

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



YPBC NEWS

September 2020

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FROM PETER'S PEN

It is good to be back at the church and in the pulpit as I continue to recover from my surgery and my schedule gradually returns to normal.

Thank you for your kindness and prayerful support during these months. Your many words and cards offering encouragement have been a source of great strength to me. I am so grateful to the ministry team too for stepping up and offering such a strong caring presence in my absence. I am also very grateful to my family for their constant love and support. All of you have made such a difference in my life. Thank you. I thank God for you.

Someone else who was sick described getting such a diagnosis during Covid-19 as having a dream within a dream, though both seem more like nightmares than dreams. Among other things, being sick in Covid times means that you rarely see your doctor in person unless you are in the hospital. Further, up until recently it has meant that when you are in the hospital you have not been able to receive any visitors. While I am somewhat computer literate and could zoom or talk with family and friends, I could see that it was very challenging for those who were less tech savvy.

This experience gave me a small glimpse into how challenging all of this has been for those in senior's residences and nursing homes. Not only were these folk burdened with the loneliness of the hour, but with the anxiety of seeing the virus gallop through institutions affecting dozens of staff and patients in mere days, some of whom would not survive. I have seen the same anxiety in the hospital especially during times when I have been in the ER. The ER tends to be far more crowded these days than it was at the end of April and though there is physical distancing it only takes one person to start coughing or sneezing to bring the tension to the surface. The same anxiety rises when someone takes off their mask or when others are wearing their masks in a manner that only covers their mouth. Yet in the midst the

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The wisdom at this difficult time suggests "the great outdoors" is a good place to be, and of course this is the "golden" time of the year in Canada. The Forks of the Credit area (cover) provides a nearby setting for the appreciation of God's creation.



Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send to: pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca
The next newsletter will be published in December, 2020.

Paul R Hill

staff stay calm and patiently offer reassurance and instruction.

Over and over whether on hospital wards, in the ER, or waiting to have tests as an out patient, I have witnessed incredible and inspiring work offered by medical personal and hospital staff at all levels. They are in their masks and shields all day long which must be most uncomfortable and then as they move from room to room they are putting on and taking off gowns and gloves and washing up. All of this is so necessary but inconvenient and tedious. Yet in my experience was always done without complaint.

I was a patient in two hospitals and in both settings the staff were completely focussed on the needs of the patient while doing everything in their power to prevent the spread of the virus. They endured the discomfort and inconvenience and risk with good heartedness and I have no doubt they saved many lives. I spoke with some medical staff who would go home at night and live completely quarantined from their families. Nonetheless, despite all these precautions the virus is so virile that a number of medical staff still contracted it and some even died. I am so grateful to those who have been making this sacrifice day in and day out putting their lives on the line for the public good.

In recent weeks there has been a lot of talk of Covid-19 fatigue causing people in the public sphere to let down not only their guard but their masks too, and to relax social distancing and recklessly expand their social bubbles. Some even flaunt such activities in the name of freedom. This is foolish and selfish. If not, why don't we take it a step further and remove our glasses every time we get on a 400 highway?

In First Corinthians chapter nine, Paul wrote this about freedom, "Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible... I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." Freedom is never to be used in a way that is destructive or damaging to others, but rather so others can be saved. When I think of the incredible sacrifices being made by medical personal and hospital and care home staff members I can't help but want to support and encourage them. Putting myself and others at greater risk only serves to work against

them and all they do. Let's pray for them and all who suffer from this virus and pray too for treatments and a cure.



There are also a lot of untruths being spread around about Covid-19 by people who don't seem to think of it as a serious threat, or by those who want to blame a certain people. Granted, there is still much to be learned about it, but not knowing does not give us license to spread misinformation. Let's be careful what we say about it apart from the fact that it is to be taken very seriously. While in hospital I learned that while there is a time to speak, there is also a time to keep silent as the writer of Ecclesiastes put it so eloquently.

On my first visit to ER when the mass in my chest cavity was discovered I was in a curtained off room.

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

There was a woman in a bed on the other side of the curtain who spent much of the night moaning in pain. I believe she was suffering greatly from cancer. The next morning two doctors came to me with the results of a CT Scan I'd had about an hour earlier. They asked me some personal questions about my line of work, what family I had etc... They then proceeded to inform me that my heart appeared to be in good shape, but I had a mass on my lungs which might be lung cancer, a clot, or perhaps something else. I have to admit that I was in such shock I had no idea how to respond. I told them I hadn't seen it coming, but that I was grateful to them for being candid. I was silent for a long time afterwards as I tried to absorb the news.

The woman in the bed next to me broke the silence. She couldn't have helped but overhear the conversation and she said, "Father, I am not a Catholic, but if I were I would come to your church as I can't believe how peacefully you have taken such awful news. If it had been me, you'd have had to peel me off the ceiling." She interpreted my silence as faith and perhaps there was an element of faith, but I have to confess it was more like confusion and fear. Yet her words to me were a welcome relief and a reminder of the importance of faith and how it can, not only strengthen us, but encourage others along the way. I thanked her for her kind words and told her that I wasn't a Catholic either and she was always welcome at my church where all are welcome whatever their background. She said, "Maybe you will see me one day," but the truth is that I didn't see her that day, so I will always be looking for her in the face of a stranger at the door and hoping my words are as encouraging to her as was my silence on that day. Let us be sure in these days to use our words wisely and to recognize the importance also of silence.

Stay safe and stay healthy!

Blessings,
Peter Holmes



"Yet God has not left himself without a witness in doing good -- giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy." (Acts 14:17)

"Security is a thumb and a blanket. Happiness is a warm puppy." (Charles M. Schulz)

The fall season is now upon us. Of course, it is an autumn unlike any other we have experienced. As children head back to school and churches try to re-open amidst this pandemic, there are many questions and uncertainties. But one thing is for certain – the seasons will change. The leaves are already turning colour and the nights are cooler. I find myself adding another blanket on the bed at night. There is something very inviting about a warm bed on a cold, autumn evening. I love to keep a bedroom window partially open at night for fresh air, and then snuggle under the covers. To me, there is something special – indeed, almost primal – about a blanket. A good blanket can provide warmth, yet it can also be a symbol of comfort and protection. We even use the phrase "security blanket" to describe things that make us feel safer.

I often think of the character of Linus in the *Peanuts* comic strip. Linus is never seen without his blanket – it goes with him everywhere like an extra appendage. Young children often become attached to an object which gives them a sense of safety and familiarity. Sometimes it is a teddy bear or a doll or a stuffed animal. But more often than not, it is a security blanket. Our youngest child was like this. He had his "blue blankie" which went with him to bed every night for several years when he was a toddler. It was never a good thing if we somehow misplaced the blanket or forgot to take it with us on a trip. In fact, it was an effort to get it into the wash. By the end of its life, we were afraid to wash the blanket for fear it would fall apart! For years that blanket would still show up in places. Maybe it's still in the house

somewhere. Of course, the window of childhood passed for our son many years ago – and so did the need for the blanket. But you can understand the comfort a blanket brings. It can even have spiritual overtones. I think of our Prayer Shawl ministry here at Yorkminster Park. These shawls are lovingly knit by a group of ladies. They become more than just shawls or “blankets.” They become reminders of God’s care. The prayer card which accompanies our shawls has a blessing, which in part goes like this: “May this mantle be a safe haven, a sacred place of security and well-being, sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May you the recipient of this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace and wrapped in God’s love.” I can’t think of a more wonderful “blanket” to have during illness, bereavement or a time of personal crisis.

The extra bedding for the fall season got me thinking about blankets. But not just any blankets. I’m thinking about the blankets of the soul. The Bible doesn’t ever refer to blankets as such, but it does speak of similar things such as veils and robes. The ancient Israelites had sheepskin coverlets that provided warmth and comfort during the cold nights. One of the most famous Bible stories of a blanket or covering occurs in Judges chapter 6. Gideon was chosen by God to lead the Israelites into battle against the Midianites. But Gideon wanted to be sure that God was calling him to be the leader. So he took a fleece of wool and placed it on the ground overnight. He said to God: “In the morning, if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand.” Of course, it was so the next morning – only the fleece had dew on it. But Gideon wasn’t satisfied. “Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night.” (Judges 6:36-40) Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah, who would comfort those who mourn and give them “the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.” (Isaiah 61:3) In the same chapter, he writes: “I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.” (Isaiah 61:10)

The author Robert Fulghum wrote a bestseller years ago entitled: *All I Ever Needed to Know I learned in Kindergarten*. It is a wonderful little book filled with pearls of wisdom and common sense about life’s experiences. At one point Fulghum talks about the stress and anxiety that we feel as adults. He offers this piece of advice: “Think what a better world it would be if we all – the whole world – had cookies and milk about 3 o’clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap.” Just like – you guessed it – children used to do in kindergarten. We learn from childhood how inviting a warm blanket is, especially on a bitterly cold night when the wind is blowing and the storm is raging outside. For some reason, blankets remind me of prayer. Prayer doesn’t necessarily protect us from physical harm. But there are times when prayer feels like a warm blanket. It shields us from the unwelcome hurts and sorrows that inevitably come into every life. If I can be so bold as to suggest – it lets us snuggle into God. It draws us closer to him.

What are your blankets for the soul? I hope prayer is one of them. Perhaps some others include a best friend who understands you; a quiet spot where you can retreat to “re-charge” your batteries; or maybe a good book which whisks you away to another world for a brief time. Perhaps worship is a blanket for your soul, where you experience the loving arms of God surrounding you. It is my prayer that you will find more than just a “security blanket” in your life. I hope that you will find a blanket for the soul – a blanket of love that God wraps around you.

In the words of the rest of that blessing over our prayer shawls: “May God’s grace be upon this shawl (blanket)... Warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.” Thank God today for all the comforting blankets of your experience.

Dale Rose

Minister of Pastoral Care

TRANSITIONS

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

Deaths

Don Epp
Pam Boyd

FAMILY MINISTRIES



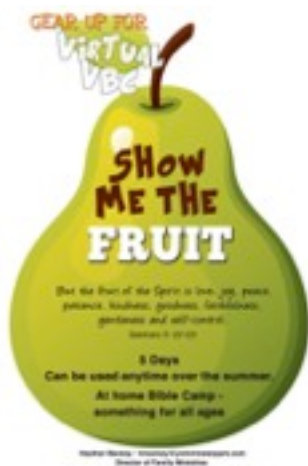
Even though our method may be different, our mission is the same! We strive to equip families to grow further in their faith development and help nurture their relationship with Christ. Below, are ways that we continue to offer ministry experiences for the whole family:

Every Friday we email families the following **Virtual Ministry** resources:

- Family Ministry lesson plans
- Family Ministry Teaching Video
- Children's Ministry (Lighthouse) Teaching Video
- Youth Ministry (DOXA) Teaching Video
- Praise Song(s) Worship Video
- Craft Video (1-2 month)
- Weekly Prayer
- Collage of children/youth artwork and pictures

We are also providing the following **Online Ministry** experiences:

- Youth Ministry (DOXA Bible Study – Gr. 6-12) Zoom Sundays 11:30am-12:15pm
 - Encouraging families to watch the first part of YP's webcast service together including the children/family moment before youth join DOXA zoom with their leaders
- Youth Group experience Zoom Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm (Starting Sept. 22)
- Family Ministry experience Zoom Tuesday 6:30-7:15pm (Starting Sept. 22)



Virtual Summer Bible Camp – Show me the Fruit (5 day camp)

This online camp provides teaching videos, praise song videos, craft videos, family lessons, snack suggestions and activities that can be accessed via link anytime. It has been a huge support and blessing for our YP families and families outside our church to engage in...helping them grow further in their faith development all while learning the Fruit of the Spirit.

We are grateful to God for our awesome Family Ministry Team and we thank them their gifts shared in providing teaching videos, tech skills, worship music and craft videos, administration, help, artwork, prayers and support.

Highlighted below are 'some' of the wonderful pictures and drawings that our Lighthouse and DOXA children did over the summer relating to our Sunday morning theme as well as our Summer Virtual camp - Show me the Fruit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

In faith,
Heather Mackey
Director of Family Ministries



NURSES NOTES BY LILY



“The Word of the Father, who made man, cares for the entire being of his creature; the all-sufficient Physician of humanity, the Savior, heals both body and soul.”

-Clement of Alexandria

As we all navigate our lives, during such

unprecedented times of a pandemic, let us not forget that every aspect of our health matters.

Sometimes, we can easily become overwhelmed with uncertainties in a world of unpredictability. Social media and daily overload of news can also sometimes overload our minds and interrupt our thinking.

While the whole world earnestly awaits the development of a hopeful Covid-19 vaccine, let us pause and realize that there are other relevant vaccines, awaiting us, which are available.

Our past Lunch and Learn guest speaker, pharmacist Claudia Janiszewski states:

“Immunizations are the easiest and best way to stay healthy, especially as we age.

-The benefits of vaccines far outweigh the risks they have and protect us from some very severe illnesses. In order for them to work at their best we all need to ensure we remain up to date with our immunizations. Ask your doctor, pharmacist or public health if you are unsure and want to find out.”

Take an opportunity to stop and reflect upon your holistic health and well-being. I shall highlight some of the topics which our health and wellness committee has covered in past Lunch and Learn Sessions. These topics of are not in any particular order, nor are they prioritized.

During this pandemic, in person medical and nursing appointments are sometimes challenging, but please remember that you can always request either a virtual or telephone appointment with your health care provider.

Are you due for an annual check-up appointment, or follow-up appointment, or an appointment for any new concern? Following through with your

appointments can help maintain good health, promotes wellness and prevent disease.

Here are some aspects of your holistic health to consider when following up with your health care provider:

1. PHYSICAL HEALTH

- a) *Vision Care*
- b) *Hearing Care*
- c) *Dental Care*
- d) *General Safety*
(Lifeline, Medical Alert Bracelet)
- e) *Medication Reconciliation*
(Please review with your health care provider or consult with your pharmacist)
- f) *In Case of Emergency Document (ICE Form)*
<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/903f-ICE-Sheet2016-1.pdf>
- g) *Immunization Review*
(Please review with your health care provider)
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/immunization/static/immunization_tool.html
- h) *Sun Care and Hydration*
(Please refer to the Nurses’ notes in YMPB Church News September 2019)



- i) *Nutritional Health*
(Please refer to the Nurses' notes in YMPB Church News March 2019)
<https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/?wbdisable=true>
- j) Of equal importance, also review your sleep, hygiene, exercise activity levels and any needs for physiotherapy.

- Power of Attorney for Property
<https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/pgt/poa.pdf>

For additional health information, please visit
<http://www.yorkminsterpark.com/page/150/covid-19-info-and-resources-from-our-parish-nurse/>

I look forward to remaining connected with you. My contact information is found on the Parish Nurse site.

2. MENTAL HEALTH

(Please refer to the Nurses' notes in YMPB Church News December 2019)

“There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.”

- Traditional Spiritual, based on Jeremiah 8:22

3. SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Our spiritual health is all-encompassing and is interrelated with your mental and physical health.

“A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.”

-Proverb 17:22

- a) *Weekly Worship*
- b) *Church Community*
- c) *Daily Devotionals*
- d) *Daily Prayer/Prayer Group*
- e) *Meditation*
- f) *Bible Study*
- g) *Child, Youth, Adult, Family Ministries*

4. ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

(Please refer to the Nurses' notes in YMPB Church News December 2018)

- a) *“Decision Making in Health Care for Yourself and Others”*
<https://www.speakupontario.ca/>
- b) *“Substitute Decision Making”*
- Power of Attorney for Personal Care
<https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/pgt/poa.pdf>

PRAYER ON HEALTH

(From “Healing Prayers” by Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate)



Lord, I thank you for the blessings of good health that I and those dear to me have enjoyed. May we continue to experience health in every aspect of our lives. Restore physical health to those of us weakened with illness, peace to

those troubled with worry, and comfort to those discouraged with problems. Help us to find in the days of our strength a faith and trust in you and a love for one another to guide us through any health challenge we may face now and in the future. Amen.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and joyful upcoming celebration for Thanksgiving.



YPBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES...

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

In an outdoor celebration of socially distanced 'togetherness', the Women's Executive held a garden meeting in September for a time of reflection on Women's Ministries at YPBC. We thought of how Dr. Karoline Lewis described Covid 'apartness' as an apocalyptic time in a revelatory sense and we guided our discussion with a series of questions.

We asked ourselves:

- What is God revealing to us? What do we need to change?
- Are Women's Ministries as they exist now at YP making a difference in women's lives?
- Are we seizing opportunities to fill our moments with focus, purpose and efforts that bring new value to Women's Ministries?
- How can we harness our efforts in the service of a clear purpose/mission and make a positive difference in women's lives?
- What activities must we choose that endure beyond the moment and have lasting impact?
- How can we make use of technology as we move forward?
- How can we be women of faith 'for such a time as this'?

In a season of brain storming and open ended discussion we considered these questions in reference to our current ministries and programmes including:

- Women's Bible Study group
- Flower ministry
- Prayer shawl ministry
- Funeral Receptions
- Fundraisers
- 'Women in Community'
- Notes and Cards
- Women's annual Retreat
- Donations

And this was just a beginning of an ongoing conversation. We are continuing to think and to



pray for the future of Women's Ministries at YPBC as we affirm that the arc of change is also the arc of possibilities - extraordinary possibilities - God's possibilities 'for such a time as this'.

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



MISSIONS - REPORTS

Update from Lebanon

Lebanon continues to suffer from one crisis to another. The refugee crisis impacted Lebanon in the last ten years, then an economic collapse started last year, which led to a political crisis and a social crisis. Then, like the rest of the world, we were hit with the pandemic early this year, which drove the economy to near meltdown. The climax was the Beirut explosion on August 4 which destroyed a large area of Beirut.

Too many crises, yet at every corner we are discovering God's grace and provisions in fresh new ways. It is very encouraging to see the churches and Christian ministries spring into action being the hands and feet of Jesus in the midst of suffering.

The photos show ABTS (Arab Baptist Theological Seminary) preparing to host families that have lost their homes in the explosion. We are grateful for partners such as YPBC who have come alongside us in concrete expressions of love.



Bolivia

Around 30 of our Baptist pastors in Bolivia have contracted Covid-19. Often the whole family contracts it at the same time. Bill Dyck and the CBM leadership team in Bolivia have provided prayer, emotional, financial and practical help.

They have also started a new project to help with funeral and medical costs of pastors and their families with Covid-19. We praise God for recoveries, but five of our pastors are now with their Lord. The list of pastors in Bolivia who have passed away from Covid-19 continues to grow.

Bolivian pastors are benefiting from ongoing bi-weekly Zoom training events. The vision for on-line ministry now focuses not just on pastors but on intentional discipleship in general.

Thank-you for your prayers and support for Bill and Janice Dyck, who are planning to stay in Canada until after the pandemic. They continue to provide on-line resources and encouragement to pastors and leaders in Baptist church communities in Bolivia.



Conrad and Fiona Kwok in Thailand

Thailand is cautious because Myanmar has a big jump of COVID cases. Border cities are most vulnerable. This includes MaeSai where Conrad and Fiona Kwok work at the Thailand Bethel Theological Institute.

Let us pray for health and strength for Conrad and Fiona, ministry teams and students.

By God's mercy, may COVID -19 be over soon and the borders be reopened so that students outside Thailand can return to campus.

Please pray for the Chinese Ministries Team as they provide support to their communities in Germany, Hong Kong and East Asia.



Intricity

Hello Friends,

In collaboration with RZIM Canada, Intricity will be virtually hosting RE-IMAGINE our weekly Fall Series on Wednesdays (October 7 - November 25) from 1:00 P.M. - 1:45 P.M.

We invite you to join us in a fresh conversation with global leaders to RE-IMAGINE life and work and discuss new questions being posed around meaning, purpose, and faith. Each week a new question will be posed and discussed with the host (myself), along with an international speaker from RZIM and an industry leader from Intricity. The weekly panel will thoughtfully address each question in the context of how to lead during a shared period of recovery and innovation.

Join us for one or more of these complimentary sessions within the eight-week series and consider inviting others. All of the details are located below.

Alana Walker Carpenter | CEO | Intricity



The graphic features a laptop with hands typing, from which a vibrant, multi-colored digital network of lines and nodes erupts, resembling a brain or a complex data structure. Below this is a dark blue banner with the RZIM | INTRICITI logo and the event title 'VIRTUAL FALL SERIES RE-IMAGINE'. The text describes the series as a weekly conversation with global leaders on meaning, purpose, and faith, occurring from October 7 to November 25, 2020, on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 1:45 P.M. (EST). A grid of 16 small portraits of speakers is shown, each with their name and title. At the bottom, it says 'REGISTER AT INTRICITI.CA #REIMAGINE2020'.

Matthew House Refugee Services Toronto

Your gifts to “Missions” at YPBC helped over 20 refugee claimants including several unaccompanied minors in Matthew House supportive homes last year. You also kept the pantry stocked and helped provide a safe bed, home-cooked meals and a caring family-like atmosphere for those who had lost everything. Thank you!

“When I arrived at Matthew House from Pearson Airport, it was a cold winter night. They gave me clothing. I remember my first meal. I am so privileged for having passed through the hands of Matthew House.” - Godfrey, Former Resident from Uganda.



submitted by Esther Phillips

THE EYES HAVE IT - OR, “MASKED I ADVANCE”

10 Strategies for Better Masked Communications



Matthew 6:22 and Luke 11:34 teach us that, “Your eye is the lamp of your body.” While Luke 12:2 states, “Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.” So then, as these scripture passages relate to this time of Covid-19—whether attending in-person church services or public events and facilities elsewhere—we can glean two points of comfort and hope: 1. “The eyes have it!” and, 2. The masks covering the rest of our faces will eventually be shed, and we will, with thanks to God, be fully faced known to one another once again. In the meantime, we embrace the sentiment captured by 17th century French philosopher René Descartes, “Masked, I advance.”

Masks are no longer optional. *Mandatory* is the order of the day, in more ways than one. And, of course, for good reason. We must continue to get used to these facial adornments as best we can, for even if a vaccine is discovered “any day now” we must still await the completion of clinical trials, mass production and distribution phases before returning to normal/to any semblance of days and ways of old.

So, for the time being, we must attune our ears to *hearing* a smile, and *seeing* a smile through *the lamp of the eye* of the one before us. (This truth now gives the song *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*, for example, a whole new meaning!) ;) And know that that *other* before us will hear and see the same from *us*, if *we remember* to smile underneath “that thing!”

To do the best you can when working on your “mask communications” consider these tips, tricks and techniques:

1. Speak as clearly as you can. Slow down a bit and make sure that you *enunciate* your words. Certain words will be muffled and misunderstood if mumbled. It’s not necessarily about speaking *louder*, but rather, more clearly and slowly, being mindful, as well, of your voice tone and cadence.

2. If you’re at an event where you’re unknown to others (or, to be playful, even if you know one another well!), consider **pinning to your jacket or top a close-up face picture** of yourself. Be sure to choose your most flattering favourite. ;)

3. Disposable, light blue masks with elastic ear loops abound, but since masks are here to stay for quite sometime, try **making/customizing and personalizing your face garb**. They’d make lovely, light-hearted, Christmas gifts! (You might even try holding a Zoom brainstorming session with family, friends and/or YPBC members sleuthing out various ways one can personalize their mask! Perhaps there’s a fundraiser in that idea??? *I’d* buy one or two or more; wouldn’t you, too?) ☺ P. S. If using disposable facemasks with elastic ear loops always remember to cut or break off these bits before discarding, so that, once in landfill, they won’t get caught in birds’ and other small animals’ claws and legs).

4. Use the other person’s name, to get their attention before speaking.

5. Our faces are so expressive. Since three quarters of them are now “unavailable” to the other (for subliminal interpretation), be sure to **compensate with expressive body language** (just a little—don’t *overdramatized*; that might just be too funny, otherwise!).

6. If you can’t hear the other through their mask, this is not a time to be polite and shy. **Let the speaker know that you’ve not heard them clearly.**

7. Alternatively, get ahead of the curve and **ask at the start if the person with whom you’re speaking can hear you well enough.**

8. If uncertain that you have heard correctly, you can also employ the communication tool of **paraphrasing what you thought you heard, and ask follow up questions.**

9. **Elevate your awareness of the noisiness within the environment** in which you are trying to engage in conversation. Are there air ducts/vents rattling away, echoes, other conversations happening too close by? If so, move to a quieter place and space if that's the case. (Like that rhyming?) ;)

10. **The “eyes” may have it, but so do your eyes’ brows.** Short of a Botox injection ;) your eyebrows are terribly expressive—even without your awareness. Under these current circumstances, *be mindful* of how much you can communicate merely with your brows (whether masked, or *any* time). For example, your brows can say: “Huh?” “I don't understand.” “Wonderful!” “Amazing!”... . The same goes for your smile. If your cheeks lift up in a big toothy grin, despite that no one can actually *see* your teeth, the other person *will* see the lift of the apples of your cheeks under your mask's fabric, and they will know that you are smiling. ☺

As mask wearing becomes even more second nature in these weeks and months ahead, so too, I hope, will at least some of these suggestions for bringing your best-masked self to any “face to face” conversation. And when all of *this* is behind us—when, as Peter shared in the closing reflections of his September 20th sermon, we get to the point where we look back at this Covid time and say, “What *is* that/What *was* that????” —perhaps we will all continue to be mindful of these 10 strategies for ensuring better communications *every* day, all the rest of our lives.

Lastly, remember *this* every time you put on your mask for yet another crazy Covid day:

You look good darlin', I don't care. Woo! You look so good, baby, whatever you wear. Winter, spring, honey, anything, summer, fall—anything at all—you can't hide the you you've got inside! ☺

(These lyrics are drawn from a 1977 song sung by Canadian (Vancouverite), Joani Taylor; written by Joseph Fahrni. I was at university then, and “should have” been listening to music that was from my own generation's era, but sometimes I'd secretly listen to my parents' station/CKEY. Do *you* remember that station? They'd play this tune often. Despite a narrow distribution for the times, it sold a large number of records in Western Canada only—not so well known in Eastern Canada, except for CKEY. Too bad about that because it was, and still is, a playful, happy, uplifting, feel-good tune. I suspect this melody will stick with you if you seek it out on YouTube! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N89YTiWoB5c>)

P. S. Buick acquired the rights to this song eventually, for commercial purposes, so you may recognize it from those late 70's ads). Either way, I hope you enjoy it and remember the message! ☺

submitted by Nina Spencer

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



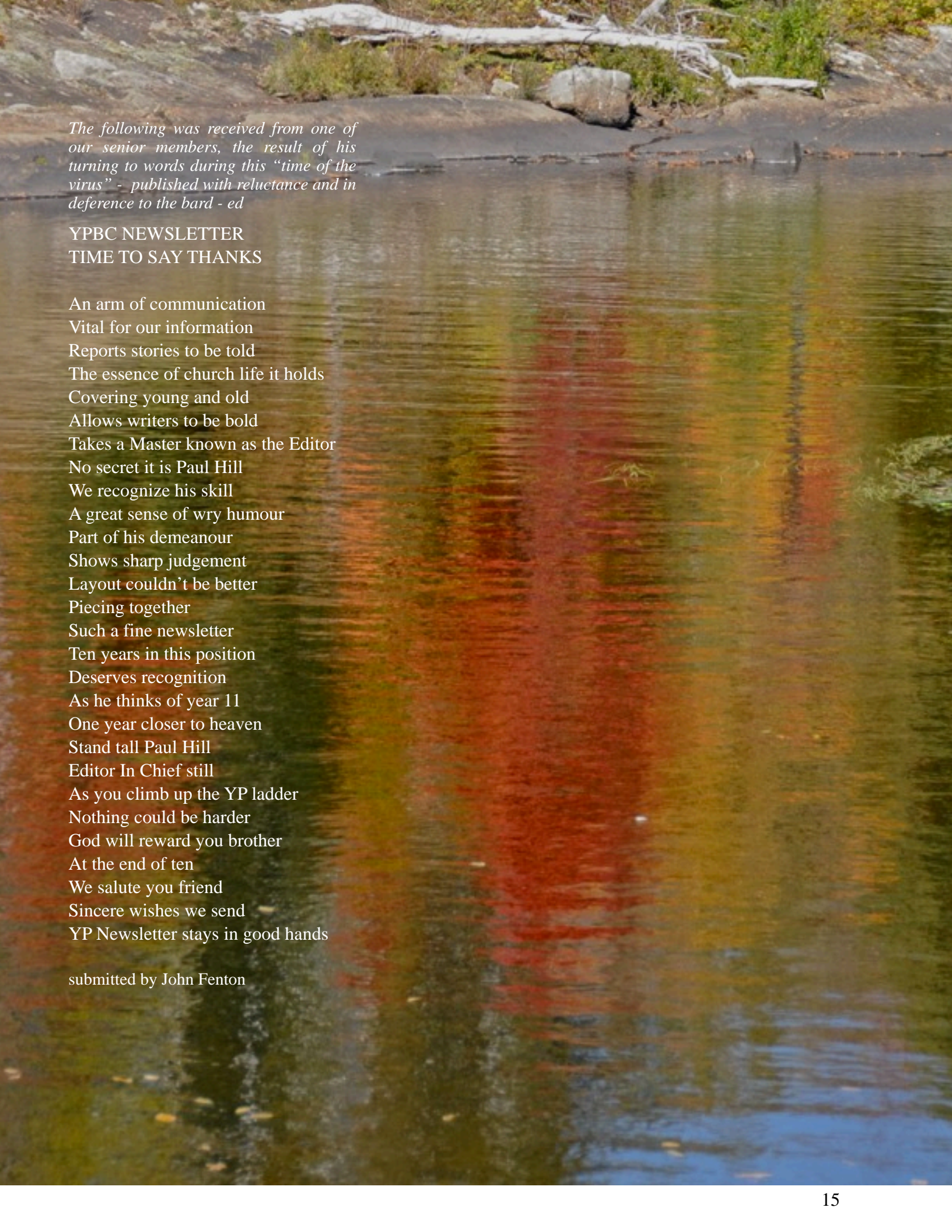
A Christian Perspective on the Pandemic
Considering COVID-19 through the Lens of Our Faith

What does the Bible and our faith say about the COVID-19 pandemic?

Some of the greatest minds in the Christian church have been offering thoughtful responses and Peter Holmes and Dale Rose will seek to summarize their thoughts and invite further reflection and discussion. Join them on **Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. beginning October 14.** The conversations will be based on three recent books by renowned Christian thinkers, Walter Brueggemann, N.T. Wright, and John Lennox as well as thoughtful reflections by other Christian scholars.

ONLINE COURSE | Wednesdays at 7:00pm

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) Or call the church office at 416-922-1167.



*The following was received from one of
our senior members, the result of his
turning to words during this "time of the
virus" - published with reluctance and in
deference to the bard - ed*

YPBC NEWSLETTER
TIME TO SAY THANKS

An arm of communication
Vital for our information
Reports stories to be told
The essence of church life it holds
Covering young and old
Allows writers to be bold
Takes a Master known as the Editor
No secret it is Paul Hill
We recognize his skill
A great sense of wry humour
Part of his demeanour
Shows sharp judgement
Layout couldn't be better
Piecing together
Such a fine newsletter
Ten years in this position
Deserves recognition
As he thinks of year 11
One year closer to heaven
Stand tall Paul Hill
Editor In Chief still
As you climb up the YP ladder
Nothing could be harder
God will reward you brother
At the end of ten
We salute you friend
Sincere wishes we send
YP Newsletter stays in good hands

submitted by John Fenton

UPDATE: COVID-19 AND YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

Since the pandemic began in March, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church has proceeded from a point of safety. Cautiously the church is recommencing its activities in stages starting this month. All programs and activities are guided by the safety of the congregation and visitors to the church, and are decisions determined by community spread and infection rates.

There will be no functions in the Yorkminster Park Centre until possibly October. Even then, activities will be phased in one by one. In other words, everything is uncertain. The Art Committee has come to the decision that we will not be able to continue with our 2020 exhibition season. All exhibitions until December 2020 have been cancelled, and will be rescheduled for another date.

The artists have all been notified and although disappointed are in complete agreement with our decision.

Similarly we are uncertain on how to proceed with exhibitions in 2021. As a result all exhibitions up to June 2021 have been paused until we have more information and can open the Gallery safely. Again all artists have been notified and await further information.

We know that many of you will miss the exhibitions in the Yorkminster Park Centre and the Art Committee will do everything it can to bring art and artists back to this space.

Stay safe, everyone. Be well.

sincerely,
Sue Ericsson and Randall Speller
Art Committee, YPBC



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY AT YPBC

