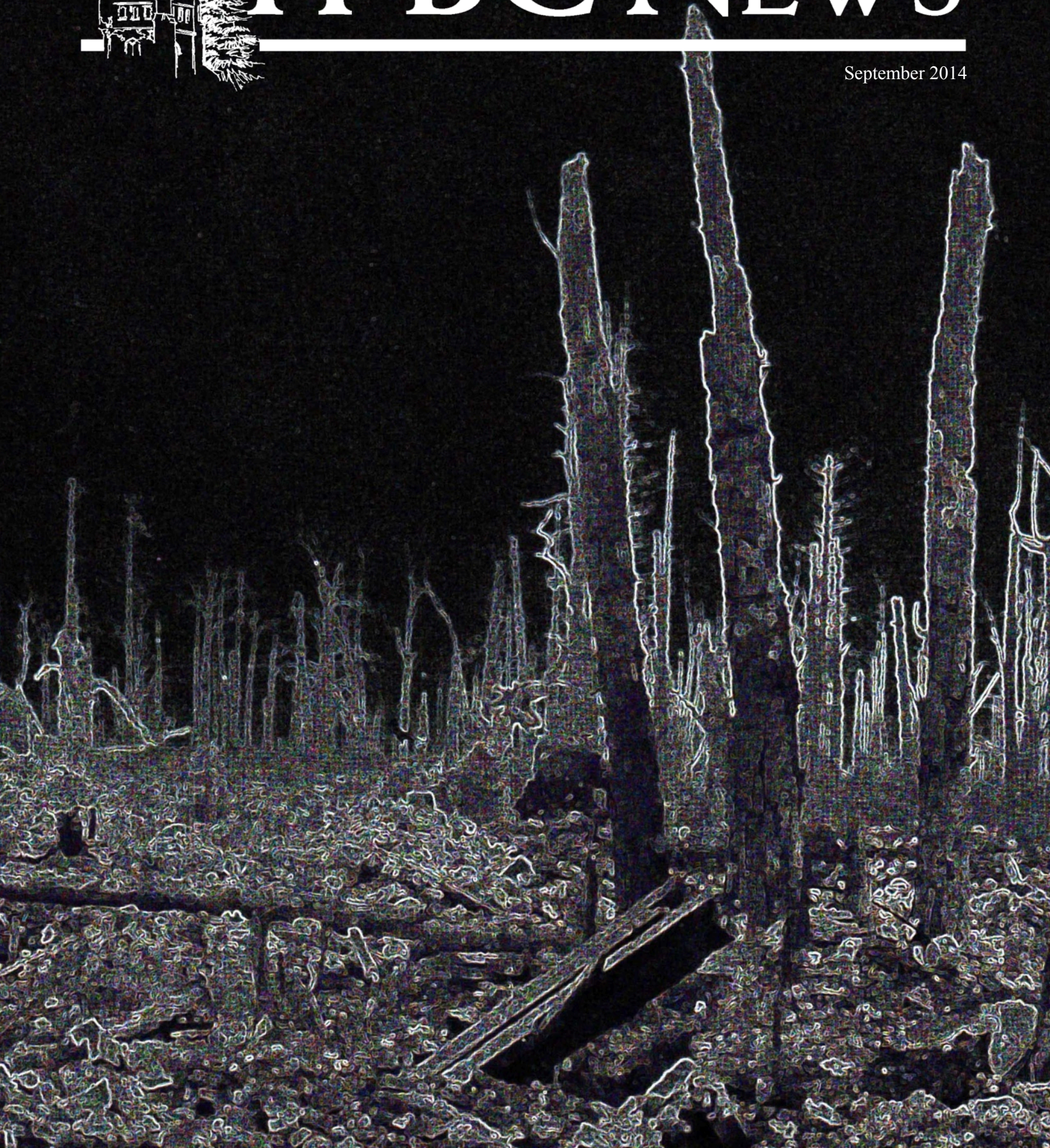


• GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL CREATION •



YPBC NEWS

September 2014



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Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church

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Minister Emeritus-Pastoral Care



LONG-RANGE PLAN - WORSHIP

Almost three years ago we spent time as a people reflecting on the things we treasure about our life in the church - out of which the leadership formulated a long range plan - which in a nutshell calls on us to be a people of the Word and a people of prayer engaged with the world around as we seek to make disciples in a multicultural, intergenerational community of faith and in the midst to broaden our worship experience in the hope of being inspired to greater faith in Christ. To see the more extensive wording of the long range plan go to

http://www.yorkminsterpark.com/discover/2012_long_range_plan.php

The cover - after a portion of a WWI photograph from the Daily Mail.

Some historians say the twentieth century was a short one; beginning in 1914, with WWI, and ending in 1989, with the fall of the Soviet empire. Certainly the Great War was cataclysmic in that it saw the downfall of several European empires. More than that, it saw the vanishing of a major portion of a generation of young men from many countries, including Canada.

We read the names of the fallen from our church each year. To most of us they are only names, but this will be rectified (see page 9).

Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send them to:

pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

Paul R Hill

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I am pleased to say that we have more regular Bible studies and small groups now than perhaps ever before, and in the midst prayers are being offered and disciples are being made. We have a long way to go, but there is reason to be encouraged. The addition of Deborah Ban to our ministry team has helped us even more in this area. And in this time of transition following the resignation of Sam Lee, the team has also become increasingly active in prayer as we wait upon the Lord for direction.

As a congregation, we have been slower in unfolding the long-range plan mandate to broaden our worship. On the first, second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month the youth usually leave our service at 11:20 to conduct their own youth worship service which has certainly broadened the experience of worship for them. At our recent Walk With Us retreat, we had a taste of their worship style, and the continued Walk With Us Sessions on September 20 and November 1 from 5 to 7 pm will continue to incorporate some of that worship experience. However, both the 11 am and 7 pm Sunday worship services have continued to be very traditional. There is a sense in which they are a reflection of who we are and they are our niche in a world where so many churches have moved away from traditional worship.

Nonetheless, the long-range plan calls on us to look at this afresh. As a result the Board of Deacons has formed a worship committee under the guidance of Dr. Rob Inman who will serve as its Chair. William Maddox and I are both ex-officio members of the committee. The committee also includes Jonanne Fenton, Kathleen Wilson, Jane Havercroft, Harold Hetherington, Janet Kim, Leticia Limgenco, Michael Davidson, and Noel Davidson. This committee will begin meeting this fall. It is possible that the committee will propose exploring various ideas and alternative approaches to worship in our community.

I want to reassure one and all as this committee begins to work, that this is a chance for new visioning, but always within the context of unity not disunity. Unity is a word used in our Long-Range Plan which will guide us. In fact there is an even better word that is so close to the heart of who we are as a worshipping community - love. Love of God and one another and love of God's world is a characteristic of the people of Yorkminster Park. This love will guide us as we listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit in our desire to not only broaden but also deepen our life together as a worshipping community.

Worship is one of the most important things we do together. Please pray for the work of this committee in these days. And let us all keep in mind and heart the insightful definition of worship from Archbishop William Temple (1881 - 1944):

*“Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God.
It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness,
Nourishment of mind by His truth,
Purifying of imagination by His beauty,
Opening of the heart to His love,
And submission of will to his purpose.
And all this gathered up in adoration is the greatest of human expressions of which we are capable.”*

Oh yes, there is one other item in the long-range plan which we have not yet fully come to terms with: “To be a people of simplicity releasing our time, talent, and resources, for connection with community and family.” I don't think we will be setting up another committee to work on this item, but there are many of us who need to take it seriously. I know I do.

Blessings,
Peter Holmes

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

“God is our refuge and strength....Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.” (Psalm 46:1-2)

A popular song from the past year was performed by the British rock band *Bastille*. The song is called *Pompeii*. The words make reference to the famous eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Italy in 79 A.D. Here are some of the lyrics: “We were caught up and lost in all of our vices; In your pose as the dust settled around us; And the walls kept tumbling down in the city that we love; Great clouds roll over the hills bringing darkness from above.”

This past summer I had the privilege of visiting the ruins of Pompeii as part of a vacation trip to various Mediterranean countries. Pompeii is a fascinating place – a place which I had first learned about in elementary school. It is now a major tourist attraction, receiving over two and a half million visitors each year. The site itself is



quite amazing. Many parts of it have been restored. It reveals a complex water system, an amphitheatre, a gymnasium and other impressive engineering marvels. Most of us know the story of Pompeii. Nearby Mount Vesuvius erupted suddenly and buried the city's inhabitants in up to twenty feet of ash and pumice. It wasn't the molten lava that killed them. They could have outrun the slow lava flow. It was the ash and noxious gases, which travelled up to 70 km per hour. They couldn't outrun this deadly pestilence. And so many of them were overwhelmed – literally buried alive. They have preserved some of these figures in the museum. Some of the people are frozen in poses of terror, trying to run away or shield their bodies. One day they were going about the business of life, doing the ordinary things of existence. The next day, they and their city were no more.

In some ways, the story of Pompeii is a story of “unpreparedness.” The people had no idea of the cataclysm about to befall them. If they had received some inkling of the volcano's volatility, no doubt they would have taken precautions. There was no sense of urgency. Historians tell us that there were some minor indications of problems to come – small earthquakes and tremors during the decade before the big eruption. But they were not heeded. I suppose it is like the people of California who live along the lines of the great San Andreas fault. They are always waiting for the “big one” – the major earthquake that is sure to come one day. But for now, they live their lives without giving it much thought.

In some ways, this is how we live. We live without a sense of urgency or purpose. I had a high school friend who loved to quote pithy sayings. One of them I still remember: “To fail to prepare is to prepare to fail.” Having been a boy scout, I can still remember the simple motto of Robert Baden-Powell: “Be prepared.” Some years ago, before my father passed away, I sent him a Father's Day card. I decided to enclose a letter in the card. It was a kind of “Dear Dad” letter, where I thanked him for all the things he had taught me and all the ways he had supported me over the years. I wanted to do it then, rather than deliver those words at his funeral. After my Dad died, I was going through his papers one day and came across the letter I had written a decade before. He had cherished that letter, and stored it away as a keepsake.

It was the Psalmist who reflected on the brevity of life: “Remember how short my time is – for what vanity you have created all mortals.” (Psalm 89:47) The apostle Paul wrote these poignant words to the Ephesians: “Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16) It is a clear call to live intentionally – to make the most of every moment we have been given. None of us know what tomorrow will bring. So as God's people, we are simply called to live each day with a sense of urgency. Don't put off saying those words of affirmation and encouragement to those you love. Don't be afraid to confront the fears which hold you back from fulfilling your dreams. Be willing to try something new. And in all that you do, be sure to echo the words of the apostle Paul: “Sing and make melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:19-20)

Dale Rose

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH

Brennan Rabbets has been appointed Interim Director of Youth. Brennan brings to Yorkminster Park Baptist Church a passion for teaching, guiding and leading youth. He has experience in youth ministry from Toronto Chinese Baptist Church where he has led and participated in Sunday youth services, Bible studies, short term mission trips and special events. He has also been active in CBOQ where he served on the volunteer planning board for Youth Blizzard as the Admin and Guest Relations Director. Brennan holds a Masters of Divinity from Wycliffe College and a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Tyndale University and College.



WALK WITH US

YORKMINSTER PARK
INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT CONTINUES

As experienced at our Spring Retreat, *Walk with Us Continues...* is an intergenerational gathering offering time to be a community of all ages and stages, centred on Christ, expressing creativity, building relationships, eating together and celebrating God's loving presence through worship. Faith stories will be shared as we honour the journey of those within our church family.

Please join in these gatherings!

Save the dates & bring your family, friends and neighbours.

Saturdays, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

September 20, 2014

November 1, 2014

January 17, 2015

February 28, 2015

March 28, 2015

May 2, 2015

Registration will be offered before each event.

This is a joint CE & Discipleship Ministry Opportunity

Contact person: Rev. Deborah Ban;
dban@yorkminsterpark.com



Parenting Life Group

Sundays, September 28 – November 23, 2014

10:00 – 10:45 am, Third Floor Lounge

A Life Group for all parents who...

- ◆ seek connection and support with other parents
- ◆ desire to grow in Biblical understanding
- ◆ celebrate the blessings of being family

Parenting can be wonderful and rewarding as well as difficult and unpleasant. Most parents experience moments of feeling overwhelmed and unsure. The good news is that being an effective parent means learning how to navigate the journey with God's gracious guidance and loving response. Our *Parenting Life Group* will focus on the building of a healthy foundation for a loving family environment.

An eight week video study will be offered beginning in October.

Child care will be provided from 9:55 – 10:45 am in Room 205.

Choristers will be invited to Room 205 at 10:40 am to wait for parents.

Please Join Us!

For more information regarding our *Parenting Life Group*, please contact Rev. Deborah Ban,
dban@yorkminsterpark.com

FROM THE WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE

AUTUMN OFFERINGS

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 ~

A CONGREGATIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER - YPBC Heritage Room, 12:30 pm. The Women warmly invite everyone to come for a scrumptious turkey dinner and to give thanks on this special weekend with our church family. Tickets – Adults \$15 Children 12 and under \$5 - available from members of the Women's Executive or the church office. Look for the yellow ticket badges on women in the north hall and narthex. And be sure to plan ahead as tickets will NOT be sold at the door the day of the dinner.

MONDAY OCTOBER 20 ~

SALT AND LEAVEN – A potluck supper for women at the home of Violet Pantelidis, 16 Chestnut Park Road, 6:30 pm. This evening reminds us of the difference we can make as we live out God's ways and values as "salt and leaven" in our spheres of influence. Join us for a time of encouragement in a relaxed setting where we can renew acquaintances, meet new friends and share in one another's stories over a delicious meal. Please note that it's not necessary to bring a home cooked dish! All women are welcome.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6 ~

BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at Afternoon Mission Fellowship. The 2014 programme has been prepared by the Baptist Women's Union of Latin America. We continue to be "In Step with the Spirit" and this year the focus is on the fruit of the Spirit, FAITHFULNESS. This programme is important in the lives of Baptist women around the world. It is through this special day/month of prayer that we're drawn closer together in order to impact our world for Christ. Come and bring a bag lunch for 12:30 pm in the YPBC Friendship Room. We look forward to praying together.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 –

CHRISTMAS IN THE HALL – 7 pm

Come for dessert and enjoy a programme following. Watch for details in the bulletin and bulletin board. This will also be an opportunity to continue our tradition of providing phone cards for Matthew House and toiletries for Oasis Dufferin. This festive event is for women and men.

AND COMING ON **JANUARY 31, 2015** - A women's retreat with speaker, Cindy Mosey. Watch for details! We're so pleased that Cindy can join us once again.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

This group, an initiative of the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church Women, meets at 7 pm in the Friendship Room on the fourth Tuesday of the month except December.

If you are interested in knitting or crocheting we encourage you to join us for an evening of fellowship and of creating shawls to be given to people in need of comfort. In the three years we have been meeting approximately 160 shawls have been given out and are much appreciated by the recipients. We welcome new people to join us and we would welcome back those who have not recently attended.

If you are less experienced in these skills, assistance is available. Yarn and needles are also provided.

Please join us on the fourth Tuesday of each month.



CBOQ ASSEMBLY ACCOLADES

Once again, my husband John and I were privileged to be delegates to the annual CBOQ (Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec) Assembly June, 2014. The theme this year was KINGDOM SIGNPOSTS and the keynote speaker was David Fitch. Dr. Fitch, an engaging and learned speaker, earned his Ph. D. at Northwestern University and is pastor of Life on the Vine Christian Community of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Long Grove, Illinois as well as Lindner Associate Professor of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary. He is also co-founder of Up/Rooted (up-rooted.com), a collaborative gathering for Chicago area church leadership engaging the postmodern context.



THURSDAY JUNE 12

Praise and worship is always a rich, soul-nurturing experience at Assembly and every session begins with praises offered to our beloved God. The morning continued with reports from our outgoing/incoming Board Presidents, and Lola Mather Dyer passed the gavel on to Michel Belzile. Tim McCoy, CBOQ Executive Minister, shared his heart and vision for our family of churches where we become known as followers of Jesus who care for the poor. He sent encouragement to all our churches, giving thanks for what they are doing to live out their love for Jesus. Along with the uplifting worship /music, vision-sharing and learning, there were significant church business accomplishments relating to CBOQ by-laws.

In the evening, David Fitch talked to us about the tension between the missional and incarnational church and reminded us of the importance of making space for God to work in our lives – space for the Kingdom of God!

FRIDAY JUNE 13

In the morning we heard from our partner organizations:

- Dr. Stan Porter, Mc Master Divinity College shared about the academic work of the college and Dr. Gordon Heath breathed life into the Canadian Baptist archives.
- Brian Craig, Director of Leadership Development encouraged our pastors to walk with Jesus and our churches and members to walk alongside them. By supporting our pastors, we build and strengthen the church.
- Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec (CBWOQ) reported on their “Love Day” initiative and the “Buying Sex is Not a Sport” campaign for the Pan Am games. (Monthly prayer requests are available on the CBWOQ website: www.baptistwomen.com) Diane McBeth was officially introduced and welcomed as the new Executive Director of CBWOQ.
- Matt Wilkinson, Director of Youth Ministries emphasized the importance of intentional investment in children’s ministries, the value of Christian camp experience for young people and the lasting impact of retreats in the lives of youth.
- Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) introduced new campaigns:
 - “Discover” ~ a tool to help churches find their mission heart
 - “Go CBM” ~ a new short-term mission initiative
 - “she matters” an initiative that is geared toward improving girls’ access to education.
- Clint Mix, CBOQ’s Director of Congregational Health shared his “Looking” series which helps churches engage with God’s mission. He also reported on the Canadian Baptists’ engagement with First Nations and talked about “New Paths” and other initiatives that are connecting us with our First Nations neighbours and members.

Friday afternoon was filled with a variety of Learning Sessions called “Kingdom Perspectives”. In the evening, Dr. Fitch emphasized the need for gathering together and sharing our lives with each other in our churches. He encouraged us to find moments of Eucharist where we connect with people where they are and re-learn how to share the Gospel message. He spoke of the need to open spaces for God’s Kingdom to break in and where the

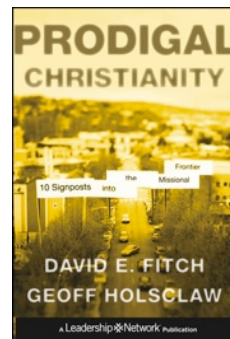
presence of Jesus becomes visible. He urged us to let the revolution of the cross shape our lives into the world and to make justice a part of everyday life.

SATURDAY JUNE 14

We gathered for the last time to join in worship and hear David Fitch's final message. He challenged us to consider what posture the church must take on in a post-Christendom society so that we may extend God's real presence into the world and make space for reconciliation and hospitality. He stressed that we have to give up being in charge and let Jesus be in charge. If we submit to Christ we will be led by Christ in an incarnational/missional posture that engages with the world and where witness is a way of life.

SOME ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR DELEGATES

- Carol Belford ~ “This was my first time attending Assembly and what struck me most was the sheer number of persons present representing Baptists of our stripe across Ontario and Quebec. Not coming from a Baptist tradition, I was not aware of the extent and number of churches in our convention. Since my only experience has been at YP, one begins to think the Baptist universe begins and ends there especially since we do not seem to connect with these in any significant way. I was also impressed by the extent and commitment to God's Kingdom work evident through the various presentations on Friday morning. (Although I am notionally aware that there are other Baptists of our stripe in this world, this was a wake-up call! I wonder what would happen to our culture/country if we intentionally gathered together to make an impact? Just a thought.)”
- Norm Hubley ~ “For me, Assembly is a great social time, a chance to reconnect with others who have volunteered at CBOQ over the years and the dedicated staff members who keep the balls rolling. It truly is a time of gathering of the Baptist family of which we at YPBC are a part. I enjoy the energy and enthusiasm of the worship services – the upbeat music, (even though it's contrary to our tradition and not easy for me to pick up on) that usually gets my toes tapping – the constant references and stories of missional efforts at home and abroad - the enlightening/encouraging messages of the guest speakers. I usually leave these meetings in a happy frame of mind, upbeat about the future and renewed in my commitment to Kingdom work.”
- Deborah Ban ~ The wonderful re-connections with people who have been significant in her faith journey.
- John Fenton ~ “The uplifting and joyful worship with good leadership.”
- Jonanne Fenton ~ For me, it's a tie between David Fitch's talks and learning about CBM's new advocacy campaign, *she matters* which focuses this year on empowering girls to have equal access to education, regardless of where in the world they live. “Canadians understand that education lays a foundation for the future – one that enables people to live with the dignity God intends for all. Conversely, to be denied an education usually means to live within the prison walls of poverty and dependency. “ You can learn more at www.cbmin.org/shematters.
- Alana Walker Carpenter ~ “For me, Assembly is a poignant example of putting aside one's style and preferences to come together to worship, deliberate and learn. It's a non-negotiable on my calendar. The experience is too valuable for anything less than that. One of the key learnings for me was the amount of hours a church has with our child and the amount of hours we have with our child at home. We need a sense of ownership and responsibility as parents to take on our child's spiritual upbringing rather than defer to the church. In essence we need to collaborate – it's not all or nothing from either side.”



- *Prodigal Christianity: 10 Signposts into the Missional Frontier*
- *The Great Giveaway*
- *The End of Evangelicalism? Discerning a New Faithfulness for Mission*

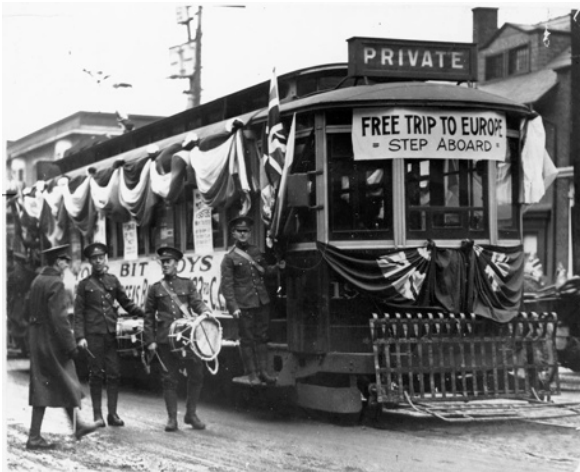
submitted by Jonanne Fenton

WWI COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

August 4, 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI. This war had a profound impact on all Canadian citizens. I have been reading the headlines from 100 years ago in the *Daily Mail and Empire* over the past several weeks. One hundred years ago they were reporting on the progress of the war, mainly at the First Battle of the Marne and the First Battle of the Aisne. I am struck by the feelings these accounts evoke that the

war would soon be over: "CRUSHING DEFEAT FOR GERMAN ARMY: Allies Inflict Enormous Losses on the Forces of the Kaiser, Who Retreat on the Right and Centre in Confusion, a Distance of Fifty-Miles – The Last Remnant of the German Cavalry has Been Destroyed" (Saturday, September 12, 1914). I can imagine the energy of people eager to join the fight and soon to be heading to military camp at Exhibition Park in October. At this time we think of the former congregations of Yorkminster Park, who must have been caught up in this fervor.

The WWI Commemoration committee is doing research on the people who gave their lives during WWI, so that we can know more about them, their backgrounds, and their service. Here is one story, the story of James Russell Chamberlin, a member of Bloor Street Baptist, who died 2 June 1916.



City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, Item 728

Recruiting Streetcar, 1915
William James Family fonds

submitted by Carol Radford-Grant

THE FALLEN - MEMBER

CHAMBERLIN, James Russell (Flight Lieut.)

7 April 1891 – 2 June 1916

The only son of James E. and Adelaide Chamberlin, James Russell was born in Ottawa in 1891. His family moved to Toronto by the time he was in high school as he graduated from Jarvis Street Collegiate, and obtained a BScF in Forestry from the University of Toronto. For a time, before enlistment, he worked for the British Columbia Provincial Forestry Department. James was a member of Bloor Street Baptist Church, attended the Men's Sunday School, and served for a time "as an officer in the Secretarial Department".

Chamberlin enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps in August 1915, probably in Victoria, and then returned to Toronto. He did not go overseas until December. He began training in January 1916 at Reading, Thetford and Netheravon in England.

The following article from the *Globe and Mail* sums up his story:

J. Russell Chamberlin Killed in England. *Toronto Member of Royal Flying Corps Victim of Aeroplane Accident. A brief cablegram informing him that his only son, Flight Sub-Lieut. J. Russell Chamberlin of the Royal Flying Corps had been killed on Friday morning in an aeroplane accident at Netheravon, England, was on Saturday received by Mr. James E. Chamberlin, 85 Pleasant Blvd. Beyond the mere statement that his death*



was due to an accident, no particulars were given in the cable, and Mr. Chamberlin immediately cabled for a detailed account of the occurrence and asked that the remains be sent back to Canada. A native of Ottawa, where he was born 25 years ago, Sub-Lieut. Chamberlin was well known in this city having lived here for several years. He was educated at Jarvis Collegiate Institute, and later attended the University of Toronto, graduating from the department of forestry about two years ago. Immediately after his graduation he went west to Victoria and secured a position with the Forestry Department of the British Columbia Government. He returned to this city last September, and signed up with the aviation school at the Island. He did not, however, take his course in Canada, and on January 1 of this year he left St. John for England. He was a fully qualified aviator having completed his course of

instruction a few months ago. During his student days in the city he was the proprietor of Chamberlin & Co., in the typewriting supply business. Lieut. Leo Andrews, who went overseas with an infantry battalion and was just recently transferred to the Flying Corps is a cousin. Besides his mother and father he is survived by two sisters, Misses Florence and Merle, both of whom live at home. [Globe and Mail – 5 June 1916; 5]

Chamberlin's body was returned to Canada and is buried not far from the church in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. He was 25 years old.

submitted by Randall Speller

A FALLEN SOLDIER: ONE INDIVIDUAL CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

November 18, 2014 will mark the 98th anniversary of the death of my Great Uncle Harold Lewis. At age 30 he joined the 75th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry and left Canada to fight for the road to freedom in The Great War (WW1). Overnight my great uncle became a man in uniform. His world tilted forever as he bravely stepped forward to seek justice and to serve, protect and honour his country.

I know nothing about the events leading to my great uncle's death – only that he died on the last day of the Battle of Somme in northern France while attending the wounded as a stretcher-bearer in the Ancre battlefields. He assisted countless soldiers who faced unbearable suffering during these battles that lasted four months. The price was staggeringly high, costing 24,000 Canadian casualties. There are no letters or family photos of my great uncle; only a clipping and photo from the Toronto Star dated December 14, 1916 announcing that, "Private Harold Lewis, regimental number 140124 was missing in action."

And so it was that on September 11, 2013 – almost a century later – my husband and I stood at my Great Uncle Harold's gravesite in Serre Road Cemetery No. 1, nestled in a rural area just south of Arras, France. This was no ordinary day. The sky was grey and misty; the air held a faint odour of freshly harvested cornfields. A gentle breeze floated over the hillside. The atmosphere was quiet, but powerful. Tall trees framed the cemetery, their restless leaves breaking the pastoral silence. Tranquil villages dotted the picturesque countryside and fields of sunflowers dominated the landscape surrounding the cemetery.



120 Canadian soldiers who died in the Somme battles are buried in this cemetery. Near the entrance stood a majestic ‘Stone of Remembrance’ engraved with the words, “Their Name Liveth Forevermore” (Rudyard Kipling). Forming a line across the landscape, each headstone was inscribed with a soldier’s name, or in the case of an Unknown Soldier the phrase, “A Soldier of The Great War Known Unto God” (Rudyard Kipling).

White headstones formed a perfect line across the cemetery’s width. Tiny manicured shrubs and lovely perennial flowers embraced each gravesite. Fresh rose petals scattered the ground in front of my great uncle’s grave; blooms from the rose bushes gently swayed in the breeze.

As I gazed at his gravesite, it wasn’t just sadness that I felt; it was much more. Silently, I experienced the fragility of humankind. There was a sense of wonder as I read the inscription on his headstone: “140124 Private H. Lewis, 75th Battalion, Canadian Infantry 18th November, 1916.”

Unanswered questions flooded my head. Was my great uncle in a dark hole of loneliness as the thunder of artillery fire pierced the sky? Did he struggle daily to maintain his mental balance? How many lives did he save? Did he draw strength from his courage and honour? Who held his hand when he fell down? How great was his suffering? At the end, was he at peace? The unknown is the mystery – the full extent of which I cannot grasp.

Kneeling down, I felt a sense of overwhelming gratitude. Solemnly, as I placed a memorial plaque and the Canadian flag in the soft earth, I felt my great uncle’s presence wrap around my shoulders like a warm blanket. The Canadian flag swayed gently in the soft breeze, acknowledging his bravery.

I stopped for a moment to reflect and to look out over the hills. My heart filled with gratitude that my great uncle’s remains were resting in this beautiful little cemetery close to where he gave his life for my freedom. I felt a sense of peace and closure.

I believe that one individual can change the world. Robbed of his life by war, Harold Lewis died seeking justice and peace for all of us. His deeds reflected his true self. He was a man who valued the preservation of freedom. I draw strength from my great uncle’s courage. His actions paid a price for my lifetime of freedom, opportunity and peace.

submitted by Elaine Snider

TRANSITIONS

Since the last newsletter there has been one milestone in the life of the church.

Death William Kerr



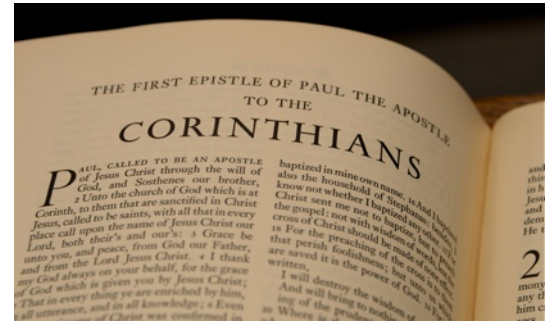
Autumn - Oxtongue Rapids

TOUGH LOVE OR ARROGANT INTOLERANCE ?

First Corinthians 5:5

“Hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the Day of the Lord.”

The apostle could not ignore what was happening in the Corinthian church. A member was having intimate relations with his father's wife (his stepmother), a behaviour not even accepted in pagan society. Paul, alarmed because the community reacted with pride instead of grief, demanded that they excommunicate the man for his sake as well as theirs. His clear directive expected them to comply



immediately because the Gospel was seriously comprised by the community's toleration of a sinful relationship. The apostle's instructions to turn a man over to Satan seems overly punitive and devoid of love. Paul's admonition will trouble us unless we consider the situation with the theological seriousness it deserves.

We question how redemption was possible by an act of exclusion. Moreover, delivering him to the church's most potent enemy seems a clear contradiction of God's redemptive plan. Readers find it especially difficult to imagine Jesus making an analogous dictum when we recall how he forgave an adulterous woman before insisting that she change her way of living. Why did the apostle not follow a similar pattern?

We will misrepresent the apostle's teaching if we ignore the church's task to reform the cultural norms brought into the fellowship by Greek converts whose previously held moral structures did not suddenly evaporate into thin air. Greek sexual mores still lingered in their moral consciousness.

The reader must also be aware of Paul's concept of the church as a counter-culture community called by God to set an example for a broken and fragmented world.

Lastly, we must embrace the apparent paradox that the man's excommunication was vital for his salvation.

Paul was equally concerned about the spiritual wellbeing of the community. Their willingness to tolerate behaviour forbidden by Torah was profoundly disturbing to him because accepting a forbidden relationship contradicted the church's mission to demonstrate an alternative worldview to a culture dead in trespasses and sin. The man's sin and the community's apparent indifference weakened the Corinthian church's public witness. Paul decided to address the crisis boldly; it was an argument he had to win!

The modern church, with its emphasis on the individual, tends to see sexual mores as entirely private. Very few moderns would expect their church to respond as Paul did. Secular cultural norms rather than Biblical ones often inform today's congregations. In particular, the church conceived as the body of Christ, is often missing from our radar screen.

Paul uses the present continuous tense to indicate that the occurrence of sexual immorality was ongoing, not a single ethical mistake. The tense also implies that the man did not intend to change his behaviour. Gordon Fee, a Canadian New Testament scholar and Pauline expert, wrote the following perceptive comment concerning verse 5: "Those who persist in that former way of life, not those who struggle with former sins, do not belong in the community."

Paul does not mention adultery so the husband was probably dead. Furthermore, the woman was most likely the man's stepmother. Any Jew knew that Leviticus 18:8 compelled the community to stone the man because such behaviour weakened the moral fibre of the community; however, Paul did not suggest the application of the Levitical law. The apostle anguished because the community was throwing praise instead of stones.

Paul's decisive response countered a belief widely held in Greek culture that devalued the importance of the body because first century Greeks identified the physical body as spiritually insignificant. Thus, physical acts were outside one's spiritual existence and of no ultimate importance.

"Hand this man over to Satan" is an ambiguous phrase that needs unpacking. It is obviously a metaphor since 'being handed over' literally to Satan would end the possibility of redemption. As such, it would be an irrevocable act.

Paul, like Jesus, taught that the new creation had begun but its full implementation lay in the future. Satan's final defeat was anticipated by the cross and resurrection. However, his power over human life was ongoing. By following Paul's command, the community was recognizing that this man was already living within Satan's sphere by his own choice.

"For the destruction of his own flesh" requires an understanding of what the apostle means by 'flesh' as opposed to the 'spirit'. The former refers to a person living in total opposition to God while the latter connotes a person living in relation to God in Christ.

Now we can see Paul's intention. He wanted the community to redeem the person's Godless way of living by placing him in a situation that would lead to repentance. His exclusion would restore the benefits of Christ's death and bodily resurrection.

Paul's command did not come from a cold and judgemental heart. His reaction was grounded in his longing for the man's salvation as well as the community's. The apostle also knew that Jesus' death and resurrection had already defeated Satan. 'D' day had arrived so 'V' day was just a matter of time!

The apostle reacted strongly because he saw the church as a single body through which God was saving the world. Its task required a new way of living as an essential expression of God's new creation.

Recovering Paul's understanding of the church as a counter-culture force is a worthy goal for today's church. N.T. Wright's vision for the church, from the book 'Paul and the Faithfulness of God', echoes the apostles:

"The Messiah's people are a single family, and must strain every nerve to make that a reality that goes all the way down into their hearts and minds."

"But the point is this: there is one building, one Temple where the living God has chosen to live."

"The question is: how to live as the people of the one God in a world of paganism."

submitted by Peter Ferguson

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Psalm 103:1-2- *Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits...*

Psalm 100:4- *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*

Giving thanks, whether through sound or sign, is a potent force... simply electric. Words of thanks are magic words. They cost nothing. Shakespeare called thanksgiving 'the coffers' of the poor.

Thanksgiving is a precept of most religions. The Bible, for instance, doesn't merely suggest it. The Bible commands it. The Psalmist said when people filed into the Temple, they were to enter with thanksgiving and praise.

Canadians get the jump on our American cousins on Thanksgiving weekend with our celebration of gratitude. No Thanksgiving tree to haul home and decorate. No rabbits delivering multicoloured goodies

out of a straw basket. No nauseating Thanksgiving sales to entice us to greater heights of consumerism. But when we place a bountiful cornucopia filled with the harvest on the table, and gobble turkey with all the trimmings, it might be fitting, to be cognizant of the fragility of life.

With reverence let us whisper a humble personal prayer; nothing grandiose to draw attention to ourselves, but heartfelt and sincere. We as Christians and citizens here in Canada are immensely blessed. Whether that prayer be brief and simple or long and eloquent let us make it a true expression of gratitude and praise to God.

As an ancient mystic once said, if the only words we ever pray are 'Thank you', they scale the heights of utterance as a prayer.



submitted by Suzanne Wilkinson

YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

The beginning of Yorkminster Park Gallery's seventh exhibition season was given an unexpected boost. **SLATE** art magazine chose our opening artist Rebecca Last's painting *Through Silence* for its cover art. Thanks to that exposure, the gallery is receiving many more viewers.

Sunday, Sept 28, 12:30pm - Artist Talk - Rebecca Last – *Lake Effect*.

Meet in the gallery for an informal Q & A about Rebecca's art and process.

Oct 4 – 29, reception Sun, Oct 5, 12:30-2pm – Alice Vander Vennen – *Traversing*.

Alice Vander Vennen's exhibition *Traversing* is a collection of wall sculptures beautifully suited to fall colours and textures. Vander Vennen uses textiles and found objects to create her assemblages which speak of divergent cultures, histories and generations.

Nov 1 – Nov 27, reception Sunday, Nov 2, 12:30-2pm – *Tribute to John Bennett*.

In conjunction with Remembrance services, Yorkminster Park Gallery is honoured to host a retrospective exhibition of works by **John Bennett**. WW II veteran, war artist, career art teacher and retired Director of Art Education for the Toronto District School Board, Bennett continues to pursue his art into his nineties.

From 1943-45, Bennett served as an infantry camouflage officer in the latter days of WWII and its aftermath. He recorded the terrain of Normandy, Belgium, Holland and Great Britain on small sheets of watercolour paper. Seventy-eight of those watercolours and two of his books reside in the Archives of the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. When Bennett returned to Toronto, he joined the art department of Northern Vocational School (later Northern Secondary). For



John Bennett

over four decades he taught thousands of young people. When he retired from the Toronto Board of Education in 1982 as Co-ordinator of Visual Arts, he donated an original watercolour painting to every school in the Toronto Board.

Although he became an educator to support his wife and two daughters, John Bennett's passion was always his painting. He calls it his "Joy!" Bennett began to draw and to paint when he was six. Now in his mid-nineties he continues to draw, paint and create objects in fused glass at the Sunnybrook Veteran's art studios. He has always said, "I can't *not* paint." His work ranges from pure abstraction to pastoral scenes to cityscapes and figures to the devastation of battlefields. Throughout his years, John Bennett has tackled life and death with equal vigor.

(some materials excerpted from Ontario Society of Artists website)