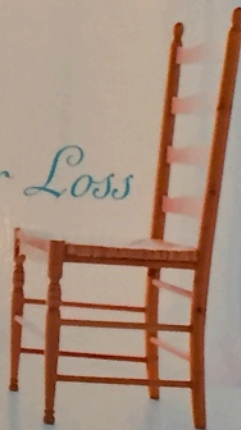




YPBC NEWS

LIGHT THROUGH THE CRACK

Life After Loss



"This beautiful little book is
for us all as we discover the
crack in our lives and the light
that can shine through it."

—JEAN VANIER

Sue Mosteller, C.S.J.

Published by:

Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church
1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON
M4T 1Z9

www.yorkminsterpark.com

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PETER WRITES - A DAY WITH DOUG BROWN

In late November, a bus full of Yorkminster Park pilgrims spent a day exploring a sampling of the churches designed by one of our own members, Doug Brown, as well as churches built by Doug's father, Bruce Brown, and his grandfather, J. Francis Brown. Doug is a retired church architect whose family designed and built churches across Canada between 1891 and 1995. Needless to say there are many hundreds of churches designed by the Brown family and so a day trip offered us only a small sampling. The family's association with Yorkminster Park can be traced back through the Park Road Baptist Church stream of our history. In fact, the former Park Road Church was one of the first churches designed by Doug's father, Bruce in 1925.

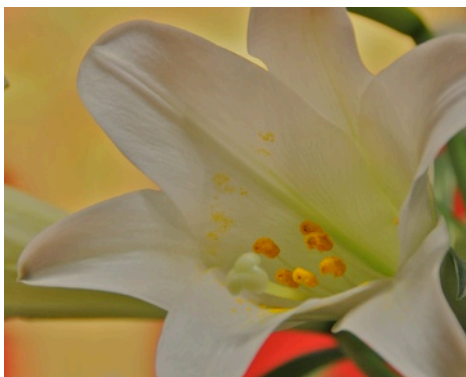
J. Francis Brown was born in Canada but was educated in Plymouth, England. Upon marriage he returned to the land of his birth and was involved in the architectural design of the Flat Iron Building before launching his own firm in 1891, a firm that would be instrumental in the building of churches across Canada for a century. In 1899 his son, Bruce, was born and he would join the firm in 1923 and carry it into the second generation. In the 1930's Doug was born and he would join the firm as a partner in 1962.

Four churches from the Brown family grace the streets of Leaside including St. Augustine of Canterbury, Leaside Presbyterian, and the Bayview Avenue Church of Christ, but it was the Neo-Gothic Leaside United which captured the attention of the pilgrims as the

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Cover photo taken by Janice Ivory-Smith at the YPBC Women's Retreat (article Page 9).



Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send to:

pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

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

Paul R Hill



original sanctuary had been built by J. Francis Brown in 1941, with later additions designed by Bruce Brown and the final addition by Doug Brown. Two of our members who were present, Carol Epp and Sandra Hubley, reported growing up in Leaside United and later being married to their husbands in the same sanctuary.



Later our group visited Bayview Avenue United on the east side of Yonge just north of York Mills, an A-frame church built by Doug Brown. Bayview Avenue United, Spring Garden Baptist, Cummer Avenue United and St. Mary's Anglican, Richmond Hill, all shared the A-frame design.

It was Doug Brown's mastery at combining the warmth of wood with natural light from windows, dormers and skylights, as well as complementary furniture and decor in perfectly proportioned spaces that has rendered these sanctuaries timeless in their beauty and appeal. In an age when many churches are closing, one can easily see why it is these particular sacred spaces that have been preserved when merging congregations have been given a choice.

All along the way the pilgrims were able to appreciate exquisite work of artists who worked in partnership with the Browns. It was clear that Doug, his father and grandfather each had the trust of some of the finest artisans in the land. The sculptor William McElcheran joined the firm in the 1950's

and various other artists also offered years of service in partnership with the Browns. The stained glass window surrounding the Baptismal font at St. Mary's Anglican is just one example of the manner in which design, colour and light can lift the spirit and compel the conscience in worship.

We finished the day at St. Timothy's Anglican Church in North Toronto, an exquisitely proportioned Neo-Gothic church designed by Doug's father with magnificent stained glass by Yvonne Williams.

In almost all of these churches we were welcomed royally by members who love their church and were thrilled and honoured to have Doug Brown in their presence.

Each of these churches gave us a glimpse into the extraordinary artistry and talent of Doug Brown. For those familiar with his watercolour paintings often displayed in our gallery it would hardly come as a surprise that he could also be the architect of such inspirational houses of worship.



After designing his first and only church, a noted Canadian architect wondered aloud how Doug Brown had been able to be so prolific building churches when one has to work with church committees and budgets. The obvious explanation is that Doug is an artist of endless patience and

grace, who has given expression to his Christian faith in the building of churches. But beyond that I am sure Doug honed this talent watching and observing his father and grandfather before him.

As the day came to an end at St. Timothy's church it



was a delight to watch and listen to Doug. As he spoke of the space built by his father there was appreciation and gratitude in his voice and one couldn't help but sense he was perhaps in a mysterious

sense communing with his father.

In fact many have had similar experiences on our pilgrimages. Our Pilgrimages of Sacred Spaces always include music and hymns with William Maddox on the organ, insightful comments from Corey Keeble, Curator Emeritus of the Royal Ontario Museum and the opportunity to quietly reflect with prayers and scriptures in hand. The purpose of our pilgrimages is not simply to visit churches as if they are museums, but to enter into a deeper sense of communion with God to whose glory these spaces have been designed, built and consecrated.

William, Corey and I have been leading such pilgrimages together for almost ten years and we have visited remarkable churches, synagogues, mosques and temples in and around Toronto and in a number of other cities including, Buffalo, Hamilton, Rochester, Pittsburgh and even Jerusalem. In April we will be leading a tour to Montreal, but in preparation for our day with Doug Brown we became aware of so many other churches designed and built by his family. I would be glad for another such day with Doug Brown in the not too distant future.

(photos by Peter Alberti and Rob Mee)

WELCOME - SUSAN HILL CARLÉN

We are pleased to welcome Susan Hill Carlén to the church office as our interim Administrative Assistant. Susan is the daughter of Paul and Rhoda Hill and was raised in Toronto and at Yorkminster Park and over the years sang in all our choirs. Susan received a BA in English from the University of Toronto, and a Masters degree in Literature from Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland. Susan later served in Canada, the UK and Sweden with Operation Mobilization, a Christian mission which trains youth around the world to live and share the gospel in word and deed. Susan is married to Anders and has three children, Ben, Sam and Hanna. She and Anders were married in Sweden and have been back in Canada for three and a half years. Susan's hard work and warm spirit make her a delight for all of us.

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

“Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.” (John 21:6)



“It's the b'y that builds the boat, And I's the b'y that sails her; I's the b'y that catches the fish, And brings them home to Liza.” (Newfoundland Folk Song)

As we enter this season of Easter, once again we consider the great resurrection passages in the four gospels. Matthew and Mark give us much shorter accounts of Easter morning – only twenty verses each (only eight verses if you choose the shorter ending of Mark's gospel). But Luke and John give us lengthier versions, and they are longer on details. Both writers give us post-resurrection stories, including appearances of the risen Christ to the disciples. Luke has the wonderful story of the road to Emmaus, where some disciples

recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread at the supper hour. I have always appreciated John's post-resurrection story of the disciples, who take to their boats and go fishing.

From the seashore, Jesus proves to be the master fisherman, enabling the disciples to net a huge catch. At that moment, they recognize Jesus. This story has always resonated with me. I grew up in a province known for its fishermen. But I must admit, I am not much of a fisherman myself. However, on a recent trip to Florida, I went out on my brother-in-law's boat to do some deep-sea fishing. It was a beautiful sunny day. We went out onto a reef, and cast our lines. Later, we did some trolling from the boat. And yes, we did catch a few fish. But it was the experience of being out on the water that stuck with me. I have always been impressed with the vastness of the ocean. The Bible refers to the sea as "the deep": "Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me." (Psalm 42:7) "Whatever the Lord pleases he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps." (Psalm 135:6) My paternal grandparents grew up in Newfoundland. My grandfather was a sea captain in the merchant navy, and he sailed the seven seas all around the world. He knew and respected the power and the majesty of the ocean.

For me, Easter is a season when we are reminded of the depths of God's great love for us. The apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians: "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and

depth, and to know the love of Christ." (Ephesians 3:18) Easter is when the tide of God's grace fills the harbour of our souls. Much of Jesus' ministry was spent by the Sea of Galilee. It was on those shores where he taught the people about the kingdom of God. It was on those shores where he called his first disciples to be "fishers of people." It was near those shores where he calmed the storm and caused the disciples to ask: "Who is this man, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" And it was on these very shores where he first appeared to Peter and the disciples after his resurrection.

I like to think that Jesus had a certain kinship with the ocean. He grew up in Nazareth, but chose to make his home in Capernaum beside the sea. It was a fishing village, and his adopted home town was also the home of Simon Peter. Jesus began his ministry on the Sea of Galilee, proclaiming: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. And Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee..." (Mark 1:15-16) And he ended his ministry on the same seashore after his resurrection: "After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Galilee." (John 21:1)

This Easter, my prayer is that you will immerse yourself in the ocean of God's love. Rejoice in the power of the resurrection, and in the hope we have in Christ. May your life be a witness and inspiration to others. And as they say on the east coast, "Good fishing."

TRANSITIONS

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

Birth

Abigail Charlotte Joseph, *d of Kamran and Karen Joseph*

Infant Dedication

Jack Thomas Whitaker, *s of Andrea and Adrian Rocca*

Baptism

Julia Yacoub

New Members

Peter Liu
Luke Reyes
Margaret Torrance
John Torrance

Deaths

Melanie Alfred

THE BEST OF SUMMER

All About Camp at YPBC



I can't wait! Summer camp is one of the highlights of my year.

Forty kids gather to learn new skills. Most importantly they learn who they are in God's eyes; how loved and cherished they are. At Cave Quest camp, kids experience God's Word in surprising and

unforgettable ways. Each day, leaders reinforce one simple Bible truth—which makes it easy for kids to remember and apply to real life!

Children from Junior Kindergarten age to Grade 5 come for 9 a.m. to noon daily during the week of July 11 -15th.



Each afternoon, fifteen children learn new art skills under the able leadership of art teacher, Wendy.

Applicants are accepted for the art camp if they are going into grade 2 up to going into grade 6. Both camps are held here at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

Church and community children are invited. Children must be preregistered (call or email Miriam Little mlittle@yorkminsterpark.com or Brennan Rabbets brabbets@yorkminsterpark.com or check for registration forms on the Children's Ministry page of our website). There are limited spaces so register early. (You can call us, too, if you want to know how you can help out!)

We are looking forward to a happy experience.

Miriam Little

Director of Children's Ministries

CHARLENE AND CHANCELLA



Charlene and Chancella, our sponsored sisters from the Central African Republic, have had a busy time since they arrived on December 10. They are very happy to be in school (Charlene at CALC and Chancella at Greenwood) and are enjoying making new friends and getting back to their education which was interrupted for too long. Chancella enjoyed skating at City Hall with her class and both are still getting used to the miracle of snow. They have not been afraid to venture out in the cold and they are gradually mastering the TTC system, the currency, the banking system, cooking with electricity (instead of charcoal) and learning where to find their favourite foods. They are happy in their new apartment and know their way around the area where they live. Several families from the same refugee camp in Ghana have arrived in Toronto so they now have a circle of friends from Ghana, Togo, Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire as well as their many friends at YPBC. They enjoyed the Retreat day with the YPBC Women and Charlene has been joining the Minster Singers at their rehearsals on Sunday mornings. They both celebrated birthdays in January and the birthday parties were very special times for them.

They are very grateful for the love and support they have received from their new family at YPBC and look forward to getting to know more of the congregation and taking part in more church activities as their school schedule allows. If you haven't met them yet, please introduce yourselves – they'd love to meet you.

submitted by Mike Wills

2016 ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

The countdown continues for the much anticipated All-Church retreat on May 13 - 15 at Jackson's Point Conference Centre in Sutton.

Preparations are well underway for the retreat and registrants can look forward to the following activities:

- Participating in spiritual activities (small group sessions, testimonies, worship and prayer);
- Enjoying leisure time (board games, walking trails, campfire, basketball court, wagon ride, beach volleyball court, etc.);
- Listening to stories of your brothers and sisters in Christ;
- Growing in your faith; and
- Sharing meals together.

The theme Scripture verse is 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (see sidebar) and the speaker themes are: Blessed by God, Commissioned through Christ and Gifted to Serve.

Registration for the Saturday one-day option is open until March 28.

While the official registration deadline for overnight accommodation has passed, it still MAY be possible for you to attend, if there are rooms available at Jackson's Point. So, if you are still interested in coming for the weekend, it might not be too late! Please call the church office and someone from the Retreat Committee will get back to you.

For those who are coming and those who are unable to participate, as the time draws close to the Retreat, please meditate on the following considerations:

Firstly, reflect on the retreat theme of how God has equipped us all with spiritual gifts to serve the church and others in our sphere of influence. Ask yourself: How can I contribute to our church family and the advancement of God's Kingdom? Perhaps God is calling you to serve on a board, volunteer in the Sunday school, or increase your financial support of the church.

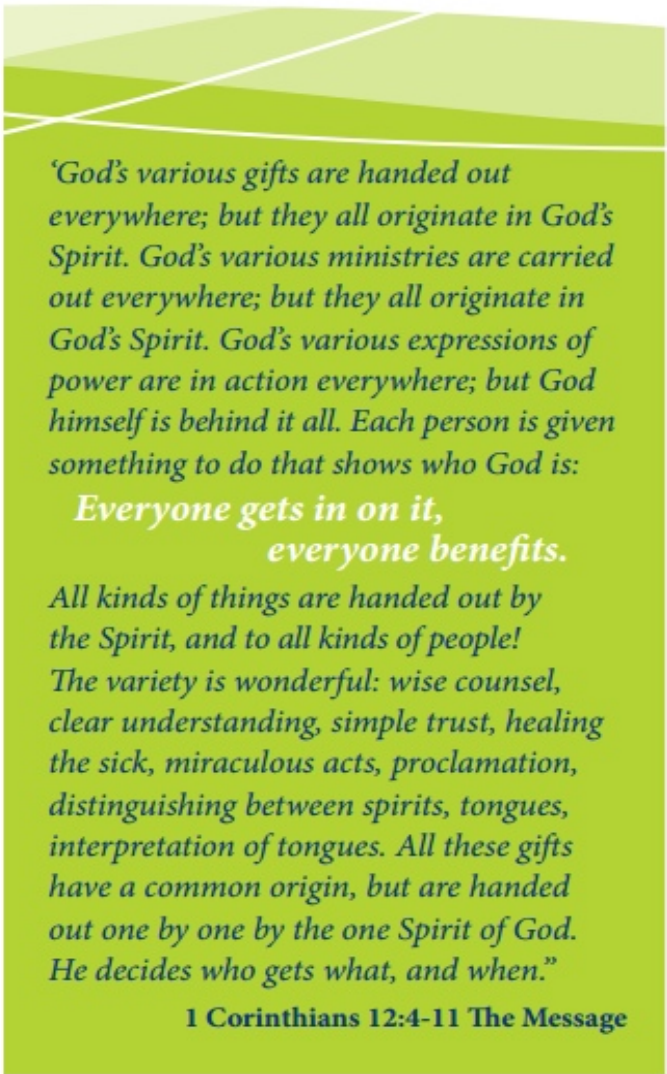
Consider how you can foster a three-dimensional lifestyle of Inspiration, Connection and Action; a lifestyle of enjoying God's presence and power, a lifestyle of relating to one another as helpmates, and

a lifestyle of social responsibility for the brokenness of our world.

Secondly, you can pray for the retreat. Please ask the Lord to use the teaching, stories and fellowship to edify His people and honour His name.

We are excited for how God is going to use the retreat to inspire us with a new sense of expectation and purpose and how our lives can be the evidence of His presence on earth. For we indeed, we are God's ransomed people who have been called out of darkness into marvellous light to be used for His purpose in whatever way He chooses!

submitted by Trevor Sinker



'God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is:

*Everyone gets in on it,
everyone benefits.*

All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful: wise counsel, clear understanding, simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when."

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 The Message

EASTER WEEK AT YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

OUR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 20, 11:00 am

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

This service will include a children's procession of palms and the hymns of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.



Holy Tuesday, March 22, 7:00 pm

A one-hour worship service featuring the music of Taize.

Guest Speaker: Paul Henderson, OC



Holy Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 pm

A one-hour worship service featuring the music of Iona.

Guest Speaker: Lorna Dueck, of Vision TV's 'Context with Lorna Dueck'



Maunder Thursday, March 24, 7:00 pm

Featuring the music of Iona.

Guest Speaker: Matt Wilkinson, Director of Youth, Canadian Baptists ON & QC

Good Friday – March 25, 11:00 am

Sermon: The Rev. Dale Rose

23th Ecumenical Good Friday Walk, 12:30 pm

Churches on-the-Hill Good Friday Walk

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27

8:00 AM – FAMILY SERVICE

The YPBC children and youth will lead in worship.

An Easter Breakfast for all to enjoy and an egg hunt for the children follows the service.

11:00 AM – MORNING SERVICE

Sermon: Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

Featuring YPBC choirs and guest musicians.

SILENT MOVIE IMPROVISATION CONCERT

CECIL B. DEMILLE'S

"KING OF KINGS"



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 7:00 PM

A special screening of Cecil B. DeMille's 1928 black and white classic.

Featuring the improvisations of internationally renowned **DAVID BRIGGS** playing the Yorkminster Park organ.

Free Will Offering for Choir Fund

NINE SPARROWS ARTS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

THE GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT

Music and Readings for a Most Holy Day

March 25, 2016, 4:00pm

ADMISSION FREE - DONATIONS WELCOME



YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

1585 Yonge St. at Heath St. (1 block north of St. Clair Ave.)
(416) 522-1157



For more information on Holy Week and Easter Sunday, visit yorkminsterpark.com

Please remember Deborah in your prayers



Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels 50th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner



Come and enjoy an evening of fine dining, music and friendship.

Door prizes, raffle, and silent auction all benefiting

Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels.

Tickets \$100 per person – a \$50.00 tax receipt will be issued.



**The Rosehill Venue
Monday April 11, 2016**

6 Rosehill Ave., Toronto www.rosehillvenue.com
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For tickets contact Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels
call 416-482-0549 or email yp-mealsonwheels@sympatico.ca
To donate visit us at www.ypmealsonwheels.com

FROM THE YPBC WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE...

YPBC WOMEN'S RETREAT REFLECTIONS

CHANGE....And the Journey of the Heart or Puffballs and Possibilities!

Facilitator: Sister Sue Mosteller

On Saturday, February 6, 2016, over 120 women from several different churches gathered at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel for the sixth annual YPBC Women's Retreat. The tables were festive with pocket prayer shawls and a buzz of enthusiasm permeated the room and our hearts as we anticipated the spiritual feast Sr Sue had prepared for us. It would prove to be a day where we would truly experience and be blessed by the power of testimony and witness.

We began our day with two Taize choruses :

*Spirit of God, renew us
From our hearts, Spirit of God renew us
Guide us to be all we can be
Live in our hearts and renew us.
and
Jesus, Jesus
Jesus, Jesus, let me tell you what I know
You have given us your Spirit
We love you so.*

Our Hearts

And so, our theme began to unfold with an examination of our hearts, a realm that we really don't know very well. Sr Sue told the story of a distraught and suicidal young woman in Paris, a prostitute who had come to a church to pray one last time before taking her own life, believing that there was no redemption for her. The priest who listened and ministered to her, explained that there was a secret place in her heart, like a hidden and privileged chapel where God dwells and waits for her return and where He says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love – you are my own beloved daughter" regardless of what you have done. This is a sacred place in all of us to which only we and God



have access. It is the primal essence of who we are, the place where we decide things, where our actions are motivated, where our emotions spill out. It is also the space where if we feel safe, we walk well. All of us have experienced pain, suffering, darkness and losses in our lives and we ask the unanswerable questions, "Why me?" "What did I do wrong?"

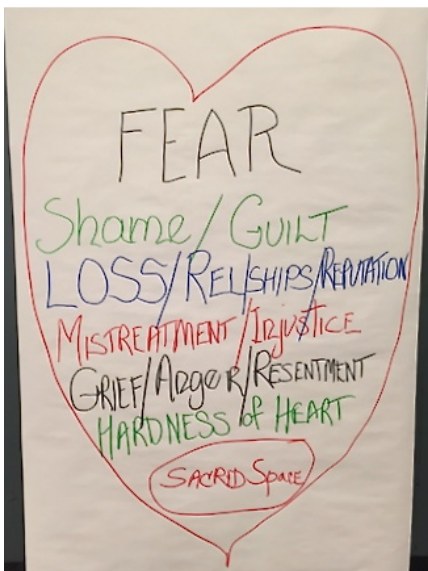
Our suffering is NOT God's punishment. The realm of our hearts is sacred, beautiful and deep and how we listen with our hearts influences how we move forward in our lives.

The story of Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3,4) reminds us that Jesus heard the Father's voice in the centre of His heart: "You are my beloved Son /I am delighted with you." And with this affirmation, Jesus was led by the

Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. (It is Sr Sue's contention that God was testing Jesus on whether or not he had really heard what He had said to him when he was baptized.) When Jesus had fasted for 40 days, the tempter approached Him and prefaced three temptations with the question, "If you really are God's Son....". In countering these allurements, Jesus reverentially claimed the truth of his identity. His baptism also helped him to claim the truth of our identity where he assures us that, "As the Father has loved Me, I love you" (John 15:9). We, also, are God's beloved daughters and sons on whom His favour rests. We don't need to be relevant, have things or power, or to take our identity from others to know the truth of our identity. It is from this place in our hearts where we are named God's beloved that we are to try and live with others and with God. Our names are written on the palm of His hand and He has loved us with an everlasting love. It's here in the primal essence of who we are that we can say "yes" to God. We've all received negative and untrue messages growing up but what God says is true about us, is enough! Can we welcome what we have?

Our spiritual journey is rooted in Jesus' words; "If you love me, my Father and I will come and make our home in you" (John 14:23). We are made in the

creative, generative and loving image of God and our identity comes from this sacred space in our hearts, the place where we make decisions – only we can decide to be a woman or man of God.



Sr Sue diagrammed a heart, for the most part populated with fear, shame, guilt, loss/relationships/reputation, anger revenge mistreatment, injustice, grief, sorrow and hardness, but with a small space left at its tip where God

dwells and from where we need to bring His love to cover all the rest that's contaminating our hearts – the layers in our hearts that cover this sacred space. We've all been touched by these realities but in this small place is the uniqueness of us all, the beloved of God. Love, however, can grow in this place and cover all the rest. We have to believe that something extraordinary is possible. Our hearts remember everything - we have the memory of the pain, grief, loss and need to ask, "Will I live in it or out of it with God's help?" How we live our losses is important.

Images can show us something about God's love. One important image for Sr Sue is Rembrandt's painting of the prodigal son (Luke 15: 11-32). Rembrandt had lost everything and painted this shortly before he died. (Van Gogh commented that no one who hadn't cried many tears could have painted this.) Rembrandt had been an arrogant man but now, in his magnificent painting, God is running to meet and to welcome him home to His heart.

We don't want the things we've lived to make us angry and resentful. We want God's love to cover this and give us hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19). In the New Covenant, God promises that He will remove the heart of stone from us and give us new hearts. How

is God speaking to each one of us? It's important that we try to access the One who says He will do this.

Our Journey

The spiritual/inner journey as an adult is a journey of the heart. For whom do we choose to lay down our lives? How do we relate to God and others? What's the use of our belovedness if we don't love? In the story of the prodigal son, the younger son has chosen to be in relationship with the Father and the older son is resentful. If we choose to come home, we need to take responsibility. The journey of coming home is to be who we are in the image of God. We have the power to restore relationships by the way we love and treat others and the world needs us!

Moses knew the suffering of his people. In the burning bush he says, "Here I am" (Exodus 3) and God begins to speak. God, too, has seen the misery of the Israelites in Egypt and He is going to liberate the people but Moses has no idea what's going to happen next – God doesn't give the details. He does, however, encourage Moses to remember that He will be with him along the way. Moses goes to Pharaoh and the journey begins. God took them the long way through the desert and Moses struggled to keep the complaining people together – they could have crossed in two years! Moses didn't know what was ahead of him as we also don't. Moses learned that community can be both wonderful and horrible! The journey of the heart is all of these things and God reminds us that He walks with us as well.



In our trials what is God inviting us to? Why the suffering? Moses rose up and laid down his life to get the Israelites from slavery to freedom. God invites us to lay down our lives too (John 15:13) – to learn how to love everyone – to find a way of affirming others in their truth. This is tough because we’ve been wounded by these people who are also being wounded. We need to get down to the “little person”. Jean Vanier would say that every person’s behavior is

normal for what they have lived. We don’t know what people have lived, the wounds they carry in their hearts. Everyone is “screaming” for affirmation. We can, however, access the love God has for us, that is in us. We

mustn’t let our own hearts be corroded with anger. We can also invite God’s love to cover others and allow Him to do the loving where we can’t. We won’t solve the mystery of suffering. The spiritual journey is with us every minute and we are to help others on their journeys to liberation.

For a vivid portrayal of the power of the interior attitude of our hearts, Sr Sue showed us an outstanding film created by the National Geographic photographer, Dewitt Jones. The film is aptly titled “Celebrate What’s Right With the World” and can be viewed online at <http://celebratewhatsright.com/film>. as well as on several other websites. He made this film to help people approach life with confidence, grace and celebration.

Jones believes that we need to have a vision that celebrates what is right with the world and what is best in people. In his life work as a photographer,

he has reversed the saying, “I won’t believe it until I see it,” to “I won’t see it until I believe it”! Understanding that our perceptions determine our reality he looks for the light that shines from within people and nature, for the layers of possibility and beauty in the world, right down to the tiniest seed. There is always beauty within if we have the vision to see it. When we celebrate what’s right, we develop a vision of possibilities.

How open to possibilities do our visions allow us to be? Celebrating what’s right actually gives us the energy to fix what’s wrong! The right vision is always open to possibilities – it not only gives us energy but also helps us to be more accepting of change. It can take us to our own edge and allow us to soar and celebrate what’s right.



Change

As a photographer, Jones would pray for change, knowing that the status quo would make his photos boring and redundant. Change became his ally. The awesome change curve became a possibility curve! Times of change always hold the most possibilities and so we can live in an exciting possibility curve where we can live in uncertainty and act with confidence. We can use our skills to ride the wave of possibilities. The power of a vision is extraordinary and incredible things happen when we’re open to possibilities. When we believe, we will see! And if we are to soar, we need to know ourselves and be our best *in* the world in order to be our best *for* the world.

A powerful metaphor in the movie illustrating the possibilities inherent in change was that of a potentially missed photo op. Jones shared how he

had encountered a field of brilliant yellow dandelions with enticing photographic possibilities. He wasn't however, "into it" – the light wasn't right and he decided to come back another day. When he did return, the field of dandelions had changed– it had become a field of puffballs! Almost turning away, Jones heard a little voice within, asking him what the possibilities might be here – what's here to celebrate? Heeding this prompting, he embraced this unplanned change. He saw the beauty and extraordinary possibilities within it, enthusiastically snapping with his skill and artistry, beautiful/magical photos of puffballs from every conceivable angle. We have to believe that something extraordinary is possible!

Reflecting on the film, Sr Sue commented that change is a constant – it comes slowly or suddenly - it takes us to new places but it is costly. We want things to stay the same but it's not going to happen and when the world and people around us are changing, it's difficult to remain loving. We can, however, ride change like the bird sitting on the wave in Jones' film.

Will I receive change graciously? This is the life of the heart and it's so important that we remember we are made in the image of God and can access His energies and the fruit of His Spirit. How can I live in the image of God in the world? How can I ride the wave of change with God's Spirit in my heart? God will take out my heart of stone and transform it. I can look for "the little flower" in the centre of one's personhood – I can believe and hope that I will see – I can look for what's right and not wrong in the world and celebrate the best in people – I can look for the beauty within others.

Incredible things happen when we're open to possibilities. Who are our teachers? If we want to help, we have to love - we are responsible for loving others. We too need to realize that our visions control our perceptions. We need to live out of the truth that we have been loved with an everlasting love by our God.

Around our tables, we spent some time sharing what expressions had been most meaningful to us throughout the morning.

We broke for lunch and a season of spirited conversation as we shared a meal together. Following lunch, we viewed Jones' film a second time and Sr Sue offered some concluding thoughts. She asked us to question the state of our hearts and called us to open them - to soar out to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters everywhere - to consider how we are to grow in the image of God and be who God created us to be. She reminded us once again that our identity is not in what we have, do or who others say we are. We are named by God as His own beloved and we need discipline and time to be fruitful – to be still, care and love people. Accordingly, she left us with some "disciplines" to help us to be vibrant at the level of our hearts:

1. A Prayer:

Thank you...(name for what)
I love you
I trust you
I'm sorry...
Keep me close to you
Let me live in your heart.

2. Have a regular time of solitude with God - a time to "show up" and trust!
3. Seek wise people to help us. Look for people who have suffered and are still smiling!
4. Walk with friends on the journey – be in community.
5. Live a balanced life – not all work/church but include arts, music, theatre, fun, sports etc.
6. Read good books and share these with others in discussion.



And so our day ended and from that sacred place in our hearts where we are named as beloved daughters by our God of extraordinary possibilities, we expressed our gratefulness to Sr Sue and to God.

Some Feedback...

“I not only enjoyed the retreat but was tremendously blessed. It was a wonderful day. I came home and shared everything with my daughter and many on Sunday.”

“Ladies, thank you so much for organizing such an incredible day today. I was fed to overflowing in my spirit. Every word and story Sr Sue shared went straight to my heart and I feel inspired, encouraged and blessed...thanks to all the women on the Executive for your hard work providing us with an opportunity for reflection and growth.”

PLEASE NOTE: two copies of Sr Sue’s book, *Light Through the Crack – Life After Loss*, will be placed in the YPBC Gladstone Library by the YPBC Women. (Jean Vanier comments, “This beautiful little book is for us all as we discover the crack in our lives and the light that can shine through it”.)

submitted by: Jonanne Fenton in collaboration with the YPBC WOMEN

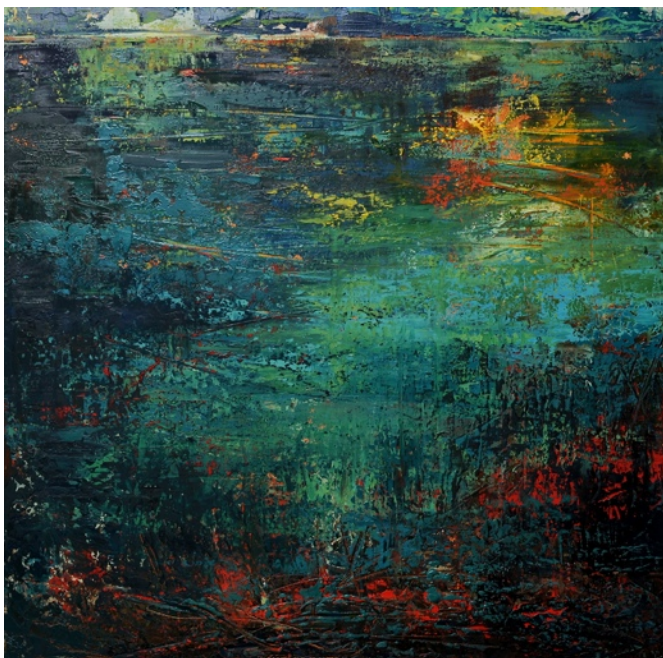
(photos by Janet Holmes and Janice Ivory-Smith)

YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

SUE A. MILLER: *Fleeting Moments of Eternal Land*

May 1 to May 26, 2016

Opening: Sunday May 1, 12:30-2:00pm



On Sunday May 1st YPG is hosting the vernissage (opening) of an intriguing exhibition of abstract expressive landscapes by featured Canadian artist Sue A. Miller.

Showcasing twelve new works by this talented painter, best known for her atmospheric water/landscapes of Georgian Bay and Atlantic shorelines, this latest collection of ‘rural atmospheric images’ invites the viewer into a quiet inner world layered in metaphor and mystery. Suffused with a wonderful ambiguity of time and place, her landscapes are not so much about identifiable geography, but more about the metaphoric connection between eternity and temporality in the landscape environment.

“It’s not so much about the actual physical scene in front of me,” she explains, referring to the expressive imagery in her landscapes, “but about the culmination of all the landscapes I’ve seen in my life and that have had an impact on me. I’m just trying to grasp a fleeting aspect of those memories.”

Ironically it’s this very aspect of fleetingness that stirs in the viewer an indefinable sense of familiarity - a feeling that some part of us *knows* this place. Dream-like and mystical, her paintings release a sort of siren call to the subconscious. Embracing the universal connection between nature and man, always looking for patterns and parallels in life and nature, her landscapes are compelling touchstones to deeper things.

It is inevitably the pull of those elemental touchstones - earth, water, sky - that inspire her to divide her time between her native Southern Georgian Bay region and the rugged coast of Perry’s Cove, Newfoundland. Drawn to the spirit of these places, she paints from her personal memories of landscapes, filtering them through her imagination, resulting in a creative amalgam of emotion and intuition.

Growing up in cottage country north of Orillia Miller spent many happy hours as a child exploring the natural world on her doorstep, often in solitude, and developing a keen connection to the environment. It is this passion for nature and Mother Earth that rests inexorably at the spiritual and philosophical root of her work today—the connectedness of all things.

To collectors and critics alike, her work holds an emotional realism that resonates with a broad audience. Many of her pieces hang in private

collections across Europe and North America. At home, professional gallery owners have high praise for the 'warmth, beauty, and feeling' in her work, pointing out that her paintings, by their interpretive nature, invite the viewer to make their own story.



It is also by Miller's artistic methodology that her paintings exude a life of their own and draw the viewer in. Rather than use brushes, Miller prefers to paint with a palette knife which lends texture and movement to the landscape, lifting a piece into a visceral experience.



"I love the texture you can achieve," she says of the palette knife, "the layering that happens. It loosens up the painting, and allows me to become less concerned with

details. It creates much more movement and energy." Further, by deliberately allowing the under wash to bleed through the layers of her work, she brings depth and mystery to the canvas. But perhaps the most interesting aspect, by design, is by eschewing a strong focal point she frees the viewer's eye to dance

around the painting and be woven right into it, prompting a feeling of connectedness.

In each of her 'atmospheric images' there stirs a complex and subtle energy reflective of Miller's intuitive connectedness to life and to nature and to those fleeting moments of eternity. This is an exhibition not to be missed.

Always a contributor to the learning experience, Miller regularly teaches art to youth and adults and was recently appointed resident artist at English Harbour, Newfoundland, for a period this coming summer.

For further information about this artist, visit her website at <http://www.sueamillerart.com>

Email: sueamiller65@gmail.com

Should you find your way to Creemore, her studio is at 148A Mill Street, above a popular café.

submitted by Nancy Falconer

