

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



YPBC NEWS

CHOIR TOUR - 2016

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, LONDON

EVENSONG - 8 TO 12 AUGUST

see Page 12 for details of special Toronto concert

Published by:

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

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

The Rev. Dale Rose
Minister of Pastoral Care

The Rev. Deborah Ban
Minister of Discipleship

Mr. William Maddox, B.Mus.
FTCL - Director of Music

Mrs. Miriam Little
Director of Children's Ministries

Brennan Rabbets
Director of Youth

Mrs. Catherine Newman RN
BScN - Parish Nurse

The Rev. Dr. William Sturgess
Minister Emeritus-Pastoral Care

MINISTER OF THE CONGREGATION

Christ in the Stranger's Guise

A dinner was recently held for members of the church who had been part of the church's team that offered sponsorship, support and hospitality to a family of Vietnamese boat people in the early 1980's. The volunteers have aged along with the parents who had once risked everything on freedom's flight. These parents held the dinner to welcome into their home, those who years ago had welcomed them. While everyone else had aged, the children who came as babes in arms have come of age and embarked on professional careers. The dinner was a reminder of both the greatness of our country and the church at its best, offering hospitality to the stranger in the name of Christ.

Yorkminster Park has been privileged to offer this same support to other families in the years since. During the mid 90's there was a steady stream of Burmese refugees from Thailand who came into the country under our sponsorship. For a few years they held Sunday afternoon worship services in the church, but in time many of them moved on to Saskatchewan where they found jobs and affordable housing. Still, from time to time we hear from them, or see some who did not move west and always there is good news to report and joy and gratitude in the air.

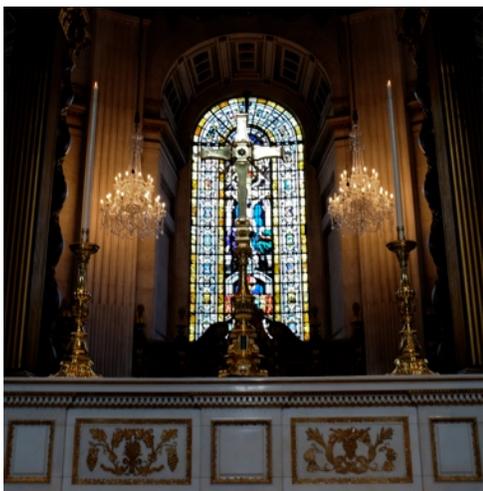
In more recent years we sponsored the MB family from the middle-east. It is wonderful to watch them settle and grow in their new life.

Early in 2015 the Board of Mission made a decision to embark on the sponsorship of two sisters living in a refugee camp in Ghana having fled terrorist attacks against Christians in their homeland. The application is in process, but recently we were informed it could take as long as five to six years to process their applications.

The Board of Mission remains committed to these two sisters, but in light of the wait and the near four million refugees who have fled Syria and Iraq into camps in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, and the seven million plus displaced peoples living in Syria, the Board has entrusted the Refugee Sponsorship Committee with making application for a family through a Canadian government program in which the process is

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

pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

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

Paul R Hill

expedited and the sponsoring money raised is matched by the government.

A meeting is being held by the Refugee Sponsorship Committee following the morning service on October 4th during which more information will be made available and at which input and support from the congregation will be encouraged. Please come to learn more and share your thoughts.

Michael Wills is the Chair of the committee and along with the whole committee is most grateful for your support and input. More can be read on their work at

<http://refugeesponsorship.blogspot.ca>

In my early years at Yorkminster Park I often visited a woman in a nursing home who had given many of her things away to refugees when she downsized. In her living room hung the framed words of an ancient Irish blessing known as the Rune of Hospitality. The blessing is as follows:

I saw a stranger yestreen;
I put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place,
and in the name of the Triune
he blessed myself and my house,
my cattle and my dear ones,
and the lark said in her song
often, often, often,
goes the Christ in the stranger's guise,
often, often, often,
goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

The time has come to set the table again and be the church at its best. Let us prepare our hearts to welcome the stranger in faith believing Christ is in the midst.

Grace and Peace,
Peter

TRANSITIONS

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

Deaths

Wilmer Crawford
Leslie Smith
Benjamin Lamb
Roy Tredgett

THE **LESTER RANDALL** **2015**
PREACHING FELLOWSHIP
OF YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS
A TORONTO FESTIVAL OF PREACHING
SUNDAY, NOV. 1 - TUES. DAY, NOV. 3, 2015
The greatest preaching & teaching of our day!
Register now at LesterRandall.com

An event for clergy and all who value quality preaching.

LRPF consists of a mix of workshops, lectures, private and public preaching events, networking and fellowship, led by keynote speakers and other well-known clergy and professors of preaching from across North America.

2015 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



The Rev. Dr.
Leonard Sweet



The Rev. Mrs.
Fleming Rutledge



The Rev. Dr.
Pamela McCarroll



The Rev. Dr.
Anthony Bailey

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

“When there are prophets among you, I the Lord make myself known to them in visions; I speak to them in dreams.” (Numbers 12:6)

“Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell me your dreams.” (Genesis 40:8)

The people of our First Nations here in Canada have a rich and deep tradition of native spirituality. Some are rooted in the more ancient and traditional ways of the longhouse, emphasizing healing and wellness through the natural world. Others share our Christian faith, which is rooted in visits of the early missionaries. This past summer Yorkminster Park had the privilege of sending a team of volunteers to Oneida Nation of the Thames, a First Nations reserve near London, Ontario. For a week, we had the privilege of leading a day camp for 60 children, and to engage with the people and culture of Oneida – a native word meaning “standing stone.” We used the facilities of the Standing Stone Elementary School, and we developed some wonderful friendships and partnerships.

While on the reserve, we were exposed to some native arts and crafts one evening. I purchased a “dream catcher” from one of the artisans. I had seen these designs before, but I didn’t know what they were called or what they symbolized. Dream catchers are one of fascinating traditions associated with native spirituality. They are closely related to the tradition of the hoop. The Sacred Hoop, sometimes known as a medicine wheel, embodies dimensions of health and the cycles of life. It represents the four directions (north, south, east, west); the four seasons of the year; the four aspects of life (spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical); the elements of nature (earth, wind/air, fire/sun, water); and other things which are needed to create balance and harmony in life. Last fall, a good friend of mine was installed as the new president of Mohawk College in Hamilton. Part of the installation ceremony was a

native dance, incorporating the symbols of hoops. It paid tribute to the native heritage in the establishment of the college.

The dream catcher has been part of Native North American culture for centuries. It was intended to protect the sleeping individual from bad dreams. They were placed near the beds of each home, or on

a tree just above the individual if he or she was sleeping under the stars. Positive dreams would slip through the hole in the center of the dream catcher, and glide down the feathers to the sleeping person below. Negative dreams would get caught up in the larger web, and perish with the light of the new day.

The idea of the dream catcher got me to thinking about the place of dreams in our Christian tradition. The Bible is full of dreams and dreamers. Jacob had his famous dream at Bethel, where he dreamed of a ladder extending from earth to heaven, and the angels

ascending and descending on it. Joseph had dreams as a teenager, and eventually became the interpreter of Pharaoh’s dream, which led to Joseph becoming a ruler in Egypt. Daniel correctly interpreted the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar and assumed a position of power in the Babylonian empire. Before the birth of Jesus, Joseph has a dream telling him to take a pregnant Mary as his wife, despite the fact that he was not the biological father. The wise men were warned in a dream not to return to King Herod after they found the Christ child. At the trial of Jesus, Pilate’s wife sends him word, warning him to have nothing to do with this Galilean carpenter. She had suffered much because of a dream about Jesus.

So there are many references to dreams in the scriptures. Perhaps the most poignant reference is found in Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost. Peter is aware of God’s Spirit moving in a powerful way among the crowds gathered. And so he interprets the amazing events of Pentecost in the light of the words from the prophet Joel: “In the last days it will



be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” (Acts 2:17)

As we enter the fall season – as we begin another church year – my prayer is that all of us will dream dreams. God needs dreamers in the church – people who have a vision -- and who are not afraid to share that vision with others. Our ministerial staff would

love to engage you in conversation, to hear what God has laid on your heart. Together it is our prayer and desire to continue building God’s kingdom in this place. We are all called to partner together in this ministry. So don’t be afraid to dream big. And as Joseph of old put it: “Please tell us your dreams.”

Dale Rose
Minister of Pastoral Care

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Save the date!

YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

FAMILY RETREAT

MAY 13 –15, 2016

JACKSON’S POINT CONFERENCE CENTRE

**Every age and stage is invited and
welcomed!**



Registration will take place in
January and February 2016.

**Book Lovers! Mystery Buffs!
Fans of Ellis Portal!**

**An Evening with
Rosemary Aubert**



Yes! There is a new mystery in Rosemary
Aubert’s wonderful Ellis Portal series.

Rosemary will be signing copies of **“Don’t Forget You Love Me”** and chatting informally at a special Faith Page Life Group – the first of this season on:

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

7:00 p.m.

In the Friendship Room

Rosemary Aubert is an internationally acclaimed author as well as a popular speaker who is a frequent guest lecturer at colleges, universities, writers’ groups and conferences in both Canada and the United States. And she is of course a long time member of Yorkminster Park. It is a wonderful opportunity to have her share with us in the informal setting of our home church. And please do invite your mystery book loving friends!

The evening will be hosted by Deborah Ban and Inga Fjuk; with great finger food provided by Chef Inga.



THE GATHERING
YORKMINSTER PARK ALL AGES EVENT

YOU ARE INVITED

The Gathering... is an event offering a time to be a community of all ages and stages

Centred on Christ • Expressing creativity
Building relationships • Eating together • Faith stories shared
Celebrating God through worship

Please Join Us!
Bring your family, friends & neighbours.

Saturdays, 5:00pm - 7:30pm
October 17th • November 14th
January 9th • March 5th

Reservations requested by calling 416-922-1167 or email: dban@yorkminsterpark.com by Thursday of that week!
We look forward to sharing with you!
Deborah Ban, Miriam Little, Brennan Rabbets



THE GATHERING is fashioned on the Messy Church model



getting some of the Bible characters mixed up and asked if I would I lend her a Bible? In response we were able to give the child a bible and encourage her growth. Now the child is asking for the more!

I love to hear stories about spiritual life in our children. God's spirit is at work in our children!

The benefits of summer camps can't be overstated! Here at YPBC we had a week of summer Bible and art camp. What a joy it was to have a team of eleven leaders, including two teens who gave the 36 kids a memorable and happy week at camp. Leaders grew in their skills and their faith. Children learned how to make their faith practical. Of the attendees, several were unchurched children and about half of the children don't normally attend YPBC.

Our other camp was at Oneida, Nation of the Thames. Thirteen leaders from Yorkminster Park travelled to the reserve near London, Ontario. Full days of camp with around 60 children and youth kept us very busy and tired at the end of each day. But each leader was deeply touched by the children and 'fell in love' with the community. At the end of the week, one mom approached us and told us that her son's week at camp was just what he needed and he was transformed. From our perspective, he had been a troubled, difficult child but those who know him best recognized that God was at work in his life.

Deborah Ban
Minister of Discipleship

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Two Summer Camps and 96 Children and Youth Impacted!

Five summers ago one of our families invited a friend to bring her daughter to attend our summer bible camp. She began attending when she was just about to turn five years old. Her experience was a happy one and she continued to attend each year since. Her family has no interest in spiritual things. But the child has a deep hunger for knowing more about Jesus. Interestingly, her nanny who spends lots of time with the child, has been in tune with her quest to know more and she began to recall Bible stories she had learned as a child. The nanny told me that she was



Most of the children who attended the Oneida camp don't have Christian influence in their families. We had the privilege of loving them in the Name of Christ.

Thank you for supporting these camps this summer.

Thank you for your gifts to the ‘Squeaky Clean Children’s Mission Project’!

Every day in the news we hear about the plight of Syrian and other refugee families and our hearts go out to them.

In the spring of 2015 we asked our partner in Lebanon, the Lebanese Society for Educational & Social Development (LSESD), how

we might help. They responded and together we developed a project. The project was the direct result of feedback from LSESD beneficiaries. They expressed an urgent need for essential hygiene items to help as they coped with unsanitary living conditions and their lack of income.

So, the children of Yorkminster Park lead a campaign to raise funds to give refugee families in Lebanon hygiene kits. With the generosity of families and congregants we were able to send \$10,019 to buy these kits.

We received a great report from LSESD in Lebanon. (If you would like to see a copy of the report, speak to Miriam.) They told us that the project achieved its goal of providing essential hygiene kits to 246 Syrian refugee families (around 1,476 individuals), in addition to 300 Syrian and Iraqi refugee children, and 100 at-risk former street children.

What a joy it is to know that the money stretched to help this many people.

The report told several stories of the impact of the gift. Our own YP mission team members who helped prepare and distribute the kits also have stories to tell.

Here is a quote from the report of a family that our Lebanon team members were able to visit to deliver the gift.

“Mahmoud and Alia* are a Syrian refugee couple currently residing in a rented apartment in Zahle with three of their children. The Yorkminster Park team visited this family to provide them with the much needed hygiene kit that the church had helped to



procure and package. As the family shared their story with the volunteers, tears could not stop falling down the faces.

Mahmoud and Alia have five children, but their oldest son was killed in one of the battles in Syria. Their other son, 18 years-old, fled and took refuge in Turkey to avoid conscription, while their middle child, 12 years-old, is now the sole provider for the family. All day long he pushes his wooden cart in the street trying to sell various goods to support his family. He receives less than \$5 a day for his labor, as his employer pays him only a small portion of the profit.

On top of the family’s meagre source of income, Mahmoud and his two daughters are all suffering health wise. Mahmoud had a stroke some time ago, and consequently, cannot open his hand, while his two little girls- ages 7 and 9- are in need of weekly blood transfusions. The entire family witnessed the most horrifying scenes in Syria, and it is clear that the young daughters are traumatized. Not only did they live in fear of being bombed or slaughtered on a daily basis, but they also witnessed the death of their brother.

Mahmoud and Alia were very thankful for the hygiene kits that they received from the team. “We are in much need of it because we have nothing left,” Alia said. They fled to Lebanon with little more than the clothes on their backs, and besides having to pay for rent, they have medical expenses to cover. “Though a small contribution in the face of such hardship, this gift helped to fill an essential need and served as a sign of compassion offering a glimmer of hope.” **



Thank you for caring. Your gift made a difference!

Miriam Little
Director of Children’s Ministries

*Names have been changed to protect the identities of the beneficiaries

**Quote taken from Report, “Yorkminster Park Hygiene Kits Project, 2015-46- Final Report” By Lebanese Society for Educational & Social Development – LSESD P.O. Box 165 Mansourieh El Maten, Lebanon

FROM THE YPBC WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE...

The following article is reprinted with permission from *live* magazine, A Baptist resource for women on a mission – July-August 2015:

Remembering DOROTHY NEAL “So many different things came to life in her hands.”

In the words of a former CBWOQ president, Dorothy Neal was “a special lady with outstanding leadership skills but who always led with a light hand.”

Her leadership skills served Baptist women well in her roles as president of Ontario and Quebec Baptist Women and as president of the North American Baptist Women's Union. As president of a continental union, she became a vice-president of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance. With all that behind her, she later accepted the responsibility of being treasurer for the Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec from 1993-1998.

These were all volunteer positions demanding time and energy and requiring varying gifts and skills. Dorothy entered into each one of them as a calling from God and gave herself untiringly to each challenge. While treasurer for Baptist Women, she also served on the board of Canadian Baptist International Ministries.

As a young teacher, Dorothy's light hand was clearly seen in the ease with which she welcomed all, seen in the numerous bags of warm clothing she'd collect for the underprivileged students she taught in Toronto's east end. Seen too, in the missionary spirit and hospitality she and her husband Ralph brought to Donway Baptist Church in Toronto, and the many ways she served in that congregation, and later, at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto. “Those of you who have experienced the hospitality of their home know the beauty, the warmth the love and acceptance with which I was received,” remembered Audrey Morikawa at Dorothy's memorial service. Audrey had just returned to Canada after missionary service in India and spent that first Christmas with Dorothy and her family.



Dorothy's leadership and light hand were also clear in the creativity she brought to all her duties. Facts and figures came to life as a result of her creativity-financial presentations were always done with flair.

With her eye for design and balance, Dorothy could always see how to make a room, a platform, a table centerpiece or a worship centre more inviting and focused. And she knew how to engage others in that work.

Esther Barnes, former CBWOQ staff member, remembers Dorothy's leadership at the 1987 NABWU Assembly. “It was my first real exposure to Dorothy's creativity, warmth, attention to detail, love for God's word and deed in her home, community, nation and world.” But that was Dorothy's leadership and her life. A friend and mentor to many, her passion was mission and she gave herself to those concerns.

CNWOQ gives thanks for Dorothy's life and her years of service to Baptist women in Canada and around the world. (Renee James with files from Audrey Morikawa)

The following is a note that Dorothy wrote to the women at YPBC last fall shortly before the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer that was held at YPBC, November 2014:

Dear Friends –

I bring you greetings as we observe the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer which was officially November 3rd. Although many women's groups as we do, choose a day convenient to them, we know the Lord hears our prayers whenever and wherever we lift our hearts in His name!

I read in the history of the Day of Prayer the following:

“Many Baptist sisters in Eastern Europe say that it is prayer that brought freedom and peace to many of their countries.” “In some parts of the globe women are known to walk several miles, some over and down mountains to reach the appointed place of prayer. “ “In parts of Asia and Africa it is reported that women swim small rivers and streams to participate in the “Day of Prayer”. With such courage and devotion Baptist women will continue to be the strength of their churches.”

So remember to pray for women around the world, your friends and neighbours, your family and loved ones.

May God bless you all!

Dorothy Neal

submitted by Jonanne Fenton

CBOQ ASSEMBLY 2015 - GROWING UP TOGETHER

CBOQ (Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec)
ASSEMBLY - JUNE 2015

THURSDAY

The business sessions began with prayer and then began the celebration! Three new churches and 15 new pastors were welcomed this year.

- Michael Belzile, CBOQ's outgoing Board President assured us that they are here to ensure that CBOQ is working well for our member churches. He also announced that Tim McCoy has agreed to lead CBOQ for another 5 years.
- Miranda Queh gave her final Treasurer's Report. Peris Kamotho, will be CBOQ's new Director of Finance and Administration.
- Delegates accepted the 2014 audited financial statements, the 2015 revised budget and 2016 draft budgets In the afternoon,
- Tim McCoy welcomed other new directors and shared some of the amazing things God has done through us. He spoke of the doors God has opened with the New Paths conference as we seek to "reset the relationship" with our First Nations neighbours.
- Tim reminded us of CBOQ and our churches' covenant relationship of mutual support and led a discussion session called



Photo BCOQ

THE MIND OF CHRIST where in groups of three we grappled with what it means to be autonomous yet associate; what it means to honour and respect each other's church and Assembly decisions in our CBOQ family and how we find the mind of Christ as individuals, congregations and a family of churches.

- Our new President, Donna Chapman closed the business sessions in the afternoon sharing that her prayer is that together we keep proclaiming a God who is saying, "I'm throwing a banquet, and all you mismatched, messed up, marvelously hungry people out there are invited."
- In the evening, our plenary speaker, Gary Nelson, President and Vice Chancellor of Tyndale University College focused his first talk on "Recovering our Radical Roots," helping us to understand more about our origins as Baptists and what that means for us today.

FRIDAY

Tim Mc Coy opened Friday's session by inviting us to reflect on who we are and who we will be and then invited our valued partner organizations and some CBOQ staff directors to share what God is doing through them:

- CBWOQ (Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec) highlighted their vision

for prayer and support for the “Buying Sex is Not a Sport” initiative, closely tied to the Pan Am Games events.

- Brian Craig, Director of Leadership Development encouraged us to consider who is mentoring us and whom we are mentoring. He also encouraged us to support our pastors in ongoing development to ensure they are receiving the care and support they need to serve God and their communities.
- Stan Porter, McMaster Divinity College, shared McMaster’s commitment to excellence in all that they do as well as their keen interest in and commitment to raising up future leaders for our churches.
- Matt Wilkinson, Director of Youth and Family Ministries stressed the importance of investing in the next generation and sharing the message of Jesus with them in changing times.
- Clint Mix, Director of Church Planting and Mission emphasized the ongoing importance of church planting.
- CBM (Canadian Baptist Ministries) reported the commissioning of Emad and Almass Botros who are heading to Lebanon. On a more somber note, we said “goodbye” to Sam Chaise who is leaving CBM as Executive Director.
- In the afternoon we split up for workshops where some of the themes included change and transition and our response to these; innovative ministries; how the Psalms can lead us in worship
- Gary Nelson spoke again in the evening and encouraged us to discover and live out our unique Canadian Baptist identity. His challenge was clear when he said, “We do better when we live up to our social justice history and when we have a sense of mission.”

SATURDAY

Workshops this morning focused on practical applications in ministry with themes of worship, speaking truth in love, responding to global crises, responding to the needs of youth in times of transition and elements of church finance and governance. We reconvened for our final session

with Steve Bell, our worship leader who so beautifully lifted our hearts and spirits to the throne of God. Gary completed his trilogy of talks reminding us that our Baptist uniqueness gives us some advantages in missional living. We have the freedom to respond to our local contexts and culture and be who God is calling us to be. A copy of Gary’s latest book, co-authored with Peter M. Dickens, “Leading in Disorienting Times” – “Navigating Church and Organizational Change” can be found in the YPBC Gladstone Library.

Margaret and Ellen Branscombe, lifelong members of YPBC, attended Assembly for the first time this year and share their reflections here on “Attending a Family Reunion”:

We were blessed to join with family for 3 days last June here in Toronto. Neither of us had ever met with this branch of the family so we were excited about attending. This family goes by the name of Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec and their reunion was the annual CBOQ Assembly. This year’s theme was, appropriately, Growing Up Together.

As with any family reunion, many exciting things were squeezed into that Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We saw family members that we hadn’t seen in quite some time so the conversation flowed back and forth. We met in large and small groups to swap ideas and learn about happenings within the family. We relaxed and enjoyed sharing meals with family members. We visited the display area and were able to gather information and reading material concerning family matters.

We were very impressed with the corporate worship sessions under the leadership of musician, Steve Bell. These were followed by words of wisdom from the plenary speaker, Gary Nelson. And in the midst of these uplifting presentations were also informative sessions presenting the Budget and finding out about our umbrella organizations and CBOQ personnel.

This family reunion was well worth attending. We left encouraged and with a greater appreciation for, and understanding of our CBOQ family. We would certainly recommend that other YPBC members join the family next year.

submitted by Jonanne Fenton

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BOARD OF DEACONS -- FALL REPORT

I have always appreciated the concept of cycles, of moving through events and circumstances that have a way of returning to where they began. Cycles are a part of nature, with spring returning to spring, having seen growth and rest and hibernation and then spring again in all its surprising and brilliant glory. Our church year has its cycles, too. After a summer of rest and relaxation for many, fall is a time of new beginnings, a new school or university, perhaps, a more rigorous daily pace, a return to more structure.

September 13, Rally Sunday, saw a return of our church family to the fall schedule. This very successful "Blast Off", integrating our Christian Education, Youth & Discipleship areas saw the return of classes and programs in a festive atmosphere and lunch following a moving dedication at the Sunday morning service of the teachers and leaders. And it was wonderful to have our choir back! Our Bible Studies (life groups) are beginning again, so contact Deborah for one that you might be interested in joining!

Although many of the programs were suspended for the summer months, our church continued to be a vital source of inspiration and service. Our guest Sunday preachers delivered thoughtful and poignant messages to our congregation –well worth watching online in our webcast archives! Leading a team to Lebanon in July, Deborah Ban and Ken Little worked

with Syrian refugees, an unforgettable experience, I am told. And Dale, Miriam, Brennan and their teams were very active with a DVBS here in Toronto, plus organizing an art camp and travelling to the Oneida Reservation for a DVBS camp. Keep these leaders and our youth in your prayers and help wherever possible! And our downstairs kitchen has received a much needed facelift. This project under Tim Aikenhead's supervision is now complete and is stunning!

All of the church boards enjoyed a supper and communion service together on the following Tuesday before separating into their various board meetings. Amongst the Board of Deacons' initiatives is the establishment of a hymn book committee to look at new hymn books for our church. Working in collaboration with the Bd. of Music, Carol Radford Grant and her committee are excited about this project. We will keep you informed! Rob Inman and his committee with representation from many areas of the congregation presented their report on Worship, which Deacons is now addressing. Many thanks to this committee for their thoughtful research and recommendations!

We are so thankful for our ministerial team. Pray for them as they continue to guide us.

And let us in all things give thanks. We are so blessed here at YPBC!

Ruth Farrow,
Chair of the Board of Deacons

BILL STURGESS - 90 YEARS

"I would like to thank all those who sent good wishes on the occasion of my 90th birthday. It was a delight to receive so many good wishes. I assure you all that I am no older than I had been the week before. I think of you often, and keep hoping that there will be an opportunity for me to come to Toronto some weekend.

God bless you all.

W. A. Sturgess"

Bill and two of his daughters
L to R - Peter Cullen, Gwen Cullen, Bill, Barbara Bergstrom



WHICH IS GOOD AND WHICH IS BETTER

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

The law is good, helpful and wise; but the gospel is infinitely better.

What is the relationship between the law and the gospel? The law is good; it is helpful for morality and the up-right life. However, it is not all one needs to live the abundant life. The gospel is infinitely more and much better!

The reason the gospel is so much better than the law is that when you believe the gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) you receive the Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God comes to live in you. One then has a desire to please God out of gratitude for His forgiveness and amazing grace offered freely to all who will believe.

The great reconciler, Jesus Christ, lived a holy life and then took on the sins of this world, including our sins; thus He met the requirements of the justice of God. By his life and death He paid the price to earn the redemption of all who will believe and follow Him. As one follows Him one learns about and experiences the GRACE of God. The law is about living a moral life - that's good as far as it goes! The gospel is about God's life filling you – that is so much better!

The law can condemn. It can cause guilt and discouragement and can turn one off. If the law is all one knows one will not be

interested in or follow in the ways of the Christian life. The law is black and white. The gospel is color! The law is like the old black and white T.V. before colour was invented, or the crackling sound of the first cell phones. The gospel is Technicolor. It is surround sound!

We want the members of our families, our friends, our associates, our neighbours to hear and know that the law is good, but even more to know that the gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ – is infinitely better. We want them to see something far more attractive and life-saving than morality. We want to show them the life of the Spirit, by introducing them to the Saviour of the world.

Too many dear people have rejected Christianity because all they have ever heard or seen is the law. Let us be ambassadors introducing others to the great Redeemer of all who choose to turn to Him.

As our summer guest minister, Dr. Marvin McMickle prayed, “Deliver us from a faith that is bound to a sanctuary, and set us free to serve a Saviour who has set his sights on winning the world, whatever the workload might be.”

submitted by Rev. Suzanne Wilkinson



THE ART OF FELIX MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY

LAUDA SION
MOTETS, OP. 79
WORKS FOR PIANO AND ORGAN

**THE CHOIR AND SOLOISTS OF
YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**
WILLIAM MADDOX, DIRECTOR
CHRISTEL WIENS, ASSOCIATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 3:00 PM

**YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
1585 YONGE STREET**

TICKETS \$20 AT THE DOOR
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

This concert is a fundraising event for the Choir's 2016 tour

THE DALTON SCHOOL – INSPIRATION

INSPIRATION ?

YES - The Dalton School was an inspired idea, and has proven to be an educational influence which fits the definition of inspiration. As it enters its fourth year of operation at Yorkminster Park it warrants some reflective thoughts. To begin, it is worth repeating a statement in its website “Globalization and technology are creating a far more connected world. To flourish in an evolving international landscape, our children need to know multiple languages and learn the nuances of world cultures ... children benefit now by learning a second language, as well as in the future, when being multilingual will offer tremendous opportunities.”

We are about to enter the fall period when nature paints the most glorious landscape of brilliant colours of inspiration. But in anticipation, let us think of the start of a new year for the children as they begin another chapter of learning in their young lives happily coming back to school, refreshed from a summer break.

I recently had the joy of sitting in the beautiful Yorkminster Park grounds on a warm early September day. The grounds are well kept and loved by the community, evidenced by every bench and table occupied by people of the community who clearly enjoy this restful place amidst the busy traffic on Yonge street and those walking home from work. I couldn't help but wonder how many of us at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church take a few moments from the activities of church life to appreciate this asset and what it means to the community.

On that lovely warm day I was enriched by watching the children of Dalton at the end of a school day. I couldn't help but notice their excitement in playing in the new outside playground installed during the summer. It is beautifully designed and significantly adds to the value of the park. I watched as the children threw down their school bags and ran to get inside the playing area. Close by I watched some boys throwing a ball with considerable strength in the park area. I wished I could have joined them.

What went through my thoughts was how grateful we can be as a church family to have the invigorating

activities of young children on our well-groomed church grounds, weather permitting, five of the regular working days. This picture of happy children and the inspiring hum of their activities is clearly visible to people enjoying the park, those walking along the sidewalk and even those driving along Yonge Street.



GROWTH

In four years the Dalton School has grown from four students at the beginning of the 2012 school year to 33 at the beginning of the 2015 school year and now offers three languages of learning, English, Mandarin and Spanish, a noticeable success story.

Growth inevitably brings challenges and problems, the value of which is an opportunity to find solutions and come out stronger than before, not always a simple or easy task. Dalton is a private school using limited space in a large church which is charitable in nature, presenting an even more complicated situation. The school by its nature does not engage in religious instruction.

However, two of the Dalton families now attend the Church and some students attend Sunday school. This demonstrates an open door for church ministry as it invites the community to share its space and be part of a larger community. Yorkminster Park Baptist Church does this in many ways such as its Out of the Cold program, various Choirs practising and performing concerts, and several outside groups using the gym and other available rooms. Dalton is no different except that it is using valuable space five days a week that for church purposes is only used generally a few hours one day a week. Dalton has substantially improved the space it uses including its new and attractive outside playground. Its growth certainly presents challenges for limited space. This

subject was somewhat addressed in a previous Newsletter. It is worth repeating the School's goals:

“... to build a solid foundation for all future learning and development, through small class sizes, caring staff, a stimulating multicultural environment and plenty of time to explore and discover, providing each child the opportunity to learn and shine. Wherever your child goes after graduating from the Dalton School he or she will be well prepared to excel.”

WHAT ABOUT THE VALUE OF DALTON SCHOOL TO YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

- The School is using valuable space that otherwise is not used during the week

- It presents a visual picture to the community of vibrant activity at the church

- Parents have come to Church, their children to Sunday school thus a measure of outreach

- It is a significant involvement of Yorkminster Park with its community

- There is the joy of watching children using the park grounds

- It provides the Church with reliable steady income

- Special school events present further exposure to the Church



OBSERVATION – JOHN FENTON

I was invited to the school before my walk in The Coldest Night of the Year endeavour. The children at Dalton became aware of this charitable effort to help those less fortunate. They gave me a high-five as I was about to set out on that very snowy night on February 21, 2015. They also gave me their school bag with the distinguished Dalton crest, which caught the eye of Christine Birak host of the CBC National News when she interviewed me live on the day of the walk.

I had the privilege of visiting the classes twice to share with them the importance of keeping healthy through physical activity and helping the poor. I was encouraged that everyone in the class was engaged in

some form of beneficial physical action on a regular basis.

A PEEK AT THE “HOOT” – THE DALTON SCHOOL

The Hoot is its newsletter. Here are some items that appeared in Volume 4 No 2 – Sept.14, 2015

• CURRICULUM NIGHT – ...the evening on September 23 will give parents the opportunity to learn more about the classroom routines, expectations and curriculum in each of the classrooms.

• THE DALTON SCHOOL BBQ - ...the school BBQ is on Saturday, September 19 from 11:00 to 2:00 at the Grafton Family Inn.

• AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES - ...we have many new After School Activities to offer such as LEGO, Abacas Math, Piano, Money Treasures 2 and Mandarin Tutoring as well as French and Spanish offered by Magic Languages.

• FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM - ... to see pictures of the classroom and activities the students are involved in.

• YPBC PARK AREA - ...we ask all parents to be vigilant and respectful of the public areas surrounding the Church. Children are asked not to hang off of trees, railings etc. as this poses a danger to children and possible damage to property.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – DONNA BOOTH

It was a busy summer for The Dalton School with the addition of the children's playground finally happening! It has been 3 years in the making and lots of hard work on the part of the school. The beginning of school on September 9th was met with many smiling faces as the children eagerly and happily enjoyed their new playground.

The Dalton School, now in its 4th year, is off to a wonderful start. We have added a number of new staff members who bring a wide range of experiences to our team.

Our dual language program is unique in the city of Toronto and now, entering our 4th year, we are seeing some amazing results in our students' language

acquisition. Elementary students have to meet high standards in both English language standardize testing and independent Mandarin oral and listening standardize testing. Our students have excelled in both level 1 and level 2 YCT testing held this past May and marked in Beijing, China – well done students and teachers!

Seeing the success we have experienced with Mandarin, this spring, the school added a Spanish stream to our program. Our goal is to create a global school that embraces and develops bi-lingualism and bi-literacy in young students.

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR THE DALTON SCHOOL



Given the smart and creative Team, and their remarkable accomplishments in just three years, its future is very bright indeed. Its steady growth may become its biggest challenge as church space is limited. Where ever its home is, these young

children will have a strong educational base to face the rapidly changing world and will because of Dalton School be leaders in the society of tomorrow. I believe what was submitted in a previous Church Newsletter is worth repeating.

Reaction from the parents is a strong indication that this school has a solid future. Kim Abell tells me “all the parents tell us that their children are extremely happy, in most cases the parents have told us that their expectations have been far exceeded”.

Research tells us that the children who speak two or more languages get better grades because the executive function part of the brain is being used more. Mandarin adds another benefit in that it uses more areas of the brain. In essence English uses the left side of the brain and Mandarin employs both sides of the brain.

Languages represented in the student body include Spanish, English, Mandarin but many more nationalities.

In measuring successes against goals Kim tells me “we are using a Canadian wide standardized test

(CAT 4) to measure our students against the Canadian expectation. In Mandarin we test with tests we have developed, in time we will be using the YCT (youth Chinese test) which is part of the HSK (Chinese proficiency)”.

Highlights – Watching the children who did not speak a word of Mandarin progress to not only knowing words but to be having conversations with each other out on the playground. Growth in numbers of students, happiness in the crowd, the children speaking Mandarin and our Mandarin child speaking English.

When asked about how the Dalton curriculum compares with the public school curriculum “our base is within the Ontario curriculum, however, we have looked at curricula from around the world and pulled in different ideas. Our curriculum is evolving and is constantly being added to. We are creating resources that are bilingual. They are being developed by us because it is difficult to find Mandarin materials”.

On success – “To answer your most difficult question, my success has ultimately been keeping my thoughts on the power in all of us. I spent a year believing with all my strength that the school would be a success and that the children who came to us were meant to be there. I fought all negative thoughts and any negative comments and kept my focus on God and the knowledge that we are spiritual beings. I won’t lie, it was extremely difficult work for me because I had doubts and lots of them – but I know there were a lot of people in the Church praying for us too and as a collective group we brought about a miracle”.

The Dalton School has had challenges beyond the students and classroom, for example safety and security for the children. This involves management of the church in assessing the many complications due to other users of the church, a host of church and community activities and so many doors of access. The Dalton School deeply appreciates the significant efforts and cooperation of church management and the custodians in addressing the school’s needs and understands it is a complex balancing act.

Congratulations DALTON

submitted by John K. Fenton

YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY - 8th Season (Sept 2015 – June 2016)

Yorkminster Park Gallery is an **Outreach Ministry**. By speaking to the human spirit through the power of visual art, we hope to engage many artists, patrons, neighbours, viewers of all ages and circumstances. Art education and art appreciation are part of our aim too. We want to offer the broadest range possible of subject/method/material. With that in mind, here is what to look forward to in the gallery this season:

until Oct 16 - *In Continuum* - Eileen Menzel. Yorkminster Park Gallery begins its 8th season with Menzel's dramatic mixed media collages. *In Continuum* is a continuing series which explores time, memory, and story through architectural elements. The historic walls of the Palais Garnier in Paris (1870) and the Charlottenburg Palace in Berlin (1705) are given renewed contexts and meanings through a variety of approaches.



Oct 17 - Nov 19, reception: Sun. Oct 18, 12:30-2PM
- *Breathing Space* - Carol Westcott. The artworks in this exhibition depict reconnection with the swampy lowlands and rugged woodlands that provide the atmosphere of the Ontario landscape. It is as if the natural landscape offers extra breathing space and a way to take it all in. In her paintings, Carol Westcott presents views of these landscape moments.



Nov 20 - Dec 20, reception: Sun. Nov 22, 12:30-2PM
- *Night Gold* - Paul Roorda
Paul Roorda uses gold leaf, ashes, beeswax and old book pages to explore changing belief systems and the passage of time. The art in this exhibition makes reference to icons, horizons, aging walls and ritual markings to contrast tension and emotional paralysis with the possibility of renewed reflection and understanding.