



# The Sunday Plus

Parkminster United Church  
Newsletter – November  
2016

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE. COME SHARE THE JOURNEY**

## Notes from the Chair

Fall has been busy and exciting as we prepared for the Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) with three conversation cafés and two congregational meetings. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have completed the first and second stages of the JNAC process. We have completed our written JNAC document and it has been accepted by the congregation. It will now go to Presbytery who will review and declare that Parkminster United Church has two ministry vacancies that need to be filled. In early January, our search team will begin their deliberations, advertise the positions, receive applications, interview and screen applicants and come to a decision about our future staff.

The search team will consist of eight members of Parkminster: Maureen Crawford, Annette Dekker, Kathy Hagedorn Hehl, Sarah McLean, David Osborne, Ted Oldfield, Wendy Rudd and Delbert Russell. Presbytery will also have a representative on that team. We wish them well in their deliberations. This is not an easy task.

In the New Year, we will begin our study of the Remits. In 2015 at the 42nd General Meeting of the United Church, some proposals were presented and accepted. These proposals affect the structure of the United Church and since the United Church was created by an act of Parliament in 1925, there must be a plebiscite or remits in order to make changes.

There are four remits that require our attention by the end of June 2017. They include:

1. Changing to a Three-Council model (National, Regional, Local)
2. Ending the Transfer/Settlement process
3. Setting up a national Office of Vocation
4. Funding for the new model

Further information is available on the United Church of Canada website ([www.gc42.ca/remits](http://www.gc42.ca/remits)). If we do not vote, it would be considered as a vote against these motions.

Our new governance structure appears to be working well. The three liaisons (Jennifer Allan, Don Pendlebury, Rob Vanderlinden) are doing an excellent job of communication with their committees and council. It has freed up council time to deliberate on the bigger items regarding the JNAC report, future planning and visioning. Another benefit is the increased intra-committee discussions outside council.

The nominating committee has been working hard to identify volunteers to staff our various committees. There is always some turnover so we need new folks to help with a variety of tasks, from helping with the Christian Education program, to raking leaves, to being on a committee.

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Photos courtesy of Lee Osborne unless otherwise indicated.

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## Notes from the Chair, continued

There are large jobs and small jobs; something for each of you. If you think that you would like to get involved with helping with one of our initiatives, please contact Jeanne Foster or myself.

We are trying a new venture in November with pastoral care. As you are aware, Ross Beattie has been ill and Elaine is busy helping with his recovery. We put out a call for volunteers to visit folks who are either shut-in or need a visit.

We have had a tremendous response to the call. It is win-win situation. People are visited and made to feel included while visitors are rewarded with the thanks and smiles of the those who have been visited.

The IGO-UGO group have made a variety of delicious soups that are being delivered as part of this initiative. This proves that folks at Parkminster are ready to step up to the plate when there is need.

Advent is upon us and we have a lot of programming in place to put us in the spiritual frame of mind for Christmas, including a Longest Night service, children's pageant, and a lot of wonderful music. Come, experience and enjoy.

2017 promises to be an exciting year for Parkminster with new staffing and renewed energy and hope for our future. Stay tuned.

**Barbara Leask Wynne**  
Chair of Council

## December Christmas calendar\*

Friday, December 2	5:30 p.m. - Family Christmas Party
Sunday, December 18	10:00 a.m. - Christmas Pageant during service
Sunday, December 18	7:00 p.m. - One December Night Concert
Wednesday, December 21	7:00 p.m. - Longest Night Service
Saturday, December 24	3:00 p.m. - Service for Young Children
	7:00 p.m. - Family Service
	10:00 p.m. - Communion and Carol Service

\*Check the weekly What's Up or pick up a postcard of December activities for more details.



## How are the Al Mohamad's doing?

It was seven months ago in March when we first met the Al Mohamad family – to some of us, they seem like old friends now. Our relationship has shifted from financial support to support on a more personal level.

An Arabic speaking neighbour of Maureen Crawford – Hanna - helped us do some budgeting over the summer with Yehya and Khairiya. One outcome of this is that RESPs have been set up for each of the children. Also, they have been so good at budgeting that Yehya has managed to buy a vehicle for the family – a 2008 Toyota Sienna. No funds from Parkminster were used for this purchase.

Over the summer, financial support from Parkminster consisted of helping with some medical and dental costs, and with

sending the four boys to camp for six weeks.

In the springtime, we helped to dig a garden in the back yard. Yehya planted eggplants, peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers. He was so proud of his garden and kept it well-watered over a dry summer.

As of September, the five oldest children are all attending Lester B. Pearson public school. Mom and Dad are going to English as a Second Language classes in the mornings, while the two youngest girls get day care.

Every Monday at about 4 pm, four or five teachers from Parkminster go to the house to work on reading and language skills with the children.

And the last news is that Khairiya is pregnant. So seven children and one baby born in Canada will make a family of eight children. To put things in perspective, I come from a family of eight. I just figure that they are about two generations behind us in terms of family size and family planning.

In summary, the family appear to be very happy with their new life in Canada. They all continue to work on learning English and on integrating into Canadian society.

Jim Bowman

# An update from the Transition Team

Since the spring of 2014, the role of the Transition Team (TT) has been two-fold: visioning and exploring possibilities for moving forward as a congregation during the interim period and supporting the Interim Minister in her important task. Rather than being a hands-on action team, the role of TT and Meg is to provide leadership that inspires the changes that Parkminster needs to make to heal from deep wounds.

Early on Meg introduced the TT to Eric Law's concepts of Holy Currencies and Respect Guidelines so we could effectively work together toward the objectives determined by Council and the Presbytery. The Holy Currencies of Gracious Leadership and Relationship have been essential to our work. Considerable effort was spent in providing support, direction and encouragement to Meg as she found her way in helping Parkminster work toward congregational Wellness.

To work toward the Interim goals TT members are engaged in exploring possibilities by initiating informal and formal discussions with Parkminster members, listening and gathering information, and volunteering on and liaising with committees and task forces. Meg and the TT planted seeds. Many others did the watering, the hoeing and the harvesting: putting ideas into action.

Let's take a look at the five objectives that were set for Parkminster's Interim Ministry by Waterloo Presbytery and the Parkminster Council.

## Objective 1: Deepen Parkminster's spiritual core

This goal was the main focus for the TT and Meg during the first year of Interim. Worship experiences that encouraged discipleship and deepened spirituality, healing in relationships, small group gatherings, restoration of confidence in the pastoral office, pastoral visits, and committees finding ways to work together. Currencies of Gracious Leadership, Relationship, Truth, Wellness were slowly strengthened and began to flow again.

## Objective 2: Renew our sense of mission

In consultation with members of the Congregational Development Team, and conducting informal surveys of Parkminster members in November and December of 2014, the TT gradually determined that the congregation had energy for a "Homelessness" Project. We hoped that a new sense of mission would contribute to strengthening congregational identity. After several meetings, a conversation café, and the unexpected bonus of a summer student, this project initially focused on developing a stronger relationship with the Parkminster neighbourhood. Parkminster members were recruited for a steering committee, and this committee then evolved into the Syrian Refugee Committee when that need presented itself so forcefully. Currencies of Leadership, Relationship, Wellness, and Money, Time and Place, were in abundant supply for this endeavor by so many Parkminster members.

Results of the neighbourhood survey were put on the back burner, but not for long, and now Parkminster groups are beginning to respond to other community needs; the food truck project and the Parkminster Playgroup are good examples.

## Objective 3: Introduce new governance model

TT began intensified discussion of various governance models in the fall of 2015. These discussions were followed up by Meg and Barb at Council meetings. Barb then provided Gracious Leadership; she recruited and chaired the Governance Task Force. After considerable exploration as well as congregational input and approval, a new model for Parkminster is now being tested and will be reviewed for final approval in the spring.

## Objective 4: Clarify roles of lay leaders and Ministry personnel

The original goal set by Council was modified when it became clear to the TT that what was required was an intensive exploration of various Models of Ministry for Ministry Personnel. The TT explored

models in discussion with Meg and these became the recent focus of the Task Force on Models of Ministry.

Their work will assist in the Joint Needs Assessment that is taking place so that we can effectively search for Gracious Leaders to fill the Parkminster Ministry positions after June 30, 2017.

## Objective 5: Resolve conflict

Conflict Resolution engages the currencies of Relationship, Truth, Wellness and Gracious Leadership, and Time. This Interim objective, like some of the others, has gradually morphed since 2014. Originally, the objective was to hire a facilitator to build reconciliation. Since then TT determined that rather than review past hurts that might recreate pain, it would be best to work toward educating the congregation in effective ways of dealing with difference and conflict. Meg has been addressing this in Worship and in her Pastoral Care on a regular basis. In May 2016, several Parkminster members attended a workshop by Betty Pries on the subject. Currently the TT is in planning to host two events in 2017 so that as a congregation committed to living lives of loving influence we can improve our capacity to deal with, and to grow from conflict. This will put Parkminster in a better place as we prepare to welcome new ministers to work with us toward a hopeful future together.

**TT members:** Jim Bowman (Chair), Jill Cameron (Presbytery rep), Annette Dekker, Liz Forde, Meg Grieve, Sarah McLean, Wendy Ridgway (Secretary), Joe Sheldon, Stephanie Wagner



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH



# Meet Ken and Mary Willsie



You have certainly seen Ken and Mary Willsie around Parkminster. They are a very generous couple giving their time and energy.

Ken Willsie is a charter member and he attended Parkminster as a teenager. Like many teenagers he disappeared from church for a while, but then he fell in love with Mary. She came from a family that went to church every Sunday, it is just what you did. The result was that Ken started becoming a regular attender once again.

Mary's roots are in the Mennonite church but since they were a young married couple living in downtown Kitchener, it made more sense at the time to attend Parkminster rather than travel the distance to the church where Mary grew up. That was Parkminster's good fortune.

Ken and Mary got married at Parkminster in 1967 and Mary joined in 1970. They have a son and a daughter. They are also the proud grandparents of five granddaughters.

In the days when Mary was at home with her children she was a member of UCW but she had to cut back when she went to work full time at her job in the library at Wilfrid Laurier University. After that, time only allowed her to attend the general meeting every year. She still felt like she was connected to the UCW although her career got in the way of being an active member.

Ken is a regular attender at church but he has no interest in being on committees. That does not mean that he is not involved. As a frequent usher, if you need training in that role he knows what is involved.

Ken worked at Dahmer Steel for many years and then at Marcon Custom Metal. In the time since both he and Mary have retired, they have increased the amount of volunteering that they do at the church.

Ken and Mary have been part of the euchre club for years. They often organized that

group and you earned that role by being top scoring couple.

Mary is on the Membership Committee and she has worked at the lunches that have been served at funerals. She has been helping Kelly serve meals and clean up at the Friday Family events. If there is an event being held at the church Mary is often seen working in the kitchen (sometimes you will see Ken working there also).

Both Ken and Mary worked many shifts at the Food Truck event this summer. They would check the schedule and if they thought it looked light in the number of volunteers, they would show up and work from 3:30 until 8:30 p.m. When Bruce Mutton needed help at the Neil Murray event he asked Ken and Mary and they worked at whatever job Bruce asked them to do. Ken and Mary have helped at many corn roasts and at both Community Barbecues. Mary and Ken have taken over the leadership for House Group two in their newest volunteer role.

Ken and Mary are workers who do not expect praise or acknowledgement for all of the tasks that they do. They are part of the glue that holds Parkminster together.

## Sunday announcements

Christmas season is approaching, and with it the usual increase in events and activities. This may lead to lengthy announcements during the service. While we appreciate that announcements reflect the vibrant life of our community, Worship and Communications committees hope to balance the number and duration of announcements and ensure you know what is going on. This is a refresher on the recommended announcement process.

- All announcements should be included in the weekly Friday email "What's UP at Parkminster" which reaches everyone on our distribution list, including those who may not attend Sunday service.
- These announcements are also displayed on the projected screen prior to Sunday service.
- To have your announcement included, email Melanie ([parkuc@golden.net](mailto:parkuc@golden.net)) or drop by the church office by Wednesday of the week prior to when you want it included.
- Please consider carefully whether your announcement needs to be delivered in person. Generally, spoken announcements should be the exception (e.g., unexpected circumstances prevented inclusion in "What's UP").
- The weekly lay reader is responsible for reading announcements.
- Ensure announcements read by the lay reader are provided using the announcement form found in the folder outside the office, or typed. Put your announcement in the folder outside the office or give it directly to the lay reader.
- Keep the message easy-to-follow, clear, concise, short and memorable. Use the five W's: what, who, when, where, why.
- Include a line that says, "Please check the details in What's UP at Parkminster".
- Have your event announced no more than twice. Plan for the best times to do this.
- If you believe your announcement *must* be given by someone involved in the activity, follow the suggestions above. Let the lay reader know you have an announcement.

Thank you and we welcome your feedback.  
Nancy Dykstra and Maureen Crawford

# Family parties: an evolving outreach

It is so rewarding to see work in many areas of our church weave together for success. Since the community outreach work done by summer student Emma Cohen, Parkminster has undertaken many initiatives to reach out to our local community. Some of these include, supporting the Al Mohamad family, running the Food Trucks all summer, opening our Labyrinth, and starting a drop-in Playgroup. Also included in this list of out-reach activities has been the opening of our Young Family Parties to making them open to the community beyond our members.

Since opening up our Young Family Parties in December 2015 we have slowly seen uptake in participation from the community.

A family or two here and there coming to join us for dinner and activities. At St. Patrick's Day we saw about 35 people,

and also had good numbers at a Pirate-themed party in May.

Then, all of a sudden, at our recent Halloween Party the numbers boomed! Doubling our previous highest turn-out to approximately 70 people joining us for dinner, pumpkin decorating and indoor trick or treating. We had a great mix of Parkminster families, friends and community members, all having fun being dressed up together. Thanks to our network of outreach initiatives, we are reaching more people, and they are sharing their enthusiasm with their own friends and neighbours. The word is spreading and it is an exciting movement to be a part of.

There is a learning curve, and a large amount of preparation that goes into preparing events for this many families. Thanks to all the volunteers who stepped up at the last minute to accommodate our swelling numbers at Halloween.

We are already planning our next Young Family Party, a Christmas Party Friday December 2nd from 5:30-7:00 p.m. To participate or to volunteer help make or serve food, or an activity station, please contact Kelly at [parkminsterce@gmail.com](mailto:parkminsterce@gmail.com). For a complete list of dates for our Young Family Parties from now until June, please see the Christian Education Fall Newsletter.



Photo credit Lisa Hicknell

## Advent message from Meg



At Christmas time, we think a lot about home and family. We plan the get-togethers, strategizing how to accommodate personal agendas, other commitments, and the general busyness of the season. Students come home from university or college. Grandparents arrive to share the excitement with their grandkids. Christmas calls us home.

Christmas tradition stirs up that longing for our own dear ones. The memories made over past holidays rise in us and we long for togetherness, for love, and for our safe space beside the fire or beside the Christmas tree, with those whom we love. The sacred season of "the Holy in our midst" draws us home.

Interestingly enough, our main Christmas story says very little about home. As a matter of fact, most of the characters we meet in the birth-of-Jesus narrative are wanderers, travellers, journeyers who leave their "known" for God's unknown. For them, being part of the natal story means wandering from the familiar into the mystery. It means risking a journey in order to meet Emmanuel, God-with-us. It means

leaving the everyday in order to experience star-energy and to have a common world lit up by love.

This Advent, we are going to journey with the risk-taking shepherds and the nation-crossing Magi. We are going to run with Mary to her cousin, Elizabeth's home, and trudge with Mary and Joseph on a donkey trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Our Advent ponderings will be about daring the unknown, about losing our safety for the sake of the holy brand-new thing that is happening in our midst. The goal, of course, is to risk what is recognizable for the sake of wholeness and peace.

Our theme comes from a J.R.R. Tolkien poem: "Not all those who wander are lost." Sometimes wandering takes us to new places and asks us to look around and see the world with new eyes. Wandering helps us take a measure of ourselves and to find new courage. Wandering gives us a new perspective on life that settles quickly into routine and beckons us beyond ourselves and into possibility, into right relationship, and into peace.

Over the weeks of Advent, we will hear from our Resettlement Committee (Refugee Committee) about what they have learned by accompanying the once-wandering Al Mohamad family. We will hear from Reception House, whose mission is to welcome refugee-wanderers home to the KW area. And we will explore the Mary and Joseph in ourselves, that energy that propels us into the arms of the holy.

Not all those who wander are lost. May we find where love lives this Advent season and find that as we travel to our own Bethlehem, we are home.

# Introducing TCOW 2017

Since September Max Cohen, Colleen Usaty, and Kelly Moores have been involved in the TCOW 2017 program for developing global citizens (as participants and a leader, respectively). Two Countries One World (TCOW) is an official outreach of Waterloo Presbytery that has a mission to "change lives and produce globally aware citizens to shape a more just and sustainable future."

Parkminster has a long history of supporting youth through the TCOW program, sponsoring participants on every trip since the group's inception. After 10 years and over 100 participants TCOW is continuing to grow and evolve. We are

promoting the experience as a full year of leadership and global citizenship development, rather than focusing exclusively on the in country experience over March Break. Participants are learning about issues that affect our neighbours in the global south, as well as us here in Canada. After the trip youth have the opportunity to connect with their community here and ways they can make a difference.

This year TCOW 2017 is focusing on Colombia, and for the first time are partnering with the Methodist Church as our hosts. Colombia has been embroiled in a 50+year civil war, which has had many devastating effects on the country.

We will be learning about their unique peace process which recently earned President Juan Manuel Santos the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize. Our pre-trip learning has centered around four core issues: Peace and Conflict, Environment and Sustainability, Inequality, and Indigenous Issues. We have also been worshipping together and learning introductory Spanish.

Stay tuned for more information from our TCOW 2017 participants, and keep an eye out for our fundraising efforts! We hope to be offering some mix and match Christmas cookies in the near future as well as a fundraising lunch after church in the New Year.

## You make it possible!

Thank you to each of you who make an annual commitment and provide the much needed financial resources our church needs.

Now is the time to think about how you can donate to Parkminster in 2017. Your commitment, no matter how large or small, allows our church to plan for the upcoming year knowing we have your financial support to make that happen.

Whether you choose PAR (pre-authorized remittance, an easy monthly automatic withdrawal), a one-time gift, or a donation of securities or other financial tools, it all helps to ensure Parkminster remains healthy and vibrant.

To join PAR, fill out the form found at: [http://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/form\\_par-authorization.pdf](http://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/form_par-authorization.pdf) (also at the end of the newsletter) and return it to the church office or place in the offering plate. To make changes to your current PAR donation, simply fill out a new PAR form with the changes or contact Melanie in the church office (or email her at [parkuc@golden.net](mailto:parkuc@golden.net)). You can also make a donation by visiting our website at [www.parkuc.ca](http://www.parkuc.ca) and follow the Modern Giving link.

Your support for our outreach missions makes them possible!

### Food Truck Program Quick Facts

**Duration:** May 18 to September 28, 2016  
**Total Parkminster Revenue:** \$7,847  
**Trucks:** 13 with an average 6/week  
**Volunteers:** 53 plus Scouts  
**Outreach:** 20-40 neighbours/week  
**Customer Totals:** Average 400/day  
**2017:** Approved by Council

The Food truck initiative is a great example of a Pop Up Committee. These are usually initiatives started by members of the congregation for a specific purpose. They are approved by council and have a defined start and end date.

Jenny and Joe Sheldon



Thanks to Lee Osborne we are creating a wonderful library of photos of Parkminster events and people. To make these pictures useful and accessible for use by others, we need to catalogue or 'tag' them so it is easy to find. To do this we need to attach key words to each picture.

Communications is looking for someone to help with this. This is a job that can be done from the comfort of your home over the internet. You can learn how to do this in 15 minutes! This is a job that will bring a smile to your face as you relive the life of Parkminster through the pictures.

Interested? Please contact Maureen Crawford 519-954-5881 or [mncrawford@rogers.com](mailto:mncrawford@rogers.com).



## PAR AUTHORIZATION FORM

### FOR USE BY PAR ADMINISTRATOR

PAR congregational number: \_\_\_\_\_

Church PAR administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ For registration of new PAR donors  
or  
☐ For banking changes for existing donors

Donor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope# \_\_\_\_\_ Gift amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of local church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift to the above church is to benefit

Local church: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Mission & Service: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Option 1: Pre-authorized debit

Please attach a **VOID** cheque.

I/We request/authorize The United Church of Canada to debit my/our account on the 20th of every month, starting the 20th of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_. I/we also recognize and agree to the following:

- I/we may change the amount of my contribution at any time by contacting our church PAR contact.
- I/we have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAR agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit [www.cdnpay.ca](http://www.cdnpay.ca).
- I/we waive my right to receive pre-notification of the amount of pre-authorized remittance (PAR) and agree that I do not require advance notice of the amount of PAR before the debit is processed.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

### Option 2: Visa/MasterCard/American Express

Please note that a 2-3% service charge reduces the total of your donation to your congregation.

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_  
MM YY

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generosity.**

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