

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

YPBC NEWS

September 2021



Published by:

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PETER'S PEN

THANKSGIVING FOR CREATION

We are all tired of the pandemic and the dangers, losses and inconveniences

it has brought to our lives. Yet in the midst it has caused us to rediscover so much that is wonderful all around us. For example, like so many of you, I did not leave the province on my summer vacation, but I discovered afresh what a magnificent and beautiful place this is. Apart from time in the garden at the manse, I spent a great deal of time exploring the Grey/Bruce region of our province. I had many an adventure hiking along portions of the Bruce trail and other trails, visiting rural gardens, and visiting some surprisingly spectacular waterfalls. And along the way I met many interesting characters. This is a beautiful province and what a place to call home! **We indeed have so much to be thankful for.**

This summer I was grateful for a series of books called *Loops and Lattes* which highlights hiking trails in various parts of the province. As I visited trails I met many people using the same book. I am so pleased the YP Speakers Series will be featuring the author, Nicola Ross on Friday, October 15. For those of you who may have missed the YPSS presentation by David Lindsay on Birds of Ontario, it can still be viewed at:

<https://www.yorkminsterpark.com/speakers-series/39/birds-of-ontario-an-introduction-to-birdwatching/>

His many photographs and explanations served as yet another reminder of the beauty and wonder of this province and how much we have to be thankful for.

THANKSGIVING FOR COVID-19 VACCINES

As we thank God for creation we must also thank him for the COVID-19 vaccine. We prayed daily that God would provide a cure or vaccine for this troublesome virus and how God answered our prayers!

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The Cover - reflections, still water at the bend (page 5) in the Oxtongue Rapids; the Oxtongue River east of Huntsville. One of the beauty spots in southern Ontario. The leaves are typically at their peak in early October. Its worth a visit to experience this part of God's creation.

We think of the words of the hymn:

*For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.*

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

The next newsletter will be published in December, 2021.

Paul R Hill

I am appreciative of an article which recently appeared in Christianity Today by Professor J. Todd Billings who reintroduced me to John Calvin's creation theology. John Calvin, the lead and theologian of the second wave of the Reformation believed that the whole of creation is a theatre sparkling with the glory of God and within it there are untold wonders that are gifts of God. His view was that the discoveries of medical science were part of this unfolding glory. Billings went on to say how the coming together of the global scientific community to work together in an almost unprecedented manner in order to find from within God's created order the solution to the problem has been a magnificent reminder of God's providence and care. There is so much to be thankful for. To read Billings's article go to:

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/may-web-only/vaccine-skeptics-need-dose-of-creation-theology.html>

THANK YOU TO ALL CARE PROVIDERS and SUPPORT STAFF

The recent protests outside of hospitals were very upsetting to me and to most because front line health care workers and hospital and care home staff have been nothing less than heroic.

An ICU doctor from Hamilton interviewed on CTV news last week said the staff are tired and burning out, but not giving up. However in the background of the interview, protestors were waving placards in demonstration against the vaccine and the manner in which they felt it was restricting the exercise of their freedom. One can only imagine how demoralizing this must be for those who have made such sacrifices for the care of others throughout the pandemic.

As much as ever before we need to extend our thanks to those who have been working so hard to deliver health care in our province. They are weary and tired and for good reason. Early in the pandemic people gathered on their porches to ring bells in the early evening, but such expressions of appreciation seem to have faded into the past. As we approach Thanksgiving it is important not only to thank God for seeing us through this challenging time, but to go out of our way to thank those who have put so much on the line to serve the health of our province. So

let's rally our energies and go out of way to say, "Thank you!"

Perhaps it is a letter we can write to someone we know on the front lines whether they are medical staff or support staff. If we don't know anyone in particular, let's consider sending it to a hospital or care home. I offer the following as a sample. Please feel free to make it your own.

Dear ...

I have been horrified by the sight of people protesting the COVID-19 vaccine outside of hospitals. You and all who continue to provide medical care and support during this Pandemic are our heroes. All of you have worked tirelessly and experienced considerable discomfort almost living in PPE. More significant still, again and again you have put your own lives on the line for the sake of others and I am so grateful and proud of you. When we have not been able to be there for loved ones, you have been so helpful to them and to us. Thank you. And we can't begin to imagine the stress you have had to carry with you when your shift ends. Thank you for all that you do.

There may have been a few hundred outside the hospitals protesting but please be aware there are millions of us appreciatively applauding your work and I am sure we would eagerly gather to cheer you on if it would not increase the risk of spread and increase the challenges you face. You and all who work with you are heroes and we are so thankful. May God renew your strength day by day and in the midst of it all may you know true peace. And when it is over I hope you have the time of your life! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Whatever the season there is always reason to give thanks!

In Christ,

Peter Holmes

OTHER NEWS

RETIREMENT OF A YP FRIEND

On Sunday, September 19th, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Stirling announced his retirement as the Senior Minister of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church effective January 1, 2022. Andrew has been a wonderful neighbour and friend to Yorkminster Park

during his 23 years at TEMC. We thank God for his faithful ministry in our community and his leadership in the wider church. Andrew has also been a great supporter of YPBC's Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship and his preaching has always been greatly appreciated. When he retires, Andrew will join the team at the Canadian Bible Society as their Ambassador to Canadian Church and Society in the hope of increasing the understanding and appreciation for the role of the Bible in our life together. We look forward to an opportunity to thank him formally and bless him in his new ministry. In the meantime let us keep both Andrew and TEMC in our prayers.

INDUCTION SERVICE FOR THE REV.

PAULA WILLIS

The Rev. Paula Willis assumed her new duties as our Minister of Pastoral Care and Discipleship in mid-August and will soon be moving into the manse on St. Clements Ave. We are grateful to God for her presence on our team and the joy and enthusiasm she brings to the church family.

A Service of Induction will be held for Paula Willis on Sunday, October 17th at 11 a.m. Our guest preacher for the day will be Amos Jones of Washington D.C. Amos is not only an

accomplished journalist and lawyer but a remarkable leader of the church who comes from a long line of Baptist clergy. He has served as the Chair of Deacons at the First Baptist Church, Washington, but is currently a very active member of Washington's very historic Shiloh Baptist Church. We have come to know Amos through his online participation in the life of our church. He has led Bible studies, been featured by the YPSS and attended small groups and always he has been so helpful and affirming. We are so honoured that he will be with us for this important occasion in the life of our church.

FALL WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Lost in Translation is Yorkminster Park's Fall/Winter Wednesday evening Bible Study for 2021/22 featuring various leaders from the YP family who will take turns leading us in a study of Biblical phrases that are commonly used in our English language. We will explore not only their popular usage but also their Biblical origins and seek to identify that meaning at the heart of it all.

Our studies will be taking place on Zoom at 7 p.m.

on Wednesday's beginning September 29.

All are welcome. Please contact the church office to register.

ONLINE WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Lost in Translation

SEPTEMBER TO JANUARY 2021/22 7 P.M. | ON ZOOM

Lost in Translation, our evening Bible Study for 2021/22, features 14 leaders from the YP family who will take turns leading us in a study of Biblical phrases that are commonly used in our English language.

Register online, or contact the church office at office@yorkminsterpark.com



Sept. 29 - Week One - CREATION AND FALL
Leader: PETER HOLMES

- In the beginning
- Forbidden fruit
- Ashes to ashes, dust to dust
- The land of Nod
- Let there be light
- By the sweat of your brow
- Am I my brother's keeper?

FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP



A friend was speaking with me the other day and she was asking how things had gone in my first month in the new position of Minister of Pastoral Care and Discipleship here at Yorkminster Park. And I told her I was surprised at how very much it had reminded me of the first few weeks when I became a mother for the first time.

Now of course I have not been up all night with feedings, nor sleep deprived, but the newness in something that was already in some way familiar has been striking. Like all people when they become parents, I knew a fair bit about children from having been around them all my life. And well before my first child was born I studied everything I could so I would be prepared in every way and for every contingency, because I wanted whoever the new person who was on their way, to be happy and thrive. I remember asking God, and still do, for his aid in raising my children, to not get in the way of his good work, but to be a helpmate to his brilliance.

But no matter how much I prepared for the new arrival, nothing could compare to the actual experience, of doing the job itself. Nothing I read prepared me for the outpouring of love I had not even realized I had in me, the force and depth and passion that arises when caring for a child. Where did it come from? I knew the source was God's love, it was far too much for me to produce in my own strength. It was unstoppable.

So it was that through this first month in the new position here at Yorkminster Park, the happy exhaustion I have felt had a familiarity that I at first did not equate with long ago, in that first

great change of role, when a child being born made of me as well, something new with all the material of the old. What similar emotions have risen in the last 30 days as those in the first 30 of new motherhood.

In my church work and chaplaincy, I had much experience of pastoral care and discipleship and had studied and studied to be prepared...but nothing I have done, yet again to my surprise, has prepared me for the passionate depth of love and thanks I have felt and this coming from someone who already knew this precious church well!

It is a humbling awe, that one could be graced to do such work, to be part of something greater than one's self. Just now as I climbed the stairs I had the great gift of seeing some of our church members picking up meals to deliver. We are all called to work alongside God and in this blessed place so many have said, "Yes!"

After all that preamble that I have just shared with all of you as I did with my friend, I tried to summarize my impressions. What does becoming a mother and becoming the "new pastor" have in common? From what I can see so far, they are both great and happy moments when one willingly hands one's self over in love to the other and wonders how on earth one ever could be so blessed. In this first newsletter offering I give thanks to the church for the grace, the gracious gift, of being allowed to love and serve you all, to the glory of God and I am so thankful that I will never do it alone. We are in this together, along with God, together.

Paula Willis





Such a blessing it is to BEE-long to our church family!!!

We are carefully and prayerfully hoping to provide in-person **children and youth ministries** later this fall!

Our Family Ministry Team will continue to provide the following faith development and fellowship opportunities:

Tuesday Zooms

• **6:30-7:15pm – Family Ministries!!** We invite ALL ages to join Heather & Leticia to share life, God’s Word and pray for one another.

• **7:30-8:30pm – Youth Night!!** Join in the fun as we gather with youth and leaders for games, questions, loads of laughs and engage in some fun activities.



Sundays: Online and In-person Church

• **10:30am – Faith at Home!!** We encourage families to gather together in their home any time before 11am and view our Family ministry email that is sent out every

Friday. The email includes teaching, worship and craft videos that relate to our weekly theme along with other faith resources and discussion questions.

Practicing your faith in the home as a family helps model, support and build your faith development and to further grow in your relationship with Jesus.

- **11am – Live Webcast Worship Service!!** Watch the service together in your home **OR** register ahead to get your spot to attend church and sit together for in-person worship.
- **11:30am – 12:30pm – DOXA youth bible study on ZOOM!!** Leaders and youth will continue to meet on-line via zoom to pray, watch the DOXA teaching video and unpack God’s word together.

Friday Youth Night – every 3rd Friday of each month

- **7-9pm – Youth Group Outing!!** Come out and meet up with Lutzen (Youth Ministry Leader) and his wife Jackie (Youth Ministry Volunteer) for an outdoor adventure.

Count our Blessings

- Our **Virtual Bible Camp 'Jonah and the Giant Fish'** gave families 5 days of online teachings, songs and activities to engage in and have fun learning about the Jonah story and the importance of trusting and obeying God
- Over the covid-19 season, **our Family Ministry Team have coordinated safe ways to involve families to use their time and gifts** by helping support the following missions with food, finances, faith resources and prayers: Yonge St. Mission, COTH Foodbank, Oneida Missions and Out of the Cold Missions
- On **September 12th** after the service, we handed our FM Blessing Bags and Treat Bags to families and had a chance to say 'hi' and be reminded what a **Blessing it is to BEE-long to our church family.**
- Each week **children and youth draw pictures or write prayers and thoughts** related to our themes. These activities help children apply what they have learned about God and a way to share their creativity with others. Their artwork is displayed in a collage and shown in the webcast service and on our Family Ministry emails. The below collage highlights some of our families' summer fun!



Family Summer Fun Photo Collage

In faith,
Heather Mackey
Director of Family Ministries
hmackey@yorkministerpark.com



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM HEALTH & WELLNESS | PARISH NURSE

We are very excited that the doors at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church have reopened. We take pride in our commitment to follow Public Health practices. YPBC continues to promote **safety** protocols and procedures to make our community as safe as possible.

Your actions can help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The new COVID-19 variants of concern may spread more easily. It is more important than

ever to follow public health practices and get vaccinated with both doses for the best protection as soon as you can. Continue to keep your distance from people you don't live with, wear your mask, wash your hands frequently, and stay home if you are feeling unwell.

Questions and/or comments are welcome.

SAFELY ATTENDING FAITH-BASED SERVICES DURING COVID-19



Limit contact & keep 6 feet apart from people you don't live with.



Wear a mask indoors & if physical distancing is difficult outdoors.



Bring your own materials (eg. prayer book or rug).



Do not sing or chant as germs can spread more easily.



Keep your children with you & do not gather in groups.



Rituals like communion are not recommended.

Please contact Lily at parishnurse@yorkminsterpark.com | 416-922-1428

While COVID-19 has put a pause on our educational events, we look forward to providing health and wellness education to the congregation and the community, hopefully prior to this year's end and it will likely be virtual. One of our upcoming guest speakers, Dr. Donna Fagan, Registered Dietician, will share her insights on the relationships between Faith and Food. Stay tuned for details later this season.

In the meantime, here are a few relevant and timely resources which may be of assistance to you.



Toronto Public Health

- Phone: 416-338-7600
- Link: www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/
- Email: PublicHealth@Toronto.ca
- Link to download proof of vaccination/receipts: <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>

Government-funded health and personal support services and long-term care homes

- Phone: 310-2222 (no area code)

Seniors Safety Line

Assistance in cases of elder abuse, isolation, anxiety or depression

- Phone: 1-866-299-1011

Telehealth Ontario - Telehealth is available for free health advice.

- Phone: 1-866-797-0000
- Link: www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19

Financial support

A variety of programs available through the city of Toronto, depending on eligibility.



- Phone: 416-338-0TTY (0889)
- Address: 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
- Link: www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-economic-support-recovery-for-businesses/covid-19-employee-wage-support-businesses

Toronto Seniors Helpline

- Phone: 416-217-2077
- 1-877-621-2077
- Link: www.torontoseniorshelpline.ca

Medvisit

Doctors Housecall Service, Medvisit, is Canada's largest network of home visiting doctors for times when your family doctor is unavailable. Serves all the areas in GTA.

- Phone: 416-631-3000

Kids helpline

Offer a wide range of articles, tools and resources on Covid-19 to help young people through challenges or experiences they might face. They also have professional counselling support and a variety of resources to help youth in any moment of need.

- Text: 686868
- Phone: 1-800-6686868
- Link: www.kidshelpphone.ca

Sick Kids Health

Health education website for children, youth and their caregivers. It has information on Covid-19 and mental health

Center for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

Please refer to mental health resources on their website or call for tips on dealing with anxiety, stress and confronting the negative effects of isolation and physical distancing related to Covid-19

- Phone: (416) 397-4636
- Link: action.camh.ca/apart-not-alone

**One phone call.
Many ways we can help.**

If you are a senior or know a senior who would benefit from:

- Community supports, such as Meals on Wheels, transportation and adult day programs
- Crisis services
- Care at home, such as nursing and personal support
- Supportive counselling over the phone
- Caregiver resources and support

Toronto Seniors Helpline is here for you.
416-217-2077
1-877-621-2077
www.torontoseniorshelpline.ca

Calls are answered 365 days a year.
Interpretation available in 100+ languages.
Web Chat available

WOODSKELN LOFT reconnect CAH Ontario

Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels

Great resource for countering anxiety and stress related to long grocery lineups. They provide meals to elderly, disabled and chronically ill residents. Meals on Wheels delivers Monday to Friday every week, with weekend service available if required.

- Phone: (416) 482-0549
- Address: 1585 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M4T 1Z9
- Email: info@ypmealsonwheels.com

- Phone: (416) 482-0549
- Address: 1585 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M4T 1Z9
- Email: info@ypmealsonwheels.com

Daily Bread Food Bank/Toronto

- Phone: (416) 203-0050 x269

City of Toronto food delivery

The City is working with the Red Cross and other partners to provide food hamper delivery to seniors and others in need who are unable to leave their homes. This service is made available for qualifying seniors and others that are in self-isolation who do not have alternative access to food (through family, friends, availability of food delivery services) and are currently not receiving such assistance from another community food program.

- Phone: 1-833-204-9952 for eligibility and registration information

Food and groceries

Organizations and volunteer groups that will deliver groceries to seniors at home with no delivery fee.

- Phone: 211

FAREWELL AND FAREFORWARD DEAR DALE AND DONNA

Upon reflecting upon Dale and Donna's Farewell just a couple of weeks ago, I would like to add that it has been not only an honour but a privilege to



have the opportunity to work alongside with them both. They have taught me what it means to minister and to serve our members within our community at YPBC and beyond, unconditionally.

Dale's closing note of Gratitude, in our Fall 2020 Congregational Report included the following, "The recent pandemic has revealed a strength of character

and faith among the members of our Yorkminster Park Family. I have seen them care as people have reached out to support one another. I have witnessed great faith and courage in the midst of this virus, as people have sought to care for those most vulnerable. They have demonstrated that as Christians, we are the hands and feet of Christ to a world of need." Dale has been a great role model not only for me but for our congregation and our staff. I am reminded of St. Theresa of Avila's precious words:

"Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out upon the world. Ours are the feet with which he goes about doing good. Ours are the hands with which he blesses his people."

Blessings for Peace and Good Health,
Lily



FROM THE YPBC WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE...

Global Conference of Baptist
Women, Baptist World
Alliance July 7, 2021

LIFE!

Theme verse -John 10:10
*...I am come that they may
have life - yes, and have it to
the full.*



TOGETHER
22nd BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS

We were worshipping, praying, learning and growing along with 1,598 Baptist women from 112 countries around the world . We have been part of making history for the most culturally diverse BWA Women's Conference ever held. As wonderful as it would have been to meet in person, the virtual experience made it possible for so many more women from so many more countries to attend. And what a wonderful time it was to enjoy music and dancing with our Baptist sisters all around the world. And what an encouragement to hear what our sisters are doing throughout 7 continental unions in all. We had excellent teaching times through the offerings of 10 different workshops and keynote speakers who inspired, challenged and blessed us , calling us to live LIFE to the full. The affirmation of women as God's beloved daughters and as co-humanity, with full equality before God was firmly rooted in scripture in all of these presentations.

Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart, Senior Pastor Christ Missionary Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee was the first keynote speaker, Gina is a dynamic pastor, preacher, visionary, builder, mentor, and adjunct professor. She has led this congregation since March 1995 and is the first African American woman elected to serve an established African American Baptist congregation in Memphis. She holds MDiv and DMin degrees and is currently pursuing a PHD in African American preaching at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. She has a published book, *We've Got Next: HER Story in His Story*. Gina's topic was:

A Daughter of Abraham

Fellow Heirs of God's Promises - Luke 13: 10-17

Gina introduced her presentation by emphasizing that in Jesus, we have qualitatively different lives, free from every type of bondage, unhindered and uninhibited by the will of others. Luke 13 describes how Jesus healed a woman in the synagogue who had suffered with an infirmity for 18 years, drawing the scorn of the synagogue leader because he healed her on the sabbath. Jesus denounced the hypocrisy of the religious leader and called the woman 'a daughter of Abraham'. Jesus' revolutionary message to the synagogue leaders was that this woman was indeed a fellow heir of the promises of Abraham. For Jesus to call her a 'daughter of Abraham' was to make her a full-fledged member of the nation of Israel with equal standing with men before God who bestows certain rights and privileges. This woman who had been bent over for 18 years was entitled to be healed, delivered and set free because she was 'a daughter of Abraham'. Like the woman who was healed on the Sabbath, every Christian woman finds her deliverance and freedom based on her status as a beloved child of God. When Jesus named that woman a 'daughter of Abraham' he gave her an identity that was greater than her burdens. It's that identity that gave her hope after 18 years of suffering. It was the identity of being a child of her Father...of being the apple of God's eye. Our burdens do not have to define the limits of who we are. Our adversity is not our identity. Our condition is not our conclusion. Our situation is not our termination. And what we have been through is not necessarily who we are. We are children of God -

daughters of Abraham, empowered to stand up straight and live free to the glory of God.

Asha Sanchu, our second speaker, spoke to us from Nagaland India. Asha holds a MTh and works as a passionate advocate for women and children caught in sexual exploitation. She is committed fully to the work of rescuing, securing freedom and empowering the lives of women entrapped in sexual exploitation. She is the Executive Director of Miglac Ministry under the Women's Department of the Nagaland Church Council. Asha's presentation centred on:

LIFE When You're Feeling Dead Inside Jesus and the Samaritan Woman John 4: 1-42

Pointing to Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman in John 4, Asha portrayed him as offering restoration, reestablishment, revival and renewal not only to the Samaritan woman but to all women. Through the conversation at the well, as the woman opened herself to Jesus, the broken pieces of her life were knitted together one by one, even without her realizing it. After Jesus spoke with the woman, offering her the gift of 'living water', her life changed dramatically. A woman with a reputation who had come to draw water from a well in the heat of the day to avoid contact with others ran into town, eager to invite people to meet Jesus. Her dignity was restored. She received the gift of new life in Christ. A woman who had been the talk of the town and who was trying to avoid being seen, became active, alive and joyful. She was revived and became a new person. When she experienced this revival, she chose to share it with others.

Survivors of sexual exploitation who come to know Christ often feel burdened for their friends who still are on the streets. They want to reach out to them but they are fearful they won't know how to share God's will for them effectively. Asha advises these survivors and all of us, to just tell others what God had done in our lives and our life itself will be a testimony. When God restores, reestablishes, revives and renews us he uses every part of us to bless and to encourage others.



Karen

Wilson - President, BWA Women 2020-2025 was our final keynote speaker. Currently CEO of Global Leadership Network, Australia and VP of International Ministries of Global Leadership Network. In the closing session, Karen focused on:

The Inside Story - John 10:10

Christian women are meant to live extraordinary lives of purpose, calling and courage when we know God is our Redeemer. Living extraordinary lives means accepting the calling to "be Jesus to all those we meet." Each person has a unique calling from God and as God mobilizes his people for action each individual must do her part. "You are just right," she said. Don't discount your age, race, gender or circumstances in life...God needs you just the way you are. God wants each of his children to have an extraordinary heart of mercy, compassion, integrity, courage and faith, Karen stressed. "With our hand in his, his heart is now our heart. "We are called to step out and walk the journey of faith. No matter what we will face, he will be with us and his Spirit is within us to empower and equip us - to give us life - life abundant- life to the fullest!. Commit to finishing well!

One of the excellent workshops that I attended was led by **Gaopalelwe Seleka**, currently the National Deputy President of the Baptist Convention of South Africa's Women's Department. She is passionate about empowering women and girls and relationship building. She spoke about:

Arousing the Deborah Spirit. Judges 4

Seleka cited the pandemic as a time that has forced us into a reset mode, forcing us to acknowledge that we need God more than we ever thought. We've had to learn that in Him we live, move and exist and we've had to focus on what matters most. She used

the story of Deborah's leadership as an instructive example of resetting, realigning and restarting.

Israel had been oppressed by the Canaanites for 20 years and the circumstances were unbearable. Deborah, judge and prophetess of her nation, had to accept that things couldn't remain the same and she knew a change of attitude, a reset, was needed. She called on God to deliver her nation and He did! As God poured out his Spirit on Deborah, she helped her nation to move to the next level by restoring them to their former relationship with God. This realignment led to cooperation between genders and classes without power struggles or competition as they re-started their lives with God.

The Deborah attitude allows us to make God the centre of our lives and start with him over and over - to weather the storms of our lives, personally and within our families, ministries and careers. The world is desperate for women with a Deborah attitude - she was bold, wise, direct, confident, visionary, a team player and an effective supervisor/delegator. At any moment in our lives, with God's empowerment, we too can reset to unlock God's power within us and allow change. We can realign to restore or change any position and restart with a new beginning so that we can be all that God intends us to be. We can dare to 'take up arms' and go to battle for our children, marriages/families, churches, communities, nations and the generations to come!

I was blessed, encouraged and inspired by this conference. Even though virtual, there was a real sense of immediacy and connection. Baptist women can be very grateful for the calibre of BWA Women's leadership and for the privilege of belonging within this global community of godly women. And in a reference to leadership, Karen Wilson stressed that if the pandemic has taught leaders anything, it is that they must be flexible, honest and open to adopting new approaches to ministry and technology. Change expectations and keep relationally connected. Find people you are friends with. Take offence lightly and forgive quickly! That we should be so is our prayer and intention.

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

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Like many other activities, refugee resettlement has taken a back seat to the pandemic. Due to various Covid-19 restrictions, very few resettlements have been approved by the Canadian government in the last 18 months. However, there are now signs of movement and we are hopeful that the processes our sponsored families have been waiting for will restart again very shortly. When families do eventually arrive, I look forward to working with many of you to support them and help integrate them into the life of our city. One family - a father, mother and three children under 12 from Central African Republic - is in a refugee



camp in Ghana and is awaiting further news from the government on their file. We are hopeful an approval to travel to Canada will be granted to them soon. The other family we've committed to sponsor - a Pakistani Christian family - is awaiting their formal eligibility interview at the Canadian visa office in Thailand. Please keep these two families in your prayers. And please keep refugees and asylum seekers around the world in your prayers as the global refugee crisis continues to expand, particularly with the recent events in Afghanistan - today, according to the United Nations, over 82 million people around the world have been forcibly displaced - that's the population of two Canadas!

Kevin Carpenter

YPBC Refugee Co-ordinator

DALE AND DONNA FAREWELL



MISSIONS REPORT

Update and prayer requests from Bill and Janice Dyck, CBM missionaries to Bolivia

We are grateful for Bill and Janice Dyck, who are our Partners in Mission through Canadian Baptist Ministries, serving the people of Bolivia. They are currently working from their home in Calgary. The long-distance virtual ministry is surprisingly busy, but they say it still feels tentative and vulnerable at times. Bill will be on nine Zoom meetings with people in Bolivia this week, ranging from one to four hours long.

Please keep praying for the pastors in Bolivia. The third wave of Covid peaked in Bolivia in June. In all they have lost 25 pastors to Covid, many during the last wave. In all, 150 pastors' families will receive aid from CBM: 15 for funeral expenses, 65 for medications, 70 with food supplies. One pastor who was in intensive care said, with tears in his eyes, "I don't know how I'll ever pay the medical bill." These bills can be up to 30 or 40,000.00 dollars. Bill adds, "our aid won't pay for all expenses, but does let pastors' families know we care, and helps a bit. Another 120 families associated with the Casa de la Amistad, the Jireh Project, the Chagas project will also receive similar aid."

The country is expecting a fourth wave of Covid, which may result in a new wave of sadness, but life and ministry go on, and for now we celebrate: the distribution of aid to 270 families; the formation of nine new groups in the Discipleship and Pastoring of Pastors movement; new President of the Bolivian Baptist Union —Pastor Lucio Arias; the health of our CBM team members and associates; the formation of a new micro-group of UBB leaders meeting with Bill; ongoing Zoom training events and church services.

In the last couple of weeks, we have been praying for Goretty Jora's family. Goretty, heads up the Emmanuel Foundation, where Janice was teaching

music. She and six members of her family, most of whom volunteer at the Foundation, all had Covid at the same time. Most are recovering well, but they are grieving the loss of Goretty's brother Cesar.

Please keep praying for Janice & Bill's daughter Marigan. She is a Canadian nurse who was infected by a patient with Covid before vaccines were available in Canada. She is continuing to learn how to cope with very serious long-term effects of Covid 19 which can be extremely challenging. Let's pray for a miraculous healing for Marigan.

They wrote us September 15, 2021 to express their appreciation for the encouragement and support they receive from the people of YPBC.



INTRICTI

Arrivals & Departures - A Journey to Advent
Bi-Weekly Panel Discussion
Collaboration with Intricti and IMAGO



In the ebb and flow of our daily lives – the urgent may cause us to neglect the important. Life can be enriched if we are able to look beyond the tasks to be completed and respond to the deeper values that can sustain us on our journey. Uncertainty, fear and anxiety so prevalent in our society seem to have taken the place of the more life-giving qualities we all long for. These conversations are an opportunity to reflect on four life-giving virtues (Hope | Joy | Peace | Love) to see how we might nurture them in our own lives and to cultivate their presence in our communities. The narrative of Advent can open to us new possibilities for light in our darkened world.

On Bringing Hope | October 13 | 12:00 P.M. - 12:45 P.M.

The prevailing narrative of our consumerist culture leaves us unsatisfied and results in a loss of hope. And we rightly ask – What can I hope for? Gestures of kindness, generosity and compassion – are symbols of hope – letting us know that our immediate circumstances are not the last word. How might we bring hope to our troubled world – and how might we engage a story that invites us to look beyond the moment and see reasons to be hopeful?

Panelist - Sara Hildebrand | Founder & Director | Millennium Kids

Panelist - Kelita Haverland | Singer & Songwriter

On Bringing Joy | October 27 | 12:00 P.M. - 12:45 P.M.

Joy is a lost experience for many – as the urgent demands of life stifle joy's presence. How can we live in such a way that joy is allowed to flourish in our lives? And how might we carry joy to others? It

is often through the unexpected that joy comes reminding us of our deep and important connection with others. The story of Advent is memorably described as “joy to the world” where a long expectation has been fulfilled.

Panelist - Alan Kearns | Managing Partner & Founder | Career Joy

Panelist - James Paterson | Artist

On Bringing Peace | November 10 | 12:00 P.M. - 12:45 P.M.

Conflict is all around us. The tensions which come through our divisions – whether of race, worldview or our compulsive competitiveness, take a toll on our lives. Whether in politics, or religion, our ethnic communities or families, we are all too familiar with the unsettling impact of conflict. “Blessed are the peacemakers.” How are we to speak, live and share peace in our conflicted culture?

Panelist - Jennifer Menard-Shand | Founder & CEO | Staff Shop

Panelist - Ian Cusson | Composer

On Bringing Love | November 24 | 12:00 P.M. - 12:45 P.M.

Love is a theme that calls for careful consideration, we can love a sports team, a favourite food or a piece of music – but then we are also called to love one another and to love God. Is love just a feeling or is it more? And what does it mean to bring love into our communities to spread its influence and foster its presence? Love is said to be the identifying feature of a faith community yet it is often absent from our practices. Advent is at its heart a story of love and we are called to live in that story.

Panelist - Paul Burns | Managing Director | Twitter

Panelist - Brad Woods | Storyteller

Registration:

www.intricti.ca

submitted by Alana Walker Carpenter

NEW MEMBERS

(one version of the June newsletter had incorrect pairing of names and bios; for which the editor apologises)

Katherine Laundry

Katherine, who has recently returned to Toronto to be near her aging parents, has fond memories of YP. In her teens, a friend had invited her to the church and Youth Group here, so this became her temporary church home. Baptized and confirmed in the United Church, Katherine has enjoyed worshiping in a variety of Christian



denominations reflecting different styles of worship, and found these experiences broadening and positive. And now she is back at YP, where she is happy to see some familiar faces.

She has a degree in Library Sciences. During her career she worked in various types of libraries in Canada and the UK, but primarily with the federal government in Ottawa. Katherine is now retired.

An avid reader, Katherine is also passionate about social justice and is active in Amnesty International and other volunteer organizations. Essential to her faith walk is continual learning, through small group studies, prayer, and Christian fellowship. She looks forward to making a contribution at YP.

Katherine has one son living in Wales and one in Toronto. She joins by Christian experience.

Fran Mason

Fran Mason was raised in a Christian home and made her commitment to faith when she was a teenager in 1943. She has attended Bible studies almost all of her adult life and in association with the Christian Women's Club was a co-founder of the Toronto chapter of Stonecroft Ministries.

She met and married Charles and they raised their two children, Allen and Cathie, at the West Toronto Bible Chapel and later at Hilltop Chapel and was

very active in women's ministries in both congregations. However, after the death of her husband, Fran felt she should attend a church closer to home and began attending Yorkminster Park where Allan and Elaine are members.

She began by attending the Tuesday Morning Bible study and attends Sunday morning services. In the past few years she has helped cook meals for Out of the Cold and the Alpha programme. When Peter approached her and asked her to join she was glad to do so.

Fran feels that her age precludes her ability to exercise her gifts but she has found a new ministry which she is able to do – to pray diligently and daily for the ministerial staff and the outreach of Yorkminster Park. It is a pleasure to welcome Fran, joining by transfer from Hilltop Chapel.



TRANSITIONS

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

Birth

Caleb, son of Elizabeth and Tim Putsch

New Members (left and above)

Deaths

Betty Jean Flower

Margaret Casella

Hilda Jones

Jean Cameron

Eric Barton

Barbara Ferguson

Shirley Wildi

THE POWER OF THE SOUND OF MUSIC



You *can't* teach an old dog new tricks??? That's how the old saying goes. But Peter shared in his sermon on September 19th that you *can* if you're willing to start anew—and enter, as we learn from scripture, as a “child”—*with*

wonder, curiosity and faith, and *without* worries, agenda, judgment or fear. As the Nike slogan goes: *Just do it*. And *that's* what *I* finally did. After a lifetime of wanting to learn to play the harp, I finally “just did it” at the start of this pandemic. I've been “as a child” with my lessons now for almost two years. So much so that I encouraged my harp teacher to stop apologizing for using the “child-like” analogies and metaphors (to explain technique) that she typically reserves for her juvenile students. They're very helpful! *And* they make me smile. Instructions such as: “Your fingers are like little dancers, and in order to *dance*, their feet must touch the floor—the palm of your hand.” Or, “Hold your hand in a fist and then sloooooowly open and streeetch your fingers to touch the strings, the way flowers gently bloom to reach the sun at the start of new days, and then close at nightfall.” Simple explanations. Simple dynamics. Big, remember-forever, results. As long as the “child” keeps at it!

Children often don't want to practice their harp, piano, violin, whatever, when the weather is lovely. They'd much rather be outside sucking the marrow out of our oh-so-short summer days. Well that preference is ageless, I imagine, especially for folks of northern climes. And *that* brings me to how I managed to do both—simultaneously practice daily for long stretches *and* be outside soaking up warm summer days and nights. I simply lifted my harp to the back garden or front porch, and awkwardly—with plenty of mistakes and false starts (at least at first)—played my harp out. (And, no, lol, that's *not* a typo. That's me being cute and corny with word

play.) ;) You know how it goes when one is learning a piece? “No, wait. Wait a minute. I can do this. Let me do that again. Oh darn, another mistake. Sigh. Start all over, AGAIN! Oh I'm just going to try another piece now!” I would become occasionally exasperated with my “child” status at the harp, and forget to apply to *myself* that blessed pearl of wisdom that I often share with my *audiences*:

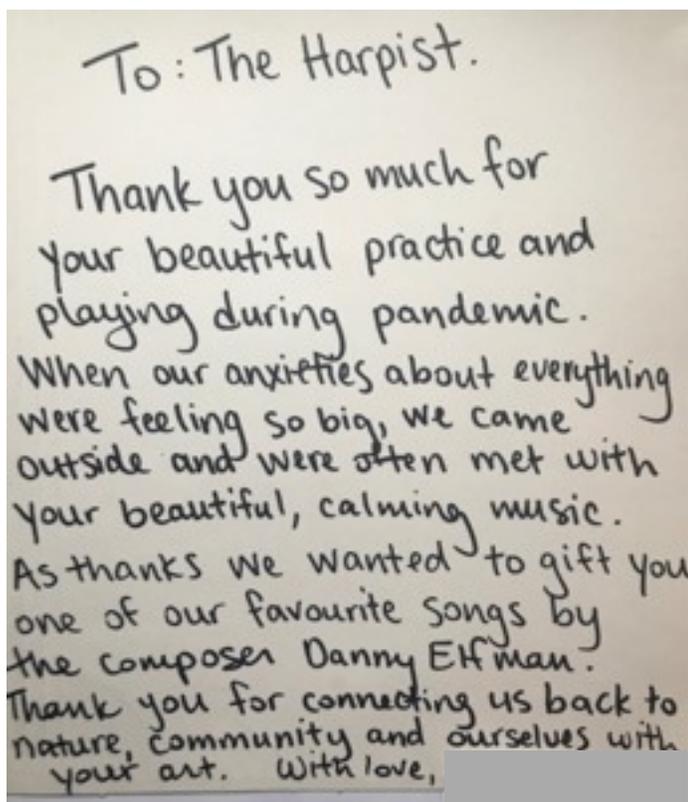
Anything worth doing well is worth doing poorly at first.

Anything. Be patient. You ARE making progress!

When it comes to evolving and developing a new skill—to transitioning from the littlest “child” to perhaps “teeny-bopper” status—Malcolm Gladwell (in his book *Outliers*) offers a corresponding perspective to embrace. Gladwell posits if you earnestly engage in any type of practice or study for 10,000 hours, around any activity you desire, you *will* become successful. How could it be otherwise? Sounds likely to me, even though there are now those who debunk this number. Another Canadian author and entrepreneur, Brian Tracy, puts it differently—invest in daily *reading* in whatever subject interests (even if only one hour per day) and you will become an expert in that field in seven years.

Well, I'm nowhere near 10,000 hours on harp practice yet, but I *have* broken 1000 hours, and that's translated, without me even noticing (the way a baby grows a bit every day, and then before you know it they're sitting up, pulling up and walking up!) to the point where I can now authentically call myself an “advanced beginner.” I can play 17 pieces perfectly most times out! Meaning that my music is no longer jarring, nor jolting to the ear. All this backstory and reflection I share with you because there were so many early pandemic mornings or late summer nights where I'd gently play my harp outdoors—when I *thought* I was alone with my the music and my thoughts—when the neighbourhood was serenely quiet, without even the sound of one car swishing by on the main road just one block over. But I thought wrong. This neighbour's “address-only” note was left on my porch last Sunday morning (while I was at church, no less!), and corrected my assumption. I was *not* alone. Not only that, but unbeknownst to

me, my “solitary” practices were being *helpful* to others I'd not even met, at a time when they were most in need of comfort.



How thoughtful was that? Their kindness made me cry. I replied by note, popping it in their mailbox (in case they didn't want any greater level of connection), inviting them to tea and scones, and a face-to-face private back garden harp concert.

These are my “take-aways” from this experience.

What are yours?:

1. Music is the universal God-balm for the (troubled) soul. Funny how we know this, but, for me, this fact always amazes.

2. As Bernie Taupin wrote (and as Elton John sang, in the tune *Your Song*): “My gift is my song and this one’s for you.” The best of gifts—the most memorable and cherished—often have no monetary value. And it’s not for *you* to judge its value to another. Just “play” your heart out/harp out every day. The right ears will find it and glean the value.

3. Your day’s most seemingly pedantic activity or contribution may be an utter Godsend to another. *Your* job is to just show up and do your committed work—without judging or devaluing its worth. You may never know the quantifiable measure of the

value you’ve contributed, because for every *one* formal note of serendipitous thanks that you may receive, there are probably 25 or more who benefitted from your contributions but never took to their computers or put pen to paper to tell you so.

4. Forget putting on airs. Be natural and in your element as much as possible. When we’re our most authentic selves (like dancing or singing when no one’s looking) we’re most connected to God, and most blissfully open to sharing our talents and gifts.

5. Stop apologizing and judging yourself for being less than perfect at what you offer. In the eyes (and ears) of many another your contribution may be the perfect tonic for what ails, just as is.

To summarize in a classic child-like way... as the wonderful children’s program *Sesame Street* used to champion in their song, *SING!*:

*Don't worry that it's not good enough for anyone else to hear,
just sing, sing a song.*

Go on now. *Just DO it!* Sing along to this link below. And lighten your heart and smile. You’ll like it, and it will feel *good* to bellow it out! Remember, a *child* would not be afraid to sing it loudly. And we are asked by the One to *always* come “as a child.” And if you are *really* lucky, maybe your windows will be open and someone unbeknownst to you, who is in need, will hear you belting it out, and be lifted by your voice!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sU0MIJI-ii0>

Respectfully submitted by Nina Spencer

Nina is a (Virtual & In-Person) Keynote Speaker, Speaker Coach, Speaker Book Coach and Book Project Manager, Voiceover Artist, and Bestselling Author of *Getting Passion Out of Your Profession*, and *A Time to Creep, A Time to Soar*.

YORKMINSTER PARK ANNIVERSARIES

In September 2021 we mark the anniversary of three significant milestone events in the history of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

150 YEARS AGO IN 1871

On Friday evening, September 22nd 1871, 26 individuals – 12 men and 14 women – met in the house of David Buchan on Bloor Street for the purpose of founding “a church of Christ to be called **Yorkville Baptist Church**,” to declare its articles of faith, and to “agree to meet at the Mission Station on Scollard Street every Lord’s day, commencing 1st October [1871] at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., also to hold a weekly prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings at 8 O’clock.”

The meeting unanimously chose the Rev. Dr. James Pyper of Unadilla, Michigan as pastor of the church. 26 of the 30 original members had been members of Bond Street Baptist “residing in and around Yorkville” (a mile to the northwest of Bond Street) from which they had applied for letters of dismissal “to form a new Baptist Church in that important locality.”

100 YEARS AGO IN 1921

On Sunday morning, September 25th 1921, the former members of Jarvis Street Baptist Church “who withdrew from participation in the services of that church immediately after the conclusion of its 93rd annual meeting on September 21st 1921,” for the first time met together for worship in the auditorium of the Central Y.M.C.A. Building, 40 College Street, where the Rev. Ira Smith had been invited to conduct the service.” Of the conflict that led to the founding of this new congregation, officially constituted as **Central Baptist Church** nine months later, more will be said in the coming months. But some idea of the depth of feeling involved is conveyed in this passage from the church minutes following the service:

“There was scarcely, perhaps, a dry eye in the room when the audience joined in the Doxology, sung with a sympathy and worshipfulness which was refreshing to spirits depressed by long months, even years, of friction and restraint.”

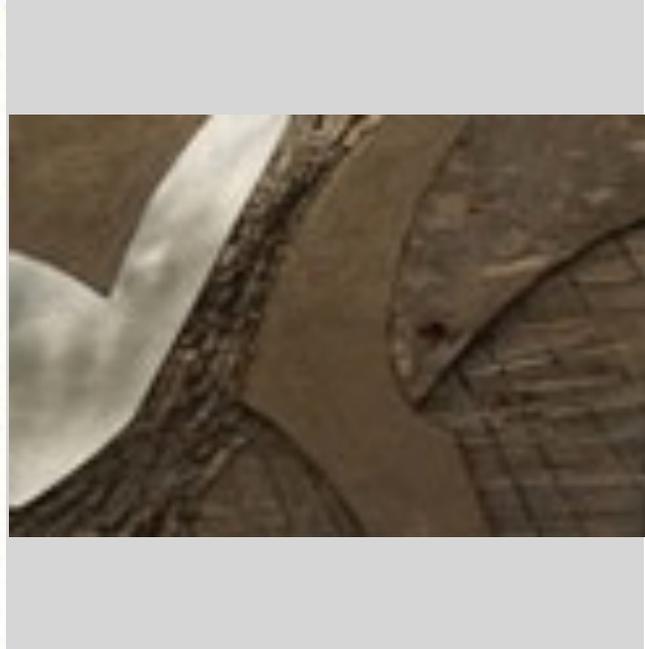
60 YEARS AGO IN 1961

Yorkville Baptist Church moved to a new church building and took the name **Bloor Street Baptist Church** in November 1884, and in March 1928 relocated to this present site at Yonge and Heath Streets taking the name **Yorkminster Baptist Church**. The members of Central Baptist Church met in Castle Memorial Hall, McMaster University (on Bloor Street, now the Royal Conservatory of Music) from 1922 until they moved to their newly opened church home, **Park Road Baptist Church**, in April 1927. A fire at Park Road on March 8th 1961 led these two Midtown congregations to consider joining together as one church. The first joint worship service was held sixty years ago this month on Sunday, September 10th, 1961 and the two officially merged to form **Yorkminster Park Baptist Church** in October 1961.

Throughout the coming year we will feature occasional items highlighting some of the important people and events in the history of Yorkminster Park and of its predecessor congregations.

Yorkminster Park Anniversary Committee

FROM THE GALLERY ARCHIVES . . .



In these uncertain times Yorkminster Park Gallery
has paused its regular activities.

The above images come from our June 2012 group exhibition featuring

**Jane LowBeer, Margaret Glew,
Nancy Oakes, Judy Raymer Ivkoff**

Respectively they show the disciplines we represented 2007 - 2012:
printmaking, painting, drawing and sculpture.
We have since added photography.