



YPBC NEWS

September 2010

THANKSGIVING AND REMEMBRANCE

Autumn is the time of Thanksgiving and Remembrance. At Thanksgiving we pause to give special thanks to God for all the many blessings we enjoy as individuals and Canadians. Later we remember the price paid for our collective freedoms. On February 18th of this year John Foster Babcock died at the age of 109. He was the last (known) surviving Canadian World War I veteran. As we read the names of the fallen each year at our Remembrance Day service the memories of those who served, and made the ultimate sacrifice, become more distant. We therefore refresh our memory with the biographies of two of our members who served in the first Great War, and pause to remember their sacrifice.



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PETER'S PEN

Yorkminster Park takes Remembrance Day very seriously. The Sunday prior members of the Toronto Police Military Veterans Association gather south of St. Clair to parade up Yonge Street with the Chief and the Chairman of the Toronto Police Services Board and many of the young cadets before being led up Yonge St. by the Toronto Police pipe and drum band. It is a grand but solemn occasion when the veterans enter the church and parade down the centre aisle. During the service the names of the fallen of the church and the police force are read. It is always remarkable to think of how many young men left our church to serve in the two world wars, but especially sobering to realize how many did not return. My own grandfather served in World War I. He went out from the former Century Baptist Church which was located just south of St. Clair on MacPherson. I often wonder if he wouldn't have known some of those who went out from our congregation and did not return. Fortunately my grandfather

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Although all the WWI veterans are gone some of the WWII veterans are still with us. We will remember them next year.

Our next issue will be in the pre-Christmas period and we hope to have some perspectives from members and former members who now live abroad.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this and past issues. Your interest is encouraging to the editor.

Please send articles, suggestions, etc. to pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca or put them in the the YPBC News box on the lower level.

PRH

did return, but when the names are read again we will be reminded of one who did not return. The grandson he did not live to see now serves as a Deacon.

Sadly in recent years we have lost many of the veterans who returned from the Second World War. This year we have lost a few more of our veterans. One of those was Bob Shales who didn't often reminisce about the war, but one day he accompanied me to Northern Secondary School to watch my son play football and at half time he asked if we might go for a walk in the school as he had attended Northern in his youth. He led me straight to the main entrance inside the front doors where the names of the fallen who had gone out from the high school are now etched in the walls of the entrance way. He read many of the names, sometimes with a smile, but always fighting a tear. Bob was a great storyteller and in that sacred spot he did reminisce

about some of the fallen, but with the deepest sense of gratitude and reverence. It was clearly painful for him to remember, but I will never forget it. We must never forget the sacrifice made.

As Minister of the church I am also mindful of the remarkable legacy of the first minister of Yorkminster, W.A. Cameron, who took a leave from the church, which in those days was located at Bay and Bloor, to serve as a padre in the first war. Another of our veterans who died this year, Dr. Fred Branscombe, told me on several occasions that unlike other padres, Mr. Cameron spent much of his time in the trenches at the front and was known to crawl out into no man's land to offer comfort and prayer to wounded and dying soldiers. It is a great legacy, but not Mr. Cameron's alone, for his ministry was offered in the steps of his Master who laid down his life that we might have the gift of eternal life. Whether we are remembering and giving thanks for those who laid down their lives in an earlier generation or praying for those who have gone out in recent years to serve in Afghanistan, we do so in faith believing the Good Shepherd is with them and will see them home.



THE FALLEN from YPBC

Robert Inman

Corporal Robert Inman, # 163763, 75th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, WWI, was killed in action in France on November 18, 1916. This date is now recognized as the final day of the Battle of the Somme, a particularly bloody battle that had been ongoing for months. Robert Inman, or Grandpa as he is to us, was killed near the village of Courcellette, the site of particularly vicious fighting.



The Robert Inman family on the porch of their St. Clements Avenue home on the day before he left for France

According to a letter which was sent to our Grandmother by Private Kelsall who was with Grandpa when he died, he was hit by a piece of shrapnel from behind and died almost instantly. He was thirty-seven years of age. He left behind in Toronto his beloved wife, Lilian Maud Inman (nee Blakey), and two small children, three-year-old Margaret

and one-year-old Robert Eric (who 25 years later would be Lieutenant Robert F. Inman, one of the Canadian officers loaned to the British Army in World War II). At the time of his death, he was a member of Bloor Street Baptist Church, Toronto.

Our family is fortunate enough to have Grandpa's personal diary which gives a daily, detailed account of his activities and thoughts in Belgium and France, where he saw action from June 1916 to his death in November 1916. Vivid details are given of

life in the trenches – the mud, the rain, the cold. His last entry was made on November 16, 1916, two days before he died.

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for service in September 1915 in Niagara, Ontario. By June of 1916, he was on his way to England aboard The Empress of Britain. Shortly after, he embarked for the continent, was promoted to Corporal in October 1916, and was killed in action one month later.

Because he has no known grave, Robert Inman's name is carved on the majestic and inspiring Vimy Memorial, which overlooks the Douai Plain from the highest point of Vimy Ridge.

Inscribed on the ramparts of the Vimy Memorial are the names of 11, 000 Canadian soldiers who were posted as “missing, presumed dead’ in France. At the base of the memorial, these words appear:

TO THE VALOUR OF THEIR
COUNTRYMEN IN THE
GREAT WAR AND IN
MEMORY OF THEIR SIXTY
THOUSAND DEAD THIS
MONUMENT IS RAISED BY
THE PEOPLE OF CANADA



Our Grandfather’s name is also on the Roll of Honour of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle, and in the Book of Remembrance in the Peace Tower in Ottawa.

“To you from failing hands, we
throw the torch.
Be yours to hold it high.”

submitted by the family of Cpl.
Robert Inman

Walter Allison Kirkconnell

Captain Walter Allison Kirkconnell was killed in action at the battle of Amiens on August 8, 1918 just three months before the end of the war. He was just 24 years old and a Captain in the 45th Regiment (Lindsay-Victoria County) and the 14th Battalion Royal Montreal Regiment.



Walter Allison was the son of Thomas Allison Kirkconnell (1862-1934) and Bertha Watson (1867-1957). Thomas, the father, was born in Prescott County of Scotch-Canadian parentage and became a distinguished Ontario educationalist with a B.A. degree from Queen’s University in Mathematics and Science. From 1879-1894 he taught at various Ontario schools including ones in Port Elgin, Vankleek Hill, Madoc, and Port Hope, the home town of his wife Bertha Watson. From 1895-1908 Thomas was the principal of Port Hope High School, and in 1908 he was appointed principal of the Lindsay Collegiate Institute.

Four sons were born to the couple; Walter (b. 1893), Watson (b. 1895), John and Herbert (b. 1900);

and one daughter, Helen (b. 1890). Walter was the eldest son. At the time of his death he was attending Bloor Street Baptist Church under the leadership of W.A. Cameron; his family members were all Baptists.

Walter, upon the outbreak of war, held the rank of militia lieutenant in the 45th Regiment at Lindsay, and he volunteered for active service the day after war was declared on August 5th 1914. Fifteen days later he left from Valcartier and was overseas on his 21st birthday.

In his 1935 biography of his father, Watson Kirkconnell (the distinguished linguist, historian, and president of Acadia University) wrote of the death of his brother and its effect on their father:

The one deep grief of his (Thomas’s) family life was the death in battle of his first-born son, Walter; a handsome, athletic youth and the son most like him in appearance and temperament. Walter was a second year Law student at Osgood Hall, Toronto, when war was declared on August 4th 1914, and was one of the impetuous young idealists who volunteered for the First Contingent that same day. He left for overseas with the rank of lieutenant on his twenty-second birthday, and survived four years of active service, spinal meningitis, and trench fever, only to be killed in action in the great advance near Amiens at dawn on the 8th of August, 1918. As father and son had both believed in the essential justice of the British cause, sorrow was no doubt tempered by pride; but the deep

heart of fatherhood had suffered an irreparable loss. The subject was one on which he rarely spoke; but the increasing stoop of his shoulders was eloquent of the toll that war had taken. The only reference that I can find in his letters is under the date of February 22, 1919:

We had the melancholy satisfaction this past week of learning first-hand of the circumstances of Walter's death. A young chap named Pearson, born in the south ward [of Lindsay] and educated at the Central School under MacDougall, went across in 1914 with the Royal Montreal Battalion, and like Walter went with the regiment into the battle of Amiens last August. He described to us the march for over a week, marching night after night, for over 100 miles, south to Amiens, resting out of sight of air-men during the day. They had one day's rest on reaching Amiens, and at 4:20 the next morning went over the top. Walter was acting captain that day, and progress was fairly rapid, the distance covered by 9:30 being about 3 1/2 miles. Just then a large oat-field was reached and certain machine-gun nests were located straight ahead. In trying to reach a point where these could be rushed and captured, they came suddenly in line with one hidden on their right among the oats, and it opened fire at almost point-blank range. This same shower of bullets which killed Walter severely wounded Pearson, who was at his side when the fire opened. The casualties in the

platoon in the lead were almost 90% of the strength.



In his own memoirs, Watson records of Walter that:

"All this skill [in weapon's training] availed him little in the early hours of August 8, 1918, in the Battle of Amiens, when the platoon he was leading ran in to a nest of machine-guns in a grain field south of Villiers-Bretonneaux. I visited his grave on December 13th, 1921, in the tiny "Toronto British" cemetery, twenty-two kilometers east of Amiens, on the broad grassy summit of a hill and two hundred yards north of a still obvious line of trenches. There, five thousand miles from our common home, I felt as never before the pathos of the verses of Catullus; translated from the latin to read:

*Through many seas, my brother, and many a nation
I come to this thy bitter burial place
Bringing a debt of lamentation
A last vain call to thee whose dust is silent.*

*Since callous fortune has bereft us,
Each of the other, dear unfortunate brother
Now, however, receive these sad gifts
Which in the ancient customs of our parents
Are handed down as funeral tributes
Wet with a brother's tears*

And for eternity, my brother, hail and farewell.

References

Kirkconnell, Watson. A Canadian Headmaster : A Brief Biography of Thomas Allison Kirkconnell 1862-1934 (Toronto, 1935): 47-48
Watson Kirkconnell. A Slice of Canada : Memoirs. ([Toronto]: Published for Acadia University by University of Toronto Press, 1967) ; 98.

submitted by Randall Speller

TRANSITIONS

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

Infant Dedications

Marcus Albert Archer
Charmaine Grenke-Archer & Eric Archer
Joshua Gregory Ellis
Dakota Ramlaal & Gregory Ellis
Ryan George Daniel Kwong
Audra Young & Raymond Kwong

New Members

Denise Castonguay
Audra Kwong
Raymond Kwong

Marriages

Reid Johnson & Allison Bradbeer
Janice Bellmore & Robert Giles
Christina Fernandes & Ricardo Burton
Sandy Gibbs & Ian Boone

Deaths

Ron Adams
Frederic Branscombe
Jean Inman

YPBC WOMEN - EVENTS

DATES TO KEEP:

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23 - FALL THANKOFFERING LUNCH - HERITAGE ROOM PROGRAMME 10:30 AM LUNCH-12NOON TICKETS \$15 - AVAILABLE FROM WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE EVERYONE INVITED! Come and hear the "Report from Lebanon" with our "fact-finding" team - Jane Havercroft (Team Leader), Rev. Peter Holmes, Dennis Connor, Jonanne Fenton and our special guest Rupen Das. Our team will be sharing their insights, experiences and learning as they have interacted with the leadership and observed the diverse ministries of the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development, otherwise known as the Lebanese Baptist Society (our Canadian Baptist Ministries STEP partner). Opportunities to become acquainted with the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, the Lebanese Baptist School, the Children's and Youth Camps and the work that Rupen is doing through Lebanese Baptist Aid will all be part of this Short Term Mission for the purpose of building relationships with our partner and determining YPBC's focus for our 25% of the STEP commitment.

Following our programme a delicious lunch will be served with plenty of opportunity for conversation and enjoyment of one another's company around our tables. We warmly invite everyone to this, our first event of the Fall season!

MONDAY OCTOBER 25 - SALT AND LEAVEN - POTLUCK SUPPER

AT THE HOME OF VIOLET PANTILIDIS

**16 CHESTNUT PARK ROAD
ALL WOMEN INVITED!**

This is an evening for all women to come and be encouraged, refreshed, to meet new friends and to enjoy a yummy supper. All this in a lovely, relaxed setting after a busy day! Come and bring a friend to this welcoming women's event.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19, 7 P M DESSERT 8 PM PROGRAMME IN CONCERT WITH... EDUARD KLASSEN, PARAGUAYAN FOLK HARPISIT AND SPEAKER (CHRISTIAN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC)

Come for dessert and stay to enjoy this special concert. It is Eduard's and our prayer that God will bless this programme and that lives will be touched and encouraged through the ministry of beautiful music and his personal testimony. Eduard will also be bringing his CD's and DVD's for sale. An opportunity to get a head start on Christmas shopping! Everyone is warmly invited to what promises to be an engaging and inspiring evening. Information about our harpist can be found at www.eduardklassen.com

submitted by YPBC Women's Executive

WONDERING

The hymn we sing at most Remembrance Day services begins with "Our God, our help ... " In other hymn books it began "O God ..." The reason for the difference, according to The Baptist Hymn Book Companion, is that in the 18th century John Wesley altered the wording. Our hymn book reverts to the original wording.

CANADA'S TOP 40 UNDER 40 AWARD

Our member Will Andrew, President and COO of Trimark Sportswear Group, has been recognized as one of Canada's emerging leaders. Mr. Andrew was selected as one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40™ for the year 2009. Upon receipt of the award he stated "I am grateful for this honour, and I am fully aware that our success has been a team effort and that this recognition is shared with our entire team ...".



Canada's Top 40 Under 40™ is a prestigious national award program, which annually honours 40 Canadians in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors under the age of 40.

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PSALM XC.

OUR God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;

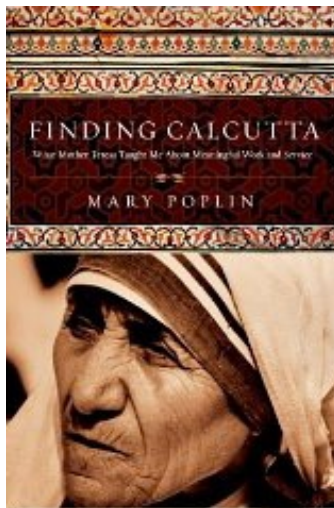
AN UNCOMMON LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE

Some time ago the C.T.V. program W5, presented a show, highlighting the ever increasing decline in ‘common courtesies’ in our society. Basic manners seem to be disappearing in our culture. This program mentioned a number of reasons for this decline, a few of which are the increasing speed of life; the high demands imposed upon individuals by employers; the balancing of family-life and careers; the need for instant gratification from our ‘me-first’ mentality; and the cultural influences imposed by our ever increasing multicultural society.

It is a shame to see the common courtesies and love of neighbour diminish within our culture. Wasn't our culture based originally on Christian values? Do not the virtues of Galatians 5:22 add greatly to the quality of our lives and those of others? ***‘The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.’*** These characteristics lead us to a more satisfying life both now, and as the Scriptures tell us, in the life to come. Adding these qualities to life can greatly increase its significance, give it greater meaning and add immeasurably to the lives of those around us.

Have you ever wondered if perhaps God intended you for bigger things or that perhaps your chance at leaving a mark on this world has passed you by? Something I am learning is that

chasing idealistic notions of bettering myself or mankind can actually direct me away from my calling in Christ. That's because achieving big personal dreams or implementing social programs for the betterment of others really isn't at the heart of Christianity. God redeemed us by exchanging His importance for a hidden, mostly ordinary life that culminated in a humiliating death.



Mother Teresa grasped God's special love for littleness with startling clarity. While Mother Teresa is viewed as a spiritual celebrity who did ‘big things’ for the world, a closer look into her ministry reveals a woman who did not care for broad, idealistic notions. It was the simple yet profound gestures of Galatians 5:22 that gave her life significance.

In the book *“Finding Calcutta”* Professor Mary Poplin reflects on the two months she spent with Mother Teresa and her ‘Missionaries of Charity’. As a worker in the Missionary-run home, Poplin found herself immersed in a humble life most would find excruciatingly boring.

A typical day for a ‘Missionary of Charity’ worker is filled with repetitive, tedious chores all necessary to meet the needs of those arriving at their doorstep.

Poplin shares: “[Mother Teresa] believed that welfare is for a purpose – an admirable one – whereas Christian love is for a person.” The Missionaries' love for a personal God fuels them to love on a personal level, believing no global cause can be effective if it disregards the dignity and the qualities of Galatians 5:22 towards even the most insignificant person. So they feed each disabled infant as if they are feeding the infant Christ. They bathe each dying man as if they are bathing the crucified Christ. They turn no one away, moving through their hours with joy, when most would have given up long before out of despair.

Poplin notes that during her time with this world-renowned ministry, she never heard a Missionary sister speak of eradicating the world of hunger. They simply fed the hungry person in front of them as they showed them gentle loving care. By the extension of the common courtesies of life they imparted dignity to even the most rejected among them.

Poplin says: “The humility and clarity with which Mother Teresa understood her task was one of the most incredible things about her. People go into teaching, nursing, politics, or business with ideas of doing revolutionary things. Starting out with the fervour to change the world can

be a quick route to discouragement. Sometimes despair is a result of thinking too highly of oneself."

As Christians, we must be careful to fend off this despair born of pride. Chasing ideals apart from the "smallness" of Christ can distract us from God's will. Chasing ideologies apart from Christ can blind us to meeting the immediate needs of those sitting in front of us.

Mother Teresa once encountered a starving man, lying on the steps of a conference centre where important leaders gathered to address, (of all things!) world hunger. In a worst-case scenario, a failure to balance global thinking with love and simple kindnesses 'for the least' can lead well-meaning people down a path filled with utopian philosophies that promote evil instead of good.

I am slowly learning to train my 'idealist within' to accept that a simple life of serving those around me is often God's ideal. We can do all this within our employment context or in retirement. Living simply, loving our neighbours generously, showing the increasingly uncommon courtesies and caring deeply, is a worthy goal. If we are unwilling to love each individual we encounter, then our highest ideals for humanity amount to little.

Rev. Barbara Fuller (a Missionary to Moldova) in her article in the [Link and Visitor](#), entitled 'Intersecting Faith and Life,' draws our attention to the

need to make our 'worship become more than words.' Weaving the simple actions of the 'fruit of the spirit' into life can add true significance to it.

We Christians are challenged to have a personal relationship with God and those He loves. Serving a person in need, not for our own satisfaction or to serve 'a cause', but because that person is a fellow human being loved by Christ is truly a worthy life goal.
submitted by Suzanne Wilkinson

BOOK REVIEW

Becoming Fully Human: The Greatest Glory of God - Joan Chittister, OBS



I like Joan Chittister. It may be the obvious that she is female and the voice of a female is just different from that of a man's (not better just different) and as a preacher/theologian the published voices of men far outweigh those of women. So, maybe I am biased. Yet as I think more deeply I realize that I like Joan Chittister because she loves God. She loves God and dares to think and write from the view of

the beloved. She is not worried that God's love is conditioned or limited and is therefore free to express her deepest questions and greatest longings.

Sister Joan is a member of the Benedictine Order and *Becoming Fully Human* is written to struggle with the question –“Are we ourselves really leading a good life? Here in the morass of every day, here where we feel overwhelmed and powerless and confused, with what do we measure our own lives?” (IX) And I think she does a very good job. After a very brief introduction she asks twelve questions. Twelve is a very good number. Twelve questions mirrors the biblical narratives' use of twelve as an indication of completeness or wholeness. Each question has an accompanying scripture, a story a several quotes from Sister Joan and others on the topic.

Becoming Fully Human would be excellent devotional reading, taking several days to read through each question while adding your own answers and stories. By taking many days on each I felt myself relax and take myself less seriously and was reminded that the Christian walk is just that—a walk; one that takes time and has places of difficulty and ease. It is God's intention that the image of God be manifest in us.

I recommend *Becoming Fully Human: The Greatest Glory of God*.

submitted by Cheryle Hanna

COMING TOGETHER: It's Our Story

The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news for all the women of the world.

For over a century, this conviction has brought Baptist women from many countries together across barriers of geography, culture, language, and war. They have prayed for each other, supported each other, delighted in each other, and learned from each other. They have addressed issues that concern women around the world, and offered dignity to those who do not know they are made in the image of God. Together, they radiate the light of Christ into the dark corners of women's experience.



Coming Together: A History of the Women's Department, Baptist World Alliance is their story.

It's also Yorkminster Park's story. Not only is it written by our own

Esther Barnes. It includes major Baptist women's events that happened here, such as an evening service and lawn party that attracted 2,000 guests from around the world.

Coming Together was launched in Honolulu, Hawaii, at the Baptist Women's Leadership Conference in July 2010. Esther signed hundreds of copies there. She will also be signing her new book-though on a much smaller scale-at its Canadian launch on Sunday evening, October 3, from 5:30 until 7:00 in the Friendship Room. Light refreshments will be served, and books will be available for a donation of \$10 per copy.

The Women's Department commissioned Esther to write this book (her first) after she retired as editor of *The Link & Visitor*. During her 20+ years with the *Link*, she had reported on a dozen international events and had the privilege of meeting many of the women whose stories are in the book. She is currently vice-president (communications) of the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU), one of the seven continental unions that make up the Women's Department.

This 192-page book can also be purchased for \$10 through ReadOn Bookstore, 100 - 304 The East Mall (416-622-6800 x 308 or books@readon.ca).

submitted by Esther Barnes

SLIPPERS - MOLDOVA

A most sincere thank you to everyone who knit and/or donated funds for the Moldova Toronto Slipper Project. Two hundred slippers were made in Moldova by friends of Barb Fuller and close to 200 were knit by Toronto Baptist women.

The slippers were given as a gift from Toronto Baptist women to women from all over the world who attended the Baptist World Alliance Leadership Conference in Hawaii this past July. The slippers were a symbol of the Conference logo – “In Step with the Spirit”.

The money that was donated toward the project paid for the wool that was supplied to the Moldovan women and paid them \$3.00 for each pair of slippers made. The remaining several hundred dollars will be used to provide food boxes for older Moldovan women living in poverty in remote villages.



Esther Barnes presents slippers to Indranie Premawardhana, a widow from Sri Lanka and Past President of the Asian Baptist Women's Union

submitted by Inga Fjuk

LESTER C. RANDALL PREACHING FELLOWSHIP

The twenty-fourth annual Lester C. Randall Preaching Fellowship will have as guest lecturer the **Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall**. She is the President and Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation at the Central Baptist Seminary in Shawnee, Kansas. While she has served as youth minister, campus minister, and pastor in churches across Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Kentucky, Molly's great passion is theological education, or in her words, "forming people for transforming ministries." During her tenure as president, Central Baptist Seminary has grown, moved and expanded. Molly has been imaginative in her design of theological education developing satellite campuses in Tennessee and Wisconsin and an urban core initiative program as well as courses online.

Dr. Marshall's focus for the weekend - preaching on the Trinitarian life of God - reflects some of her most recent thinking in which she brings the mind of a scholar and the heart of a pastor to bear on one of the most vital doctrines of the church for today. On Saturday afternoon she will be conducting a workshop for clergy and seminarians on the crafting of the sermon. This promises to be a refreshing exercise with one well versed in the great tradition of 'Lectio Divina,' through which sermon preparation becomes a spiritual exercise.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist

University she completed both her M.Div. and Ph.D. at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She has also engaged in studies at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, Cambridge University and Princeton Seminary where she was also a Visiting Scholar. She has presented academic papers at numerous conferences and keeps a very busy preaching schedule.



Her writings include three monographs, *No Salvation Outside the Church*, *What It Means to be Human*, and *Joining the Dance: a theology of the Spirit*, as well as numerous articles and chapters in other publications and a blog on the seminary website at <http://mtmarshall.blogspot.com/>. Dr. Marshall is an enthusiastic tennis fan, a lover of English choral music and has a reputation for cooking a world-class chili one variety of which has been known to have the brave of heart revise their eschatology.

Molly's ordination credentials are with the American Baptist

Churches USA and she is a member of the Prairie Baptist Church in Prairie Village, Kansas.

Lecture - Saturday, October 30, 10:30 am Cameron Hall

"Telling it Slant: Preaching on the Trinitarian Life of God"

The doctrine of the Trinity holds great promise for renewing congregational life. Thought to be an esoteric doctrine only for professional theologians, it actually describes God's life with us and our life with one another. Because it is about the richness of relationship and requires poetic language, the preacher must "tell it slant" in the words of Emily Dickinson.

Workshop - Saturday, October 30, 1:30 pm Friendship Room, Sermon Preparation led by Dr. Marshall for clergy and seminarians

First Sermon - Sunday, October 31, 11:00 am "God Plays all the Roles" Genesis 1: 1:1-2; Proverbs 8:1-5; 1 John 5: 7

Second Sermon - Sunday, October 31, 7:00 pm "The Church as Icon of the Trinity" Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13.

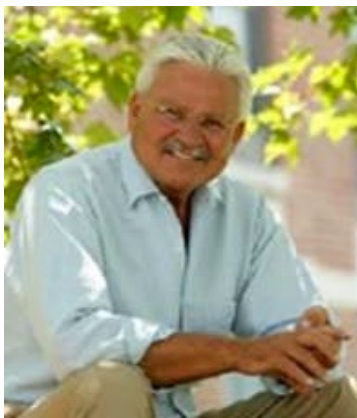
The Lester C. Randall Preaching Fellowship was established through the encouragement of the then senior minister Rev. Dr. John N. Gladstone, in the name of our member and faithful servant the late Lester C. Randall and the generous funding of the late Gerard H. Collins. The first guest lecturer was Rev. Dr. A. Leonard Griffith.

submitted by the LRPF Committee



The late Robert E. Webber coined the term “ancient future worship”. He defined Ancient-Future Worship as tasting the “communion of the fullness of the body of Christ.” Webber devoted his life to inviting believers to worship as “one body,” joined through “one Lord, one faith, one baptism”. (Ephesians 4:4-5).

Webber immersed himself in many Christian traditions. Born to Baptist missionaries, he graduated from Bob Jones University, earned degrees at Anglican, Presbyterian, and Lutheran seminaries, and taught at Wheaton College and Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.



In the 1970s, Webber’s book *Common Roots* reminded Protestants that Christianity did not begin with the Reformation. That’s why he said it makes sense to study early church life, spirituality, witness, and worship—and see how it flowered

from Jewish liturgical roots. He always took a big picture approach to worship - always aiming to place it within the biblical narrative.

To help believers bridge biases that bruise Christ’s body, he joined the Convergence Movement. He persuaded evangelical leaders to develop jointly “*The Chicago Call*” (1977) and “*A Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future*” (AEF Call, 2006). Both documents make a case for reconnecting with historic Christianity.

In *Ancient-Future Faith: Rethinking Evangelicalism for a Postmodern Generation*, Webber wrote. “*The story of Christianity moves from a focus on mystery in the classical period, to institution in the medieval era, to individualism in the Reformation era, to reason in the modern era, and, now, in the postmodern era, back to mystery.*” From its origins, authentic Christian faith has not been limited to one particular form of expression or experience.

Ancient Future Worship is not about a particular liturgy or style of worship. Rather, Ancient-Future Worship is about rooting our worship as the early church did—in God’s story—so we embody not our culture or

personal preference but God’s mission.

Ancient-Future Worship fits well into the life of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. Our community of faith spans generations, denominational heritages, and many cultures. Approximately every two months, an Ancient-Future Worship service takes place in Cameron Hall on a Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM. Characteristically, no two Ancient-Future Worship services are alike. Yet, common to all Ancient-Future Worship is a high place and regard for Holy Scripture and prayer.

We are looking for some people, young, old, or somewhere in between, who are interested in learning about and participating in Ancient-Future Worship at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

If you:

- **Can devote an evening about once every six weeks**
- **Are willing to serve in some way regarding a mid-week service at YPBC, and**
- **Are keen to deepen your understanding of Christian worship, rooted in the Ancient Church and applied to the postmodern culture of our times**

please contact: Alan Brisco
647-869-1619
(abrisco@northernvantage.com)
or Ellie Pattillo 416-934-9192
(ellie.estey@sympatico.ca)

submitted by Alan Brisco

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

What is all this talk about having conversations?

Since the spring of 2010 the Long Range Planning Committee, under the auspices of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church's Board of Deacons, has been leading our church through a long-range planning initiative. This work follows a process, known as Appreciative Inquiry (AI).

If you regularly attend Yorkminster Park, you likely have one of three responses to this news:

1. I have never heard of this initiative or Appreciative Inquiry. **Tell me more.**
2. I know about this initiative, but **I haven't been approached or participated yet.**
3. **I have been interviewed already and would like to know how the process is progressing.**

This communication will address all three of these responses.

1. Tell Me More...

Why is Yorkminster Park Baptist Church doing long-range planning?

As one of our Deacons wisely noted, "Responsible organizations undertake long-range planning (LRP) at regular intervals". He also pointed out, "the justification for church LRP should differ from that of other organizations." In fact, "The basis for undertaking AI at

YPBC is to identify areas where we are in need of 'worthy' change (i.e., change that God wants)."



Healthy churches seek to discern what God desires and how he wants to accomplish his purposes. Then, a wise church joins in with what God desires, rather than asking God to bless what the church desires. A reasonable follow-up question would be, "How can a church know what God desires?"

Scripture refers to the church as the composite of people who seek to know, love, and serve God in personal relationship with him. Of course, the church is not comprised of perfect people or there wouldn't be any people in it. Two biblical references give us insight about how to proceed with planning:

a) We believe the words of I Corinthians 12:27, which teaches "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Here we see clearly that the church is comprised of all sorts of people; each person is important. By the way, we believe this is true of each

church community, like Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, not just the whole of the Christian Church worldwide and throughout time.

b) The text of I Peter 2:9 says of the church, "you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." So, we can see that God's people are a declarative people. In other words, God's people declare, they talk about how He has been active in their individual lives and among them as a community of faith. Much of people's declaration occurs through conversations. Interestingly, much of the biblical narrative is a record of such conversations.

These foundational references informed our thinking about YPBC's long-range planning. As a church community, we recognize:

- i) The need to discern God's will and purposes for our future, since it is his church, not ours.
- ii) The benefits to our church by engaging as many people as possible in long-range planning.
- iii) The need to involve people, one individual at a time, in sharing their insights and understandings.

What is Appreciative Inquiry (AI)?

The Appreciative Inquiry process fulfills all of these characteristics; occurring in the context of multiple focussed conversations with many people regarding common life-giving topics.

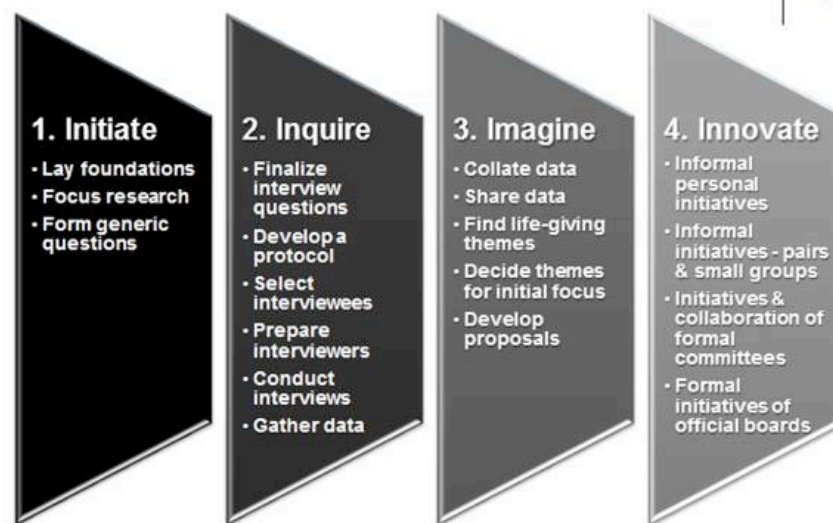
Appreciative Inquiry consists of four phases designed, through conversations, to identify the factors that give health and life to a community of people. Then, these factors help us articulate possibilities for a better future for those who are part of our YPBC community and others whom we serve.

During Phase 1 the Long-range Planning Committee laid out guidelines for approval by the Board of Deacons. In Phase II we defined core questions for focus during AI conversations. The six core questions focus on three areas:

- One's best memories from one's time at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.
- What one values most about YPBC and the community of people.
- One's greatest hopes for YPBC's future.

Then, we contacted and trained interviewers. We trained almost 50 YPBCers as interviewers – to meet one-on-one in confidential conversations. This equipped us to speak with anyone who was or is willing to spend between 30 and 60 minutes with an interviewer to respond to six core questions.

Four Steps of the AI Process



Then, in May, we began conversational interviews. To date we've interviewed just over 200 people at YPBC: teenagers, young adults, middle agers and seniors; long-term and new YPBCers, members and adherents; laity and leaders.

AI demonstrates reverence for God and respect for the memories and hopes of every person who is part of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church – of every person who thinks of YPBC as his or her church.

2. I haven't been approached or participated yet.

If you haven't been contacted about being interviewed for an Appreciative Inquiry conversation, forgive us. Please contact the church office because we want to hear from anyone who is willing to be heard.

Your willingness to invest less than an hour of your time over a coffee or on a telephone call, will help this process and benefit the church in many ways. People who've already been interviewed have told us that the process was easy, encouraging, and even refreshing.

If we have not yet contacted you, it's not due to lack of interest. So, please contact us through the church office at 416-922-1167 where Denise Byard, our Ministry Assistant, can take your name and phone number, or you can leave a message on her extension (Ext. 221) at the church.

3. I have been interviewed and would like to know how the process is progressing.

We're making good progress. We are quickly regaining whatever momentum we lost through the summertime. We've held AI

conversations with each person on the ministry team, almost all members of the Board of Deacons, and members of other boards. We've interviewed many of the youth and people of all other age groups. To date approximately 70% of our AI participants are members; the rest are adherents. In total, we've completed Appreciative Inquiry conversation with over 200 people and we're hoping to interview a total of nearly 400 people. So, we've got some interviewing left to do.

Apart from one-on-one interviews, in October and November we're going to meet with willing members of the various church boards to converse about their memories and hopes in the context of their board's focus. We're also planning to gather some larger groups of people around several specific topics to converse about topically-related memories and hopes.

During Phase III, the long-range planning committee, informed by the input and insights of the church Boards, will soon review the composite records of these conversations. The purpose of the reviews is to identify life-giving themes, stories of God's grace and love, trends that indicate God's grace and action in the lives of YPBC's people. Then, in early February a diverse group of people, representing YPBC's leadership, various boards, and laypeople of different ages and interests will convene on a Friday evening and

all day Saturday to map some goals for the long-term future at YPBC. The group's purpose will be to express these goals as proposals regarding whom we may become and what these goals will require of us. Then, in Phase IV, over subsequent months and years, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church's boards, committees, small groups, and individuals will convert these goals into specific actions.

Summary

Of course, all of our planning is completed with a keen awareness of *Deo Volente*, which means "God willing". We acknowledge and affirm that we are always dependent upon God's guidance and provision. We believe fervently the words communicated in Ephesians 3:19-21, "to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Please join us on this Appreciative Inquiry initiative. We're all on a journey together as a community.

submitted by the Long-Range Planning Committee

YPBC GALLERY



Oct 9-Nov 11; Artist reception Sun. Oct 10, following morning service.

Yorkminster Park Gallery is most fortunate to present portraits by **James MacDougall, OSA**. A doctor by profession, Jim pursued painting and music throughout his medical career. MacDougall received important encouragement from A. Y. Jackson, and the two exhibited together in 1965 at the Klinkoff Gallery in Montreal. The majority of Jim's medical practice was spent in Nairobi, Kenya which accounts for the charming smaller watercolours in our current exhibition. In 1982 MacDougall retired and returned to Canada to continue his exploration of portraiture and the figure. Working in oil and in the presence of the subject, MacDougall describes engaging in a three-way conversation between the sitter, the artist and the canvas. His focus aims at the psychology and personality of his subjects resulting in life-sized works full of intimacy and vitality.

(www.jimmacdougallart.com)

**Nov 12-Dec 22; Artist reception
Sun. Nov 14, following
morning service.**

Our gallery's first fibre artist will set the mood for Christmas. Creemore-based **Tracey Lawko**

creates breathtakingly intricate and rich tapestries. Her subjects come from nature in all its seasons. Through embroidery techniques Lawko depicts berry, flower and field with a tangible

three-dimensional allure known as "stumpwork." You will want to visit this jewel-like exhibition more than once.

submitted by Sue Ericsson



CHURCH BBQ - 2010

photos by Donna Willett

