

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



YPBC NEWS

Summer 2022



Published by:

Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church

1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON
M4T 1Z9

www.yorkminsterpark.com

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The Rev. Paula Willis

*Minister of Pastoral Care and
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*FTCL, FCAM - Organist and
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Ms. Heather Mackey

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Parish Nurse

The Rev. John Torrance

Minister Emeritus, Pastoral Care

The Rev. Dr. William A. Sturgess

Minister Emeritus, Pastoral Care



FROM PETER'S PEN

I am writing to invite you to mark your calendars now for **Sunday, September 25th** when we will be celebrating our Anniversary Sunday.

In 2021, much of which was

spent in lockdown, several significant anniversaries in Yorkminster Park's history arrived. Yorkminster Baptist Church and Park Road Baptist Church merged into one congregation in the Yorkminster building in 1961 after a fire destroyed the Park Road Church. The Park Road Church was located on the east side of Park Road just north of Bloor St. The Park Road Church dated back to a group of faithful members of Jarvis Street Baptist Church leaving in 1921 to form a new congregation which met initially at the Central YMCA in September 1921. The Yorkminster Baptist Church originated in 1871 when a group of members at Bond St. Baptist Church were commissioned to form a new church in the northerly suburb of Yorkville. The church built a small chapel in Yorkville before eventually constructing a large church at the south-east corner of Bay and Bloor known as the Bloor St. Baptist Church. In 1928 the congregation migrated north to our current location at Yonge and Heath.

Several years ago a history committee was appointed to help us celebrate these important anniversaries and increase our appreciation of our history. The committee had planned to mark the 60th anniversary of Yorkminster Park as well as the 100th anniversary of the beginnings of Park Road and the 150th anniversary of the birth of Yorkminster in September of 2021, but needless to say their plans fell prey to the pandemic. However, the committee has continued to meet and work and now plans to celebrate our history at an **Anniversary Service on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 11.m.**

The committee includes Co-Chairs Paul Evans and Eric McGeer, Allan Williams, Paula Willis, Randall Speller and Peter Holmes.

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Early Summer - Lady's Slipper



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

pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

The autumn edition of the newsletter will be published in September 2022.

Paul R Hill

We are pleased to announce that a former member of our ministry team, the **Rev. Dr. Das Sydney**, will be our guest preacher for the Anniversary Sunday. During the early years of his ministry Das served as our Minister of Christian Education before serving pastorates in Alymer; Toronto (Blythwood Rd.); Wolfville, Nova Scotia; and Kitchener (Highland) where he was appointed Minister Emeritus following his recent retirement. Das also serves as the current President of the Canadian Council of Churches, an ecumenical organization which had its birth at Yorkminster Baptist Church in 1944; another important chapter in our history.

Another special guest that day will be the **Rev. Dr. Bruce Neal**, who served as the Minister of Christian Education at Yorkminster Park from 1961-1965. Bruce, who is also the brother of our own Ralph Neal, is a beloved pastor, preacher and leader in the denomination and beyond. He is married to Barbara and their family includes daughter, Janice, who also served as our Minister of Christian Education and will be with us for our anniversary.

As you can see September 25 is not just an anniversary service, but a homecoming. I am sure we can all think of people who have been part of our church in the past who it would be wonderful to see again. We invite you to pass on names and email addresses of those we might invite to join us for the day. The age or distance does not matter, we would like them to join us in-person if possible, but if not, at least online.

In the mean time we have a wonderful line-up of summer preachers who I know will bring inspiring messages each Sunday beginning July 10. Many will be away at cottages or travelling and we pray you will stay healthy and well, but also stay connected and join us for both our summer services online and our Wednesday evening online Bible Study.

While September 25th is our Anniversary Sunday, **Sunday, September 11th is our Welcome Back Sunday** at which there will be information tables regarding many of our ministries for all ages. September 11th will be a great day to catch up and see where you might like to be involved, but also a wonderful day to introduce friends and family to the church. No doubt the anniversary will have us looking back at the many ways God has blessed us,

but we also have so much to look forward to as we enter a new season.

Blessings,
Peter Holmes

A Summer Visitor

Milton Fletcher is a long time friend of Yorkminster Park who first visited our church on New Year's Eve 2001 while on a visit to Toronto from Detroit where he worked as an executive with General Motors. Days after his visit we received a beautiful letter of appreciation that moved the Board of Deacons to invite me to write him and invite him back. A friendship was born not only with Milton but with the Hartford Memorial Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon. Three times our congregations held exchanges where a visit by our clergy and choir to their church was followed by a similar visit to our church. While many things have changed in the last 20 plus years, our friendship with Milton has only deepened as Milton has continued to visit Yorkminster Park several times a year. He once flew to Washington D.C. to welcome our choir when they sang at the National Cathedral and later he welcomed our Pilgrimage of Sacred Spaces to Detroit and also joined us on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Though Milton now lives in Arizona, he is with us online for both Sunday worship and weekday Bible studies. We are thrilled that Milton is now spending the summer in Toronto and worshipping with us each Sunday. Welcome Milton. It is good to have you home.

TRANSITIONS

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

Deaths

Tom Logan

Lillian Regehr

Mary Harris

Kathleen Llwellyn-Thomas Kenneally

Karl Letsche

Mary-Jo Hayes

2022 **SUMMER** PREACHING SERIES

WORSHIP WITH US IN-PERSON AND ONLINE



July 10
Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset



July 17
Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris



July 24
Rev. Dr. Das Sydney



July 31
Rev. Dr. Paul Scott Wilson



August 7
Rev. Leanne Friesen



August 14
Rev. Dr. Cheryle Hanna



August 21
Msgr. Jim Hannah

Thought-provoking.
Inspirational.
Summer Ministry.



For more information about the Summer Preaching Series, and our guest speakers, visit
www.YPBCSummerPreaching.com

FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP

Reflections from the Rev. Paula Willis



It has been another challenging year as we have adapted to all the changes that Covid has made us have to deal with but it has also been a good

year. Over the last nine months or so, life has slowly and carefully been returning to normal at Yorkminster Park. Bible studies have been taking place in the church, and Dorcas and the Prayer Shawl Group have been gathering in person in recent months. On weekdays now, one does not only hear the voices of staff quietly moving about. Eric Robertson's concerts have returned as well, and they bless everyone who comes on Tuesday afternoons. There is so much to be thankful for.

As we move into summer many have been asking if there will be another study in the coming months. Thanks to the use of technologies we might never have considered using not too long ago, no matter how far afoot people may travel, on Wednesday nights we will have the opportunity to join together. This summer's bible study theme is the *Parables of Jesus*. We will be looking at a variety of parables dealing with grace, being lost, about the Kingdom, discipleship, money, prayer, and the end times. Our leaders for this summer are Carol Radford-Grant, Rob Inman, John Speller, John Torrance, Janet Kim, Milton Fletcher, Eric McGeer and myself. The study will be on-line only and I look forward to seeing many of you each Wednesday evening and hearing your thoughts. We are so grateful to our wonderful team of leaders who have so generously consented to share their gifts with us. Starting July 6th, we are in for a treat.

If you have ever tried to write a parable yourself you will have likely found that although they sound very simple, they are profound and very hard to write.

Most parables are only a few sentences long yet whole books are written on the truths they point to. And that is just it; parables are stories with a point. They tell us much about God and ourselves, who God is, who we can be, and who we are warned not to be. Parables are a great gift.

If you wish to challenge yourself this summer take an afternoon and try to write a parable about an issue you feel is important and if you would like, share them with me! I would be delighted to discuss your work with you.

On June 22nd the Pastoral Care Committee is hosting a Strawberry Afternoon Tea for our hard-working behind the scenes caregivers, some of whom have been recently bereaved. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Committee for this precious and ongoing ministry which brings such joy to those who are so busy serving others in their homes.

No matter how beautiful the season of summer is, it can be also be a difficult time and so I invite you to reach out if you need a good word, or a prayer, or a listening ear. My email address is pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com and my telephone number is 416-922-1240.



for details see Page 6

God bless you all with a peaceful and grace filled summer. May it be a time of refreshment and growth, a time when you feel your souls thriving as beautifully as everything we see growing in gardens. Wherever you go, may God's precious Word be part of your daily life, ready to feed you as readily in times of joy as it does in sorrow. May you see the glory of the Lord shining all about you whether you remain in the city or travel far away.

YPBC - ONLINE SUMMER BIBLE STUDY 2022

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

JOIN US WEDNESDAYS | 7:00 P.M. 8 WEEKS: JULY 6 - AUGUST 24

Members of the YPBC community offer fresh insights into the Parables of Jesus. We look forward to an exciting summer full of rich discussion. [Register Today](#) ▶



Date	Parable	Leader
July 6	The Sower and the Seed Matthew 13:1-9, Mark 4:1-9, Luke 8:4-8	Carol Radford-Grant
July 13	The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares Mathew 13:24-30 The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats Mathew 25:31-46	John Torrance
July 20	The Parable of the Tenants Matthew 21:33-44, Mark 12:1-11, Luke 20:9-18 The Parable of the Good Shepherd John 10:1-18	Rob Inman
July 27	The Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25-37	Milton Fletcher
August 3	The Unforgiving Servant Matthew 18:21-35	Janet Kim
August 10	The Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16:19-31 The Parable of the Lost Sheep Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:3-7	Paula Willis
August 17	The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector Luke 18:9-14	Eric McGeer
August 24	The Parable of the Wedding Feast Matthew 25:1-13	John Speller



We have much to celebrate and give thanks to God for in Family Ministries as we come along-side parents to share life and help nurture faith development with children and youth. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:4).

We are meeting **in-person and online** for weekly worship, faith studies, fellowship and fun.

Our weekly **Tuesday evening Zoom Times** continue to be a blessing as we connect with children, youth and families through Bible Study, fellowship, prayer and games.

Our **Youth Nights** one Friday a month continue to be a blast as leaders and youth gather for events, outings and mission opportunities. Stay tuned for a special outing mid-summer.

Every **Sunday morning** we gather for **intergenerational worship** (hybrid) and faith learning time along with age-friendly discussions and activities for children and youth.



We are super stoked about our **ALL DAY, ONE DAY, VBC DAY** happening on August 31, 2022 titled "Daniel and the Lion's Den!" **Mark the date!!**

Please view flyer below for details and to register, go to: yorkminsterpark.com



**ONE-DAY, ALL-DAY
VACATION BIBLE DAY!**

Come and enjoy **LION** around with us
As we learn all about
Daniel and the Lion's Den!

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church (Cameron Hall)

Wed., August 31, 2022 • 9am-4pm
(Snacks included • Bring your own lunch)

4-4:30pm, we invite all families to come
and watch our closing presentation
involving all the children and volunteers

Ages: JK-Gr5 • NO COST
Engage the community and Invite a friend!

Contact: Heather Mackey, Director of Family Ministries at
hmackey@yorkminsterpark.com
YPBC - 1585 Yonge St., Toronto
To register: yorkminsterpark.com

THANK YOU to the many volunteers that serve in Family Ministries. Their time and gifts are a blessing to us and we give thanks to God for them and their servant hearts. May God bless you, renew your spirit and give you rest. Thank you to Trevor, Kate, Meeni, Sandy, Carter, Hazel, Cynthia, Elaine, Rebecca, Daniel, Veronica, Jackeline, Graham, Zach, Denise, Shannon, Kim, Ange, Maya, Paul, Luke, Anthony, Farzana and to our Children's Ministry Associate, Leticia and to our Youth Ministry Assistant, Lutzen.

In faith,

Heather Mackey
Director of Family Ministries
hmackey@yorkminsterpark.com



YPBC High School Graduates!

Roslyn Alfred will be graduating from Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts with a focus on Visual Art. She will be heading to Centennial College in September for Hospitality studies, Food and Beverage Management. Roslyn has provided artistic drawings for our Family Ministries that we have used for special cards and curriculum and has volunteered her time with OOTC Mission.

After graduation **Maya Burton** is going to York University (YorkU) to study Humanities. She also got accepted to University of Toronto (UofT). Originally, Maya planned on studying Psychology but Humanities grasped her interest as it is a big umbrella and will unravel many opportunities for her in the future. Maya has been serving in our Family Ministries by offering her time with prepping materials and providing care with little ones in the Nursery.

Cynthia Charette is graduating from Earl Haig S.S. She also completed a Dance certificate in the Claude Watson Arts Program at Earl Haig. She will be heading to university in September in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science at Queen's University in Kingston. Cynthia has volunteered in Family Ministries by providing many hours of volunteer time in prepping materials and organizing FM mailings for us.

Laura Dae is graduating from Earl Haig S.S. from the Claude Watson Arts Program as a Drama Major. Next year she is attending a joint program between UTM and Sheridan for an HBA in Theatre and Drama Studies.. Laura started attending our online DOXA Ministries at the start of Covid and also shared her musical gifts with us in the DOXA Band with a Song Recording.

Emeline Edgett is graduating from Earl Haig S.S. in the Claude Watson Drama program. Next year she will be continuing her passion and attending Sheridan College for Musical Theatre.

She would like to thank all her teachers and mentors who have taught her and supported her but most of all she would like to thank her parents who have gone above and beyond. Emeline has been involved in our Family Ministries by sharing her lovely voice in the DOXA band and has helped with OOTC Mission.

Graham Harnden is graduating from Northview Heights S.S. and is taking a year to explore college and work opportunities. Graham shared his musical and creative gifts of drumming in Family Ministries by providing a song recording for our DOXA band and has helped out with B.O.Y and other events.

Cameron Whiddon is graduating from the Toronto Prep School and then attending The Royal Military College of Canada. Cameron has served in the DOXA Band over the years along with volunteering in various ways.

May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. Psalm 20:4

May you all be blessed by the LORD, creator of heaven and earth. Psalm 115:15

NURSES NOTES BY LILY

Health and Wellness Update



On May 31st, Health and Wellness offered staff and congregants an opportunity for CPR Certification (basic infant/child/adult). This class was provided by instructor Maroun from the "The Life Saving

C o m p a n y " ,

certified by Heart and Stroke Foundation Ontario. This class proved to be very informative and successful.

When did you last participate in a CPR class? **Please stay tuned for our next class sometime in early fall.**

Do you know the signs of a heart attack or stroke?

By acting quickly in a heart attack or stroke events, we can reduce the amount of heart damage and permit the use of thrombolytic or fibrinolytic therapy, which reduces the damage to the heart muscle or the interruption of blood to the brain. Recognizing the signs and symptoms, seeking proper and prompt medical help, may prevent a sudden cardiac arrest.

Signs of a stroke:

(<https://www.heartandstroke.ca/stroke/signs-of-stroke>)



Act **FAST**. Lifesaving treatment begins the second you call 9-1-1.

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Signs of a heart attack:

(<https://www.heartandstroke.ca/heart-disease/emergency-signs>)

- Chest discomfort

- Sweating
- Nausea
- Shortness of breath
- Light-headedness

Do you remember the Biblical story of the Good Samaritan?

The Bible teaches us about helping one another in time of need, whether we know one another or not.

Luke 10:25-37 (NRSVCE)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.

[a] “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him,

“You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, [b] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Do you know about the Ontario Good Samaritan Act, 2001?

Bill 20, Good Samaritan Act, 2001

<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-37/session-2/bill-20>

Protection from liability

2. (1) Despite the rules of common law, a person described in subsection (2) who voluntarily and without reasonable expectation of compensation or reward provides the services described in that subsection is not liable for damages that result from the person's negligence in acting or failing to act while providing the services, unless it is established that the damages were caused by the gross negligence of the person.

Persons covered

(2) Subsection (1) applies to,

(a) a health care professional who provides emergency health care services or first aid assistance to a person who is ill, injured or unconscious as a result of an accident or other emergency, if the health care professional does not provide the services or assistance at a hospital or other place having appropriate health care facilities and equipment for that purpose; and

(b) an individual, other than a health care professional described in clause (a), who provides emergency first aid assistance to a person who is ill, injured or unconscious as a result of an accident or

other emergency, if the individual provides the assistance at the immediate scene of the accident or emergency.

In closing here is wishing everyone a safe and relaxing summer season. When I think of how each and every one of us can help one another, I am reminded of the Servant song hymn, "*Brother, Sister, let me serve you*". In particular, verses 1 and 3:

Brother, sister, let me serve you; let me be as Christ to you;

pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christlight for you in the nighttime of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to her.

Lily Cugliari-Kobayashi, RN
Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nursing Practice
Health and Wellness Ministry



THE LESTER RANDALL PREACHING FELLOWSHIP

THE WOUNDED HEALER

OCTOBER 23RD TO OCTOBER 25TH, 2022
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto

An outstanding line-up for 2022

Stellar keynote speakers, and workshop leaders. This year's keynotes:

 <p>The Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred Director, Indigenous Studies Program, Vancouver School of Theology</p>	 <p>The Rev. Becca Stevens Episcopalian Chaplain, Vanderbilt University</p>
 <p>The Rev. Dr. Nicole Martin Senior Vice President, Ministry Impact, American Bible Society</p>	 <p>The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright Bishop, Episcopal Diocese, Atlanta, Georgia</p>

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INSPIRATION. EDUCATION. MENTORSHIP. FELLOWSHIP.

YPBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES...

HELPING OUT AT THE BORDER OF UKRAINE



This past April, we were invited to pray for Susan Carlén during a weeklong mission in Poland as part of an Operation Mobilization team working with women and children leaving Ukraine. Susan, the daughter of Rhoda

and Paul Hill, is fondly remembered by many of the YP family for her time of service in the YPBC church office several years ago before she and her family returned to Sweden.

During the week of April 23rd to April 30th, Susan worked with her team at one of two border crossings in Poland along with other churches and organizations. Although fewer people were fleeing, those crossing the border from Ukraine have experienced real trauma. Playing with children, offering psychological support, praying with people and organizing donated material were some of the assigned tasks.

The following article, written by Susan, recounts her experiences and the work she was involved in during that week in April. She has also expressed her gratefulness for the prayers of so many that made it possible for her to be part of this mission.

I check my phone, and then check it again. I want to know what time it is, but it feels like the evening has passed very quickly indeed. I ask my teammate and she says, “That can’t be right!” After a few seconds she says, “Is your phone set to automatic? It has changed to Ukrainian time.” I am in Poland, standing 300 m from the border. When I check my phone’s settings, there it is: Time Zone, Kyiv.

I work with the international missions organization OM. We have teams in over 120 countries, including Ukraine, Russia, and every country bordering Ukraine. In April, backed by the prayers of (amongst others) people from Yorkminster Park, I had the privilege of volunteering with OM’s team in Poland, welcoming refugees by showing love in practical ways.

Every week the border team is a combination of those who have worked there for a while and foreigners coming for a week. We were three from the Ukraine, one from Poland, one from Singapore, one from South Korea (going to Bible school in the Netherlands), one from Germany, and myself. We lived together in Chełm, on the second floor of a house owned by a couple with four adult children, about 25 km from the border. The woman of the house knew that we foreigners couldn’t understand Polish, but that wasn’t a problem: she spoke Russian with us!



OM has a trailer there, with a heater – this has been very important since the days have been so cold since the war started. In the trailer parents can change diapers, warm up baby food, and the children can play with toys while they wait to travel onwards. This is actually very important; there is a high risk for people being trafficked, so no-one is allowed to leave the border area on their own. There is always a car from the local fire station that drives people into the nearest town, to the bus or train.

The youngest baby I met was two weeks old. He was travelling with two siblings and both his parents; Ukrainian men who have three or more children are allowed to leave the country. I also remember a very young mother with a one-month old. She was very worn out, but we saw a glimmer of joy cross her face when we oo’ed and ah’ed over her baby.

No-one is allowed to walk over the border anymore, so there were lots of cars and buses. When people got off the bus for the border check they asked about ‘chai, kava, sim-kart’, which means ‘tea, coffee, SIM card’. Poland is providing free SIM cards that work

in Poland and Ukraine to everyone who shows their Ukrainian passport.

We prepare bags for babies and children with a juice box, snack, toothpaste and toothbrush, package of tissues, a toy, a small stuffed animal, and a 'welcome' flyer from OM Poland, written in Ukrainian. I often got to deliver these bags with the help of a hand puppet. Puppets are great; they speak every language!



It was wonderful to see how many of the children could smile or laugh and have fun for a few minutes even in such an uncertain situation. Blowing bubbles

while the moms got their SIM cards sorted and a cup of coffee was very popular.

I am in awe of the team volunteers from the Ukraine. All of them have their own story and their own worries, but they were there to speak and pray with people, to hear the stories of those coming out. It was an honour to hear them tell those stories afterwards, and a way to share that burden. Sometimes there wasn't much to say; an older man, two sentences into a conversation, just said "Donbas" and covered his face with his hand. Whenever vehicles with an improvised red cross stuck on them came through it meant a lot to us; that meant that they had been able to pick up people in eastern Ukraine.

Even though it is very hard to communicate if you don't know a Slavic language, there were opportunities. I met an American man who is a Christian, and I got to pray for him, to bless him on his journey. A well-dressed man who was crossing into Poland to see his wife and children and bring them back to Ukraine asked me, in halting English, "There are people in Canada who care about Ukraine?" I could unhesitatingly answer yes, and tears came to his eyes.

My first shift at the border was a Sunday evening, the evening of Orthodox Easter. That day there were hardly any vehicles trying to cross into Poland, but there was a very long line of vehicles (about 3 km long) waiting to cross into Ukraine. Some were taking advantage of the grace period to import a car without having to pay tax. Some were loaded up with aid and supplies. Some were heading back



home, to the relative safety of western Ukraine. There is no equivalent to “Happy Easter” in Ukrainian; everyone greets each other by saying, “Christ is risen!” to which the reply is, “He is risen indeed!” We had several hundred Easter cards so my Polish teammate loaded up two baskets with candy and cards, gave me a one minute language lesson (“This is how you say, it’s free! This is how you say, Christ is risen!”) and off we went to the waiting vehicles.

We walked for 30-40 minutes and stopped at every vehicle. We offered candy and an Easter card, and greeted everyone. At least one-third of the people answered, instantly and warmly, “He is risen indeed!” and many nodded their agreement. To say that a hundred times, to send that reminder and that hope with people travelling back into chaos and uncertainty was a huge gift, and one of the absolute highlights of my week.



Christ has Risen Indeed He has Risen.

On the Sunday morning two of us went to the service at Chem Baptist Church. The first hymn was ‘How great Thou art’, and the familiarity of it made me smile, and reminded me that God is the same, yesterday, today and forever. He is at the borders and in the warzones. He is with us in lockdowns and struggles. His kingdom will come, and his will will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. We pray, we work, we wait, we hope.

submitted by Susan Hill Carlen

REFUGEE UPDATE



We continue to monitor the progress of the two families YPBC has committed to sponsor through the Canadian government’s refugee resettlement program. While we await updates from the government on the family currently in Ghana, we have good news to report on the Pakistani family in Thailand—they have recently been approved as eligible to resettle and are now undergoing medical and background checks. While no firm date for travel can be provided yet, we are hopeful they could be with us sometime as early as this summer. The family consists of a father, his sister, his wife and 13-year-old daughter. We are planning and getting ready to welcome and provide for them praying their wait in asylum will not be for much longer. Please keep these families in your prayers as well as all refugees as the refugee crises worldwide sadly continue to expand. And if you would like to be part of the team to help settle these families when they arrive, please don’t hesitate to contact me!

submitted by Kevin Carpenter

Matthew 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, NIV

GLADSTONE LIBRARY NEWS - JUNE 2022

Why read a Christian book? The Library asked this question to a few Church members.



Tell us one reason why you read/listen to Christian books?

Rob Inman: To learn of the experience of others in applying Biblical truths to daily life.

Katherine Laundy: To learn how other Christians respond to social issues of the day.

Trevor Sinker: To grow in the knowledge and

grace of Jesus Christ.

Shannon Wareham-Browne: For inspiration, learning, and growth.

What are you reading or have you read recently? What has it brought you?

Rob: *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard. This book provides a compelling case for the relevance of God to every aspect of our daily lives.

Katherine: The *ELCIC Study Guide for Conversations on Medical Assistance in Dying*. It has helped guide my thinking on the issue.

Trevor: *Christianity: The Biography - Two Thousand Years of Global History*. It has helped me better understand the fascinating heritage of the Christian faith.

Shannon: *The Color of Compromise*. It was an eye opening and necessary examination of the role Christians have played in the history of racial discrimination and a call for urgent action today in response.

You can access our [online catalogue](#) and borrow online. Use the password "GladstoneLib" to check out books. You can see and check out books Sundays before and after Church in the Narthex. If you have any questions on how to use the Gladstone Library, please call us at 416-922-1167, extension 241 or by email at library@yorkminsterpark.com.

MEMBER NEWS

Kate Choi

Kate Choi, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, and Director of the Centre for Research on Social Inequality (CRSI) has been named as a Western University Faculty Scholar for 2022. Established in 2005, the Faculty Scholars Award recognizes significant recent scholarly achievements in teaching or research.



David Dorapalli

David Augustine Dorapalli recently travelled to South Africa where he received a PhD, Religion and Philosophy, from the University of the Western Cape. His thesis had the title "Daughters as Water Fetchers: Streamlining Water-Gender Dialectics in Biblical narrative" - which explores the ways in which women and water feature in a selection of biblical narratives.



NEW MEMBERS



GILBERT HOWEY

DR. Gilbert Howey was born into a loving family on the family farm in Massie, Ontario near Owen Sound. After high school, he attended Victoria College at the University of Toronto, graduating with a medical degree and specialty in psychiatry. Gilbert married and had three children:



Heather, Kevin and Ian. The family attended Timothy Eaton Memorial Church during these years; later, Gilbert and Ian returned to the Owen Sound area, where Gilbert remained until his return to Toronto.

The priorities of excellence in preaching and music guided Gilbert to Yorkminster Park in 1989 when he and Ian were interviewed by Deacon Fraser Fell and accepted into membership. Gilbert sang in the choir, served as Deacon and board member of the House of Compassion while continuing to practice psychiatry and sing in the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.

Gilbert retired in 2001; he relocated back to the family farm and renewed his membership in the church of his youth. He continued his active life until a car accident caused serious injuries. God's grace and Gilbert's determination allowed him to enjoy life again but mobility was an issue. COVID later restricted Gilbert's activities even more and he began to worship via Yorkminster Park webcasts.

Gilbert reflected on his lifelong connection to church and realized he wanted to return to a formal

connection with Yorkminster Park where his daughter, Heather is currently serving as a Deacon. Dr. Gilbert Howey is welcomed back into membership on the basis of Christian experience.

GWENDOLYN RAMSAY

A spirit of adventure and a desire to pursue a career in fashion design led Gwendolyn Ramsay to Canada from Trinidad as a young woman. Her formative years were spent in Trinidad, Grenada, and Dominica. Her family attended the Methodist church. Her father, who was a police officer, instilled strong ethics in her from an early age, which has guided her throughout her life.



Gwen's early work career included administrative positions at Toronto General Hospital and Sunnybrook Hospital, and as an Early Childhood Education teacher.

In the last 18 years Gwen was employed as the Fundraising Coordinator for Nisbet Lodge-McClintock Manor Foundation. She retired in March this year.

At age 40, Gwen reached a pivotal moment in her life and realized that she was far away from God. She came to faith through a message by Billy Graham. In the years that followed, Gwen was an active member of several evangelical church communities.

When the COVID pandemic affected Gwen's life, as it had for so many, she started re-examining her faith, praying for direction to find the place that she could settle in and call "Home".

As she explored online services, she started listening to Yorkminster Park Baptist Church online; she felt ministered to through the worship service, the weekly devotionals and the online Bible study.

One Sunday morning last October, she attended an in-person service at YPBC and has been with us ever since. Gwen is joyfully received into membership on the basis of Christian experience.

JOHN AND ALENA SCHRAM

John's early years were spent in London, Ontario where he attended Talbot St. Baptist Church and then First Baptist Church before studying law at the U of T. While growing up, Alena and her family joined the First Unitarian Church on St. Clair. They met at U of T and while there, John sometimes attended Yorkminster Park. After John and



Alena were married, they moved to Ottawa and joined First Baptist Church, Ottawa. Alena and two of their children were baptized there.

John has served on the diplomatic side of the Department of External Affairs with numerous assignments including Lagos and South Africa where they played a lead role in Canada's efforts to encourage democracy and an end to apartheid. Following a move to Ottawa in 1992 they were posted to Ghana, where John was high commissioner to Ghana and Sierra Leone, and ambassador to Togo and Liberia. From 1998 John served as Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Djibouti. This was during a time of warfare between Ethiopia and Eritrea and within Sudan. Their final years in Africa were spent in Zimbabwe, where John was also ambassador to Mozambique, Angola and Botswana. In 2005, John retired from the foreign service and they moved to Amherst Island near Kingston.

During their years in the foreign service Alena taught, edited and wrote for both NGOs and the UN. While in South Africa Alena ran a Canadian anti-apartheid fund which had great impact on the struggle against apartheid. They received a handwritten letter from Nelson Mandela thanking them for their support and hard, often dangerous work. Since their move to Amherst Island, John taught at both Queen's and Carleton universities, primarily in the area of African and international affairs, development, good government and conflict

resolution, while Alena has continued writing, contributing to newspaper articles, and authoring a humorous book on the challenges of aging: "The Opinionated Old Cow: Ruminations from the Field", and both Alena and John look forward to contributing to the life of YP. Their move to Toronto was motivated in part to be near their family of three children and five grandchildren. John has served as Chair of Deacons at FBC, Ottawa and on the worship committee and pulpit supply committee and in other leadership roles at St. Paul's on Amherst Island.

We are pleased to welcome John and Alena Schram as new members by transfer from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Amherst Island, Ontario where they have been members since 2005.

MADGE WHYTE

Madge is a relative newcomer to YPBC, having lived in many areas of the world before settling in Toronto. Jamaica was her childhood home, growing up in a closeknit Anglican family, followed by a move to London, England where, after getting her RN, she practised midwifery and public health. The small town of Prince George in B.C. was her next home, followed by a move to Toronto, where she nursed in



labour and delivery, then in open heart surgery. After a fulfilling career, Madge is now retired and has continued to contribute as a pianist at a nursing home.

An active member of Faithway Baptist Church in Ajax, where she sang in the choir and assisted in the nursery, Madge was prevented from continuing there because of transportation changes due to the pandemic, and so she looked for a new church home. A friend recommended YPBC.

An outgoing and engaging person herself, Madge finds the church here very friendly, has already met a friend, Gwendolyn, who shares a pew, and has signed up for Dina's Thursday Lenten class.

Madge joins YPBC based on Christian experience.

RUSTING AND ROTTING, Or Out to Sea We Go!



A ship in harbour is safe, but that's not what ships are built for.

This profound-truth quote is attributed to a variety of people. Although it's a reflection-

worthy sentiment, crediting this expression to the right author has proven debateable. Should we nod to Grace Murray Hopper? Albert Einstein? Fred Shapiro? John A. Shedd??? Even the Roman Stoic philosopher, Seneca, snagged votes for first espousing this metaphor championing *really* participating in the high-sea adventures of one's life. To add to the mix, Theodore Roosevelt is attributed to riffing off this saying with his reflection: Warships should be kept at *sea*. There, they face great risks, but even a ship in harbour may rust and rot. A sobering (and expensive) truth to remember—just ask my car brakes, which did just that, when I left my vehicle on the driveway, pretty much unused in 2020)! On May 29th Peter's inspirational sermon, *Above All*, placed the cherry-on-top of this message by reminding us that, as a people of Jesus, we need to be *in* the world—participating actively in our lives and communities, church and otherwise—not hunkered down, sequestered at home, thinking we can “do” our spiritual journey alone. To reflect that sentiment further, via a 1960's Beatles song:

*Jojo was a man who thought he was a loner but he
knew it couldn't last....*

*Get back. Get back. Get back to where you once
belonged.*

“Get back to where you once belonged.” To where we once belonged! These past two years, I've been more cautious about my interactions. You too? This

hesitancy is a reflection of my knee-jerk reaction to the pandemic, rather than my advancing years. For example, *pre* pandemic, I'd always pick up stray bits of garbage in the park, etc., while walking along with my dog, but these past two years, rather than automatically doing so, I've had quick *second* thoughts of “Careful! That can may have *Covid* on it! You don't know who's touched that water bottle!” When walking by the tennis courts, *pre* pandemic, I'd happily lob the beyond-the-fence balls back into the court, but now... did they even *want* me to touch their stuff??? Doubting, I'd walk on without asking (which felt unkind). Once vaxxed, however, I'd call out and ask... Some players said yes please; others, no thanks. I couldn't help but think that the “no thanks” folks responded that way for the same reason that *I* hesitated to help for a long stretch of time.

So it's been a conscious challenge to myself these past two years to rise above my self-preservation instinct—to get over keeping my hands literally and metaphorically to myself, and continue to spontaneously help others in my community—to still contribute, despite being cautiously aware. Just as I know *you* have as well.

Some may say such hesitancy wasn't *caution* but, rather, *fear*. *Is* caution the same as fear? Are they synonyms or are they different? I say different. *Caution* is a by-product of seeing a variety of possibilities, then choosing and moving forward carefully and wisely. *Caution* still suggests momentum (even if only creeping along), but *fear* narrows the thinking of possibilities and can immobilize.

Case in point:

A few days ago I was walking my dog. Across the road I saw a woman struggling to parallel park. After a minute or two I kindly hollered out suggestions from across the road, regarding how to turn her wheel, to tuck up closer to the curb. (I'm quite the expert parallel parker, if I do say so myself! I can park any car, in any tight spot, in 30 seconds flat!) Alas, my coaching wasn't working. She was near to tears with distress. I felt badly for her, so offered, “Can I do this for you? I'm really good at it!” Her face instantly beamed with thanks. She sprang from her car with relief, saying, “I'm *so* grateful to you!

You don't *mind* going into my car??? What, with Omicron and all? Are you *sure*?" Funny, I went with my natural instinct to offer help, and momentarily forgot to be cautious. Now that she'd mentioned it, however, it was in my thoughts. But I wanted to help and so I told her, "No worries... the windows are open and I have Purell." As expected, I snuggled her car up to that curb, lickity-split!

Walking home I lamented how we got so cautious, so quickly, and then *stayed* that way for two years and counting. I wondered how long until this default-fret mentality was just an echo—a "Remember back in those Covid times, when we were so afraid to get close?"

Even most recently, now that I've started back to in-person speaking engagements, I've noticed unevenness in audiences' willingness to participate in interactive exercises. About 30 percent have been jovially willing—the other 70, not so much. Yet. But I *have* hope that we *are* getting there. And I do keep "pitchin' 'em!" ;) Progress *is* being made. And that's a good thing!

Another (positive and hopeful) case in point about "getting back to where we once belonged," community-wise:

We witnessed people's jubilant (pardon the pun) willingness to *authentically* engage with one another in love and joy just days ago outside Buckingham Palace and along The Mall. There, 22,000+ loyal subjects came in droves, not only to witness (for they could have done *that* from their "tellies") this profoundly historic moment, but to revel in actual, physical participation and support of Queen Elizabeth's 70 years of long reigning over us (and to boast the bragging rights in days to come that, "I was actually *there*! Not isolated in my house, trying to celebrate and support on my own, but *really* there! Smiling! Singing! Cheering! Loving! Contributing!"). There's nothing like *being* there. That goes for being *at* church as well.

"If I always do what I've always done,
I'll always get what I've always got." — Ray Croc

If I/you/we want to get something *different*—whether in terms reducing caution and fear, experiencing more love, more connection, more community, more hope, more forward thinking,

more actual spiritual togetherness and communion—I/you/we have to *do* something different.

For me, and perhaps for you too, it's time to do that "something different." As we inch ever closer to the second half of 2022, and especially come this September, may we *all*, in greater numbers, *do* something different... *regularly* see one another, face-to-literal-face again, singing our praises to the Lord—all of us together, in full-compliment, full-choir-supported harmony.

"I have been inspired by the kindness, joy and kinship that has been so evident in recent days, and I hope this renewed sense of togetherness will be felt for many years to come."

— Elizabeth R.

Isaiah 55:12

***You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.***

So what's it to be, moving forward? Potentially "rusting and rotting in "harbour," or out to sea we go! To reference another of Peter's sermons (from June 5): like the sailboats in the Victoria (Swiftsure international) Yacht Race, "You're going nowhere without the wind." So let your spinnakers go up and sail on out to the high seas once again, knowing Jesus is always in your boat!

Blessed, happy and healthy summer, and see you in September, if not before.

P S - A thorough investigation of the "ships in harbours" quote revealed that the credit goes to (drum roll please!): John. A. Shedd.

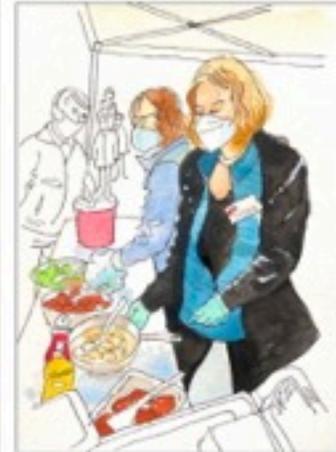
submitted by Nina Spencer

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



Out of the Cold

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church



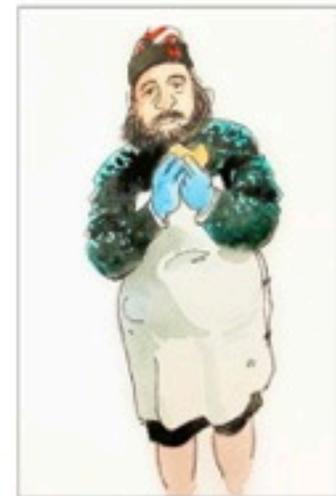
For two years, the **Out of the Cold programs** in the city were shut down because of COVID. But, Yorkminster Park and Blythwood churches combined to provide hot meals, clothes and friendship on Wednesday nights... outside in the cold.

It was a highly successful collaboration. As many as 84 guests turned up and, while it was snowing and freezing cold many nights, a good time was had by all.

The season was topped off by a BBQ on April 6th. Volunteers and guests said their sad good-byes until next winter season.

- Sketches by Dennis Bruce

OOTC thanks YPBC for your support!



DECEIT OF THE EYE

Next Sunday morning when you enter the sanctuary look to the front at the east wall; and in particular at the area surrounding the openings of the organ loft. At first glance it appears the entire wall is “relief”. But in reality a portion of the wall is **tromp l’oeil** painting. The two photos below show the transformation which took place more than 20 years ago.



December 1976



May 2022

In the mid 1990's our then Minister of the Congregation, the Rev. Kerr Spires (1991-1999), envisioned additional decoration to the forty foot east wall of the sanctuary. Shortly after that there was a substantial bequest made to the Church from our member Duncan Johnson with the stipulation that it be used to beautify the sanctuary. It was decided that a portion of the bequest be used to add decoration to the east sanctuary wall, and the side walls of the chancel.

This inspired Ralph Neal to create a design based on motifs which already existed in the sanctuary. Two principal motifs were used: the Gothic arch and the quatrefoil. The arches are found in the stonework of the church. The quatrefoils are



carved at the ends of every pew and on the pulpit. Gothic arches point our attention heavenward, while quatrefoils

were adopted from ancient cultures by Christianity as a floral representation of the Cross.

Catherine Mills of Ritins Studio coordinated a team of artists with a variety of skills. She transferred Ralph's drawing to the wall. Others did the painting, and one artist with a genius for shading made the wall come alive.



Over the summer of the renovation all services were held in Cameron Hall while scaffolding filled the chancel. Edward Welker and Sue Ericsson joined Ralph Neal that summer to oversee the installation. They took two-week turns being on-site. Just before the painting started, one of the committee ascended the 40ft scaffolding to find that every quatrefoil was

positioned as an "X" instead of a cross "+". Corrections to the template were quickly made and painting began.

The result appears to be an elegant pattern of moldings surrounding three arches of organ pipes. True, there are some moldings, but most of the effect is made with paint. Whether or not the faux finish deceives you, you must admit that Duncan Johnson's gift has not only helped renovate but has significantly beautified our sanctuary.

technical and historic input provided by Sue Ericsson and Ralph Neal

