



# The Sunday Plus

Parkminster United Church  
Newsletter –  
June 2020

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. COME SHARE THE JOURNEY

## Notes from the Chair



### **Apart but not alone**

My Parkminster friends, I miss you. I miss your smiles. I miss your hugs. I miss our beloved Parkminster sanctuary. I miss watching the children come to the

front for storytime. I miss singing in the choir. I miss the Parkminster Walking Group and the Listening for God Group. I miss meeting in person with Heather, Joe and the Parkminster Council.

These are challenging times and we have been asked to sacrifice much. Some have lost jobs and many have been working from home. We have been isolated from family and friends. We have missed celebrating graduations and birthdays, missed proms, cancelled weddings, postponed funerals, and have been unable to support loved ones in their dying moments.

This pandemic has had profound effects on so many. While I have had feelings of sadness as well as feelings of anger and frustration, I have also felt much gratitude. ***I am proud of how quickly Parkminster embraced our online Zoom and Facebook Live services. I am grateful for Joe and Heather's ability to keep us connected and deliver powerful messages week after week.***

I am grateful for Neil's ability to minister to us through music and for providing opportunities for so many to participate in worship. Who knew we had all those talented ukulele players? I am grateful for the slides that Melanie lovingly creates to compliment our services. Thanks to everyone who continues to support Parkminster financially so that we can continue to make our world a kinder and more compassionate place.

I am proud that Parkminster has found a way to continue supporting the Food Trucks, the Sustainable Market, our Nicaraguan friends, the Foodbank and other Outreach initiatives. To all who are supporting our Parkminster community through phone calls, emails, cards, and gifts of food and time...THANK YOU! The church building may be closed, but our church is very much open. Parkminster is open because we are the church and we are richly blessed.

Church may look different for a while and it may be some time before we can physically be together as church. But, even though we need to be physically distant, we can still continue to embrace hearts. Whose heart can you touch? Where will the Spirit lead you?

**Kathy Shortt, Chair of Council**

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Photo of a Scarlet Tanager taken by Jim Bowman. You'll see more of Jim's photos throughout this issue.

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## Message from our Ministers

How the world has changed since our last newsletter message to you all on the cusp of Lent. For the past two and a half months many of us have sheltered at home and some of us as essential workers have supported the needs of our communities in the time of Covid-19. In the midst of uncertainty and fear, our Parkminster community has widened and grown stronger as we have worshipped and worked online together.

Recently, we celebrated Pentecost in our online worship – sometimes known as the birthday of the Church. We have transitioned from the season of Easter into the long season of Pentecost, sometimes known as Ordinary Time. But this time is anything but ordinary.

The world is also in the midst of transition. Summer weather gives hope for new life and possibilities. In many places around the world and here at home, society and the economy are starting to re-open as coronavirus cases fall in many places, where others continue to see cases rise significantly.

There is hope in this but there is also anxiety and uneasiness. We feel the tension in the decisions we are called to make: compromises between mental and physical health, protecting ourselves and those around us. What once were routine decisions: when to go to the grocery

store or pharmacy, going to medical appointments, visiting friends and family now require a great deal more planning and thought. How is this all affecting you? How is it affecting others?

June marks Pride Month and Indigenous History Month. As an inclusive, affirming community, what can we do in our ongoing work as allies? As recent events in the United States and here at home amplify systemic racism, how do we, as people of faith navigate this complex world as we try to listen and learn from one another as we seek life abundant for all people and creation?

African American academic and activist Professor Cornel West says that love in private looks like tenderness but love in public looks like justice. We think these are both wise and faithful words for us to ponder right now. *At its core our Christian faith is about love, not an amorphous love but a love that took on flesh. As we navigate these turbulent times let us let love take on our flesh. May we be tender with ourselves and with those in our circles even as we challenge ourselves and those we love. May we advocate for and enact justice in our community, our country, our world.*

Rev. Heather and Rev. Joe

## Staycation and stay healthy

I suspect that most of us will be spending a lot of time at home this summer. What better opportunity is there to get to know some of our local trails and parks? I'm going to list a few of my favourites—some of them are good for both hiking and biking.



Apple Blossom

**Walter Bean Trail** runs through Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge as it follows the Grand River through the region. Two of my favourite access points are at RIM Park/Grey Silo Golf Course parking lot, and at Woolner Trail near the new Fairway Road bridge. From there you can either hike toward Freeport or Victoria Street.



Bloodroot

**Iron Horse Trail** runs from Erb Street in Waterloo to Ottawa Street in Kitchener. Can be quite busy.

**Spurline Trail** starts in the parking lot behind Waterloo City Hall and runs almost to Victoria Street in Kitchener.

**Laurel Creek Trail** starts behind Waterloo City Hall and follows Laurel Creek towards the Manulife building on King Street North.

**Health Valley Trail** follows the Conestogo River from St. Jacobs towards the village of Conestogo. There are access points on Albert Street in St. Jacobs and on University Avenue between Northfield and Bridge Streets.

**Mill Race Trail** parallels the mill race diversion of the Conestogo River from the old Snider Mill in St. Jacobs, upstream to the dam at Three Bridges Road west of the village. It can be busy.

**Geo-time Trail** traces the City of Waterloo's geological past through interpretive signs along the route. There is an access point on Sunview Drive. Warning: it is easy to get lost in these woods. You may want to go with someone who is familiar with the trail.



Dog-tooth Violet

**Huron Natural Area** is located on Trillium Drive in the south end of Kitchener. Huron Natural Area offers something for everyone—from hikers and joggers, to photographers, bird watchers, and those who simply enjoy basking in nature's serenity.

**Snyder's Flats** is a 100-hectare former gravel pit that has been restored as a natural area with ponds, new forests, grasslands and other features. It is located on Snyder's Flats Road, west of Sawmill Road near the village of Bloomingdale. It is very popular with dog walkers.

**Bechtel Park** is located on 100 acres of land on the east side of Waterloo. The entrance is at 185 Bridge Street West. It has beautiful trails through mature woods.

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## Stewardship of memories—our Memorial Garden



Photo of Marion Mutton submitted by Bruce and Shelley Mutton.

When I saw my mother, Marion Mutton, helping my sister Carolyn and brother-in-law Mike in the Memorial Garden last week, I felt compelled to share some of the memories I have of the beginnings of that amazing project. So many of us think of stewardship in terms of financial expectations but rarely do we think of the stewardship of memories and the tremendous value of our history as a congregation.

In the year 2000, the Memorial Garden concept was born. Howard Campbell and Dick Mutton shared this bold idea with a few members of

the congregation and the vision of a peaceful place for people to sit and contemplate the memories of their loved ones began. The discussions on this topic are always difficult but necessary. Dick and Howard spearheaded the fund-raising campaign to build the wonderful garden and before long had many people interested in placing their names on the tastefully constructed stones. The project was fully supported by the Trustees, the board and the congregation. In the spring of 2002, the monuments were completed and the property professionally landscaped.

The monuments have space for 120 names and at this point, there are over 100 names on them. Once the spaces are filled, there is room on the property for further monuments, and sufficient funds in reserve in the endowment fund to provide perpetual care for the gardens.

If you have any questions about the Memorial Garden please don't hesitate to get in touch with Jim Bowman, Swain VanCamp, Wendy Ridgway or Pat Harris.

*As I reflected on the picture of my mother working in the garden, memories of those involved in the beginnings of the garden, my father, Howard Campbell, John Rule and Alan McLachlin to name a few, came flooding back and made me realize how blessed we are to have had the luxury of their wisdom and dedication to Parkminster.*

Stewardship of memories should be a thing, if it isn't already. I encourage all of you to reflect on your own memories of special people who have inspired you, as those who believed in the concept of the memorial garden, inspires me.

The garden is just one way for us to remember our heroes from the past.

Blessings  
**Bruce Mutton**  
 Chair of your Stewardship team

## Parkminster in pandemic times



Photo of a Parkminster Zoom church service from Facebook.

Our comely house of worship, silenced now,  
 Sits vacant as demanded by decree.  
 Its membership has quickly fled (and how!)  
 To cybernetic service-wannabe.  
 Indoors there's peace as almost ne'er befalls  
 As buzzy flies and tiny mites take o'er  
 The duties of not answering the calls,  
 Ignoring ev'ry knock at ev'ry door.

Outdoors but for the eve's food truck or two  
 There's heav'n-sent sun and rain for all the  
 greens  
 That grow near pole or labyrinth on cue,  
 While one lone figure hoes in knee-less jeans.  
 We watch our screens and Zoom with  
 candlelight  
 As we await the outcome of this blight.

**Bob Hudgins**

# What Parkminster means to me



I've thought long and hard about what my church community, Parkminster, means to me. My relationship with Parkminster has changed over the years. When we first joined, our children, Kaira and Jesse were teens. We had left a remarkable church in Vancouver and it seemed that we'd never find a replacement. Yet, we

wanted a sense of church community for our kids—I truly believe it takes a village to raise our youngsters and Parkminster came through in spades. In a recent conversation our daughter Kaira remembered receiving cards from Ginny long after she left Waterloo for the University of Toronto. It meant the world to her, and, to us as her parents. Jesse was one of the fortunate ones to go to El Salvador through TCOW—he came home with a new sense of being a global citizen, a different kind of theological questioning and bigger sense of being 'partners-in-justice-creation' in a hurting world.

***I've watched as Parkminster has worked so hard to shine its light in the community at large – "Hide it under a bushel—NO—I'm going to let it shine!"*** I think of Elna Robinson's selfless work with Mary's Place, Laura Hamilton's seemingly boundless energy and truly remarkable cooking skills in creating huge vats of food for those needing sustenance in the wider community; Nancy Dykstra's (and others) commitment to learning and teaching about Indigenous ways and wisdom. I was part of the initial Inclusive committee where we visioned and worked toward expanding our understanding of 'being church' and doing so with open arms. Then there are the Food Trucks, LGBTQ dinners, the huge tasks of bringing in and welcoming a refugee family (blessings to Rob McQueen, Jim Bowman and all the others). I become increasingly aware of how Bert Blackburn and his team keep our church building and grounds in good form. The list goes on and on. It's always dangerous to name names knowing that I'm leaving out so so many, but, these are the ones that come immediately to mind. Apologies to all who aren't being mentioned. All to say that this to me is our church, and, any Christian's highest calling. I'm always sorry for those who are either too busy, not interested, or, too hurt by church experiences of their past to learn about who we are. Let's think about how to make ourselves more available to those 'unchurched'.

And then there is what happens within our own community, our church family. How I love that we welcome, weekly, the questioners and unbelievers. I'm one of those, but, I can open my heart and let the tears flow when I hear Joe's or Heather's profound messages, sermons that really matter. I was so moved at how people accepted my mother with open arms, when I'd moved her here from BC. We come from a very conservative Christian background and what really stood out for her,

despite having theological misgivings of the United Church, was how people made sure she felt welcome. It meant so much to me that Heather came to visit us as we sat in vigil in those last days and hours before mom passed away. And I was so moved by how my Parkminster community showed up for mom's celebration of life, despite not really knowing my mom very well at all. It was humbling and brought home why I love this community.

How I am moved that Neil insists that anyone who wants to sing is welcome to sing, regardless of being 'churched' or 'non-churched', trained or untrained as a singer. I so appreciate that he has an incredible vision for allowing people's musical gifts to come to the fore, sometimes in surprising ways. And, that we support WLU's music program and invite these gifted young people to become part of our community, and, benefit from their training and musical skills. I love seeing Isobel Field at the door most every Sunday, bustling about, making sure that everything is ready for the church service to begin. I love meeting with the special women who are part of Listening for God—who become teachers and mentors as we search for meaning in our lives. And laugh together. And question to our heart's content. Thank you, Gale Blackburn. The women of UGOIGO get together for fun and companionship and great food. Sarah Quanz, despite spending months in BC, diligently keeps us informed of all things going on, regardless of how far away she is physically. And it is good for the soul.

I learn, constantly, about leadership that listens, that believes that each person has something to contribute, that we can be more than we are today as church. I've watched Heather and Joe working ceaselessly to ensure that church continues to happen during these times of COVID. Not as a sort of replacement for the real church experience, but, real church, real community, real spiritual development. I watch my friend Kathy Shortt, our counsel Chair, shine as she manoeuvres through the visions of so many of us and responds to our personal and corporate needs. And we were so fortunate to have Maedith Radlein's wisdom and guidance at the helm previously. I know our incoming Chair, Jennifer Allan, will lead us forward in the future, differently again, but always ably, always led by kindness, given that this is her essence. Aren't we blessed!

So, what does Parkminster mean to me? So many things. I want to be a part of a community that tries to make a difference in a complex, hurting world. A community that is deeply committed to being 'church' at a time when so many are ready to throw in the towel when it comes to the message of Christ. I love that our community realizes, so clearly, that we need to be ready to change in order to be relevant in this world.

***Parkminster welcomes a complexity of theology and praxis, a priesthood of believers and non-believers—with justice-seeking and making at the forefront of its mission.*** Parkminster is a beacon, a bright light, in spite of having its share of problems and the pitfalls of opening its arms to ornery folks like me. It is home. It is home to so many of you who I love. I miss hugging all of you, I miss holding your hands. I miss blessing you in person. But soon, well, at some point, we'll do that face to face.

Love to all,  
**Doris Jakobsh**

## Spring photos

When a request for spring photos was issued to Council, Jim Bowman came through with a bevy of delightful nature shots. See Jim's Staycation article as well as this photo album of beautiful photos. Perhaps if you join Jim on a hike, you'll see some of these creatures!



Yellow Warbler



Great Blue Heron



Mallards



Osprey



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Baltimore Oriole

# Loren Calder—Professor Emeritus

Many may not know that we have in our midst at Parkminster an athlete who qualified for the Olympics, a scholar, and an author. That would be Loren Calder, who retired as a Professor Emeritus in 1994, having taught Russian, Soviet and East European history for 34 years at Wilfrid Laurier University. And at age 91, Loren is still doing research and writing. Loren was born in Trail, B.C. in 1929. Growing up in some of Canada's best ski country, Loren began skiing at the ripe age of 2 ½. By 1951 he was on the Canadian Olympic ski team and had qualified for the slalom event at the 1952 Olympics in Austria. However, he decided to give up that opportunity to instead focus on developing his career as a scholar. He headed to UBC for his B.A. and a Masters in Soviet studies. There he met Eileen who was studying Home Economics (and later did an internship at the University of Washington in Seattle).

After going to England to obtain his PhD in East European history at the University of London, studying, they returned to Canada in 1960. Loren was offered a position by the newly established University of Waterloo, teaching at Waterloo College, which was to become the Arts Faculty of U of W. However, the Lutheran Synod voted against that change and opted to convert the college into a church-based liberal arts college which became Waterloo Lutheran University (in 1972 renamed Wilfrid Laurier University). With his job offer having collapsed, Loren spoke to the Dean at Waterloo College. Fortunately, they had a position available, and the rest is history.

In Waterloo, Eileen served as the Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food Services at KW Hospital for 23 years. They also joined Parkminster and took the lead in starting a day school at Parkminster for challenged kids. That spurred the later development of a regular day care centre at the church.

Although Loren focused on Russian Soviet history at WLU, over time he taught courses in Modern European History and British History. He loved teaching ...enjoyed working with students. They obviously enjoyed him too...he was elected by students as an Honorary Alumnus. Loren's PhD thesis was published in 1987 and republished in 2019. However, he submitted it without the last chapter. At age 91, he now is writing that chapter.

With four sons, Loren and Eileen had a full life beyond their careers. Swain and Thelma Van Camp lived across the street, and their kids played together. Like his father, Eric Calder was a talented athlete, drafted by Washington Capitals, and played in Division 1 hockey in France, Germany and England for seven years.

In retirement, Loren and Eileen built a cottage at Amberley on Lake Huron in 1972. Loren did a good deal of the construction himself, turned it into an all-season home and moved there in 1994. They bought a trailer and saw as much of Canada as they could. Loren served on a mental health forum for six years, seeking changes in government legislation. He joined the federal Liberal party, chaired his riding's policy committee and then served as President of the Huron-Bruce Liberal riding.

Due to Eileen's health issues, they moved back to Waterloo in 2010 and returned to Parkminster United. Unfortunately, Eileen passed away in 2018 after a lengthy illness.

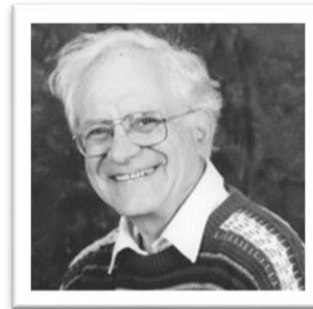
To celebrate Loren's 90th birthday a year ago, he and his son Eric and two grandsons went to Russia and did a 16-day train trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Moscow to Irkutsk, Mongolia, and then on to Beijing. Although he had previously visited Russia seven times, it was a trip Loren had wanted to do for a long time. What surprised him most was discovering that the capital of Mongolia was a very large modern city of 1.3 million people—unexpected since Mongolia's main industry is raising all manner of animals, mostly for the Chinese market.

*So at 91, what else is Loren wanting to do? The answer is, he wants to travel... to Tuktoyaktuk, to sink his feet in the Arctic Ocean, travel as far north in Quebec and Labrador as possible, along the eastern shore of the Atlantic Ocean. He is also writing another book...a study of Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov, who came to power during Stalin's regime and helped author the secret non-aggression pact with the Nazis which stipulated an invasion of Poland and partition of its territory between Germany and the Soviet Union.*

And lastly, with 91 years of experience under his belt, what advice would Loren give young people? Develop your interests, work hard, get the highest possible education you can, and work in areas that most interest you.

Loren remains an inspiration to all as he continues to pursue a range of interests. We're fortunate to have him with us at Parkminster.

NOW AND THEN...



Jack Reynolds



## Staycation and stay healthy

Continued from page 2



Deer

**Grand Valley Trail** access point on Short Street in Winterbourne. This trail is about 2 km long and follows Cox Creek to the Grand River, then follows the Grand River as far as Letson Drive.

**Woolwich Reservoir Loop.** It's a bit of a drive to get to this trail which can be accessed in Floradale.

Feel free to contact me if you need more information, or maybe if you want your own personal guide.

Jim Bowman