YPBC NEWS

Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

FALL ISSUE 2026

FROM THE PEN OF THE REV. DR. KEN BELLOUS INTERIM MINISTER

September always feels a bit like a new year beginning. It is the season when schools and universities start up again after the summer break. Cottagers head back into the city. Leaves begin to change colour. Birds begin to gather for their flights to warmer climates. Fields and fruit trees mature and yield their harvests. And here in the church we launch our fall programs. New board and committee members begin their terms of service. It does feel like a whole new chapter.

Even though we are at the start of something, there have been good things continuing all through the summer. Our excellent Family Ministries team have continued to provide worship times and classes for our children each Sunday. We are grateful that after our children come forward during our Sunday service they head out to their own time of worship and learning. Leticia Limgenco leads her team of able volunteers who faithfully help our children to grow in their faith.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Minister of Pastoral Care and Discipleship 3

How God Works to Bring Love and light into Our Lives 5

Urban Missionaries 7

Missions Update 8

Out of the Cold 9

YPBC Women's Ministries 10

New Members 12

Family Ministry 14

Bobby's Birthday 16

Gladstone Library 17

Anniversary Celebrations .. 18

YP Art Gallery 19

And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.

Zechariah 8:4–5

Katherine Laundy led a team of volunteers on Fridays as they gathered in our church kitchen to make sandwiches for needy folk in our area. Christ Church Deer Park, just across the street, hosts a Saturday breakfast program and the sandwiches from our team supplemented that meal with a take-away lunch.

Mission education was part of our summer activities. On behalf of our Board of Mission, Ahmeda Mansaray-Richardson hosted Evangeline Hammond, one of our CBM staff in Lebanon. Evangeline updated us on some of the work of our STEP partner in Lebanon. She works in leadership development and helps in camp development with our Lebanese churches.

We began September with a wonderful day of celebration on Welcome Back Sunday. My heart was lifted as I walked up the aisle during the first hymn and heard the swell of the whole congregation singing, led by the choir. Our education and discipleship leaders then came forward for dedication and prayer. What encouragement! The dedication of twins and their parents offered a delightful glimpse of a hopeful future, and it was a joy to see so many children gathered for their blessing. The Welcome Back Ministry Fair after the service reminded us of the many ways we work together in God's name. It was a good day.

The new season of worship and ministry is truly underway. There are many exciting events and opportunities coming in the next few months.

The Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship begins the weekend of October 25, and we look forward to welcoming The Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown and the Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes to our pulpit as guest preachers.

The Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes

The Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown

John Bell

Monday, October 26, 7:00 p.m., **"The Big Sing"** comes to Yorkminster Park, led by renowned musician, and hymnologist John Bell.

November 8, 11:00 am is **Remembrance Sunday** with the Toronto Police Services and the Toronto Police Services Military Veteran's Association.

We all look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord with celebrations of music and worship as that busy season will soon be upon us.

It is so good to be part of a community where we can share with one another in worship and service. May God richly bless you as you participate.

Prayerfully – ***Ken Bellous***

Sunday, September 27, we celebrated our 98th Anniversary. The Rev. Dr. Andrew Stirling preached, followed by a reception in the Friendship Room.

FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP

Fall is one of my favourite seasons of the year, even as I am filled with longing for spring and summer to return before fall has ended! Fall is a time when we give thanks for the bountiful harvests our land so generously produces, a time when that land is allowed to rest a while, a time when the briskness of the air reminds us that we had better be prepared because soon it will be cold. One of the sounds that I love hearing at this time of year is the scritch scratching of neighbourhood squirrels gnawing at delicious nuts, so conveniently ready at just the right time for both consumption and storage. It is amazing how God has built into everything he has made, much needed wisdom for us to procure, much loved evidence of his loving hand wherever we turn.

When we choose to feed on the Word, whatever season we are in, we are choosing life, the Living Word. We too can be as wise as the little creatures who live alongside us and accept the gifts of God readily.

Yorkminster Park is rich in Bible Studies. On Sundays and throughout the week, we are a church that learns and grows in community. For those who prefer other ways to fellowship, the Dorcas Group, which is celebrating a milestone anniversary this month, the YPBC Book Club, the Prayer Shawl Committee, and our burgeoning Young Adults group offer just some of the many ways at Yorkminster Park to join together in Christian love. To learn more visit yorkminsterpark.com> grow.

On Tuesday mornings at 10 am, we will be exploring and celebrating the *Spirituality of Aging*. As we continue to grow into the lives we have been graced with, it is wonderful to recall that God's goodness is indeed available in the land of the living and in all seasons.

No matter what time of year it is, pastoral needs are as constant as God's love. Whether you are wrestling with theological questions, a health challenge or other matters of importance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at either 416-922-1240, or pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com.

Continued on page 4 ▶

From Bible studies to social gatherings, Yorkminster Park offers many ways to learn, grow and enjoy time together.

MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP (cont.)

As our church continues to be move through a season of change, it is a great blessing to know that our church's sure foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord. He is the cornerstone on which our church is built, our hope for a bright and prosperous future, and our steady hand as he guides us. It has been a gift throughout this year to witness God's love in action in this place we call our spiritual home, reminding us that he is with us always. In seasons of change and stability, in seasons when we occupy liminal space we can trust that God knows our every need even before we ask.

Yorkminster Park is a busy place but let us savor the good harvest of this year, the fruits that have grown on the vine, and the Word that continues to change our lives.

God bless our church and all who feel a calling to join us and God bless our outreach to the many, who are wondering what it means to be a Christian, a disciple of Christ, in Word and deed and need. May we continue to trust in God's unfailing love, giving thanks for the harvest behind us and looking with hope to all that he will bring forth in the seasons that lie ahead.

Respectfully submitted – ***The Rev. Paula Willis***

COFFEE TIME

WEDNESDAY, 2:00 PM
FRIENDSHIP ROOM

OCTOBER 21
NOVEMBER 4
NOVEMBER 18
DECEMBER 2
DECEMBER 16
DECEMBER 30

Join Rev. Paula Willis for a relaxed time of community and fellowship. Whether you're new, reconnecting, or just craving a friendly space – we'd love to see you!

IONA PRAYER SERVICE

SUNDAY, 7:00 PM
NOVEMBER 1
DECEMBER 6

FEATURING MUSIC BY IONA PASSAGE

If you would like us to light a candle and say a prayer for someone, please email **kbellous@yorkminsterpark.com** prior to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

How God Works to Bring Love and Light into Our Lives

As a believer, I am convinced of God's power and his continuing work in our lives. In His grace, He gives us signs of His presence, but we must be attentive and discerning to recognize them. While I accept the miracles recorded in Scripture as truth, I do not claim to fully understand them. My finite mind cannot comprehend all the ways of an infinite God. Scripture reminds us that nothing is impossible for Him (Luke 1:37; Matthew 19:26; Mark 10:27; Jeremiah 32:17).

Indeed, the entire Christian experience is a miracle–a remarkable display of God's grace, mercy, and transforming power. Though our understanding is limited, we can stand in awe of His work in our lives and in the world around us.

> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." **(Isaiah 55:8–9)**

God's power is evident throughout His creation. We see it in the changing seasons, the regularity of the tides, and the certainty of each sunrise. The order He established in the universe provides stability and assurance amid life's uncertainties. Yet God also works personally in the lives of His children, guiding, encouraging, correcting, and blessing us in ways both great and small. Many expressions of God's providence and grace go unnoticed each day, even by those who sincerely seek Him. He often works through ordinary circumstances, faithful relationships, timely opportunities, and quiet answers to prayer. As we grow in faith, we become more aware of His presence and His hand at work around us. God is not capricious in His dealings with humanity. He has revealed His character and His ways through Scripture, and He remains faithful to His promises. Through His Word, His Spirit, and His people, He continues to accomplish His purposes in the world. Although the Church is made up of imperfect people, God works through it to advance His kingdom and fulfill His plan of redemption.

What often amazes me most is not merely the miraculous itself, but God's perfect timing and the countless ways He demonstrates His love and care. His interventions, whether dramatic or subtle, reveal His wisdom and faithfulness.

Jesus addressed those who demanded miraculous proof of His identity: *"An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."* (Matthew 12:39)

Likewise, when Satan tempted Jesus to prove Himself by throwing Himself down from the temple, Jesus replied: *"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."* (Matthew 4:7) These passages remind us that faith is not built upon demanding signs from God. Rather, it is grounded in trust, obedience, and confidence in what He has already revealed.

Continued on page 6 ▶

HOW GOD WORKS TO BRING LOVE AND LIGHT INTO OUR LIVES (cont.)

God owes us no further proof of His love, for He has already given us the greatest gift imaginable—His Son. In Jesus Christ, God entered our world, demonstrated perfect love, and gave His life to redeem humanity (John 3:16). Through His death and resurrection, He has revealed His heart towards us for ever.

Instead of asking God to prove Himself, we should seek to live lives that honour Him. He continues to guide us daily, revealing His presence through His Word, His providence, and His Spirit's work within us. As we learn to discern His activity, we become increasingly aware of His love and faithfulness.

At times, God allows us to face trials—not to harm us, but to strengthen our faith, deepen our trust, and draw us closer to Him. Like a loving Father, He uses these challenges to refine our character and to remind us of His purpose to reconcile and restore fallen humanity. Therefore, let us turn from ungodly ways and diligently present ourselves to God as approved workers who handle the word of truth accurately (2 Timothy 2:15).

As we seek to live faithfully, we should also use the gifts God has entrusted to us to encourage others. Every talent, opportunity, and calling is ultimately a gift from Him, intended to bring glory to His name and blessings to His people. The books Embraced by God's Love and Light and Sensing God's Wonder are offered in that spirit.

Let us not merely seek signs and miracles, but faithfully use the gifts God has given us. As we serve Him in our words and actions, we become instruments of His love and light in the world. In this way, we honour, glorify, and praise Him.

Respectfully submitted – ***Suzanne Wilkinson***

Suzanne is the author of the books *Embraced by God's Love* and *Light and Sensing God' Wonder*, Along with eleven children's storybooks and the novel *Where the Sky Meets the Lake*. They aim to encourage readers and strengthen faith through reflections on God's love, guidance, and wonder.

All of Suzanne Wilkinson's books are available through Amazon.ca and Amazon.com.

COTH FOOD BANK
CHURCHES-ON-THE-HILL

Your support for Churches on-the-Hill Food Bank makes a real difference.

With rising food costs the Foodbank is serving record numbers of clients. In order to ensure that the Foodbank can continue in future years we need the financial support of the community.

Visit www.cothfoodbank.ca for more info or to donate.

The Food of the Month for OCTOBER is

FAMILY SIZE PEANUT BUTTER

URBAN MISSIONARIES

"Suffer the little children to come unto me for of such is kingdom of heaven" – Matthew 19:14

I am writing this testimony to acknowledge the dedication of those who make it their mission to ensure children can know the teachings of Jesus Christ through Sunday School Ministry. I call them the **Urban Missionaries**.

We live in a complex world which often does not align with Christian values. Communication through different media outlets and societal norms frequently contradicts church teachings. How then can a child discern the difference between right and wrong without careful spiritual guidance?

The intervention of these Urban Missionaries helped to build a foundation in young lives that has had a lasting impact. Proverbs 22:6 instructs us to *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

I truly believe that it mattered that someone picked up the baton of faith and carried it forward for them. The fruit of the Spirit may appear to be obscured by the challenges of modern life, but it is never lost and remains resilient. The light and hope of God's grace cannot be diminished when it is established early and has strong roots.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, we lived in a working-class area that was quite rough. There was a cautious regard in the community for the "church people" who came door to door encouraging Sunday School attendance. Some families were reticent; others were ambivalent.

With persistence, patience, and courage, these Urban Missionaries would pick up children in the community and drive them to the local church for a few hours. The children had fun at picnics and other events that they otherwise wouldn't have been able to experience.

I recall the generosity of a couple who devoted their lives to caring for children's spiritual growth and well being. Every Sunday, they brought children from our neighborhood to Highway Gospel Church and during the week, the children would receive a phone call to motivate them to practice their memory verses.

As a reward, they were taken to McDonald's for a Happy Meal after church the following Sunday. These gestures made a lasting impression on the families and their children, who still remember the kindness that was extended to them.

Today, my two adult sons reminisce about the kindness, love and caring that they experienced from the Urban Missionaries of Highway Gospel Church and the importance of caring for others.

Let us then pay homage to these everyday Missionaries of Christ. To all those Urban Missionaries who came alongside families, ensuring that their children receive the gospel, thank you for modelling Christ's love and devotion!

> "For as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord"
> **– 1 Corinthians 15:58**

Respectfully submitted – ***Marsha Berry***

Suraj Komaravalli is CBM's Regional Team Leader, Asia.

GOOD NEWS FROM CBM's WORK IN ASIA

Imagine 100,000 people gathering to worship Christ in one place. Consider disadvantaged young people being trained in skills that will change their lives. Reflect on a prison ministry turning lives around. All of these initiatives and more are part of Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) work in Asia. And Yorkminster Park supports it.

Learning agricultural skills is a priority for many in Asia

It's all about partnerships. The scope of CBM Asia efforts depends on partnerships in India, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines, and Southeast Asia. Suraj Komaravalli, CBM's Regional Team Leader, Asia, says:

> ***It is a joy to serve with CBM across Asia, where God continues to open doors for gospel witness, leadership development, and holistic ministry. Thank you for your faithful prayers."***

Prayer and work are driving success in Asia.

Current Prayer Requests:

- Pray for God's guidance and blessing upon our partnerships. May these ministries bring lasting transformation, strengthen local churches, and foster Sustainable communities.
- Pray that every CBM-supported project will demonstrate Christ's love by empowering vulnerable People, strengthening churches, and bringing hope to communities.
- Pray for believers and ministry partners serving in places where sharing the gospel is challenging. May God grant them courage, wisdom, protection, and perseverance.
- Pray that the Lord will grant staff wisdom, humility, good health, and spiritual discernment, listening to God's voice and responding compassionately to those in need.
- Pray for the financial and prayer support needed to sustain this ministry with CBM as it works with partners across Asia.

CBM

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

As we look toward the start-up of our 2026/27 Out of the Cold (OOTC) season; we recognize that while we are so very blessed with food, shelter, and clothing, many in our neighbourhood and city are not. It is easy to become complacent when we have so much—many of our OOTC guests barely survive each day.

Each season, we hope and pray that OOTC will no longer be needed, but we know that right now our ministry of hospitality still has a mission (last season we surpassed 3300 meals), and overnight shelter.

Starting November 4th, 2026, we will be welcoming guests for dinners, take-away lunches, clothing, Presto passes, gift cards, toiletries, and overnight shelter. Our Welcome Cart will again be in front of the church on Wednesdays from four to five to engage with the community and provide information to passers-by.

We are grateful for a wonderful, caring, and supportive church ministry team, support staff, and community. Please pray for our guests and volunteers.

– YPBC Out of the Cold Steering Committee

In Memory of Valerie Gerber Valerie Gerber

Our long time friend, co-worker, and leader at Yorkminster Park's Out of the Cold passed away this past June.

We are dedicating the 2026/27 season to Valerie, whose servant leadership was a blessing to all who knew her and a beacon of hope to the guests who came in contact with her. We are thankful for her heart and soul poured out to minister here and we are committed to follow in her footstep

DATES TO SAVE...

WOMEN *in* COMMUNITY

Friday October 30, 2026, at 6:00pm

All women are warmly invited to our Fall Women in Community potluck supper (homemade not required) and an informal evening of fellowship and inspiration.

Please note that we have changed our venue and day of the week from a Monday evening in the Friendship Room to a Friday evening in Cameron Hall where there will be room to accommodate everyone more comfortably.

We are delighted to welcome **Siobhan Carlin** as our Women in Community after-dinner speaker. A recently retired paramedic, Siobhan was sponsored by our church for a medical mission trip to Chitokoloki Mission Hospital in Zambia this past March.

Siobhan recognizes the importance of sharing our time, resources and compassion in places where women are often undervalued and marginalized, and access to medical care is limited. Her talk, *"To Zambia and Back,"* promises to be both entertaining and informative.

This fall, we pray that every woman at Yorkminster Park will know she belongs to a welcoming community of faith, trusting in God's grace and abiding presence. We look forward to gathering for a meal, renewing acquaintances, meeting new friends and sharing our stories. This is a date to save!

WOMEN'S DAY APART

Saturday February 20, 2027

We are grateful that the **Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset** has once again agreed to be the facilitator for our Women's Day Apart. Emily has been a cherished neighbour of Yorkminster Park as she has served as the minister at nearby Calvin Presbyterian Church for 14 years and continues to be a participant In The Lester Randall weekend held at YPBC in the Fall.

Emily came to Toronto to pursue her Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) in homiletics (preaching). As well as ministering at Calvin Presbyterian, she teaches preaching and worship at Knox College (Toronto School of Theology, U of T) as a sessional lecturer and writes resources, leads workshops and preaches for national events. She delights in her bright, creative, joyful daughter, Rachel, who is now a teenager. and is married to Rev. Alex Bisset.

Emily is a warm and engaging presenter whose friendship, wisdom and leadership we value as women and as a congregation at YPBC. The topic for our Day Apart is yet to be determined and will be announced as soon as possible.

As an added gift to us, **Bernice Quek** from the **CBOQ, READ ON Bookstore** will be joining us for the day, making resources readily available for purchase.

All women are warmly invited to this Day Apart where our souls can be nourished and our faith strengthened. We do look forward to welcoming you once again. Please watch for further details.

Submitted by Jonanne Fenton on behalf of YPBC Women's Ministries

The "Big Sing" with John Bell

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 7:30 PM

FREE ADMISSION

Join renowned hymnologist, musician, and Iona Community member **John Bell** for a joyful evening of congregational song

Presented by the The Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship

Yorkminster Park

Speakers Series

Friday Evenings @7:00 pm

Continuing education lectures by outstanding speakers on topics of general interest

YPSpeakersSeries.com

The Legacy of the Vimy Centennial & How Canadians Commemorate Significant Anniversaries

Lecture by Jeremy Diamond

Friday, November 6th, 2026
Cameron Hall & Online

Tommy Douglas and the Quest for Medicare in Canada

Lecture by Gregory P. Marchildon

Friday, November 27th, 2026
Cameron Hall & Online

NINE SPARROWS ARTS FOUNDATION

A CONCERT OF REMEMBRANCE

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2026 | 4:00 PM

SPECIAL GUEST:
David Hetherington, cello

FEATURING:
Rob Crabtree, piper
Sharlene Wallace, harp
Jonathan Oldengarm, organ
Lark Popov, piano
The Hedgerow Singers
Eric N. Robertson, conductor
Rev. Dr. Ken Bellous and
Colleen Burns, narrators

ADMISSION FREE | DONATIONS WELCOME
WWW.9SPARROWSARTS.ORG

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 8, 11:00AM

Yorkminster Park is looking forward to marking Remembrance Sunday on November 9th at 11:00 a.m.

Once again we will have the honour of sharing the occasion with the Toronto Police Services Military Veteran's Association and the Toronto Police Services.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mary Leishman

By no means new to YPBC, Mary Leishman has been active in the life of our congregation and outreach for 25 years. She has provided long service to YPBC Out of the Cold program.

Mary grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, in the Brethren Church, where she was encouraged in her faith by her father and grandfather, who was a biblical scholar. Mary came to Toronto to study nursing, and upon graduation, practiced in the hospital. After Mary married, she worshipped in her husband's United Church for many years before both transferred to YPBC as adherents.

After raising her son and daughter, Mary returned to community nursing, specializing in palliative care for 23 years. She is blessed with a caring family: her son and daughter-in-law, her daughter and son-in-law, and six adult grandchildren.

Jayanth Arumbaka

Jayanth grew up in a Baptist community in southern India. After moving to Toronto, he discovered YPBC through an online search. During a long and difficult search for employment, he found strength in prayer. He now works in software at the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Jay was baptized at YPBC Park in May 2026.

Out of the Cold
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Who is my neighbour? IN **ACTION**

Help us offer a warm welcome at Out of the Cold

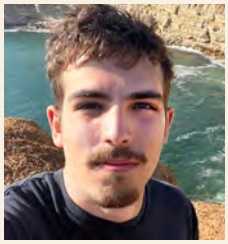
We're opening our doors to neighbours in need of safe shelter, a nourishing meal, welcome and friendship. Our Out of the Cold teams need a few more volunteers – and we'd love to have you join us.

Can you help with one of these shifts?

Shoppers: Anytime on Monday or Tuesday	**Food preparation:** 4:30–7:00 pm	**Dinner cleanup:** 6:30–8:30 pm
Food pickup/delivery: Wednesday, 11:10 am	**Foot washing:** 6:30–8:30 pm	**Morning hall monitors:** 6:30–8:00 am

To volunteer, please contact the church office at **office@yorkminsterpark.com** or Janet Wilmot at **ootc@yorkminsterpark.com**

NEW MEMBERS (cont.)



Jake Lutz-Cruz

Jake was baptized here at YPBC in May 2026. He is one of four brothers. He feels a long personal connection to YPBC through his grandfather, John. Jake's family lived in Singapore as he was growing up, but maintained strong family ties to its roots in Toronto. He describes being "looked after" by a power unseen, during the difficult times he has encountered in life. Since returning to Canada, Jake has carefully learned the trade of the tile installer. Today, he works enthusiastically in this trade on large-scale, multi-storey building projects. His future career plan includes university and the study of civil engineering.

Sylvia Wayne McGeer

Sylvia grew up happily at YPBC during the later John Gladstone years. At that time by her choice, she delayed baptism. Today, she views YPBC as her church family. She was baptized here in May 2026. Sylvia has sensed and is profoundly grateful for the power of our congregation's prayers for her family in recent years.

She is the mother of two. Lately, Sylvia has volunteered at YP's Out of the Cold and Meals on Wheels.

YORKMINSTER PARK
SPEAKERS SERIES

A Unique Opportunity
Monday, November 2, 10:00 a.m.

Crawford Lake and the Anthropocene: A Guided Tour with Professor Francine McCarthy

A Special Invitation for Friends of the YPSS

Join Brock University earth scientist Francine McCarthy for a guided tour of Crawford Lake, whose research helped identify it as a "golden spike" marking humanity's impact on the planet.

Learn more: info@YPSpeakersSeries.com

Family MINISTRY
Partnering with families to nurture faith growth

Lighthouse Kids
DOXA Youth

In Family Ministries, over the last few weeks and continuing into the fall, we have been looking at the life of Moses. We have seen how God's hand was on him from birth as his life was spared by the midwives, his mother, and Pharaoh's daughter. After fleeing Egypt God met Moses at a burning bush, and He sent Moses back to Egypt to free His people. He faced Pharaoh repeatedly and eventually was able to lead God's people out of slavery.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. We are empowered to do the right thing even when it is hard. As God did those thousands of years ago, He now guides us as we take one step at a time. We can be assured because of His faithfulness to the Israelites that when we walk in love for Him and obedience towards Him, He will be with us.

Praise the Lord!

I am so grateful for the blessings of this past summer. We had two summer interns, Sarah McGeer and Michael Reyes. They worked hard on several things in Family Ministries such as leading a large and small group sessions, preparing Sunday materials, creating a new diver mural, washing toys in the nursery, and preparing for Welcome Back Sunday to name a few. Thank you, Sarah and Michael. We appreciate all you have done. We will miss having you but wish you all the best at school this year.

Over the summer we tried out a new curriculum: Roots for Churches (rootsforchurches.com). Roots provides lectionary-based resources for all ages. We liked the creativity and the flexibility of the lesson plans and the way they challenged and inspired not just our young people but also our Family Ministry leaders. I especially appreciated:

1. the attention to the different spiritual learning styles of all children/youth; and
2. the weekly faith at home Activity sheet for kids and Thrive sheet for parents to use with their family, encouraging discipleship throughout the week.

We have decided to continue using Roots for Churches throughout this next year.

We celebrate the joys of new babies and friends.

Congratulations to Farzana and Sajjad on the birth of their son, Adam, and congratulations to Prisca and Brad on the birth of their daughter, Maël-Laurent. We welcome the new families that have started coming to Yorkminster Park over the summer and the beginning of September. How wonderful it is to walk with others, sharing faith together.

Looking ahead into the fall

We are grateful that **Dr. Joyce Bellous** will be joining the team as our Family Ministry Advisor. Joyce had already been helping in various ways in Family Ministries, sometimes in our leader Bible studies, or looking after little ones allowing them to feel the love and belonging that comes with being part of the church or leading a children or youth class. In this next season it will be so wonderful for our team to learn from Joyce.

Doxa Youth events will be starting again.

These are a great opportunity for the youth to get to know one another and to make friends at church. We also look forward to youth involvement Sundays where we will be seeing the Family Ministry band and youth scripture readers and ushers participating in the main service.

We continue to have our Family Ministry service in Cameron Hall each Sunday where we praise and worship God, singing, praying, and learning together. The leaders break out with the children and youth into their small groups for further learning, discussion and friendship.

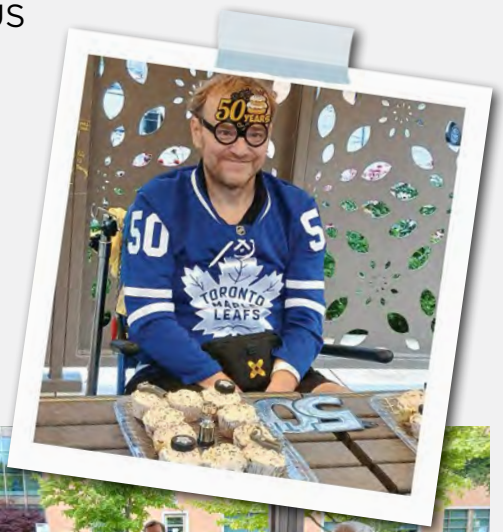
I am excited for what God is doing. It is an honour to have faith conversations with the children and youth and to walk with families in their faith journey.

Leticia Limgenco

WITH OVER A DOZEN FRIENDS FROM YORKMINSTER PARK, BOBBY GILES CELEBRATED A MILESTONE ON TUESDAY JULY 28TH: HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY.

Under a pergola on the grounds of St. Joseph's Health Centre, with cupcakes decorated with the emblems of Bobby's passion – the Toronto Maple Leafs – we shared what Bobby means to us, including one word each to encapsulate the essence of this friend:

GALLANT • PASSION • RESERVED • TENACIOUS • KIND
FRIEND • CONVERSATIONALIST • FIGHTER • COMMITTED • FUN
ENERGETIC • GENEROUS



Bobby spoke of his appreciation of his YP family and friend, several dating back to his teenage years. He spoke of his daily determination to "remain Bobby" in the face of a rough journey of health setbacks and recovery.

We continue to thank God for Bobby, for the grace that brought him to YP for the first time on eptember 19th, 1993, and pray for his recovery and return to our midst.

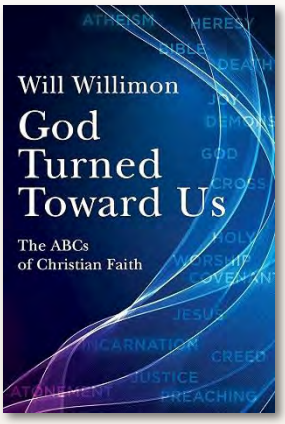
BOBBY SHARES A BIRTHDATE WITH: Ryan Reynolds, Reese Witherspoon, Blake Shelton, Benedict Cumberbatch

MEMORABLE EVENTS THE YEAR OF BOBBY'S BIRTH (1976):
Montreal hosted Summer Olympics
Steve Jobs introduces Apple Computer and the Compact Disc

NOTABLE SPORTS RESULTS IN 1976:
Stanley Cup: Montreat Canadiens defeated Philadelphia Flyers 4-0
Bjorn Borg won Wimbledon Men's Tennis, Chris Evert Women's singles

WORLD POPULATION IN 1976: 4.1 billion + **1: Bobby Giles!**

CHECK OUT THE GLADSTONE LIBRARY!



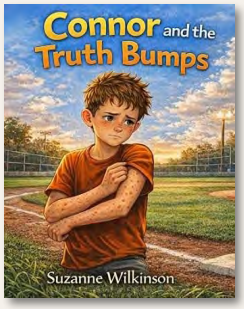
Book review by Ruth Farrow:

God Turned Toward Us : the ABCs of Christian faith by Will Willimon

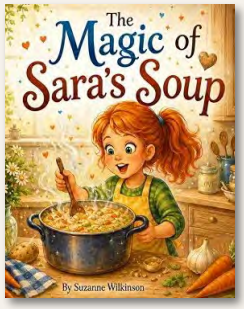
This intriguing book about practicing Christianity both challenges and informs. It provides short pithy segments under such headings as "sentimentality", "troublemaker"and "atonement". Willimon, one of our Lester Randall preachers, shares with gentle humour his desire for all of us to *"talk the talk and walk the walk"*. I recommend it.

New Books

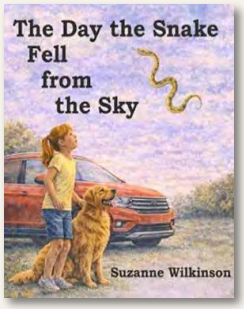
The library has gratefully received the anonymous gift of a set of books for children written by our own **Suzanne Wilkinson**. They are available in the Children's Library.



Connor and the Truth Bumps



The Magic of Sara's Soup



The Day the Snake Fell from the Sky

The library receives a large number of donations from the congregation. Some of these go to the library collection, some to the Free Library in the park, and some to CSM Canada, whose mission is to bring Bibles and evangelical literature to people in need throughout the world. Shipping and operational costs for them are high, and one way they raise money is through selling cancelled postage stamps.

If you have used stamps, please bring them (trimmed to leave 1/4" of envelope surrounding and only one thickness of paper) to the library to help this work go forward.

The Gladstone Library is open before and after Sunday service.

Contact the library by calling 416-922-1167, ext. 241, or email, **library@yorkminsterpark.com**.
You can search the catalogue at: **https://www.librarycat.org/lib/YPBlib**.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF MUSIC MINISTRY

On Sunday, October 4, the Yorkminster Park community gathered for a celebratory luncheon honouring William Maddox's 30 years of music ministry. It was a joyful occasion, reflecting the affection and high regard in which William is held, and an opportunity to thank him for three decades of dedication, artistry and leadership.

As Director of Music, William has enriched our worship through his exceptional gifts as an organist and choral director. His commitment to sacred music has nurtured a tradition that draws us together and lifts our hearts to God. We give thanks for his enduring contribution to Yorkminster Park and the wider musical community.

The Dorcas Group welcomed the congregation to a reception on Sunday, October 18, celebrating its 105th anniversary. The gathering offered an opportunity to enjoy one another's company and recognize Dorcas's enduring contribution to the life of Yorkminster Park.

Through their needlework and generosity, Dorcas members provide handmade essentials that bring warmth, comfort and practical support to people across the GTA and beyond. Thank you to the members for hosting this special occasion – and for their enduring commitment to putting faith into action.

IN THE GALLERY

Margaret Glew – *Loose Threads*
September 12-October 29, 2026

Loose Threads features hand-stitched, quilted textiles created from repurposed clothing The work explores themes of memory, material history, and the passage of time. Ultimately, the exhibition is a testament to what endures – a quiet space where the fragments of the past are rewoven into a landscape of collective memory.

Show closes October 29th.

Untitled, appliqued and hand quilted textile, 55" x 47", 2025

Artist in Conversation with John Gagne
Wednesday, October 14, 6:30-8:30 pm

Yorkminster Park Gallery launched a new initiative, *Artist in Conversation*, on October 14 with an engaging evening featuring Margaret Glew and gallery owner John Gagné. Their conversation explored Margaret's artistic practice, writings and influences, alongside her current exhibition, *Loose Threads*. Guests from the church and wider arts community contributed thoughtful questions and enjoyed time to view the work.

Thanks to all who helped make this first conversation a success!

Margaret Glew and John Gagné

Coming to YP Gallery in November
Carol Westcott

Natural Elements – Experience the shifting moods of rural Ontario through Carol Westcott's evocative, contemporary landscapes in *"Natural Elements"*, where memory and mixed media transform the physical world into slightly abstracted forms.

Image 'Algonquin Wetland' 24x24 inches acrylic on birch panel

Gallery Hours – Saturday: Noon - 3:00 pm and Sunday: 10:00 am - 11:00 am and 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
Follow us on Instagram: @yorkminsterparkgallery

City
CAROL
SING
In collaboration with
Citytv

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 2:00 P.M.

a FREE concert in support of the Churches on-the-Hill Food Bank

The Elmer Iseler Singers
the Amadeus Choir and
the Viva Chamber Singers

Presents

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7:30 P.M.

BOX OFFICE OPENS SOON

Contact the church office:
office@yorkminsterpark.com or 416-922-1167

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
4:30 P.M. FREE ADMISSION

In the soft glow of candlelight, the Yorkminster Park Choir, offers a program of beautiful carolsand seasonal anthems.

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

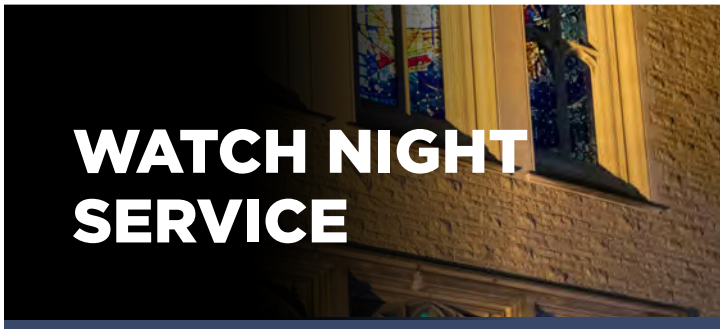
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
11:00 A.M.

The Service of Comfort and Hope provides a quiet space for reflection, healing, and prayer.

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
4:30 P.M.

The service consists of nine short Bible readings interspersed with the singing of carols, and hymns.



WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
11:15 P.M. P.M. NEW YEAR'S EVE

A time to review the year that has passed and prepare for the year ahead

Editor: Gwendolyn Ramsay
This newsletter is published by:

Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church

1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4T 1Z9
Telephone: 416-922-1167
www.yorkminsterpark.com

The Rev. Dr. Ken Bellous
Interim Minister of the Congregation

The Rev. Paula Willis
Minister of Pastoral Care and Discipleship

Mr. William Maddox
BMus, FTCL, FCAM
Organist & Director of Music

Ms. Leticia Limgenco
Children's Ministry Associate

The Rev. John Torrance
Minister Emeritus, Pastoral Care