

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



YPBC NEWS

June 2014



Published by:

Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church
1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON
M4T 1Z9
www.yorkminsterpark.com

The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes
Minister of the Congregation

The Rev. Dale Rose
Minister of Pastoral Care

The Rev. Deborah Ban
Interim Minister of Discipleship

The Rev. Sam Lee
Minister of Youth

Mr. William Maddox, B.Mus.
FTCL - Director of Music

Mrs. Miriam Little
Director of Children's Ministries

Mrs. Catherine Newman
Parish Nurse

The Rev. Dr. William Sturgess
Minister Emeritus-Pastoral Care



THE VOICE OF PENTECOST

There are twenty-one verses in the first part of the story of Pentecost told in Acts chapter two. On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, we sought to have the passage read by twenty-one different voices in our congregation with each one reading in a different language. In the end there were a few missing, but the effect was startling. We wouldn't have expected so many people from our church family from all corners of the world reading the scripture in so many different tongues. They fanned out across the front of the church and took turns taking the microphone and speaking their name and language before reading their assigned verse. A week later people were still talking about it.

The passage tells the story of the apostles empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to enter the streets and preach the good news of Christ in many languages. The Jewish diaspora had returned to Jerusalem for the festival and so the visitors heard the good news, each in their own tongue. For anyone familiar with the story of Babel and indeed the tension often caused by language, the tongues of Pentecost became a sign of a new humanity created in Christ in which we are all citizens first of the Kingdom of God.

In Acts chapter two verse fifteen ethnic groups are mentioned among those who heard the word preached in their own language. At Yorkminster Park we heard eighteen languages. These were: Albanian, Mandarin, Cantonese, Creole, English, Estonian, Farsi, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Indonesian, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Telugu, Thai, and Turkish and it was wonderful. The truth is there are a number of additional languages spoken by our people.

One of the priorities of Yorkminster Park's Long Range Plan has been "To become an intergenerational multicultural community of Christian faith where we are united as one on our journey of faith." Along with many others, I have always believed wholeheartedly in the importance of the church becoming increasingly multi-ethnic because our church is

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The production of the newsletter involves many people. First of all the base graphics are supplied by Janice Ivory-Smith. Writers include the Ministerial Team and many other individuals; of which Jonanne Fenton stands out for the quality and quantity of her writings. The Art Committee also adds to each individual issue. Then there are the proof readers, Nancy King and Susan Carlén, whose contribution is much valued for quality assurance. Thanks to everyone for your support.

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

pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

The next newsletter will be published in late September. The deadline for submissions will be announced.

Paul R Hill

in the middle of one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. Yet, while I believed in it, I have never been sure how to make it happen. On Pentecost Sunday it finally dawned on me that we don't make it happen. God is bringing it about and it is marvelous in our eyes. All we need to do is to be open and expectant of Christ in our midst.

If you missed the Pentecost reading you can view it in the webcast archives for June 8, 2014 and it begins at approximately the 14 minute mark in the service.

Pilgrimage of Sacred Spaces

We have recently returned from a wonderful pilgrimage exploring churches and a synagogue on both sides of the Niagara River from Niagara Falls, Ontario and New York and places north. Read about it on my blog. In recent months I have become increasingly aware of the connections that have been built through our pilgrimages.

Perhaps the most moving connection in recent days, that has grown directly out of the Pilgrimage, is our friendship with Father Roman of the St. Elias Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brampton, Ontario. The remarkable wooden structure burned to the ground about a week before Easter, but it is still there in the hearts and minds of the 100 pilgrims who were with us that day and Father Roman promises it will be rebuilt one day soon and Yorkminster Park will be invited back for the opening.

When we received an enquiry about hosting a concert featuring a choir from Ukraine to take place in early October this year we immediately contacted Father Roman who has agreed to come and offer a blessing and prayer in the language of Ukraine. I have a feeling it may be a bit of Pentecost all over again that night.

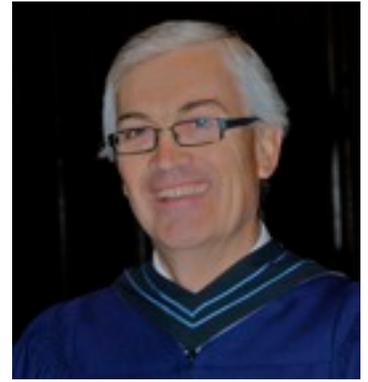
Blessings,
Peter Holmes

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

“Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.”
James 5:16

There is an old saying that “confession is good for the soul.” Recently Donna and I went to the theatrical production of *The Last Confession*. It is a play which examines the inner workings and secrets

of the Vatican, the seat of the Roman Catholic Church. In particular, the play explores the mystery surrounding the death of Pope John Paul I in 1978 – the year of three Popes. John Paul I died suddenly, just 33 days after being elected by



the College of Cardinals. There was no official investigation into his death, so Cardinal Giovanni Benelli challenges the church hierarchy. In the midst of this storm, he deals with his own crisis of faith, the need for justice, and his own ambition and desire for power. The play is based on a true story, but like so many plays it takes some literary license as well as some significant creative liberties.

Over the course of the play, there is an ongoing “aside” where Benelli is speaking with another fellow priest, recounting his own confession and his struggle to maintain his faith in God. It got me to thinking about the role of confession in our lives as the people of God. As Baptists, we have no official rite of confession. But this doesn't mean we don't have confession. I have heard many “unofficial” confessions from people over the years. Often all they want is a listening ear, someone they can off-load their emotional burdens to in a confidential setting. Our world is desperately seeking forgiveness and grace. People are struggling with burdens of guilt and regret. In the Bible, King David understood this need. In Psalm 32 he writes: “When I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long...Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” (Psalm 32:3-5).

I believe every Christian needs another friend in the faith - a close friend with whom they can share anything - someone to whom they can reveal their deepest fears, regrets, and unfulfilled dreams. Most people only have a few of these friendships in the course of their lives. But I believe these friendships are essential to our spiritual well-being. One of my favourite authors is the late Henri Nouwen, the Dutch priest who spent the first part of his life in

academia, lecturing at prestigious universities such as Yale. But the last years of his life were spent at the L'Arche community of Daybreak in Richmond Hill, Ontario, working with the intellectually handicapped. Nouwen's writings have been formative to my ministry over the years, especially in the area of pastoral care. One of my favourite Nouwen passages is this one: "When we honestly ask ourselves which persons in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares."

My prayer is that all of us might have at least one friend like this in our faith journey – a friend with whom we can share all our fears, sorrows and life challenges; a friend who can hear our confessions and shortcomings, who can tolerate our dark side and yet not run away. Of course, this is what Jesus did for us. He called us friends. He entered into our darkness and sin and secured our redemption. The words of the old hymn, "What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear," have more truth to them than you might think.

When I was in high school, I spent three summers working as a counselor at a Baptist church camp. One summer some of us discovered these words of Earnest Larsen, which became our theme for those two months: "Many friendships never come to be because one or both is afraid to take a chance, to risk. 'I'll be your friend *if* it doesn't cost too much.' Can't happen. To accept friends is to accept their good points – bad points – strengths – weaknesses – wonderful traits – wacky foibles. Take them for whatever may come in the future. Their joys are our joys; their sorrows – 'Share them with me.' Anyone not willing to pay the price of friendship is not worthy of it (And will never find it)."

May we all find friends who accept us for who we are. And may we rejoice in a God who loves us unconditionally.

Peace and friendship to you all,
Dale Rose

DISCIPLESHIP

An Invitation is extended to YOU...

One of my favourite spots for meditation is on my back porch overlooking the beauty of our garden. There, the sun embraces my soul as I am serenaded by the young birds who have been successful in their maiden flight from home. It is an amazing



feeling to be surrounded by these elements of creation. Each one of my senses becomes awakened and I feel connected in a fresh way to the magnificent gardener who established such beauty - God. Restorative energy, a sense of grounding, renewed focus, transformed commitment — these are the blessings which come in the gentle moments of contemplation. These are also the gifts offered to us when we gather in community for Bible study.

This summer I invite you to take time to claim your connectedness to God, our incredible Creator. Come, share in our summertime Bible Study as we explore "The Beatitudes". Our gathering will be on Wednesday evenings, June 25 to July 30th, 7-8pm in the Friendship Room. We have incredible leaders guiding this study and the details are listed below.

Being part of this study will offer you fresh insights into God's plan for our lives, a renewed sense of grounding in God's love and time to build relationships within our church community. Please join us for this significant opportunity. God's Word, and all creation, await with a limitless supply of fresh understanding and ongoing gifts of renewal.

Blessings,
Deborah Ban



FROM THE YPBC WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE...

WOMEN ON A MISSION

The May/June 2014 issue of *live* (a Baptist resource for women on a mission) includes a brief report by Rev. Brenda Mann, the outgoing Executive Director of Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec (CBWOQ) in which she draws attention to the 58th UN Commission on the STATUS OF WOMEN, March 2014. The challenges and achievements in the implementation of the eight Millennium Development Goals for women and girls were the focus of this Commission.



The eight MDG's include:

1. eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
2. achieving universal primary education
3. promoting gender equality and empowering women
4. reducing child mortality
5. improving maternal health
6. combatting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. ensuring environmental sustainability
8. developing a global partnership for development

In her report, Rev. Mann offers us snapshots of workshops she attended at the UN Commission:

Hidden in Plain Site: The Engines That Drive Human Trafficking was an interactive panel

discussion preceded by a dramatic performance from GIRL BE HEARD where a young girl shared her story of becoming prostituted from her European homeland when she was 14. Now she is free and being mentored by the group known as GIRL BE HEARD. At a reception following this performance Mann reports a challenging conversation with two Fillapina women, caregivers who had come legally to the US but found themselves being held against their will, one even by a faith group and being forced to work long hours with little pay.

Indigenous Women and the MDG's – Challenges and Lessons. Regrettably, indigenous women were not

consulted when the MDG's were developed 19 years ago. At this workshop, indigenous women were brought together from around the world including North and South America, Armenia and Scandinavia. Their principal challenge was to be heard and considered, not just as objects of charity but also as global citizens with

knowledge, history and ambition. Mann reports that their plea was to allow indigenous women who have been hurt to have opportunities to be healed.

Three snapshots and each one aligned with initiatives of CBWOQ and Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM):

To raise and deepen awareness of the human trafficking issue in Ontario and Quebec, CBWOQ sponsors the screening of the hard hitting documentary *Nefarious: Merchant of Souls*. This was recently shown at the Afternoon Mission Fellowship at YPBC. The film exposes the disturbing trends of modern day sex slavery. From the first scene, *Nefarious* gives an in depth look at the human trafficking industry showing where slaves are sold, often in developed, affluent countries where they work and where they are confined. With

footage shot in over 19 countries, *Nefarious* exposes sex slavery as experienced by hundreds of thousands daily through the eyes of the enslaved and their traffickers. The documentary features expert analysis from international humanitarian leaders and captures the gripping and triumphant testimonies of survivors in order to galvanize hope and vision. CBWOQ also invites Canadian Baptists to join their *Buying Sex Is Not a Sport Toronto 2015* campaign/partnership as we prepare to focus on and respond to injustices to women as the Pan Am Games come to the GTA and Golden Horseshoe cities in July 2015.

In response to her conversation with her Fillapina sisters, Mann states that her heart was challenged and her concern was heightened regarding the caregivers networks here in Canada and how the outreach of Thornhill Baptist Church and other CBOQ churches have such crucial care/support roles to play. Gloria Stafford is sharing her vision for the Thornhill Baptist Church ministry for live-in nannies

and caregivers at the Afternoon Mission Fellowship on June 5, 2014.

CBWOQ is working on a growing partnership and friendship with our first nation sisters. (Canada has recently been made aware of an RCMP report concerning the disturbing tragedy of 1200 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women over the last 30 years, a disproportionately high rate for the population.) Faith Holwyn, a Strategic Associate with CBM has been commissioned to mentor *Groups of Hope* in Canada, Latin America, India and Africa. This involves counselling small groups of women and empowering vulnerable women, opening God's healing in areas of abuse, neglect and other painful experiences.



A *Canadian Baptist Indigenous Peoples Conference* was held at Lorne Park Baptist Church in April 2014. This conference focused on what God is doing among Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. Lorne Park Baptist is known to have a heart for our first nations and offers short term mission opportunities on a first nations reserve.

CBM's international work addresses the MDG's, not explicitly, but in line with CBM's vision of a broken world made new and their mission of partnering with local churches around the world to bring hope and reconciliation through word and deed. Their work clusters in eight sectors:

- Children and Youth-at-Risk
- Evangelism and Church Planting
- Food and Community Development
- Training Leaders
- AIDS and Health Care
- Peace Justice and Reconciliation
- Strengthening Partners
- Crisis Response

On March 25, 2014, CBM announced the appointment of Brenda Halk as a Strategic Associate to assist their international partners in the training of women as leaders within congregations and the marketplace. Effective, April 1/14

she became the *Women's Initiatives Facilitator*. Quoting from the CBM files, "Brenda will help to establish a global network of Canadian Baptist Women who are committed to empowering younger and emerging women globally to use their gifts and skills to transform local communities Through the development of their skills they will become effective agents of change within the family, the church and their local community." This initiative is consistent with CBM's belief that equipping women can be key in helping heal broken communities and restoring dignity and justice to bring lasting spiritual and social change.

Agreed upon conclusions arising from the Commission have been documented by the UN Social Council and can be found on the Internet.

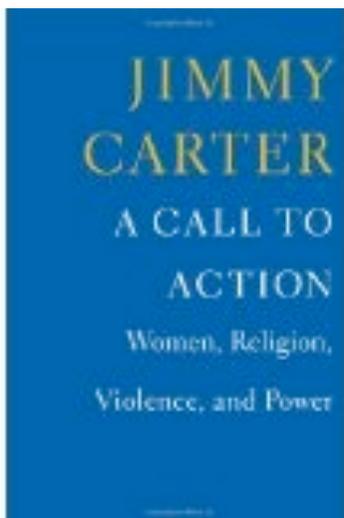
Conclusion # 29 states that “the Commission recognizes that progress on the achievement of all MDG’s for women and girls has been held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities that limit women and girls’ capabilities and growing gaps in equality of opportunity, discriminatory laws, policies, social norms, attitudes, harmful customary and contemporary practices and gender stereotypes”.

Disappointing? Yes. Daunting? No. The prophet Isaiah (58:6-12) describes true fasting and worship for Israel and for us:

- loosing the bonds of injustice
- undoing the thongs of the yoke
- letting the oppressed go free
- breaking *every* yoke (italics mine)
- sharing our bread with the hungry
- providing the poor wanderer with shelter
- covering the naked
- satisfying the needs of the afflicted.

Isaiah assures us that the Lord will guide us continually. Believing this, Conclusion Number 29 is motivation to keep ourselves fuelled and aflame as alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant, not quitting in hard times but praying all the harder (Romans 12:11, *The Message*).

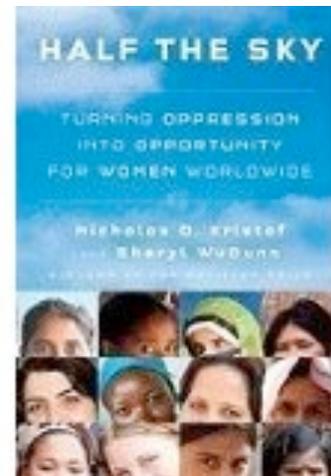
Two thought-provoking summer reads could be Jimmy Carter’s latest book, *A CALL TO ACTION –*



Women, Religion, Violence and Power and Nicholas Kristoff’s *Half the Sky*. Carter writes as a committed Christian and exposes a system of discrimination against women based on the

presumption that men and boys are superior to women and girls, which it is supported by some male

religious leaders who distort the Bible, the Koran and other sacred texts to perpetuate their claim that females are, in some basic ways, inferior to them, and unqualified to serve God on equal terms. It’s this false premise, Carter believes, that provides a justification for sexual discrimination in almost every realm of secular and religious life and in some cases even justifying physical punishment of women and girls. He also cites the acceptance of violence as a contributing factor in the abuse of women/girls.



At different points, Carter quotes his friend, Nicholas Kristof, whose book title is derived from a statement by Chairman Mao Zedong: “Women hold up half the sky.” Also worth reading by Kristof is his response to the abduction of the Nigerian girls in April 2014 by Boko Haram, Islamic extremists. On May 10, 2014, he wrote a column in *The New York Times* (Sunday Review) titled, *What’s So Scary About Smart Girls?* Answering the question, *Why are fanatics so terrified of girls’ education?*, he states that “there is no force more powerful to transform a society. The greatest threat to extremism isn’t drones firing missiles, but girls reading books.” “If you want to mire a nation in backwardness, manacle your daughters.” The full article is available on the Internet.

Rev. Mann ends her report by suggesting that God asks us to care and connect with the women God places in our paths – neighbours, those at church, those within our families. She reminds us that God works through big organizations as well as individuals who are willing to open their eyes to problems and make a difference.

Women *and* men as *co-humanity*, created in the image of God and empowered by Him, *can* make a difference in the lives of women and children at home and throughout our world.

submitted by Jonanne Fenton

CHURCH RETREAT

‘Walk with Us’ Retreat 2014, May 30 to June 1

‘Walk with Us’ was the name of the retreat and I believe we were able to celebrate just that – the congregation at Yorkminster Park walking with each other and with Jesus.

Nine people plus three ministers told some of their life story formally. The success of their story-telling is measured in that they didn’t want to stop telling and the attendees didn’t want them to stop when it was time to move on! Many expressed the desire to hear more stories of God’s work from more people. ‘Can we do it again?’ was a common question.

We memorized the theme verse, sang, prayed, walked, ate, and played together. We enjoyed a camp fire two nights in a row, devouring s’mores and singing silly songs. The youth and children led us in various parts of the program. Our youth worship team was incredible and sang with passion. People of all ages worked together to produce

scavenger hunt sculptures. We remembered, with thankfulness, moments in our life when people cared for us or guided us and we made commitments about how we would share with others. The meals were served “family style” sitting all together, and after each meal no one was rushed to leave as conversations continued. We met people we didn’t know before and made some new friends.

To top it off, the weather was perfect and the setting was beautiful. During free time you could see people playing baseball, basketball, sitting down at the beach, chatting while enjoying snacks, reading, and relaxing.

Thank you to all who prepared for and came to “Walk With Us” Retreat 2014!

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

submitted by Amy Charette





photos, Miriam Little

TRANSITIONS

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

Births

Matthew Connor Yip, s of Chris and Jennifer Yip

Heather Mary JenYing Leung, d of Jena Johnson and Joe Leung, gd of Bruce and Mary Johnson

Infant Dedications

Isabella Jae-Woo Jung, d of Andy and Chelo Jung

Anthony William Soto Maya, s of Laurie and Sinhue Soto Maya

Evan William Harris, s of Noriko and Matthew Harris

Prisca Amani Joseph, d of Kamran and Karen Joseph

New Members

Ron Budd

Joan Budd

Lothar Renters

Renate Renters

Stephen Hart

Marion Hart

Deaths

Stanley Schatz

John Stevens

Michael Wilson

Summer Bible Study

The Beatitudes

June 25	Matthew 5:1-3	Harold Hetherington
July 2	Matthew 5:4	Alana Walker Carpenter & Haylee Waymann
July 9	Matthew 5:5-6	Jonanne Fenton
July 16	Matthew 5:7-8	Janet Kim
July 23	Matthew 5:9-10	David Dorapalli
July 30	Matthew 5:11-12	Carol Bedford

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

May 11 to 23, 2015 - 13 Days

This special journey will be led by Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes and Corey Keeble, Curator Emeritus of the Royal Ontario Museum, and will include time in Galilee, Nazareth, Mount Hermon, Golan, Nimrod, Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Tiberias, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Masada, and other Biblical sites. We will have an overnight by the sea outside Tel Aviv; four nights in Tiberias, in the heart of the Galilee region; and six nights in Jerusalem. Visiting these sites with a pilgrim's heart can bring the Biblical stories to life and transform one's faith. Travel arrangements will be made through Craig Travel of Toronto. Full details will be available by the end of June. To add your names to the waiting list or to get more information, please contact Mary Stevens at maryestevens@sympatico.ca or 905-432-2278.

BUS TRIP

October 16, 2014

Shaw Festival Bus Trip (Niagara-on-the-Lake) "Philadelphia Story" Lunch at the Prince of Wales. Cost: \$150. Contact Judy MacDonald at 416-225-8295.

NEW MEMBERS

Ron K. Budd and Joan Budd

Ron K. Budd and Joan Budd have been attending YPBC regularly for some months. They have been long time members of the now Eglinton-St.Georges United Church and are transferring their membership from there. They have been married for 50 years. Both became teachers. Joan was a primary school teacher and later worked in Special Education. There was a 16 year period when she stayed home to raise their two sons. She returned to her career when they were grown. Ron was a High School Math teacher before moving on to be a principal with the Scarborough Board at a couple of schools, and ended his years as a Superintendent. They have two grandchildren who live close to them and who are special in their lives. Ron and Joan are active and travel extensively. Ron was able to join to join the Men's Baking Group for one of the day-long Christmas cake operations.

Lothar and Renate Renters

Lothar and Renate Renters have been attending YPBC for 20 years and love the orderly services in which we worship, and enjoy our warm fellowship. They both particularly appreciate the Outreach Ministries here.

Renate grew up in the Lutheran Church in central Germany. She studied at a vocational school to learn drafting; her career involved producing mechanical drawings as a draftswoman and working with engineers.

Lothar comes from a long line of Baptists in East Germany and was baptized there when he was 14 years old. He worked for 50 years with a German sewing machine import company and became its president.

Renate and Lothar met at Westmount Baptist Church, Montreal. They have been married for over 50 years and have a married son and grandchild living in Germany, and a married son living here.

Lothar became the Chair of the Board of Deacons at Val Royal Baptist Church, Montreal. It was here that Renate was baptized and through the years they have been active church members. After coming to Toronto they attended Spring Garden Baptist until major changes occurred. While there, they enjoyed Don Hill's famous Bible Study group. Subsequently,

they attended Blythwood Road Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. Das Sydney before coming to Yorkminster Park.

They will be as active in the work of our Church as their health permits.

Marion and Stephen Hart

Marion and Stephen Hart are returning to YPBC after an absence of some years. Marion came to this church with her family as a youngster and, after her father's death when she was twelve, found comfort here. She met Stephen when they were both working at the Bank of Nova Scotia and they were married by Dr. Gladstone in 1981 in the church. They have three daughters who were presented for Dedication to the congregation as babies but, after they moved to Oakville, they found that a nearby church offered more opportunities for the children's involvement in activities. They had a five year work assignment in Chicago and attended Fourth Presbyterian Church at the suggestion of Dr. Gladstone. Since returning they have been members at Knox Presbyterian Church in Oakville. Now that their children are grown, the time has come to return to Toronto and renew their connections to Yorkminster Park. Stephen is Chief Risk Officer for Scotia Bank and he describes the position as the "Conscience" of the Bank. Marion has volunteered in a tutoring programme for children after school and taught Sunday School for twelve years. She is looking forward to a chance to be of service once they are settled here.

BEREAN BIBLE CLASS



Salvation: Past/Present/Future

Every year I looked forward to the day my Grandmother Jarvis would take me to the CNE and the Santa Clause Parade. The parade, sponsored by Eatons, was the biggest adventure because I still believed in Santa Claus.

We always arrived early enough to take a position where we would experience the entire parade. We both savoured all the floats but the eventual arrival of the jolly fat man was justification enough for being there. We waited uncomplainingly, standing on tiptoe, anticipating Santa's arrival. We were confident he would arrive soon.

Centuries before, Paul wrote that all of creation was waiting and groaning for the arrival of the Messiah. He imagined that creation was aware that it needed relief from the effects of Adam's fall because death, disease and suffering had marred its perfection. Interestingly, the Greek word for waiting suggests a person so full of expectancy that they are standing on their tiptoes waiting for the decisive moment when YHWH would appear to bring salvation for a profoundly damaged world. Creation knew that only YHWH could recover what he originally created.

Typically we think of 'salvation' as if it involved merely the forgiveness of sin when, in fact, the word *soteria* means to make whole. This is the actual word used by the Gospel writers when they drew their portrait of the disciples mending nets by the Sea of Galilee. Later, when Jesus healed the bleeding woman and pronounced her whole, he used the word *soteria*. YHWH promised Abraham centuries earlier that the nation he fathered would bring *soteria* or wholeness to the entire creation. Forgiving Israel's sin was one feature of *soteria* that foresaw healing for the whole world.

Scripture speaks of salvation as a past, present and future event but we may be surprised to discover that future salvation is the preoccupation of the Biblical writers.

"He saved us through the washing of rebirth" is one example of salvation as a past event (Jude 3:5) but it is more common to find salvation as a present process such as in Romans 5:18a. "... but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Although salvation may be thought of as a past or present event, it is normally regarded as a future

event: "... will be saved through him from the wrath of God." (Romans 5:9b)

References to past salvation underline Jesus' death as its means whereas references to present salvation underscore its ongoing nature. Future salvation, on the other hand, reveals its essential nature. Biblical salvation means deliverance from danger and its theological meaning offers deliverance from the danger of the future condemnation during the final judgement. Therefore, salvation cannot be truly experienced until this judgement happens. Christians live in the present with the sure hope in something that has not yet happened. The kingdom is 'now but not yet'.

When a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation, they know that the final graduation diploma will be granted. In the same way, believers are moving forward towards the final goal but unlike the student, their hope rests on what Christ has already done on their behalf.

F.F. Bruce has warned that salvation understood only as a past event wipes from our conscience the final judgement as the reality that protects the believer from the danger of a self-righteous self-understanding that does not recognize the need for perseverance.

Christians must understand that their place in the kingdom has been won and maintained by Christ's death, resurrection and priestly activity. However, there remains a judgement in which the light of Christ will cast a shadow on our remaining imperfection. Then we will learn the uncontroversial truth about ourselves as God separates the gold from the dross in order to restore our authentic humanity and make us fit for the joys of 'heaven'.

For the Wesleyan tradition, salvation can be lost if a person turns his/her back on the truth of the Gospel by disclaiming Christ as the sole means of salvation but the Reform tradition has a different point of view. It insists that salvation once accepted, includes perseverance as a feature of conversion. Salvation without endurance is a pretender.

Not all controversies demand final resolution. We can align ourselves with either tradition and still rest our case on the total sufficiency of Christ as sin bearing Saviour.

submitted by Peter Ferguson

YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

We are delighted with the overwhelming response of our YPBC family and supporters to the current **2014 Summer Photography Show**. Your support both in terms of the number of submissions of photo images received, and attendance at the opening reception, is very gratifying. Thank you.

If you've had the opportunity to view the show, you'll have recognized the names of many of the contributing photographers, and will have no doubt observed the variety of subject matter evident in their photos. One of our photographers is Donna Willett, who we recently spoke with to learn more about how she developed her interest in photography and what it means to her.

Donna's first camera - a cardboard box camera - was a 12th birthday gift from her aunt. Soon Donna was snapping photos of family members, starting with her available 3 year old brother. With four younger siblings at home in Nictaux, Nova Scotia, there were lots of chances to capture family members in action. No flash - just outdoor shots - and easy access to the two (!) streets of Nictaux for additional subject matter. (Nictaux is three miles from the town of Middleton, in Annapolis County).

When Donna was in grade 11 the gift of a brownie camera from her mother was another milestone in her evolving interest in photography. By then, her interest was shared by two older brothers, one of whom headed off in the air force to Germany, also with the gift of a camera from family - this time from his sister Donna.

Fast forward to 2004 when Donna received her first digital camera - a gift from YPBC for purposes of capturing photos of the YPBC choir trip to Scotland. Donna confesses to being "terrified that she might erase pictures.." She engaged David King to download her pictures every night onto his laptop as a safety measure!

Many of us at YPBC have seen Donna in full "photo-taking" action at a wide variety of events at YPBC over the years. Her role as a Sunday School teacher for over 30 years is one which she clearly cherished, including the opportunity to capture photos of so many children over that period. Donna speaks with



great warmth of YPBC trips she has participated in and for which she recorded the trip photographically. In addition to the Scotland trip mentioned above, she fondly recalls a trip to the Holy Land led by Kerr Spiers, and in that pre-digital camera era, Donna and John Stevens each travelled with 25 rolls of film! Donna had a few unused rolls at the end of the trip and passed them on to John at the tour's end as he and Mary continued on with their travels. As seems to have been the practice for every time Donna took photos, two copies were produced of each photo - one for the album, and one to share.

When asked what has continued to draw her to photography, Donna said that "it's something I can share with others - especially photos of kids and being able to send them to their parents". She says she has always had fun taking pictures - and estimates that she personally has over 100 photo albums representing family, church, and work activities.

If you haven't had the chance to see Donna's photo in the current show, drop by the gallery before August 14 and look for the Bay of Fundy photo behind the desk. In addition, stop by the YPBC Library some time and take a few minutes to look through the YPBC photo albums which Donna has put together over the years.

When Donna's aunt gave her then twelve year-old niece the gift of a cardboard box camera some years ago, she might never have imagined how the gift would lead to a love and enjoyment of photography. Donna has extended her aunt's gift by passing along that same camera to her aunt's granddaughter - perhaps to become the next family photographer, or to just have fun. It's quite a gift.

**Coming up next - the new YP Gallery Season
(Opening Reception date as noted):**

Rebecca Last - September 7

Alice Vander Vennen - October 5

John Bennett (World War veteran) - November 2

Maurice Snelgrove - November 30

We'll look forward to seeing you in the Gallery.

submitted by YPBC Art Committee