

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



YPBC NEWS

October 2011



Published by:

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GIVING THANKS

Currently in the Don Mills Bible Study, we are looking at several of the Psalms, many of which remind us of the

Thanksgiving theme. This is particularly true of Psalm 96, a song of celebration:

O sing to the Lord a new song;

Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Let the heavens be glad,

and let the earth rejoice;

Let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the wood

sing for joy before the Lord.

The cover is a portion of a painting, by Jennie A. Browncombe (1914) depicting the Pilgrim Thanksgiving of 1621. Contrary to folklore this was probably not the first thanksgiving celebration in North America.

When I asked Kerr Spiers to do an article for the newsletter last December he did so with enthusiasm. His Christmas experiences both in Scotland and Canada were delightful and enjoyed by many people. Now his voice is silent but his recorded and written words, and witness will be a blessing to many into the future.

The editor welcomes comments and suggestions. Please submit all articles for future editions to pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

PRH

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We who are privileged to live in this land of plenty and beauty have much to celebrate. In a world where many millions are hungry, we have more than we need to eat. Where others have few material possessions, we have cars and televisions, microwaves and warm houses. Where others have war and civil strife, we have peace and safety. Where others have few freedoms, we have few restrictions. While we are no more deserving than others of these gifts, we find a great deal to be grateful for and to celebrate.

In the month of October we celebrate Thanksgiving. Because it is in the fall of the year, Thanksgiving is an emphasis on the harvest of the fields and gardens and fruit trees. We believe that these gifts of the soil are given to us by God through the marvellous processes of nature and growth. Therefore, we must not hoard them on the one hand or waste them on the other hand. They are meant for our sustenance and health, and they are meant to be shared. One of the ways in which we show our 'thanks' to God is by 'giving' to others.

The same is true of the spiritual fruits that we receive from God. They are meant to be accepted, used and shared. These are the nine flavours of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22, 23). They allow

us to meet the spiritual and social needs of those around us. But the satisfaction and fulfilment, the healing and the peace, the strength and the endurance that come through our unity with God through Jesus Christ are richer than all the gifts that we alone can give to each other. Surely we should be deeply grateful and sing the praises of the One who gave them.

Thanksgiving is like coming to a feast and singing in full voice and with a grateful heart: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!"

Yorkminster Park is steeped in the tradition of singing praises to God, and we can be sure that the choir and congregation will be in full voice in worship during the fall season. Margaret and I are grateful for the privilege of being part of this family again for a time, and I am truly enjoying ministering alongside such a marvelous staff.

In Christ, John Torrance

REMEMBERING KERR

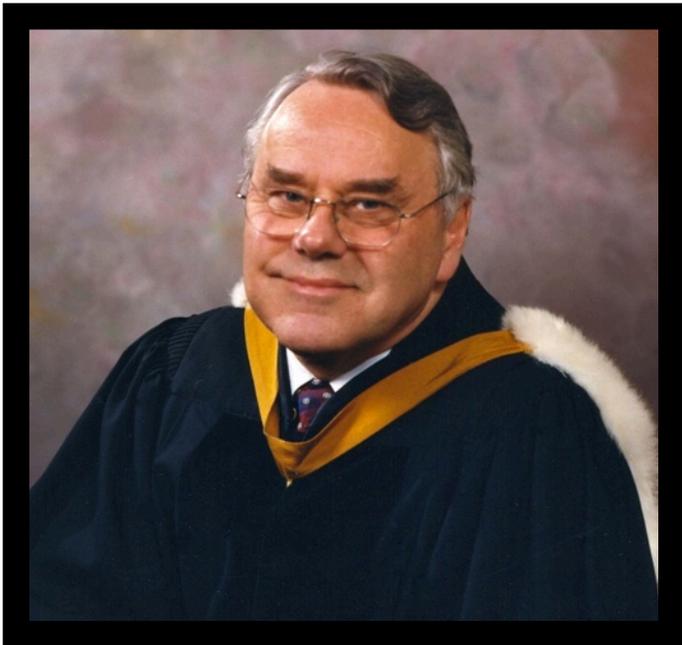


photo by David Flanagan

Late in the afternoon of 28 September I received word that our former minister, Kerr Spiers, passed away peacefully with his family at his side early in the evening in Glasgow. His son, Graham, said that while the loss is great in their lives they have a deep sense of gratitude to God for a wonderful husband, father and grandfather who faced his final chapter

with the same faith he had lived his whole life. Yorkminster Park is also grateful for Kerr and the privilege that was ours in sharing in his ministry years.

Kerr was a native Glaswegian who trained for the ministry at Rawdon College in the U.K. and served in a number of Scotland's leading Baptist Churches including Hillhead, Glasgow; Morningside, Edinburgh; and Coates Memorial, Paisley, before becoming Minister of the Congregation at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in 1991.

Kerr was also widely known in Scotland through his religious broadcasts on the BBC. Wherever he served he was appreciated, not only for his strong voice and thoughtful approach to scripture, but also for his remarkable compassion towards the poor and underprivileged. It was under his leadership that the "Out of the Cold Program" got underway at Yorkminster Park. Blessed with humility, he was not one to fuss over the size of a congregation or the class of people he served. He once commented to me saying, "Peter, it is not really preaching unless you can see the whites of their eyes." It was such humility that caused Kerr to take an interest in the often overlooked clergy of small, out of the way churches and in turn to be held in their highest regard.

I had the wonderful privilege of serving as Kerr's Associate from 1995 until his retirement in 1999. Prior to my arrival, Kerr had suffered a heart attack. While he may have slowed some following cardiac surgery, he continued to grow in wisdom and knowledge. I like to think we made a great team because I was able to offer him the energy and enthusiasm of a 38 year old, while he blessed and guided me with his considerable intelligence and - might I add - patience.

No matter who came to Yorkminster Park to serve as Minister in 1991, they were bound to be challenging years following so closely on the retirement of John Gladstone after 26 years in our pulpit. Yet Kerr was strong through it all and we came to depend on him. He had a way of putting things into perspective and helping us to not take ourselves too seriously. There was many a day in those years when our offices were filled with laughter and joy. Kerr reminded all who would listen that come what may, our lives are in the Lord and he will never forsake us. We remember

him most of all for his strength and faith, but it was also Kerr who initiated the "Alpha" program at Yorkminster Park, as well as the supplementary hymn book. He also penned our vision statement and was deeply involved in the renovations of our building, all of which came to be known as Vision 2000. The work done to the building has had a lasting impact and the vision statement continues to guide us.

The strength of Kerr's faith became only more evident since suffering a massive stroke on Maundy Thursday. When I visited with him in July he had lost his speech, but not his smile, his love or his devotion. As Graham put it one day, "There is simply no distracting Dad from the belief that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Kerr once wrote a little book about a small seaside church he served on the east coast of Scotland titled *The Church on the Rock*. In life and in death Kerr was always rock solid, yet he would be the first to point - not to himself - but to Jesus Christ the true rock. Kerr's son, Graham, included these thoughts in an email: "To me, he was a great Dad, full of love and fun, but he was also a great churchman. He was a theological explorer who, for all that exploration, remained convinced, utterly convinced, of the truth of Jesus Christ. He has left within me a deep love of the Church, in all its shades and guises."

When Kerr and I would recess behind the choir on Sunday evenings as they would conclude the service with the singing of the Nunc Dimittis, Kerr would often pause at the end and take a deep breath. One night before he retired he turned to me and said how much he would miss it and how he dreaded being in a church where the choir was gasping for breath. We laughed. I remembered those words today when I heard that a recording of our choir was playing as Kerr slipped from this world. When I heard it I knew what his family meant when they insisted he passed peacefully. Imagine going to sleep hearing the choir of Yorkminster Park and waking up to angel voices. Kerr's wife, Betty, his children, Graham and Fiona, and the whole family have been tireless in caring for Kerr since his major stroke in late April. While his death will offer them relief from the exhausting task, it will also leave a terrible void in their lives. Thank you for your faithful prayers and the cards you have sent which Betty mentions each time we speak. Let us continue to pray for them in these days with gratitude for the wonderful gift God gave us in his servant, Kerr.

O Lord, lettest now thy servant depart in peace. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation. (opening lines of the Nunc Dimittis).

Peace, Peter Holmes



photos by Norman Hubley, Mary Stevens & Donna Willett

YPBC WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

As women with a passion for serving God, we are a caring community who strive to be faithful, creative and accepting.

For such a time as this, we endeavour to...

- Welcome and invite all women into our community
- Encourage women to discover their full potential in Jesus Christ
- Motivate, minister, mentor and befriend
- Live and serve under the influence and empowerment of God's Spirit

HOSPITALITY...

On the weekend of Sept. 16-18, several women from YPBC journeyed to Elim along with women from other CBOQ churches for a time of retreat and renewal. Rev. Cheryle Hanna, theme speaker for the weekend, shared insights into the lives of Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel as "Women of the Promise." On Saturday, we focused on the story of Rebekah and were reminded once again, of her generous spirit of hospitality. We were struck by Rebekah's quick and willing response to Abraham's servant, a stranger to her. She accommodated not only his request for a drink of water, but without being asked, the need of the servant's camels as well and she seemed to take delight in being able to do all of this! (Rebekah's full story can be found in Genesis 24:1-27, 67; 25: 19-24.)

As we embrace the beauty and opportunities of the autumn season as women at YPBC and as women of God's promises, as well, it is our desire to be a welcoming, hospitable community. Our first event of the season is our "Fall Salt and Leaven Potluck Supper," Monday October 24, 6:30 pm, at the home of Violet Pantelidis, 16 Chestnut Park Road. All women are warmly invited to come for a time of meeting new friends, renewing acquaintances, enjoying wonderful food as well as meaningful conversations – conversations perhaps (as Theodore

Zeldin suggests in his book, *Conversation*) that we start with a willingness to emerge as slightly different persons.

Later in November, we are holding our "Fall Thankoffering". This year we have invited Rev. Peter Holmes and Harold Hetherington to come and share their experiences of the Holy Land - highlights of a trip that they shared together in the spring of 2011. On Saturday, November 26, women AND men are invited to a luncheon where we will enjoy a time of inspiration, fellowship and also have occasion to share with others. Be sure to set aside this date and watch the bulletin and our posters for more details to come at the end of October.

Hospitality...

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank and she also watered the camels." (Gen. 24:45-46 NRSV)

submitted by Jonanne Fenton



photos by Donna Willett

DESIGNED FOR ...

The 123rd CBOQ (Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec) Assembly, 9 to 11 June 2011

“Become the kind of container God can use to present any and every kind of gift to His guests for their blessing”. 2 Timothy 2:20-21 (*The Message*)



As a YPBC delegate to this year's CBOQ Assembly and as members of the CBOQ family of churches, we were welcomed and encouraged by the Executive Director, Tim McCoy, to be strengthened in our relationship with God through the Assembly's worship experiences and to contemplate, as we engaged in our workshops, received the reports and attended our theme speaker, how God might be speaking to us about our return to our church/community/family and our role in creating change through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us. We were challenged to consider that for which we have been designed.

The 2 Timothy theme emphasized that the shape of ministry is based on mission. We shape our structures so that we release and empower people to do what God intends so that, in effect, we design toward the purpose and then allow the “design” to do what it was created to do. And for leaders, this means structures that allow people to serve based on giftedness, interests and needs for mission.

Hugh Halter, our theme speaker and co-author of *The Tangible Kingdom*, laid a framework for this Kingdom and its three spheres – incarnational community, communion and mission. He reminded us that the news of God's Kingdom will always be good news and that if we live an integrated Kingdom life, most of what we think is so important will fade away. He stated that it's not about being missional or not missional but about how missional we are. Jesus isn't going to ask us how many churches we started

or how large they grew. His question is, are we making disciples? Hugh described discipleship as developing the life of God's Kingdom within a person, and also as apprenticeship to Jesus. The following quote from *The Tangible Kingdom* describes his heart and ministry: “When I walk into Starbucks, I don't think about coffee. That's predetermined...I ponder the lives of everyone I see. I wonder about their spiritual journeys, their highs and lows...and where they look for direction in their search. My initial assumption is that in any room full of people, very few know Christ. I ask myself how I could get into their lives or how a conversation might begin. I don't see them as projects – that wouldn't go very far. I see them as souls the Lord loves who simply haven't seen or heard an accurate message about the Kingdom. I always feel confident that I may one day be talking with them about life and about God. Oddly enough, this seems to happen all the time.” (P2)

We also had the privilege of hearing from Elie Haddad, President of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary and YPBC's Canadian Baptist Ministries' STEP partner. Elie shared what God is doing in the Muslim community in the Middle East and encouraged us to create opportunities for dialogue with our Muslim neighbours – to transform our thinking and to be willing to love and befriend them. We learned that McMaster Divinity School is developing a mentor-based doctoral program. Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec reminded us of the unique advantage we have in belonging to a large network of believers through our partnership with Canadian Baptist Women, North America Baptist Women's Union, Baptist World Alliance, CBOQ and CBM. We welcomed Rev. Sam Lee, YPBC's Youth Minister, into the CBOQ family as a new ordinand. Matt Wilkinson, CBOQ's new director of Youth Ministries reported on their youth focus for the year - contagious faith - which challenged youth to take faith beyond their comfort zone to where Jesus is already moving. Matt reported that through their events, curriculum and many youth groups, hundreds if not thousands of students took that step in demonstrating their faith outside of their normal context.

In his inaugural address, Ed McLean, the incoming President of CBOQ, charged our churches to:

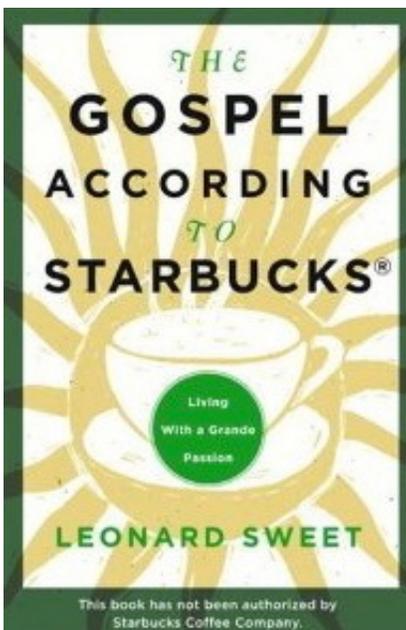
- Be courageous for change. He emphasized that good leaders are always asking what needs to be changed and refuse to live in a culture of fear.
- Be humble – to have a passion for ongoing learning and to create environments of openness allowing for the fresh wind of the Spirit.
- Nurture a close and intimate walk with Jesus for He is our true leader.

God’s designs – what varied and unique vessels we are – containers God can use to present His gift to His guests for their blessing. What an honour!

with gratefulness, Jonanne Fenton

BOOK REVIEW

I love the title of this book! I am drawn to books whose title begins



“The Gospel According to . . .” Some are just plain crazy and have nothing to do with the ‘good news’ that Jesus Christ came into the world to give, but when the message and the title match that’s when the real fun begins. Leonard Sweet has connected the best of the Starbucks

experience with what should be the best of the Christian experience is something he calls “EPIC”: experiential, participatory, image-rich and connective. For Sweet “The spiritual life has earthly dimension—it is life that you can taste, and smell and touch and see and hear. It is reality.” (pg.19)

The EPIC experience begins with a Starbucks Cup and the meaning of the symbols and their connection to the Starbucks business philosophy. The coffee theme connects the images throughout and coffee drinkers or not, the readers are pulled into the

narrative and can almost smell the fresh coffee while reading. I am not a coffee drinker, but after hearing about what happens at a Starbucks I wanted to visit one and take part in what sounded warm, inviting and safe. It was not difficult to make the jump with Sweet that life as a Christian and in a Christian church should taste, feel and sound like life at a Starbucks. Sweet is not examining the church, but inviting the church to return to its deep spiritual roots. He describes how we might invite a waiter or waitress serving us into an EPIC experience. I tried this: when the waitress brings the menu, greet her by name (they are often wearing name tags) and then ask her which are her favorite dishes on the menu. She was pleased to share and glad for the connection. If Leonard Sweet is correct, and I think he is, as a people we want to participate/engage rather than sit on the sidelines. The good news is this, that God understood that need and came among us. “Incarnation—God taking on human flesh—is a participatory event”. (pg. 81) Let us go and do the same.

submitted by Cheryle R.C. Hanna

TRANSITIONS

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

Births

Elizabeth Rose Clea *d of Scott and Kerry Kindred-Barnes*

Bradley Carson Weir *s of Matthew and Andrea Weir (gs of Linda and Jim Weir)*

Infant Dedications

Ailbe Alexander Fraser *s of Sandy and Linda Fraser*

Baptisms

Elizabeth Wise
Ben Gelfand

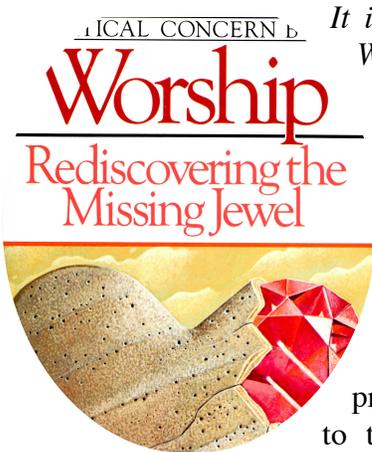
Deaths

Charles Frederick (Ted) Moyle
Mary Helene Pequegnat

THE ESSENCE OF WORSHIP

excerpt from *Worship: Rediscovering the Missing Jewel*, by Ronald Allen and Gordon Borrer (Multnomah Press: 1982).

Worship is an active response to God whereby we share His worth. Worship is not passive, but it is participative. Worship is not simply a mood; it is a response. Worship is not just a feeling; it is a declaration....



It is the celebration of God! When we worship God, we celebrate Him: we extol Him, we sound His praises, we boast in Him.

Worship is not the casual chatter that occasionally drowns out the organ prelude; we celebrate God when we allow the prelude to attune our hearts to the glory of God by the means of the music.

Worship is not the mumbling of prayers or the mouthing of hymns with little thought and less heart; we celebrate God when we join together earnestly in prayer and intensely in song.

Worship is not self-aggrandizing words or boring clichés when one is asked to give a testimony; we celebrate God when we boast in His name to the good of His people.

Worship is not irrelevant thoughts or fragmented elements, silly asides or unconnected directions in purpose; we celebrate God when all of the parts of the service fit together and work to a common end.

Worship is not grudging gifts or compulsory service; we celebrate God when we give to Him hilariously and serve Him with integrity.

Worship is not haphazard music done poorly, not even great music done merely as a performance; we celebrate God when we enjoy and participate in music to His glory.

Worship is not a distracted endurance of the sermon; we celebrate God as we hear His Word gladly and seek to be conformed by it more and more to the image of our Savior.

Worship is not a sermon that is poorly prepared and carelessly delivered; we celebrate God when we honor His Word with our words, by His Spirit.

Worship is not the hurried motions of a "tacked-on" Lord's Table; we celebrate God pre-eminently when we fellowship gratefully at the ceremonial meal that speaks so centrally of our faith in the Christ Who died for us, Who rose again on our behalf, and Who is to return for our good.

As a thoughtful gift is a celebration of a birthday, as a special evening out is a celebration of an anniversary, as a warm eulogy is a celebration of a life..., so a worship service is a celebration of God.

submitted by Esther Barnes at the request of the Board of Music



CHRISTMAS IN ART AND SONG



with Tom Hayes

Wed. 30 November @ 7:30 P.M.
Cameron Hall

ROMANS THROUGH THE LENS OF LUTHER AND N. T. WRIGHT

with *Peter Ferguson*

Many evangelicals are upset and even angered by N.T. Wright's 'new perspective' on the writing of the apostle Paul. Luther, says Wright, got the church off on the wrong foot because he taught that Romans was essentially about how guilty sinners can be saved. When the great reformer read Paul he assumed the apostle was writing to counter Israel's understanding of the Jewish law as a means of earning God's favour.



Wright reads Romans with a fresh vision. He builds on the work of E.P. Sanders who argued that Israel never understood the law as a means of self-salvation because they always knew that they were members of God's covenant family by God's election alone.

After Luther, Paul's letter was read systematically as if he organized it around several discrete theological issues driven by a series of questions that lay out the substance of his Gospel message. It was as if the apostle was saying, "Read this letter and you will know the substance of my preaching and support my mission to Spain".

Wright does not disagree with Luther entirely. He writes that Luther "got it right for the wrong reasons!"



Tom Wright believes that Paul can be understood more accurately by reading him in terms of Israel's story and world view. His methodology results in a unique, startling, potentially disturbing and challenging reading that has set some evangelical teeth on edge.

Peter Ferguson will present a paper on reading Romans from chapter one through eight using the lens provided by Luther and Wright. **A knowledge of Romans and Wright's work is not required.** Each presentation will be about forty five minutes. There will be a vigorous conversation along the way!

The Friendship Room
Wednesday November 2 and 9
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

"As I have said more than once, no other religion enjoys anything like the combination of a charismatic figure like Jesus and a first class intellectual like St. Paul." (*"How The World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind"* by Anthony Flew)

PASSING - JOHN STOTT



The September issue of *Christianity Today* contained an article (and photo left) by Tim Stafford, a tribute to John Stott under the banner 'A Plain Ordinary Christian'. He started with: "*An evangelical is a plain, ordinary Christian,*" John Stott told *Christianity Today* in an October 2006 interview.

From his conversion at Rugby secondary school in 1938 to his death in 2011 at 90 years old, Stott exemplified how extraordinary plain, ordinary Christianity can be. He was not known as an original thinker, nor did he seek to be. He always turned to the Bible for understanding, and his unforgettable gift was to penetrate and explain the Scriptures.

Stephen Andrews, Chair of Langham Partnership - Canada writes in their latest newsletter: *The world lost an obedient servant of Christ on July 27, and Langham Partnership Canada said goodbye to its founder.*

John Stott, evangelist and author, pastor and statesman, died peacefully in a retirement home south of London, surrounded by loved ones while listening to Handel's Messiah and a reading of 2 Timothy. He was 90. ... Toward the end he lost much of his sight and mobility; in the last months he was plagued by pain and spoke of 'the imprisonment' of his condition. Now he is liberated, saved for his Lord's heavenly kingdom (2 Tim. 4:18).

John Stott last spoke at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church on 28 March 2001. He gave a lecture titled "The Paradox of Our Humanness", part of the Langham Trust Lectures. The sanctuary was filled to capacity as it was on his previous visits.

TUESDAY EVENING KNITTING - PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



For several months the members of the Women's executive have been considering starting an evening group for women who are interested in knitting and crochet but who are unable to attend the Dorcas group on Tuesday mornings. We hope to have one of the focuses of this group to be the making of Prayer Shawls for those who are in need of comfort. The shawls will be dedicated in a church service and then given to people who are in need of something special.

The first meeting of the new Tuesday evening knitting group was held in the Friendship Room on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 with 15 enthusiastic women in attendance. The experience level ranged from novice with little experience to those who have knit a great deal.

Yarn and needles had been purchased and were available for all who attended. Assistance was given



to the newer knitters by the more experienced. Everyone who attended went home with a scarf or Prayer Shawl on the needles.

Cheryle brought her copy of the book *Knitting into the Mystery* which explains how the Prayer Shawl ministry originated. Portions of this story were read to the group as we knit and at future meetings we will read some of the prayers that have been composed by knitters for the people who receive the shawls. We feel there is a place in our church for this ministry and want to see it grow.

We invite other interested women to join us the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Friendship Room at 7:00 pm; the next meeting will be Tuesday, October 25, 2011. Yarn and needles will be available, and assistance will also be provided if you are new to knitting. There will be instruction in crochet as well if people are interested.

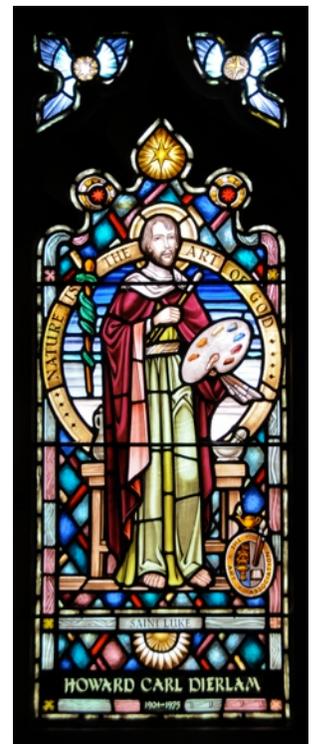
The photo, lower left, shows some shawls made by the writer this past summer as examples of what we can do. Cheryle closed the meeting with a prayer of thanks to God for His care for us, and for opening this Ministry that we can care for others.

submitted by Rhoda Hill

YPBC GALLERY DIERLAM & DIERLAM - A LEGACY

The YPBC Gallery will host an exhibition and sale of art by the first Director of Art for the Toronto Board of Education (Howard C. , d 1974) and his daughter Lois; artist and arts educator with the Toronto Board of Education as well as Upper Canada College. The show will open on Sunday October 30 and continue until November 23 2011.

Lois' parents Howard and Florence (Shroeder) were original members of Yorkminster (Park) Baptist Church. They participated actively in the life of Yorkminster. Howard served as a Deacon and chaired the Music Committee at one time. Commemoration of the Dierlams' service includes the stained glass window found in the Yorkminster Park sanctuary.



Howard was born in Waterloo, Ontario in 1904. As a child he drew cartoons and comic strips for school bulletins in elementary schools. Howard moved to Toronto to attend teacher's college, beginning his teaching career at the Duke of York School. His clear talent was recognized in the late 1930's when he was asked by the Toronto Board of Education to become supervisor of art programs in the Toronto Board's elementary schools. This was so successful that he was asked to become the first Director of Art for all Toronto public schools.

Howard's passion for art education showed in many ways, including his design of a room at the Board of Education which included specially designed tables and desks for painting and teaching art to the teachers; and the design of a gallery at the Toronto Board's head office to showcase the children's art. In 1967 he organized an exhibition of the paintings that the Board of Education owns including many by Group of Seven artists. Part of Howard's legacy as an arts educator was his initiation of the "Education through Art" society which spread Canada wide. A popular speaker across Canada and the United States, he was honoured by the City of Toronto in 1967 as an outstanding citizen. Howard retired from the Toronto



Board of Education in 1969 and died 5 years later. Howard's passion as an arts educator was matched by a passion for painting, which he pursued in his spare time. He painted on location, and was frequently accompanied by his daughter Lois. Both artists have focused their works on traditional landscapes in oil, acrylic and watercolour. Mentored by her father, and educated at the Ontario College of Art, Lois typically works in acrylic, with smaller paintings in

watercolour. She is well known as an artist and arts educator, and is an active member of the Ontario Society of Artists, Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour, the Associate American Watercolor Society, and the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto. Lois' art

is found in many collections, both public and private, and she participates regularly in both individual and group shows across Ontario. In describing her approach to painting, Lois says " *I am inspired by fleeting moments. 'The present moment is a present'. I rise too early to contemplate the sunrise, and am overcome with joy observing 'The Moment'* ". (www.dierlam.com)

submitted by Debbie Ivison



*Now hath the
summer reached
her golden close,*

*September by Archibald
Lampman*