



# YPBC NEWS

June 2010

## WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY

Featured in this issue are perspectives of, and articles by, women who are serving at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, and also some of the pioneers in the Baptist denomination. For more than 100 years Baptists in Canada have accepted the ordination of women, but it is only sixty three years ago that the first woman was ordained - Muriel Spurgeon of Waterloo Ontario (pictured below). Many challenges have faced women, whether those first ordained or at present, and they have been more than equal to the task. It is recognized that the contribution made by women, ordained or not, has made a significant contribution to the life of the Church.



There is neither  
Jew nor Greek,  
slave nor free,  
male nor  
female, for you  
are all one in  
Christ Jesus  
Galatians 3 : 28



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### PETER'S PEN

When I returned from vacation in the summer of 2009 I was given an obituary notice for Barbara Warren. The notice made reference to her parents, who had predeceased her, and her brother and his family from the United States. I have always found myself particularly saddened by deaths that take place when I am on vacation as they do not afford me a chance to say goodbye or participate in the process of grief. I was, however, able to highlight a few of Barbara's outstanding qualities during our Act of Remembrance at the September Communion. I pointed out that Barbara was a gifted pianist and had a very quick mind and wit. Barbara was also remarkably kindhearted as was so evident in the loyal, loving care she offered her mother in her mother's years of illness. Those who had known Barbara and had also missed her passing thanked me for the words and added a number of warm thoughts to our collective memory.

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This issue of YPBC News takes a brief look at Women in the Ministry. There is much more to be said and the soon to be released book by Esther Barnes will add to the narrative. YPBC and its predecessors have a rich history of Women's Ministries and these should be covered in any writing of the YPBC history. The next issue will have a feature on WWI soldiers whose names we read each year on Remembrance Sunday. Please send articles, suggestions, etc. to [pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca](mailto:pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca) or put them in the YPBC News box; lower level. Wishing everyone a pleasant and refreshing summer.

PRH

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### HUMAN TOUCH AWARD



Our member Strachan Bongard, shown with Dr. Malcolm Moore of Princess Margaret Hospital, received the CCO Human Touch Award for his volunteer work at the hospital.

*"Demonstrating the commitment to cancer care through exceptional volunteer work that enhances the quality of life to cancer patients and improved access to quality of cancer care"*

## PERSPECTIVES

### Muriel Spurgeon Carder

A sunny early summer day, a beautiful garden with fruit trees in the back and a pond with running water in the front and flowers all around; a City of Woodstock "City Beautiful Award" winning garden a few years ago. This was the scene which presented itself when the author spent a quiet afternoon with Muriel Carder. In 1947 Muriel became the first woman to earn a Bachelor of Divinity from McMaster University and the first Baptist woman to be

Street (now Highland) Baptist Church. The church school and other groups provided scriptural literacy and his discipleship classes led her to a conversion decision, and later to a call to the Ministry. She attended McMaster University where she received a Bachelor of Arts in 1944 and a BD in 1947. Later that year she went to India as a missionary, a tenure which lasted until 1976. On furlough she taught at McMaster University in 1955-56 and in 1957-58 pursued a post graduate studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York, obtaining a Master of

everywhere. Her appreciation of other cultures and ways of doing things carried over to her work when she and her husband returned to Canada. Upon their return she began serving as a Chaplain; first at the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, then Toronto General Hospital and D'Arcy Place Development Centre in Coburg. More recently she has and continues to serve at the Woodstock General Hospital. She is still interested in helping people but finds the calls in the middle of the night for a "Chaplain to come" a little more difficult.

In 2007 she received the Katherine Hokin Award for Global Mission and Ministry. This was an award presented by the Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministries. The awards dinner was held at our Yorkminster Park Baptist Church with the introduction by Rev. John Torrance, former Minister of Pastoral Care.

She brings out clippings and photographs which chronicle lives lived and people from other times and many places. The names and faces are unfamiliar to me but real and present to her. As our afternoon draws to a close I ask if she is considering an autobiography? She hesitates, and then admits that yes, one has been underway for some time; unfortunately only completed up to 1956.

We tour the front garden again and she consents to a photograph. A wonderfully interesting lady and a Faithful Servant.



ordained in Canada.

She was born in England on All Saints day and moved to Canada with her parents in 1928. She is a distant cousin of the famous Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon. Her father was born in India, the son of a missionary, moved to England and then came to Canada to work as an actuary in Waterloo.

In her teenage years she was greatly influenced by the Rev. Edward Hinde, minister of King

Sacred Theology. She enrolled as a doctoral candidate at the Toronto School of Theology and obtained a Th.D in 1969.

In India she married Rev. W. Gordon Carder in a traditional Indian wedding, and they subsequently adopted two mixed-race children. She and her husband worked as a team, and she also remembers the cooperation between denominations in India as being a model for ecumenical service

### **Cheryle R. C. Hanna**

Cheryle joined the ministerial team a year ago as our first full time worker in the Discipleship ministry. She brings maturity, a new vision and a passion for making the Gospel known to all people in the City.

She grew up in the east side of Detroit; her parents moved there from North Carolina. The community was homogeneous African American and economically middle class. The riots of 1968, motivated by economic and racial inequality, were influential in the family moving to the west side of Detroit. Her parents attended Central Congregational Church and then St. Mark's United Methodist church.

A meaningful church experience came when she attended First Baptist Institutional, whose pastor was Rev. Howard B. M Fauntroy Jr., PhD. She came to see the mission of the Church to be Shared Leadership, Equipping of people to go out into the world, Healing the body so as to be made whole and the use of the Given Gifts which everyone has. Her call to the ministry was an "audible call", unmistakable in its reality.

Her first career was in the field of engineering. She studied at General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) a wholly owned subsidiary of General Motors, primarily for training their engineering and management staff. She started her studies there within only a few years of women being accepted for study. A degree in Mechanical Engineering led to a

career in the Chevrolet Division of GM. Her second career was a "full-time Mom" which she combined with extensive community service.

She worked, had a family and did many things in the community, and then the family moved to Delaware, where Michael had acquired a new position in Engineering and Management. It was at this time the decision was made to formally train for the Ordained Ministry; a decision reached after much prayer and encouragement from her pastor. She entered and completed the divinity program at the Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey.

Cheryle sees the challenges



facing the church as being different from those of the past when people would come into church as a matter of habit. Now the challenge is to go out into the community and world to tell them the Good News of the Gospel. She would love to have our congregation be reflective of the Ethnic Diversity that is now a

fact of life in this City. She believes there are sufficient resources for the task.

We welcome this dynamic new voice and perspective as we plan our future at YPBC.

### **Carolyn King**

Carolyn brings Experience, Academic Training and Enthusiasm to the Pastoral Care ministry at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. This ministry is not only her vocation but more importantly her passion. She recognizes the wealth of resources embodied in this segment of our church congregation.

She was born in British Columbia but the family soon moved to Nova Scotia. Summers were spent in Prince Edward Island. Carolyn's father died when she was seven years old and her Mother was a strong influence in the lives of Carolyn and her sister, particularly in the spiritual realm. She remembers the constancy of the prayer life of her mother, some written, as part of the expression of her faith.

From an early age she attended Brethren Bible Camps where she gained a knowledge of, and love for the scriptures. This was an important step in her early Christian experience. She first attended a Baptist Church, the First Dartmouth Baptist Church, when she was in Grade 11. She immediately got involved in church activities which led to a part time job during her remaining high school years and during summers while at university. Even at this young age she was welcomed into the

planning of activities and in the decision making of the church. This congregation, under the



leadership of Rev. David Watt, produced one of the highest numbers of people in full time ministry of any Baptist church in Canada.

After high school she attended Atlantic Baptist College, now Crandall University, for a year, followed by studies in Sociology and Gerontology at Mount Saint Vincent University. It was during this introspective period, with church work and on-going studies, that she came to the acceptance of a call to full time ministry. She then went to Acadia Divinity College where she received a Master of Divinity. Upon graduation she accepted a position at Bayers Road Baptist Church in Halifax, nominally in Christian Education but in reality working in all aspects of church life.

Carolyn is optimistic about the future of the Christian Church in general and of YPBC in particular. She is thankful for the support both from staff and the congregation in general. Her greatest support is from family, and she considers her husband

Greg a member of the team. We at YPBC are fortunate to have Carolyn and Greg as part of the ministerial team.

## MILESTONES

*The Atlantic Baptist Convention, was formed by the joining of Regular Baptist and Free Baptist congregations in 1906. Since one group permitted the ordination of women, it was adopted by the Convention.*

The first woman ordained in the Atlantic Baptist Convention was Josephine Kinley Moore (1908-2001). Her ordination took place on 25 October 1954 at Prince William, NB. At the time, Mrs. Moore was already a well respected preacher and pastor. She was also a recently widowed mother of two small children. Her ministry in Baptist churches began in the 1930s. In 1938 she was granted an Association License. Josephine had attended Acadia University and had taught in rural schools as well. In 1944, she returned to Acadia for theological studies. In 1956, Mrs. Moore, then in Nova Scotia, discovered that the Nova Scotia Marriage act did not permit women to preside at a marriage ceremony. The Baptist

Convention petitioned the legislature for a change in the law. She became the first woman to preside at a marriage in the province.



Mrs. Moore would wish to be remembered as a faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Her life's accomplishments were to her a byproduct of her deep desire to know the mind of Christ, to dwell in God's love and to love everyone who crossed her path in His name.

from ADC Today, Summer 07, by E. M. Sheppard (her daughter)

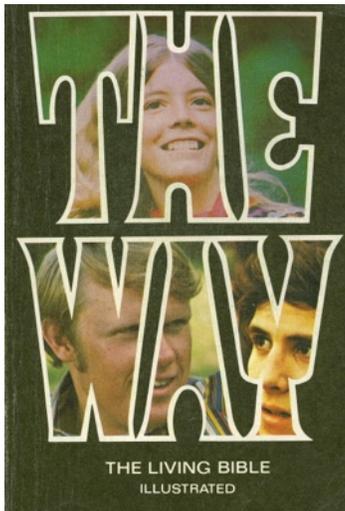
*The first women deacons at YPBC were elected in 1975 and were Diane Letsche, Mary Mosey (Stevens) and Sheila Murphy (Smith). Women were nominated on several occasions prior to this but until that year the Nominations Committee also nominated a full slate of men; thus an election.*

The first ordained woman to serve at YPBC was Rev. Myrna Sears in 1985.

*The first Baptist woman overseas missionary, Minnie DeWolfe, was sent by the Maritime Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1867. She was also the first single woman missionary from a Protestant church in Canada.*

from the soon to be published book by Esther Barnes

## REFLECTION



For many months I have been thinking about how it is that we help a child to grow into adulthood to be a faithful, committed believer of Jesus. Perhaps it has been a question I have toyed with ever since I have married into my husband's family. And my heart's desire was that our own children would grow up to be servants of Christ. What is it that makes the difference? My husband is the second child of seven. His parents followed a call into ministry and did missions and church work all their lives. Yet of the 7 children, only 2 walk with God.

Why? I certainly don't have all the answers to the question but as I was reading some verses in II Timothy recently, I was impressed that some of the answers might be in these verses. This passage (II Tim 3:14) is in the New Living Bible.

**<sup>14</sup> But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. <sup>15</sup> You**

**have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.**

Sometimes I find God uses a different version to impress on me something I haven't noticed before and as I read this passage in the New Living Bible that is what happened to me. The words come alive.

Paul is writing to Timothy with instructions. In the past I have only thought of this passage as instruction for Timothy! And I would think of myself as 'young' like Timothy and receive those instructions for myself. This time, I started to read this in a new way, from the perspective of the one who brought Timothy up..... as the one teaching and nurturing Timothy.

**Read again, the 14<sup>th</sup> verse. "But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you"**

Remain faithful to the things you have been taught. That is what we want for our children and young people. We teach them the Sunday School lessons and bible studies and we want them

to learn the things we teach, not ignore them. We don't want to just be filling in time on a Sunday morning or as we guide our children during the week! As teachers, parents and grandparents, we want our children to be servants of Jesus. We want them to remain faithful to the things that we are teaching them.

So how do we do that? We must teach in a way that makes the gospel sticky! To teach in a way that draws our kids along with us to be passionate about loving and serving Jesus.

Key to this is what Paul is reminding Timothy..... that he can trust the message because the **messengers** are trustworthy! That really struck me! I am a messenger – you are a messenger of this important, life changing message. Can we be trusted? Can children and youth trust our message because we are faithful messengers? It is an awesome responsibility! It makes me tremble because I know my faults, my inconsistencies and you may feel the same way.

Yet the challenge is there for us. We are to be transparent, to be authentic, and to walk the talk! Children are so able to pick out the one who is faking it. Teens are the experts at picking out the hypocrite!

Let us rise to the challenge and walk in faithfulness, teaching our young people through the message of our lives.

submitted by Miriam Little

## LONG RANGE PLAN/ APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

All responsible organizations undertake long-range planning (LRP) at regular intervals. Long-range planning is consistent with the Christian faith, always allowing for God to do the unexplained or unexpected. In Luke 14:28-29a, Jesus spoke of considering the costs associated with decisions and actions

“For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it”?

N A S B ) .

Christians are never called to act rashly or foolishly. We must not make plans without seeking to be

guided by God, by joining in what He is doing. Consistent with multiple references in the New Testament to the Body of Christ, we believe one of the most significant ways God guides us is through the voices of people within our community of faith. And to listen to the many voices in our church is to abide by our Baptist polity, whereby the congregation has the responsibility for governing the affairs of the church and seeking God's will for its future.

YPBC's leadership is undertaking the creation of a new long-range plan this year. We have decided to apply a process known as *Appreciative Inquiry* to ensure, in an orderly way, we hear as many

voices as possible within the YPBC community of faith. The *Appreciative Inquiry* process relies upon conversations as a way of hearing individuals' stories. YP's story is really comprised of the collective stories of its people.

At the core of Appreciative Inquiry thinking is the belief that as a church moves forward it should “*be sure to bring the best of its past with it.*” Often in churches, the past is ignored, marginalized or discarded in a planning process to simply “bring in the new.” Similarly,



focus on “what is wrong with the church” can intentionally or even inadvertently dominate discussions. These missteps have led to many fractured and damaged congregations. So, in our conversations, we'd like to focus on the best memories within the YPBC context before discussing hopes for our church's future – life-giving, nurturing memories of God's goodness and grace.

A team of individuals from the congregation will be trained to conduct interviews in order to engage in conversation with a wide spectrum of members and adherents at YPBC. In each conversation, each individual will be prompted with the same six core questions. Responses

will be grouped with everyone else's and no one will be identified as the source of any response. Some basic quantitative information will also be gathered to help the leadership team determine if patterns or trends in people's responses are related in some way to characteristics such as people's gender, how long they've attended YPBC, their age group, and so forth.

The information gathered from all the interviews over the next three months will be brought together and our leadership team

will analyze the responses looking for themes of how God has worked among us individually and communally in the past and what hopes God has placed in the hearts of our people for the

future. These trends and insights will shape the foci and specifics of long-range planning to guide how we move forward together under the Lordship of Christ.

If you are interested in being interviewed and sharing your memories and hopes, please contact Kevin Carpenter at [kevin.carpenter@rogers.com](mailto:kevin.carpenter@rogers.com) or any of our Deacons and they will see that you are contacted and interviewed. We encourage you to participate. We would value your input.

It is our prayer that through this process our congregation will engage in a fresh way with where God is guiding His church here on the corner of Yonge and Heath Streets.

submitted by Kevin Carpenter

## GALLERY REVIEW

Once a year the **Summer Art Show** gives artists from the church as well as the St Clair/Yonge community an opportunity to display their work. This year fifteen artists contributed one work each to undoubtedly our most eclectic show to date. Artworks range from a dress made of recycled pop cans to a botanical watercolour of a crocus. Because of the variety of genres, materials and approaches, each artwork has been hung to be viewed as a “stand-alone” piece. The show runs through Sunday August 22.



The Summer Art Show signals the conclusion of our 2009-2010 season which featured in order: Randall Speller “Paintings of Kawartha Lakes”, Dorothy Mould “Brush with the Seasons”, Carol Westcott “Ontario Landscape”, Henry Regehr “We Do Have Faces”, Les Tibbles “In My Garden”, Nancy Oakes “Drawing in Ten Seconds or More”, Judith Livingston “Compilations”, and Paul Osadchuk “Walking with My Shadow”.

The exhibitions were enthusiastically received by both

congregation and community and attracted many new-comers to our church. The Art Committee sees our gallery as an outreach ministry. We aim to present a broad spectrum of expressions of the creative spirit to as wide a viewership as possible. We hope to buoy the soul, stretch the mind, and engage the emotion. Please join us in inviting others to view art at Yorkminster Park Gallery. On **Sunday September 12** artist Margaret Glew’s reception opens the 2010/2011 season and marks the beginning of Yorkminster Park Gallery’s fifth year.

Appreciation goes to Art Committee members: Lorraine Beech, Sue Ericsson, Jane Havercroft, Debbie Ivison, Douglas Obright, Ellie Pattillo, Henry Regehr, Randall Speller, Jim Weir, and Edward Welker.

submitted by Sue Ericsson

## RUTH AND NAOMI: Your Story and Mine

As we are crafting an updated Mission Statement for Yorkminster Park Women’s Ministries, we are rooting our thinking in the biblical stories of Esther, Ruth and Naomi. Joan Chittister, a leading voice on spirituality for over 25 years, has authored a thought-provoking study, *The Story of Ruth – Twelve Moments in Every Woman’s Life* and some of her insights have helped to guide us in the formation of our ideas.

Although the story of Ruth was written thousands of years ago, it is nevertheless “perennial” and

“calls us to reflect in every generation on what it means to be a whole woman, a spiritual woman.”

It is an icon of what it means to be a woman of God, to live under the impulse of the Spirit, to be a creative part of God’s creative power. One moment at a time it takes us from one life moment to another to show us how God works in us all, to remind us to what God calls us all, whatever the period, whatever the place. It is a silhouette of every woman’s life frozen in time and held up for reflection.

Commenting on the choices that face Naomi’s daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, now single and widowed, Chittister remarks that “they can take what appears as God’s one and only will for them or they can stretch themselves to the limits of themselves to find the God who waits for them in what they have yet to become.”

It is our prayer that Women’s Ministries at YPBC will be a vital source in which women (and men!) are challenged and equipped to become the persons that God intends them to be. Chittister concludes *The Story of Ruth* with this summary statement:

“It is a book to be written into every woman’s - every man’s - spiritual life. And the book is incomplete until every woman writes the rest of it herself.”

Ref.: Chittister, Joan D. *The Story of Ruth – Twelve Moments in Every Woman’s Life*. (Grand Rapids/Cambridge, William Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000), pp. 1,2,90.

submitted by Women’s Executive

## STEPPING INTO LEBANON

With excitement and gratefulness, we're anticipating YPBC's partnership with the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD), also known as the Lebanese Baptist Society (LBS). A small investigative team, with our Pastor, Peter Holmes, is travelling to Beirut this fall, Sept. 26-Oct.5, for the purpose of building our church's relationship with the leaders there, prayerfully listening to them and discerning God's will for the focus of our \$2500 portion of the \$10,000 STEP (Serving, Training, Energizing, Partnerships) commitment. Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM), with the approval of the LSESD leaders, are designating their \$7500 portion toward 25% Community Development; 25% Leadership Development; 25% Team Support for Rupen Das; 25% Team Support for Mereille and Elie Haddad. Rupen is Deputy Director of The Sharing Way, CBM and is also a member of YPBC. He is in Beirut to address issues of poverty and to give leadership to the relief and development track at the Seminary. Elie, President of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS), met with the Board of Mission in the spring of 2009.

The Executive Director of the LSESD, Nabil Costa, shared some of his work in a W.O.W. at YP in the winter of 2009 and interacted with us at a reception following the service. The overarching goals of the LSESD are to grow leaders in the Middle

East and to empower the Church in the Arab world through social and educational development. A family of ministries co-exist under the umbrella of the LSESD:

- The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) which includes the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies (IMES) and the Educational Ministries Resource Centre (EMRC)
- The Beirut Baptist School (BBS) K-Gr. 12
- Baptist Children and Youth Ministry
- Dar Manhal Al Hayat, a publishing house that sponsors the translation and production of Arabic language Christian resources
- Lebanese Baptist Aid

The ongoing prayer support of our congregation at YPBC is vital for our partnership to be all that God has in mind for us. "The human mind plans the way but the Lord directs the steps" (Proverbs 16:9).

submitted by Board of Mission

## BOOK REVIEW

"Every Day Deserves a Chance"



The most devout and faithful followers of Christ have an occasional bad day or awful week. On these days we feel far

from God or worse we feel God is far from us. We know the scriptures, prayers and promises of God, but need a reminder of their power in our lives. 'Every Day Deserves a Chance' is that reminder. Max Lucado has written another book that has the ability to lift us before God and remind of us of God's promise to us. Each chapter addresses a particular type of day, 'shame-filled, ungrateful, bitter' and so on. I found myself again and again in the many illustrations and heard holy writ with fresh ears.

I recommend reading a chapter each day, as devotion, recalling the days and times when the theme of the chapter was the reality in your life and then allow God to use Max to heal any broken or fractured spaces. He had me in the comparison of the diary of a dog and the diary of a cat. "One content, the other conniving. One at peace, the other at war. One grateful, the other grumpy. Same house. Same circumstances. Same master. Yet, two entirely different attitudes." (pg. 24) Each chapter ends with a "Daylifter" and with only ten chapters it is likely that the only problem will be the lack of additional chapters.

The book also includes a discussion guide that could be used alone or with a prayer partner or in a small group. However you use this book it will be a blessing in your life and a resource to return to on 'difficult' days.

submitted by Cheryle Hanna

## CBM - TURKEY TRIP



On April 25, 2010 eight of us from YPBC flew to Izmir, Turkey (ancient **Smyrna, Rev. 2:8-11**) via Amsterdam and Istanbul (formerly Byzantium and Constantinople). We arrived in Ismir late Monday afternoon, April 26, tired and without our checked baggage! This was quickly turning out to be an adventure for us – the Epps, Hubleys, MacDonaldis and Shaws – and others in the group from St. John's, Halifax, Toronto, Winnipeg and Minnesota. We were intrigued by the fact that the land, which is known today as the country of Turkey, is second only to Israel in its prominence in the Bible. Few books of the Bible fail to refer to this part of the world since these places and events which unfolded there profoundly shaped and influenced the development of the first century church contributing to our understanding of the church today and its mission in the world.

Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) exists to encourage passionate discipleship for local and global mission; a vision which is realized by uniting, encouraging and enabling Baptists in Canada to be better informed as they proclaim the gospel and show the love of God in word and deed. Our education

would be centered on six of the seven sites mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3 as well as many other historic places of ancient times.

We visited the Acropolis with the remains of the Zeus alter within the Temple of Zeus overlooking the ancient city of **Pergamum (Rev. 2:10-11)**. Nearby, we saw the Asclepion -- was it a hospital, a spiritual retreat or a spa? – and the Red Hall, originally constructed as a site to worship Egyptian gods on which the St. John the Apostle Church was built in the Byzantine era.

We walked through the streets of



**Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7)** where we saw an archaeological dig in progress as home sites were excavated in the hill sides. Originally beside the sea, the silt deposits have pushed the shoreline back 4 or 5 kilometers since Paul visited the city at least three times. Close by, we visited the reconstructed site of St. John's Basilica in Seljuk and the site of one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Temple of Artemis of which only a single

column stands in a swamp today.

We saw the remains of the gigantic Temple of Artemis (it took six of us, hand in hand, to encircle one of the few columns standing), the ancient Hellenistic gymnasium and the second largest synagogue (after Jerusalem) in the ancient world – all situated just outside modern **Sardis (Rev. 3:1-7)**.

En route, we passed through the modern city of Alasehir, the site of **Philadelphia (Rev.3:7-13)**, a mission city linked to Pergamum, and spent a few minutes amongst the crumbling ruins of the St.

Jean Church.

The setting at **Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)** was awesome – so large and organized in layout – with many buildings, public baths, the agora and two theatres. It sits near the modern city of

Denizil and is a

restoration project in progress. We experienced a spiritual moment here as our Turkish guide, a new Christian, pointed out to us that this prosperous, wealthy and powerful population, probably able to enjoy many excesses of the times, now was represented only in ruins amidst the wild flowers and thistles waving in the wind as we sat on the old theatre seats in the sun gazing out across lush fields and

valleys, listening to the birds sing.

We had time at Hierapolis -- another massive site restored only in part but still identifiable as a well ordered community with Roman theatres, Apollo temple and a huge cemetery with many sarcophagi -- near the hot springs at Pamukkale with their calcium rich waters that form white terraces cascading down the hillside.

On our way to Pisidian Antioch we stopped at what looked from a distance like a very large burial mound. It was the site of Colossae, at the foot of the snow-capped Tauros Mountains, a city of the past completely buried over time and not exposed by any excavation efforts. We were standing on another ruin, unseen, of a vibrant community which received Paul's attention and prayers -- Paul's Letter to the Colossians. At Pisidian Antioch we walked through the Roman streets to the place of the synagogue where Paul preached so successfully on one Sabbath he was invited back a second time, only to be run out of town after the second sermon enthused about the Good News, upsetting the priests and authorities!

Our travels by motor coach ended in Cappadocia, a most spectacular region of different landscapes and rich Christian history. This is the region of underground cities -- we saw the one at Derinkaya, some 12 stories deep with thousands of rooms and stables (literally!) in which the

Christians of the first millennium hid from persecution at the hands of Arab armies advancing against the Byzantines. We saw odd rock structures -- "Fairy Chimneys" -- formed by wind and sandstorms over time, chapels hewn from the rock (with frescoes on the walls and ceilings) and dwellings in caves. And then there was Istanbul. Fifteen million people, only 12 million of whom are "official", situated with one foot in Europe and the other in Asia Minor astride the Bosphorus, with the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, the Dolmabahce Palace and minarets everywhere. But, most importantly, it is the city where CBM field staff is headquartered. Members of our church, Cathie and David Phillips, have two years left on their current assignment with CBM. David is heavily involved in translating English texts into local languages and writing about church history for discipleship



classes and new believers who have indicated an interest in becoming leaders in the Christian community. Cathie lives her faith daily as she struggles to

help refugees from 51 countries. Turkey does not "accept" refugees, provides no funding, no schooling and no medical care for those who arrive unofficially. From the headquarters behind the Hasat centre and library, Cathie runs her counselling service, a day care type of aid for children, a soup kitchen for families, a clothing distribution centre and acts as an advocate for those in need of help with the authorities. In addition to these responsibilities, Cathie and David have taken in two brothers, refugees from Lebanon. These boys are now 21 and 19 year old and are officially stateless.

Also working out of the Hasat centre is Ron Albinett, a missionary active in the local community and also involved in translating English texts on church history, medicine and leadership. His wife, Catherine, home schools the three youngest of their four children, all of whom have grown up in Istanbul.

We returned having experienced the beauty of this wonderful country, heard amazing stories of church history and being involved in some very meaningful conversations with interesting travellers. Lessons of the past had been affirmed: faith requires commitment and discipline if it is to be passed on relying, in part, on the biblical call to hospitality and fellowship.

submitted by Norm Hubley, photos

## HOLY LAND VISIT

It was a terrific privilege to be Tour Leader with 34 wonderful other travelers (5 from YPBC) to the **Holy Land**, just prior to Easter of this year. From the comments and evaluations received, all would say that our

with songs of joy. I had the privilege of baptizing three from our group in the Jordan River. We floated on the Dead Sea, rode camels, and walked the ancient streets and quarters as we visited the market stalls in Old Jerusalem. We visited so many sights significant in our Savior's

Christ, and as we express our love, praise and gratitude to our heavenly Father. This tour was a most positive and awesome experience for us all.

It is my hope to lead another tour, this time in the spring of 2011, focusing on the travels of St. Paul. The plan is to visit the seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelation. This will take us to modern day Turkey. Many of this year's travellers have requested this, as well as a return tour to Israel. God willing, perhaps there will be another tour to Israel in 2012. Watch for news about coming travels and consider joining us. Speak to anyone who travelled to Israel with us this year and they will tell you that it was worth every penny and much, much more.



tour was an excellent experience, perhaps even a '10 out of 10'. Together we appreciated seeing so many sights in Israel, the land in which God chose to reveal Himself, especially through His son Jesus. This tour was a pilgrimage like none other with an Israeli tour guide that was amazingly knowledgeable and winsome. Our group beautifully bonded as we celebrated the birth by which we were redeemed. We visited the small towns so very familiar to our Lord, as we cherished new and old friends alike. We sailed together in a small boat on the Sea of Galilee and marveled as we praised Him

life...even unto His sacrificial death on Calvary's Cross. Together we celebrated Holy Communion, remembering always what it cost for the forgiveness of our sins and our reconciliation with Almighty God.

My prayer was, and still is, that having visited the land of Israel the Prince of Peace may have become more real to each traveller, by deepening their faith and causing them to draw closer to Him. It is my hope that our journey will have brought gladness to the heart of God, as we came together in our worship of Him and of His son Jesus

submitted by Suzanne Wilkinson

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations on their marriage - Lorenc (our staff member) and Mimoza Sherko

## WONDROUS LOVE

Jesus said “Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart” (Matthew 11:29). God chose powerlessness. He chose to enter our human race in complete weakness. This radical divine choice was the choice to reveal glory, beauty, truth, peace, joy and most of all love. He came in gentleness and humility. Each of our homeless guests at the “**Out of the Cold**” were known to God before they were born and before they arrived at our church for food and shelter. We have an amazing opportunity to show God’s continuing love to them! In the book of Jeremiah, God says “I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you”. We are all beloved because we belong to him. He continues his faithfulness through us, his people, as we show this wondrous love to our invited guests. We know too that God’s Holy Spirit has a chance to speak or act within our ministry. We truly appreciate your ongoing prayers and financial support which have enabled us to give so much comfort and hope.

submitted by Valerie Gerber

## DORCAS GROUP & Needlework Guild

If you go to the Heritage Room early on the morning of November 16 you will think you have wandered into a warehouse. Around three sides of the room will be tables piled high with articles of clothing for all ages.

In the centre of the room chairs will have been arranged to form bins. A sign at each ‘bin’ will have a sign showing the name of a social agency. It’s

**DISTRIBUTION DAY** for the Needlework Guild! Members of groups and individuals who are part of The Needlework Guild have delivered the work they did in the past year.

Soon volunteers will arrive. Each will be given a card with the name of an agency and a list of items they are to receive. The volunteers will go from table to table gathering up the required items and placing them in the appropriate ‘bin’.

What is The Needlework Guild? What does it have to do with the Dorcas Group?

In 1882 Lady Wolverton of Dorset, England, in response to a mining disaster in Wales, invited the ladies of the area to tea at the Manor, asking each to bring two items of new clothing for the orphaned children. This action led to the founding of **The Needlework Guild** whose mission continues to be to provide **new** clothing to meet needs resulting from disaster or hardship. The concept spread and similar groups were formed in England, Bermuda, the Bahamas, the USA and Canada.

The **Toronto Branch** is a registered charity that has operated continuously since 1892 on a voluntary basis. All the items donated to the Guild must be **new** (hand-made or purchased). Monetary donations were used to purchase items that can’t be made - e.g. coats &

## TRANSITIONS

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

### Infant Dedications

Callum Nicholas Bert MacKinnon, *son of Leanne & Iain MacKinnon*

Gabriella Marion Mussart, *dau. of Carol & Stephen Mussart*

Tayla Sockalingam, *dau. of Jeanne & Sanjeev Sockalingam*

### Baptism

Michael Fraser

### New Members

Michael Fraser

Catherine O’May

### Deaths

Harry Warring

Samuel Herbert Cockburn

underwear. The agencies which receive the items must not sell them or use them for fund-raising.

Our Dorcas Group donates a minimum of 200 items each year. On Distribution Day we serve tea, coffee and cookies to volunteers when they need a break from their ‘shopping’.

By about 1 p.m. the tables have been cleared; the bins emptied; the agencies have come for the items needed by them. There’s just the last minute clearing up and another busy Distribution Day will be over.

submitted by Joyce Wood

You can imagine my surprise when someone called me in December and reported having received a Christmas card from Barbara. I dug up the obituary notice and looked at it again while dialing Barbara's number. When she answered I immediately launched into one of the most embarrassing yet happiest apologies I have ever had to make. How wonderful it was to find out I was wrong even though it was so terribly awkward. While I told her how sorry I was I also told her how relieved I was. I read the obituary to her and all through it I could now see little discrepancies I should have picked up on. "No Barbara, I didn't really think you were that old. I am sorry." Yet she did something that I will never forget. She laughed. She could have been so angry at me and I wouldn't have blamed her, but she laughed and kept on laughing. The grace of God was in her laughter – the same grace that brought back our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Her laughter absolved me of my foolish mistake. It gave me the freedom to breathe again and yes – even to laugh with her.

It was a lesson for me in more ways than one. Sometimes we can be so sure we are right about people's faults that we write them off in our minds and render them as good as dead. Perhaps we are told things which are not true about someone and the misinformation takes on a life of its own. Then the person does something so out of the character

we had assigned to them and all of heaven laughs – laughs at us in all our folly. If we can hear the laughter and let it have the last word we can be raised up to new life.

The grace didn't stop when I hung up the phone and neither did the laughter. There was also grace and laughter in the Easter card one of our members sent Barbara days after receiving her Christmas card. Jesus said, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh!" He was speaking of the power of his own forgiveness and resurrection to overturn sin and death and enable all who mourn in faith to one day laugh again. There was an echo of heaven in Barbara's laughter even if she hadn't been there. I believe that one day we will be together again and when we are, we will laugh as never before. We will laugh at all our silly mistakes and at the fears we had of death. For God will wipe away every tear from our eyes and mourning and crying will be no more, and death will have no dominion. But laughter – Yes! Thank you, Barbara, for your grace. Welcome back!

Thank you too to Elizabeth Zeidman for her ten years of caring leadership at the House of Compassion. Elizabeth saw the HOC through a time of tremendous transition and growth and her spirit was a blessing to the staff and residents. The HOC is a home on Shaw Street which was started by people from Yorkminster Park in response to a deeply rooted concern on the heart of Bill Kerr who is now a Life Deacon at YP. The HOC

provides round the clock support to twenty-one wonderful people who suffer from mental-illness and who would otherwise be homeless. As Chaplain of the HOC I see first hand what a wonderful place it is and often hear from visiting nurses and social workers that it is the best such home in the city. We warmly welcome Sue Osborne as the new Executive Director.

This summer let us keep Len and Norma Linton in our prayers as they travel to Malawi to work on a Short Term Mission team from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Coldwater. For two weeks in July they will be following in the footsteps of Dr. David Livingstone and working on an irrigation project as well visiting an AIDS hospital, an orphanage and a prison. Let us also pray for Jamie Holmes who will be working on a STM with Toronto Baptist Intercultural Services in Garissa, Kenya along with Gabriel Wong of Brampton Chinese Baptist Church. The two will be assisting Ron Ward in his work at the camel dairy and also tutoring students at the local school in both English and music. May these experiences strengthen the Kingdom abroad and here in our own hearts.

### YPBC Theatre Bus Trip

Thursday Sept. 30 to Drayton  
to see

"Guys and Dolls"

\$ 120 includes lunch at  
Marion's Country Kitchen in  
Hawksville

## SINGING ANGELS

Perhaps you recognize some the young people in the photograph (c 1980) taken on the south lawn. I am pleased to tell you they were members of the Yorkminster Park Junior Choir



and I had the privilege of being their leader. I was a Music Consultant with the Toronto Board of Education, helping the children and teachers with their classroom music or school choir. It was a natural step for me to gather these little ones together and make music with them.

Dr. James Simpson, a surgeon at the Hospital for Sick Children, was the Chairman of the Music Committee when the choir was formed. He had a special knowledge and understanding of children and was totally supportive. Ruth Miller, an accomplished pianist and a believer in the importance of music, was our accompanist.

Choir practice was every Thursday evening between seven and eight o'clock; a full evening for me since I was in the Senior Choir. Introduction and teaching of new song material, with attention to difficult parts, and casual reference to music terms

gave the children the opportunity to begin learning the language of music. There was no audition required to join the choir and occasionally a singer arrived who had not found their singing voice. This required careful work and encouragement but the results paid off with a new and valued member of the choir.

As well as singing in church, the choir sang at Retirement Homes; which gave the children an

opportunity to interact with older people. Occasionally the choir would hold an open house which not only gave another singing opportunity but also demonstrated techniques. Children who were studying an instrument were also asked to perform.

Choir members found this to be a positive experience. Another memorable event was a visit of the choir and parents to the newly built CN Tower; sponsored by our member Jim Bilimoria.

One of the highlights of the year was singing at the Carols by Candlelight service. Singing in the atmosphere of a candlelit church filled to overflowing was an experience never to be forgotten.

With the Junior Choir being well established it was recognized

there was a gap in singing experience between this and the Senior Choir. This was brought to my attention by a teenage boy who approached me one Sunday stating there was no opportunity for him to sing. At that time there was a strong Young Peoples group led by the then Minister of Christian Education, Rev. Charles Jackson and this formed the nucleus of the Intermediate Choir (photo c 1975). In keeping with the times the guitar featured prominently as well as piano. Jane Crowe, wife of our choir member Ron Crowe, was the piano accompanist at the beginning. This choir also sang at Carols by Candlelight, during



regular church services and The Friendly Hour program on Sunday evening.

Many of the Junior and Intermediate choir members eventually went on to the Senior Choir. Several went on to a career in music.

There are so many memories. To sum up, the satisfaction and joy that I experienced helping these children was a gift given by our Heavenly Father and one I shall always treasure.

submitted by Carol Kerr

## SUMMER PREACHERS

**July 4** 11am *The Rev. Carolyn King*  
7pm *The Rev. Cheryle Hanna*

**July 11** *The Rev. Dr. Paul Scott Wilson*  
Dr. Wilson is Professor of Homiletics at Emmanuel College in the University of Toronto, where he has taught for over twenty years.

**July 18** *The Rev. Dr. Gary Nelson*  
Dr. Nelson is the new President of Tyndale University and Seminary.

**July 25** *The Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris*  
Dr. Farris is the Dean of St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver School of Theology at the University of British Columbia.

**August 1, August 8 and August 15** *The Rev. Dr. David Bartlett*  
Dr. Bartlett is Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.

**August 22** 11 am and **August 29** *The Rev. Dr. Peter Holmes*

**August 22** 7 pm - *The Rev. Cheryle Hanna*



## MAJORING IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

**Wednesday, 7pm, Friendship Room**

June 23	Amos	Harold Hetherington
July 7	Jonah	Robert Inman
July 14	Zechariah	Jonanne Fenton
July 21	Nahum	Alan Brisco
July 28	Hosea	Karen Robinson
Aug. 4	Habakkuk	Peter Ferguson
Aug. 11	Haggai	Carol Belford
Aug. 18	Joel	Sam Lee
Aug. 25	Zephaniah	Scott Kindred-Barnes



## HOMECOMING 2010



photos by Donna Willett