

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



YPBC NEWS

March 2018



Published by:

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Baptist Church
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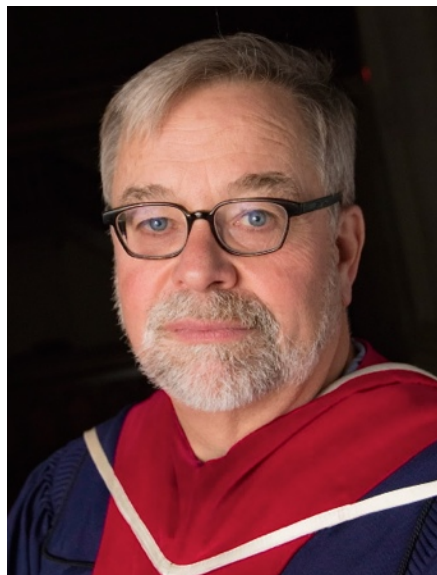
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PETER'S PEN

Holy Week and Easter at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

As followers of Jesus we are an Easter People, which means come what may we live in hope believing that God, who raised up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, will have the last word and that as we have been raised up to live anew in Christ we too will share in his victory over death.

But to appreciate afresh the wonder and joy of Christ's resurrection we are invited to journey with him to the cross in the Season of Lent. As we hear again the story of the Good Shepherd laying down his life for the sheep in the suffering and death of Jesus, we can't help but find ourselves asking with Charles Wesley, "And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood?" And exclaiming with Isaac Watts, "Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so amazing, so divine demands my soul, my life, my all." I have found myself going to many of the great hymns of the faith as we have been reflecting on the sayings of Christ from the cross during this season of Lent. I am grateful to all who have led and participated in our various Life Groups.

As we look ahead to **Holy Week** we will be celebrating two Baptisms on **Palm Sunday** at 11 a.m. and then enjoying a congregational lunch together before returning to the Sanctuary at 2:30 p.m. for the beautiful choral Passiontide Devotion Service which will last approximately an hour.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings during Holy Week we will have the wonderful privilege of gathering with the three congregations in our immediate neighbourhood. On Tuesday at 7 p.m. we will gather at Calvin Presbyterian/Deer Park United, 26 Delisle Ave. On Wednesday at 7 p.m. we will gather at Yorkminster Park and on Thursday we will cross the street to Christ Church Deer Park at 6 p.m. for a reception followed by a service at 7 p.m.

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Cover - A portion of the Ascension window, Birmingham Cathedral, England; designed by Edward Bourne-Jones, installed by William Morris, 1885.

He is not here;

He has risen !

Luke 24:6

Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send to:
pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

The next newsletter will be published in June. The deadline for submissions will be announced in the Church Calendar.

Paul R Hill

Each evening our own resident religious art historian, Tom Hayes, will be presenting two paintings portraying Biblical scenes from Holy Week and a different clergy person will offer a reflection on each piece. On Tuesday we will have a combined volunteer choir. On Wednesday our Iona musicians will add a Celtic sound and the service will end with Tenebrae. On Thursday, Dale and I will be offering the reflections and the service will include both a ceremonial Foot Washing and the Sacrament of Communion. On both Wednesday and Thursday the services will end in silence, but on Thursday we are invited to sit in the silence as the Altar is stripped bare in a very moving ritual.

On **Good Friday** we will gather at YP at 11 a.m. for a service of reflections, music and prayers focused on Christ's sayings from the cross. At 12:30 the Churches on-the-Hill Good Friday Walk will arrive at Yorkminster Park for a brief five minute service. The walk starts at noon at Our Lady of Perpetual Help and after moving on from Yorkminster Park it stops for brief services at both Christ Church Deer Park and Calvin/Deer Park before moving on to Timothy Eaton Church for the final service. The Good Friday Walk is always completed by 2:30 p.m. On Good Friday at 4 p.m. Eric Robertson and the Hedgerow Singers and other musicians will be offering a Good Friday Concert.

On **Easter Sunday** we will gather in the Centennial Chapel to celebrate **Communion at 8:30 a.m.** before moving to the Heritage Room for **Easter Breakfast at 9 a.m.** The week will culminate in our Easter Service at 11 a.m. with choirs and brass orchestra. During Holy Week Communion will be celebrated on Thursday evening and Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m.

We invite you to be with us for as much of this very special week as you are able and we encourage you to bring others to share with us.

May this Easter bring to us a greater awareness of the presence and power of the Risen Christ.

Yorkminster Park Lecture Series

This year the church has instituted a new series of Friday evening lectures intended to engage the community in dialogue about a variety of topics and issues of concern. The incredible response to Dr. Eric McGeer's lectures on the centennial of two of the most significant Canadian contributions to the

First World War gave birth to the idea of the lecture series. The series got formally underway in January with one of the most moving presentations I have ever attended on Canadian history - and my undergraduate degree included a number of Canadian history courses. Professor Emeritus Peter Russell brought to light some of the highlights of his most recent book, *Canada's Odyssey: A Country Based on Incomplete Conquests*. It was a delight to see Professor Russell back at church recently for the Commonwealth Service.

Our next lecture on Friday, April 20th will feature one of the city's great litigation lawyers. Julian Porter



QC, who has turned his attention to art with the publication of two recent books entitled *149 Paintings You Really Need to See in Europe (So You Can Ignore the Others)* and, *149 Paintings You Really Need to See in North America (So You Can Ignore the Others)*. I have been told by several people that he will both inspire us and have us laughing along the way.

I am grateful to the organizing committee made up of Allan Williams, Eric McGeer, Ellie Pattillo and Carol Radford Grant.

We are also pleased to be hosting a **Benefit Concert in support of Yorkminster Park Refugee Ministries** featuring **John McDermott and Guido Basso** and numerous other Canadian musical legends on **Friday, May 11**. Proceeds go to our work with refugees. Please plan to come and bring others for a wonderful evening.

Have a wonderful Easter.

Grace and Peace,
Peter Holmes

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE



“Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.” (Psalm 42:7)
“More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord!” (Psalm 93:4)

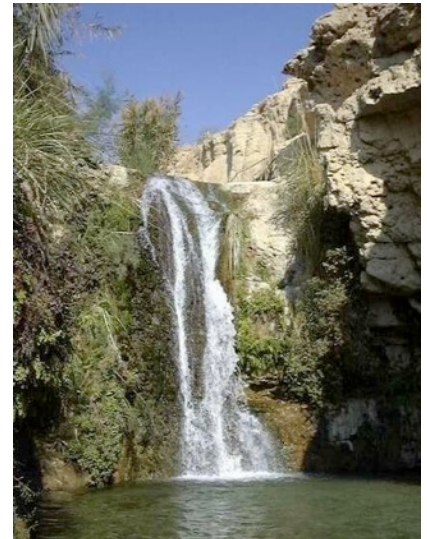
There is something wonderfully majestic about a waterfall. It is said the English poet Lord Byron was especially fond of waterfalls, and composed some of his greatest poems while listening to the sound of the cascading water. There is something awesome and powerful about waterfalls that stirs a primeval instinct in each of us. You can't stand beside Niagara Falls for very long without being amazed at the raw power capable of eroding rocks and lighting the homes of thousands of people. I have found waterfalls to be helpful in my own spiritual walk. When I visited the Holy Land some years back, I remember going to the area of the Dead Sea. It is a very desert-like land, with nothing but barren wilderness for as far as the eye can see. Yet in the middle of this vast wilderness is an oasis – a place called En-Gedi. En-Gedi is mentioned in the Bible in 1 Samuel 24. It was the place where David hid with some of his men, when King Saul was seeking his life. Saul was jealous of young David's popularity. In the cave at En-Gedi, David has the chance to kill Saul, yet spares his life. When our group visited En-Gedi, it was a lush oasis complete with an impressive waterfall (photo right). I could picture David hiding in this area, seeking the Lord's guidance for his life. The spot where we hiked up to was very peaceful and pastoral. It is still one of my favourite memories of Israel.

For a number of summers – when my children were younger – I used to serve as the Bible study leader at Camp Kwasind, our Baptist camp in the Muskoka

region. One of the hi-lights of each week was a hike to a place called “White Water Falls.” It was a small river which had a walking trail attached to it. Part way down, the river flows over a large rock face, creating an impressive waterfall. The kids would love to play in the pool below the falls. You could even go in behind the waterfall to a small cave, and watch from behind as the water cascaded over the rocks. My children loved the experience, and it created a special camp memory for them.

In the Bible, the Psalmist understood the significance of waterfalls as part of God's creation. I can't help but think he must have spent some time meditating beside a waterfall, because he uses this kind of imagery: “The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters...majestic on high is the Lord!” (Psalm 93:3-4) “Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts.” (Psalm 42:7) The prophet Amos used powerful waters as a metaphor for the outpouring of God's justice: “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” (Amos 5:24) Micah described the coming of the Lord, saying: “He will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth... like waters poured down a steep place.” (Micah 1:3-4)

In my experience, people love the sound of water – especially falling water. It may be the soothing



sounds of a soft waterfall, which causes us to meditate quietly. Or it may be the powerful and majestic sound of a crashing waterfall, reminding us of our finiteness and the greatness of God. For me, I always feel a strange sense of humility when I stand before a waterfall. It's a reminder of the awesome power and majesty of our God. The next time you

witness the force of nature in a waterfall, take a moment to give thanks to God who has created yet another wonder for us to enjoy.

Of course, God's greatest wonder is found in this Easter season – in the wonder of the resurrection. Easter reminds us that if we embrace faith in Christ, the waterfall of God's love will wash over us. As Jesus himself said: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7:37-38)

This Easter, may you experience an outpouring of God's love in your life. May you drink deeply from the wells and waterfalls of salvation.

Dale Rose

DISCIPLESHIP



“Most people do not see things as they are; rather, they see things as they are.”
~ Fr. Richard Rohr

I had the privilege of co-leading an online learning community for

pastors sponsored by the CBOQ. It took the form of a book study and we embarked on a journey of discovery into the world of spiritual discernment, both personal and corporate. Pursuing God's Will Together is, I believe, a must read for everyone, particularly those in leadership! For many it will be groundbreaking — a breath of fresh air in the quagmire of a marketplace model of decision-making that so often dominates our churches. Barton's book is a clarion call to return to, first believing that God still speaks today, and then listening for the Holy Spirit's direction. Barton suggests that *“the spiritual journey can be understood as the movement from seeing God nowhere, or only where we expect to see him, to seeing God everywhere, especially where we least*

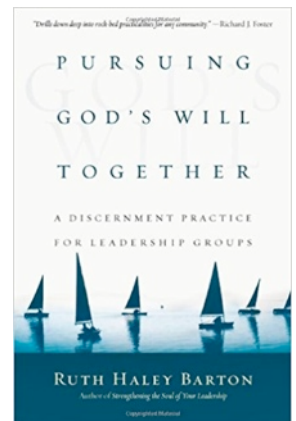
expect him.” She stresses that we can never be a community of discerners unless we are practicing discernment in our own lives. (Ask yourself: Where do I catch glimpses of God?)

All of this begins with spiritual transformation, a term that is over-worked and has often come to mean nothing more than personal devotion. But spiritual formation could not be more different. It is more primal and perhaps more frightening than managing our behaviour. It takes seriously the Psalmist's prayer, *“Search me, O God, and know me; test me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me...”* (Ps 139:23-24). The “knowing” the Psalmist is speaking of goes beyond the cognitive level. It is knowing in the deepest parts of ourselves the anxiety and wounds that *inform* our motivations and actions. We all bring to our decision-making, particularly our corporate decision-making, our broken selves, our unhealed hurts, our egos and defense mechanisms, all conspiring to impede our ability to hear others and hear God.

Barton challenges us to approach each matter for discernment guided by three types of prayer. The first is the Prayer of Indifference — a positive frame of being, of interior freedom, where we allow God to release us from our own agendas, hidden motives, and need to control. This is the *most essential element* in the discernment process where we come to a place in which we want God and God's will only — nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. It is where we ask: *“What needs to die in me in order for God's will to come forth in my life, in our life together?”* Without indifference it is impossible to discern God's leading. The second is the Prayer of Quiet Trust — utter dependence on God and trusting that God desires to lead us. And lastly (we often put this first), is the Prayer for Wisdom — necessary because so often the wisdom of God is the foolishness of the world.

Parker Palmer soberly states,

“A leader is a person who must take special responsibility for what's going on inside him/herself,



lest the act of leadership create more harm than good.” Without intentional self-reflection and awareness, we cannot discern what is true and false within us and hence, are impeded in discerning external matters. Barton observes, “Many leaders have been so shaped by work environments that are competitive, harsh and punitive that all they know to do is function in self-protective ways.”

Key to Barton’s thesis is the concept of community – real, covenanted, truth-filled, love-infused, safe community. Without it, true Spirit-led discernment is impossible. One of the most penetrating questions of her book for me as one who has spent her life in the machinery of church is, “Is the culture of our life in community transforming or deforming?” Ouch! Often the urgency of mission wants to supplant the virtue of our relationships in community around the person of Jesus Christ. Life together as a community of faith, as a committee or board or family, can never be simply about getting a job done, but more essentially, about *how* we get the job done.

*Heal our inner sight, O God,
That we may know the difference between good and evil.*

*Open our eyes
That we may see what is true and what is false.*

*Restore us to wisdom
That we may be well in our souls.
Restore us to wisdom*

That we and our world may be well.

~ J. Philip Newell

If you read one book this year, I encourage you to read this one.

Robyn Elliott, Director of Discipleship

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

For the past six years a group of women have been meeting the fourth Tuesday of the month to knit and crochet prayer shawls. These shawls have been given to people who, for various reasons, have been in need of comfort. To date about 500 shawls have been distributed not only to our church people but also to others who are known to have a need. Groups of shawls have been taken to House of Compassion, Oneida and other such organizations.

We meet in the Friendship Room at 7:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Please consider joining us in this ministry. Yarn, needles and assistance will be provided.

submitted by Rhoda Hill

FROM THE WOMEN’S EXECUTIVE.....

YPBC WOMEN’S RETREAT RECAP

SOUL CARE: Staying Fresh in the Seasons of Life

On Saturday January 27/18, Dr. Janet Clark facilitated our annual women’s retreat at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel. Her metaphor for the day was that of a journey, which embraced three different seasons:

1. Embarking on the Journey Scripture Text

1 Peter 1:3-8

Key Considerations

Decision #1

- To begin and begin again, submitting anew to making God our priority along life’s journey
- The journey of the soul requires continuous conversion as it moves to its destination

Decision #2

- To keep our destination before us with an image in mind of what God’s calling us to be, an image of the person we long to become
- To begin each day with a clear vision of where we are going:
 - Ephesians 4:13 exhorts us to become mature-“the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”
 - complete conformity to Jesus - what does this mean for us?
 - John 10:10 invites us to abundant life in the full - no half measures
 - 1 Peter 13 encourages us to grow in grace



photo by Donna Willett

- To develop a personal mission statement including the destination toward which we are heading

Caution

Dehydration

- Sources of this can be:

Unclear priorities “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God Matthew 6

Unrealistic expectations

Unrelinquished burdens - those of heartache and guilt Matthew 11:28. Come to me I will give you rest for your soul.

Need

- To stay fresh through the steady continuous drinking of the living water Jesus gives us “pools of living water in a dry and thirsty land”

Verse to ponder

Hebrews 12: 1-2 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great clouds of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

2. The Long Winding Road

Scripture Texts

Psalm 130; Psalm 23

Key Considerations

1 The Dark Night of the Soul

- There seems a complete absence of God’s presence and comfort - may be days, months, years of profound interior suffering
- We need to keep on pressing on - no backsliding!
- We can learn things about God that we might not otherwise - our emptiness prepares us for the inpouring of the Holy Spirit

#2 Biblical Hope

- Deep defiant hope - believing in the God of hope when all seems hopeless = a decision
- John 21:11; Psalm 130
- We are near Christ in the depths - God can redeem the darkness

Caution

- Getting stuck in the “crevice”

Need

- Areas of rest e.g., Sabbath, a private retreat

3. Approaching the Summit

Scripture Texts

Matthew 14:22-32; Psalm 119:105

- **Challenge** - Finding Mountain Lookouts
- **Caution** - Anxiety/fear
- **Need** - Fearless Guides

Growing older is being on the ascent, fearless, with guides beside us and knowing that our eternal destiny is in Jesus. We need companions to stay fresh and we need to be companions. Struggling up the mountains of life, the only thing that matters is our love for God and for those he has given us to love. Fear is one of our greatest stumbling blocks. Pilgrimage is a journey from fear to faith. “Fear not” is one of Jesus’ most often repeated commands and we need fearless guides along the way who can move us to mountain lookouts that bring new clarity of vision.

Verse to Ponder

Isaiah 43:1 - Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.

submitted by Jonanne Fenton on behalf of YPBC Women’s Ministries

YPBC | WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, MARCH 25th
12:30pm
HERITAGE ROOM

A hot meal will be served
and everyone is invited

TICKETS:

\$20 ADULTS
\$5 CHILDREN 12 & UNDER

Tickets available from Women's Executive and Church Office
This will also be our Spring Thankoffering - an opportunity to support Baptist Women's Ministries!

EVERYONE WELCOME!

HOLY WEEK @ YPBC



Ecumenical Holy Week Services offered in partnership by four congregations in the Yonge and St. Clair neighbourhood.

The services will include reflections by the clergy on **two artistic masterpieces** per evening primarily featuring scenes from Christ's final hours before the crucifixion as presented by TOM HAYES.

Tue, Mar 27, 7 p.m.

Calvin Presbyterian/
Deer Park United
26 Delisle Ave.

Reflections offered by Emily Bisset and Deborah Hart

Service to include combined choir of the four churches, reception to follow

Wed, Mar 28, 7 p.m.

Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church
1585 Yonge St.

Reflections offered by Cheryl Palmer and Robert Groom

Service to feature Iona liturgies with celtic musicians. The service will conclude with Tenebrae after which people will leave in silence.

Thur, Mar 29, 7 p.m.

Christ Church
Deer Park
570 Yonge St.

Reflections offered by Dale Rose and Peter Holmes

A reception will take place prior to the service at 6:00 p.m. The service will include Foot Washing and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As the service concludes the altar will be stripped and people will meditate and leave in silence.

Good Friday – March 30, 11:00 am @YPBC

This traditional service features hymns, litanies, readings, and prayers focused on the cross of Christ and the great gift of his love and forgiveness.

12:30 pm – 25th Ecumenical Good Friday Walk,
Churches-on-the-Hill Good Friday Walk

4:00 pm – The Good Friday Concert
Music and Readings for a Most Holy Day

BUS TRIPS

The Birds and The Bees

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Hamilton Family Theatre, Cambridge

A Courtship Comedy - This winning courtship comedy about chance encounters and fresh starts is a receipt for relentless laughter.

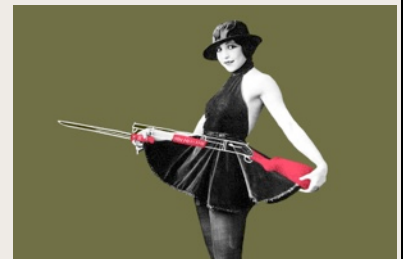


Oh What a Lovely War

Royal George Theatre, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Friday, September 28, 2018

Musical - This provocative WWI musical is known to make audiences laugh, cry and clench their fists - all within a single number.

for information
contact **Judy
MacDonald**
416-225-8295



BENEFIT CONCERT

Some Other Time

An Evening with John McDermott, Guido Basso and Friends

Plans are underway for a benefit concert on Friday May 11 at 7:30pm to support the Refugee Sponsorship Program at Yorkminster Park. Tickets are \$40 per person and all proceeds will go directly to the Refugee Program. The concert is based on the musicians' latest album, *Some Other Time*, which features a collection of soft Jazz and easy listening. Online tickets are available to purchase through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/some-other-time-an-evening-with-john-mcdermott-guido-basso-friends-tickets-44160101051>



PILGRIMAGE OF SACRED SPACES - DETROIT

We are currently planning Yorkminster Park's 2018 PILGRIMAGE OF SACRED SPACES which will be led by Peter Holmes, Corey Keeble (ROM) and William Maddox. This year, it's June 11 to 14, 3 nights and 4 days, and it's to DETROIT, which, after several years of transformative changes has recently been named as one of the top tourist destinations by The New York Times, Architectural Digest and Lonely Planet. Our pilgrimage will include visits to several beautiful historic churches and some important sites on the underground railroad. The cost of the trip is still being determined, but it is possible to sign up in advance with the option of removing your name from the list when the price is announced. To reserve your spot please contact Don Deathe: don.deathe@sympatico.ca or 416-463-8685.

DETROIT THEN AND NOW

This article has been prepared to provide a background perspective on the City to be visited on the upcoming Sacred Spaces tour. The full version of this article can be obtained by contacting me at geofm@sympatico.ca.

Growing up in London, Ontario in the 1940's we were greatly influenced by the attractiveness of the City of Detroit. Radio stations from Detroit provided a lot of their after school programming featured adventure programming for boys of my age. My first visit to Detroit was in 1946. We crossed over the Detroit River on the Ambassador Bridge and then soon arrived at the Book-Cadillac hotel; a downtown hotel. We had dinner at a restaurant/night club called Cliff Bell's near Washington Square. The streets were packed with pedestrians and there were lots of trams on Woodward Avenue (the principal north-south street serving the downtown). Detroit was at its zenith in terms of its vitality,

entertainment, etc., and was the third largest city in the United States.

The decline in the City's fortunes were gradual at first. Shopping centres on the periphery enticed much of the downtown's retail vitality to the suburbs. Then in the 1960's there were riots which left the downtown and adjacent residential areas largely reduced to dereliction. Not all activities left the downtown area. Sports and entertainment facilities as well as "places of worship" were somewhat reduced but still maintained a presence.

Recovery was slow but now Detroit is once again considered a major tourist attraction. One of the major illustrators of the changes in the city can be found on the website "Detroit Then and Now".

To sum up, Detroit is once again a place to visit. Hope to see you there on our journey of Sacred Spaces.

submitted by Geoffrey Mitchell

TRANSITIONS

Since the last newsletter there have been several milestones in the life of the church.

Infant Dedications

Ariana Marie Souza, *d of Cleber and Charryse Sousa*

Grayson, *s of Robyn M. and Blake M.*

New Members

Esther Phillips

John Phillips

Margaret Walker

Nancy Covell

Deaths

Lorraine Halvorsen

Mary Crawford

Peggy Klausen

Howard Lumsden

YSM (YONGE STREET MISSION) SAYS THANKS

Congratulations to John Fenton and to Team Fenton for successfully completing the CNOY (Page 10) walk and for surpassing the fundraising goal. John's tenacity, sense of humour and his unwavering commitment of support to Yonge Street Mission has been such a blessing. As much as we tried to minimize John's physical risk, he is a force to be reckoned with and we could not hold him back! We just cheered him on towards his goal.

CNOY/YSM

CNOY

Coldest Night of the Year is an annual event operated by a registered charity known as Blue Sea Philanthropy whose mission is “to help charities thrive financially in helping the homeless”. It was launched in 2011 partnering in Toronto with Yonge Street Mission. Since then it has operated across Canada. In 2018 the stats across Canada are: \$4,423,359 raised to date (98% of \$4,500,000 goal), 3,076 teams participated including 19,376 walkers, in 121 locations.

YSM

As many of you know from past reports, my connection with YSM began 74 years ago, when at the age of 11 my father Dr. W.K. Fenton took me to the Mission which had a profound effect on me concerning poverty. My experience twice as Treasurer between 1975 and 2004 only deepened my confidence in their compassionate work for the past 122 years. This year they will make a strategic move from their iconic location on Yonge Street known as Evergreen to an impressive facility on Spadina Ave. The proceeds of this year’s walk will go towards their work with homeless youth in their new location.



2015

Our small team of 5 known as the “Nordic Kids” completed the 10 km walk on February 21, 2015 and raised \$18,000, surpassing our goal of \$10,000. We were the only team to complete the 10 K walk.

2016

This year our team grew to 12 walkers which included the Minister of the church, Peter Holmes and his family. I set the goal a little higher at \$20,000 and we raised over \$27,000. Our team decided to do the 10 K route. Unfortunately close to 5 K my legs gave out and my walk came to a sudden halt. That would have implications for next year.

2017

Team Fenton (name change at the request of our Minister), set out on February 25, 2017 for another 10 K this time with 16 walkers. I decided to increase the goal once again, to \$30,000. We raised \$37,400. About two weeks before the walk, Angie Draskovic, CEO of YSM paid me a visit at my home, requesting

that I limit my walk to 2 K. She was genuinely concerned about injuries from a fall. Out of respect I conceded to her request admitting I was a high risk. My energetic team completed the 10 K.

2018

On Friday the day before the walk Kim Dalglish Abell invited me to speak to some of the students at Dalton School. There were about 30 bright lovely children 8 to 12 who sat attentively as I shared some of my physical challenges and the purpose of the walk, to help the less fortunate and homeless youth through the work of Yonge Street Mission. Those kids gave me a hi-five and if I needed any encouragement to walk they enforced my determination. I emphasized a few important characteristics: always be honest, tackle problems as fast as you can, and, never give up. What a joy that was for me, at 85 sharing with such young children.

This was a special walk as it is to be my last. I know people doubt this but the continuing nerve damage to my legs makes it highly unlikely for such a walk in 2019. My hope is that Team “YP” continues this worthy event. I decided to go out with a bang and set the fundraising goal at \$50,000, a 66% increase over last year’s goal, that’s progressive. Soon after I discovered that Angie Draskovic recently turned 50. What better incentive than to raise \$1,000 for each year of her life. To my astonishment we reached \$1,100 per year, raising \$55,000. To be honest I didn’t think we would come close. So much for optimism or maybe “ye of little faith”.



A few weeks before the walk Yonge Street Mission arranged to have City TV visit me for an interview. We had a brief chat in our home and then went for a snowy walk with

Audra Brown the videographer from City and Iris Ibarra from YSM. I was fascinated how much the camera focused on my feet, but Audra did a great job making me feel comfortable.



Accountants are not usually in the media unless they've committed fraud. City TV posted this interview on their newscast that night which many of you have seen. It proved beneficial bringing in over \$6,600 in donations and many encouraging comments. Better still it gave wonderful exposure to Yonge Street Mission and the work they do with people less fortunate including homeless youth.

The walk took place on February 24, 2018 starting with registration at 4 PM in Ryerson. YSM requested I come at 2 pm for another interview with Mark Holmes a videographer. It took place outside Ryerson and may be posted on YouTube when finished. Stay tuned. Prior to the walk start Angie introduced the old walker to the crowd as the biggest fundraiser across Canada for the past four years. A fireman helped me up the steps to the stage, so it became obvious I was in the advanced stages of aging. There was lots of cheers etc. before Jonanne presented a bouquet of flowers to Angie Draskovic to celebrate her 50th year.

Walking options were 2, 5 and 10 K. Our team of 17 walkers chose 5 and 10 K. The week before the event I had a meeting at YSM and Angie granted me permission to walk 5 K so long as she could walk with me which she did, to my delight.

Our 10 K troopers left at 5:15 and the 5 K group at 5:30. It was perfect weather for walking, and by no means the Coldest Night of the Year. The 10 K gang were much faster walkers and following 5 K they came back to Ryerson, had dinner and set out for the next 5, before the 5 K group reached Ryerson. I was

slow and didn't let Angie know the legs were weakening with still 1 K to go. Well, I made it. As Angie and I entered the large gym where everyone was having dinner, the place erupted – everyone stood up, cheers, clapping, and whistles – I'm sure they were thinking “the old boy” made it. I was embarrassed and didn't know what to do except try and find a place to sit down.

The dinner prepared for the walkers was excellent. In the midst of eating dinner I was bombarded with picture taking. I had no idea aging could be so glamorous. The thoughts of being an inspiration puzzled me a bit, after all, I was only determined to do what God called me to do with the help of walking poles and a few extra years.

I sat patiently waiting for the 10 K group to come back. Soon Peter and Janet Holmes arrived (fastest walkers) and finally Jonanne with Jackie Murdoch



(who taught me how to use the poles, now one of my biggest fans, like Inga at YPBC). The evening was complete and tired walkers headed home for a well-deserved rest.

To my walkers, thanks for such amazing support, I only wished I could have walked with you. And last but not least thanks to our donors, your generosity was overflowing, along with kind and encouraging messages. You take the credit for setting a record of fundraising, but more important helping those less fortunate including homeless and troubled youth. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the marvelous job of so many volunteers who made the experience for walkers so pleasant including dinner. We walked, they worked, a true partnership.

Warmly and with gratefulness,
John K. Fenton
Team Captain

IN THE GALLERY –

Barbara Sutherland – *Inside/Outside, Fool's Paradise*

April 28 – May 24, 2018

Sutherland, presents oils inspired by “Fool’s Paradise”, the heritage property designed and built by the late artist Doris McCarthy. The home is explored with great fondness and wit, resulting in a vibrant and intimate exhibition. Sutherland, a painting companion to McCarthy, gives us a glimpse of what home can mean, both inside and out. Also included are portraits of McCarthy.

Barbara’s work has a vitality which is unmistakable and very personal. Her sense of fun comes through the fine compositions and her colour is rich and glowing.

- Doris McCarthy



Peter Holmes - *As We Tarry There*
May 25 - August 2018

The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes has served on the ministry team of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in the heart of Toronto since 1995 and as the Minister of the Congregation since 2001.

Peter grows dahlias and loves to walk, hike, and cycle. He and his wife Janet live in the heart of Toronto and have three adult children. Anyone who knows Peter celebrates the many photographs that appear on his blog, his facebook page, and those that he shares with friends and members of the congregation. This summer the Yorkminster Park Gallery will host an exhibition of Peter Holmes’ photographs as its annual summer fundraiser. The dates for the exhibition will begin on May 25th and will be on exhibit until August.

