



# YPBC NEWS

March 2013

## GOOD FRIDAY – WHY CALL IT GOOD?

“Tomorrow is Good Friday,” announced an angry professor as he entered his classroom full of first year students. “So there are no classes,” he continued. “We are all supposed to go out and celebrate the death of God. Celebrate? After all,” he said smiling as those who tortured Jesus must have smiled, “if the Son of God got crucified, what hope is there for the rest of us?” With that he plunked himself down on his desk as he often did and let out a sigh as he tossed a question to his trembling students, “So, what’s so good about Good Friday?”

This was not a Christian

liberal arts college with a professor trying to poke and prod young Christians to think through their faith. This was a secular university and the professor had months earlier already put anyone who had even an ounce of faith in God through the ringer during his critique of the arguments for the existence of God. Our professor seemed to be taking aim at Christ and anyone who would dare to speak out for him.

There were some who smiled along with him and others who even laughed that morning of Maundy Thursday at the absurdity of both the name of the day and the belief that a victim of an ancient crucifixion

might somehow have a claim on divinity. In the silence that followed I felt alone and wondered if I shouldn’t just keep my thoughts to myself rather than try to argue with this wizard of words and agitator of the faithful.

Looking back I can hardly blame the disciples for abandoning Jesus when the authorities raided Gethsemane in the cover of darkness. If they arrested Jesus what hope was there for the them?

Nine of the eleven remaining disciples (Judas having already left) seem to have abandoned Jesus at this point.

Peter and John followed from a distance, but we all know that hours later, when Peter was put to the test

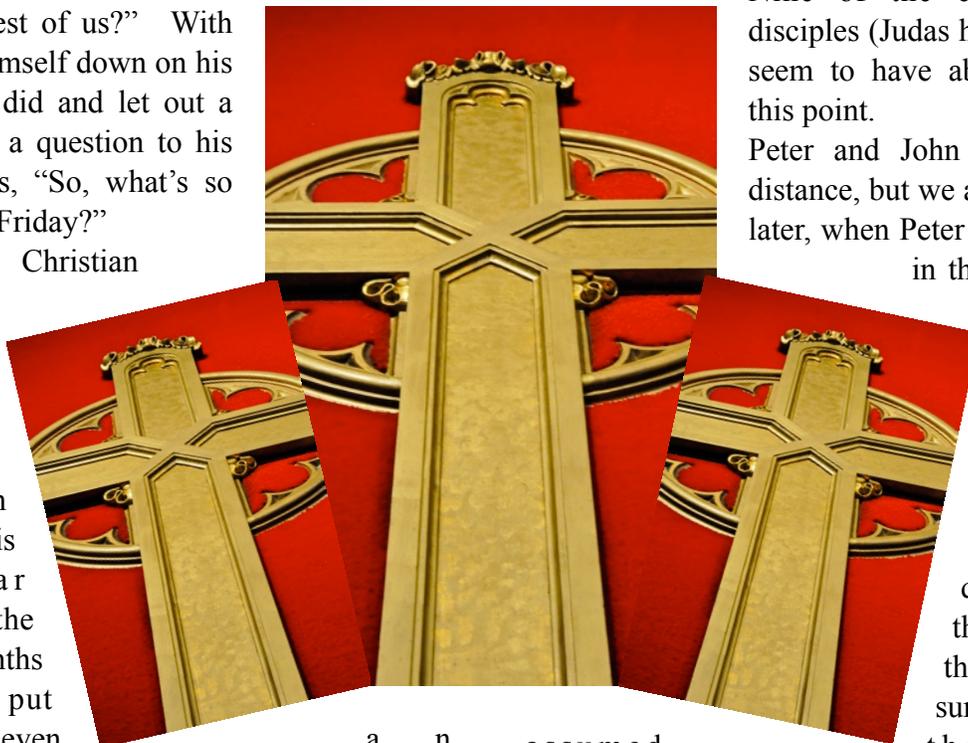
in the courtyard of the

High Priest, he denied even knowing Jesus.

Had any of the eleven disciples had the professor’s question put to them on the day of the crucifixion, I am sure they would have the name Good

assumed Friday had been contrived by the enemies of Jesus, because with his life over, what hope was there for the rest? They would probably have said, “The professor’s right. There is nothing good about this day at all.”

All those years later, yet still before there was a call on my life, it was far easier to sit in the classroom and know that in my silence no one would be asking if they hadn’t seen me going into church days earlier



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HAPPY EASTER



The next newsletter will be published on 19 June 2013. Submissions to be received by 07 June 2013.

Comments and suggestions for future editions of the YPBC News are welcome. Please send them to:

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*Paul R. Hill*

to worship Christ. As long as I was silent I wouldn't get the third degree like my namesake. In silence I was far safer than Peter. But was it fair to stay silent? After all I knew more than Peter knew in the shadows of that early morning. I knew the grave would not hold Jesus. I knew too that Christ poured out his life on the cross in love. Good Friday was the day God used a cross shaped exclamation mark to tell the world of his endless mercy and grace.

But just when all seemed lost a young classmate put up his hand and said, "Excuse me, but isn't it good because Christ died for us? It is a good day despite the horror of Christ's death because he took our sin to the cross." "Well," replied the professor, "That's what Christians say." Suddenly there was another voice and then another. I wasn't alone. None of us were particularly articulate but by the end we'd pretty much made the case for why it is a good day after all. Christ had shared our brokenness, died for our sin, and on Easter was raised from the dead that we too might share in life eternal. Not only that, but while others abandoned him, he abandoned no one. It is beyond good. It is remarkable!

In my silence I had always believed I was the only Christian in the class. I had been at it for months with this class and felt so alone, yet as this daring student continued a door was opened to the power of the Word – not just the word of witness we offered, but the living Word who promises to be with us always.

"Well," concluded the professor as he turned his gaze to the young man, "Thanks for speaking up. Tomorrow has to be either one or the other – a truly bad day or a truly good one and," he said looking at those of us who had spoken out for Christ, "I hope you're right."

The last word of the professor caught me more off guard than even his opening words. He hoped we were right. All along I had not only assumed I was the only Christian, but I had also assumed he was the great enemy of the faith. Underneath his own brave front he was a human being with hurts and fears and hopes and dreams like all the rest of us. And when he heard the good news he recognized its wonder and beauty.

The world around may seem cold and mean, but underneath it is often just waiting and hungering for the Word. The Word is Christ and he is risen and in our midst. The word is good and now is the time to bear witness and speak a word for Jesus.

May the presence of the Risen Christ bless and guide us all as we seek to honour his love in word and deed.

Have a blessed Easter!  
Peter Holmes

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## MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE



*“That was the last thing the young man expected to hear. And so, crestfallen, he walked away. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and he couldn’t bear to let go.” Matthew 19:22 (The Message)*

Moving day – these two words are enough to cause panic and stress in most people. Donna and I have moved on a few occasions during our ministry. The last two involved moving with young children and relocating in different provinces. So you can just imagine how busy we were! However, our move to Yorkminster Park has been much easier. We will soon become “empty nesters,” and the two of us will move into the manse on St. Clement’s Avenue sometime in late spring or early summer. The big challenge for us right now is to get our home in Mississauga ready for sale. When looking to invest in real estate, the mantra of agents is a threefold formula: “location, location, location.” But I would add another mantra for those who are selling a home: “declutter, declutter, declutter.”

Yes, we are now in full declutter mode at our house. It is amazing how much junk you can accumulate after 17 years in a home. Fortunately we are not “pack rats,” and so we have found it rather freeing to part with all this “stuff.” Our home has never felt so large, with all the extra room we have discovered.

This recent experience of “decluttering” our home has got me to thinking about the decluttering of our lives. Life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has become complicated and full of distractions. Our days are filled with the clutter of smart phones, blackberries and computers, with their accompanying e-mails, text messages, blogs, Facebook accounts and Twitter feeds. Technology is only part of the problem. Our lives are so time-challenged with work, social and recreational commitments that we feel overwhelmed at times. Maybe the time has come for us to switch to “declutter” mode.

We are now well into the season of Lent, and in a little while we will celebrate the great Easter event. I believe that Lent is a season of decluttering. It is a time of preparation, and a big part of that preparation is introspection. We need to take stock of our lives, to examine our hearts and do away with those things that prevent us from experiencing God on a deeper level. I love the story of the rich young ruler in the gospels. All three synoptic gospels talk about this man who comes up to Jesus and asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. Matthew says he was young. Luke says he was a ruler of some sort. But both of them, along with Mark, agree that he was very wealthy. His possessions were preventing him from going deeper in his faith. He needed to declutter. I like how Eugene Peterson puts it in *The Message*. Jesus tells the young man to let go of all his things – to declutter and simplify his life. The story concludes with this verse: “That was the last thing the young man expected to hear. And so, crestfallen, he walked away. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and he couldn’t bear to let go.” (Matthew 19:22)

One of my favourite Psalms is Psalm 42, especially the first two verses: “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” (Psalm 42:1-2) I believe this is the secret to decluttering our lives – to desire God with our whole beings – to set aside the distractions of this world and to just be present with God. This Lent and Easter, may you know the joy of decluttering your life, and enjoying the presence of our Lord. In the words of John Greenleaf Whittier: “Drop thy still dews of quietness, Till all our strivings cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our ordered lives confess, The beauty of thy peace.”

Easter blessings to all!

Dale

## HIDING HIS WORD IN OUR HEARTS

In helping children grow into Christ one important thing that we want them to understand is who they are in Him. In Sunday School we want to help head knowledge be translated into heart knowledge so each child has a deep assurance that they are loved, that God can be trusted, that He wants to be their forever friend and that He is with them. I realize that when I have trouble remembering these truths it is when I am too concerned about what others think of me, taking my identity from them and taking my eyes off Jesus. Something that helps me is to recite or read scripture that affirms the truth of my identity in Christ.

We teach our children to memorize scripture because it gives them a tool to bring to their memory these truths when they most need them. On a Sunday morning it is wonderful to listen to our children tell one another that Jesus is with them, will never leave them and loves them.

How much we can all benefit from the exercise of memorizing scripture. Let's follow the children's example!

Happy Easter

Miriam Little

Director of Children's Ministries

*Thy word have I hid in mine heart,  
that I might not sin against thee.*

*Psalm 119:11 KJV*

## THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Over the years, I have come to enjoy the familiarity of our annual traditions at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. The reassuring rhythm of the year is celebrated through the rituals and practice of our Christian faith. As a congregation we "Blast Off!" in September, revitalized from our summer experiences and revel in the freshness of Fall. Quickly, our hearts turn to Thanksgiving and then to Remembrance. We move into the busy and joyful season of Advent and Christmas, then welcome the New Year with hope and a sense of renewal. The Season of Lent arrives and we prepare ourselves for the suffering and glory of Holy Week with prayer and repentance. But, it is during this time of meaningful Christian preparation, I have also come to anticipate with a degree of resignation, days marked with grumbling and complaining, because this is also the "season of budgets". Ugh.



The challenge of financing our annual programs, mission work and property maintenance, compounded with the difficulty of predicting our future cash flow requirements, leads to a stew of discontent. How is that possible at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church when we are clearly blessed abundantly? This annual rite of passage usually leads me to reflect on our human tendency to miss the big picture and complain about the details.

The Globe and Mail recently reported that approximately six out of ten Tweets on Twitter are founded on criticism or complaints about an experience or a celebrity. Two out of ten Tweets are complaints about the complainers and the remaining twenty percent are a buffet of thoughts and ramblings. The reality is, we seem to be more prepared to complain about what we don't have than to seek happiness by celebrating what God has blessed us with. Even though we live in this great country, with the

benefits of constant technological advances; even though we are surrounded by wealth and incredible modern conveniences, people don't seem any happier. It looks to me like we are actually getting less and less content as a society and becoming more insulated and waiting on a world that we think owes us something.

How do we seek contentment and put a halt on taking good things for granted? How can we experience happiness no matter what life brings? Thankfully, in the book of Philippians, verses 4: 10 - 13, Paul offers us an antidote to our modern malaise. Here he writes:

**“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”**

In these verses Paul starts by thanking the people of the church for their financial support and the blessing it has offered him. He also recognizes that they have sacrificed to help meet his needs and understands that this unexpected gift from them is really from God. When times are good and when times are tough, Paul is telling us to always remember that God is in charge and that happiness will not arrive through material things. He also points out that contentment is a learned behaviour because, as I mentioned earlier, it just doesn't come naturally to most of us. Like eighty percent of the Tweeters out there, by nature we complain and grumble.

Interestingly, Paul also writes about the secret of finding happiness, both while living within humble means, suffering need and with a full belly in the lap of prosperity. Paul had been poor, shipwrecked, imprisoned and cast aside by society, yet he speaks of contentment with no possessions or money in his pocket.

So what exactly had he learned? What was his secret to leading a contented life regardless of circumstance? The answer is found within in the last verse “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” AMEN! Contentment is only found in God and true lasting happiness is only possible when we rely on Christ for everything in this life. Without Him, we will struggle to enjoy and appreciate what God has planned for us. Contentment is an expression of our faith and the closer our relationship is to God, the easier it becomes to cast aside the details that just don't really matter. We learn through faith and discipline to rely on God's power and sufficiency, not our own.

Yes it might be “budget season again” and it's easy to get lost in the details, but my prayer for the Easter season is that as a Church we make a point to rest in Christ's sufficiency, trusting Him in every trial, and thanking Him for every blessing.

## **TRANSITIONS**

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

### **Birth**

Adylyn Kripa Franklin, *s of Samuel and Grace Franklin*

### **Infant Dedications**

Andrew Thomas Xia Klima, *d of Thomas Klima and Cher Xia*

Thai Frederick Wakelin, *s of Ryan Wakelin and Mai Ngo-Wakelin*

Kiva Soleil Wareham-Browne, *d of Harden Browne and Shannon Wareham-Browne*

### **Baptisms**

Teresa Camara

Kelly Kil

Denise Tobey

### **New Members**

Teresa Camara

Prisca Etienne

Anitia (Nisha) Kennedy

Teresa Lai

### **Deaths**

Douglas Arnold

Marjorie Mills

Louise Konyar

Sheila Morrison

Brian Turner

## YPBC WOMEN'S "WINTER" MINISTRIES

### "GETTING NAKED" - A WOMEN'S RETREAT

based on Brian McLaren's book, *Naked Spirituality*.

On Saturday February 2, 2013, 92 women gathered at the North York NOVOTEL for a day long retreat led by Rev. Cheryle Hanna. We welcomed and were enriched by the company of 20 women from our sister church, Lorne Park Baptist, and from several other churches as well.

Our theme was rooted in Brian McLaren's book, *Naked Spirituality – A Life With God in 12 Simple Words*. McLaren addresses the lack of a "simple, doable, durable spirituality" while refuting any



"religiosity" or inappropriate religion that "doesn't serve, protect, enhance, or express the naked life within it" - that undermines the transformation that God is calling us to undergo. Concerned that our religious structures can become tools to maintain the status quo rather than be catalysts for

photos by Donna Willett

personal and social change, McLaren presents a four stage or *seasonal* approach for understanding the spiritual life. Appropriate to each stage or *season* in our lives, he unfolds for us, specific spiritual practices which also invite us to move forward when we are ready.

Engaging us through a variety of exercises and teaching styles throughout the day, Cheryle invited us to reflect on the meaning of each *season* for our own “naked” spirituality. We began with *Simplicity: The Springlike Season of Spiritual Awakening* where we were challenged to *awake* to the presence, goodness, beauty and joy of God. In the stage of *Complexity: The Summerlike Season of Spiritual Strengthening*, we focused on *strengthening* through failure, weakness and empathy. In the stage of *Perplexity: The Autumnlike Season of Spiritual Surviving*, we learned about *surviving* through delay, disillusionment and abandonment. Here, Cheryle encouraged our hearts with a beautiful exposition of some sections of the book of Lamentations. We concluded with *Harmony: The Winterlike Season of Spiritual Deepening* where we considered *deepening* by seeing, joining and by being with God in quietness. Specific spiritual practices were presented as integral to each of these *seasons* and a selection of written prayers were foundational to all of our discussions.

At the end of the day, written feedback was solicited and comments were overwhelmingly positive:

**“Thanks for the courage and faith to take us through tough topics that we don’t willingly want to study or face.”**

**“Thanks for the tools to prepare us for a more meaningful future.”**

**“Fantastic style of presentation and teaching.”**

**“A great day to nurture one’s spirituality and the 4 seasons analogy showed that God is present during all seasons of one’s life.”**

**“A great day to meet and share ideas with our extended family.”**

**“Helps to find encouragement and someplace to know we’re not alone in carrying our burdens.”**

**“Thanks for preparation for the seasons of life.”**

Thank YOU, Cheryle!

Please note: A copy of McLaren’s book is in the YPBC Gladstone Library and may also be purchased from READ ON Bookstore.

## **SALT AND LEAVEN**

Salt and Leaven potluck suppers for women are held in the fall, winter and spring. These evenings are opportunities for women to enjoy fellowship over a meal, to be encouraged by one another’s stories and to meet new friends within our faith community.

A recent CBOQ (Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec) newsletter reminds us that we’re God’s number one choice to enhance the flavour of our communities as “the salt of the earth”. We’re encouraged to remember that we don’t exist for ourselves and that the Church is designed to come alive when we give ourselves away – when we serve our neighbours sacrificially – when we point away from our accomplishments to the words and deeds of our Maker.

Interestingly, Brian McLaren, in *Naked Spirituality* also reinforces what it means for us to be salt and leaven where he quotes from a song *With Kindness*, adapted from St. Teresa (140):

**Christ has no body here but ours, no hands or feet here on earth but ours.**

**Ours are the eyes through which he looks on this world with kindness.**

**Ours are the hands through which he works. Ours are the feet on which he moves.**

**Ours are the voices through which he speaks to this world with kindness.**

**Through our touch, our smile, our listening ear,**

**Embodied in us, Jesus is living here.**

**So let us go now, filled with the Spirit, into this world with kindness.**

Lovely reminders of who and whose we are as women of God!

Please note: All women are warmly invited to Salt and Leaven. Homemade contributions are not essential! Watch the bulletin and bulletin boards for details of our spring supper.

submitted by Jonanne Fenton, YPBC Women’s Ministries

## PROFILE - CHRISTEL WIENS, ASSOCIATE MUSICIAN

Christel was born in Kitchener, Ontario. Her mother's Lutheran family had immigrated from Germany several years earlier. Her father, a banker by profession, belonged to the Mennonite Brethren church, and this is the tradition in which Christel was raised. German was spoken at home, and Christel completed 8 grades of a private German school, as well as attending regular public schools. Even at church, both languages were used actively for many years, including a sermon in each language every Sunday morning! Christel has always been grateful to her parents for the incredible gift of her heritage language.

Music has always been an integral part of her life, with early fond memories of the lovely sound of 4-part congregational singing in the MB church. Christel, along with her brother and sister, was kept busy with a variety of music lessons and activities. At age 12, she began accompanying her father, a fine amateur baritone soloist, on the piano, at churches in the Kitchener area. This collaboration was a source of great pride and enjoyment for both father and daughter!



After high school, Christel studied piano for 4 years with concert pianist Irmgard Baerg in Winnipeg. As well as extensive performance work, Irmgard taught at the Mennonite Brethren Bible College and College of Arts. At the time, this college was cross-registered with the University of Winnipeg and served as its music department. After completing her A.R.C.T. in piano in her first year there, Christel continued with 3 more years of advanced piano studies. Christel says that the finesse, passion, sparkle, and infinite musicality of Irmgard's playing have never ceased to be of great inspiration in her own piano work.

Studying choral conducting with William Baerg and singing in his excellent choirs is what Christel considers the other great privilege and joy during her time in Winnipeg. Concerts, choir tours to various parts of Canada, recordings for the CBC, a European study tour - it was heaven to a young musician! Christel graduated with her B.A.(music) from the University of Winnipeg, as well as her B.R.S. from MBBC, also in music.

Christel's career since then has been greatly varied, but always revolving around her two primary passions of Music and German. Private piano teaching has been a common thread throughout. She has done extensive freelance work in piano, primarily accompanying choirs and singers.

For 3 years, Christel taught high school at Black Forest Academy, in Kandern, West Germany. BFA is a boarding school for the children of missionaries from various countries. At that time, it was also a Canadian accredited school. Christel taught classroom German and Music History/Theory, as well as private piano. For four summers she taught German language courses for faculty and staff, and also evening English courses for adults in the community. During this time she enjoyed further piano studies with Warren Mould in Lahr, and was involved locally in piano performance.

Christel completed her coursework towards an MA in German, both at the University of Waterloo, and the Universität Mannheim. As well as her own studies, which centered around medieval German language and literature, she taught undergraduate German language courses, including students on exchange from Waterloo in Mannheim. As much as she loved the teaching, she disliked thesis research, and soon left it, gladly giving in to the call of the rich musical culture of Mannheim.

Her three years in Mannheim included a variety of freelance piano accompanying, as well as singing in and assisting with several wonderful choirs, most notably the Konkordien-Kantorei. It was here that she first briefly began organ studies with Heinz-Rüdiger Drengemann, before moving to Toronto.

After completing her B.Ed. at the University of Toronto, Christel was music director for a year and a half at Agincourt Baptist Church. She particularly enjoyed working with Dr. Patterson Lee, a great supporter of fine music. She also appreciated the small but well-trained choir which had thrived under the leadership of Jennie Pyper for many years. Christel left the church to once again teach high school, first for half a year at Riverdale C.I. followed by 3 years at Harbord C.I. where she taught choral music and strings.

A major change from the ensuing years of freelance piano work and teaching took place when Christel and her husband David Ford co-managed the Kiwanis Music Festival for 2 years. It was a special opportunity to work closely together on a professional level.

Christel first joined the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church choir in 1986. She felt pleased and honoured when Catherine Palmer asked her to take on the position of alto section lead in 1989. It is a responsibility that she loves and cherishes on a deep level, and she feels highly protective of "her" altos!

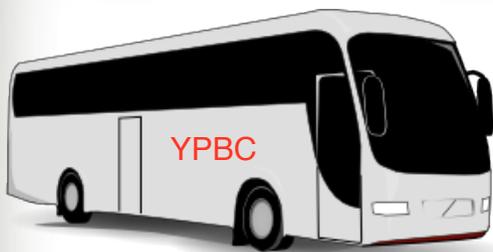
Christel is thrilled about her appointment as Associate Musician at YP. She is now able to focus her musical interests and skills mainly in one lovely place. The dignified worship, high musical standards and incredible instruments she plays on, are just some of the things she appreciates about being at YP. She considers it a great honour and privilege to work with William Maddox, who is not only a phenomenal organist, but also a wonderful choral conductor (he is also an excellent and patient teacher, helping her to develop her organ playing skills!). Working in an expanded capacity with the choir she already loves is such a pleasure.

Last but certainly not least, Christel enjoys making fine music to enhance worship in a setting where her contribution is highly valued. People have been so generous with their expressions of appreciation and enjoyment, and this is what she feels makes it truly worthwhile.



submitted by David Ford

## YPBC BUS TRIPS



### DRAYTON FILM FESTIVAL THEATRE

Thur. May 30, 2013

“Songs of Sinatra”

Lunch at Marion’s Country Kitchen

\$ 123.00

### SHAW FESTIVAL THEATRE

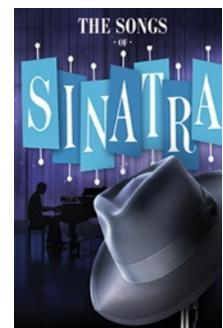
Niagara On The Lake

Wed. Oct. 9, 2013

“Lady windermere’s Fan”

Lunch at the Prince of Wales

\$ 146.00



please contact: Margaret Branscombe  
416-223-8089

## OUR NEW PARISH NURSE – CATHERINE NEWMAN



What a privilege it is to welcome Catherine Newman, RN, into the role of Parish Nurse at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church where she is now serving as a part-time member of our ministry team. Prior to becoming a Registered Nurse twenty years ago, Cathy worked as a social services worker. While she works part-time with us she is also working part-time as a Community Nurse which includes three evenings a week as a nurse to the Out of the Cold programs. It was in this capacity we first met Cathy. She is therefore well known to many of our Out of the Cold volunteers. Cathy can often be seen in the church parking lot on a Wednesday evening doing triage among those lined up for overnight shelter at the church. Later, while our guests are eating their evening meal in the Heritage Room, she is around the corner in a quiet spot attending to the medical needs of our very weary and vulnerable clientele. Cathy will continue to serve as nurse of our Out of the Cold program, but this is not part of her twenty-one hours with YPBC. While she serves with the Out of the Cold she is under the sponsorship of ParaMed. Cathy has special training in chronic illness management, primary health care and in palliative care. In fact her resume reveals numerous additional courses she has taken to strengthen her nursing skills and it also reveals an extensive background in mental health and addictions through several of her previous positions including The

Salvation army Harbourlight Centre and CAMH.

She has had amazing work experiences of over twenty years to prepare her for this position and with training in both Social Services at Seneca College and nursing at George Brown College as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ryerson University and numerous other courses and certificates, Cathy has significant academic credentials. However, most impressive has been the warmth of her personality and the kindness of her spirit.

Cathy identifies faith as the main driver of her nursing work and feels fulfilled in offering her services within faith driven organizations and communities. In this capacity she has led the morning devotions at the Harbourlight, and Sunday Prayers at Evangel Hall Mission. She was also very sensitive to the spiritual needs and aspirations of the Aboriginal community during her years serving with Anishnawbe Health.

It is a great joy to welcome Catherine Newman to the position of Parish Nurse on our ministry team. Cathy's office is on the third floor of the Yorkminster Park Centre in room 505. Her office hours at present are Sunday 10 to 3, Tuesday 9:30 to 4:30 and Wednesday 1 to 6. Her office phone is 416-922-1428. All voice mail messages are confidential. Her email is [cnewman@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:cnewman@yorkminsterpark.com)

## COMMONWEALTH DAY

The following message from the Queen was read by the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario during the 11 a.m. worship service at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church on Commonwealth Sunday, March 10, 2013.

**Her Majesty The Queen, Commonwealth Day Message 2013**

This year's Commonwealth theme, 'Opportunity through enterprise,' is a celebration of our achievements, particularly those that may have seemed challenging, daunting or even impossible, which have helped to build strength, resilience, and pride in our young people, in our communities and in our nations.

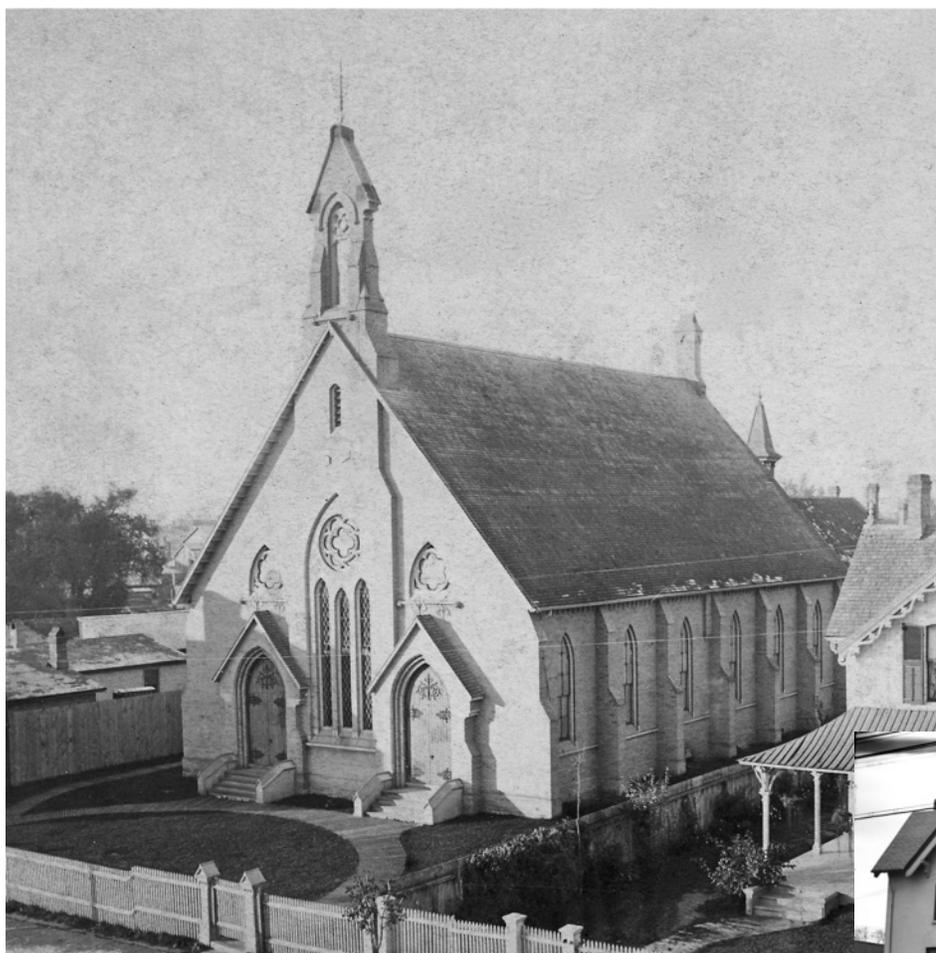
Great achievements in human history have a number of common characteristics. From climbing the highest mountain, to winning a sporting competition, making a scientific breakthrough, building a successful business or discovering unique artistic talent these outcomes all begin as a simple goal or idea in one person's mind.

We are all born with the desire to learn, to explore, to try new things. And each of us can think of occasions when we have been inspired to do something more efficiently, or to assist others in achieving their full potential. Yet it still takes courage to launch into the unknown. Ambition and curiosity open new avenues of opportunity. That is what lies at the heart of our Commonwealth approach: individuals and communities who find ways to strive together to create a better future that is beneficial for all.

Our shared values of peace, democracy, development, justice and human rights which are found in our new 'Commonwealth Charter' mean that we place special emphasis on including everyone in this goal, especially those who are vulnerable.

I am reminded of the adage, 'nothing ventured, nothing gained.' As we reflect on how the Commonwealth theme applies to us individually, let us think about what can be gained with a bold heart, dedication, and teamwork.

And let us bear in mind the great opportunity that is offered by the Commonwealth of joining with others, stronger together, for the common good.



### **Yorkville Baptist Church**

This was the fourth building to be occupied by our congregation (during the 1870's to the early 1880's). It was located on the west side of Yonge St. between Davenport Rd. and Frichot Ave. The building was later used by the Salvation Army and by the 1950's a "rent a car" business. The photo on the left is by *Macorquodale, Artist and Photographer, 43 Yonge St.* and is from the "Collection of the Yorkminster Park Library and Archives"- Randall Speller. Notes and the 1952 photo below are from the Toronto Public Library site.



## YPBC GALLERY

### John Kinsella - Hills and Vales: Landscapes of Southern Ontario

Yorkminster Park Gallery is delighted to welcome John Kinsella to the gallery March 24 through April 29, 2013. John is a painter and was born in Hamilton, Ontario. He studied Art and Art History at McMaster University (1982- 1987) and fine art in the Val de Loire, France (1985). Kinsella's work has been featured in many solo and group exhibitions in Hamilton, Dundas, Grimsby, Toronto and Barcelona. He was a founding member of the artists' group The Contemporaries which exhibited extensively during the 1980s and early 1990s.

Kinsella's exhibition at YP Gallery is titled "*Hills and Vales: Landscapes of Southern Ontario*", a body of work representing a continuation of landscape paintings and poetry started in 2009. His artist statement for this show is as follows:

"These paintings and poems are personal meditations on the beauty and restorative power found in the natural settings of my home province. They are both a metaphor for our aspirations and dreams and a homage to this amazing part of the world we live in. My spirit is refreshed when I gaze upon vistas provided by the many hills and valleys in Southern Ontario. Their images linger in my mind's eye and have become intertwined with who I am. As Shakespeare so aptly put it, 'All the world's a stage' and the landscape of Southern Ontario is the stage on which I, and all those who live here, play out our lives.

While researching the title of this exhibition, *Hills and Vales*, I came across the William Wordsworth poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud (1804), and it struck a chord with me and what I am trying to say in my own work. While I usually write my own poetry for my paintings I found this to be an excellent starting point for my new body of work. I have included this poem with one painting in the exhibition *Hills and Vales*. I hope you enjoy." He currently lives and works in Toronto, Ontario.

#### *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud (1804)*

William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of the bay;  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.



The waves beside them danced, but they  
Out-did the sparkling leaves in glee;  
A poet could not but be gay  
In such a jocund company;  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought;

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon my inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills  
And dances with the daffodils.

submitted by YP Gallery Committee