

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



# YPBC NEWS

March 2011

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



## PETER'S PEN

We read about the prophet Elisha in the Book of Second

Kings. He was the successor to the prophet, Elijah and in many ways his story is overshadowed by the story of his predecessor, who ascended to heaven in a chariot of fire, who appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus, and whose reappearance is still longed for in the Hebrew community. Elisha's life and ministry, however, should not be forgotten.

Elisha's story is rich with meaning. It includes a number of stories that foreshadow the life and ministry of Jesus. These include a miraculous birth, the raising of a dead boy, the feeding of a multitude, and the healing of Naaman the leper. It is a great series of stories upon which to reflect. But recently I came across a passage about Elisha that I had never consciously taken note of – perhaps because it took place after he died - but it too seems to point us to Jesus.

In 2 Kings 13 we read of Elisha's death and burial. In verse 21 we discover that some considerable time after his death a group of Israelites were burying a man near his grave, but when they discovered the enemy was nearby they put their shovels away and ditched the corpse in Elisha's tomb. When the dead man came in contact with Elisha's bones, life came back into him and he rose up from the dead.

On a very basic level one could suggest that when we die and leave a legacy to charity it is life giving, so that even though we are dead we continue to give life and hope and love. But the passage actually claims a resurrection took place when a dead man came in contact with the prophet's bones. There is far more going on than simply a call to leave a charitable legacy, as valid and important as that message may be.

As we continue to move through Lent in preparation for Easter we do so believing that as we come closer to Jesus' cross we become more alive in Christ. As we encounter Christ's suffering and death through Bible study, devotion, prayer, service and worship, we come to life through the transforming power of his love. As we gather around the table of our

## In this issue:

|                             | Page |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Peter's Pen                 | 2    |
| I'll Bring Chocolate        | 3    |
| Open Door                   | 4    |
| Book Review                 | 5    |
| House of Compassion, Cook.. | 5    |
| YPBC Art Committee          | 6    |
| Sabbatical Journey          | 6    |
| AI and Long Range Plan      | 8    |
| Pastoral Care               | 9    |
| Transitions                 | 9    |
| Bus Trip                    | 9    |
| Church Picnic               | 10   |
| Choir Focus                 | 11   |

The cover image is after "The Miracle of the Resurrection" window, Clerestory, Nave, north side.

This issue contains profiles of two long-standing members of the YPBC choir. Subsequent issues will have more. Also featured is the Open Door ministry which opens our Church to Yonge Street and the city beyond.

My request for suggestions has resulted in several items, which will be covered as information and space permit.

The editor welcomes comments and suggestions. Please send them to [pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca](mailto:pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca) Thanks.

*Paul R. Hill*

continued page 10

## I'LL BRING CHOCOLATE

On a snowy Saturday in January, almost ninety women gathered for a day long retreat in the party room of 33 Harbour Square, Toronto. The retreat was led by Rev. Cheryle Hanna and was based on the book *I'll Bring the Chocolate*. The wonderfully warm and inviting venue was made available to us through the kindness of Chris Gay.

Our day began with a time of energetic interaction as we tackled a series of five tasks within the context of *Unwrapping the Communication Candy Bar*. Enthusiastically working our way through these assignments and enjoying some chocolate along the way, we eventually arrived at the *Savouring the Taste Level* of communication, where if all had gone well, we each had a new friend. We thanked God for the women we had met that morning and asked Him to open opportunities for us to move these new relationships to a level of "savouring and enjoyment," acknowledging that when God is "in the middle" of our relationships, everything is possible.

Settling into our chairs, Cheryle led us through a lively discussion of *Chocolate Layer Cake*

*Faith*. Relishing this delicious cake, we sampled our way through *Layer One: Created by God* (Genesis 1:26-2:1), *Layer Two: Appointed to be Friends* (John 1:1; 15:12-16) and *Layer Three: Intimacy With God* (John 17:1-18:1). Before breaking for lunch, we thanked our abundant God for giving us chocolate and for nurturing our faith layer by layer, bringing us ever closer to Him.

After happy conversations and lunch (with chocolate desserts, of course!), we gathered again for a time of reflection on a *Godiva Kind of*

*Forgiveness*. Referencing 1:Peter 3: 8-9, Cheryle encouraged us to make a list of every girlfriend or female family member that has hurt or betrayed us and to take the time to jot down what happened and when. Following this we asked God to replace our anger, bitterness and hurt with forgiveness. Releasing ourselves and the one who had wronged us to God, we prayed to be filled with the desire to be totally restored to Him and fully available for work in His kingdom.

Small group work was next on our agenda. Six groups each focused on one *Chocolate Covered Friend* from the Bible. We explored *Lydia* for Growth; *Prisca* for Self; *Deborah* for Wisdom; *Phoebe* for Support; *Esther* for Leadership and *Martha* of Bethany for Truth. We were given some clues from scripture for each *friend* and a series of questions for discussion that helped us to relate each *friend* and topic to our own lives.

We concluded this time thanking God for giving us *chocolate covered friends* and asking him to help us to become as one of them and always be filled with His joy.

With a great sense of celebration we savoured a chocolate fountain before we left that afternoon.

With hearts full as well, we thanked Cheryle for guiding us and reflected on God's goodness to us and all that the day had meant for our lives. Our retreat was, indeed a sacred space for us and a wonderful celebration of our life together as women of God. And not surprisingly, "Let's do it again!" was the resounding cry as we wended our way home with warmed hearts that cold snowy Saturday in January.



photos by Donna Willett

submitted by Jonanne Fenton

## OPEN DOOR MINISTRY

**Church Open for Prayer & Meditation.** Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we put out this sign on the front step of the church. Many people walk through our doors during the week – people who live or work in the area, tourists or new-to-the-



city visitors who are curious to see the inside of our beautiful building, and a few “regulars” who come to sit quietly. Occasionally, someone will come over to the desk to make a comment or ask a question. Very often we hear, “Thank you for being open”.

The Open Door Ministry commenced on a permanent basis in 2004, initiated by Bill Kerr. At the time of the 9/11 disaster, many people were dropping by any church that was found to be open to seek comfort during that terrible time. Bill had always wanted our doors to be open during the week and some time later, when volunteers were found, we opened our doors on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Gradually, more people became aware of the sign being out front on a regular basis and we added another day to keep the doors open for three days a week from 10 am to 3 pm.

*“One cold day a woman arrived in the narthex. She went into the sanctuary, looked around and then immediately came back to the desk. She asked to speak to the man she had encountered on an earlier visit. I immediately recognized that she was looking for Bill Kerr. She then related the story of her first visit. At that time she had entered the church to meditate and seek solace as she was going through a difficult period in her life. She had recently lost her job and there were several home issues. She said Bill listened, took the time to talk with her and offered prayerful support. Since that visit things had improved at home and she was more able to cope. She attributed the turnaround to her visit at YPBC. Her return that day was to say Thank You”.*

“One day, while I was at the desk, a young woman hurried through the doors and into the sanctuary. Almost immediately, she came out and over to the desk to ask me, could she borrow a rosary, as she had

left hers at home. It made me realize that people don’t really care what “kind of church” we are – the fact that it’s a church and it is open is all that matters”.

*“One young man came in with a camera – he said something about being an artist, and wanted to take pictures of the stained glass windows. I was happy to give him the brochure about the windows, and mentioned the Art Gallery to him”.*

“Sometimes when I am on my shift, nobody comes through the Open Door but then the next time, 5 or 6 people will come by. Very often people thank us for being open”.

Several pieces of literature are available at the desk:

“A Self Guided Tour of the Sanctuary”

“The Story of Stained Glass Windows”

“A Brief History of the Church”

“The Casavant Organ”

As Peter said in the Fall 2003 Newsletter: *“.....it is not always what we do, as much as simply being who we are with our doors open to the stranger and our hearts open to God”.*



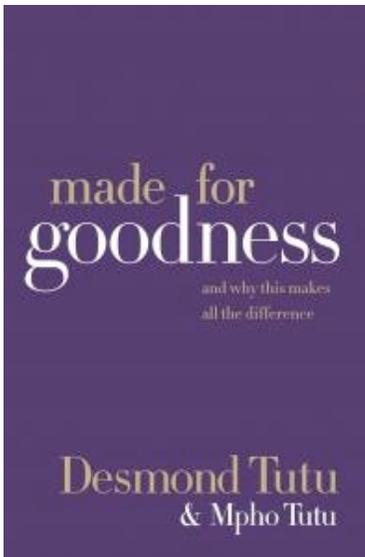
For further information on the Open Door Ministry contact Barb Cooper at 416-487-5805 or [barb.cooper@sympatico.ca](mailto:barb.cooper@sympatico.ca) or drop by any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 10 to 3. **We are open!**

submitted by Barb Cooper

## BOOK REVIEW

**Made for Goodness:** And why this makes All the difference, Desmond Tutu & Mpho Tutu

We are each faced with moments when we wonder whether good will triumph over evil. We gaze at the headlines, we listen to the news broadcast and look into our own life experiences and can become doubtful. Archbishop Desmond Tutu's life story is a witness to his belief that goodness *does* triumph in



the end and this book is a part of that testimony. Desmond Tutu believes that despite our current circumstances, we are made for goodness. He writes, "We are made for goodness by God, who is goodness itself. We are made for and like God, who is the very essence of goodness" (pg. 8).

The work, written along with Desmond Tutu's daughter Mpho Tutu, begins with God and God's intent for humankind as outlined in Christian scripture. We are reminded of work we already know about God. (It is good to be reminded from time to time.) Tutu does not scold or reprimand, but with a pastor's heart shares the promises of God to a hurting world. He moves from God to our response to God in the chapter "Stop "Being Good"". It was hard to hear that we who love God the most can also "slide across the threshold from living our goodness to doing good" (pg. 24). But it was a relief to hear the words of forgiveness and grace. Such is the rhythm of the book. The Tutus share the worst of who we are in humankind through the stories of the cruel apartheid system and then share stories of hope and reconciliation that followed, even if the two were separated by many years of pain and tears. I particularly looked forward to the end of each chapter, when they would share a glimpse of the next and then return us to the heart of God with a poem, prayer or interpretation of scripture.

Many of the stories are heartbreaking and not easy to read; tears may be shed. Yet, the tears become personal when the stories resonate with hardships we each face while at the same time teach us about the apartheid system, the anti-apartheid movement and the resilience of a people. The readers have the added bonus receiving some instruction on hearing God's voice, in the form of meditations and prayers. We are asked to remove ourselves from the 'noisy demands of tribe and nation' and to listen to God.

*Made for Goodness* is a great read and the time spent with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Reverend Mpho Tutu are well spent. This would make a great gift for the very people in our lives.

submitted by Cheryle R.C. Hanna

## COOKING FOR HOUSE OF COMPASSION

Join the Team and help fill the House of Compassion freezer!

"The Yorkminster Meal Club" (that's the name given by the residents of the House of Compassion) would love to have a few more people join our "cook at home" group for the House of Compassion. It's easy and fun and would provide you with a few good, simple-to-make, comfort food recipes.

Once a month, or whenever you are able, you will be provided with "the recipe of the month" – something like chilli, mac and cheese, chicken cacciatore – an aluminium pan, lid and label. At your convenience during that month, in your own kitchen, make the casserole, label it and freeze it. Then, the next time you come to the Church, transfer the container to the House of Compassion freezer. Or if you wish for a pick-up, arrangements would gladly be made. As some other at-home cooks do, you could make the recipe twice, one for House of Compassion and one for yourself!

Inga would be very excited to give more details and a guided tour to the freezer location!

If you are interested in being part of this very worthwhile project, please contact Inga at: [ingaindeerpark@sympatico.ca](mailto:ingaindeerpark@sympatico.ca) or leave a message with Denise in the church office.

submitted by Inga Fjuk

## INTERVIEW WITH YPBC ART COMMITTEE

### **How did Yorkminster Park Gallery start?**

The seed was planted in 1999 when we undertook to upgrade the YP Centre wing and make it fully accessible. Our own Douglas Brown, architect and artist, saw an opportunity in the newly-created lobby. The foyer's practical purpose was to house an elevator and a welcome desk, but why not artwork as well? This idea led to the dedication of the Yorkminster Park Gallery and the opening of its first exhibition on September 16, 2007.

### **Who runs the gallery?**

An Art Committee of artists and art appreciators from our congregation: Lorraine Beech, Sue Ericsson, Jane Havercroft, Debbie Ivison, Doug Obright, Ellie Pattillo, Henry Regehr, Randall Speller, Jim Weir and Edward Welker. The committee reviews artist submissions, hangs shows, liaises with our guest artists, and oversees receptions and publicity.

### **How do you get your artists?**

Some artists approach us directly; some are recommended to us; others are scouted at art shows and invited to apply. We jury their submissions and arrive at a consensus as to who will show in our gallery each month. The high caliber of artists we have exhibited has heightened knowledge of our gallery within Toronto's art community and increased our reach to talented artists and to informed viewers.

### **How many shows do you have in a year?**

Our season runs from September to mid-August. In the month of May we usually represent a photographer who is part of Toronto's photographic festival CONTACT. Otherwise, the gallery features painting, drawing, original printmaking, fibre art and occasionally sculpture in as wide a range of approaches and traditions as possible. The result is seven one-month long exhibits culminating in our Summer Art Show, which presents artists from our own congregation and community.

### **Are the works for sale and where do the proceeds go?**

All works are original and, unless on loan, are for sale. Because Yorkminster Park Gallery is not a commercial gallery, anyone wanting to buy a piece of art is put directly in touch with the artist who then pays the gallery 30% commission. Artist commissions to date have helped pay monthly costs (receptions, art listings) in addition to capital costs still being incurred as we grow into our foyer space.

### **How successful has the gallery been?**

The Art Committee feels encouraged when we re-evaluate our original purposes: to beautify the church entryway, to integrate faith and art and show appreciation for creativity, to expose viewers to a broader experience of art and minister to the human spirit, to be a link with the community, and to be financially self-supporting. Because of the gallery, hundreds of people come into YPBC for the first time. At the February Long Range Planning Summit, Yorkminster Park Gallery was mentioned as an initiative making a significant contribution to the life of the church and the community. Both our artists and our congregation feel enriched by their experiences in the gallery. We look forward to

maintaining excellence in exhibitions and to ministering to the human spirit through the visual arts.

submitted by Sue Ericsson



*from Paul Roorda "Slate Requiem"*

## SABBATICAL JOURNEY

A couple of months ago I wrote in this newsletter about the sabbatical which the Board of Deacons approved for Peter Holmes from April 25 to October 9. As the time for Peter's sabbatical approaches it is important that we be reminded of the purpose of a sabbatical for clergy.

A clergy sabbatical differs from an academic sabbatical. While it includes time for study and reading, it is also meant to be a time of refreshment,

spiritual renewal and rest. It is a time for Peter to receive rather than to give, to get input rather than give output, to carefully nurture and cultivate his life and mind so that he has an opportunity to receive spiritual nourishment. It is an opportunity for pilgrimage with Jesus toward God in prayer, in study and in travel. It is a time for reading, prayer, solitude and reflection.

What follows is an outline of what Peter and the Board of Deacons have planned for his sabbatical.

From April 28 - May 12, Peter and Janet are travelling with CBM on a short term mission trip to Turkey. Those of you who heard the talk and saw the pictures of the group from YPBC who travelled to Turkey last year, will remember the wonderful opportunities which this short term mission tour provided. This will be a rich experience for Peter and Janet, and an opportunity for them to see the work that David and Cathie Phillips (our partners in mission) are doing in Turkey. At the end of this trip Janet returns to Toronto, and Peter travels to Israel (May 16- June 6) for a time of study with a group of students and professors from Tyndale University. This course includes reading, lectures, study and travel. Following this Peter returns to Toronto for a short period of rest. Then from June 13-26 he will be in New York and Chicago, meeting and talking with ministers of large inner city churches like Yorkminster Park, and with other clergy in these cities. Peter returns to Toronto for a time of rest and personal study, and then in July plans to go to Scotland to spend some time with Kerr and Betty Spiers, and time in retreat at Iona. This is followed by continuing study, reading and prayer, until his departure on August 8 to Vancouver to spend time with Darryl Johnson, First Baptist Church, and several other clergy and professors at the Vancouver School

of Theology. From August 13-September 4 Peter will be on holiday in Victoria. From September 5-10 Peter will be reading in preparation for his visit with Craig Barnes in Pittsburgh September 12-17. September 22-29 Peter and Janet hope to attend a Sonscape Clergy Marriage retreat in Colorado. From October 2-5 Peter will be in Minnesota to attend a Celebration of Biblical Preaching under the direction of Walter Bruggerman, and Will Willimon at Lutheran Seminary.

Sunday October 9 we will welcome Peter back to the pulpit at Yorkminster Park.

Brian Haymes arrives in Toronto with his wife Jenny on April 14. On Sunday April 17 in the morning service, we will welcome Brian as our Interim Minister until June 28, and bless Peter as he sets out on his his sabbatical. This will be followed by a reception for all after the service – cake and tea, coffee. Along with Peter and Cheryle and Carolyn, Brian will participate in the services for Holy Week. Peter will preach on Good Friday and Easter Sunday morning.

submitted by Diane Letsche, Chair, Sabbatical Committee

## KING'S SPEECH

**The Link and Visitor**  
Continuing The Canadian Missionary Link and  
The Baptist Visitor  
Published by the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign  
Missionary Societies of Ontario West

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Vol. XII WHITBY, OCTOBER, 1939 No. 9

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**The King's Message to his People  
on the Outbreak of War, September 3rd, 1939**

*In this grave hour, perhaps the most fateful in our history, I send to every household of my peoples, both at home and overseas, this message, spoken with the same depth of feeling for each one of you as if I were able to cross your threshold and speak to you myself.*

*For the second time in the lives of most of us, we are at war.*

*Over and over again, we have tried to find a peaceful way out of the differences between ourselves and those who are now our enemies; but it has been in vain.*

*We have been forced into a conflict, for we are called, with our allies, to meet the challenge of a principle which, if it were to prevail, would be fatal to any civilized order in the world.*

*It is a principle which permits a state in the selfish pursuit of power to disregard its treaties and its solemn pledges, which sanctions the use of force or threat of force against the sovereignty and independence of other states.*

*Such a principle, stripped of all disguise, is surely the mere primitive doctrine that might is right. And if this principle were established through the world, the freedom of our own country and of the whole British Commonwealth of Nations would be in danger.*

*But far more than this, the peoples of the world would be kept in the bondage of fear, and all hopes of settled peace and of security, of justice and liberty, among nations, would be ended.*

*This is the ultimate issue which confronts us. For the sake of all that we ourselves hold dear, and of the world order and peace, it is unthinkable that we should refuse to meet the challenge.*

*It is to this high purpose that I now call my people at home and my peoples across the seas who will make our cause their own.*

*I ask them to stand calm and firm, and united in this time of trial.*

*The task will be hard. There may be dark days ahead and war can no longer be confined to the battlefield, but we can only do the right as we see the right, and reverently commit our cause to God. If one and all we keep resolutely faithful to it, ready for whatever service or sacrifice it may demand, then with God's help, we shall prevail.*

*May He bless and keep us all.*

“Let Thy Mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee”

submitted by Esther Barnes

## APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY AND OUR LONG RANGE PLAN

### Gathering our Stories

Throughout most of 2010, over forty interviewers met with close to two hundred and fifty members and adherents to engage in conversations for the purpose of discovering the best of what people have experienced at Yorkminster Park. Concentrating on our best memories of the past and greatest hopes for our shared future, we encountered wonderful stories and learned interesting things about one another. Our conversations covered a broad range of experience. People undertook discussion willingly and they discovered that their opinions mattered in the life of the church. In so doing, we created a statement or definition of our 'Positive Core' - the best of 'what is', on which we can build for tomorrow. Additionally, we defined eighteen themes that link the positive stories from the past to our hopes for the future. These become our guiding reference points for the work of creating a new long range plan. We are thankful for the interviewers who committed their time to this process and we are grateful to the many people who shared their stories and their hopes for the future.

### The Appreciative Inquiry Summit

In early February 2011, fifty-five of our most involved adults and young people, representing a diverse group of ages, experiences and tenures participated at a Summit on Friday evening and all day Saturday. The purpose was to engage in imagining a shared future, guided by the eighteen themes. (These themes were later distributed to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on March 6.) Participants were divided into seven groups. Each group simultaneously examined each of six topics: Prayer, Worship, Word, Servanthood, Missional and Intergenerational. Ideas were recorded at each table. Then participants reviewed the ideas from all groups other than their own and we thereby identified ideas that resonated with individuals.

The following are comments from some of the participants:

- *"I was inspired by people's stories."*

- "Throughout this Summit the use of Scripture was a big plus in setting a spiritual tone and focus for the Summit."

- *"We heard wonderful stories of how God worked in people and what people hoped for."*

- "I felt guided, but never directed; nothing was pre-determined."

- *"Discussion points led us to specific strategies and possibilities."*

- "The exercise highlighted what resonated for each of us without choosing something or making a decision."

- *"I appreciated the opportunity to get know others in leadership who were just names before, and our wonderful Youth; people so freely expressed their personal feelings and deeply felt hopes for future work"*



The participation by our Youth was immensely appreciated. Without hesitation they contributed with vigour and offered enlightening suggestions. Each generation made important contributions. At the 'wrap-up' our Youth expressed their appreciation for being included.

### Our Next Steps

The Committee is now reviewing the material generated by the congregational conversations and Summit dialogue. We will identify the possibilities that resonated across the congregation and in the Summit discussions and will articulate the implications associated with each possibility. We will then seek any additional input that our leaders - the Ministerial Team and Boards - can provide in order to arrive at a plan upon which we have general agreement. Our new long range plan will be presented to the Board of Deacons this spring for their consideration.

The Appreciative Inquiry model that we are following encourages the practice of gathering committed people together formally and informally to flesh out ideas and share hopes. This practice helps build community, encourages widespread participation and ensures that the church benefits from the insights and opinions of the full congregation. This also helps us to put into practice our understanding of the priesthood of all believers.

submitted by The Long Range Planning Committee

## PASTORAL CARE

Carolyn King, Heather Hetherington and the members of the Pastoral Care Committee recognize that there are many people in this congregation who are caring for loved ones.

We are inviting those who are in this position to attend a **Luncheon** provided by the Pastoral Care Committee. This first event will be on **Thursday, May 12, 2011**. The lunch will be in the Friendship Room and we invite you to come for 12:30. This will be a time to enjoy a meal and talk with others who have similar commitments. We hope to do this regularly and will ask for your comments in order to follow up with events you would find helpful.

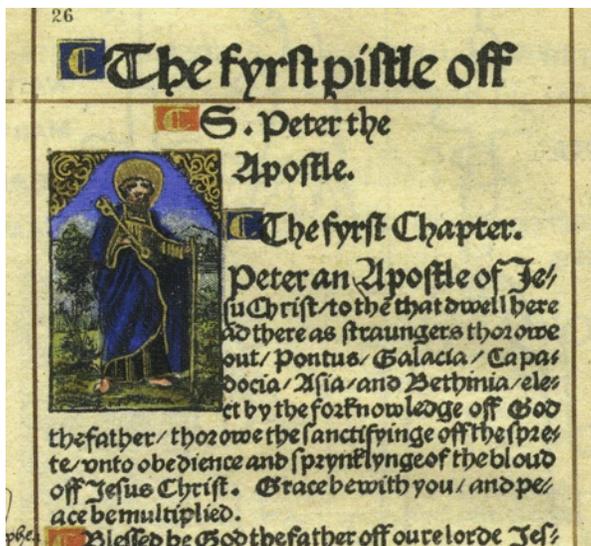
The other event this spring provided by the Pastoral Care Committee is the **Homecoming Service** to be held **May 19, 2011 at 2:00pm** in the sanctuary. People of the congregation who can no longer get to church regularly are invited by letter. This is followed up by a phone call and arrangements for transportation. The service is followed by a tea in the Friendship Room where attendees can enjoy a light snack and conversation with friends they no longer see regularly. We encourage those of you who can get to church regularly to consider attending this service as a support to those for whom this is a special event.

Both of these events will be in the Sunday Calendar closer to the time of each event.

submitted by Rhoda Hill, Chair Pastoral Care Committee

## RARE BIBLES

**Great and Manifold: A Celebration of the Bible in English** - To mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible there is an exhibition at the **Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library**, University of Toronto, until 17 June 2011 (free). This exhibit covers not only the King James Bible but also its noble predecessors as well as Tyndale, Coverdale, the Great Bible, Geneva, and Rheims.



For additional information go to Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library > Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto > Great-Manifold Exhibit and Updated Video Links.

*part of facsimile page of original Tyndale New Testament*

## TRANSITIONS

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

### Infant Dedication

Jack Andrew Vardon, *son of Andrew and Melissa Vardon*

### Birth

William Kato Hanna II, *son of William Kato Hanna and Jasmine Houston*

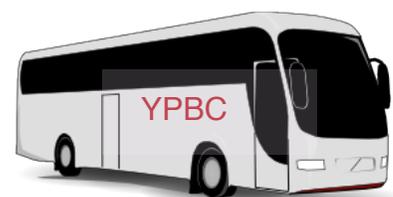
### New Members

Jackie Chung  
Benhilda Hove  
Stephen Hove  
Heather Rayne  
Louise Smith

### Deaths

Ian Rogers  
Donald Lloyd Angus  
Mary Williams

## YPBC FALL BUS TRIP



Thursday, October 20th  
to St. Jacobs  
to see

**“BLUE SUEDE SHOES”**  
*Memories of a King*

Lunch at Benjamin's Inn

Cost \$ 108.00

To reserve call:

Judy MacDonald  
416-225-8295

## CHURCH PICNIC

On a very sunny June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 a quiet section of Sunnybrook Park (actually Serena Gundy Park) was slowly overtaken by folks from YPBC. Initially it was the set-up crew putting up signs, firing up the BBQ, getting ready for races, face painting, the water-balloon toss, and the pot-luck to come. At the appointed time many people arrived carrying lawn chairs and their contribution to the potluck. Everyone was ready to enjoy a few hours of fun and fellowship including children and adults of all ages.

To start the afternoon off we had a “get-to-know you” BINGO name game. The rest of the afternoon was filled with activities including races such as the classic egg race, 3-legged race, and the sponge race. We had the traditional water balloon toss – fortunately it was such a nice day out, no one minded getting wet! The parachute was a great group activity followed by volleyball and bubbles. Croquet, frisbee, face-painting, and walking through the park were also popular. Even with everything going on around them, some folks chose to simply find a shady spot and visit with friends (new & old).

When it came time for the meal, after the prayer through the bull-horn, we were reminded we have a



photo by Donna Willett

lot of talented cooks at the church. Everyone had plenty to eat with a good variety of choice – right down to the delicious dessert options.

After dinner we had some time for one last race, singing (with Sam Lee on the guitar) and then a baseball game in the valley. Before long it was time to pack up and make numerous trips back to the

parking lot – making sure we left the park neat and tidy and waiting for us to return. This event will take place again on **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Look for information in the weekly bulletin in late May. We hope you will decide to join us!

*One final note about the 2010 picnic – it would not have been so successful without history and volunteers. The picnic was very reminiscent of picnics held in years past. We were fortunate to have some tried & true ideas to use in addition to all the new concepts that made 2010 unique. We were privileged to have a wonderful cast of YPBC staff and volunteers who took on the various tasks and made sure their part was completed so well that all of the tasks came together beautifully. Thank you to all involved! If you want to help plan for the picnic in 2011 – please contact Miriam Little.*

submitted by Amy Charette

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## PETER’S PEN cont’d from page 2

Lord and break bread proclaiming his death until he comes we touch and handle things unseen – life abundant and beyond. Yet the story of Elisha’s bones goes further still. It also concerns life after death.

This too we believe, but not because we come into contact with Christ’s bones. To the contrary, because the risen and victorious Christ comes into contact with us, we live. The Book of Revelation reminds us that Christ stands at the door and knocks, and if anyone hears his voice and opens the door, he will come in and sup with them. We need not roll the

stone away from a tomb as in the story of Elisha, for God has rolled it away. We need only open our hearts. In Romans 6:5, Paul wrote that when we were baptized we died with Christ and were buried with him and then raised up with him to live a new life.

I pray that as we move towards Easter and beyond we will come alive to Christ as never before. May yours be a rich and meaningful Lent and a happy and blessed Easter.

Please also be assured that during my sabbatical, for which I am truly grateful, I will be remembering the people of the church in my prayers.

In Christ, Peter

## CHOIR FOCUS

The YPBC Choir is noted for its excellence in music performance and the dedication of its members. Thursday evening rehearsals and two Sunday services for forty weeks a year requires a time commitment not often matched by any other church volunteer group. Below are profiles of two of the long standing members.

**Marilyn Brady** is currently the longest continuously serving choir member having joined the YPBC choir in the autumn of 1970.



She grew up in Fredericton, New Brunswick and graduated from the University of New Brunswick in Science. She also attended Centennial College, Scarborough and is a retired

Professor of

Microbiology and Biotechnology at that institution. She attended Brunswick Street United Baptist Church, Fredericton and sang in junior, intermediate and senior choirs. Her father Bernard was a bass in the choir there and also served as a deacon. Mother Bettie was a Bible study leader and active in other ways. Her grandmother Georgie Bartlett was organist of Bartlett Mills Baptist Church. Marilyn studied piano with Catholic nuns and voice with Mary McLean and Joyce Hennigar. A major influence at Brunswick Street was organist/choir director Gertrude Davis who encouraged solo singing and participation in women's trio. After moving to Ontario she sang in choirs at First-St. Andrews United, London and Fourth Ave Baptist, Ottawa. She also sang in the Scarborough Amadeus Choir for two years in the late 1970's. During summer and early fall she rehearses/studies with the St. Andrews NB ladies' choir "Shiretown Singers" and "Voices of the Bay" 100-strong mass choir of Charlotte County, NB and Washington County, Maine.

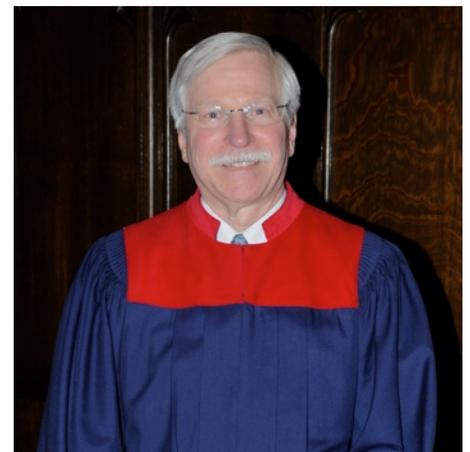
In addition to singing she has served as choir representative on the Board of Music, four years as choir treasurer and served on the social committee for many years. "I like the friendships – the choir is my extended family". She likes the balance between the challenge of learning new music, and the pleasure of returning to well known pieces. The high quality of classical music sung at YP is hard to find these days. The direction received from successive directors is appreciated. She enjoys both participating in regular services and special events, such as Candlelight, Nine Lessons and Carols, Passiontide Devotion, and occasional concerts. She likes to study scripture associated with the words of the anthems and especially likes to sing with organ accompaniment.

Choir tours have been a highlight. She particularly likes learning many settings of Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, and chanted psalms, for Evensong services as well traveling together with choir and family. It was a special privilege to sing as resident choir for a week in cathedrals where psalms of praise and prayers have been offered daily for centuries. Participation in the choir is definitely a commitment of time and energy. She hopes to continue singing as long as her voice is acceptable and the time commitment manageable. She believes anyone who loves to sing both classical and newer repertoire, and is ready to make the time commitment, would really enjoy the YPBC choir. "We are a friendly bunch, and welcome newcomers".

"I would not know what to do on Thursday nights without choir"!

**Doug Bull** joined the YPBC Choir in the early 1970's under the early tenure of Catherine Palmer.

He is currently C h o i r President, a position held since the untimely death of Phil King. He is the second son of Myrtle and Carl Bull, who were married



by Rev. W.A. Cameron at Yorkminster Baptist Church in 1942. Both Doug's parents were active members of the Church and served in the choir. Doug's father was Tenor Soloist from 1938 to 1962. When growing up, music and the friendships made through the choir always played a large part in the Bull household.

Doug grew up in Toronto and graduated from York University in the field of Education. During his early years in the choir, he took voice lessons from Lillian Weichel, who was a Soprano Soloist at Yorkminster in the 1950's.

Other than a three year period in the late 1970's, when Doug was Tenor Soloist at Newtonbrook United Church, he has sung in the Yorkminster Park choir. He has also served as Secretary on the Board of Finance and Administration, and the Board of Deacons. Doug is currently one of the choir representatives on the Board of Music. When Catherine Palmer retired, he was the choir representative on the Search Committee for the new Organist and Director of Music

In 1990, Doug was Cantor for the English Cathedral Tour, which included Matins and Evensong services at Wells and Ely Cathedrals. In a recent U.S. Tour, Doug was Cantor for the Evensong services at St. Mary's Cathedral in Philadelphia and the Washington Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He has served as Cantor for the Evensong services at Yorkminster Park since 1990.

Doug as Choir President, with the invaluable assistance of the choir executive and William Maddox, has chaired the Choir Tour Committees for both the Scotland Tour in 2004 and the U.S. Tour in 2006. He also served as the choir representative on the Supplementary Hymnbook Committee, which collated hymns for "Sing to God's Glory".

Singing in the Yorkminster Park choir has, and continues to be, a rich source of fulfilment. The satisfaction of learning and offering a wide variety of beautiful and challenging music is unsurpassed; this is combined with the many friendships that develop in the choir. Prospective members are always welcome to speak to the Director of Music.

*The YPBC Choir at Winchester Cathedral*

