



## FROM PETER'S PEN MANY LANGUAGES – ONE FAITH

Yorkminster Park has what is now a well-established tradition on Pentecost Sunday of reading the first twenty-one verses of Acts chapter two with twenty-one different readers each reading one verse in their mother tongue. Each reader begins by saying their name, country of origin and language and then they read their assigned verse.

There must be close to fifty different languages spoken by members of our church family and with each passing year this number only seems to increase. Fifteen plus years ago when we first started this exercise there was a predominance of various European languages. There were a few Asian voices but year after year only one African and one or two South-Asians. This year our readers identified the following countries of origin, Albania, India, Liberia, Ghana, Egypt, Brazil, Romania, China, Pakistan, Estonia, Quebec, Nigeria, Japan, Iran, Uganda, Hong Kong, and Cote d'Ivoire. Needless to say, there are many other countries and languages represented in the Yorkminster Park church family.

I have often thought of the practice as a symbolic re-enactment of what had happened in Acts chapter two when the Holy Spirit came on the apostles in the Upper Room and sent them out into the streets of Jerusalem which were crowded with pilgrims from around the world. The pilgrims from many places heard the disciples preaching the gospel in the tongues of far-away places. God was speaking to them in their own language! Our Pentecost reading is indeed a profound reminder of what it must have been like on the Day of Pentecost, but I have come to believe it is far more for us than a symbolic re-enactment.

In recent years, our church has become home to new Canadians from many lands across Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, South and Central America and Europe. The various voices and languages

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*"See! The winter is past;  
the rains are over and  
gone. Flowers appear on  
the earth; the season of  
singing has come."*

- Song of Songs 2:11-12

## FROM PETER'S PEN (cont.)



we hear on Pentecost Sunday are not just a sign of what once was. These same voices also bear witness to what is a marvelous gift and sign of the power and presence of God in our midst.

Paula Willis visited one of our members in hospital this week and they reported to her that they were viewing the service live in their hospital room on Sunday when a medical attendant entered the room at the precise moment Mary Edwards identified herself as being from Egypt and read a verse in Arabic. The attendant stopped and listened and then said aloud, "I am from Egypt. Will you please pray for me."

God has gifted us with people from the far corners of the world who in their witness and service make us so much stronger as we seek to do the work of Christ in this world. The Holy Spirit is in our midst calling us to open our doors and hearts to a whole new world and it is marvelous in our ears and in our eyes!

### ***Thanks be to God!***

If you were not hear for this year's Pentecost reading, you can view it at <https://bit.ly/4nE4YSe>.

In Christ,  
Peter.



## FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP

Over the past few weeks, it has seemed as if summer was hesitant to arrive, but whatever portents we might have taken note of, June 20th is just a few days from now. Summer is indeed almost here, and Yorkminster Park has much to offer.

Prayers in the Park will resume for the months of July and August in the Meditation Circle. If it should happen to be a rainy day, we will move indoors to the Friendship Room but rain or shine, if you are able to come, bring a packed lunch! While it is a blessing and joy to lift our voices outdoors in praise of our Lord, it is also a great gift when our little service is over, to stay and have a visit over a meal as the birds sing, and cars honk, and children laugh and play nearby.

### ***All are welcome.***

Our Bible study for the summer is a subject near and dear to my heart, how precious we all are in the sight of God. Our study will be based on Dr. Paul Brand's and Philip Yancy's wonderful book, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: The Marvel of Bearing God's Image*. We will explore what it means to be an image bearer of God, our roles in the body of Christ, our very human bodies, skin and bones, the language of pain, our brains, which Yancey and Brand whimsically call the "enchanted loom," and so much more.

There is no need to buy the book to be part of the study which will take place over six weeks, Zoom only, on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, from July 9 – August 13. I never would have thought anything much good or helpful could have come out of Covid but it has been a blessing over the last few summers to keep in touch with each other on Wednesday evenings via Zoom, as some of us travel and some of us stay in the city. Our online Bible studies are a wonderful way to check in. This summer, if you can make it, you will learn a little

*Continued on page 3 ►*



## MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP (cont.)

bit more about yourself and how you relate to God.  
*All are welcome.*

### **The summer months can be challenging.**

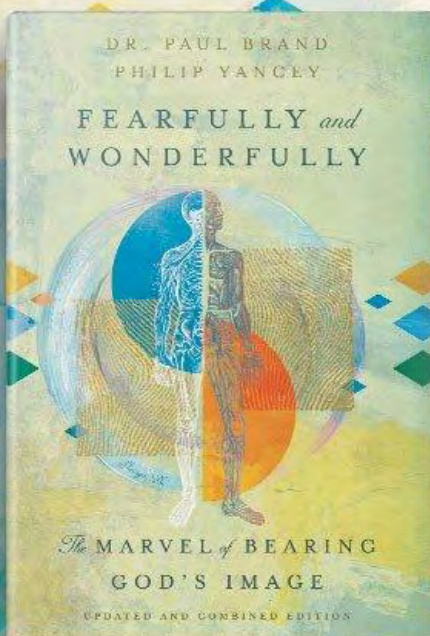
If you have a need for a prayer or a visit,  
please contact me at **416-922-1240** or  
[pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com)

I wish to thank all our Life Group Leaders who have made the last year yet another remarkable one in the life of our church. I wish all our Life Group Leaders a blessed summer. Thank you Brenda Lam, Janet Kim and Liz Grosset for leading the Mustard Seed Bible Study. Thank you Rick Doust for leading our Berean Study and Louise for all your technical assistance. Thank you Suzanne Wilkinson for your Bible Studies which bless many at YP but also in the community. Thank you Rhoda Hill for your leadership of the Prayer Shawl Commtee and for the blessing of the many shawls that have brought comfort to those in need. Thank you Heather Crawford for your leadership of the Dorcas group.

In the Centre Hall there is a small display of some of the beautiful items Dorcas makes for the good of people across our city. Thank you to Denise Roeleveld for your ongoing leadership of the YPBC Book Club. Each year the book list is amazing and this year was no different. Thank you to Stuart Campbell for your faithful and devoted leadership of the Men's Morning Brew and to John Speller for faithfully leading our Thursday Evening Bible Study, a group that has been meeting for many years. And last but not least, thank you to all the leaders of our Life Together Group which meets on Fridays at the church during the year and occasionally in the summer.

We are rich in community at Yorkminster Park, not only on Sunday's but throughout the week. May you all have a blessed summer and I look forward to seeing some of you for Sunday Worship and Wednesdays, in the park or in the evening for our Summer Bible Study.

Blessings,  
The Rev. Paula Willis



# FEARFULLY *and* WONDERFULLY MADE

## **SUMMER BIBLE STUDY**

led by Rev. Paula Willis

**Wednesdays, July 9–Aug 13 | 7:00pm | Online Only**

*Based on the book Fearfully and Wonderfully:*

*The Marvel of Bearing God's Image by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancy*

**REGISTER HERE** or email [pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com)

## DIRECTOR OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



### Ahmeda Mansaray-Richardson

We are pleased to announce that **Ahmeda Mansaray-Richardson** will be joining our ministry team as our new part-time **Director of Mission and Community Engagement**. Ahmeda, is a 2019 graduate of the Wycliffe College Master of Theological Studies in Development (MTSD) program and recently completed a term as the Transitional Director of the program. Ahmeda is also a founder and board chair of two non-profit organisations in health care, and an advocate for causes involving the welfare of children and youth.

Ahmeda was born in Nigeria, raised in Togo and Ghana with Mandingo roots courtesy of her dad, she loves her heritage and her culture. She currently lives in Cookstown with her husband Jed (engineer in the mining industry) and their 5 sons. She loves to fly single engine planes, develop Apps, eat fried plantains and dance in the rain.

Ahmeda has a deep and abiding love for Christ and will be a remarkable addition to our team as she guides us into new opportunities for service and growth.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

### Mehdi

Mehdi had understood for some time that he was being drawn to the Christian faith. Mehdi was baptized at YPBC this April on Palm Sunday. He had participated in Rev. Dr. Holmes' Baptism and Membership classes earlier in the year.

By profession, this new YPBC member is a baker and a pastry chef, par excellence. Mehdi enjoys the happiness he sees on people's faces, watching them sample his creations. Mehdi is new to Canada from Iran.

**HIS TIP:** "For sweetness, rely mainly on fresh fruits, while going light on the sugar. Keep it delicate."



YPBC is a special place in Mehdi's mind. In our congregation, he feels a pervasive sense of kindness and energy. He was touched at Easter, seeing so many happy children together on the chancel steps, full of smiles and laughter. For Mehdi, the music at YPBC makes attending each service a moving experience. Armed conflict, wherever it is, disturbs him deeply. Mehdi joins YPBC on the basis of Baptism. Mehdi, you bring insight and warmth. You are so very welcome in our congregation!

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## NEW MEMBERS (cont.)



### Michael Amarie and Eme Ukpong

Often friends steer friends to YPBC, but not this time. New to Toronto, Michael Amarie and Eme Ukpong chanced upon YPBC, while taking a Sunday morning stroll. They walked in, and sensed a feeling of calm. The sermon and the music kept them coming back. They had found their church. When Eme and Michael chose a congregation, YPBC was clearly the one to join. In fact, they were married here at YPBC here in May 2025, surrounded by friends.

Michael and Eme came to Canada from Nigeria. There, both had Christian upbringings. Morning and evening, Eme's mother gathered the children for prayer. Her mother also organized a vibrant Pentecostal women's group. Eme earned an MBA from McMaster University, and now works in a head office role in the Canadian banking industry. Back home, Michael learned how to study the Bible as a young person in a Jesuit school. He was baptized there in the Anglican Church. An accountant by training, Michael worked in the UK on his way to Canada. Today he works with a provincial body in financial services regulation.

Michael and Eme participated in Rev. Dr. Holmes' Baptism and Membership classes in 2025. Each one joins YPBC on the basis of Christian experience.

Michael and Eme, congratulations to you on your marriage! And a very warm welcome to YPBC!



### Emeline Edgett

On Palm Sunday 2025, Emeline Edgett (Emmy) was also baptized here at YPBC. Emmy had arrived in our midst at age 10. Growing up, Emmy anticipated summer adventures at Camp Kwasind. She attended as a young camper, then later as a Leader-in-Training. Emmy has always found YPBC to be an affirming congregation, a special place where people gather together and feel at ease. She comments that there is an unmistakable, "lightness in the air" at YPBC, which she values.

Throughout her life, musical performance has played a central role for Emmy. As a young person, Emeline liked singing with Toronto Children's Chorus. Now a student set to enter fourth year at Sheridan College, Emmy is refining her acting, singing and dancing skills. In 2026, she will complete an Honours Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance and set off with confidence into her career.

Emmy participated in Rev Dr. Peter Holmes' Baptism and Membership classes earlier in 2025. She joins our YPBC congregation on the basis of Baptism. She could not be more welcome!



### Matthew House Initiative helps refugees succeed

Matthew House is one of our major ministry partners. It has been helping refugees make Canada their new home for many years. It is driven by Jesus' call in Matthew 25:35 to feed, clothe, shelter, and serve our global neighbours in need.

It's a two-way street. Refugees give back. One has developed a unique simulated hearing program to help other refugees prepare for their hearing with the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB).

Refugee claimants arrive at our border without sponsors or status, seeking the protection of Canada. Currently there is no official system in place to welcome or assist them. They are greatly in need of help at many levels. One key area is with respect to preparing for their refugee hearing with the IRB.

### The Most Important Day

A refugee claimant's hearing at the IRB is one of the most important days of their life. If they fail this hearing, they are at risk of being deported back to their country of origin, where they face persecution. While they are entitled to the help of a lawyer, legal aid can be challenging to access and few have the opportunity to truly practice before their hearing takes place.

Developed by a former refugee applicant **RE-COURSE** is a free program that provides refugee claimants with an opportunity to practice through a simulated hearing. The program is entirely virtual. It mimics the conditions of the IRB hearing itself.

Participants report feeling more confident and capable after practicing with **RE-COURSE** volunteers, regardless of the outcome of their hearing.

#### Says one refugee participant:

*I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to Matthew House Toronto for their invaluable support during the pre-hearing process. Their guidance and resources were instrumental in helping me prepare thoroughly and confidently.*

*I am thrilled to share some wonderful news – my claim received an instant decision and has been approved! This positive outcome would not have been possible without the assistance and encouragement from Matthew House.*

*Thank you for making such a meaningful difference in my journey. I hope this message inspires others to seek out their support, as it truly makes a difference.*



**Matthew House RE-COURSE**





## To Everything There is a Season- Ecclesiastes 3 Says it So Right

Sometimes you just need to change. Right? That's what we have now! Summer! Finally! Thank you, Father God, for our newfound, blessed warm weather season – for lovely summer breezes, lingeringly long twilight evenings, birds that bookend our sultry summer days with their pre-dawn melodic love songs and dusky goodnight lullabies (to both their fledglings, as well as us!), and for the deliciousness of the relaxed change of physical and emotional rhythms that accompany June, July, and August.

***To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:***

Like so many others, my mother used to say, “A change is as good as a rest.” Perhaps you will be partaking in a literal “get-out-of-Dodge” change or rest over the next eight-to-ten weeks, but even if you're only able to orchestrate a metaphoric respite – offered up by the season/even if you're staying put in the city the whole summer long, like I probably will – take comfort in knowing that there's something about summer at our latitude in the northern hemisphere that lifts most everyone's spirits a little higher!

***.... a time to laugh... and a time to dance;***

How I revel in June and July's crazy-long days and drawn-out two-hour twilights. And how it makes me smile that each year we go through the same exercise of marvelling and waxing poetic that, “Wow! Look at that! It's 9:30 p.m. and it's still light out!!!” (Astonished, as though we never knew that such a thing could happen. That wonder never gets old.) Even though all of our lives we've known it to be true– that through June and July the light

stays up, even passed 9:30 p.m. – we still find it astounding, as though it were for the first time ever, and rejoice anew in our God-blessed good fortune to witness such a phenomenon. Everything old is new again! Maybe that's because we still hear a mind's-eye echo from our childhood, that harkens back to when our mothers insisted that it was time for bed, but we pleaded and protested in earnest because, “It's still light outside!”

***A time to weep...***

Well now, instead of us going to bed before our time, we can send the echoes of those sullen summertime too-soon-for-bed childhood memories to Slumberland! For now we're all grown up... and get to participate in those long summer evenings any way we wish – rather than merely being reluctant spectators, sulking, isolated in our beds, watching the late-day sunlit shadows dance on our walls, “tortured” by the taunting sounds of other kids still playing out there, without us, while we wistfully listen to those background outdoor sounds wafting up from the street through our bedroom windows, despite the foreground droning of ineffectual breezes around our rooms and across our glistening faces. Ah, yes, “those were the days, my friends. We thought they'd never end.”

Well, end they did, but the good news is that we're now well passed those isolating “pandemic summers” of late. We have a new summer ahead of us now – the Summer of '25! Let's be positive and prayerful that it will be a terrific, blessed, safe, and happy time for us all! Indeed, to everything there is a season.

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Our YP family is so grand and lovely. In-season events and programs from September to June offer an abundance of opportunities to make new friends, while continuing to cherish and nurture established relationships, but what about the summertime?

If you find yourself habitually reaching out to the same people during our more unstructured fellowship time at church this summer, consider coming along a little earlier to make the relaxed, chat-worthy acquaintance of new visitors, and even of some regular members, too, whose faces you've known for years, but haven't yet initiated a proper introduction because they simply don't sit in the same pew area as you.

*... a time to heal.... and a time to build up; ... a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace...*

To everything there is a season. The warmth of summer is a wonderful season to expand and fortify your group of friends. YP ones and otherwise. And to reconnect and reacquaint with others whom you may have let slip away for whatever reason.

That's what I intend to do this summer.

Perhaps you, too, will take that initiative – and soon, while the length of warm, long summer days still stretch before us. Why? Because, before we know it, we will be back to hunkering down for the winter – we'll be back to the sentiment captured on the 1960's marquees that my family ritualistically used to love spotting at the Shanty Bay Drive-In (near the shores of Lake Simcoe) while returning from the cottage down Highway 48 after Thanksgiving Weekend:

***"Closed for the season. Reason? Freezin'!"***

But not today! So then, happy summer to you, my dear fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, wherever you are – city, country, or abroad! And, if not beforehand – in the sanctuary on summer Sundays – see you in September!

*Respectfully submitted by Nina Spencer.*



*Nina is a (Virtual & In-Person) Motivational 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".*

# PRAYERS IN THE PARK

**WEDNESDAYS AT NOON**

in the Meditation Circle  
through July and August.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**





### LOOKING FORWARD



We are so pleased to announce that **The Rev. Dr. Anna Robbins** has agreed to be our Women's Retreat facilitator next year on **Saturday February 21, 2026**, a day apart to which all women are warmly invited.

Anna is familiar to us at Yorkminster Park as well as to many within our wider Baptist community as she has preached at our church, has served as a keynote speaker at the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship in 2017 and has been a plenary speaker for one of our Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec annual Assemblies.

She is committed to engaging with real life issues and world challenges in their relationships with justice and from the perspective of faith. Accordingly, Anna is passionate about helping Christians understand and communicate their faith well in our contemporary context. She has earned an international profile in theology and apologetics, ethics and contemporary culture and is sought after as a speaker and teacher.

Anna came to faith at a young age in St. John, New Brunswick and completed a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) at Carleton University in 1989, later graduating from Acadia University with a Master of Religious Education in 1993 and a Master of Arts (Theology) in 1997. She served churches as an ordained minister of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.

Near the end of her doctoral studies in Wales (PhD 2001), she was appointed to the faculty

of the London School of Theology (United Kingdom) where she served for 12 years as a teacher and academic leader. In London, Anna was also a theological consultant to several organizations and served on the council of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Her research graduates serve in diverse teaching and leadership positions around the world.

In 2012, she returned to Nova Scotia with her family to join the faculty at Acadia Divinity College, since 2019, Anna has served as President of Acadia Divinity College and Dean of Theology of Acadia University. She also holds the Dr. Millard R. Cherry Chair of Theology, Ethics and Culture, serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Theological Schools and is the Director of the Andrew MacRae Centre for Faith and Culture for which she regularly blogs.

Anna continues to write, travel and speak widely with a passion to help people engage well with matters of contemporary culture and faith. She lives in Wolfville with her husband Peter and their teenage son David.



If you would like to get to know a little more about Anna, you can access an interview that Dr. Andrew Stirling conducted with her as

the **Canadian Bible Society** podcast, **"Scripture Untangled,"** Season 4, Ep 9, Aug. 8, 2023. The subject of the interview is *"Finding Our Purpose with the Help of the Scriptures."*

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

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. – Philippians 2:3-5

As a Family Ministry Team, we delight in meeting regularly to pray and study God's Word together. It is a blessing and joy for us to meet every Sunday (before the church service) and every Tuesday evening. Our Family Ministry Mission is to seek to come alongside the whole family in their faith development and encourage a personal relationship with God through Jesus. It is crucial for us as a team to not only pray and study God's Word but to also lean on the Holy Spirit for guidance to help us obey and put into practice His teachings. In the above scripture from Philippians - Paul emphasizes the importance of doing nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Paul continues by saying that in humility, value others above yourselves. As Family Ministry Leaders, prayer is top priority! Christ is our focus and at the centre of all we do.

Praising and adoring God, giving thanks in all things, confessing to one another our sins, asking the Lord to sharpen and help us put into practice our faith and pray for the needs of the families is an ongoing prayer for us. We pray that all children, youth, and families that walk in our doors experience God's love with how they are treated and welcomed. We seek to value every person that God brings to us and show them the love of God and His shining light along with teaching God's truths. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to love one another and seek having the same mindset as Christ Jesus. A constant prayer that we ask the Lord together from Ephesians 6 is to put on the whole armour of God which includes the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of peace that share the Gospel, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit (God's Word).

As Ministry Leaders, we point children and youth to Jesus Christ. Leaders may come and go, but Christ, our Lord is our constant source of strength and will never leave or forsake us. With Jesus, we are complete. With Jesus, we have fellowship. With Jesus, we are loved. With Jesus, we are sons and daughters of God. With Jesus, we are saved. With Jesus, we are promised eternal life. With Jesus, we have everything we need. The spotlight is on Christ! He is our Savior, our Star, our Superhero and our Best Friend. Jesus is the light of the world, and our role is to be catalysts in how we give honour and glory to God and shine Christ' light onto others.



Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. – Revelation 4:11

***Thank You Lord for our Family Ministry Team!***

We are grateful to God for our FM Band that lead all in praise songs (one Sunday Service a month and 2-3 times a month in FM's) and encourage our children/youth and leaders to sing and lead actions with all. As well, having the Chorister's Choir sing for seasonal services is a JOY to witness. During the Children's Prayer Time, it is a blessing to involve all ages in what we are learning in Family Ministries and pray together... giving God all the glory. We are also thankful for the many times our youth are asked to read scripture, share testimony as well as participate in communion. We also love being a part of special seasonal services and to join the whole congregation for dedications and baptisms.

Some of our youth and families volunteered for the Daily Bread Food Bank on May 3rd and it was a blessing for them to serve and take part in that way.



We carry on joyfully with our Tuesday Family Ministry Zoom Time(s) by faithfully meeting every week to study God's Word, the weekly lesson, engage in discussion and activities related to the lesson and then close in prayer.

- 6:30-7:15pm - ALL ages
- 7:15-8pm - Leaders ( **NEW** we've been meeting for the last couple of months)

Our Family Ministry YouTube channel now has 604 Subscribers and viewers in Indonesia, Australia, U.S. and all over Canada. We continue to add more volunteers to our FM Video Leader Team and thankful to God to share that there are 10 devoted video creators on our Video Team. To subscribe, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/@familyministriesatypbc>.

Our Youth Ministry meet two nights a month to engage in fun activities, build friendships, pray together and support mission engagement. Please pray with us for our Youth Ministry and for Isaac (Youth Ministry Assistant) and his 2 youth volunteers (Michael and Araliya) and young adult volunteer (Patricia). May God pour out His blessed and protective hand on them. There were 2 baby dedications on Sunday, May 25th that we all delighted in and we continue to pray for Olive and Julian and their growing up in Christ.

A special blessing prayer was given to our gr. 12 graduates (Sophia, Alaina and Ricardo) on Sunday, June 8th during the service and we are delighted to host a Family Ministry Potluck Luncheon after church that day!



One of our FM Leaders (Gr. 3 leader) is an illustrator. Her name is Diana and we asked if she would draw various art scenes to support Family Ministries (Videos, greeting cards, power point slides for praise songs, etc.). She has drawn many different pictures for us and I'm including one here that highlights our FM logo.

**In Christ, Heather Mackey**  
**Director of Family Ministries**





# GOD BLESS OUR GRADE 12 GRADUATES!

**Ricardo Burton** has enjoyed being a part of our DOXA Youth and Bible Study over the years. He was always helpful in Family Ministries lending a hand where needed. Ricardo is graduating from Brébeuf College School. He has made applications to the University of Toronto and York University in hopes of pursuing an undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Arts.

**Alaina Gregson-Lamb** has been coming to our church throughout her Jr and Sr youth years. She is graduating from St. Clément's School and is planning on attending the University of Victoria. Alaina is hoping to work as a Camp Counsellor this summer. She has been a part of our DOXA Youth and supported our Family Ministries by helping out in the Nursery. Alaina has also eagerly helped in the kitchen numerous times for many events held here at the church.

**Sophia Klima** has grown up in the church since her dedication in 2007. Sophia is graduating from The Bishop Strachan School. She will attend New York University to study a Bachelor of Science in Real Estate alongside Pre-Law. Sophia has shared her gifts in a number of ways by assisting in Family Ministries with the little ones, painting Bible Story Murals and worked as a Youth Intern one summer. She is grateful to God for the care and prayers of her church family.

# Congratulations



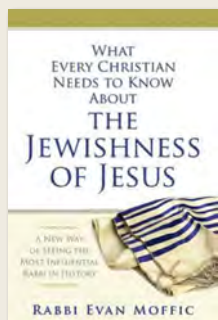
**FAMILY MINISTRY SUMMERTIME POTLUCK LUNCHES**

**Sunday, July 20 & Sunday, August 17**

**After Service | Cameron Hall | All are Welcome!!**

## CHECK OUT THE GLADSTONE LIBRARY

### Book review by Joan Budd



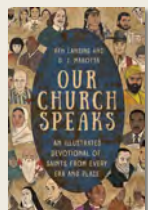
#### ***What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Jewishness of Jesus: A New Way of Seeing the Most Influential Rabbi in History***

by Rabbi Evan Moffic

I read the book, by Rabbi Evan Moffic because it was on the YPBC book club list this year. It's well-written and in a conversational tone, making it fairly easy to understand. I learned a great deal about Judaism and the similarities between it and Christianity, and of course, the divide over the death and resurrection of Jesus. Thought provoking and hopeful.

**This summer, bring along a book in your suitcase to inspire you in your Christian walk.**

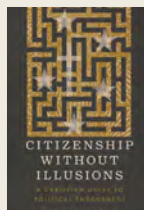
New books are available to borrow from the John Gladstone Library.



#### **Our Church Speaks:**

An illustrated devotional of saints from every era and place

*Ben Lansing and D.J. Marotta*



#### **Citizenship Without Illusions:**

A Christian Guide to Political Engagement

*David T. Koyzis*



#### **Heaven**

A thoughtful exploration of biblical views on heaven, blending theology, history, and personal insight.

*Paula Gooder*

**The Gladstone Library is open before and after Sunday service.**

You can also borrow books from the book cart in the narthex.

Contact the library by calling 416-922-1167, ext. 241, or email, [library@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:library@yorkminsterpark.com).

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

## SUMMER *Giving*

**During the summer months, we continue to share the love of Christ with others in word and deed.**

Sometimes our summer rhythms do not enable us to attend church which limits our ability to give in-person. This significant drop in donations in the summer hinders our ability to meet needs.

This summer we are inviting you to consider giving a **special summer gift to our church**. This is also a time you might want to consider selecting Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). This monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account enables you to support all that Yorkminster Park has to offer not just during the summer but all year round. For those who are able, please contact our Bookkeeper, Estelle Ramos, at [bookkeeper@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:bookkeeper@yorkminsterpark.com).

**THANK YOU** - The Board of Finance and Administration



# Let's Choose the Better Path

by Suzanne Wilkinson

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.” – Mark Twain. As I reflect on my travels, including the blessing of three visits to Israel with groups of pilgrims, I am reminded of several unique aspects of humanity’s history and the origins of faith that are intertwined with the history of that tiny yet pivotal country of Israel, which God has set apart since the beginning.

Today, our world is engulfed in a relentless cycle of wars and rumours of wars, with many regions bearing the brunt of this catastrophic, unnecessary loss of life, reflecting unspeakable atrocities. The urgency of our response to these crises cannot be overstated. As Christians, we are called to pray and act swiftly to restore peace and justice and rebuild lives. Has evil, which necessitates war, caused humanity to stop reasoning together?

God created humans with a higher intellect than animals. Were we not made in God’s image? “We thank You, Lord, for the incredible capacity to reason and feel.” These are God-given distinctions, yet where have they gone for many? Sadly, division, spreading hatred, untruths and conflict seem to have erupted almost globally. This lack of understanding and the proliferation of negativity cause polarizing feelings, starkly contrasting with the love we are called to show as part of our faith.

Humankind can create robotics, travel to the moon, and develop artificial intelligence, yet we struggle to get along with one another. God has endowed us with the capacity to love, care, and empathize, but where can these qualities be found in so many today? Are these attributes diminishing? Sin, pride, hatred,

injustice, and selfishness obstruct our path. Let us cry out for these God-given distinctions.

*Lord, restore Your wisdom, love, and empathy within us before we destroy ourselves and the planet that sustains us. Amen*



Today, many struggle to empathize with the countless innocent Israelis, Palestinians, Iranians, Ukrainians, and starving Africans caught in the chaos of ruthless decisions and war. Bombs continue to devastate hospitals, homes, and landscapes in many global conflict hotspots. While marches can be constructive and necessary, some have evolved into ugliness, focusing solely on the suffering of one side. Too often, the child bleeding on an unattended stretcher in a dusty tunnel is neglected. Can we not look into the eyes of the helpless and recognize those trapped in an age-old conflict that seems irreconcilable?

I recall the time I met a Palestinian family who had lost all their earthly possessions in a bombing, and a deep sense of empathy and shared humanity swelled up in me. How would I have handled life had that been me? Yesterday, when I entered a store, a well-dressed

*Continued on page 15 ►*



## BETTER PATH (cont.)

man with skin darker than mine was exiting. He said, “Your smile was the only one I received all day.” These encounters are heartbreaking.

Are we losing the ability to experience another’s pain? Can we no longer reason together and love our neighbours as Jesus commanded? Are we so desensitized and unsure of the truth promoted by specific news channels and persuaded by our bias that many have tuned out, choosing to disengage from the overwhelming flood of information?

*Holy Spirit of God, help us discern what we watch, read, or hear from others, so we can decipher what is true about what is happening in our world. Amen*



We need to pray for God’s help, for without it, I fear humanity is losing the capacity to care, to recognize that the suffering child is not merely a “Palestinian,” “Jewish,” or “Ukrainian” child but a child in pain. We must understand that the person sleeping on that downtown street is someone’s daughter, addicted to drugs. Hatred and division permeate our world and there appears to be a lack of understanding and love. Have hatred, vengeance, and revenge overshadowed loving compassion and understanding?

Are we not taught in the Scriptures to “love our neighbour as ourselves” (Mark 12:31)? Is the connection to and understanding of another’s pain not the essence of our shared humanity? Let us not lose this mysterious power, this bond with our fellow humans, whoever they may be. It is not just about loving our neighbour; it is about recognizing that we are all part of the same human family, bound by our shared humanity. Thus, shared humanity should unite us, not divide us.

Why do we consider ourselves superior and more deserving than others? Why does greed hold such controlling and insatiable power that it causes the innocent and needy to starve and even die? Yes, it is a sin, but can we not acknowledge the values and rights of others to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?

Is empathizing with those in need no longer part of being human? When we see an injured, starving child, an oppressed, homeless person, impoverished and struggling, or a senior lacking resources, do we ignore them and turn away?

Where is our compassion for those near and far, regardless of their skin colour or creed? Do we ever ask ourselves, “Who is our neighbour?” Do we need to revisit the story of the Good Samaritan? (Luke 10:25-37). Let’s challenge ourselves to become today’s Good Samaritans. Empathy is more than just feeling sorry for those suffering; it requires us to understand their pain, acknowledge their struggles, and act to help alleviate their burdens. It is a vital, God-given gift that we can share. We must not underestimate its power to transform lives and create a more compassionate world. Empathy is not a luxury; it is a necessity that allows us to connect with

*Continued on page 16 ►*

## BETTER PATH (cont.)

others, uplift them, encourage their spirits, and remind them of their worth as children of God.

Pray to God that we may see the innocent faces of children and their parents murdered while they slept or sense the fears of youth. Care for those who sit today as hostages or the innocent who have lost all they once considered normal. Pray for the lonely senior or the tremor-bound Parkinson's victim. Recognizing their situations should evoke our pain and drive us to prayer. Let us pray to Almighty God for a resurgence of His agape love for reconciled humanity and faith for a hopeful future that includes 'love of neighbour.' The challenge goes out to Christians and citizens alike to pray and care.

In one way or another, we are all formed in the image of God. Let us be those to whom the Lord God grants the hope of glory through His Son, which encompasses justice, mercy, understanding, and kindness. Help us not to become thoughtless, unfeeling, or robotic beings. May wisdom and empathy be embedded in our very essence.

*Loving Lord, please teach and guide us in ways that show others Your love and understanding. May the 'love of neighbour' reign supreme on this earth as was Your design for all humanity from the beginning. Amen*

**Jesus showed us how; let us be His faithful followers.**



### Biography

Suzanne Wilkinson is a long-time member of YPBC. She is a devoted wife to David, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, and an active volunteer. She is a former Reg. Nurse, an Ordained Minister and an Author.

After raising their children, she worked as a nurse and a chaplain before retiring during COVID. She still officiates at some weddings, funerals, and graveside services. Suzanne's unwavering faith in Jesus Christ fuels her sense of purpose.

She recently published a devotional book filled with insightful, inspirational stories from Christ's followers. This faith-building, must-read, and treasured gift *"Embraced by God's Love and Light,"* is available on [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca) and her website, [www.suzanne-wilkinson.com](http://www.suzanne-wilkinson.com).





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**July 2 | 1:00pm**  
Michael Gancz



**Thursday**  
**July 10 | 1:00pm**  
Annie Gao



**Tuesday**  
**Aug. 5 | 1:00pm**  
Gordon Slater



**Tuesday**  
**Sept. 2 | 1:00pm**  
Joseph Min

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		<b>Maureen Jennings</b> , Novelist, creator of <i>Murdoch Mysteries</i> <b>Charlotte Gray</b> , Historian and author of <i>The Massey Murder</i> , and other books <b>"Writing History: A Conversation Between Two Storytellers"</b>	<b>26</b> September 2025
		<b>Adam Shoalts</b> , Arctic Explorer and Best-Selling Author <b>"Vanished Beyond the Map: The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell"</b> *a book launch event	<b>10</b> October 2025
		<b>Ted Barris</b> Canadian writer, journalist, professor and broadcaster <b>"Battle of Britain: Canadian Airmen in Their Finest Hour"</b>	<b>7</b> November 2025
		<b>Dr. José-Mario Capo-Chichi</b> , Molecular Geneticist at the University of Toronto and the University Health Network (UHN) <b>"Of Mice and Men... and More: The Evolution of Genetics and Recent Developments in Personalized Medicine"</b>	<b>28</b> November 2025
		<b>Dr. Jane Philpott</b> , Physician, author, former federal Minister of Health, and Chair of Ontario's Primary Care Action Team <b>"Building a Primary Care System for Ontario"</b>	<b>16</b> January 2026
		<b>Michael Henry</b> , Writer, photographer, forest ecologist and author of <i>Ontario's Old Growth Forests</i> <b>"Witness Trees: Surprising stories of trees that predate Shakespeare, and tips on where to find them"</b>	<b>6</b> February 2026
		<b>Jim and Sue Waddington</b> , Retired Physics Professor and Nurse, respectively, and Amateur art historians <b>"In the Footsteps of the Group of Seven"</b>	<b>27</b> February 2026
		<b>Nic Masters</b> , Veterinarian; Director of Wildlife Health at Toronto Zoo <b>"Vets, Zoos and Conservation Science: how Wildlife Health professionals can help counter the biodiversity crisis"</b>	<b>20</b> March 2026
		<b>Marianne McKenna</b> , Founding Partner, KPMB Architects, Toronto <b>"Building Culture: Restoration &amp; Additions to Massey Hall and Koerner Hall"</b>	<b>17</b> April 2026
		<b>Terry Fallis</b> , Humourist and best-selling author of <i>Best Laid Plans</i> and other books <b>"An Unorthodox Journey to the Published Land"</b>	<b>8</b> May 2026
		<b>Prof. Andrew McDonald</b> , Brock University History Professor and expert on Medieval Scotland and the Vikings <b>"In Search of the Sea-Kings: the lost Kingdom of Man and the Isles, 1079—1275"</b>	<b>5</b> June 2026

### “Into the Clearing”

**Hugh Alcock**

**September 13 to October 30, 2025**

**Opening reception:**

**Sunday, September 14, 12:30 – 2:00pm**

YP Gallery is looking forward to welcoming artist **Hugh Alcock** to the gallery for a solo show this fall. “Into the Clearing” will run from September 13 to October 30, 2025, with an opening reception scheduled for Sunday, September 14, after church. In his Artist’s Statement, Alcock states that he wants to “showcase nature, to celebrate it in its own right – especially trees which fascinate me. Trees have a quiet presence that is often overlooked. When you do pay attention to them, you are captivated by their endlessly varied forms. Their appearances are in constant flux, changing with the time of day and the seasons.” He goes on to state that “Always I am mindful of how in situ all our senses are active, and I hope the viewer not only sees the image in front of them, but listens out for the rustle of the trees, smells the fragrances in the air and feels the spikiness all around, or perhaps the cold ground underfoot.”



Paying attention is at the core of Hugh Alcock’s work. He produces large intricately detailed drawings of trees and forests. They are full of carefully recorded organic minutia. The forest is the subject of these images but it’s the geometric detail that is Alcock’s true focus. In these drawings, we follow the artist’s observations of the precise bend of each curving line within each forking branch. We watch as he outlines each burl and crevice in the textured bark. With marks of charcoal and chalk, the artist is showing us what he sees.

Though born in British Columbia, Hugh grew up in England. On returning to Canada he attended the Ontario College of Art, including one year in its program in Florence, Italy. Hugh later trained as a philosopher, teaching for many years. In the last decade or so Hugh has returned to making art on a serious basis. He also writes regular art reviews for Art Toronto ([arttoronto.ca](http://arttoronto.ca)) and is involved in the promotion of independent artists. Hugh lives with his wife, Beth, in Toronto.



#### **Paul R. Hill**

Thanks to a high level of interest, the photographic exhibition “**Churches of Sweden**” will be extended through July and August. The gallery is *closed during those months*, but access to the show during business hours can be arranged through the church office.

**The Yorkminster Park Gallery is dark for the summer**

**Regular hours:** Sunday: 10 am - 11 am and 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm | Saturday: Noon - 3 pm

Also available by appointment by calling the church office at **416-922-1167**

**Follow us on Instagram:** [@yorkminsterparkgallery](https://www.instagram.com/yorkminsterparkgallery) 



# 2025 SUMMER PREACHING SERIES

## WORSHIP WITH US IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

We are pleased to welcome our line-up of guest speakers for the 2025



**July 6**

**Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris**

Visiting Professor of Preaching,  
Knox College, U of T



**July 13**

**Rev. Dr. Andrew Stirling**

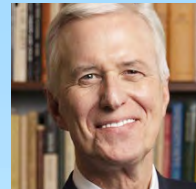
Ambassador,  
Canadian Bible Society



**July 20**

**Rev. Dr. Douglas McArthur**

Retired Full Elder,  
United Methodist Church



**July 27**

**Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes**

Former President, Princeton  
Theological Seminary



**August 3**

**Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis**

Associate Professor,  
Knox College, U of T



**August 10**

**Rev. Laura de Jong**

Pastor, Christian Reformed  
Church of North America



**August 17**

**Rev. Dale Rose**

President, Canadian Baptists  
of Ontario and Quebec

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All Summer Long

[YPBCSummerPreaching.ca](http://YPBCSummerPreaching.ca)



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