

YPBC NEWS

September 2019



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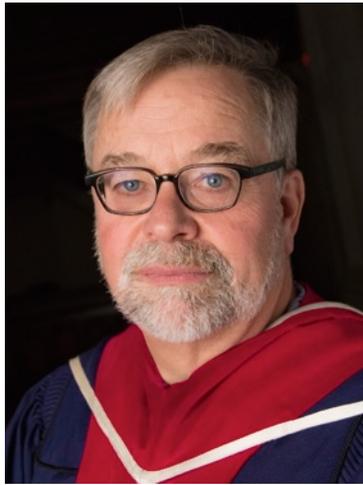
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FROM PETER'S PEN

We have bid farewell to the **Rev. Robyn Elliott** already this fall and we continue to support her in our prayers as

she now joins the ministry team at Lakeside Church in Geulph, Ontario. Robyn and Steve have been a blessing to us since they first came among us to help during the late Deborah Ban's illness. We rejoiced in Robyn's ordination and in the many new things she initiated with and for us. A few people are going the extra mile this fall to help fulfill some of the duties that had fallen to Robyn. A review committee has been set up to reexamine the position and when

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Cover - interior showing portions of the alter-piece, walls and ceiling of Habo Kyrka, Habo, Sweden. There has been a church on this site since the 12th century. The present sanctuary was built in 1723, in the late provincial Baroque with some renaissance, Vasa Style, features. The building is entirely of wood and is sometimes called "The Wooden Cathedral". It has a high nave and two side aisles. As with many churches in rural Sweden the bell tower is a separate structure.



The unique feature of the sanctuary is that the walls and ceiling are completely covered with paintings. These paintings were meant to teach Luther's Catechism and feature scenes from the Bible, including the Ten Commandments. The painting was completed in two years by two painters from the nearby (now) City of Jönköping. The art style is known as "Peasant Baroque".

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

pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

The next newsletter will be published in December 2019.

Paul R Hill



agreement is reached concerning next steps a Ministerial Replacement Committee will probably be set up. Please pray the Holy Spirit's guidance on this process.

As we say goodbye to Robyn we have the wonderful joy of welcoming **Heather Mackey** to our ministry



team as the new Director of Family Ministries. Heather has hit the ground running as anyone who was at our recent Blastoff Sunday Lunch will be aware. It was one of the best blastoffs ever and there were several new families. We

are very excited to welcome Heather to our team.

Heather has a team of two assistants and one intern. Jackie Chung continues as the part-time Youth Ministry Assistant and Leticia Lemgenco has been appointed the part-time Children's Ministry Assistant. She also has Pavani Paul serving as a Ministry Intern. Pavani is a student at Wycliffe College engaged in post graduate studies. Please pray for Heather and her new team.

For Quiet Moments is collection of poems and prose for prayer and

meditation put together in a booklet form by **Rhena Petch** (seated) with the assistance Jansje Lawrenson. For many years Rhena sang in our choir and served in our church. She remains a wise and compassionate friend to many at Yorkminster Park,



however many will not know Rhena because she moved to the Collingwood area several years ago where she now attends a Presbyterian Church. It was there she met Jansje who visits her regularly and with whom she began to correspond sending along her favourite stories, poems and hymns. It is from this correspondence that Jansje assembled the booklet. The two of them dropped in on us recently with a box containing 100 copies of the book. For Quiet Moments is kept in Dale Rose's office and available at no charge to all who ask. We are grateful to Rhena and Jansje for this wonderful gift which has already brought delight and encouragement to our people.

Advent and Christmas 2019 at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Merry Christmas! Seriously? So soon? Already? I bring up Christmas to make you aware of three important fundraising concerts during the Christmas Season and other events and services so that you can be sure to mark your calendars well in advance.

Friday Nov. 29th at 7 p.m. YP Coffee House presents **Harp and Holly**, a celtic folk group which include Sharlene Wallace who plays harp at our Iona services. All proceeds will go to the **House of Compassion**. <https://www.harpandholly.com> Tickets will be \$26 and will be available through the church office.

Saturday, December 7th, The City Carol Sing featuring various choirs and also the folk group, **Lunch at Allen's** <http://www.lunchatallens.ca> An offering will be taken for the **Churches on-the-Hill Food Bank**. The carol sing will be broadcast across Canada by the City network to raise funds for food

banks across the country.

Friday, December 13th, the **Elmer Eisler Singers** will present **Handel's Messiah** with the Amadeus Choir. The church has arranged to have 200 tickets sold through the church office. All proceeds from these 200 tickets will go to our **Refugee Support Fund**. Tickets will be approximately \$55. Please be sure to buy your ticket through the office.

Other Christmas Concerts at YP

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir Festival of Carols - Dec. 3 & 4.

Bach Children's Choir and the Hannaford Street Silver Band, Dec. 10

John McDermott Family Christmas with the Toronto Artillery Foundation Band, Dec. 19

Special Advent and Christmas services (apart from the regular 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. services)

Advent 1, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. Iona Liturgy

Advent 3, Dec. 15, 4:30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight

Advent 4, Dec. 22, 11 a.m. Family Christmas Service, 4:30 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Dec. 24, 4 p.m. Bethlehem on Yonge

11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Choir

Dec. 25, 11 a.m. Christmas Day Communion.

Dec. 31, 11:15 p.m. New Year's Eve Watch Night Service.

Summer

We have had a wonderful summer, much of which was spent in our garden. A few weeks back I sat down with a grateful heart and wrote this poem:

In The Garden

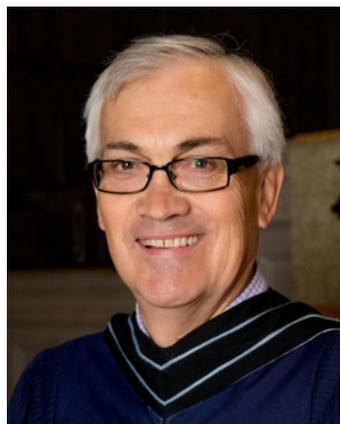
*In the garden one lays their cares to rest
as the flowers remind us we are blessed
sun, rain, and soil has nurtured the seed
and God has provided for every need.
Gentle breezes carry heaven's scent
with summer colours one could not have dreamt.
'Thank you' is the only thing one need say
for the grace and wonder of this new day.*



Blessings,
Peter Holmes

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

Oneida Dreams



"Don't let someone else catch your dreams. You be the dream catcher."

– First Nations proverb

"Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it

speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay." (Habakkuk 2:2-3)

First timers. Fresh eyes. New experiences. The French novelist Marcel Proust wrote: "The real act of discovery consists not in finding new lands but in seeing with new eyes." We often use the phrase "fresh set of eyes" to describe a person who experiences something for the first time. It is an expression that certainly describes our mission trip last summer to Oneida Nation of the Thames reserve. We had a team of twenty three dedicated and capable volunteers. They were all motivated and passionate about connecting with and relating to the children and youth of Oneida. Eight of them, however, were first time volunteers. It was a joy and delight to work



with them and get their impressions of our camp through a new lens. They experienced first-hand the hopes and dreams of these indigenous children and youth. And it was a deep and profound learning experience.

Even though I have been part of this mission team for all five summers, I went this year with the intent of seeing things with “fresh eyes.” Here are some of my reflections as I tried to see Oneida through the eyes of our new volunteers. I saw a welcoming church as we held the camp in a new venue – Oneida United Church. While smaller than the school, it provided a more intimate setting where we could engage the children. Pastor Joan of that congregation was so welcoming and accommodating to us. A broken door window? No problem. Stuff happens with kids. We can fix it! You need dishcloths and dish towels washed each night? I’ll take them home and do it. She was totally okay with the mess and chaos caused by a day camp. She just loved having the voices of children in her church. She always had a smile. She told me she was 71 and still loved being a pastor. She saw this camp as a great outreach to the local community. I was impressed with several of our first time male leaders. One of them used his musical gifts to generate deeper discussions with the youth about life and faith and pursuing your dreams. Another leader displayed incredible enthusiasm each day and actively engaged the kids. Another volunteer became a good male role model for the teenage boys, and he spent time one-on-one with some of the youth who had special needs. One of our first-time female leaders provided me with some valuable insights into how we could improve our program. One of our veteran leaders once again provided her “safe space” in a small area where kids could go for a break – just to talk, to be quiet, or to draw. Lots of free hugs were available as well!

I remember the squeals of delight from the young children as we spent an afternoon at the aquatic centre in a nearby town. There were open sessions each morning with skits and music. We were introduced to weird animals, reminding us that we are all different but God loves us all. I watched as

several of the Oneida youth offered their talents while playing the piano and singing for us. I was impressed with the arts and crafts that the children created. Our entire team were blessed by the kitchen crew who served up delicious meals each day. And at the end of each day, the leaders would all line up facing the bus and wave goodbye to the children. Their smiles and laughter made everything worthwhile.

One of my best memories of the summer was watching the older youth create something called “vision boards.” It is an exercise designed to



excavate deeply held hopes and dreams, and to bring them to life through visual cues. The young people are given scissors, glue, markers, a stack of magazines and a poster board. They are encouraged to look through the magazines and cut out pictures that resonate with dreams and hopes they would like to see manifested in their lives. Listen to this description by the volunteer who led the exercise:

“The first year we had a fairly small group. At first, when I asked them to hope and dream for a better future, my instructions were met with a lot of blank stares and a couple of the youth admitted that they could not imagine a life outside of their community much less a thriving one. I really challenged them to use their imaginations but unfortunately by the time they allowed themselves to dream our session had come to an end. A few Vision Boards were completed but an overwhelming majority were

FAMILY MINISTRIES

from Heather



Greetings YPBC Family!! I am excited to be serving here and eager to share life with all of you. I am devoted to honouring God by walking along-side families to nurture and encourage faith growth, build trusting relationships and providing special intergenerational fellowship, events and services!!

I have served in Children, Youth and Family Ministries for over two decades at Wellington Square

United Church in Burlington - becoming one of the largest Children's Ministries in the United Church of Canada.

Since my start at YPBC, God has been gracious to our team by guiding our steps as we prayerfully and carefully plan Children, Youth & Family Ministries.

Our first big event was held on Sunday, September 8th – **Blast Off!** During the service we dedicated our Christian Education leaders to a service of rich faith development for children, youth and adults (the whole family) along with a prayer of blessing. I am delighted to serve closely with Leticia Lemgenco (Part-time Children's Ministry Associate), Jackie Chung (Part-time Youth Ministry Associate) as well as

incomplete. Fast forward four years later and this year's Vision Board Sessions have grown exponentially year over year and the creativity and passion that have gone into their Vision Boards has been evident and amazing. I have a real sense that these youth are actively ready to pursue their deeply held hopes and dreams. As Christians our ultimate hope rests on the unfailing love of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and our unwavering belief in our salvation and what was accomplished on the cross. It is my hope that by edifying the aforementioned scriptures these young people can know on a very personal and deep level that God loves them and invites us all to dream, hope, take action and thrive!! I can't wait to see what their Vision Boards will look like next year and what dreams from this year will be made manifest. This year each youth was also presented with a gift wrapped journal to keep track of their aspirations, hopes and dreams throughout the year and to log when God has answered their prayers to show him faithful."

The prophet Joel wrote: *"Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall*

prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions". (Joel 2:28)

As our Oneida mission continues, we are grateful for the people of Yorkminster Park who have faithfully supported the dreams and visions of these indigenous children and youth through prayers, volunteering and financial contributions. Let us continue to dream and work together for a better future for the next generation of Oneida youth.

Dale Rose
Minister of Pastoral Care



our new and short-term fall intern Pavani Paul. After the service we gathered as one Family in Christ to share in fellowship over food and learn more about what's ahead for the fall with our ministries, programs and life groups. A beautiful celebratory morning filled with God's love and light!!

Children's Ministry: Lighthouse

God's hand was on this new name for our Children's Ministry. We spent time in prayer asking the Lord to reveal the new name for our children to gather and learn about Jesus and His awesome love for us. The name came to me in prayer one evening...yet asked the Lord to have it be brought to our team through another person. A discussion with Leticia about music lead to her sharing how her daughter Rene came up with a great name for our Children's Ministry. Lighthouse was the name she gave and the name the Lord revealed to me in prayer. Jesus said; I am the Light of the world.

May we equip children to shine the light of Christ!

Above is our new logo and above right one of our Lighthouse murals.



Youth Ministry/Doxa started out with a large group of eager jr. & sr. youth gathering for praise songs and unpacking scripture together. The fall schedule planned for our youth is to help engage, involve and challenge them to live out their Christian walk.



Up-coming Family Ministry Events:

Hallowed be thy Name - Festival Outreach Event:

October 24th from 5-6:30pm – Calling all youth/families to join us on the YP front lawn to meet/greet folks walking by and give out pumpkins, apple cider, candy and conversation!

Hallowed Be Thy Name
OUTREACH EVENT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019 • 5-6:30PM
 Yorkminster Park Baptist Church • (Front lawn - Yonge Street)

Come and join us as our Family Ministry Team gather on the front lawn of Yonge Street and reach out to the community!

Music, Activities, Pumpkins & More!

Love your neighbour! Mark 12:31

For details, contact: Heather Mackey
 Director of Family Ministries • hmackey@yorkminsterpark.com



Screen Obsessions and Mental Health

Part 1 of this seminar, led by Paul Robertson, will look at the realities of cyberspace for our young people, how persuasive technology addicts them to screens, and 47 things we can all do to have a healthier relationship with our smartphones and screens.

In Part 2 will be led by Marianne Deeks who will focus on screens, identity formation, and the mental health issues (stress, anxiety, depression, suicide) that she is seeing in her practice as a psychotherapist.



Presented by **Paul Robertson**, Youth Culture Specialist, Toronto Youth Unlimited. Paul has 45 years of working with young people and their parents.



Marianne Deeks, Registered Psychotherapist, Toronto Youth Unlimited. Marianne has over 20 years of youth ministry experience and now specializes in adolescent issues.

*contact: Ms. Heather Mackey
Director of Family Ministries
hmackey@yorkminsterpark.com*

NURSES' NOTES FROM LILY



Welcome everyone to September. Hope all of you have all had an opportunity find rest and relaxation over the summer, and quality time with family and friends, and with oneself. A time to

reflect upon our world, a time for more intentional prayer.

I would like to dedicate the following poem, by an author unknown, to Robyn Elliott, as she embarks upon a new journey taking her to another church, and another home, all of which will be nearer to each other, and to family.

***Said the Robin to the Sparrow,
"I should really like to know why these anxious
human beings rush about and worry so".***

***Said the Sparrow to the Robin,
"Friend, I think that it must be that they have no
heavenly father such as cares for you and me".***

Thank you Robyn, for becoming like a friend to so many, and yet, remaining so professional in all that you have done. Thank you for having welcomed me with open arms to YMPB ministerial team, and walking along my spiritual journey. We wish you and Steve and your family all the best as you embrace your new path.



I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for all our YPBC women who contribute to the Dorcus Group Ministry as well as to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. They are a devoted group of women, who give of their time and their talents unconditionally. I cannot imagine the huge number of beautifully created blankets/afghans and articles of clothing, which have brought joy and warmth to so many children and adults, thank you Dorcus Group.

Thank you also Prayer Shawl Ministry for having created hundreds of Shawls over the past few years, including endless number of magnificent Prayer Pocket Squares. They have provided so many people, with such a feeling of peace and comfort when feeling alone and hopeless, and as well they have brought joy in moments of gratitude and celebration. I would also like to thank Cody, in our main office for never hesitating to create more cards to go along with these incredible gifts of comfort.

Pocket Prayer Square

*May this become a source
of peace, joy, and
hope in all situations you encounter.*

*It was made with love and prayer
as a reminder of God's
presence with you always
and His love for you,
His precious child.*

This summer we were happy to be a part of the Appletree Farmers' Market, which took place every Thursday afternoon from 3pm to 7pm. Our ministerial staff was happy to spend time outside in the park and engage with not only our church community members but all the people who passed by and stopped to visit, chat and buy fresh produce.

We actually set up a table of our own amongst the farmers and promoted friendship and support for whomever needed it. We also were very fortunate to partner with both Loblaws and Shoppers Drug Mart. Loblaws kindly supplied us with cans of water to give to all who passed our park. Shoppers Drug Mart gladly and eagerly accepted our invitation to have a pharmacy student at our table weekly to participate alongside our staff. Her submission is on the following page.

Health and Wellness is delighted to inform you that we currently have a group of nursing students completing a 12 week clinical community placement with us at YPBC Health and Wellness. We are in partnership

With the Humber College/University of New Brunswick Collaborative Nursing Program. On behalf of YPBC Church Community, I would like To welcome the 6 students and their 3rd year clinical placement teacher, Theresa Santos, BScN, RN, CCHNC.

Deevya Ramasawmy
 Fourth year Pharmacy Student
 Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy - Class of 2T0
 As a pharmacy student completing my placement at Shopper Drug Mart, I had the opportunity to partner up with the YPBC community and engage with the public regarding important health topics such as sun care and hydration.

Sun Care
 There are two types of ultraviolet (UV) rays that cause damage to the skin: UVB and UVA. While UVBs cause sunburns, UVAs cause premature aging of the skin. The hours during which the sun rays are at their peak are 10 a.m to 4 p.m¹. It is important to generously apply sunscreen 30 minutes prior to sun exposure and to reapply every two hours. The ideal sunscreen should be broad-spectrum, meaning that it protects against both UVA and UVB rays, and it should have SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of 30 or higher¹. Broad spectrum sunscreen bottles can be identified by looking for the UVA and UVB symbol.
 If you would like to know more about sun care, please visit shoppersdrugmart.ca/sunsafety

Hydration
 Water is best for staying hydrated. Common signs of dehydration may include thirst, urine that is darker than usual, dizziness and headache².
 Here are a few ways to stay hydrated:

- 1) Keep a bottle of water with you during the day. To reduce your costs, you can carry reusable water bottle and fill it with tap or filtered water.
- 2) Add in a slice a lemon or lime to your water if you do not like the taste of plain water.
- 3) Drink water before, during, and after a workout.

References

1. How's your sun safety IQ? (2013). Shoppers Drug Mart. Toronto, ON
2. Hydration: Why It's So Important (2019). Familydoctor.org. Accessed on Aug 31st 2019 from <https://familydoctor.org/hydration-why-its-so->

I would like to thank Pam Uhera, RN, BScN, M Ed., Clinical Teacher for having met with me on numerous occasions throughout the summer to determine how we could initiate a plan to develop a partnership which will ultimately benefit our health and wellness needs and ultimately provide their students with a successful learning opportunity and environment. My role in their “Community and Population Health Nursing Placement”, is that of preceptorship, as well as facilitator and coordinator between YPBC community and the school. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any

questions, comments. Further information regarding this partnership will unfold as the weeks go by. We shall begin



with a simple informal meet and greet with the health and wellness committee and staff mid September and then will follow with our membership as a whole afterwards.

Please remember to save the date for SUNDAY NOV. 24th, when the Students together with our health and wellness committee will host a very informative and relevant Lunch and Learn Session, after the service. Details will follow next month.

In followup to the previous newsletter, we did have an additional Child and Adult CPR course which was held in June. We are planning another one in the Spring; please stay posted for further details. The previously scheduled “Emergency Preparedness Presentation” by the Toronto Red Cross has been moved from this September to sometime in the Spring.

A kind reminder to all, please do have a look at our Health and Wellness Board for updates on health related topics.

A prayer of Thanksgiving by Father Tim:

God our creator your gifts to us are countless and your goodness without limit.

As we come in Thanksgiving

Teach us to use wisely the riches of land and seas,

And all the blessings which come from you.

Grant us hearts that know the needs of others,

That we may give as freely as we have received from you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Wishing everyone a joyful and peaceful upcoming Thanksgiving Celebration.

YPBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES...

UP AND COMING !

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:

1. Invite and welcome all women into our community
2. Encourage women to discover their full potential in Christ
3. Motivate, minister, mentor and befriend
4. Live and serve under the influence and empowerment of God's Spirit

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY- Knitting/Crochet Group

Every fourth Tuesday, September to may (excluding December) - 7 pm, YPBC Friendship Room

Come and create a prayer shawl or bring your own project. Novices to experts are welcome and if required, teaching assistance is always at hand. Needles and yarns are made available for the shawls. When the shawls are completed, they are delivered through Pastoral Care to a variety of recipients, including shut-ins, those who are ill and for any reason are needing a tangible symbol of God's healing love for and presence with them. Rhoda Hill enthusiastically coordinates this ministry of care.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13 - THANKSGIVING TURKEY DINNER

A YPBC Congregational Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner will be held in the Heritage Room following the morning worship service on Thanksgiving Sunday. Everyone is warmly invited to come and share together in a church family meal on this special day.

Tickets: Adult \$20. Children \$5 Available from the Women's Executive and YPBC Church Office.

An opportunity will also be given that afternoon to contribute to the ministries of Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec, including the Dorothy Neal New Initiatives Fund established by the Women of YPBC in honour of Dorothy's leadership among Baptist Women. (Dorothy was also a faithful member of YPBC along with her husband, Ralph.)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 11 - WOMEN IN COMMUNITY

"Because God is true, friends can be true...Because God offers friendship, we can be each other's friends." St. Ambrose

All women (you don't have to be a member!) are invited to a potluck supper, 6:30 pm at the home of Violet Pantelidis on Monday November 11, 6:30 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends, renew acquaintances and enjoy a delicious meal in a relaxed and supportive environment. And by the way, your contribution does not have to be homemade! A contact person for this event is Diane Letsche 416 445 7720. We look forward to welcoming you.

And in the new year.....

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 - YPBC WOMEN'S RETREAT - YPBC CAMERON HALL 9am-2pm

We are delighted to announce that our annual women's retreat has been planned. Rev. Dr. Karoline

Lewis is our facilitator this year and her topic will be:

SHE - Five Keys for Living as a Woman of God

Rev. Lewis is no stranger to us at YPBC as she has



both preached here and been a contributor at the Lester Randall weekend. Her presentation at our retreat will be based on stories from the Bible.

Ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Karoline holds degrees from Northwestern University, (B.A.), Luther Seminary (M.Div.), and Emory University (Ph.D., New Testament Studies and Homiletics). She is the Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary and has previously taught at Candler School of Theology, Columbia Theological Seminary and Augsburg College. Karoline is the author of several books, including *SHE: Five Keys to*



Unlock the Power of Women in Ministry. She regularly leads conferences, workshops and retreats throughout the USA and Canada on interpreting the Bible, preaching, and women in ministry.

We so look forward to welcoming you to a day apart that promises to be inspiring, encouraging and spiritually invigorating! Come and bring a friend. As always, refreshments will be served as well as a hot lunch. Watch for more details later this Fall.

CHAPLAINCY



Being a chaplain often involves listening to your heart and being directed by your soul; but also being willing to listen. As a chaplain, I have served in a care facility where my responsibilities were to deliver pastoral care to patients, to their loved ones, and, when

appropriate, to care providers and staff.

Chaplains of many faiths work with diverse populations, within various settings. We are tasked with counselling patients undergoing medical procedures, people making decisions towards the end of their life, and team members assisting victims of traumatic experience. We offer comfort and support to all types of patients and aid them and their relatives in finding emotional peace and resolution.

Our role has many facets. Chaplains must genuinely care for others, be approachable, and have excellent interpersonal skills. We must:

- be able to communicate with people of other faiths and cultures
- hold ourselves to a higher standard of conduct
- maintain confidentiality
- be capable of maintaining a calm, effective work style - especially under duress
- work independently and manage one's self across multiple responsibilities.

Most importantly, the Christian chaplain must endeavour to listen compassionately, yet perceptibly to patients, while being guided by the Lord in how to act. Often a well-placed question encourages deeper conversation or perhaps the offer of affirmation and assurance. Where there has been trauma, or if a patient is critically ill, the conversation can become

limited. The challenge for a Christian chaplain, therefore, is to reflect the love of Christ without proselytizing. Sometimes all one can do is to quietly display a peaceful countenance. When genuinely accepted, the reading of Scripture, providing of communion, “anointing the sick” and offering of prayer, are welcomed privileges of a Christian chaplain.

A chaplain's role with seniors is vital, especially with those who may feel lonely or depressed. The elderly:

- enjoy talking about the “old days”.
- often speak about love— both their good and bad experiences—and perhaps whisper how they learned what love is, and what it is not.
- share memories of their career, or significant colleagues and friends.
- may discuss their faith or speculate as to why they think others cannot believe in God.

I have been amazed by the resilience of the human spirit and its strength to withstand incredible challenges, with nobility and courage. Most people believe their life has counted, and is worthy of respect, even when they acknowledge the mistakes they have made. At their lowest points, they hope that they are to receive eternal life. Regrettably, Christ's love may not have been accepted. Some will pass, not knowing Christ's love or forgiveness. It is miserable when one dies alone or calls out for someone dear to them. The chaplain is there then, to represent God and mirror Christ's compassion.

Even within the final stages of life, spiritual growth can happen when it is nurtured by informed teaching, nurturing and affirmation. New believers' welcome services for Easter, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, and Christmas. Mature believers engage in Bible studies. When chaplains have opportunities to share God's salvation plan, we must remember that all new life and growth comes from God. Each seed has a unique gestational period. In this, we must surrender our efforts to God, as Salvation comes from Him.

I am comforted by the knowledge that God has a plan for how, when, and where we might utilize the gifts we are given. For me, working out that perceived plan started when I became a registered nurse, long before I entered the ministry. I was ordained a Community Chaplain just over 15 years ago, after precious time spent in child and parent

care, a nursing career, and many other life experiences.

It has been a privilege to share Christ's love, mercy, and forgiveness. God is love. We learn most about God's amazing love when we comprehend the scope of Christ's life and sacrifice. Once we begin to recognize the depth of that unconditional love, we are able to offer it meaningfully. It sometimes takes a lifetime to learn about Christ's kind of *agape* love. Patients might find it through the genuine love of family, the caring acts of staff, or perhaps the ministry of a chaplain. It is in the presence of unconditional love that hope and faith are renewed or perhaps, born—hope and faith which may give rise to discussions about GRACE: God's Riches at Christ's Expense.

It is wonderful to witness expressions of caring love that reflect that of our Father's: the husband who gently washes his wife's face, cupping her bald head in his hand because she is too weak to lift it from her pillow; the daughter who spoons soup into the mouth of the mother whom has not recognized her in months, possibly years; the son who tenderly reads a Psalm to his dying father; the co-worker sitting at the bedside of a dear friend, or a nurse who works late offering vital care.

It is disheartening that presently the role of a chaplain is diminishing in long-term care facilities. With budgetary cut-backs, the holistic approach of "body, mind and spirit" is not valued as it was. Medical disciplines have little time for the "art of caring". Then often, as our society's attempts to be "politically-correct" or "accepting", it finds itself rejecting faith practices which have already been in place, at a great detriment to itself. These practices, meant to benefit human society, are being lost to the proposed "efficiency" of a system without them.

Often the service of a chaplain is offered when the days of life are few. Yet even the thief who hung on the cross beside Jesus experienced something of this ministry in our Lord's last hours, when he called out, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth; today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:42-43). These words address the hope of the human heart. We all long for a better life beyond this one. It is the chaplain's duty to give this hope to those willing to listen.

Serving people in various places, I have learned about the human spirit through patient care visits, speaking commitments, and officiating at funerals, and at weddings. Particularly I have learned about the nature of humanity, our heart and resilience, through treasured pastoral visits. Christ has been ever faithful and willingly present in all of these. I thank Jesus for any ministry I have offered that has had lasting value upon the individuals I have encountered.

Let me conclude with a caveat. In this essay, I have tried to present some of the goals involved in chaplaincy. I have enjoyed it immensely and hope God has used me in this ministry. Yet I have been aware of my need to have a positive attitude, a sincere willingness to be present, listening skills, relevant medical knowledge, and ability to offer words of comfort and truth, encouragement and affirmation. I have acutely recognized my own limitations and humanity. I am still learning to heavily lean on God's leading. I hope those I have served have a fuller awareness of the love of Jesus. He is nothing less than God who came among us, full of grace and truth. He is the essence of love, fully demonstrated. He is the ultimate healer and the believer's hope of eternity. Therefore, I have worked with the intention to do all these things to the best of my ability through God who strengthens me, and with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

The role of institutional chaplains may be disappearing, but take heart. This ministry will continue in our communities because all of us can be the fragrance of Christ to others. The torch is passed to whoever is willing to be Christ's "light" in the dark places in the lives of others. Why? Because, 1 John 4:19 reminds us, "We love because he first loved us." And Christ commanded his followers to "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 13:34).

submitted by Rev. Suzanne Wilkinson

MISSIONS



Bill and Janice Dyck, CBM missionaries from Bolivia, will make a presentation in the Friendship Room on Sunday, 29 September at 9:45 am.

FRIENDSHIP ROOM REFURBISHING

The Property Committee, under the leadership of Tim Aikenhead, keeps a constant look at the church property, maintaining as well as upgrading when required. For many years, the Friendship room was faithfully looked after by the Women's Fellowship. We give them grateful thanks for their care, watchful eye and funding.



The Friendship Room, the most used room in the church, it was time to create a new look. The carpet was worn, from too many coffee/juice spills, the windows needed replacing & the lighting dim, with an over all tired feeling.

The committee in their brain storming wanted a lighter brighter look, keeping with a traditional feel but with a more contemporary edge. They asked a small group to come up with a suggested concept & budget.

With the budget approved, the committee of three, Denise Tobey, Kim Aikenhead and Ralph Neal plus Tim Aikenhead took the original concept and turned it into the new look.



The windows have be replace with centre openings and the flooring with carpet tiles that can be changed without complete re-carpeting. The lighting has been increased with four downlights in each ceiling panel and three bronze chandeliers. The walls are now a lighter shade along with the existing camel back sofas in plain textured commercial fabric. The predominate colours of blue and beige are lifted with marigold on the four new chairs. Our plan was to make the room feel welcoming, but also as flexible as possible, the centre oak table/sofa group will move to the sides of the room for meetings or receptions.

When the mantle was removed the old brick fireplace fell apart with just the mortor holding it together. A new mantel was constructed with inserts of marble and an electric unit that can be seen burning but can, when required, give extra warmth to the room.

The hope and prayer is that the Friendship Room will continue to be a place of true fellowship an uplifting centre for Bible studies and Board meetings.

In the refurbishing of the Friendship Room a new painting, UPLIFTING IV, has been installed above the fireplace. The artist Kathy Bradshaw BFA graduated with great distinction from the University of Saskatchewan. She is a Saskatoon based artist that works



in oil and encaustic, an ancient medium treasured for its luminosity, layering capabilities, colour, texture, and light and shadow. Her work is part of private, public and corporate collections in Canada, the UK, US, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

The purchase is made possible by The Memorial Fund; a part of the heritage of those who have served and are lovingly remembered.

submitted by Ralph Neal

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

It has been an unexpectedly busy summer welcoming our new sponsored refugee families. Two Syrian families arrived in April/May, much to our relief and the joy of their parents, and after much searching we found two apartments in a building at Birchmount and St Clair. Both fathers are working (one at a restaurant and one in a supermarket) and attending ESL classes, and Maria and Maysaa had a very happy start at their new school, Danforth Gardens. We regret not being able to spend more time with Mohamed, Fatima, Hayan and Abir but are grateful for all the assistance received from their parents in resettling these two families.

In August a Pakistani family with two young children arrived from Thailand where they had taken refuge for seven years, persecuted in Pakistan



because of their Christian faith. Seven year old Angel started school at Maurice Cody while 2 year old Amelia joins her parents at ESL classes. Many thanks to those of you who have shown such warm hospitality to Sajjad, Farzana and their children.

On September 17 Lydia arrived from Ethiopia where she had taken refuge from the strife in Eritrea. She is the niece of congregation members Pietro and Nebiat.



Finally, more than three years after the arrival of Charlene and Chancella who escaped the horrors of the conflict in the Central African Republic, the sponsorship of their brother Lucien, his wife and



three children has been approved. Much to our surprise there is every indication that they will be with us very soon. We do not have any

funds available for this family and need a minimum of \$30,000 to cover the cost of one-year's support for them. Please consider giving urgently to support this family by donating to Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, with your donation designated for Refugee Sponsorship. Thank you for your continued support of this work, allowing us to bring hope and a new future to these families.

TRANSITIONS

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

Birth

Petra Mae Kombogiorgas, *dau of Sheila Alfred and Tony Kombogiorgas*

Infant Dedications

James Preston Maier, *son of Catherine and Jonathan Maier*

Tessa Nicole Souza, *dau of Charryse and Cleber DeSouza*

New Members

Liam Dilworth

Kenneth Moock

Anthony Varahidis

Emma Chen

Alice Morgan

Death

Ian Paddon

IT TAKES TWO TO SEE ONE (Plus Our Heavenly ONE):



The Art of Giving and Receiving Feedback

“O’wad some poower the giftie gi’e us, tae see o’orsels as ithers see us.”

Rabbie Burns

I find this passage by the Scottish poet, Robert Burns, profoundly true.

Thanks to a Scottish friend, here’s the modern-day translation: “Oh would some, the gift give us, to see ourselves as others see us.” Meaning, we’d all benefit from others’ feedback.

Proverbs 19:20

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future.

Remember that schoolyard bully who wielded power over all the kids? Who bragged, “Hey! If I have something to say to you, I’ll tell it to your face!” Those juvenile intimidators are now a mere childhood echo, but “schoolyard” bullying character traits can still manifest in *adults* today—revealing themselves in a multitude of subtle or aggressive ways. And when bullies “go to work,” in offices, community volunteer committees, etc., productivity plummets and turnover spikes.

I once attended a meeting where the chairperson strongly and rudely articulated his opinion about a team member’s “quirks and preferences.” It was an over-the-top explosion, gobsmacking attendees, including the person to whom the words were directed. As if sensing the need to defend his outburst, he furthered, “Hey, we’re all adults here! I’m just speaking the truth!” That team’s harmony took a hit that day—all in the name of “truth.”

There’s a kind of feedback tyranny occurring in many quarters today. Some feel if they’re itching to give feedback, they have the right and *duty* to tell their “truth” immediately. Alternatively, some subscribe “If you can’t say anything *nice*, don’t say anything at *all!*” Whether in the schoolyard, business, family, or community life, this alternative philosophy isn’t *always* the best strategy for

evolving relationships. But neither is the former. Sometimes things that aren’t *nice* to say *must* to be addressed. If you wish to be masterful (or at least be a dutiful student) at delivering and receiving feedback remember, “there’s a way, *and there’s a way!*”

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend...

Before the next time you give feedback:

- Introspect/pray on it... reflect on your motives; ensure there’s a *real* problem or issue that won’t go away if not addressed; or are you just in a bad mood?
- Realize there’s often something going on beyond the presenting issue, that triggers you to want to give feedback; identify the *real* issue, not just the symptoms or personalities.
- Be prepared to work towards mutually agreeable solutions, rather than towards “winning.”
- Remember that it’s alright to disagree; the other isn’t “bad” if they disagree with you.
- Keep your perspective; rather than destroying relationships, if you value working on the strain that exists between you and another, working towards a mutually satisfying solution can eventually enhance the relationship.

Proverbs 1:5

Let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill.

While working on an issue remember to:

- Ask yourself, “Is this a *preference* or a *value*?” (Surrender some preferences; save feedback for values.)
- Champion “win-win” solutions.
- Empathize with the other’s perspective; put yourself in their “shoes.”
- Acknowledge to yourself, and the other, the part of the “problem” that belongs to *you*—identify what part is *your* “fault”).
- *Talk* about your feelings rather than passive-aggressively acting out.

- Establish a common goal and stay focused on it.
- Persist in coming to a satisfactory solution if the issue is really important.
- At the end of the discussion, summarize what's been decided, who'll take any next steps, and set a follow-up date for checking in to see how things are going.
- Embrace the below guidelines for giving feedback.

Proverbs 9: 7-9

Whoever corrects a scoffer wins abuse; whoever rebukes the wicked gets hurt. A scoffer who is rebuked will only hate you; the wise, when rebuked, will love you. Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.

Feedback is most helpful if its:

- **Descriptive not evaluative:** “You interrupted him twice,” rather than, “You’re not a good listener.”
- **Specific vs. general:** “I like the way you praised her for handling that situation,” rather than, “You always give encouraging support.”
- **Solicited vs. imposed:** When we impose feedback, the other may feel defensive; when *requested* by the other, there’s increased chance our feedback will be heard and received.
- **Well timed:** Offer feedback soon after the situation being described (provided you believe the receiver is ready and willing to hear the information).
- **Focused on modifiable behaviour:** Frustration is only increased when another is reminded of shortcomings about which they feel they’ve no control e.g., there’s no use yelling at someone for being a certain height!
- **Considerate of the needs of the receiver and giver:** Offer feedback from a position of loving kindness/authentic caring, sincerely expressed; everyone knows when the “noise” of “caring” words are artificial.

- **Validated with the receiver:** Before offering feedback, get the receiver’s perspective on the topic; after giving feedback, check that the receiver accurately heard the information you offered; be quick—get your initial feedback point across, and then ask for the other’s response, *within 60 seconds*; otherwise the receiver may feel attacked and become defensive.
- **Not a demand for change:** We often give feedback as our way of demanding that the other change; when feedback is *sincerely* offered, it’s not a demand for change—it’s simply a provision of information that the receiver can apply, if desired.

Above all, remember this: It takes *two* to see *one*, and...

In the right key, anything can be said; in the wrong key, nothing.

The only delicate part is the establishment of the key. - George Bernard Shaw

Becoming personally masterful at giving and receiving feedback could keep you busy all the rest of your days. There’ll be times when you’ll forget, or choose not to use the feedback skills you intellectually understand. Sometimes you might kick yourself, afterwards, for succumbing to your emotional reactivity—you *knew* better, and blurted out regretful words anyway. When those moments occur, cut yourself some slack. Even if you decide you’re a life-long student of advancing interpersonal communications, and pray for strength to stay the course, you’re bound to occasionally fall off the wagon. When those moments happen, celebrate that at least you have the awareness to assess what you did wrong, and how you’ll improve next time.

P. S. For the potential honorary “Scot” within, I have it on good (Scottish) authority that one must always refer to Robert Burns as “Rabbie”; never “Robbie.” Keep that in mind for next January! submitted by Nina Spencer

Nina Spencer is a Conference Keynote Speaker, Speaker Coach, Voiceover Artist, and Bestselling Author of *Getting Passion Out of Your Profession*, and *A Time to Creep, A Time to Soar* (Leadership lessons from climbing Kilimanjaro)

AT THE GALLERY

revolve is an artist cooperative composed of

**Wendy Cooper-Parkinson
and Kathy Kiss Webster.**

Oct 19-Nov 14 with an opening
reception, Sunday Oct 20

The two artists work with found objects and materials from which they create pieces that stir emotion or memory. They glue and nail, draw and paint, bend and hammer things together. Perhaps you will shake your head in puzzlement, but they hope you will look again and again. And the pieces will raise questions. They aim to produce work that is more than the sum of its parts. If the work brings up memories, stirrings, longings or reminds you of other things, they feel they have done well.

As *revolve*, Wendy and Kathy mounted their first exhibit in 2018. Their exhibition at Yorkminster Park Gallery entitled *Bridge* will include collaborative pieces as well as artworks by each artist.



WARREN HOYANO

Folded Pieces - non-traditional watercolours
inspired by the Shroud of Turin
on view now - Oct 17



PAUL ROORDA

Seeing Through Walls
Nov 16-Dec19
reception, Sun, Nov 17

