



The Sunday Plus

Parkminster United Church
Newsletter – September
2016

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. COME SHARE THE JOURNEY

IN THIS ISSUE

Community liaison update



Parkminster United Church is dedicated to a community focus while emphasizing inclusivity and diversity.

As the summer community

liaison I, Emily Jones, investigated how Parkminster could position itself within the immediate neighborhood to become a space that establishes community within KW. I believe we have done an excellent job this summer of establishing this connection. We have also accomplished many wonderful initiatives for the community.

To begin, Food Truck Night at Parkminster has been a huge success. During this time people of all walks of life would come and enjoy our community atmosphere. My role during this time was to provide children's programming and speak with attendees of what they wished to see within the KW community. Children's programming was a huge success encompassing many fun activities such as face paint, tattoos, coloring, and more. I also enjoyed incorporating social justice aspects within the activities as listening to children's responses gives wonderful insight into our world.

Moreover, this summer Parkminster installed a Labyrinth at the rear of the church building. Part of my role was to make a brochure for the Labyrinth and distribute it around KW. As I travelled around the city I received such positive responses from the community. I dropped off the brochures in many locations within KW: libraries, treatment centers, schools, coffee shops and more. No matter the location, all were pleased to see Parkminster's mission of providing a space for community.



As my time at Parkminster has come to a close, I would like to thank all of those who helped and mentored me along the way. Special thanks to Meg Grieve, Bruce Mutton, and John Watson for being such wonderful mentors.

I believe I have learned many new skills that I am excited to utilize throughout my life and career. Thank you again.

Submitted by Emily Jones
Student
Community Liaison

Photos courtesy of Lee Osborne unless otherwise indicated.

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Notes from the Chair

Summer has flown by. The weather has been consistently hot and good for beach or water vacations. I hope you are all rested and ready for a fall full of activities and big decisions.

Rev. Meg's contract as interim minister will expire in June 2017 as does the contract for our pastoral care minister which currently is Rev. Elaine Beattie. So we must begin the process of looking for suitable replacements. These two ladies will not be easy to replace as we have been blessed with great ministerial care for the last two years.

The initial phase is a process called a Joint Needs Assessment (JNA). In the past this was done by a committee chosen from the congregation with two presbytery reps. That process is no longer done and instead we will use a newer method. This will entail at least two open meetings of the congregation with two presbytery reps with time between the meetings to allow a team to write up the proposal.

Because this is a complicated and difficult process we will be holding a conversation café on the evening of Monday September 19. The purpose of this café will be to educate us on the different styles and models of ministry.

It will also help us to start thinking about where we want to put our resources.

Maureen Crawford, Jim Bowman and John Watson have been gathering information over the summer to help us through this maze.

The first JNA meeting which may take the greater part of a Saturday is where we determine what we are looking for. These meetings are considered full congregational meetings. We are hoping for this process to begin in October 2016. We will look at the budget, our community, our structure, our needs (spiritual, pastoral care, CE) and how we should allocate the available talent and hours. We will also need to determine what model of ministry we desire: team ministry with equal partners, team with one member being the senior minister, silo ministry where each member of the staff has very defined roles etc. Also up for discussion are the jobs of the other members of our staff and for whom we can in this process make changes to their hours and job descriptions.

Then a writing team will take this information and formulate a JNA report. We will be recruiting people with good writing skills, knowledge of Parkminster and business acumen to do this writing. The writing will take several weeks to accomplish. We can use the format with some changes found in our last JNA report of 2013 for details about the community and details about our congregation but we

will need to re-write the job descriptions and information about our governance structure.

After the writing team has done their magic, the report will go to council for their wisdom and possible changes. Then there will be a second JNA meeting of the congregation to peruse the report to be sure that the details are correct. The writing team will make any additional changes. Ideally we should have selected a search committee by this second meeting. The finished report then will go to presbytery so that they can declare a vacancy.

The search committee can then begin their work. This is a lengthy process whereby advertisements are organized, applications received and reviewed, interviews/ visits done, references checked, and offer made. Usually ministers need to give 90 days notice to their previous church before coming to us.

We need to accomplish all of this by June 30, 2016 so think carefully about your dreams and wishes for Parkminster and come to the information and formal JNA sessions prepared to make these big decisions.

Barbara Leask Wynne
Chair of Council

Playtime

This fall Parkminster will be offering a new weekly program, Parkminster Playgroup: a drop-in fun time for preschoolers and their care-givers. It will be held Mondays 9:30-11:00 am in the Parkminster gym, and will include ride-on toys, snack tables, a colouring area, and coffee for adults.

We are really excited to launch Parkminster Playgroup on September 12. The idea for this program evolved the summer outreach work done by Emma Cohen in 2015. She found that there are a number of young families in the area and many regularly make use of play group programming,

especially in the winter when it's harder to go to the local playground. Thanks to the donations of some really fun toys by the congregation and the collaboration of dedicated mom Clare Klingenberg, the Christian Education committee, and Outreach committee, we are ready to play!

If you've never been to playgroup, it is simple concept with big fun! Care-givers bring their preschoolers to an open play session where there are toys provided and space to play. Free play has many benefits in the physical, psychological, and social development of children. Care-givers are

responsible for their own children, but have the opportunity to socialize with the other adults and make their own friendships.

It is our hope that Playgroup will meet a need in our community, as well as serve members of our congregation. We look forward to the friendships that will develop among the young players and grown-ups alike! If you are interested in helping with Playgroup, we are looking for volunteers to help with set-up and take-down. Contact Clare Klingenberg if interested.

Submitted by Kelly Moores

Meet Lani Kerbl



If you are not sure that you know Lani Kerbl, it is certain that you have heard her sing. Sixteen years ago Lani and her family walked through the doors of Parkminster and we have been enjoying her music ever since. Lani often is a soloist but when she is not being featured, she is one of our beautiful alto voices sitting up in the choir loft.

Lani, her former husband, Brian and their three children played in the bell choir when it first started. Sons, Adam and Duncan, and daughter, Hanna are a musical group. Lani and Hanna even took voice lessons together. Shortly after she arrived at Parkminster Lani was asked to lead the folk choir which she did until work took her away from regular church attendance. During that time, she also played the flute at church. The folk choir ended in 2005.

In her early days at Parkminster, Lani joined Elizabeth Moffat and ran prayer gatherings where they prayed for others and set good intentions for the coming week. At that time, she was very interested in the Week of Guided Prayer and was a part of that event.

Outside of Parkminster, Lani sings with the Grand Philharmonic Choir. This is the choir that often sings with the symphony and she has performed many classical pieces with that choir.

Lani works at Barn Swallow Place, a nursing home in Elmira, where she is a *recreational* therapist. Even her work involves music. She also provides therapeutic music to other nursing homes in the area.

Lani was born in Hawaii and has an older brother and three younger sisters. Lani was an army brat and after her father was killed in Viet Nam her mother remarried and settled in the KW area when Lani was twelve. Her mother also sang in church so Lani keeps the family tradition going.

Lani feels that she often sings her best in church. Music, church and her church family have been a major part of helping her through the rough patches she has faced in her life. She attributes her strength to her music and prayer. Parkminster feels very blessed that we are the church where Lani found her home.

Summer with the Al Mohamad family through the lens of a volunteer

Every summer has its own story and the first summer in Canada for the Al Mohamad family has been a different story from their past few summers in a refugee camp.

The four boys, Khaled, Mohamad, Nour, and Zakariya, have been participating in six weeks of camp. Parkminster volunteers have been busy delivering the boys to camp, picking them up, and sharing in all their exciting stories of camp. I was fortunate to be the volunteer for the first week of camp at RIM Park and was so happy to see the boys improving their English, interacting with the other campers, and just having a fun time playing games and making crafts.

In fact, I had to adjust to a later pickup time because the boys were reluctant to leave a place where they were having so much fun. Mohamad was quite impressed riding to

camp in Ted's truck and on his last day of camp he made a complex, working truck out of KNEX building pieces. As soon as he saw me at the end of the day, he came racing to share his creation with me. I was very impressed and Mohamad does seem to have an aptitude for designing and building. Khaled won the 'Camper of the Week' award because he was so eager and enthusiastic about all the activities and such a great help to his younger brothers at the camp. Nour and Zakariya were particularly excited about bowling and all the boys enjoyed the swimming component which was not lacking in excitement with much swallowing of water which led to further spluttering and coughing!

My volunteer time has mostly been spent with the four boys, but whenever I go over to the house, all the Al Mohamad children are so eager to read with me. Yehya and

Khairiya are very welcoming and always happy to have a visit. I am proud to have mastered the afternoon drinking of their 'delicious but strong' coffee...without staying up all night nursing the side effects of caffeine. Congratulations to Yehya who has been practising driving and has obtained his G2 driving license.

In a world where there seems to be so much hatred and intolerance for differences, I am so happy to be contributing positively and helping the Al Mohamad family in small ways. I am not changing the world, but when you put all the work of the Parkminster volunteers together, we are changing the world for this family. Thank you Parkminster!

Submitted by Kathy Shortt

Communications liaison update



Hello, I'm Jennifer Kibble, your Student Communications / Program Facilitator at Parkminster for summer 2016.

I am a student at the University of Waterloo studying Global Business and Digital Arts with a minor in English. It is a relatively new program at Waterloo and most are confused by its title, so in short, my program focuses on a combination of business, technology and design.

This summer, I have been working on several projects alongside Maureen Crawford to help improve the media and communications component at Parkminster.

I started with Zenfolio which is a platform used by professional photographers that allows for photo storage. You, as a congregation can visit this site and find photos taken at all kinds of church events over the past several years and download them easily. Or if you have photos you would like to share, you can upload them as well. My job was to organize these things in a way that makes sense to the user.

Next, I worked on creating a social media strategy for Parkminster. This required doing an audit and I came to find that Parkminster was already doing a great job in external communications. The Facebook page is very successful and I hope to see Parkminster reach other audiences by entering new social media channels in the future.

I also worked with Jennifer Allan in creating the design for the Women's Retreat flyer as

well as design aspects in the annual report for 2016.

On Wednesday evening Food Truck night, you may have seen me with Emily Jones working at the Children's table giving tattoos, playing games and colouring, which was a lot of fun.

However, the main project for me was your new Welcome Brochure. I tried to create a modern look that encompasses Parkminster's mission and values.

The logo you see on the front of a rainbow tree will now be the new face of Parkminster. The theory behind the logo is that the tree represents growth and emergence, while the rainbow-coloured leaves represent inclusiveness and diversity in community. All are welcome at Parkminster United Church.

I wanted to close with thanking you for the opportunity to gain experience in my field this summer. It was a pleasure working here. I wish I had more time to get to know the congregation during my time at Parkminster, however the individuals I was fortunate enough to meet treated me with such kindness. I felt so welcomed here at Parkminster, and I thank you all for treating me with such compassion.

Submitted by Jennifer Kibble
Student Communications / Program Facilitator

September calendar

- **September 10 – Night with Neil and the Neil Murray Band**
- **September 11 - Rally Sunday**
- **September 19 - Conversation Café**
- **September 24 – *Living in the Moment* Women's Retreat**

Our new logo

A **logo** is a graphic mark, emblem, or symbol commonly used by commercial enterprises, organizations and even individuals to aid and promote instant public recognition.

This new logo was designed with the intent to represent growth and emergence through the use of a tree and our inclusiveness through the rainbow colours of its leaves.



We will try out this logo and use it on some of our materials. Feedback is encouraged. To finalize this as our official logo the council will be asked for its approval later in the year.

Please refer feedback to Maureen Crawford mncrawford@rogers.com.

Creating a day worth living

- Get up early.
- Express gratitude for what you have.
- Do something positive.
- Do something fun.
- Do something for someone else.
- Get some sunlight.
- Exercise, it doesn't matter what – just exercise.
- Put a smile on someone's face.
- Express gratitude or compliment someone.
- Learn or do something new.

From cornercanyoncounselling.com

Tindal on climate change



On April 19, 2016 we gathered to listen to former moderator, Mardi Tindal offer her thoughts on climate change. Committed to lowering her carbon footprint, Mardi spoke to us via Skype. After a brief talk, she answered questions from the audience. We then said good bye to Mardi and generated Parkminster's next steps.

Mardi attended the Paris Conference on Climate Change in December 2015 and she believes "the world is about to turn." While climate change can seem like an intractable problem, Mardi's experience at Paris and her sense that a shift is happening are cause for optimism. A change in the federal government has resulted in Canada playing a more active role in climate change negotiations and strategies. Mardi reminds us, however that we must hold our government to account. We need a national agreement that focuses on the following:

1. Mitigation
2. Adaptation
3. Reparations to countries in the Global South experiencing the effects of climate change
4. Finance: annual funds to help countries "leap frog" to renewable energy
5. Transparency
6. Ambition: meeting every 5 years

It is up to us to bring this plan to life.

At the heart of our faith response is love for others and for future generations. Mardi urged us to accept our responsibility to nurture hope. Since dealing with climate change can lead to despair and guilt, communities of faith can offer safe and brave spaces for both lament and hope.

Getting together for conversation helps to sustain the movement. As challenging as it may be, we must stay engaged.

Mardi points to our unique role in publicly supporting our leaders and political representatives. Meeting with MPs can encourage politicians to do more and make climate change a priority.

The church is a place where we bring everyone to the table; where we show concern for Canadian oil workers who will need to transition to renewable energy jobs and for rising sea levels affecting the people of Bangladesh.

Faith leaders bring the moral authority critically needed when discussing climate change. More information fails to move us to action. Churches can bring hopeful messages to the wider community. We can work with civil society, be in solidarity with global partners and draw attention to the ethics of climate change.

We also need to "walk the talk". Projects at a church or neighbourhood level are important. They demonstrate our commitment to live differently and make sacrifices for a sustainable world.

Mardi helped us to see that from a place of love and hope, we can heal the earth and ourselves.

Next steps for Parkminster:

- Work with local climate action groups
- Keep language positive, honest, hopeful
- Address our own carbon emissions
- Respond as a church; individual efforts while important, are not enough
- Engage with politicians
- Hold meaningful conversations after church
- Let the community know about our efforts
- Discuss how to be good stewards of our church property
- Be prepared that our commitments may have a cost
- Actively pursue our goals

Submitted by Judy Paul
Adult Education Committee

Erb strEAT

Our Erb strEAT Food Truck event started May 15 and runs every Wednesday from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. We had 10 trucks opening day and enjoyed an average of 6 over the summer. With 12 food trucks on the list, we have a changing selection each week. We have extended the closing date to September 28.

This has been an excellent "Outreach" event bringing in 400 to 500 people on a typical day, creating much interest from nearby neighbours, as we see 10 to 20 families walking in every week (not so many on rainy days) and many who drive in. It has also been a good "InReach" event, as church members come together in task circles working collectively (to set up or clean up) and visit with each other for the rest of the time (which is a lot).

We have a fantastic roster of 52 volunteers, each scheduled to work about 5 times, either to set up or to clean up (and a few to work the double shift). That means there are 12 to 16 people working every week, plus 3 to 10 Scouts almost every week, setting up about a dozen tables and a hundred chairs each week.

We've been fortunate to have community promotion through the Kitchener Citizen, Waterloo Chronicle, KOOL FM, Kitchener Public Library, CORD (Wilfrid Laurier student paper), CFTO. Weather-wise, we've had mostly good warm/hot days, just a couple of rain-outs and one day of near-typhoon winds when even the garbage cans were blown over. And, it has been a wonderful financial benefit with almost \$7,000.00 raised so far.

To learn more, visit www.parkuc.com, and under the Food Truck poster, click "here" to see the weekly truck schedule. There is no shortage of unique, interesting and tasty menu items. Everything is prepared on site and are fresh and hot (except the ice cream and cold drinks, of course). Similar to other food truck venues, Erb strEAT food truck nights are also open to events like birthday parties, anniversaries, soccer club parties, church committee pre-meeting dinners, family dinners and so on.

Thank you all, you have made our job easy.

Submitted by Joe and Jenny Sheldon

Message from Meg

I am beginning the last chapter in my life with you, the people of Parkminster. Now, I know we have been in transition since I arrived on July 1, 2014. There were things that had to change and there were things that needed to be healed. There were some doors that needed to be opened and some that needed to be closed. There were endings that needed to be made and there were new beginnings that were essential for there to be a future. We have been creating change and accepting change for 2 years now. And here we are, in the opening paragraphs of the last chapter of our life together.

In these final 10 months of our partnership, we will see the changes continue. There will be the comings and goings that any community experiences. There will be the personal challenges that life dishes, challenges that force us to take a stand, to choose our "yes" or our "no." And there will be endings, such as my time with you, and new beginnings with your new minister.

Because we are human, anxiety will be a theme in this last chapter. The unknown

always seems to stir up anxious worry. Wonder is only a breath away from apprehension. We have invested a lot in this interim time and we care deeply about what the future will be and what the future will bring. It would not be Parkminster if we did not care deeply.

Now is the time to take stock of what will resource us in the next 10 months. We have a responsibility to become clear about what will sustain us, comfort us, and encourage us.

I have been reading, gratefully, Jan L. Richardson's latest book, *In the Sanctuary of Women: A Companion for Reflection and Prayer*. She has one chapter on Hildegard of Bingen called "Say What You See." As you might imagine, the combination of Hildegard and Richardson sparked some interesting thinking.

Hildegard images the qualities that are holy to us humans as Virtues. The one that captures Richardson is Discretion, the Wise Sifter of All Things. Richardson was in a

time of her life when she was discerning her way, when she was choosing, weighing, sorting, with a measure of what she calls "wild guessing." These discerning times are often filled with intangibles and are "trackless." This might describe the year of unknowns that lies ahead of us. Richardson came to understand that the Wise Sifter of All Things was, for her, a name for God, a name for holy energy and sacred direction. She found herself turning to the Wise Sifter for the wisdom to find her unfolding path.

In this year of new 'yeses' and 'noes,' in this year of possibility and 'maybe' and 'what if,' in this year where we need to trust ourselves and one another, may we turn to the Wise Sifter of All Things and find our way home.

Blessing

**In every choosing, every sorting,
every deciding, every guess,
may (we) go in the company
of the Sifter of All Things.**

