

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



YPBC NEWS

June 2017



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Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church
1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON
M4T 1Z9
www.yorkminsterpark.com

The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes
Minister of the Congregation

The Rev. Dale Rose
Minister of Pastoral Care

Ms. Robyn Elliott
Director of Discipleship

Mr. William Maddox, B.Mus.,
FTCL, FCAM - *Organist and*
Director of Music

Ms. Kelly Dixon
Director of Children's Ministries

Mr. Brennan Rabbets
Director of Youth

Ms. Jan Andrews RN, BScN, MN
Parish Nurse

The Rev. John Torrance
Minister Emeritus, Pastoral Care

The Rev. Dr. William A. Sturgess
Minister Emeritus, Pastoral Care



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PETER'S PEN

Consider the Lilies

No one knows for sure which flower it was Jesus made reference to when he said, 'Consider the lilies of the field.' Undoubtedly, however it was somewhere between early May and late June when various wildflowers bloom in the Galilee region. Some suggest he was referring to a lily like poppy and others a lily like tulip and others suggest various lilies, but we don't know and it is probably just as well. Any flower we look at can teach us a lesson or two. It was this Jesus was trying to impress on his followers - Consider the lilies. Take the time to breath deeply and smell the roses.

He used the lily to impress upon his disciples that they need not worry and fuss in this life over little things. For if God looks after the lily that is here today and gone tomorrow how much more will he look after his children. Jesus was certainly right that the lily and so many of the perennial flowers are indeed short lived. Someone told me with disappointment they had a new peony which lasted only four days. My first oriental poppy opened up on Tuesday and its petals had fallen to the ground by Friday. The various flowers people point to as the possible contenders for Jesus' lily all have similar life spans. So all the more important to take the time to consider the lilies, because in no time they and the lessons they have to teach will be gone.

The other day our ministerial team was going over the schedule for December and suddenly it dawned on me that I was already feeling the stress of Christmas before I had even had my summer break! It is in such moments I need to get out to the garden again, or go for a walk and let Jesus speak to me through the lilies. The days of summer are short lived. Let us all take whatever time we can to clear our minds and hearts of the traffic jams of life and know the peace and joy of our Creator.

When I am not working in my garden this summer I will be a guest preacher at Chautauqua in New York State taking in the beauty of the place, the people and the arts. I will also be visiting the Elora Festival and preaching in the church of St. John the Evangelist, home to the

In a time of environmental and climate concerns we can look to the assurance of Genesis 8:22

***"While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,
Winter and summer,
And day and night
Shall not cease."***

Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send to: pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

The next newsletter will be published in September. The deadline for submissions will be announced.

Paul R Hill

Elora Festival Singers. I will also be dropping in on our friends at Canonmills Church in Edinburgh, Scotland, where the late, Tom Fleming, served for many years as pastor.

And wherever I go, be assured I will find a garden and consider the roses and begonias, and dahlias and the lilies too. I hope and pray your summer will also be blessed by an opportunity to slow down and enjoy the beauty of the season and even listen for the voice of God. May God bless you with safety in your travel and health and strength to enjoy the good earth and love and peace with the world around.

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE



“I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.” (Isaiah 41:18)

Last month, my pastoral colleague Peter Holmes and I had the privilege of traveling to San Antonio, Texas to attend the Festival of Homiletics. It is an amazing gathering of clergy from across North America, all coming together to learn more about the craft of preaching in the 21st century. Every year this conference brings in talented preachers and teachers, who remind us of our awesome task as preachers – to bring alive the Word of God to our people Sunday after Sunday. It is not a task we take lightly, and each week we struggle to ask the question posed by the prophets of old: “Is there any word from the Lord?”

San Antonio is a wonderful city. In the heart of the downtown lies the Alamo museum, and the remnants of the old Alamo Mission – part of the last stand of the frontiersmen Davey Crockett and a group of Texas volunteers who held off the Mexican army and were killed in 1836 during the siege. But the city is also known for its famous River Walk – a wonderful system of waterways that traverse the downtown core. They are lined with restaurants and shops, and

river boat taxis ferry people from place to place. You can walk around much of the city by taking the river walkways, including several different tributaries. San Antonio may not have the same profile as famous river cities like Venice or London, but it does have a certain charm to it.

Taking the river walk each day of our conference got me to thinking about rivers. Rivers are so important to our environment. Some of the great rivers of the world have their own climates and ecosystems



surrounding them, like the Amazon or the Nile Rivers. A river is constantly moving, and is similar in many ways to our life journey. Rivers take different directions, forming various branches and forks and tributaries. Sometimes a river meanders slowly, but other times it flows swiftly, especially if rapids are present. There are times in our journey when we feel like we are swimming upstream against the current, and other occasions when we are going with the flow. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said: “No one ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he/she's not the same man/woman.” This is very true, because a river is constantly in motion. Neither are our lives static, because we are constantly changing and growing.

Rivers play a prominent role in the Bible. They are often used as spiritual metaphors. The Bible begins with the creation story, and mentions a river in the Garden of Eden. And the Bible ends with another river – “the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.” It represents life, healing and immortality. No wonder Robert Lowry could write the words of that wonderful hymn: “Shall we gather at the river, Where bright angel feet have trod, With its crystal

tide forever, Flowing by the throne of God?” And Horatio Spafford penned that precious hymn out of the midst of personal tragedy: “When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.”

Jesus himself used the river image as a spiritual metaphor. In John 7, he attended one of the Jewish festivals and taught the crowds. On the last day of the festival, he said: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”

Today I hope all your rivers are peaceful. And if not, may your faith in God enable you to navigate the troubled waters until once again God brings you to his desired haven. May your river reflect the words of the Psalmist: “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.” (Psalm 46:4)

Dale Rose
Minister of Pastoral Care

DISCIPLESHIP



“Your Kingdom come; your will be done ...”

In my teenage years there was, in my opinion, undue emphasis put on ‘finding the will of God for your life,’ as if God had hidden it and was amused watching us all scamper about desperately trying to find it.

The truth is, God has made it so clear what his desires are for us, for all of humanity, and for creation, that it would be difficult to miss.

Life and life to the full.

That all should be saved.

Rest for the weary.

Companionship with us.

To rescue, redeem and restore all of creation.

Shalom.

Unfortunately, at times the church of Jesus has been side-tracked, answering questions the world isn’t

asking, or answering in a language the world doesn’t understand. But the world continues to ask: *Is there more to life than this?* It continues to cry out: *There has to be more than this!*

This fall we have the opportunity to join with other churches across the GTA in a city-wide launch of Alpha. But Alpha isn’t the end-game; it’s only a tool that points to Jesus. The end-game is introducing our friends and neighbours to Jesus who brings fullness to life, gives rest to the weary, longs to dwell with them, invites them to a feast, and who rescues, redeems, and restores all the broken bits of their lives. Who would want to miss out on an opportunity like that?

Would you take time this summer to prayerfully consider what part you might play in helping those around us to discover that, indeed, there IS more to life?

And would you PRAY?

Pray for our efforts here at YPBC – that we would have enough volunteers for an effective team.

Pray for the spiritual needs of our city – that people’s hearts would be open to the good news of Jesus.

Perhaps consider participating in one of the *Uprisings* – multi-church prayer gatherings held throughout the city (details are published in our calendar).

Together, let’s put our best foot forward, offer radical hospitality, and invite the city into our great-big-living-room here at Yorkminster Park.

Have a wonderful summer!

Warmly, Robyn Elliott

Ask anything about life, faith and God

Got questions about life?
About God or no God or which God?
Sick and tired of pat answers and know-it-alls?
We are too!

So let's start a conversation...
Over a complimentary dinner?

tryalpha.ca | #tryalpha

Alpha

Save the Date:

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
At Yorkminster Park

More Info? Let's Chat.

Contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@yorkminsterpark.com

YPBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES.....

BAPTIST WOMEN'S RECOMMENDED BOOK CLUB/READING LIST

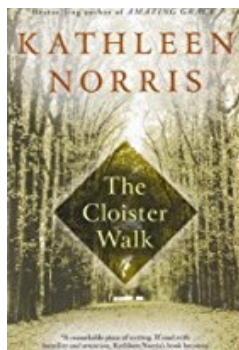
The latest Baptist Women's recommended reading books are here! All of these books will be catalogued and available in the YPBC Gladstone Library and may also be purchased through READ ON Bookstore at 5 International Blvd. Etobicoke ON M9W 6H3. Tel. 416 620 2934 E-mail books@readon.ca www.readon.ca

The books have been grouped under 3 general topics: Spiritual Formation, Leadership, Advocacy/ Mission:

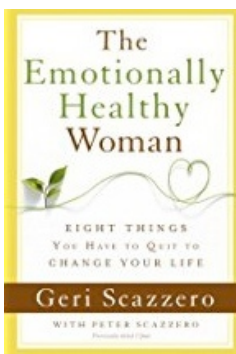
SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The Cloister Walk – Kathleen Norris/\$16.75

This book, first published in 1996, has also been a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. Part record of Norris's time among the Benedictines and part meditation on various aspects of monastic life, *The Cloister Walk* demonstrates how immersion in the cloistered world – its liturgy, ritual and sense of community – can impart meaning to everyday events and deepen our secular lives. Norris is an award winning poet and writer.



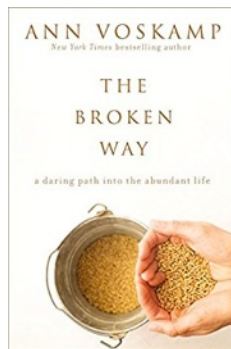
The Emotionally Healthy Woman – Gerri Scazzero/\$17



Scazzero provides a way out of an inauthentic superficial spirituality to genuine freedom in Christ. When we quit the things that are damaging to our soul or the souls of others, we are freed up to choose other ways of being and relating that are rooted in love and lead to life. Scazzero is the cofounder of New Life Fellowship Church

in Queens, NY, where she serves on staff as a trainer in marriage and spiritual formation.

The Broken Way – a daring path into the abundant life - Ann Voskamp/\$18.99

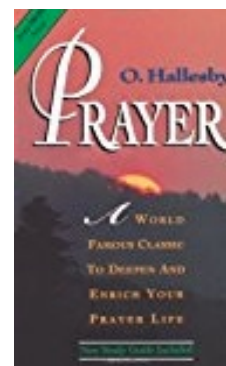


New York Times bestselling author, Ann Voskamp asks: What do you do with your unspoken broken? What's the answer to suffering, to the brokenness of all our hearts? What do you do if you really want to know abundant wholeness – before it's too late? There is a way of honest, transformative power. Voskamp

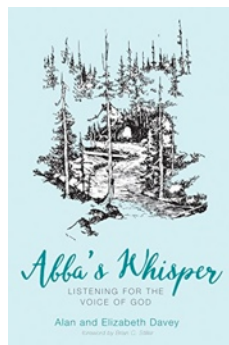
has been named by *Christianity Today* as one of fifty women who are significantly shaping church and culture in our time.

Prayer – Ole Hallesby/\$14.99

In the forward to this small volume, Richard Foster comments that this book breathes the spirit of prayer...It is a book full of grace and mercy, jubilee and challenge. "In it I sense Jesus inviting us to the adventure." Hallesby was a seminary professor in Oslo and was one of Norway's leading Christian teachers and devotional writers.



Abba's Whisper – Listening for the Voice of God – Alan and Elizabeth Davey/\$25



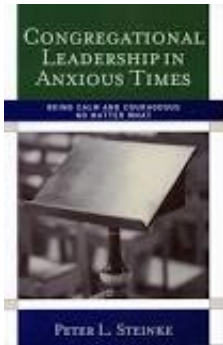
The Daveys draw on a rich variety of sources to guide an inner journey that nourishes the soul and leaves us yearning for more.

Alan is pastor of Weston Park Baptist Church and an Adjunct Professor of Christian Spirituality and worship at Tyndale University College and Seminary.

Elizabeth is Associate Professor of English at Tyndale University College.

LEADERSHIP

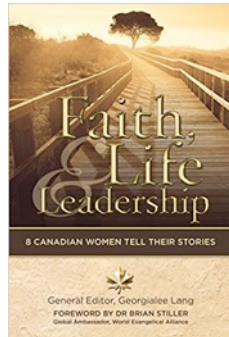
Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times – Being calm and courageous no matter what – Peter Steinke/\$21.99



Steinke is an internationally respected congregational systems consultant who has served as a parish pastor, an educator and a therapist for clergy.

Faith, Life and Leadership – 8 Canadian women Tell Their Stories, edited by Georgiale Lang/\$20

Preston Manning writes that “the stories in this book are excellent examples of Christian leadership and deserve our full attention.”



ADVOCACY/MISSION

Undaunted – Daring to do what God calls you to do – Christine Caine/\$15



Caine shows how God rescued her from a life in which she was unnamed, unwanted and unqualified. She offers life-transforming insights about overcoming the trials, wrong turns and painful circumstances we experience and how to grow through these experiences, equipped and empowered to help others. Caine is co founder with her husband of the anti-

human-trafficking organization, The A21 Campaign.

THE DOROTHY NEAL NEW INITIATIVES FUND

One of CBWOQ’S recommended reading books listed above includes the stories of 8 successful, godly and gifted Canadian women each of whom is a distinguished leader in her field and also a role model for women aspiring to Christian leadership. Dorothy Neal, a faithful member of Yorkminster Baptist Church was also known as a dedicated, creative and inspiring leader and role model among Baptist Women, both locally and internationally. In memory of Dorothy and in honour of her example of Christian leadership, YPBC “Women’s Ministries” inaugurated *The Dorothy Neal New Initiatives Fund* in 2016 in partnership with Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec. It is our intention that this Fund will continue to be an encouragement to Baptist women in ministry and leadership as we live out our faith together. Donations to this Fund are always gratefully received and cheques may be made out to Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec and designated for *The Dorothy Neal New Initiatives Fund*. (Just a reminder, CBWOQ’s new address is 5 International Blvd., Etobicoke ON M9W 6H3.)

submitted by Jonanne Fenton



JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

YPBC is pleased to announce our line-up of guest speakers for the 2016 season. Don't miss this exciting, thought-provoking, and inspirational summer ministry.



July 2 and 9
Rev. Richard Root



July 16
Ed Wilson

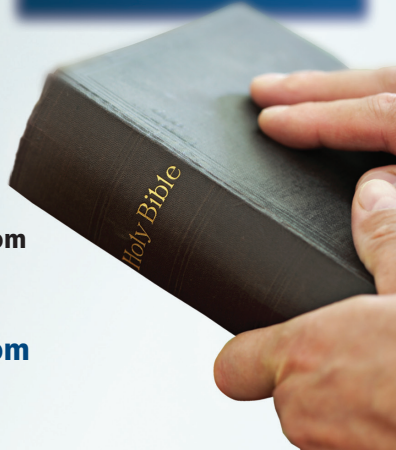


July 23 and 30
The Rev. Dr.
Marvin McMickle



August 6 and 13
The Rev. Dr.
Anna Robbins

2017 SUMMER PREACHING SERIES



We look forward to seeing you in person, or you can view our services live online at YorkminsterPark.com

For more information about the Summer Preaching Series, visit YPBCSummerPreaching.com

2017 | YPBC Theatre Bus Trips

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14

"H.M.S. PINAFORE"

Stratford Avon
Theatre

Lunch at Borealis
Restaurant

COST: \$180/ pp



**To reserve please contact
Judy MacDonald 416-225-8295**

YOUR CHILD IS INVITED TO ATTEND OUR

2017 SUMMER KIDS' CAMPS

JULY 17TH TO 21ST, 9 AM TO NOON & 1 TO 4 PM

Join us at Yorkminster Park for our morning camp **"Maker Fun Factory"** for children JK to Grade 5 for a cost of **\$25** and/or our afternoon camp **"Sketch and Draw"** for children entering Grade 2 to Grade 6 for a cost of **\$110**.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information, or to register,
contact Kelly Dixon at

kdixon@yorkminsterpark.com
or call 416-922-1361



TRANSITIONS

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

Births

John Denis Kempers
Zoe Margaret Amanda

Baptisms

Alison Stephens
Casey Charette
Lindsay Gallagher
Ethan Gallagher

New Members

Angela Cooke
Jean Edwards

Mary Parks

John Parks

Deaths

Elsie Black
Genevieve Dalglish
Margot Fell
Hendrika Melles
Sheila Murphy Smith

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Albert Schnell on his retirement from the position **Chair of Ushers**. Albert moved to Toronto in 1983, started to attend Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in 1984 and began ushering in 1998. In 2000 he was

appointed Chair of Ushers, a position he held until March of this year.

Albert was born in Zurich, Switzerland and after two apprenticeships worked in St. Moritz and Geneva. He was then employed in Salisbury, England for a year following which he accepted a position in Montreal (was supposed to go to Havana, Cuba but political events intervened) to work for the Hilton

Hotel chain. Within a short time he achieved the position Executive Chef at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, which led to the same position for all the Hilton Hotels in Canada.

He became a chef largely as a result of his Mother being a Professional Chef. His father would have liked him to be a Landscape Architect, as he was and although working in the landscaping field in the summers of his high school years he chose a career in the food industry.

Albert's skills in organization were very useful in the immense job of ensuring an ushering team available for all occasions at YPBC. Even with these responsibilities he still found time to assist in other church activities. Many will remember that for a number of years he, along with his family, prepared and served Christmas dinner to the residents of the House of Compassion.

Thanks Albert for a job well done.

FUTURE EXHIBITIONS - YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

Nancy Oakes - *New Drawings*

Reception: Sunday, November 19



Linda Kemp - *New Works*

Reception: Sunday October 22



YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

You are cordially invited to a two-person exhibition of sculptures by Gwen Brown and watercolours and drawings by Doug Brown. A reception on Sunday September 17 immediately following the morning service will open the show as well as celebrate the Browns' 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Both artists attended U of T in programs that required freehand drawing and life drawing --- Gwen (Physical & Occupational Therapy) and Doug (Architecture). It was during those years that they met each other at a wedding. Gwen was a friend of the bride; Doug was a groomsman. When they married in 1957, Gwen and Doug gave



themselves a significant wedding gift, a large A J Casson painting. To this day it takes centre stage surrounded on all sides by the Browns' impressive art collection.

Gwen describes herself as always singing. At present she is rounding out 40 years with Orpheus Choir of Toronto. She branched into sculpture when their first child arrived. When their three daughters were young, Gwen studied under Frances Gage and ultimately graduated from OCA in 1982.

Doug turned to watercolour during mandatory *Sketch Camp* two weeks every September in Haliburton. He and his architecture classmate Laurie Lithgow kept up the tradition, painting on-location every September for the next 50 years.

Throughout their lives Gwen and Doug have supported each other's further studies in art frequently under illustrious instructors. In 1989 the Browns had their first two-person show. The Yorkminster Park exhibition marks their fifth collaboration.

The Browns were core members of Park Road Baptist Church. When Park Road melded with Yorkminster Baptist to become Yorkminster Park, the Browns brought their considerable commitment to the newly amalgamated church. They became leaders of

the Youth Group, Gwen joined the choir, and both served on or chaired numerous committees. With Doug's experience as a third-generation church architect, he designed our chapel as a Centennial



project, and supervised our Millennium project that brought our church property up to code and made the building fully accessible.

Please join Gwen and Doug Brown, their three daughters, families and friends in honouring a laudable life of dedication to art in all its forms, to each other in all their endeavours, to family, to church and community.

(see Page 7 for future Gallery Exhibitions)