



Go into all the world
and preach the Good News
to everyone.



FROM PETER'S PEN

Back in August, Yorkminster Park lost a very dear friend and member in **Diane Letsche**. Diane served on many boards and committees through the years, but she is remembered best for the warmth of her welcome. Since her

passing so many people have said that Diane was the first person to welcome them to the church and that she took the time to not only learn their names but also listen to their stories. Diane believed that everyone is a precious child of God and we need to go out of our way to welcome them and treasure their stories.

This fall, as I have met new people it has almost felt that Diane was nearby nudging me. There are also a few in our midst who I have known by name and spoken to regularly but have only recently been given additional glimpses into the depth of their character because they have put their stories into print. One of these is **Bruno Kuemin**, who many will know by his warm smile, gentle laughter and his Swiss-German accent. Bruno has recently published a book entitled, *Victorious*, which gives testimony to his well-practiced faith and philosophy for living.

The book is primarily a series of reflections on his 47 years of post-stroke resilience, but along the way, we not only receive his wisdom but are given glimpses into his remarkable story.

Bruno was born in Switzerland and as a young man served in the Swiss army and completed a four-year apprenticeship as a tool and die maker working at times in his father's factory. He emigrated to Canada in his twenties and became involved in the world of car racing, both as one who could use his training to manufacture car parts and at times as a race car driver. Bruno reports living in the fast lane in more ways than one in those early years in Canada, however, all of that came to an abrupt halt when at the age of thirty Bruno suffered a very serious stroke with which he lost both the ability to walk and talk.

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She will give birth to a son;
and you shall name him
Jesus, for he will save
His people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21



While most people would probably have given up many times over, Bruno went through two years of heavy rehab and with the aid of a cane got himself back on his feet. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to start several ventures including the establishment of a gallery and foundation to encourage young artists in the 'disabled' community. It was called the Able Disabled Arts and Crafts. Whenever one of his ventures came to an end, Bruno would get up and start over with a new adventure. He is a man of incredible fortitude. He also started Whatsoever Community Outreach by providing a community center in Toronto for disabled people to make connections and find resources.

Bruno also excelled in toastmaster courses which he took to enhance his ability to communicate with others. In the spirit of Diane Letsche, Bruno is someone who goes out of his way to greet and welcome others and inquire into their well-being. Throughout the book, Bruno shared the secrets of his success and offers them as the tool and die maker he is, as tools for our life journey. The tools include a positive attitude, kindness, perseverance, commitment, courage, cultivation, gratitude, and honesty.

During his years at Whatsoever Community Outreach, Bruno had the audacious idea of climbing the steps of the CN Tower to raise funds for his organization. Bruno raised thousands of dollars by simply inviting people to sponsor him for a penny per step. Between 1989 and 1998 Bruno completed the climb nine different times and always in just over an hour.

I have come away from his book amazed by his incredible spirit of positivity, and his discipline and devotion which includes rising at 6 a.m. every day for an hour of physical exercise

followed by an hour of prayer and meditation. I highly recommend Bruno's book, *Victorious*. We are hoping to have copies of the book for sale in the church office during December.

Another of our members who have set pen to hand to tell his story this fall, or more accurately, keyboard to hand, is **Henry Regehr**. Henry has been a counselor and therapist who has helped countless people through decades of service. For many years he also taught a Sunday morning adult class at YPBC which many people have often attested helped them to keep both their sanity and their faith in challenging times. Henry has also been a kind and wise support to me personally and I am truly grateful to God for his friendship.

However, when Henry recently started telling his story on his new blog I was deeply moved by his memories. He shares his very honest feelings of loss since his beloved Lillian's passing and also the challenges of dealing with his Parkinson's Disease. In the midst, there is so much wisdom and gratitude as he recognizes that he is in his final chapter and longs to be at peace with everyone. Henry also shares many beautiful memories of his childhood in Manitoba and the legends of his parents and grandparents who endured great challenges as Mennonites living in and finally leaving Russia for Mexico and eventually Canada.

I know you will be blessed as you read these stories which can be accessed on his blog at <http://hylightsphotography.ca/blog/>. You can also access his photography portfolio from this same web page.

Speaking of personal websites, one of our Deacons, **Phil Crawford**, who has been a help to so many of our families through his work

at the Morley Bedford Funeral Home, has also started a fascinating website. Phil has made a hobby of exploring graveyards in the GTA and beyond so that he may visit the graves of people who have made a significant difference in our world, but whose stories have faded from public memory. Phil posts photos of the graves and sometimes of the people while retelling their important stories. You can visit his website at www.famousgravetours.com Phil maintains that everyone has an important story to tell.

At Christmas Christ entered the story of this broken world and along the way he treasured the narratives of one and all daring to step inside each of our stories inviting us to embrace his ways of love and his spirit of hope. As we take the time to listen to and treasure the stories of others, we are sharing that same love and hope. In this time when there is so much despair in the world, let us go out of our way to greet people whether they are neighbourhood acquaintances or complete strangers and offer a listening ear and words and deeds of kindness. It isn't just memories of our old friend Diane nudging us in this direction, but the very Spirit of Christ.

Merry Christmas,
Peter

PS: Since this posting, we have learned of the passing of Henry Regehr. Please keep his son Glenn, daughter Cheryl and the whole family in your prayers. A memorial service will be held in the Spring of 2024.

By this all will know that you are my
disciples, if you have love for one another

John 1:35

CELEBRATE WITH US

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

at Yorkminster Park

Sunday, December 10 - Advent II

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Paula Willis preaching
White Gift Sunday and Family
Christmas Mission

4:30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight

Saturday, December 16

11:00 a.m. Service of Comfort and Hope

Sunday, December 17 - Advent III

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes preaching
Family Christmas Sunday Service

4:30 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24

Advent IV - Christmas Eve

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes preaching

4:00 p.m. Bethlehem on Yonge

The Christmas Story re-enacted
in the park

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Homily: Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes preaching,
Sacrament of Communion

Sunday, December 31 - New Years Eve

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Paula Willis preaching

11:15 p.m. Watchnight Service

Rev. Paula Willis preaching



WELCOME TO NAOKO TSUJITA

In early October, following the installation and dedication of the Yorkminster Park Carillon, the Board of Music announced the appointment of **Naoko Tsujita** as the

Yorkminster Park Carillonneur. Naoko began playing the carillon in 2017 during her M.Mus. studies at the University of Toronto. Her tutor and mentor on the carillon, Roy Lee, the University of Toronto Carillonneur comments that, "Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Naoko was able to reach the level of professional competency by 2022 when she received the North America Carillon School's final diploma in Illinois." Naoko also received a full scholarship to study at the Carillon School which included coursework in both performance and bell history and mechanics.

Roy's confidence in Naoko grew so quickly that prior to her appointment as the YPBC Carillonneur, Naoko often played the carillon at both Metropolitan United Church and Hart House at U of T.

Naoko's list of awards for both performance and composition/arranging are numerous, but this comes as no surprise as she had developed such a strong sense of musicality during her studies as a percussionist during her Bachelor's Degree from Acadia University and her prior training at the Oita Prefectural College of Arts and Culture in her native Japan. When Naoko is not playing the Yorkminster Park Carillon she is often engaged as a solo percussionist or playing with one of the various orchestras in Southern Ontario. She has mastered the whole range of percussion instruments so we won't be surprised if one day she and William haven't

arranged something for the organ and marimba, which she has also mastered. Naoko also loves to share her music with the next generation and is engaged in teaching percussion to several young people. Naoko lives in Toronto with her husband who is also a classical musician whose instrument is the classical guitar.



Naoko can be heard playing the Yorkminster Park carillon each Sunday following the 11:00 a.m. service. While the best place to hear and appreciate the carillon is on the south lawn, a speaker has been installed

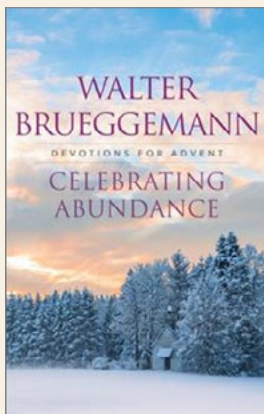
in the church so that the instrument can also be heard in the Sanctuary.

For many years, the Yorkminster Park Carillon was a dream of Judy MacDonald's. In the summer of 2023, Judy gifted us with 23 new bells to be added to the original 14 she had given. The late Tom Logan was so inspired by her vision that he gave the mechanical keyboard to complete the installation of the Yorkminster Park Carillon.

The inaugural recitals were offered by Dr. Andrea McCready, the Dominion carillonneur from the Peace Tower in Ottawa on September 30 and October 1. The instrument was dedicated to the glory of God on October 1, 2023.

Check out the **GLADSTONE LIBRARY!**

If you'd like some new reading for Advent, here are some recent selections from the Gladstone Library:

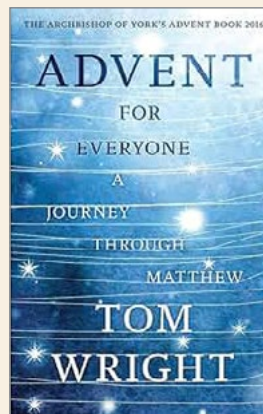


**Celebrating
Abundance: Devotions
for Advent**

by Walter Brueggemann
Paperback, 2017

Tags: Advent Devotional
John Gladstone Library

Status: Available
Call number: 242

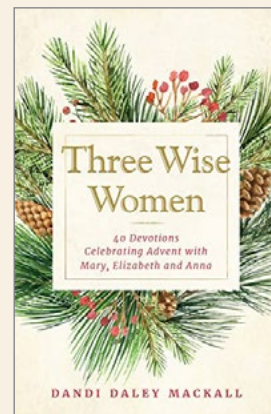


**Advent for Everyone:
A Journey
Through Matthew**

by Tom Wright
Paperback, 2016

Tags: Advent, New
Testament, Matthew
Bible Study,
John Gladstone Library

Status: Available
Call number: 242



**Three Wise Women:
40 Devotions
Celebrating Advent
with Mary, Elizabeth,
and Anna**

by Dandi Daley Mackall
Hardcover, 2022

Tags: Advent, Devotional,
Women
John Gladstone Library

Status: Available
Call number: 242.3

The Library is open before and after Sunday service. You can contact the library by calling **416-922-1167**, extension **241**, or by email at library@yorkminsterpark.com.

You can search the catalogue at: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/YPBlib>



What a joy it is to serve along-side one another planting faith seeds together. We are blessed and honoured to share life, encourage each other and pray for one another.

Over the month of November, our theme was; 'My identity is in Christ'. It was a gift to witness children and youth understanding that they are made in God's image and that their identity and destiny is in Jesus and that they've been chosen with a purpose.

Recently, one of our moms shared a beautiful answer-to-prayer story with me. She wanted to share that her daughter loves coming to our church and more importantly ... she had been praying for her daughter to have her own personal relationship with God through prayer. One day, when she was looking for things under her daughter's bed, she came upon a note that her daughter wrote. It said; "Love You God - to God, from, Rochelle". Praise God for His boundless love and nudging us closer to Him.

This past fall Family Ministries hosted many luncheons after Sunday services to encourage fellowship and breaking bread together. To name a few, we hosted a **Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon** with our DOXA Youth along with a luncheon to honour, thank and say goodbye to Daniel and Zoe Esteves for their leadership in Family Ministries.

We also held our very first **Family Ministry Worship Service** on Sunday, Nov. 19th at 4:30pm with a **Potluck Dinner** to follow. It was a blessed time as we focused on how **Our God is so Big!**



Lighthouse Kids/Families

God continues to bless us with more families and we continue to pray that God will bring us added leaders to strengthen our team. Children are engaged in weekly Bible lessons through songs, stories, interactive messages, discussion, prayer and crafts every Sunday.

We also keep meeting for bible study and prayer time every Tuesday evening on Zoom for children and parents. They learn about God's love and God's Word and the joy of praying together.

On Sunday, Dec. 24th at the 11am Service, Suma and James Amenchi will have their baby boy 'Sativik' dedicated.

DOXA Youth

Our DOXA Youth continue to grow in numbers and in faith. We are delighted to gather with them every Sunday for Praise Songs, Bible Study, Prayer and Discussion. Each month we have invited, guest teachers from our church family to come and share and lead DOXA Youth alongside the other DOXA leaders. In September, Rob Inman lead a bible lesson on Jonah. In October, Nina Spencer lead on Psalm 23. In November, Alana Walker Carpenter shared, 'Chosen with purpose.' After the service on most Sundays we gather upstairs in the Youth Zone room for connect-in, food and fun/fellowship time. We have loads of Christmas stuff planned! Avalanche and Blizzard Youth retreats are underway with planning for the early winter of 2024!

Online Ministries

Our Online presence continues to be a gift and a blessing to others with

- **578** Subscribers to our FM YouTube channel
- **191** Subscribers to our weekly emails
- **FM Tues. Zoom time** continues to bring families together for weekly bible study/prayer

We are so excited about **Advent and Christmas** and being a part of the services and events together. Family Ministries is committed to being involved in various ways. It is a joy for us to partake in the Lighting of the Advent Candle Wreath, White Gift Sunday, Cookie Baking, Christmas Card Making, FM Christmas Party, The Nativity Play, **Bethlehem on Yonge** and more!

Take a look at one of the Christmas Cards Hazel painted using water colours...

In Faith,
Heather Mackey, Director of Family Ministries





FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP

This is a beautiful time of year, the familiar hymns

and carols we sing acting as sweet prompts to seasons past. But just as when Jesus came down to dwell among us, our dear Prince of Peace, and entered a world full of disturbance fear and strife, we too are living in complicated times. All is not well. All is not always joyful. It is for this reason that right in the middle of this Advent season, we offer a moment of rest to all who are weary and heavy laden.

The Service of Comfort and Hope will take place on December 16th, a Saturday, at 11:00 a.m. and all are welcome. We are not a

people who grieve without hope and so into our sadness are dreams we had to let go of, health that has not yet been restored and grief that can threaten to cover the light of Christ himself, we will gather together in the confidence that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, our Comforter and Great Physician, is with us, with healing in his wings.

Whether you have suffered losses or disappointments this year or long ago please come and be comforted. And come, comforters all, and join in the lifting, and carrying of those in our community and in the world, who need our prayers, our love and our support. I hope to see you there.

At this time, I also wish to offer my heartfelt thanks to every single blessed soul at our church, you have been such a comfort to me as I grieve the loss of my mother. each hug, each

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SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

Saturday, December 16, 11:00 a.m.

For many, this season is not a time of joy but a time when we deal with sadness, loss, loneliness, isolation, or health challenges. This service is reminder that God is with us, especially when we face difficult times.

Come to light a candle for a loved one, to pray, and to receive the Comfort and Hope that our Lord so longs to give.

phone call, and every prayer have been a gift to me as along with many others this year at Yorkminster Park, I have entered a season of grief.

From my first moments at Yorkminster Park, I have marveled at the goodness, the kindness, and the compassion that marks our community.

Our beloved Diane Letsche was the first to greet me and introduce herself many years ago, and a most warm welcome it was. When my mother died, I drew comfort in knowing that Diane would be among the many to greet her as she entered the realm of heaven.

Peter a few weeks ago gave everyone the opportunity to welcome Eduardo on becoming a new member and to greet me also. No matter how kind I know everyone to be, I was still amazed at the line that formed. We see lines of people when there is a sale, or at the movie

theatre, or to vote even, but this was a different sort of line. You all lined up to be kind, a line of our congregation waiting patiently to join in Eduardo's joy and in my grief; what a gift and blessing to see a church ready to share life in all its ups and downs.

And so, I thank you and I thank God for you, for all you have done, not only for me, but for each other, by celebrating joys and companioning in sorrows, celebrating births and being a loving presence when we face death. You are a real community, beautifully pointing to the Kingdom of God and being the hands and feet of Christ for each other, including a most grateful me.

God bless you all this season, God bless you all, and keep you well.

The Rev. Paula Willis
Minister of Pastoral Care and Discipleship

WALKING TOGETHER

on SATURDAYS in ADVENT

DECEMBER 2ND to DECEMBER 23RD

For the Advent season, WALKING TOGETHER, our weekday online devotional, will include Saturdays.

Introducing this year's guest writers:

Saturday, December 2
Rev. Dale Soble
Retired Minister

Saturday, December 9
Rev. Dr. Sarah Han
Assistant Professor
and Director,
Tyndale University

Saturday, December 16
Rev. Barry Morrison
Retired Minister

Saturday, December 23
Rev. Leanne Friesen
Executive Minister, CBOQ

Subscribe Today! www.yorkminsterpark.com



MISSIONS UPDATE

Supporting Pastors in Their Role – Pastoring of Pastors

By Bill Dyck, Missionary supported by YPBC

The pastor is there for everyone, but who's there for the pastor?



A couple of books I've read recently are titled: *The Flourishing Pastor*; and *The Resilient Pastor*, both of which deal with the difficulties of pastoring

in our changing world. The struggles for pastors may vary from context to context but the need for a safe and supportive place in which pastors can share their struggles and support each other personally and ministerially strikes a chord everywhere. Pastors need a place where they can be transparent and vulnerable, in an atmosphere of grace and confidentiality, and where they can receive prayer ministry and peer counseling, and grow through accountability.



Five years ago, I helped to organize the first retreat focused on setting up support groups for pastors

of the Bolivian Baptist Union (UBB). Thirty-one pastors attended and it resulted in six groups being set up in five strategic cities. Last year there were 24 active groups in the UBB. This year Pastoring of Pastors is the key topic of their annual four-day continuing education retreat for all of their

300 pastors. An executive committee has been set up to facilitate and implement these groups through their national pastors' union. The need for this kind of ministry has been there, just waiting, for an opportunity.

The same hunger for support exists elsewhere as well. I recently got back from three days of training with about 30 pastors of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba (FIBAC). I had three days, and six sessions, with these Cuban pastors, and they were still eager to learn. I am now available to work with their leadership to implement groups in Cuba. Pastors in Guatemala, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic have been equally receptive.

I have begun a new group with Baptist leaders in El Salvador (ABES), have a meeting planned with pastors in the Dominican Republic (IBAREDO), and I am making plans for a new group with pastors of the Convention of Baptist Churches of Guatemala (CIBG). Pastors everywhere seem to be hungry, waiting, for a group in which they can experience being pastored, by Jesus, directly, and indirectly through other pastors. It is making a difference in pastor's lives. Thank you, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, for your ongoing support of this ministry, through CBM.

Reference: Tom Nelson, *The Flourishing Pastor: Recovering the Lost Art of Shepherd Leadership*, (Downers Grove, IVP), 2021; Glenn Packiam, *The Resilient Pastor: Leading the Church in a Rapidly Changing World*, (Baker Books), 2022.



NEW MISSION VIDEO!

The Board of Mission is pleased to present a [new video](#) highlighting the work of Mission at Yorkminster Park and celebrating our local and international partners.

To learn more about Mission at Yorkminster Park, and to watch the video, visit www.yorkminsterpark.com/give

YORKMINSTER PARK

SPEAKERS SERIES

Continuing education lectures by outstanding speakers on topics of general interest

www.ypspeakersseries.com

The Yorkminster Park Speakers Series welcomed our own **Neil Hetherington**, executive director of the Daily Bread Food Bank, to our podium on Friday, November 24th for our last lecture of the fall, on the urgent need for food donations in our city and province. Neil's message was encapsulated in the tag-line of their new advertisement: *"Recession, Pandemic, Inflation: it's our Busy Season."* You can watch Neil's lecture, and our other past lectures, on-demand, at www.YPSpeakersSeries.com, under the 'Past Speakers' tab.

We also revamped our website this fall and no longer ask you to pre-register to watch the live stream version. Please join us in person if you can, but you may also just go to the site at the appropriate time and watch the live stream.

We have two very interesting lectures scheduled for January. The first, on Friday January 12th is local historian **Barbara Dickson** speaking about munitions production in Scarborough during World War Two, "Bomb Girls: Trading Aprons for Ammo." And on Wednesday, January 24th we welcome Canada's former Ambassador to Israel, **Jon Allen**, on the theme:

"Israel-Palestine: The Two-State Solution is not Dead and Health Care Co-operation Can Keep it Alive." This lecture was arranged before the horrific events of October 7th and it will be a privilege to hear the perspective of one so closely attuned to the situation.

Finally, the YPSS relies on the financial support of our generous donors to put on this continuing education program. You may donate through [Yorkminster Park's Canada Helps Page](#), selecting YP Speakers Series on the drop down menu. Or please feel free to speak with any of the YPSS committee members about a major gift.

YORKMINSTER PARK
SPEAKERS SERIES

PRESENTS

Bomb Girls: Trading Aprons for Ammo – Munitions Production in Scarborough during World War Two

A LECTURE BY
Barbara Dickson
Local Historian and author

Friday, January 12, 2024, 7:00pm
Cameron Hall

(also available as a live webcast)

Welcome to Our New Members

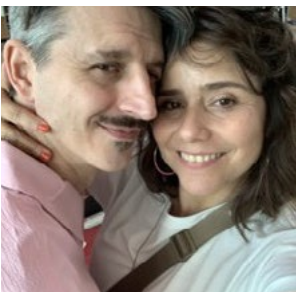


Eduardo Barillas

Eduardo grew up in Mexico. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from University Iberoamericana in Ciudad de Mexico. Eduardo is fluent in English and Spanish. Eduardo and his mother moved to Toronto in 2001. Upon his arrival, Eduardo worked in the restaurant and hospitality business. Once settled, he returned to the type of work he was doing in Mexico as an advisor and consultant in international trade and finance matters. Eduardo is an authority in connecting companies who wish to expand their trading relationships and develop new marketing strategies. He takes pride in building business relationships and in seeing his clients succeed.

Eduardo's mother had been invited by a friend to attend Yorkminster Park Baptist Church and soon after Eduardo and his mother were regulars. Sadly, Eduardo's mother passed away in 2020.

Eduardo appreciates the open, kind and friendly environment that is so much a part of Yorkminster Park. He feels a real sense of belonging. Being a Christian is an important part of Eduardo's life. He values the Pastoral Prayer time at Church as a time to reflect on his relationship with God and to pray for the needs of others. Eduardo joins by Christian experience.



Adianes (Ady) & Erik Daoust

Ady and Erik live close to the church, but their route to us has been long and full. Erik Daoust was born in Brampton. Although his parents divorced when he was 10 years of age he continued to grow and develop as a sweet man with a kind heart. Erik went to culinary school in Toronto but soon realized that his future lay elsewhere. Erik discovered a talent for sales, and that is what he is currently doing.

Erik's spiritual journey was slow but certain: his parents were nominal Christians and his grandparents were people of faith. Erik enjoys the love of his parents but has deep admiration for his father. While living alone as a young man, Erik had a dream in which he encountered Jesus – a spiritual awakening that led to his going deeper into his faith. Ady met Erik while she was a summer replacement for the pastor in whose house Erik was a tenant – Jesus brought them together.

Adianes Ponce Villalonga was born in Matanzas, Cuba and is a person of lifelong faith. After graduating in medicine, she practiced as a family doctor until she was diagnosed with cancer. After a miraculous recovery, Ady began studies at an Evangelical Seminary where she obtained a bachelor in theology. Her search for God continued while she did her Masters in Theology at the IBTS in Amsterdam, and shared her passion for chaplaincy with the Council of Cuban Churches.

Marrying Erik and moving to Canada led Ady to find a community. In April 2022, Erik and Ady visited the lovely community of YPBC. They are very grateful to God for every step and the presence of the Holy Spirit in their marriage, life, and dreams.



BEGINNER WATERCOLOUR CLASSES AT YORKMINSTER PARK

ANN STIRLING
INSTRUCTOR

NEW SESSION!

WEDNESDAYS
JANUARY 24TH to
APRIL 3RD, 2024
11:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Bring your lunch

Limited to 12 people
10 weeks for
\$300*

All proceeds support
Yorkminster Park

Gift Cards are available!

*Send your friends
and your family to
have a good time.*

For more information:
annstirling34@gmail.com

Registration forms are
also available in the
YPBC Gallery

*Painting kits to be picked
up at **Deserres**,
124 Eglington Ave. West.



YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

PRESENTS

HUMANS, HUMANS
NANCY OAKES

DECEMBER 2, 2023 -
FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Nancy Oakes has been exhibiting professionally since 1999. Her work has been favourably mentioned in *The Globe and Mail* and was included in *Favourite Works 2004-2013* on dilettantesdiary.com. Her practice of drawing while walking was featured on CBC Radio's *Here and Now*. Her artwork is in collections in Canada, the USA, Europe and Australia.

Drawing in Ten Seconds or More was Nancy Oakes' 2010 exhibition of pen and ink drawings with Yorkminster Park Gallery. Now YPBC Art Committee is pleased to present Nancy Oakes' *Humans, Humans* - portraits which continues Oakes' exploration of what it is to be human. The "sitters" are not real people, but small clay sculptures, which Oakes does from imagination. Simply clothed, the artist poses them against a plain background as in a traditional studio portrait. The figures are then photographed and greatly enlarged to show all the marks of their making: cracks, bumps, tears, holes, and scrapes. Oakes sees the resulting images as metaphors for the mental and physical scars we all acquire in life. To complete the effect, the paper is treated with tea and wax.

Gallery Hours: Sunday: 10:00 - 11:00am & 12:15 - 1:00pm
Saturday: Noon - 4:00pm

Also available by appointment with the artist:

nancy@nancyoakes.ca or by calling the church office
at **416-922-1167**.

YPBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

THE GIFT OF HOPE

and why it matters

YPBC WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, February 10, 2024

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Yorkminster Baptist Church | Cameron Hall

Facilitator: **REV. DR. EMILY BISSET**

Fee: \$55

Continental breakfast, refreshments and hot Lunch provided

Registration forms are available on tables in the YPBC Centre Hall and Narthex

Cut off date for registration - January 31, 2024

*Women of all ages are warmly invited for
a day of friendship and spiritual nourishment!*

WHY A RETREAT?

In an imaginative paraphrase, the Passion Translation of the Bible records the psalmist in Psalm 119:114-115, speaking in beautiful prose:

"You're my place of quiet retreat and your wrap around presence becomes my shield as I wrap myself in your Word!"

Years later, in Mark 6: 31, at a time when there was a swirl of activity around them, the Passion Translation records Jesus saying to his disciples:

Come, let's take a break and find a secluded place where you can rest awhile. It is our prayer that the women's retreat may be a time of restoration and renewal as we "take a break" from the daily demands of life to deepen our relationship with God in a sacred and protected space where we can "rest awhile" and "wrap ourselves in God's Word in God's wrap around presence" – a place to reconsider, to think creatively, to reflect purposefully and enjoy fellowship, where we may hear God speaking to us and in his loving embrace be restored and renewed.

Come and bring a friend. We look forward to welcoming you!

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YPBC WOMEN'S RETREAT

Facilitator:

REV. DR. EMILY BISSET

The Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset has been the minister at Calvin Presbyterian for 11 years. She is the middle

of 3 sisters and grew up writing in her journals and singing in church choirs in northwestern Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. She received her Masters of Divinity (M.Div) degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. She was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and served a small rural congregation. Emily came to Canada to do her Doctorate of Theology (Th.D.) in homiletics (preaching) at Knox College (Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto). She was received into the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) in 2007 and served Knox (Oshawa) Presbyterian Church for 5 years before being called to Calvin in 2012.

In addition to congregational ministry, Emily teaches preaching at Knox College. She leads workshops and preaches for national events in the PCC, as well as more local events, retreats and seminars. She has been married to the Rev. Alex Bisset for 14 years. Emily delights in their bright, creative, insightful and joyful daughter, Rachel who is in Grade 8. She enjoys the everyday pleasures of walking, star-gazing, writing, flowers and coffee shops! Emily is no stranger to the YPBC family as we have been blessed by her preaching on more than one occasion. She most recently led a workshop at the Lester Randall Fellowship on "Fine Tuned Preaching".

Submitted by **Jonanne Fenton** on behalf of YPBC Women's Ministries



Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Donations can be made at the door upon entry.
The proceeds will be split between
Yorkminster Park's Out of the Cold program
and McDermott House Canada.



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, December 10

4:30 p.m.

A traditional candlelight
choral presentation.
Featuring the
Yorkminster Park Choir.

FREE Admission



FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 17

4:30 p.m.

Following the tradition of
King's College, Cambridge.
Featuring the
Yorkminster Park Choir.

FREE Admission



BUNDLE UP FOR BETHLEHEM ON YONGE

**Christmas Eve Sunday,
December 24, 4:00 p.m.**

The Christmas Story
re-enacted, Carol Singing,
Cookies & Hot Chocolate
in Cameron Hall.

Upcoming Services and Events

Sunday, December 10

- 10:00 am** Berean Bible Study, Red Board Room (120)
Bible in a Year Bible Study, 5th Floor Board Room (502)
11:00 am Morning Worship, The Rev. Paula Willis
4:30 pm Carols by Candlelight, Sanctuary

Monday, December 11

- 9:00 am** Meals on Wheels
1:00 pm Women of the Word ZOOM only

Tuesday, December 12

- 9:00 am** Meals on Wheels
9:00 am Mother Craft Children's program, Gymnasium
9:15 am Intercessory Prayers, Chapel
10:00 am Dorcas, Youth Zone
Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Friendship Room (302)
11:00 am Open Door Ministry, Sanctuary
12:10 pm Lunchtime Chamber Music, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 13

- 7:00 am** Morning Brew, Friendship Room
9:00 am Meals on Wheels
11:00 am Open Door Ministry, Sanctuary
12:30 pm Noonday Organ Recital, featuring
Dan Norman, Director of Music, Church of the Redeemer
5:30 pm Out of the Cold, Heritage Room
6:30 pm Family Ministry Christmas Party, Cameron Hall

Thursday, December 14

- 9:00 am** Meals on Wheels
11:00 am Open Door Ministry, Sanctuary
7:00 pm YPBC Choir Practice, Cameron Hall
7:30 pm Thursday Night Bible Study with John Speller (Zoom Only)

Friday, December 15

- 9:00 am** Meals on Wheels
6:00 pm Life Together Life Group, Youth Zone (508)

Saturday, December 16

- 11:00 am** Service of Comfort and Hope, The Rev. Paula Willis
12:00 pm Reception - Service of Comfort and Hope, Cameron Hall

Sunday, December 17

- 10:00 am** Berean Bible Study, Red Board Room (120)
Bible in a Year Bible Study, Fifth Floor Board Room (502)
11:00 am Worship Service, Advent III, Sanctuary, The Rev. J. Peter Holmes
4:30 pm Nine Lessons and Carols, Sanctuary

Monday, 18 December

- 9:00 am** Meals on Wheels
1:00 pm Women of the Word ZOOM only

Tuesday, 19 December

- 9:00 am** Meals on Wheels
9:00 am Mother Craft Children's program, Gymnasium
9:15 am Intercessory Prayers, Chapel
10:00 am Dorcas, Youth Zone
Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Friendship Room (302)
11:00 am Open Door Ministry, Sanctuary
12:10 pm Lunchtime Chamber Music, Sanctuary,
7:00 pm Church Council - ZOOM only
7:30 pm YPBC Book Club ZOOM only

Wednesday, 20 December

- 7:00 am** Morning Brew, Friendship Room
9:00 am Meals on Wheels
11:00 am Open Door Ministry, Sanctuary
12:30 pm Noonday Organ Recital, Sanctuary
5:30 pm Out of the Cold, Heritage Room
7:00pm John McDermott Family Christmas, Sanctuary

Thursday, 21 December

- 9:00 am** Meals on Wheels
11:00 am Open Door Ministry, Sanctuary
7:00 pm YPBC Choir Practice, Cameron Hall
7:30 pm Thursday Night Bible Study with John Speller (Zoom Only)

Friday, 22 December

- 9:00 am** Meals on Wheels
6:00 pm Life Together Life Group, Youth Zone (508)

Sunday, 24 December

- 10:00 am** Berean Bible Study, Red Board Room (120)
Bible in a Year Bible Study, 5th Floor Board Room (502)
11:00 am Worship Service, Advent IV, Sanctuary, The Rev. J. Peter Holmes
4:00 pm Bethlehem on Yonge, Cameron Hall, Park
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary, The Rev. J. Peter Holmes

Monday, 25 December

- 11:00 am** Christmas Day Service, Sanctuary, The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes,
Sacrament of Communion

Tuesday, 26 December

- 9:00 am** Meals on Wheels
All Day CHURCH CLOSED - BOXING DAY

Wednesday, 27 December

- 9:00 am** Meals on Wheels
5:30 pm Out of the Cold, Heritage Room

Sunday, 31 December

- 10:00 am** Berean Bible Study, Red Board Room (120)
Bible in a Year Bible Study, Fifth Floor Board Room (502)
11:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary, The Rev. J. Peter Holmes
11:15 pm Watch Night Service, Sanctuary, The Rev. Paula Willis

This newsletter is published by:

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The Rev. Paula Willis
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Director of Music

Ms. Heather Mackey
Director of
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RN, Parish Nurse

The Rev. John Torrance
Minister Emeritus,
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