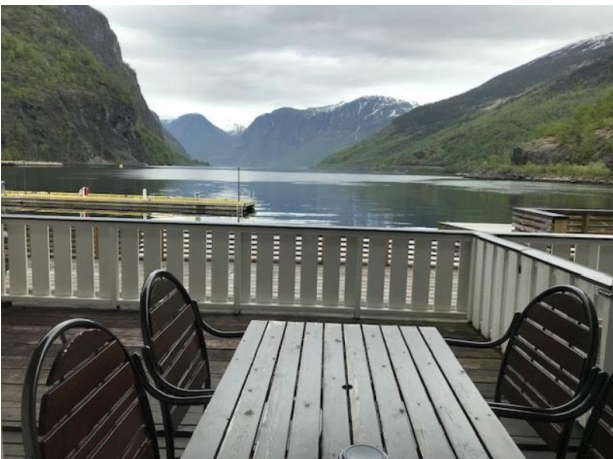
grave social care, including healthcare, university education, paternity leave that lasts nearly one year, and six weeks of annual vacation. The cost of meals and hotels seemed to be like those in Canada.

Norway is known for its petroleum, fish and timber. There is the world renowned Petroleum Museum in Stavanger. In 1969 Norway made a huge oil discovery, making the country an oil nation. Today Norway produces oil and gas from 62 offshore fields. It is reported that a Norwegian mining company has discovered 77 billion tons of phosphate rock,

which is enough to satisfy global demand for electric vehicles for the next 50 years. Norway is the world's largest exporter of salmon. It is fun for fish lovers to purchase fresh sushi and fresh fish at the lively fish markets. Barbara's take-out Sushi only cost her 13 Canadian dollars. She obviously enjoyed Norwegian food speaking of lamb with lingonberry sauce, reindeer, meatballs and tacos on Fridays.

She restricted her trip to western Norway because this is the primary fjord area. Her trip began in beautiful Bergen and although the weather was questionable, she

soon learned that the next day, May 17th, was Norway's National Constitution Day holiday. A Canada Day-type festivity, except Norwegians get dressed up for the occasion. This



day proved to be very informative. She awoke to bi-directional parades in the streets with women of all ages wearing intricately embroidered traditional costumes with long aprons and men in wool knickers that are like lederhosen. Many were waving tiny Norwegian flags in about 15 degree Celsius weather. These costumes are called “Bunad”. Approximately 70% of women and 20% of men in Norway own one of these costly, tailor-made bunads that are handed down from one generation to another. These are worn on special occasions such as Constitution Day, weddings, confirmations, baptisms, Christmas Eve and even visits to the royal palace in Oslo. Those unable to have one wear their Sunday best suit with a white shirt and tie. These bunad can cost several thousand dollars because of the fabric and the real silver buttons.

There is a real sense of space in Norway. The new Floibanen fu-

nicular railway which runs every fifteen minutes is Bergen’s number one attraction. It is an easy comfortable ride which ascends the mountain tracks on a 30-second journey to a commanding view of the charming city. One can choose to take the funicular back or take a 45-minute walk down.

The other train of interest is the famous Flåmsbana Train which runs from Flåm to Myrdal – which is a stop on the Oslo to Bergen train line. It is renowned to be one of the most scenic train journeys in the world - travelling through several mountain tunnels, and relying on its five sets of brakes to descend into the lush green valleys.

Another fascinating trip was taking the Norled express ferry from the beautiful Bergen harbour to Flåm where there are stunning views of the serene fjord harbour. One can choose to stay in hostels or a very upscale hotel. It is inter-

esting to remind ourselves here that during the Ice Age, about three million years ago, the whole of Scandinavia was covered in ice and the weight of it pushed the existing river valleys deeper and deeper to depths well below that of the ocean floor. For example, the Sognefjord that leads to Flåm descends to a depth of 1,250 metres, which is 10 times deeper than most of the Norwegian Sea. As the ice retreated later, huge coastal basins were left. These

basins filled with sea water to become the ice-free fjords that we see today.

The highlight of this trip was the Silent Electric two-hour Boat Cruise to Gudvangen via Naeroyfjord. The scenery was absolutely breathtaking particularly as they entered Naeroyfjord from the wider Sognefjord. As Barbara explained it – “people were rendered speechless by the majestic mountains and the crystal-clear waterfalls”. A Divine moment



Faces covered as permission not obtained to publish.

which was echoed by a guest in our audience.

There were many other activities: hiking, visiting museums such as the harbourfront Hanseatic and the Bryggens museums, the Fortress, the Printing and the Leprosy museums. Of interest as well is the Kode Art gallery where she viewed paintings by Johan Christian Dahl – “the father of Norwegian landscape painting”. In Stavanger one can visit the Canning Museum where you can try your hand at packing plastic sardines in a tiny metal can. Norwegian sardines are unique because they are hot-smoked with oak.

Of course, her visit could not end without a trip to the world famous “Pulpit Rock”. She took a mid-morning ferry cruise to Stavanger’s most celebrated vantage point called Preikestolen or, as the English tourists call it, Pulpit Rock. The dramatic 270-square-foot plateau atop Preikestolen gives a commanding view of the

fjords and surrounding mountains. You can feed the mountain goats along the shore of the fjord. There is also a stop for those who wish to hike for 2.5 hours up to the top of Pulpit Rock for the magnificent, awe-inspiring view – with a return bus to Stavanger. If you are looking for the ultimate landscape tourism destination, someplace serene where a person can feel safe and relaxed as a solo traveller, or if you and your family are looking to be inspired and awe-struck each morning as you gaze at a heaven-on-earth natural beauty, Barbara assures you that you will find it in Norway. She did that morning she awoke in Flam. She was certainly not disappointed to fulfil her dream-of-a-lifetime desire to travel to Norway.

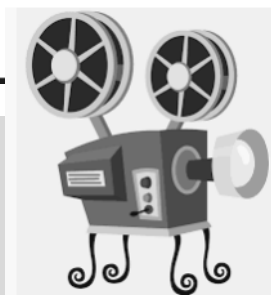
(F. Beaufort for Images & Stories)



IMAGES & STORIES

“Alaska and Yukon”

Nov 24, 2023



"If you missed Jennifer and David's Zoom presentation on November 24 about Alaska and the Yukon, look forward to reading the write-up in the January-February Messenger. They will have shared their discoveries and surprises of what they learned on their recent adventure through Klondike territory and beyond. Christmastime is almost here, so Images & Stories will take a break and be back on January 26, 2024. We have your e-mail address if you have joined us before. To register to receive the Zoom link, please e-mail pdale@trytel.com.

*F. Beaufort for
I&S committee*



PDWG UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER MESSENGER

Time passes so quickly! It will soon be time to prepare our Annual Report for the AGM and there will be much to report for 2023! Things are beginning to come together on the Property Development front and your PDWG team is greatly encouraged.

On October 24, a ZOOM meeting was held with Fraser Green of GoodWorks, as recommended by Laird Eddy. Fraser admitted up front that he is not an expert in capital campaigns,

but he provided the names of several philanthropic organizations who would be able to help us launch a capital campaign, when we are ready. In the meantime, we intend to contract some assistance to advise on our fundraising capacity, as a first step.

The meeting on September 26 with Tim Blair, CEO of Kindred Works, an organization that partners with communities of faith to jointly repurpose their properties to respond to Cana-



da's housing crisis. The meeting also included Miriam Bowlby, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) liaison between EOORC and Kindred Works, and Geoff Turnbull, an architect working with Kindred Works and living in Ottawa. Tim provided an overview of Kindred Works' role and how they could help us achieve our objectives. When asked if Kindred Works could help with acquiring an adjacent piece of land, the answer was positive. Tim noted that Kindred Works has been working with EOORC's Church Extension Committee to convince them that part of their mandate is land assembly; he believes that, if a viable business plan including land acquisition were brought to the Extension Committee, the result would be positive. Further to that meeting, we provided Kindred Works with documentation pertaining to the work that we have done to date, and or-

ganized a walk-about of the building and the property. On October 25, Anthony, Kathleen, David and I showed Geoff Turnbull around the building and the property. He asked a few questions and appeared to be quite interested in the former Knights of Columbus property. Geoff is now working with the Kindred Works' development team to determine feasibility and develop a financial model, based on one of the Demolish and Rebuild models in Barry Hobin's presentation to Council in June 2022. The financial model should be ready in early December, after which the conversation between Parkdale and Kindred Works will resume and we will determine next steps. The financial model should prove very useful in identifying grants and other sources of financing, including from potential housing income, and provide us with an idea of our capital campaign target.

We are very thankful for the work of the Housing sub-group, led by Dr. Ed Ellis. Members include Ed Ellis (chair), Irene Hilkes, Barry Hobin, Elise Mennie, Chris Tait, Jesus Bondo, Jenna Williams, and Linda Baker. Recent meetings have been held with Ottawa's First Unitarian Congregation, City of Ottawa Housing Registry, Multifaith Housing Initiative, Ottawa West Community Support Services, Somerset West Community Health Centre, L'Arche, Cahdco and CCOC, the Alliance to End Homelessness, the Ottawa Mission, Cornerstone and the Anglican Diocese, among others. The Sub-group hopes to provide a

complete report, with recommendations, to the PDWG early in 2024. Positive reactions have been received from all those consulted.

It is worth mentioning at this point that we have been keeping Phyllis MacRae, Chair of EOORC's Future of Property Leadership Team, apprised of our activities and conversations. The mandate of this Team, as approved in April 2023, is to:

- Assist congregations with and recommend for approval by the Executive all major property renovations, transfers or sales (as per policy)





- Manage the property trust held by the Regional Council through Kindred Works
- Review and recommend for approval all asset disbursement plans for congregations that disband
- Consider the possibility of future ministry in the management and decisions related to property
- At least one member of this team will be on the Regional Council Executive to ensure adequate communication

We are therefore confident that, although no decisions have been made, we are keeping appropriate people at EOORC apprised of our activities. They are pleased that we are now

consulting with Kindred Works, although it has been recently confirmed that working with Kindred Works might not be mandatory, if we can provide evidence that another route is preferable.

You will recall that letters were sent to all United Churches in Ottawa in April 2023, advising of our redevelopment work and soliciting feedback with respect to interest in joining us as we explore housing opportunities and options. One of the churches that responded was Dominion Chalmers (DCUC) and Rob Hilkes met with Rev. Andrew Love in June to discuss the current situations of the two churches and possibilities for working together. You may recall that the Dominion Chalmers building was purchased by Carleton University a couple of years ago and the church leases worship space from the university. Attendance there is in serious decline and the fu-

ture looks very bleak. The possibility of our two congregations worshipping together in a new facility where the atmosphere is vibrant and the future is bright, is being explored with current DCUC congregants by Rev. Love.

Anthony also met with Rev. Love to discuss possibilities and, more recently, with Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, the Executive Minister for Eastern Ontario Outaouais, Nakonha:ka, East Central Ontario Regional Councils, who is very excited about our missional aspirations and ministry. Rev. Hébert-Daly is willing and eager to support our preliminary conversations and visioning



with Dominion-Chalmers relative to seriously considering amalgamating the two congregations. Towards this end, Anthony and Andrew will begin to work on joint visioning with Stephanie Yaskiw, who works for the Region, in early 2024. The Region will cover the cost of this. There are many questions for which we have no answers, but

we wanted to bring this exciting opportunity to your attention in the interest of full transparency. Conversations will continue and you will be kept apprised along the way. Of course, approval of the congregation will be sought at the appropriate time.

Imagine the possibilities! A merging of two long-standing and well-respected United Churches in Ottawa could lead to all kinds of new and creative opportunities and could contribute generously to expanding our vision for the future as a place of worship where all are welcome and respected, and a community hub serving the Hintonburg community and the City more broadly.

We believe that God is orchestrating all this, and we are thankful and encouraged. We are a long way from any formal decisions, but we believe that the landscape is opening up for us in new and exciting ways. We pray for courage, wisdom, and patience as conversations continue, and would ask that you continue to support our work in prayer.

Respectfully and jointly submitted.

Helen Hayes
PDWG Coordinator

Rob Hilkes
Chair of Council and Coordinator of Strategic Planning



Once Again

Namby: Well, well, hello there!

Pamby: Ok, Hello! But is something wrong?

Namby: No, nothing as far as I know. They are still exchanging bombs in the Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel and Lebanon, but apart from that, all is well.

Pamby: Funny! Funny! Your sense of humour is still the pits, so things must be normal. But why did you tell me “Hello” rather than “Good morning?”

Namby: What a guy you are! The world is falling apart and you are wondering why I didn’t tell you “Good morning?”

Pamby: Well it takes longer to say than “Hello”. Plus, when you say it, you smile and you have

nice, white teeth.

Namby: Gee, thanks! I see that you’ve become a dentist since we haven’t talked. You did a quick inspection of my mouth.

Pamby: Yes, and I think that you are using Sensodyne and not Colgate. I’m a Sensodyne man and I receive comments about my sparkling white teeth all the time.

Namby: What’s happened to you since we haven’t been talking, Pamby? You used to be concerned about the world. And how people treat one another. Now you sound like a toothpaste salesperson.

Pamby: So, what do you want me to do or talk about? War? The murder of innocent children, adults, patients in hospitals, starvation and that dismal list of human suffering? Every-

body is talking about it on radio, TV, social media, at dinner, at work. So, do you want me to join the crowd too? Give me a break! Besides, what's wrong with having good teeth? You need them, especially at Christmas. Just imagine not being able to enjoy your turkey because of a cavity.

Namby: You're something else. You remind me of two people at work. One said that he's got nothing to do with Russians, Ukrainians, Palestinians, Israelis, Hamas, Hezbollah and people so far away. They've got their own problems and he has his. A woman said that the women should stop having babies if they know that they are going to live in a tent for most of their lives and have mud for a playground.

Pamby: I can't blame the man too much. I've got my own problems here. Not only me but you too. The cost of everything has

gone up. It's difficult to get a family doctor if you don't have one or find a place to live which you can afford. And yes, the women should try planned parenthood.

Namby: How you have changed! You are the guy who used to tell me that we share this planet together, so we can't ignore human suffering or human need whether it's right here or miles away? Don't you remember that firemen came from other countries to help us put out our fires?

Pamby: Sure, I remember, but I'm tired of hearing about other people's problems, tired of all of the injustice and cruelty in the world. I'm so glad Christmas is coming around. At least, I can hear another story and some carols on the airwaves. Some music for my ears!

Namby: Sounds as if you want to escape.

Pamby: You got that right. That's how I'm looking at Christmas this year. It couldn't have come sooner and at a better time. An old story. A man and woman awaiting the birth of a child. All quite normal. Happens in the world all the time.

Namby: But you aren't escaping if you are being reminded about the world as it is with the birth of a child. You aren't really escaping.

Pamby: Oh yes I am. I feel that the channel is going to be changed for twelve days. Don't you hear the words already? Deck the hall with boughs of Holly? Peace on earth! Goodwill to men! A bright star! Gifts! As if in the story suddenly, we've got a new set of words. A new language!

Namby: Wow! You are really on a high.

Pamby: Why not? It's got love in it too. Can't you hear it? On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me.

Namby: Sounds as if you want it to be a full fairy tale, sweet with wine and roses, But don't fool yourself that you're going to escape completely!

Pamby: Why not ?

Namby: Well, there is blood in the story. Don't you remember that Herod was jealous and ordered that all of the male babies be killed? And wasn't Mary told that her heart would be broken even though she was thrilled to be a new mother?

Pamby: Goodness! I forgot that part of the story.

Namby: You were right when you said that that it happens every day. The world doesn't stop at Christmas. We can't really escape from it.

Pamby: I don't care. I just want a break and I'm taking a break.

Namby: That's ok. You can take your break. We all can.

Pamby: But if there is love, peace, goodwill to everybody but blood and jealousy as well, it seems all mixed up.

Namby: Maybe not. Maybe, even at Christmas, we've got to mix the bitter with the sweet.

Pamby: Maybe you are right. I just remembered that one of the gifts to the baby was myrrh, a bitter perfume.

Right there with the gold and frankincense!

John Harewood



**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.