

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



# YPBC NEWS

Spring 2023





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## FROM PETER'S PEN

### LENT

During this Lenten Season at Yorkminster Park we have eight groups meeting each week to study a new book entitled *Lent: A Season of Repentance and Renewal* by

Dr. Esau McCaulley of Wheaton College outside Chicago. All of the groups met with the author via zoom on Ash Wednesday at which time he gave us an engaging overview of the subject which was followed by a time of questions and answers.

Dr. Esau McCaulley completed his doctorate under the guidance of the famous British New Testament scholar, N.T. Wright. Professor McCaulley's previous book, *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope*, has not only won awards, but established him as one of North America's leading New Testament scholars today.

While Dr. McCaulley was raised in the African American Baptist tradition he has since been ordained in the Anglican church where he pastored churches prior to his academic appointment. He is currently also Theologian-in-Residence at Progressive Baptist Church, a historically African-American church in Chicago. Dr. McCaulley is perhaps best known for his columns which appear regularly in the New York Times.

As our various groups study his book on Lent each week, we are looking at scriptures and a prayer for the week, but also considering what he refers to as the historic rituals or disciplines of Lent such as fasting, concentrated Bible reading, acts of charity and social justice, spiritual renewal, confession and the stations of the cross. It is fascinating to reflect on these in our various groups in aid of our Lenten journey. None of them of course are only to be practiced in Lent, but rather Lent is a time to become more intentional. It is like tuning one's instrument before a concert. What's more none of them are intended to give us pride in our spiritual life, but rather to draw us closer to Jesus Christ and to our dependence on God.

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The graphic below is from from *The Economist* and had the subject matter the A to Z of Economics. The Z has motion but always the shadow forms a cross. Was it intended ?



It reminded me of Revelation 1:8 - *I am the Alpha and the Omega ...* - the A to Z of the Greek alphabet.

Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send to:  
[pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca](mailto:pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca)

The summer edition of the newsletter will be published in June 2023.

*Paul R. Hill*

loser to Jesus Christ and to our dependence on God. While these are the historic disciplines or rituals of Lent, I couldn't help but wonder if in this age we have anything new to contribute in terms of interpreting these rituals afresh, or adding new ones in the hope of coming closer to Christ. For example, in my sermon on the first Sunday of Lent, I suggested that a fast could be not only from food, but also from technology. Just as some Christians give up food one day a week, or meat for the entire season in order to reacquaint themselves with our ultimate need for God, could we turn off all our screens for a day a week to be more intentional about reading and listening for God, or listening to each other. I have thought of this on a number of occasions when I have sat down in a coffee shop or restaurant and noticed that even people sitting together to share a meal are often looking at their screens rather than each other.

And might there be anything new that we could consider adding to the rituals? I wanted to ask Dr. McCaulley this question the Q & A, but as it was, we went into overtime. Some potential such disciplines that come to mind relate to other traditional practices that the church long took for granted.

For example, **Sabbath Keeping** was something that was once built into the rhythm of our culture in response to the desire to obey the fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy." In Jesus' day, Sabbath keeping had become so legalistic that people criticized Jesus for doing good on the Sabbath. At times the Christian church was no less legalistic and so it wasn't a surprise when the world around fought to loosen the many restrictions that surrounded the day. The intent of Sabbath keeping was to slow down and breathe deeply in order to break the cycle of urgency that often surrounds work. Technically the Sabbath is Saturday, but Christians in the early centuries began to gather for worship on Sundays because it was the day of resurrection. But regardless of the day, it is crucial to have a day when we rest from the exhausting routines of life.

Historically, the Sabbath, or the Lord's Day, was also a day when we both attended worship and gathered as families - and not just during Lent. In today's world we are busy seven days a week. Our children

have sporting activities on Sundays and our youth have part-time jobs that often require them to work on Sunday. During the recent pandemic when churches were closed, we all got out of the habit of **attending Sunday worship** and for many it has been hard to get back into the discipline. Lent may be the perfect time to renew our commitment to attending worship in person each Sunday as we prepare for Easter. The Christian life is not meant to be lived alone and whenever we gather with others in the name of Christ, he promises to be with us.

Gathering as a family also went hand in hand with keeping the Lord's day holy. The family would gather for a weekly dinner after church on Sunday and in many homes an extra place or two were left at the table to offer hospitality to someone who may be new or alone at church.

**Hospitality** is a wonderful gift, but perhaps also a discipline that we would do well to rediscover in Lent. In an age where many eat alone in front of the TV, or where many just eat and run, the act of breaking bread together can be sacramental.

**Tithing** is something else that could be introduced in Lent. Many tithe all year round, but reintroducing it during Lent would be a way of inviting a new generation to discover afresh the truth that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Tithing is a Biblical word that refers to the practice of offering ten percent of our earnings to God. Perhaps because we pay so much in taxes and because there are so many different charities that need our support, and all this while the cost of living is so high for younger people, the church has been reluctant to talk about giving a tenth to God. Too often we think of giving, or even talking about it as just too challenging. However, the true purpose of Lent is not to accomplish a discipline, but to be drawn closer to Jesus Christ and as we come closer to Christ and to his Cross, we can't help but respond with a generosity of spirit. With the hymnwriter, Isaac Watts, we sing:

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

In Christ, Peter Holmes

## FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP



One of the greatest joys of my childhood were all the great family dinners we had, the parties, the meals, Christmas and Easter celebrated now once but

twice due to my grandmother being Ukrainian. It was heaven to listen to everyone sitting and talking at the table, sometimes for such a long time that we brought out leftovers from the first round and had a snack, maybe some paska and kielbasa with some warmed pierogis. Each branch of my family tree was plentiful with accomplished bakers, and enthusiastic home chefs so the variety at the table was almost overwhelming....but it is the noise I miss. I loved it when our house was full, when I could walk from kitchen, to living room, to family room, to study and know that in each room would be people I adored. I loved when my grandma's house was full, when my Aunts and Uncles' homes were full. It didn't matter where we were, it was that we were all together that made everything lovely. I knew when I was child, the way children know things without needing to have it explained to them that those moments were precious.

And so it was when we had our first Shrove Tuesday,



Pastors' Pancake Dinner since the Pandemic and so many came and the room was full of jolly noise, people eating and talking all at once, that I felt the same joy. There are songs we hear when we are young and when we hear them as we get

older, very often our hearts can skip a beat with a happiness we thought was long lost but yet we are wrong, it was just dormant. Likewise, we can hear a sound, such as the loud hum of voices and cutlery against dishes, and it can awaken us to feelings and hopes and loves, and community happiness of the sort we experienced together on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February. We may have lost time together over the last couple of years, but I would like to believe that what we gained is a deeper appreciation of how very good it is to be together.

I encourage everyone to join in the life of the church. With study groups in person and also now on-line there are opportunities to fellowship throughout the week. Soon we will also be practicing our traditional hospitality with our Doors Open on weekdays. Some reading this might even like to join and become a greeter, someone to welcome people to our church on a day when they might really be needing a kind word.

We have opportunities in the kitchen, for those who love to fellowship while also keeping their hands busy. Our Out of the Cold program is looking for volunteers to help make sandwiches for the people they will welcome on Wednesday evenings and having been in that kitchen each week since the fall when they started up again for the season, I can say it too is a blessed place. One day passing the door to get a drink of water I heard one of the regulars in the kitchen all by herself, surrounded by heavy laden pans of vegetables, ready to be roasted, and she was singing! The community who gathered later might not have known what it was that made the meal so special that night, but I would like to believe that the joyful noise I heard was an active ingredient.

Our church has not one, but two knitting groups. We are rich in loving hands that have helped thousands to be warm, but there is always room for more and for those who venture out, to make lovely things for people they might never meet, they have the gift of each other.

If you are looking for something to do, if you want to find out more information about how you can join in the life of the church please contact me at 416-922-1240 or [pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com)

We are born into families, we have friends who become so close they are just like family and we have our church family and sometimes all three are

blended together! It is not to be taken lightly, this gift we have. Christ is the head of the church, the head of the household we could say, and how grateful I am, that whatever might befall us in life, from birth to death and every day in between, that in Christ, we can be certain of being always welcome. We always hear about the table being prepared for us by our Lord, who is our Shepherd and I have always thought it must be wonderful. With God serving us how could it be anything but?! Whatever heavenly feasts await us, Shrove Tuesday was bliss as well, all the happy chatter music to my ears.

Paula

## TRANSITIONS

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

**New Members** (see Page 10)

### Deaths

Joyce Fish

David Onley

Carol Belford

Doreen McNab

William Sturgess

Eric Smith



*Bill and Mary*

### Rev. Dr. William Alcock Sturgess 1925 – 2023

We were saddened to receive the news of the passing of Dr. Sturgess, who served as our Minister of Pastoral Care from 1984 to 1994. Dr. Sturgess was a wise and compassionate pastor, a thoughtful leader who was always open to fresh perspectives, but careful not to be led astray. He was a loyal servant of the denomination and of the seminary where he studied but his loyalty was never blind and William was above all true to himself and Christ first.

William (Bill) was a Canadian Veteran of WWII and visited the beaches of Normandy on his 90th birthday. From 1952 -1956, he served with Canadian Baptist Missions in Bolivia. For the next 50 years he served at Spring Garden and Agincourt Baptist churches (Toronto), Broadway First Baptist (Winnipeg), and retired as Minister of Pastoral Care at Yorkminster Park Baptist (Toronto) in 1994. His Doctor of Divinity was from McMaster University, and undergraduate work was at University of Toronto.

He and his wife Mary were blessed with three daughters, six grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. During the initial years of his retirement, he continued to offer active service as a Minister Emeritus, Pastoral Care of Yorkminster Park assisting in worship and serving as Editor of the Yorkminster Park newsletter. Eventually he and Mary moved to Ottawa to be close to family at which time they became active at First Baptist Church, Ottawa. Mary pre-deceased William in 2020.

A memorial service will be held at Yorkminster Park for Dr. Sturgess on Friday, May 12 at 11 a.m. We look forward to welcoming his wonderful family and giving thanks for this dear minister of the gospel and friend in Christ.





**Family Ministries** at YPBC is blessed by God. We are so thrilled to see how God is working through our leaders/parents and to witness the light of Christ shining on our children and youth is a gift. They are so eager to learn more truths from God and His Word. We are blessed and honoured to teach and come along-side them and their families with Christ at the centre.

One of our Group Leaders recently shared what a tremendous blessing it has been since she came on board our team in September and to be involved in helping out with children. She looks forward to every Sunday that she gets to spend with them and shared how wonderful they are. She added; "I absolutely love them!" Another volunteer shared that she thanks God every day for the incredible gift of being able to serve and teach little ones God's Word. It takes a **team of folks** with a variety of gifts from God to serve and help Family Ministries thrive. Each leader has different spiritual gifts and we are delighted to trust God and lean in with each other to offer teaching, creative communication, music, shepherding, encouragement, mercy/care, adaptability and more! We also thank God for our **Family Ministry Worship Band** and for the new members who came on board to help strengthen our team and lead us all in praise songs!!





We were honoured to be a part of **Black History Month** and have families volunteer to serve and help at the Pastors' Pancake Dinner. On that night, we had table displays that included the history of Miss Lou along with Jamaican flags and treats given out and a Lenten table with faith resources. The Black History and Lenten Trivia Game played, engaged everyone and to have Winston sing; 'Give me Jesus' was a gift to all. Furthermore, we were able to come together all ages and share life, food and giving of gifts to support the COTH Food bank. It was also a joy to have Family Ministries and our wonderful FM Worship Band sing; 'This Little light of mine' at one of our Sunday services. Such a beautiful way for us to be reminded that nothing can separate us from God's love and the need to continue shining His light onto others.

Our **Online Ministries** continues to spread the Good News and includes faith videos, resources and zoom times that help connect families with one another and with God. It is so very special to gather mid-week with children, youth and parents via zoom and pray together.

In February, Leticia and a group of youth experienced a God-filled weekend away at the **CBOQ Blizzard Youth Retreat** in Muskoka Woods. We will be gathering with them all at an upcoming Retreat Day to hear their experiences and find creative ways to share their God stories. Stay tuned! Lutzen and the youth are attending a **CBOQ Centre Court Jr. Basketball event** where they will also hear a testimony of God's goodness.

We are eager to be a part of the **Easter Services** and to celebrate our risen King together! Family Ministries will partake in Palm Sunday's Service by waving Palm Branches down centre isle and we look forward to having our Family Ministry Worship Band lead us all in a Praise Song that day. On that day, we will be gathering with youth after the service for a Prayer Luncheon. As we approach Holy Week, may we reflect and remember the loving and great sacrifice Jesus gave for us and for our salvation. May we value and recognize that His church is a place we can gather as brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage one another, build each other up and offer worship and praises to our King!

The **Parenting for Faith** course coaches leaders and parents to provide a firm/safe foundation for our children to experience that they are deeply loved by God. The emphasis is on how to help our kids be more God-connected (relationship). The course gives parents tools for everyday living and how to bring God into everyday conversations. It's an 8-week course (1 hour on zoom each week) that both Heather and Leticia will co-lead in the late spring for any parents interested. Stay tuned for more details!

#### **A Family Ministry Prayer...**

Father God, we praise Your Holy Name. We thank you for the wonderful privilege of coming along-side families in their faith growth and to help strengthen our relationship with You. We ask that You continue to speak truth to us in that we will follow Your will not ours. Provide us with Godly wisdom and strength to minister to and plant faith seeds in hearts and minds that will be deeply rooted. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may these seeds grow. Give us Holy eyes to see others the way You do and listening ears to hear Your voice in that we may walk in step with You and SHINE Your Light onto others. May Your Name be praised and may Family Ministries honour You in all that we do. We continually ask for Your mercies and grace. In the precious name of Jesus, amen.

In faith,

Heather Mackey  
Director of Family Ministries





# PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

**Lily Cugliari-Kobayashi, RN**

The YP Parish Nurse is available for a range of individual, family and community health related matters.



## **Hymn #635:**

### **Brother, sister, let me serve you**

Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

– Richard Gillard

“Nursing is more than a profession – it is a passionate way actively sharing God’s unconditional love for all people through nursing education which is guided by the Holy Spirit, as the patient (parishioner or member of the community), the poises and the parish nurse journey together toward within the contract of the congregation and wider community.”

– Deborah Patterson  
*Book ABC’s of Parish*

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS WELCOME:  
[parishnurse@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:parishnurse@yorkminsterpark.com) | 416-922-1428



# *Holy Week* **and EASTER**

COME CELEBRATE WITH US...

## **Palm Sunday, April 2**

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Service:** Sacrament of Communion  
Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes preaching
- 4:30 p.m. Passiontide Devotion:** The Soloists and Section Leads  
of Yorkminster Park, directed by William Maddox, present a beautiful  
service of choral music and prayer.
- 

## **Maundy Thursday, April 6**

- 7:00 p.m.** Foot washing and Sacrament of Communion, Music by Iona Passage  
Homily: Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes
- 

## **Good Friday, April 7**

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Service:** Good Friday Meditations in Word and Song
- 12:30 p.m. Churches on-The-Hill Good Friday Walk**
- 4:00 p.m. The Good Friday Concert:** Music and Readings for a Most Holy Day  
presented by the Hedgerow Singers. FREE Admission
- 

## **Easter Sunday, April 9**

- 8:30 a.m. Easter Communion:** A joyful celebration of the resurrection with  
Easter readings/prayers and Communion in Meditation Circle  
(weather permitting).
- 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast:** The Heritage Room – *Everyone Welcome*
- 11:00 a.m. Easter Service Worship:** Featuring the choir and brass accompaniment  
to the great hymns of Easter. Sermon: Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

## NEW MEMBERS

### Ann Stirling



Ann is a native of Saint John, New Brunswick and was baptised as a Roman Catholic. Ann completed her medical and legal language secretary studies in college and afterwards worked in both fields. Ann also volunteered on the Stroke Unit at Riverdale Hospital for five years.

When she finished College, Ann attended services at the United Church. When she was twenty she moved to Hamilton, Ontario to live near her two sisters. She met her husband on a blind date in Hamilton and they were married in the United Church. They moved to Toronto where they raised two sons. Sadly, her husband Bob passed away in February of 2022. Ann is so gratified for the close relationship she has with her sons and their families, one of whom lives nearby and the other lives in Hawkesbury, Ontario.

Prayer life is an essential part of her daily routine.

Ann has enjoyed writing Children's books for her grandchildren. She is also an accomplished botanical artist who has had her work displayed in professional art exhibitions. Ann has taught Watercolour classes and written a book on Watercolour techniques.

Always interested in becoming involved, Ann is planning to participate in Y.P. activities in the near future.

She joins YPBC on the basis of Christian experience.

### Susan and Dale Soble



Dale Soble was raised in Victoria Avenue Baptist Church in Bellville. He went to McMaster for both

arts and divinity. Following graduation he served in Quebec and the Niagara area and, for five years, at Lakeside Heights Baptist in Montreal. For the next six years, he was minister of First Baptist Ottawa; then for ten years served as CBOQ Area Minister supporting 80 churches throughout Oxford Brant Elgin Norfolk. He then went to Murray Street Baptist, Peterborough for ten years after which he retired.

Susan Soble, the eldest daughter of Bruce and Barbara Neal, was raised in Yorkminster Park and James St. Baptist in Hamilton. Her father served as Minister of Christian Education at Yorkminster Park from approximately 1961 to 1967. Her sister, Janice, also served as Minister of Christian Education at Yorkminster Park from 1991 to 1996.

Dale and Susan have been married 44 years. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

## SHROVE TUESDAY AT YPBC



Shrove Tuesday photos  
by Janice Ivory-Smith





## MISSIONS UPDATE

### RESPONDING TO THE EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY AND SYRIA



Multiple earthquakes hit Turkey and Syria in February 2023 killing, injuring, and displacing thousands of people in the middle of a very cold winter. In Syria, the earthquakes come on top of a cholera outbreak and a severe economic and humanitarian crisis caused by nearly 12 years of devastating war.

Since the earthquakes struck, Syrian churches have suffered great material and human loss. The urgent need is for food, hygiene, blankets and winter clothes for around 4,200 displaced and crisis-affected households residing in collective shelters, schools, or other community shelters.

The first batch of 3,000 blankets, 3,000 jumpers, and 1,600 winter jackets was delivered on February 11 to 13 churches in Aleppo and has been distributed to displaced families. The goal is to immediately provide 4200 Syrian households with food, winter clothes, and hygiene kits.

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church has established a “Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief” fund to send financial resources through CBM on-the-ground partners to provide food, shelter and essential supplies to people suffering from the effects of earthquakes, disease, and war.

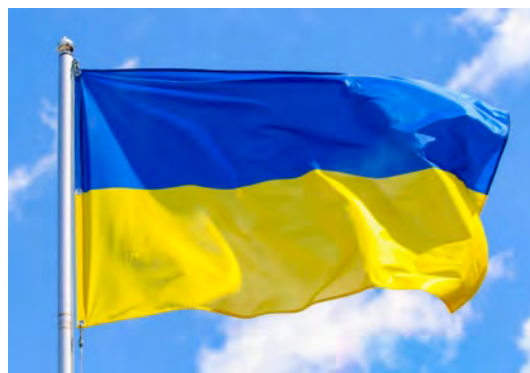
MERATH is a Christian NGO in Lebanon, associated with the Lebanese Society for Education

and Social Development, which comes alongside 50 local churches and faith-based organizations to help them implement relief and development projects for vulnerable individuals and families in Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq.

As the prophet Isaiah declares, we honour God by “loosening the chains of injustice, sharing our food with the hungry, providing the poor with shelter, and clothing the naked.” (Isaiah 58:6-7, NIV)

Thanks for sharing your resources and designating an extra gift to YPBC to “Turkey Syria Earthquake Relief.”

### BAPTISTS IN UKRAINE



### PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Yorkminster Park Baptists belong to a global family, the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). In an online service on February 24, a year after Russia invaded Ukraine, European and global Baptist leaders led prayers with, and for, our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. They cried to God: “We are desperately in need of your protection, your provision, and your peace.”

They shared stories. How brave Baptists, huddling in a darkened church, prayed “to the accompaniment of explosives” and sang “Count Your Blessings”. How a Mariupol pastor, scrounging his city for food for the 250 refugees sheltering in his church, was seized and deported by Russian soldiers. How Baptists built mobile kitchens and sent them to provide hot meals to people in occupied territories, along with coal and wood and generators. How more than 3,000 people had been baptized in the previous seven months.

“The churches managed not only to survive... but to become places of hidden hope where people can... find not only physical warmth but also hope in the

message of Jesus Christ,” said Ukrainian Baptist vice-president Igor Bandura.

**You can watch this service at <https://baptistworld.org/ukraine/>**

## UPDATE FROM THE FRONT LINES

*The European Baptist Federation includes about 800,000 Baptists in 52 countries, from Portugal to the far reaches of Russia. Here is their latest update, posted on February 10, 2023.*

**After nearly one year**, our brothers and sisters in and around Ukraine continue their faithful support of refugees and those in need in their communities. Since the new year, we have heard familiar reports of struggle and of praise. The situation in liberated territories and areas close to the front lines continues to be difficult.

Multiple churches in occupied territories were taken over by Russian officials and forced to either register with the occupying government or shut down... A Donetsk church was struck by a missile. The Ukrainian Baptist Union reported:

*This is where Christian volunteers brought aid for locals forced to live near the front lines. After the full-scale invasion, believers turned the House of Prayer into a true centre of indestructibility: bringing generators, arranging hot drinks, distributing food kits etc.*

*In the summer, windows were broken from the explosion of one shell. It made work difficult, but it didn't stop believers. And now the second "arrival" with more serious building damage.*  
**Evangelical Christians don't give up...As long as it is possible, the church will continue to serve people by preaching and helping.”**

Medics from a church in western Ukraine visited churches in Kherson, setting up day clinics. The churches they worked in briefly became “hubs where everyone received the medical care they needed: expert consultations, examinations, medicines and eyeglasses.”

We have also received reports of successful winterisation projects, where churches have been transformed into centres of Heat and Hope. One church has distributed 20 tonnes of coal to rural areas to heat homes. Others use donated generators

to continue their vital ministries to their communities. One grateful recipient wrote:

*“When the lights started going out, all services were held in an emergency version. Parents went to pick up their children in a dark room. Not only the level of inconvenience has increased, but also the level of danger. Your service and sacrifice eliminated our problems and needs. Food is cooked in the kitchen, teachers complete the educational process successfully, and children's, teenage, and youth clubs continue to function successfully. Women cook food for soldiers on the front lines. The church is full of new people, the kingdom of God is growing, and our Lord Jesus Christ shines brightly and is glorified.”*

In February 2023, Ukrainian Baptists braced for escalated attacks. Yet they remain resolute in the ministry God has called them to. One pastor reflected, "A few times during the war I was abroad in business. And I realized that in Ukraine I am calmer than anywhere else." For as long as it takes, our brothers and sisters will continue to be beacons of hope amid tragedy.

**Read the full story at <https://www.ebf.org/post/ukraine-brief-update-as-of-10-february-2023>**

## REMEMBER AND GRIEVE

*The European Baptist Federation invited individuals and churches in the global Baptist family to use the following prayer on or around February 24:*

**Lord God**, we come before you again, like we have countless times over the past year, interceding on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Lord, we look back and reflect on a year of pain and grief and loss.

**We remember and we grieve.** For loved ones who have been killed or gone missing. For millions who have been displaced from their homes and whose security has been robbed from them. For families separated and who have not seen loved ones for months.

**We remember and we grieve.** For churches destroyed, captured by occupying forces, and forced to shut. For pastors and church members and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to care for those displaced. For the millions who continue to try and carry on with their lives through the trauma and



weight of war. And for the millions around the world whose lives have been made more difficult and painful as a consequence of the war.

**God, we cry out to you for mercy, for peace,** and for your Spirit to be upon our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Continue to give them the strength to endure through the end of this conflict.

**Lord, we give thanks** for the ministry and witness of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, in the neighbouring countries, and across Europe and Central Asia. We ask that your name continue to be glorified in our actions. We know that you, Lord Jesus, are present in every act of care and mercy and peace. May the world know more of your goodness and saving love through our response to this tragedy.

**Lord, we praise you** for the thousands who have come to know you in the past year. For the tens of thousands that have come to your Church to seek comfort and who have met you. For those who have been baptised and saved, we praise your name Lord God. We pray that your Kingdom will continue to flourish in Ukraine.

Sovereign God, **we pray for the end of this war.** Lord, we know our prayers of peace are not lost in the dark. We know that you have heard us and continue to hear us. We trust that you, oh God, will work miracles of peace and justice in Ukraine.

<https://www.ebf.org/post/prayer-for-one-year-of-war-in-Ukraine>

compiled and edited by Esther Barnes at the request of The Board of Mission

## **CBM CHINESE MINISTRIES**

### **Fiona and Conrad Kwok - CBM Chinese Ministries Team**



Thanks to the prayers and generous support of YPBC, the CBM Chinese Ministries team continues to serve students in Europe and the east Asia including schools, seminary, orphanage, and a drug rehabilitation centre.

### **Germany**

In late 2022, they consolidated the original four ministry centres to three (Gottingen, Kassel and Marburg) so that CBM staff can better share resources and help each other serve the Chinese speaking students in Germany.

### **Taiwan**

Fiona and Conrad visited Dawn Baptist Seminary and two young couples who have recently started their seminary studies. The plan is for Conrad and Fiona to walk alongside these two young couples as they train to become missionaries in the next three years of study.

### **Vancouver and Calgary**

The primary goal of visits to churches in Canada is to stir up a passion for mission through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. May God continue to call new workers because the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

### **Northern Thailand November 2022**

Conrad and Fiona were able to take the very first SENT (Short Term Mission) team to Northern Thailand since the pandemic began in 2020. The team had seven members from two different Toronto churches. God opened the eyes and hearts of the team during the two week mission trip. They were also thankful to catch up with co-workers, and alumni in Northern Thailand.

The Kwoks are planning their next trip in May, to Myanmar. The border has been closed for a long time due to political instability and Covid. It has been over 3 years since their last visit. Please pray for their health and safety.

## BILL AND JANICE DYCK

### Bill and Janice Dyck—YPBC's Mission Partners Serving Latin America



Bill and Janice continue in 2023 to schedule virtual meetings with pastors, church leaders and students in Latin America; and Janice is teaching a student from the Emmanuel Foundation online.

Bill has resumed weekly meetings around Discipleship and Pastoring of Pastors (DPP) with a key leadership team in Bolivia, including the current denominational leadership and previous members of his groups. The Executive DPP Team is making plans for 2023. Something new is that three men are taking the first course in the School of Discipleship (ED) online, which involves weekly online coursework of at least 3 hours and a commitment to replicate the course with others.

In Guatemala, three key CBM leaders have all



started their own groups, with hopes to expand. There is a continued interest by indigenous groups, including the Evangelical Baptist Convention of

Guatemala, and other pastors in the existing groups. Plans are underway for an in-person training event, aimed at starting and running new groups.

Bill has also been facilitating a DPP group with Baptist pastors in El Salvador, and plans are also underway for a DPP group with a Baptist group in Cuba. This would require a separate training event, preferably along with a visit to Cuba.

Bill wants to foster a transformation of theological education in Latin America as well, working through a book by Perry Shaw, former professor at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) in Lebanon, hoping it to be a model for others.

Please Pray for

1) Pastors who continue to lead in our rapidly changing world with many economic, demographic, and health challenges.

2) The Emmanuel Foundation and children's ministries in general, which provides them with daily meals,

mentoring, computers, and a safe environment.

3) The School of Discipleship and Bolivian leaders who are taking the course.

4) Upcoming plans for Guatemala, El Salvador, and Cuba.

5) Plans to meet with the seminary leaders of the Baptist Convention of Guatemala and guidance in discussions around: God's mission, the ideal church, the ideal student, curriculum to shape the ideal students, and how to do all this with limited time.

6) For the Dyck family. Their daughter Marigan continues to struggle with long-covid symptoms, but remains optimistic; and their son is getting married in the Fall.

A warm thank-you to the congregation of YPBC for continuing to support Bill and Janice with your prayers and financial resources.

Esther Phillips for the Board of Mission





# WAITING !

## The Power And Value of... *Waiting!*



My mother used to say, “All good things come to those who wait.” She was trying to teach me patience—and serenity and discipline

while doing so. But *did* I listen? *Did* I learn? Maybe. A bit. But still, too often I find that I must *re-learn* the lesson of the power and value of waiting—especially when the reward on the *other* side of the “long hallway” is blissful. (Recalling the passage from a sermon earlier this year, referencing Rick Jarow’s quote: “When one door closes, another opens, but all too often there is a long hallway in between.”)

Waiting, at this time of the rolling end of winter, can be exasperating. By mid-March we’re typically so *over* the snow, even if its been a relatively easy cold season. We await spring, Easter, and all the joyous renewal that goes with... I’ve sensed this feeling of waiting so palpably of late, that it’s given me pause to reflect on the very concept of this action. Although “to wait” suggests being *still*, it *is* an action/a verb—the activity of staying still. To consciously, actively wait is to be mindful, *with all of your senses*, to what’s happening around you; perceiving the right time for next steps.

Waiting is so universal and timeless that even *Dr. Seuss* weighs in on this topic via his classic children’s book, *Oh The Places You Will Go!*:

Waiting for a train to go or a bus to come,  
or a plane to go or the mail to come,  
or the rain to go or the phone to ring,  
**or the snow to snow** or waiting around for a Yes or  
No  
*or waiting for their hair to grow...*

Everyone is just waiting.

No! That’s not for you!  
Somehow you’ll escape,

all that waiting and staying.  
You’ll find the bright places  
where boom Bands are playing.

Dr. Seuss’s passage suggests that waiting is exclusively a *negative* activity—something to *escape from*, rather than rejoice in. His perspective doesn’t allow for any *goodness* in pauseland. Indeed, we *will* be “escaping” from this winter’s “waiting and staying” shortly, once spring and Easter arrive, so take heart. But meantime, I maintain that there *is* some goodness, and power and value of waiting. What *is* waiting’s value in our day-to-day existence? Where in scripture *can* we draw encouragement and contentment for the big waits in our lives?

**Well, how about this... Waiting helps us...**

### **1. Chill—not the sub-zero kind; the mellow brand!:**

My piano teacher used say, “slow, slower, slowest,” when learning a new piece. It worked! Going *slower* actually helped me progress quicker! In the same vein, a few years back, when I climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, for the sake of our safety and even our *lives*, our guides’ constant mantra was, “pole, pole” (po-lee, po-lee—Swahili for “slowly, slowly”). Thirdly, now that I’m three years into playing *harp*, I notice the same thing—when learning a new piece, if I’m more interested in *melody* than accurately plucking correct strings, I mess up both. We can actually end up moving further along, quicker—with whatever the task, relationship, etc. before us—when we strategically wait and stay still, or at least slow down, at certain intervals. Where does this apply in your own experience... either past or present? When and where have *you* ended up better off, in a better place, emotionally, spiritually, and perhaps even physically, because you *waited*? Waiting often yields unpredictable rewards.

### **Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)**

*But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

## 2. Notice what's always been there:

Staying with the harp/piano analogy, when I take the “slow, slower, slowest” approach while waiting for the time that I’ll eventually perform a piece proficiently, not only do I achieve a more satisfying result in the *now*, the waiting and slowing allows me to *see* with new eyes... to catch chord patterns along the way that help me better remember the piece off by *harp!* ;) (Lol, I said “harp” on purpose!) Waiting and slowing helps us notice a multitude of delightful observations and experiences that we’d otherwise surely miss—like hearing the first spring songs of cardinals and robins; marvelling at daffodils’ and tulips’ annual victory over winter-hardened ground; tilting our heads upwards after dark, to witness stellarly clear, early-spring starry-night skies that only this time of year offers, without all that humidity that diffuses the cosmos come summertime. Look *down* and see... Look *up* and see... *all* the way up to the heavens! Look all around and *see*... *All* of it is *always* there for us if we would only wait a second!

### Psalm 46:10

*Be still and know that I am God.*

*I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.*

## 3. Distinguish between needs and wants:

During the height of the pandemic I learned this lesson most powerfully. Going over a year without professional income, due to the nature of my convention/conference work, I learned the discipline of *waiting*, when it came to purchases. “Is this a *need* or a *want*?” I’d ask myself. I’d never bothered with such an approach previously. “Wait until tomorrow and see if you change your mind.” Well you just *know* what happened. When “tomorrow” came I’d settled down my momentary material yearning, all thanks to the “waiting place,” and peaceably made the decision that the item in “need,” was unnecessary. And rather than *lament* that that was the truth of it—that I’d be “doing without”—I discovered that passing over petty purchases was liberating! All thanks

to waiting. There is very little that we truly *need*.

### Roman 12:2 (ESV)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

## 4. Strategize, plan, and trust God:

There’s a corny saying that we’re “human *beings*, not human *doings*.” Sounds like something a motivational speaker would say ;) ... but despite the triteness of it, I like the reminder of this adage. If we’re too busy doing, doing, doing, we never get around to being, being, *being!* Or to even *hearing* God in the details that the waiting place provides. When we “*sit a spell*,” we can think and be and plan and envision... and, ultimately, trust. Quite frankly, I even *waited* (until the last moment) to write this article, trusting that inspiration would come. And it did! In prayer, as I went to sleep the night before deadline, I asked God to show me the way to an inspirational topic to contribute to this quarter’s offering. (Sometimes thinking of what to write is like a “miry bog,” I’ll confess.) When I awoke, it was my very first thought of the day—aha! “The power and value of waiting!”

### Psalm 40:1-3

*I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.*

*He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.*

These past three years, we waited for hope in the darkest, earliest days of the pandemic; then we waited for vaccine formulations; and then for things to return to “normal.” (Well, we’re still waiting on *that* one; I suspect you’ll agree.) We wait on God, taking heart in suspecting that facilitating *waiting* is one of His favourite strategies for capturing our attention. And it works. When God wants us to take heed, we can count on eventual good outcomes. We just must... wait. And do so with trust, and even joy, in our hearts along the way, regardless. Our patience while traversing this continued long hallway to more normal days shows that we faithfully trust the Lord’s



timing and agenda. Not ours. His. God is in the long hallway, waiting for us to shift our perspective from “winter” to “spring.” And remember, hallways are lovely places to tap dance away, making a joyful noise unto the Lord as we go. God is *in* the waiting.

**Psalm 27 4:14 (ESV)**

*Wait for the Lord; be strong,  
and let your heart take  
courage;  
wait for the Lord!”*

**Psalm 130:5**

*I wait for the Lord, my whole  
being waits,  
And in his word I put my  
hope.*

**Blessed Easter! Happy  
Spring!**

Respectfully submitted by Nina Spencer. Nina is a (Virtual & In-Person) Motivational and Business 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*.



**ARTISTS  
IN ADVANCE**  
**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
**MARCH 4 - MAY 4, 2023**

A group show featuring works by artists waiting patiently for their previously scheduled solo shows.

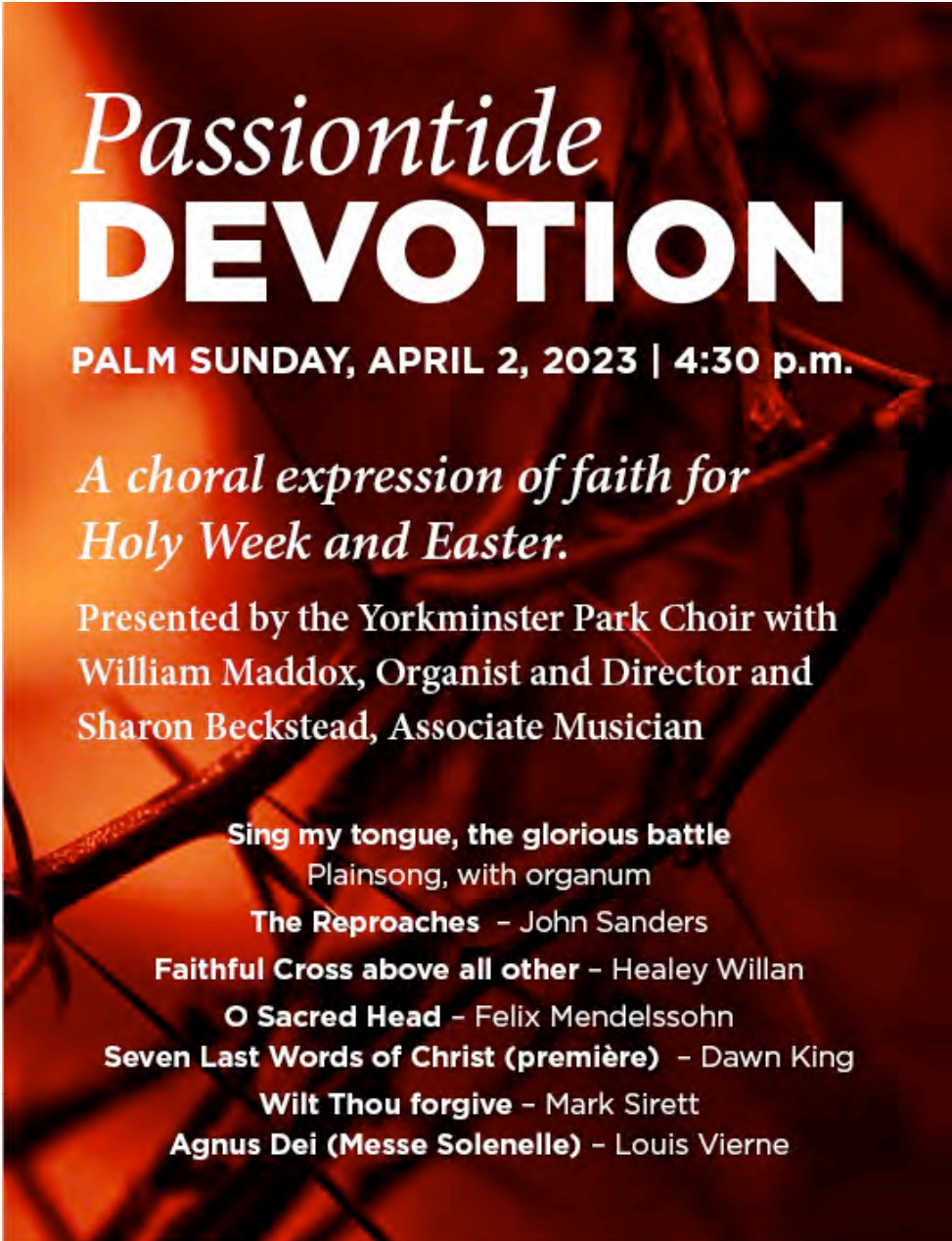
**GALLERY HOURS:**  
Saturday: Noon - 4 pm  
Sunday: 10 - 11 am and  
12 noon - 1 pm

And during weekday business hours  
by appointment with the artist.

Image: Janet Read *Ways of Cloud and Water*, oil on canvas.

Michael J.B. Black • Nelson Cheng • Linda Coulter  
Paul Hill • Nancy Oakes • Janet Read • Randall Speller

Each of these artists will also have a solo show in future.



*Passiontide*  
**DEVOTION**

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023 | 4:30 p.m.**

*A choral expression of faith for  
Holy Week and Easter.*

Presented by the Yorkminster Park Choir with  
William Maddox, Organist and Director and  
Sharon Beckstead, Associate Musician

**Sing my tongue, the glorious battle**  
Plainsong, with organum

**The Reproaches** – John Sanders

**Faithful Cross above all other** – Healey Willan

**O Sacred Head** – Felix Mendelssohn

**Seven Last Words of Christ (première)** – Dawn King

**Wilt Thou forgive** – Mark Sirett

**Agnus Dei (Messe Solenelle)** – Louis Vierne



## LUNCHTIME CHAMBER MUSIC



Tuesday, May 23

- Angus Sinclair & Autumn Debassige – Ragtime!

Tuesday, May 30

- Katie Kirkpatrick - *flute*

### June 2023

Tuesday, June 6

- Bedford Trio

Tuesday, June 13

- Sophie Lanthier - *flute*

Tuesday, June 21

- Kay Tozawa - *violin*

Tuesday, June 28

- Akiko Britz-McKibbin - *flute*

### March 2023

Tuesday, March 21

- Rising Stars Recital  
*featuring students from the Glenn Gould School*

Tuesday, March 28

- Rising Stars Recital  
*Featuring performance students from the UofT Faculty of Music*

### April 2023

Tuesday, April 4

- No recital

Tuesday, April 11

- Jayne Sakurako Abe – *piano*

Tuesday, April 18

- Rising Stars Recital  
*featuring students from the Glenn Gould School*

Tuesday, April 25

- Carina Shum – *piano*

### May 2023

Tuesday, May 2

- Rising Stars Recital

Tuesday, May 9

- Charlotte McIntosh - *trumpet*

Tuesday, May 16

- Lisa Tahara & Emily Chang – *piano 4-hands*





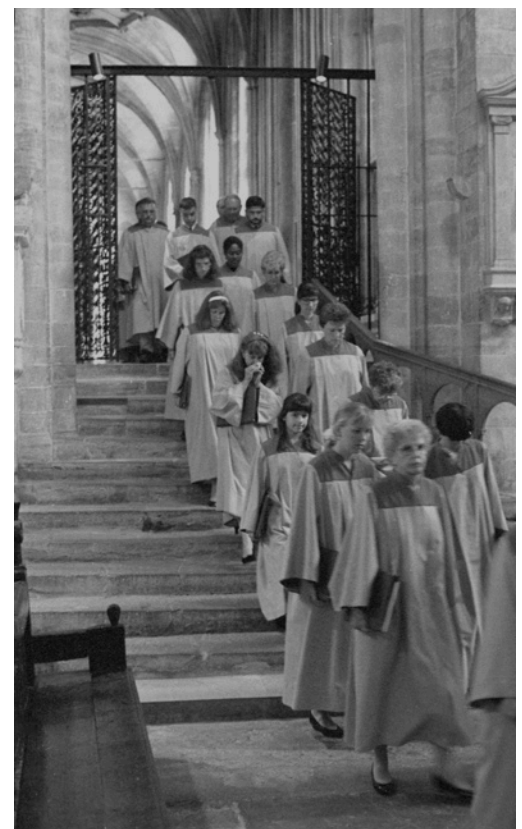
## CHOIR TOUR 1995



**YORKMINSTER  
CATHEDRAL**



**WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL**



## YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

### Yesterday I Drew a Blank – Peter Holmes

*(excerpt from a letter in 2012) . . . When I walked into the church yesterday I drew a complete blank. It happens once every four or five weeks as I pass through the doors of the Yorkminster Park Centre and I become immediately aware that the walls have been stripped bare. Oh the paint is still there, but the art that graced the walls of the Yorkminster Park Gallery blessing our comings and goings has been removed. All that remains is blank. The gallery found its home in our Yorkminster Park Centre entranceway five years ago (2007) and perhaps some of you wonder if it has made any difference. After all, art galleries don't feed the poor or house the homeless, nor do they win converts for the Kingdom. Yet I would argue that in a very quiet way, the art has nurtured our souls and even converted our minds. Come through the doors with me on one of those days when the walls stand bare and try to tell me the art hasn't made a difference. One glance and you know something is not right. The moment I realize a show has gone I immediately find myself wishing I had spent a little more time just sitting there drinking in the grace, beauty, joy and wonder. Like so many of life's blessings, Joni Mitchell had it right when she sang, "You don't know what you've got till it's gone."*

*But fortunately YPBC's Art Committee members don't draw a blank where I do. The empty wall is their canvas to endless possibilities of opening our eyes and touching our hearts with reminders of our creation in the image of God. To them it is like the gift of a new day and the grace of a clean slate. God gives us all new beginnings and opportunities to start afresh. . . .*



images by Janet Read - above "high arctic: ways of cloud and water"  
- below "pink cloud, arctic sky"



Peter's eloquent words from 2012 remind us of the power of art in our lives. Now, in 2023, after three years of pandemic closure, the Yorkminster Park Gallery has reopened with *Artists in Advance*. This show is a preview of seven artists: Janet Read, Nelson Cheng, Nancy Oakes, Michael J.B. Black, Randall Speller, Paul Hill and Linda Coulter. Each of these artists will have a one-person exhibition in the coming years.

We invite you to come see *Artists in Advance* – enjoy a taste of what's to come!