

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



YPBC NEWS

March 2015



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Baptist Church

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PETER

A GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK AT YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH 2015

During Holy Week we have the privilege of welcoming three remarkable Christian leaders from our own city to lead us in devotional reflections. From Monday through Thursday evening we will gather in the Sanctuary and consider different portions of Jesus' words and actions in the Upper Room as told in the Gospel of John.

On Monday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m., Lorna Dueck will be our devotional speaker. Lorna is the

host and executive producer of Context with Lorna Dueck. Context with Lorna Dueck explores current affairs from a Christian perspective. Presenting "life beyond the headlines," the half-hour television program airs on seven TV networks. A popular television personality and public speaker, Lorna works extensively in Canada's non-profit and charitable sector. She is a regular commentary writer on faith and public life in Canada's leading national newspaper, The Globe and Mail. Lorna is originally from Manitoba where her journalism career led her to work with CBC and the Winnipeg Free Press before coming to Toronto where she co-hosted 100 Huntley Street for eight years.

On Monday evening she will consider the teaching of Jesus in the Upper Room concerning the Holy Spirit. Hours before Christ's crucifixion he spoke at great length about the Holy Spirit. Why? What did he say and what does it mean to us today? Some of the texts she will refer to include, John 14:15-27; 15:28-16:15.

The prayers and liturgies on Monday evening will be based on the liturgies of the Iona Community in Scotland. Eric Robertson and some of his musical friends will be providing the music with a very Celtic flavour as again we sing some of the hymns of John Bell which were featured at our Shrove Tuesday service.

On Tuesday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. Sister Sue Mosteller will be our devotional speaker. Sister Sue is a Sister of St. Joseph of Toronto. She first travelled from Ohio to board with the community and later entered the order after thriving under their supervision. In 1976 Sister Sue became L'Arche Daybreak's second Community Leader and in 1985, she

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Spring Will Come



Comments and suggestions for future editions of the YPBC News are welcome. Please send them to: pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

Paul R Hill

established Dayspring, a centre for spiritual growth, with Henri Nouwen. She lived with the L'Arche Daybreak community for 40 years, leaving in 2011 to live with a small group of Sisters. Sister Sue served as Spiritual Director to the profound Christian writer and theologian, Henri Nouwen, when he lived at L'Arche Daybreak (1986 - 1996). In his book, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, Nouwen states "Mosteller opened up the third phase of my spiritual journey. ... Her words struck me like a thunderbolt." In 2011 Sister Sue received an Honorary Doctorate from Tyndale University College and Seminary in Toronto in recognition of her "lifelong commitment to sharing the love of God with many of society's marginalized people and her significant contributions to Christian life and learning over several decades".

Through the years I have heard so many glowing reports of Sister Sue from friends at L'Arche, Tyndale and other Christian communities. Our friend Father Jim Hannah of Our Lady of Perpetual Help has hinted that he will try to bring some of his community to worship with us that evening. Sister Sue will lead a devotional reflection on Christ's Upper Room teaching about the vine and branches found in John 15:1-17. The liturgy and prayers will be based on the liturgies of the Taize Community in France. While the Iona liturgy features strong hymns with a Celtic sound, the music of Taize is very meditative and intended to help the worshipper quiet the outside voices for deep reflection. The Taize music will be offered by Eric Robertson and friends.

On Wednesday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. Rick Tobias will be our devotional speaker. Rick is a lifelong advocate for marginalized and low-income people. As CEO of the Yonge Street Mission, he led staff and volunteers in crafting programs to help break the cycle of multi-generational poverty, and diligently collaborated with business and professional leaders to promote positive changes. He also refocused the Yonge Street Mission's Evergreen Centre to address the needs of street youth. Since stepping down as CEO, he is now a Community Advocate for the Mission.

Rick is a frequent speaker on a Christian response to Canadian poverty, as well as a recognized authority on urban ministry, youth-at-risk and the development of strategies for community-wide change. Tobias appears frequently on television, radio and in print media and is sought after as a consultant and coach. Since 1984 he has been an adjunct faculty member of Tyndale University College & Seminary, and has taught and consulted abroad. He holds an M.Div. from Acadia Divinity College and honorary doctorates from McMaster and York Universities.

Rick brings to his ministry the rare combination of the heart of a pastor and the voice of a prophet. Rick is a graduate of Acadia Divinity College and an ordained Canadian Baptist minister. He led our Holy Week reflections ten years ago and preached the induction sermon for a former member of our team, Barbara Fuller, and also the sermon at my own induction to First Baptist Church, Montreal in 1988. On Wednesday evening the prayers, liturgies and music will be from Iona and the music led by Eric Robertson and friends.

OTHER HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 29, 11 a.m.

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

The service begins with the children leading a procession of palms. The youth will assist in the leadership in part of the service.

A Passiontide Devotion, Sunday, March 29, 4:30 p.m.

A beautiful choral service which turns the focus of the day from the celebratory entrance of Christ into Jerusalem with shouts of Hosanna towards the solemnity of the passion of the cross.

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m. - Tenebrae Service

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

In this service the worshippers are reminded of the love and devotion of Christ through a foot washing ceremony in which the minister symbolically washes the feet of several members of the community. The music will be led by Eric Robertson and friends.

Good Friday - April 3, 11:00 a.m.

Sermon: The Rev. Dale Rose

This solemn traditional service features hymns, litanies, readings, prayers and anthem focused on the cross of Christ and the great gift of his love and forgiveness. Following the sermon the Sacrament of Communion is offered in remembrance of Christ.

The 22nd Ecumenical Good Friday Walk - April 3, 12:30 p.m.

From YPBC the walk will go to Christ Church Deer Park, Calvin Presbyterian/Deer Park United, and on to Timothy Eaton Memorial Church - a short service including a prayer, reading and hymn will be offered in each church as we join with our sisters and brothers from other Christian traditions in marking the sacrifice and love of Christ.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 8:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

Homily: The Rev. Deborah Ban

Children will present and youth will lead in worship. The service is followed by the Easter Breakfast for all to enjoy and an egg hunt for the children.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 11:00 a.m.

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

This triumphant service with brass, organ, and choir celebrates Christ's resurrection from the dead and the gift of eternal life. The service includes some of the great Easter hymns of the faith.

No evening service on Easter Sunday

Have a wonderful Easter. I hope you will be able to join in the rich and meaningful services of Holy Week.

In Christ,

Peter Holmes



DALE

“If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.” (Psalm 139:9-10)

I have always been fascinated with planes. I remember putting together model airplanes with glue as a kid. I still remember the thrill of my first plane ride as a teenager. I even had the privilege of flying in the jump seat of a passenger jet, right behind the pilot, as they landed the aircraft at the Dorval airport in Montreal (the pilot was friend of mine, and this was well before the flight and security restrictions in the aftermath of 9-11). Yet having said all this, I must confess I am a nervous flyer. In fact, if there is any in-flight turbulence, I tend to be a “white knuckler.” Some joker once posed the question: “How many Lord’s Prayers does it take to get a 747 off the ground and airborne?” I can answer that. Two and half – I know, because I often pray that prayer (as you can tell, I also pray it fast!) When I travelled to Bolivia some years back, we flew into one of the highest airports in the world in the capital city of La Paz – between thirteen and fourteen thousand feet above sea level. When we left, someone warned me that it would take twice as long for the plane to take off from the runway because of the thin atmosphere. In fact, the runways are much longer than normal airports. I’m glad someone warned me about this – otherwise it would have been even a more “white knuckle” takeoff.

Despite not being completely comfortable while flying, I have come to regard it as a necessary evil in our modern world. It is amazing how much people travel today compared to the generation of my grandparents. The evolution of the airplane has been incredible in the span of just over a century. I recently did the funeral for a man who was 101 years old, and he had been a navigator with the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. Imagine the changes in flight he had seen in the course of his lifetime – from the small bi-planes of World War I to the modern “dreamliners” and space shuttles.

I recently visited the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona, while on a short holiday. It is a fascinating place – over eighty acres of vintage and modern aircraft. It is filled with every kind of airplane – war, spy, commercial and even space shuttles. We saw the B-17 flying fortress, the bomber which was used extensively in Europe during the war. We saw numerous spy planes and fighter jets. We saw the actual Air Force One which John F. Kennedy used during his presidency – the same plane which transported his widow back home from Dallas, and on which Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as president. The entire museum is a tribute, as the old movie title goes, to “those magnificent men and their flying machines.” The modern airplane is certainly a wonder, and speaks about the ingenuity of the human spirit. Yet it is based on four relatively simple principles: lift, gravity, thrust and drag.

Here’s the amazing thing – nature has always contained these principles in the birds of the air. It was God who created these magnificent creatures in the first place. It should come as no surprise that the Bible is full of the imagery surrounding flight. If you use a Bible search engine on your computer, type in any of these words: fly, flight, wings, birds. Hundreds of references come up. The image of birds is often used as a sign of God’s care: “Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!” (Luke 12:24) Sometimes flying is used as a metaphor for our journey with God: “But those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31) And at other times, the idea of flight is a reminder of God’s presence with us: “Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? ... If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.” (Psalm 139:7-10)

The next time you fly on a plane; or see a bird in flight; or even just watch a balloon fly away in the wind – remember the natural miracle of flight. Remember that there is no place – whether in the heights of the sky or the depths of the earth – where God’s love and care does not follow us. May you always experience the promise of this scripture: “(The Lord will guard you) as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest and hovers over its young; as it spreads its wings, takes them up, and bears them aloft on its pinions, the LORD will guide you.” (Deuteronomy 32:10-12)

Have a good flight, and safe travels!

Dale Rose

Minister of Pastoral Care



UPROOTING AND PLANTING

*Ecclesiastes 3 (NIV) says, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, **a time to plant and a time to uproot.**”*

As we age, and/or develop a health or mobility problem, a time may come to *uproot* ourselves to move to smaller, safer, more manageable and supportive accommodation. There is no doubt that leaving our familiar surroundings can be difficult. However, as a Registered Nurse working in the community for over 20 years, I have observed that those choosing to move, when it was their choice to do so, found the process much easier than those who developed a health or mobility crisis and their choices became limited. For anyone currently contemplating their accommodation options as they age or confront changing health status, I’ve taken this opportunity to provide descriptions of the three main categories of accommodation for Seniors currently available in Ontario.

Please note: This is just a brief overview. Please see important telephone numbers and websites below, plus extra information available in the Narthex, Center Hall and Room 504.

1. Retirement Homes: Retirement Homes (RH) are privately owned where private accommodation is available for Seniors who can live with little or no outside help. A Senior must be able to pay for their own care and living

costs, and live much more independently than in a Long Term Care Home. Most Retirement Homes have some care staff on duty but there are differences in what care they provide, and when they are available. Although privately owned, there is still an obligation under the *Retirement Homes Act* to protect Seniors living in Ontario Retirement Homes. The *Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority* regulates all Retirement Homes in Ontario and is responsible for enforcing care and safety standards plus supports the rights of Residents through licensing, regular inspections, and investigation of complaints. Each Retirement Home is different, but most are fully accessible, offer single rooms or apartments, housekeeping, laundry (for a fee), plus social and recreational programs, common areas/lounges, gift shop, beauty salon, chapel, swimming pool, library and gardens. Meals are included and most Homes offer flexibility in meal plans and/or other services, and as long as you pay rent and service fees, you can leave for extended periods such as vacation. The government does not fund Retirement Homes and the cost of a private room can range from \$1500 to \$6000 per month. To get a list of Retirement Homes in an area where you wish to live contact: **Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority at 1 855 275-7472 or see**

website: <http://www.rhra.ca/en/register>.

Once you have your preferences of Retirement Homes, call to find out who offers the type and level of service you want. Ask: Is there is a wait list? How long is it? What services are included with your accommodation? What services will cost extra and how much? Finally, make appointments to visit the Retirement Homes you prefer – just so you can see the facilities for yourself, how staff interacts with Residents, plus get more details on services and costs etc. **Please see The Narthex and Center Hall for copies of a checklist to take with you on your tour!**

2. Long-term Care Homes: In Long-term Care Homes (LTCH) adults live and receive 24-hour nursing and personal care - much more nursing and personal care than would typically be available in a Retirement Home. In Ontario, the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care regulates, inspects and sets out accommodation fees for all long-term care homes and must ensure they provide residents with safe, consistent, high-quality, and resident-centred care.

Please Note: To be eligible for a Long-term Care Home, a person must have needs that cannot be safely met in the community, and require nursing and /or personal care plus onsite assistance to ensure safety and well-being. All personal and nursing care provided in **Long-term Care Home** is funded by the government but you must pay the standard accommodation charges. Current monthly accommodation rates are: \$1731.62 for basic; \$2066.21 for semi private and \$2438.81 for private. It is possible to be eligible for a subsidy also known as a rate reduction - but only for Basic level of accommodation. To qualify for a subsidy, an application form is submitted by the Resident or legal representative to the specific LTCH.

All applications and admission to Long-term Care Homes are arranged by Community Care Access Centres (CCAC) 416 310-2222. You are entitled to apply to **5 Long Term Care Homes**, so visit more than one home and ask the right questions when you visit. **Please see the Narthex or Center Hall for a checklist to take with you on your visit plus a list of all Long term Care Homes in Toronto Central.** You can also see website <http://healthcareathome.ca/torontocentral/en/care/Documents/MAR-EN.pdf>.

If you ever have questions or concerns about Long term Care Homes in Ontario, you can call The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Homes Action Line at 1-866-434-0144.

3. Supportive Housing: Intended to assist seniors who want to live independently but need someone to help them with hygiene, dressing, walking, washing and grooming. Facilities include a wide variety of accommodations and services which may include; daily visits or telephone reassurance, 24-hour emergency response, shopping, cooking, meals, transportation and counselling. The services needed are not as extensive as the medical and nursing care services offered in long term care homes but some non-profit housing providers receive funding from the Ontario government through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to deliver personal care and supportive services to eligible tenants. **Life Lease Housing** is a form of Supportive Housing that also provides affordable housing for older adults and seniors who have capital to invest. Development of a

Life Lease project begins with a non-profit and/or charitable organization (e.g. housing corporation, service club, church or ethnic association) which sponsors the project and oversees both the development and ongoing management. Applicants who meet the criteria, commonly a minimum age (such as 65 years of age), may purchase the exclusive Right to Occupy the leasehold suite and use the common areas (lounges, workshops, recreation areas, parking, etc.). Residents are neither tenants nor owners, but a combination of the two. Although the leasehold is available for life, residents may sell the Right to Occupy and, consequently, earn a return on their investment (similar to condominiums or private homes).

Contact OANHSS (P) 905-851-8821 or see the website: http://www.oanhss.org/OANHSS/Web_Links/Seniors_Housing/OANHSS/Navigation/WebLinks/SeniorsHousing/Link_Housing.aspx?hkey=03aa2fec-2a9d-4fc4-ad89-e4279f0779a3.

Try not to dismiss out of hand the input of people close to you who might be expressing concern about your wellbeing in your current surroundings. And finally, even if you, your spouse or family member currently manage safely where you are, it is always a good plan to research your accommodation options so that you have an idea of what is available to you if and when the time comes to *uproot ...and plant anew!*

Cathy Newman, RN
Parish Nurse

YPBC WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE

RETREAT RECOLLECTIONS...

JUST AS I AM: BODY AND SOUL

An exploration of self-acceptance

On Saturday January 17, 2015, several YPBC women and friends gathered once again at the North York Novotel for our women's retreat. Our presenter, for the second year, was Cindy Mosey, MSW, a committed Christian and practicing social worker. This year we explored the vital area of self-image and self-acceptance for women. Before the morning session began, we were encouraged to prepare ourselves spiritually in a time of personal reflection and prayer. Our prayer, which followed, led us directly into the morning session which was devoted to exposing the lies of shame:

PART 1: EXPOSING THE LIES OF SHAME

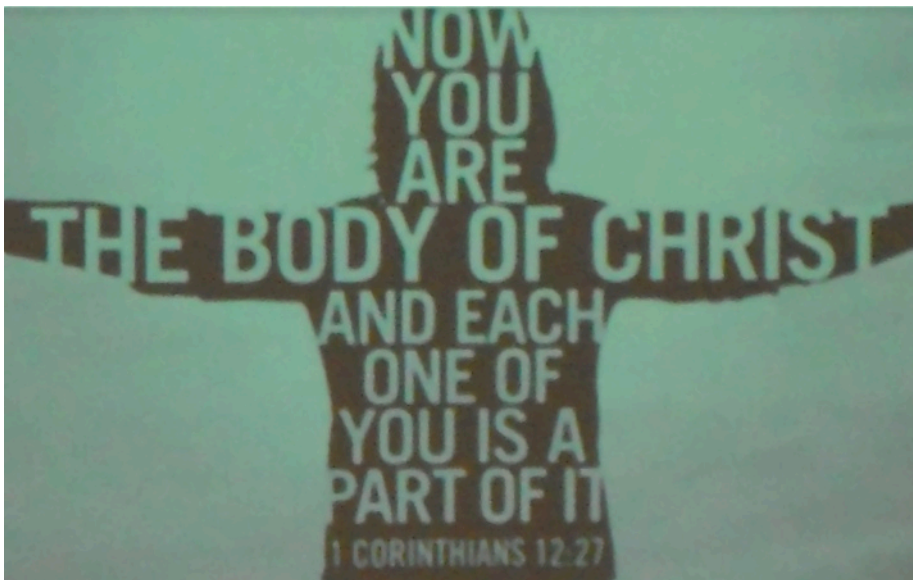


photo by Donna Willett

Session 1 - Body Beautiful: Shame on You!

Cindy began by describing self-acceptance as an integral part of our overall wholeness and indicating a connection between self-image and mental illness, eating disorders, confidence and self-esteem issues. She noted that research shows there is not a big difference between the way Christian girls/women and non-Christians relate to body image. Body image refers to how we see ourselves and how we believe others see us. It refers to how we think toward our bodies and physical appearance. Cultural contributors have

a powerful affect on both men and women and these include an emphasis on thinness, a *culture of youth* and our mass media. Volumes have been written on this complex subject.

To establish the origins of shame, we were referred to Genesis 2:25-3:11. Adam and Eve were innocent before sin, in full communion with God and unashamed. It was only after disobeying God that they were consumed with self-consciousness and a wedge opened between them and between them and God. Their impulse to cover themselves and to hide was the first experience of shame, an intensely painful feeling and belief that we are flawed and therefore uncertain of acceptance and belonging. Shame differs from the state of being guilty of something in that the core belief in shame is, "I am bad". Originating with Adam and Eve, healthy self-acceptance became distorted by themes of inadequacy and shame.

Current statistics that Cindy reported reveal that 80-90% of women are dissatisfied with their body and overall appearance and only 1% of women would call themselves beautiful. To substantiate that our notion of beauty or of an ideal standard is highly subjective, we travelled pictorially through centuries of historical /societal/cultural evolution including women's willingness to endure deformity of body parts to conform to a societal, *ideal* standard.

Session 2 - Just as I wish to be: Comparison - the Thief of Joy

Quoting Mary Pipher (1984) Cindy confirmed that girls tend to compare their own bodies to our cultural ideals and that eating disorders developed when our culture developed a standard of *beauty* (thinness) that couldn't be obtained by being healthy. While it's normal to be concerned about appearance, and studies have shown that

we react more favourably to physically attractive, confident, competent people, the standard of beauty in Western culture has become more rigid and less achievable by normal efforts. Physical attractiveness, however, doesn't necessarily equate with self-esteem. Never in history have so many women, continually bombarded with ads for beauty products, been so dissatisfied with their bodies, the current, *ideal* standard setting a bar of being young, thin, light skinned and perfectly groomed and polished. The American Psychiatric Association (2007) has also concluded that girls exposed to sexualized images from a young age are more prone to depression, eating disorders and low self-esteem.

Jean Kilbourne (*Killing us Softly*) states that it's difficult to stay emotionally, spiritually and physically healthy in a toxic cultural environment. Apparently 8% of any ad is received by the conscious mind while the rest is worked and re-worked in the recesses of the brain. Body weight is the one area where the *ideal* is unattainable. Only 3-5% of girls/women can achieve the *ideal* look naturally; the rest have to work at it.

In this era of cosmetic perfection, there has been a dramatic increase of non-surgical and surgical cosmetic procedures in recent years. *Medical tourism* has become a trend where women travel to some destination for procedures. It is not surprising that this excessive focus on image becomes a profound spiritual battle based on lies, turning our attention from God and interfering in our capacity to worship. Indeed, comparison is the thief of joy.

On an encouraging note, and to be applauded, is the *DOVE Campaign for Real Beauty*, launched in 2004 and created to provoke discussion and encourage debate. Over the years, DOVE has encouraged women and men to imagine a world where beauty is a source of confidence and not anxiety. They work to widen the definition of beauty featuring real women whose appearances are outside the stereotypical norms. Increase of sales has confirmed the hunger for a healthier body image and an understanding of what true beauty really is.

WHEW! By now, we were ready for lunch. Following a delicious meal and stimulating conversations, we regrouped for the afternoon session. Appropriately, we began in a time of worship as we sang together, *Just as I Am* and *Great is Thy Faithfulness*.

PART 2: DIVINING THE TRUTH OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE.

Session 3 – Body Beautiful: God's Intent for the Human Body

Our first assignment was to discuss the messages about our bodies that we received in our younger years, considering family, friends, church and the culture of the day as influences. Did we ever strive to attain the prevailing beauty ideal? Following lively discussion, we were then encouraged to consider the most awesome image we could recall and revel in the beauty of this with the intention of saturating our souls and celebrating what is truly beautiful.

Cindy then directed our attention to scripture. In Psalm 139:13-15 we read that God wants us to approach our bodies with a sense of awe for all of us are “fearfully and wonderfully made” and created for service and worship. In Esther 4:13-14, we see Esther as part of a great beauty pageant but also note that more verses are devoted to her inner beauty. In 1 Samuel 16:7 God



photo by Donna Willett

tells Samuel that He doesn't look at the things that people do. We look at outward appearances but God looks at our hearts, our inner beauty. The problem arises when outward beauty becomes an ultimate value or an idol. Scripture is clear that we are made in God's image and wherever it talks about appearance, there is also a warning or instruction that inner beauty is what God wants us to cultivate. We do, however, need to keep our physical bodies as healthy as possible. 2 Corinthians 6:16 teaches us that we are the temple of the living God. Our "whole selves" are temples of the Holy Spirit and are to be used for God's glory and for his service. "What agreement has the temple of God with idols?"!

Session 4 – Victorious Secrets: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus



photo by Donna Willett

Victorious Secret #1

We are to remember the words of our Creator so that we may fully understand our lives in God. In Colossians 2, the apostle Paul teaches us that, just as we have received Christ Jesus as Lord, we are to continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, established in the faith as taught and overflowing with thankfulness. We are to see that no one takes us captive through hollow and deceptive philosophies – seemingly plausible arguments - which depend on human tradition and the basic principles of the world rather than on Christ. Romans 16:17,18 offers similar warnings. This is a spiritual battle in which we are subject to temptation and the more media we consume, the more preoccupied we can

become with empty philosophies. In a world where standards are constantly shifting, we need to transfer our perspective to that of God's and remember that we are loved unconditionally by our Saviour.

Victorious Secret #2

We are to see ourselves through heaven's eyes, quiet our inner bully and look through God's eyes of compassion. To be human is to be flawed and imperfect! Through lenses of self-compassion we can let go of any distorted self-image we may have and know with certainty that cultivated inner beauty always translates to the outside. 2 Corinthians 3:18 reminds us that "all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit."

Victorious Secret #3

We are to love what our Creator loves – people! And we can only love people as God wants us to if we have unconditional regard for ourselves and know ourselves to be of intrinsic worth and value to Him. Referring to 2 Corinthians 4: 16, Cindy encouraged us to *swim* in the scriptures and be renewed day by day. We are freed from any shame we may have – any distorted self-image - as we radically re-align ourselves with the character of God and His unconditional love and acceptance for us, each one, His own unique creation.

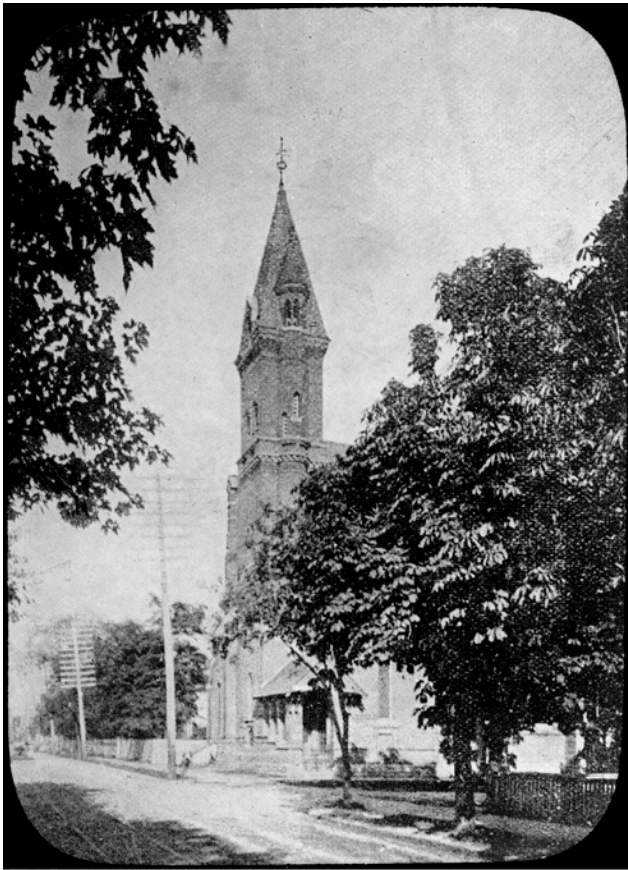
Victorious secrets? Absolutely!

Our long anticipated day apart was wrapped in prayer. As the day began, so too it ended. Cindy prayed for us all before we left, asking God that we might *go in peace*. We offered our thanks to both Cindy and God.

submitted by Jonanne Fenton

REMEMBERING

"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past." Deuteronomy 32:7



City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1231, f1231_it0204

Bloor Street Baptist Church, 1899. City of Toronto Archives, James Salmon Collection. Fonds 1231, Item 204

Many people know that I am a professional archivist. I often spend time thinking about how the past is woven into the fabric of our lives.

I devote a large portion of my time to thinking about what it is that really makes it worthwhile to keep all of these records. Even once we decide that we are going to keep a set of records, whether it is paper, photographs, or email, we must accept that it has a limited life span. Some things will last longer than others, some will be forgotten, left unexplored and never see the light of day. Others may be found. But while the records are preserved in the archives, if no one accesses them, it is as if they do not exist. It is the researchers, the students, bloggers, artists and writers who bring life to them. Their interaction with the records, creating new art, righting past injustices, discovering new connections, and distributing the stories of the archives, is to me, what makes being an archivist worthwhile.

The Bible often references many people of the past; their stories in the Hebrew Scriptures bring additional meaning, context and understanding to the stories of the New Testament. Our faith rests with the ancient holy texts, which tell the old, old story and our interactions with them bring new life to our faith and our community. I am very thankful to be part of Yorkminster Park where the past is valued and intertwined into our lives. There are so many good examples of the history of Yorkminster Park being brought to life: Randall's research and presentation on the members from Bloor Street

who served in WWI; our website which features a history of our Church and preserves our traditions of service, celebration and worship; our historic building and stain glass windows which remind us of the communities of faith that have come together here. These records of our past contribute to our present Holy Week and Easter and will bring new life to our community. In creating this newsletter, we are making a record of the thoughts and activities of Lent and Easter 2015 and this will be part of the legacy of faith we will leave to future generations who will continue to worship and serve in Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

submitted by Carol Radford-Grant
Chair, Board of Deacons

TRANSITIONS

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

New Members

Deborah Ban

Sally Leitch

Linda Miller

Barbara Paddon

Warren Paddon

Death

Walter Boyd

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

The refugees we are hoping to sponsor are two sisters, aged 24 and 17, from the Central African Republic. They, along with many other Christians, were attacked by Muslim rebel forces and their parents and brother were killed. They fled to Cameroon and then found their way to Nigeria, Benin, Togo and finally to Ghana where they have been in a refugee camp for about a year and a half.

I wrote “hoping” to sponsor because although they have refugee status they still have to pass an interview with the Visa Officer at the Canadian High Commission in Ghana. We don’t know how long it might take to get that interview scheduled and we don’t know if they will qualify for admission to Canada. I have had several email exchanges with them and we are trying to keep their morale up while being careful not to raise false hopes. Single women in a refugee camp are very vulnerable and it is not a safe place to be. I have told them that the church is praying for them. They are very excited to have the chance to come to Canada. They could arrive as early as April but it is also possible that it could take many months; we just don’t know.

The cost for the 1-year sponsorship will be about \$25,000 and donations to the Refugee Fund can be made through the envelopes and will be very gratefully received now. We hope to shortly announce a Fund Raising event which will be ballroom and Latin dance lessons to be held in the gym on a weekday evening– look out for more news on this.

If you have not seen the movie “The Good Lie” do try and see it as it will give you an idea of the kind of ordeal the sisters have had and the transition they must go through to adjust to life in Canada.

We need lots of volunteers to help the sisters to settle in so if you might have time available during the day to take them around so that they can apply for OHIP cards, SIN etc, please let me know. We also need volunteers to work with the sisters on budgeting and finances, job search, schooling, housing, accessing healthcare, possibly LINC/ESL, shopping etc. And, most urgently we will need temporary accommodation so that we have somewhere for them to stay when they arrive, prior to finding something more permanent. If you have a basement apartment or know someone who does - or any other accommodation – please let me know. For updates on their progress, please visit “refugeesponsorship.blogspot.ca” and enter your email address in the box under the title to subscribe to updates. And please pray that they will be safe and that they will pass the interview with the Visa Officer.

submitted by Mike Wills, Chair, Refugee Sponsorship Committee.

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THE WALK

Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) – February 21, 2015
Yonge Street Mission (YSM) – “Nordickids”

Introduction

Many have asked about the walk by us (the Nordickids) organized by Coldest Night of the Year.

Participation in CNOY occurred right across Canada in cities and towns, organized by various charitable organizations. In Toronto the charity was The Yonge Street Mission. Not knowing anything about this initiative I visited YSM and signed up to do the walk on Feb 21 with a goal of raising \$10,000. I have not walked very well for years, but in late November discovered Nordic walking poles resulting in a transformation for me, enabling me to walk 3 to 8 km nearly every day in sometimes very cold weather. Somehow the story attracted attention



and “took on a life of its own” including media organizations. The events follow.

The Etobicoke Guardian

On Feb 9 I received a call from Justin Skinner a reporter with Metroland Media in Toronto who wanted to do a feature story on the Nordickids. Thus the article that appeared in the Etobicoke Guardian on Thursday Feb 12. I sent copy to many; if interested I can send a copy.

The Dalton School

On Feb 9 I was invited to the Dalton School to share my walking experience with children ages 4 to 8. I had a wonderful time with these very bright and attentive children who are learning in a dual language environment of English and Mandarin. I brought along small poles for them to try out. Their warm thanks to me included a school T shirt and knapsack that was prominently displayed in the CBC news clip. These children were an inspiration to me, gave me “thumbs up” for the walk on Feb 21. Thanks to Kim Dalglish Abell, founder of the school, for the invitation.

Yonge Street Mission – Marketing/Communications

On Feb 11 Sally Ritchie, Manager of Marketing & Communication for YSM and Teepo Haapoja, videographer visited me at our condo to do a video that would be played at the opening ceremonies on walk day just before walkers took to the streets. They asked me to encourage the walkers and then to go outside and walk with my poles along Lake Ontario. Indeed the video was shown on Feb. 21.

CBC News Network

On Feb 20 I was contacted by Halla Imam, producer at CBC requesting me to come into CBC News Network studio at 1:20 PM for a “live” interview at 1:40 PM on Feb 21, the day of the walk. I did so and found it a fascinating experience. The facilities of the studio were massive and timing was to the second. They were highly trained and very helpful to this naïve old boy. Since it was live neither Jonanne, who was present in studio, or myself have seen this news clip. I was told by technicians it went extremely well and they were pleased with interview. Those who viewed the news clip can be the judge.

The Walk – February 21 at 5:15 PM

After registration and opening ceremonies in a large gym in Ryerson University with several hundred walkers, we took off to the streets of Toronto

The route was from Yonge & Gerrard St.; east on Gerrard to Parliament St.; south on Parliament to King St.; west on King to Yonge St.; north on Yonge to Gerrard St.; the distance - 5 km. Thus to complete 10 km this route had to be done twice-daunting.

Our team consisted of 5 - myself as Team Captain; Jonanne; our 17 year old granddaughter Meghan Fenton from Barrie;



her friend Ashley Campbell also from Barrie; and Diana Oliver, Managing Director of Urban Poling Inc. A worker at YSM (not a member of the team) also walked with us.

As we set out behind most of the walkers, I realized the walk would be very difficult as we slipped and slid through a lot of snow - for me the worst conditions possible for any walk, let alone 10 km. I think it could be characterized that I was on a “mission” as I aggressively plowed through snow with poles, frustrated by the slow

gang of walkers ahead who I thought were out for a friendly late afternoon walk through the snow. On the way I had doubts that I could make it as snow was bogging me down. Not wanting to face defeat I kept going with team members encouraging the old boy on. Finally, after our first lap, we arrived back at our destination, tired (me) and in need of a short rest and some Gatorade plus nourishing breakfast bars made by Jonanne which were quickly in demand.

After a few minutes rest I said to the team, “time to get going”. Angie Draskovic, President & CEO of YSM, appeared surprised that we were going out again to complete 10 km. I was soon to find out why. Out we went and quickly I once again doubted I could make it, partly because my right knee was indicating signs of fatigue, something my physiotherapist warned me about. Inwardly I prayed that this would not cause defeat; God heard me and on we went. Suddenly at corner of Parliament & King St. I noticed two little girls on the sidewalk ahead, waving their arms. To a grandpa’s delight it was our two granddaughters Victoria and Rachel (10 & 8) who would walk the last two legs along King and up Yonge to Gerrard, about 2.5 km. After 3.5 hours of sloshing through snow we finished at Ryerson at 8:30 PM. As we walked our way on second round it became obvious that we were alone: no guides at key corners to make sure we were on route. At the finish, the gym where we first gathered was empty; everyone had gone home. We were told by a small clean-up crew, who also provided some chili and cookies, that we were the only team to complete 10 km. We got home about 9:30 and Jonanne drove up Hwy. 27 to make sure our granddaughter got on Hwy. 401 east to Hwy. 400 on way to Barrie. End of story!

Some Facts & Comments

- I am grateful for the steady encouragement from Jonanne and my team to keep going
- I’m particularly thankful for Meghan & Ashley who drove down and back from Barrie in bad driving conditions; also to Victoria & Rachel for joining me in last leg of journey
- To my many donors who so generously supported raising funds from target of \$10,000 to over \$17,300 and donations still coming. Thanks also for the encouragement and good wishes, which contributed to my making it in such adverse walking conditions
- Thanks to my trainer, Jacqueline Murdoch (currently in China) and Diana Oliver, Managing Director of Urban Poling who braved the weather to walk with us. Both have been so encouraging in this walking transformation
- Finally may it be clear, I am no “celebrity”, just John who has learned to walk again and proud that I did not let my donors down when I said I would walk 10 km; and so grateful to be able to help The Yonge Street Mission.

submitted by John Fenton

NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Ban

Deborah was raised in a Christian home with both her parents on the faculty of McMaster Divinity College. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree followed by a Master of Divinity at McMaster. Deborah was ordained at Lorne Park Baptist Church in 1985.

As well as her interest in theology, Deborah has a background in mental health. She has worked for the Mental Health Association of North York and also done counselling. She has worked as a multi-faith chaplain. Deborah sees the path of discipleship as walking alongside, encouraging and equipping individuals and groups for growth into Christian maturity.

Deborah’s husband, the Rev. Craig Rumble, is the Senior Minister of Markham Baptist Church. They have worked at churches in Windsor, Kingston and Sarnia over the years. They are the parents of a daughter.

Deborah was inducted into the position of Minister of Discipleship on February 8, 2015 after serving as the interim Minister of Discipleship since March of 2014. She wraps up her credo in the familiar words of Micah: “What does the Lord require of you but to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.”

Sally Leitch

Sally has been attending Yorkminster Park steadily for more than a year. She had joined us for Christmas and Easter services before that. Originally she attended St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church with her parents during the ministry of the Rev. Cameron Brett.

Sally has moved into our neighborhood. She is an evening team leader in our Out Of The Cold program and is affirmed as a "very special person" by one of the O.O.T.C. leaders. Sally has volunteered for about 5 years in Out Of The Cold at Yorkminster Park.

Sally studied Journalism at Ryerson and has a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Toronto. She also took a Teaching English as a Second Language course.

She appreciates the ministry team here as well as the music. Sally joins our congregation by Christian experience.

Linda Miller

Linda was born in Toronto as a third generation Torontonion and a seventh generation Canadian. Her father was a well-known pediatrician. Linda was baptized by Rev. Dr. Pigeon at Bloor Street United. She attended confirmation classes there.

Linda studied ballet and was in Veronica Tennet's ballet class at BSS! She graduated with honors from the Ontario Ladies College. Linda then went to Montreal and trained as a nurse at the Royal Vic. She worked double shifts for the first year so as to travel in Europe. She was very influenced by fashion there, so when she returned she enrolled in a diploma course in fashion at Ryerson. Then followed work at Eaton's. She still did a bit of nursing so that she could travel and do fun things like skiing in Europe, which she loved. Linda returned to Ryerson when they created the degree program in Applied Arts, Fashion. She stayed with Eaton's until 1996. She worked as a PSW rather than renewing her nursing license. As with every stop on her life's journey Linda got involved in many community endeavors. A Mendelssohn Choir performance lured her into our building, as Linda has a true love of music. Here she met wonderful people and has made great friends, who have helped her through thick and thin. She quickly volunteered to help out with Coffee Talk and has been a cornerstone of that outreach ever since. She loves her church - the reverential worship, the caring people and its meaningful outreach.

Her diminutive stature bears no relationship to her big heart and her huge sense of civic duty. Linda joins us by Christian experience.

Barbara and Warren Paddon

Barbara grew up in a Christian home in Hamilton attending Truth Gospel Church and Philpott Memorial Church. She played the piano in both churches. There was never a time in her life that God and Jesus were not real to her. She also played the piano in "Youth For Christ" rallies and at Canadian Keswick Conference.

Warren similarly grew up in a Christian home attending many churches as his father moved around a great deal. Churches in Toronto, Hamilton, Hawthorne (New Jersey), Stratford and Burlington all play a part in shaping Warren's life.

Barbara and Warren met at "Philpott" Young Peoples in 1954 and were married there in 1957. Together they moved around. Churches in St. Thomas, St. Catherine's, Weston, Reading (England), Islington, Oakville and Clarkson have all had major influences in their lives.

The Paddons have four children who were all born in St. Catherines. They also have 8 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Barbara has been very active in music over the years having served as pianist and organist of churches for over 30 years. Junior choirs and accompanying solos have been a major part of her life.

Warren, a Chartered Account, was employed mainly with three national firms of chartered accountants until he branched out on his own in 1989. He retired in 2004. After serving on the Board of Directors of the African Evangelical Fellowship in Canada (now SIM) they moved to Reading, England to work at the International office of AEF in 1986 for three years. Warren was involved in projects and fundraising and Barbara in the production of the monthly magazine.

Barbara and Warren look forward to their church membership at Yorkminster Park.

VIEW FROM THE GALLERY

MARLENE BULAS: *The Colours of Life, April 5 to 29, 2015*



What better timing than the ‘mud-lucious’ month of April for Yorkminster Park Gallery to feature the warm vibrant paintings of Marlene Bulas. After the infinite savagery of winter, “The Colours of Life” is definitely a must-see for a shot of spring!

The artist, Marlene Bulas, is an accomplished, award-winning painter whose strong, colourful works reflect an inner joy and a quiet spirituality. She has a sensitive eye for universal truths - for the little things that speak volumes, for the moments that gently pull us into

stillness, and for the joy that resides in life’s simple pleasures.

For Bulas, it is all about the journey, the life journey, and within it, the details that sing of our humanity.

“Very simple things can make us happy if we allow them to,” she observes. “My message is simply to enjoy life, enjoy the people around you, be there for them, reach out to friends, and enjoy the spirituality that’s around us.”

‘Joyful, bold, colourful, contemporary’ are just some of the dynamic terms attributed to her paintings. She experiments with intuitive and abstract approaches, but much of her work falls into the category of impressionist, with a strong emphasis on colour and shape.

Painting from memory and the occasional sketch (“I don’t spend a lot of time getting every detail, just the essence.”) Bulas prefers water media as she gets “a lot of unexpected surprises. Lots of times colours blend together that I wouldn’t expect. I like that kind of painting where I don’t control it all the time.”

Her work has won numerous awards, including, most recently, her painting “Harold Wilson’s Truck” which was selected from 2500 applicants by Ducks Unlimited for their 2014 Portfolio. A very exciting honour, Bulas admits understatedly; it was a “confirmation that you’re going in the right direction”.

Growing up on a farm near Orillia, her artistic roots began at home under the tutelage of her mother who herself had studied with members of the Group of Seven. Many years later, with a family of her own, Bulas came back to her art taking the Design and Visual Arts Program at Georgian College and has since studied under various international mentors.

A delightfully open personality, she confesses, “I never, ever feel like I’ve *arrived*, or that my art is now finally where I want it. There’s always something changing. I think it’s something you’ll never really master.”

“There’s a quote,” she continues, “to the effect of ‘Find a passion that you can never master and it will keep you young forever’. Art does that. There’s a spiritual component to it that just keeps your energies alive and fills you with a sense of wonder and constant learning. That’s what I love most about it.”

In her piece, “Rolling Hills” (currently in her show at Yorkminster Park Gallery) the metaphor of a winding road through beautiful countryside is a clear evocation of her message that it’s all about the journey. Families in farmhouses dot the pastoral route in the painting, laundry flapping in the breeze, just as homes and people do our own life journey. The bright colours and varied crops of the rolling fields enrich the metaphor of a life





well lived, and the joy to be found in the world around us. Her acrylic on canvas “Best Friends: Morning Walk” (also in the show) is a whisper-subtle example of the textured depths in a simple moment. Centered on an everyday event of two women out for a walk, there’s a quiet intimacy in the image that suggests love and caring, and of a focus inwards. The two women are walking down a lane towards its intersection with another street, and the metaphor is not lost on the viewer. It is both a literal and a proverbial crossroad.

Where do they go from here; which direction will they take; what are they talking about that has them so connected; are they sisters, mother/daughter, friends? The lovely thing about Bulas’

approach is her innate intuition to allow an easily familiar and passed-by moment to conjure up just a *souçon* of mystery, of unanswered questions, inviting us to wander down that lane ourselves, eavesdropping.

While her art may have become a metaphor of her own life’s journey—“exhilarating, unpredictable and joyful” as she currently describes it—it also reflects her firm philosophy: “Enjoy the journey and don’t worry about the destination”.



Excellent advice. Enjoy her show!

For more information about Marlene Bulas visit her website:

<http://www.sunninghillart.com>

submitted by Nancy Falconer. *Nancy is a professional freelance writer and photographer whose work has been featured in national and regional magazines, as well as in fine art galleries in Toronto and surrounding regions.*