

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



# YPBC NEWS

June 2021



Published by:

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**The Rev. Dale Rose**  
*Minister of Pastoral Care*

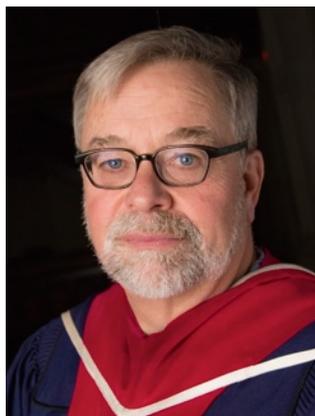
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## PETER'S PEN

### LOVE IS STRONGER THAN HATE

The waves of hate have been strong of late. Day after day there is news of evil making inroads into the human heart, filling people with fear and invoking hateful acts of oppression, abuse, violence and even terrorism in our province. Islamophobia led to the violent murder of a Muslim family in London, Ontario. A day later came the sentencing of a man in Northern Ontario for hurling a trailer hitch at an Indigenous woman, leading to her death. Meanwhile anti-semitic attacks in our city grew five-fold during the month of May and a gay man was called hateful names before beaten and left for dead by three homophobic people on Toronto Island on Saturday evening. And with all of this came the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children and youth buried in unmarked graves behind a former residential school in British Columbia. It seems like every day a new wave of hate crashes in on us.

The Kamloops discovery is a painful reminder that hate has been contaminating our country for far too long. We must stand firm and speak out against hatred in all its ugliness as never before. Of course we can speak forcefully and protest loudly, but ultimately the only way to defeat hate is to love - to love God and our neighbour as ourselves and to love one another and to love even our enemy. This was and is the way of Christ. Love is the only way.

We can begin by taking an interest in those we see regularly who look and sound different than we do, and as we do discover the wonderful breadth of human and cultural diversity by which our city is blessed. Let's learn about other countries and faiths with an openness to what we can appreciate and be grateful for. Every person is created in the image of God, so let's go into the world looking for the masterpiece of God's handiwork in every living soul.

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

[pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca](mailto:pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca)

The next newsletter will be published in September, 2021.

*Paul R Hill*

And as we do let's sing Desmond Tutu's wonderful hymn from our hearts.

"Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate; Light is stronger than darkness; Life is stronger than death; Victory is ours through Him who loves us."

### **FINDING YOUR INNER GARDENER**

In recent months several people have told me they have discovered their inner gardener during the pandemic. For some it started with the rumours about possible food shortages that turned their attention to growing herbs and vegetables. Another friend who is a chef said that he had always wanted to grow his food, but never had the time. Suddenly he had nothing but time. Though his restaurant business has suffered terribly he said he has never been so happy. For others it has been not only the extended time at home but also the money saved from not going out that has them out beautifying their long neglected backyard or balcony with flowers.

Gardening gives us the benefit of physical exercise while also nurturing our spirits.

Much has been written about the pandemic and mental health. Gardening is a joy but it is also therapeutic. Whether it is pulling weeds, pruning shrubs, planting flowers or sowing seeds it has a way of lowering our stress levels and putting a smile on our face. The British author, Jenny Uglow said it best, "We may think we are nurturing our garden but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us."

Growing up in Victoria, B.C. gardens were never out of season. Roses could still be seen blooming on Christmas Day and the first crocuses and daffodils were flowering six weeks away. My father loved to garden and our backyard was a miniature Eden with his collection of dahlias, begonias and roses alongside many colourful perennials that were surrounded by fruit trees and a lawn that functioned as a putting green.

While dad was the head gardener the labour fell to his sons - mostly me as I was much older than my two brothers. I look back on those years in the garden as a time of idyllic bliss but the funny thing is I also remember how excited I was to move out during my early years at university so I could live

with my friends in freedom all be it in a dump of a place.

As for the inner gardener, I had no idea who that was until I started growing dahlias as my father had done. I had always said I wouldn't grow dahlias because of the unending work, but I decided to grow them to provide flowers for a family wedding. It started in late March with the planting of the tubers in pots which were tended indoors until the risk of frost had gone when they were moved outside and into the garden. Once they were in the ground the real work finally began. There was fertilizing, deadheading, staking, and tying for each of the many plants. I didn't consult a book or the internet as I had learned all these things firsthand from my father.

The inner gardener is not me. Sometimes it is my late father to whom I feel close when I am on my knees working the soil as I remember him doing. But other times it is my Heavenly Father who is my inner gardener. He too is there working the soil of my soul, sowing the seeds of love, and nurturing

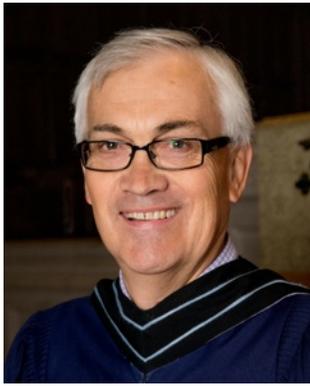
new life. One of the most beautiful scenes in the Bible is of Mary in the garden on Easter Sunday looking for the body of Jesus only to meet a man she assumes is the gardener, but who turns out to be the Risen Lord.

There are times in the garden when all the stresses and challenges of the week fall away and I lose track of time and time loses its hold on me. William Blake wrote, "*To see a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wildflower, hold infinity in the palms of your hand and eternity in an hour.*" Christ is the inner gardener who leads us back to Eden through his victory over sin and death. Whether you work in a garden or simply sit in one of our beautiful city parks to drink in the beauty, I pray we will all meet the true inner gardener this summer.

Sincerely,  
Peter Holmes



## MUSING FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE



*"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19)*

*"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." – Fred Rogers*

Last spring and summer, I read a lot of books in the first part of the pandemic lockdown. One was a quasi-biography I stumbled upon. I was intrigued by the title: *Kindness and Wonder: Why Mr. Rogers Matters Now More Than Ever*, written by the American journalist Gavin Edwards. For over thirty years, Mr. Rogers spoke directly to children – and indirectly to their parents -- through his television program. With his warm charm and winsome personality, he spoke to children about the wonders of the world, the things that worried them and the importance of just being themselves. In many ways, that's the same message we need today as we begin to emerge from the long, dark days of pandemic life. One of Fred Rogers memorable quotes comes from his old television program. He would say to kids: "Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." In these waning days of my ministry here at Yorkminster Park, I often think of those words of wisdom. They could certainly be applied to retirement. Retirement is really a transition of sorts, is it not? The end of something, yet the beginning of something else. When I consider the conclusion of my fulltime ministry career, I often think of that great Old Testament story in 2 Kings 2. The prophet Elijah is about to be taken up into heaven by a whirlwind. As he is taken up, his mantle falls to the ground and his protégé Elisha picks it up: "He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, 'Where is

the LORD, the God of Elijah?' When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over." (2 Kings 2:13-14) This is where we get the expression "taking up the mantle" to describe leadership transition.

This will be my last newsletter article as your minister of pastoral care. Transitions like retirement always give us pause to reflect on the past – especially those experiences that have been formative in terms of our character, values and vocation. In these last musings, I would like to share with you some things I have learned in the past forty years of ministry. I have pastored in five churches, and each of them has played a significant role in my pastoral learning curve. I want to reflect briefly on what those churches have taught me.

I began my ministry as a part-time associate pastor of Christian Education and Youth at Blythwood Road Baptist Church here in the city, while I was studying at seminary. Blythwood was where I really "cut my teeth" in a pastoral way – honing my fragile preaching skills; visiting the sick; conducting my first funerals; and applying what I was learning at divinity school to real life. The senior pastor there at the time became a wonderful mentor for me. It was at Blythwood where I met my wife Donna, who has become my life long partner in ministry. This church introduced me to ministry in the urban context of a large city.

In the words of the old Monty Python comedy troupe: "And now for something completely different!" After graduating from seminary, I headed down east for my first full-time pastoral experience. And it was completely different than ministry in Toronto. I pastored a three-point charge in rural Nova Scotia. One church was in the small town of Mahone Bay on the south shore of the province. The other two churches were in the countryside – Northwest and New Cornwall Baptist churches. I rode the circuit on a Sunday, preaching at three different services. The same sermon, though – so I knew it well by the end of the morning. I would describe the people of that pastorate as the "salt of the earth." I learned early on that you did not phone ahead for a pastoral visit. They just expected you to drop by the farm house on a pastoral call. We had fishermen, farmers, boat builders in those congregations. Many of them did not have a formal

education, but they knew a lot about life from working the land or sailing the seas. They taught me to appreciate God's great gift of the outdoors.

My next church was quite different yet again. I found myself in the suburban context of Pointe Claire, Quebec on the west island of Montreal. Lakeside Heights Baptist Church was where our children spent their early school years. It was a vibrant congregation with a good mix of younger families, middle age couples and seniors. It was here where I really learned the importance of community involvement. For a number of years I chaired the Home and School Association at my kids' school. As a pastor, I had many good conversations about life and faith with other parents. Of course, being in Quebec also meant living in a constant cauldron of political upheaval. I was there during the 1995 Quebec Referendum on sovereignty, where Canada "survived" by a razor thin majority. But politics aside, we learned to appreciate the richness and diversity of French Canadian culture. On an interesting side note, this was the church where a number of Yorkminster Park members used to worship, including the Ivisons, Langs, and Rattrays. During most of my time in Montreal, my friend from seminary days, Peter Holmes, was the pastor at First Baptist.

In the mid-1990's I received a call to become the senior pastor at Lorne Park Baptist Church in Mississauga. I became the lead pastor of a multiple staff congregation. It was a great privilege to follow my predecessor at Lorne Park, Dr. Bruce Neal, who had recently retired. Bruce had been an associate pastor at Yorkminster Park many years before. Lorne Park was a church well-connected with outreach programs in the community. We established a food bank and resource centre called The Compass; a breakfast program for "at risk" children at a local school; a STEP partnership in Bolivia with Canadian Baptist Ministries; a summer-long SPARC day camp for children; and indigenous ministry to children in remote reserves in northern Manitoba. I worked with a talented pastoral team, including the supervision and mentoring of numerous students from McMaster Divinity College. For over a decade we ran two distinct worship services – a contemporary and traditional format. The idea was to create "worship space" for a different generation. Lorne Park taught me the wisdom of change, flexibility and adapting to today's culture while maintaining biblical traditions.

In 2012, I began my ministry here as your minister of pastoral care. In a way, Yorkminster Park has brought me full circle – back to the city of Toronto where I studied at seminary and began my early church ministry. It has been a gift to work with my long-time friend and colleague Peter Holmes, as well as a talented ministry staff. I have appreciated our church's heart for this city – the caring community; social action ministries like Out of the Cold, House of Compassion, Dorcas, YP Women and many others. I have loved the liturgical, preaching and choral traditions of this place, and how everything is done with excellence for the glory of God. For Donna and I, the Oneida mission experience has been a microcosm of the care and love expressed in this church. We have had over 60 people take part in this ministry with indigenous children. It has been wonderful to see how these volunteers have been impacted in their own spiritual walk, and to see their expressions of care and compassion. Yorkminster Park has taught me that God has not abandoned our city, but his work is alive and thriving here. You have shown me that people can find deep, meaningful faith connection through compassion and grace.

So after forty years of being a pastor, what are the main lessons I have learned? Well, they are nothing profound, but perhaps more common sense things I have gleaned through experience. Here they are very briefly: Always extend grace to others. Assume best intentions. In the end, people just want to be loved. Congregations desire a purpose and vision where they can serve and contribute to in some way. If you create a good vision and service opportunities, people will respond. Never underestimate the importance of loyalty when it comes to the pastoral team and leadership team in your church. We need to support one another. Always invest in the next generation. They are both the church of today and the church of the future. Finally, in the end it's all about one thing – one person – Jesus. It's not about theological debates, arguments, agendas or even grand visions. It is about Jesus – plain and simple. Just Jesus. He is the cornerstone of our faith.

I began this article with a quote from Mr. Rogers. I want to end with a quote from one of my favourite childhood authors: Dr. Seuss. He said: "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." That's how I feel about my time at Yorkminster Park. Smile – it's been a great ride! I believe the best is yet to be

for this church family. In closing, I have attached a photo of my grandsons – my reason for smiling (and not a bad reason for retiring!)

God bless you all. Thank you for your wonderful support of my ministry in this place. Donna and I will always smile when we think of you. Here's to new beginnings.

Rev. Dale Rose  
Minister of Pastoral Care



2021 | ONLINE

# Summer Preaching Series



**July 11**  
Dr. Stuart Blythe



**July 18**  
Dr. Stephen Farris



**July 25**  
Rev. Richard Root



**August 1**  
Rev. Leanne Friesen



**August 8**  
Rev. Susan Sparks



**August 15**  
Dr. Karoline Lewis



**August 22**  
Dr. Anthony Bailey

YPBC is pleased to announce our line-up of guest speakers for the 2021 season. Don't miss this exciting, thought-provoking, and inspirational summer ministry.



Join us live online at [YorkminsterPark.com](http://YorkminsterPark.com)  
For more information about the Summer Preaching Series, visit [YPBCSummerPreaching.com](http://YPBCSummerPreaching.com)



Our **Family Ministries Team** continues to faithfully minister to families in safe and creative ways helping them to grow further in their faith development along with nurturing their relationship with Christ. We are eager to gather together when it's safe to do so to enjoy fellowship and worship as one family in Christ.

Our weekly **Family Ministry** emails continue to be a needed support and include lesson plans, age-appropriate teaching videos, worship songs, craft videos, weekly prayer and collage of artwork created by our children and youth. We also enjoy **zooming in** weekly to stay connected, teach lessons and pray together. If you would like to be a part of the below zoom experiences, please contact Heather Mackey at [hmackey@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:hmackey@yorkminsterpark.com)

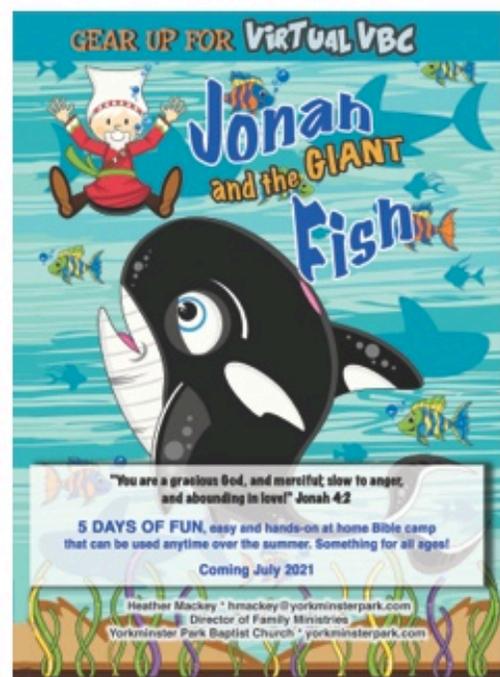
- DOXA Youth Bible Study \* Sundays from 11:30am–12:30pm
- Youth Group Night \* Tuesdays from 7:30–8:30pm
- Family Ministry experience \* Tuesdays from 6:30–7:15pm

**Coming July 1, 2021**

## Thank You Family Ministry Team!

We are blessed here at YPBC to have such a committed and creative team of youth and adults giving of their time, gifts and love to serving children, youth and families. May God bless their servant hearts and may they be given the needed rest and time this summer to renew and refresh their hearts and minds in Christ. We thank all of them for the many ways they have served this past year and the time spent learning virtual ministries, video recordings, tech editing's and more.

With gratitude. God bless you!



Over the month of May and part of June, our Family Ministries learned about the Armour of God (Ephesians 6) and how to apply to our everyday living. Our Family Ministry and Youth Ministry zoom times have been richly blessed by our lessons, discussions and prayers together. Please take a look at one of our **Armour of God Collages (Shield of Faith)** below that highlights artwork done by our children and youth.

### Collage of children's Artwork:



Thank you YPBC family for your ongoing support, prayers and love shown to our Family Ministries. We are encouraged, blessed and grateful.

Children are a reward and a gift from the LORD. Psalm 127:3

In faith, Heather Mackey  
Director of Family Ministries

## THANK YOU NOTES



To obtain a copy of the "Thank You Notes" contact Cody at: [office@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:office@yorkminsterpark.com)



## NURSE NOTES FROM LILY

For the past 15 months, one can say the World has been in some state of an ongoing crisis. Since this current pandemic was declared, about 15 months ago, we have been faced with a health crisis globally.



*"When written in Chinese,*

*the word "crisis" is composed in two characters--one represents danger and the other represents opportunity."*

*- John F. Kennedy*

We have certainly faced danger on many levels and yet opportunities to respond to such challenges have also arisen. Let us continue to respect all the pandemic restrictions, protocols and recommendations. By praying together we can be hopeful in reaching a level of safety and peace, and a return to a better world.

*COVID-19 Vaccine Update for Homebound Persons*

**The North Toronto Ontario Health Team (NT OHT)**

**Homebound Vaccination Request Eligibility Criteria:**

<http://northtoronto@oht.ca>

Do you meet all of the eligibility criteria as listed below?

1. Age 12+ years
2. Live in the North Toronto catchment area (Approximate boundaries: West to Allen, North to 401, East to Leslie and South to St Clair.)

3. Homebound - An individual is considered homebound if they would have exceptional difficulty accessing the COVID-19 vaccine through an outpatient vaccination center.

Factors that may contribute to this include:

- A. Medical complexity
- B. Mobility impairment or physical frailty
- C. Cognitive impairment, or mental health reasons
- D. Exceptional social vulnerability (lack of family/social supports, poverty limiting transport options, language/educational barriers or other unique factors)

**Homebound Mobile vaccination should be a necessity and not simply a convenience.**

Should you wish to contact the Parish Nurse please do not hesitate to either leave a voicemail and or email me, Lily, at the following email address: [parishnurse@yorkminsterpark.ca](mailto:parishnurse@yorkminsterpark.ca)



*"Be Still and know that I am God; I will be honoured by every nation. I will be honoured in the world."*  
- (NLT)

*Lily's grandnephew, Nathaniel, Age 3: obeying the COVID protocols.*





# National Nursing Week

**Florence Nightingale**, the founder of Nursing was born on May 12th, 200 years ago.

The **National Nursing Week** annual celebrations take place from May 10th to 16th inclusive.

This year's theme, developed by CNA (Canadian Nurses' Association) is entitled, **"We Answer the Call"**. According to CNA, "The pandemic brought to light the courage and commitment that nurses work under every day and showed the important role that nurses play in the community."

I am grateful for all the nurses across our city, our province, our country and around our World, for their commitment, compassion and the care they have and continue to provide for all individuals, including the families, in need of their services towards health and healing.

In turn, as nurses, we acknowledge and appreciate all the sacrifices made by all frontline workers/ professionals, in all capacities, and to society at large for their collaboration, during such unprecedented times.

Florence Nightingale, once stated the following on Life, Art, and Hard Work:

*"Nursing is an art: and if it is to be made an art, it requires an exclusive devotion as hard a preparation as any painter's or sculptor's work; for what is the having to do with dead canvas or dead marble, compared with having to do with the living body, the temple of God's spirit? It is one of the Fine Arts: I had almost said, the finest of Fine Arts."*

I would like to dedicate the Hymn, *"Brother, sister, let me serve you"*, and in particular, Verses 2, 3, and 4. You can listen to it here ►

Blessings for Peace, Good Health and Safety

Lily Cugliari-Kobayashi, RN

Parish Nurse, Faith Community Nursing Practice

Health and Wellness Ministry

## YPBC Women's Ministries...

### HEART SPEAKS TO HEART

With Sister Sue Mosteller

(YPBC Webcast Sunday March 14, 2021 4:30 pm)



On Sunday March 7, 2021, members of the YPBC Women's Executive gathered (socially distanced!) in the sanctuary with Sister Sue Mosteller for the recording of her reflections during this Covid period. Heather Hetherington hosted this event. It was our desire to connect with the YPBC women in a meaningful way and we chose this format as well as a speaker well known to us - Sr Sue has led two of our YPBC women's retreats. We are delighted to report that there were over 250 webcast viewers on March 14th as well as 'Dial-a-Sermon' calls that are unable to be traced. As a result of such an encouraging response we hope to explore further possibilities for virtual ministry. The following is a summary of 'Heart Speaks to Heart'.

Locked up with her Sisters for the past year with time on her hands, Sr Sue shared that she decided to make extra time to pray, openly admitting that it isn't her most loved occupation. With her usual candour she shared that she didn't really know how to 'do it' but she would 'show up' in the small chapel, a sacred space, in her home because she had the extra time. Eventually she realized that scripture was also available to her as a resource and she turned to one of her favourite passages on abiding in Christ, John 15 and began to read it every day. In a growing revelation it occurred to her that so much is going on

in our hearts that nobody sees. No one can look at the angers and pain inside of us because these are spiritual but God is part of this spiritual world. As Jesus said, "Remain in me as I remain in you". Believing that God has been with her all of her life, she wanted to attend to this more and more on what she describes as a beautiful spiritual journey.

At the last supper, Jesus, deeply vulnerable and loving, tells his disciples that he is going to leave them behind. He washes their feet and begins to speak about a vine and its branches, indicating that he is the vine, we are the branches and the Father is the divine grower who cares for it. Our connection to the vine is vital. Jesus uses 'abide' over and over almost making it a command and indicating that he's already here and we don't have to go anywhere to find him! And if we abide, we will bear much fruit. As a spiritual truth but so real, Sue shared that she has been contemplating this over and over. Jesus' desire is that we would listen to his cry to abide - he longs for this and gives us such vivid images. The vine is sturdy - we're not necessarily so but we bear the fruit which is love. As she reflected, she wondered, "How do I remain?" "How do I put my feet down and abide? And stop long enough to do this?!" Also, "Where do I remain?" She acknowledged that God is everywhere but this was just too big for her until she wondered if maybe she could abide in God's heart. But as she pondered this, the concept was still too big with everyone present in God's heart! Finally, after humorously sharing this with her spiritual director, it came to her in chapel to look into her own heart to find God who's been in it ever since she was born - this is where she could put her feet down. God knit her in her mother's womb, bringing her into being. "Staggering!"

So she worked on this - Jesus in the Father - the Father in Jesus - Jesus in us through the Holy Spirit. She discovered that this is her home and pondered this daily giving thanks for the gift that she's been given. She formulated questions: "Do I let love come from my heart?" "How do I act and interact when I'm angry?" "How can I damage another's heart by strong words with the power to wound?" She saw that God was inviting her to let his love come forward, love passing between herself, others and God. And she finds this hard to talk about as it's been a real journey for her. Citing an angry letter

that came to her recently she shared her initial unwanted reactions but rediscovered God in that other person and as she took time to reflect, found the best words in response so that there was a mending in the relationship rather than a separation. She was able to offer respect, apology and be given graces where the friendship would have been ended otherwise. She was humbled and grateful.

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Sister Sue left us with some spiritual practices that she has discovered along the way to help our hearts' journeys:

1. **RECOGNIZE THE PRESENCE OF GOD** Take at least 10-15 minutes to recognize the presence of God in our lives every day, getting up a little earlier if we can. Establish a routine at the same time every day.
2. **THANKSGIVING** Begin with thanksgiving. She said that she can't thank God enough now at age 87! Thankfulness has become a priority in her relationships.
3. **PONDER WONDERFUL SCRIPTURAL TEXTS** Know something to pray about, read about it and deepen it.
4. **LISTEN** and don't talk all the time - poor God! Allow God to speak to us.

5. **ACCOUNTABILITY** Consider some kind of accountability, possibly a spiritual director or a listening non-judgmental friend who is on a journey too. Talk about what is happening in our hearts - where we're not doing well with our thoughts even though this may be humiliating. The need is to be able to talk to someone and be received - this is real and God is in this.

In conclusion, Sue related a personal story about loving the 'other' if we're going to be of help to one another. She reiterated that John 15 has been a wonderful exposition of the heart of Jesus for her. Listen to his heart - his hope for us and grow what is most human - a life more caring and loving.

And she left us with this question:

**How can we best respond to the words of Jesus?**

### BIOGRAPHY

Sister Sue, born of Canadian parents, travelled from Ohio in the eighth grade to board with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Toronto and later entered the order under their supervision. Holding a degree in English Literature from the University of Toronto, she taught in British Columbia and Ontario for 15 years. In 1972 she began working with L'Arche, Richmond Hill and for 40 years served in leadership of the community and federation, including a period of 10 years working with Henri Nouwen at Daybreak. In 2012 Sister Sue rejoined her Sisters in a Toronto Convent where she has worked for the Henri Nouwen Legacy as a Trustee, a Society Member and with Henri's archival collection at U of T, St Michael's College. She is the Literary Executrix of Nouwen's works and in December 2019 was honoured with the Order of Canada for her decades of work with L'Arche. Over the years she has led many workshops and retreats .

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

YPBC - SUMMER BIBLE STUDY 2021

PSALMS IN THE SUMMER - *Songs of Inspiration and Hope*

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WEDNESDAYS AT 7 P.M. ON ZOOM

Join our Summer Bible Study series as we look at some of our favourite psalms.

Register Today! by contacting the church office at 416-922-1167 or [office@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:office@yorkminsterpark.com). Once registered you receive a link.

Wednesdays	Leader	Text	Host
July 7	David Onley	Psalm 8	Paula Willis
July 14	Rob Inman	Psalm 139	Dale Rose
July 21	Milton Fletcher	Psalm 121	Paula Willis
July 28	Paula Willis	Psalm 23	Dale Rose
August 4	Amos Jones	Psalm 46	Paula Willis
August 11	Janet Kim	Psalm 19	Dale Rose
August 18	Mary Han	Psalm 91	Paula Willis
August 25	Peter Holmes	Psalm 100	Dale Rose

To learn more about our study leaders visit: [www.yorkminsterpark.com](http://www.yorkminsterpark.com)

## NEW MEMBERS

### Farzana Anwar and Sajjad Masih



Sajjad and Farzana arrived in Canada in 2019 with their two daughters. Angel is now eight and Amelia is three. The parents are originally from Pakistan and spent several years in Thailand before the family was

sponsored by our Refugee Committee.

Both grew up in Christian homes. Sajjad was baptized in a Roman Catholic Church and Farzana was baptized in an Anglican Church. In the Camp in Bangkok they attended three churches, including a Baptist church where Sajjad took Bible training.

Even through very difficult times, Sajjad and Farzana have always trusted that God has a plan for their lives. The family participates in morning and evening prayers together.

They are especially grateful for the freedom, opportunities and happiness that their life in Canada has given their family. Farzana and Sajjad are also very thankful for the many people at Yorkminster Park who have helped them and made them feel so welcome in their new country and church home.

The family has moved to an apartment building close to the church where Sajjad is an Assistant Superintendent. Farzana continues to take English classes every day. They welcomed their baby son, Sam, in May.

They said that they do not have the words to thank God for all His blessings and they continue to glorify His Name.

Farzana and Sajjad join by Christian experience.

### Siobhan Carlin

Siobhan comes to Yorkminster Park by way of Hilltop Chapel, a Brethren Assembly in Etobicoke Ont., where she was baptized as an adult in 2013.

Siobhan is a Paramedic in Toronto. She has been on three medical mission trips to Africa (DR Congo and

Zambia) where she has used her skill and knowledge as a paramedic to bring medical care to those who would not otherwise receive it. She credits Hilltop Chapel for making the connections needed to fulfill her desire to do mission work and gave her the opportunities to make those dreams a reality.



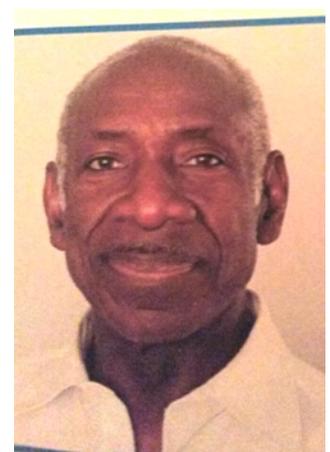
Her faith journey began when she was a young girl going to Brownies. Her parents did not attend church regularly, but her grandparents did. It was with them that she began to attend Sunday school at their church Hilltop Chapel.

When she was 16 her father died in her arms. This left her feeling abandoned by God and her faith in Him and all He was doing in her life, left her with many questions. This void deepened when her grandparents passed away and it was at this time that she began to search for a way back to faith. She returned to Hilltop Chapel, where one of the Elders Hugh Rodgers, who always seemed to be in the background of her journey, once again became a trusted influence in her faith walk.

In February of 2016 she was invited to attend a service at Yorkminster by a former Hilltop Chapel member and has been attending ever since. She feels she has found her church community at Yorkminster Park.

### Winston Davis

Winston grew up in Jamaica and attended a Pentecostal Christian Church there. As a teenager, he experienced a renewed interest in Christianity while listening to a C. S. Lewis broadcast series which was later transcribed into the book  *Mere Christianity*.



Winston immigrated to Canada in the 1970's and attended the University of Toronto and Ryerson University. He spent over 30 years in the field of Computer Programming. He has also studied Vocal Training at the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Winston first attended Yorkminster Park after hearing Dr John Gladstone preach on the radio. He was impressed by the reverent form of worship and found our choir to be outstanding. Great preaching and a great choir ministered to his soul and deepened his faith. He is impressed with the diversity of people here and the welcoming spirit of our congregants and staff.

Winston shares his computer programming and audio skills by helping out at the sound board that records our Sunday morning worship service. We welcome him most warmly into the Yorkminster Park church family. Winston joins us by Christian experience.

### **Mary Han and Mikhail Celly**



Dr. Mary Han was born and raised in Hong Kong where she was baptized, confirmed, and raised in the Chinese Evangelical Lutheran Church founded by her parents, both deceased. Mary vowed to keep their legacy alive by her

continued Mission work through a Satellite version of her original Church and by creating and serving in local Life Groups here in Toronto with her husband Nikhil.



Dr Nikhil Celly, grew up in India where attended an Irish Christian Brother School. He was later baptized at North Park Community School in London, Ontario. His faith was further deepened by attending a local Alpha Course there in London.

Both Mary and her husband Nikhil first attended our Evening Services in 2012 and loved the warm and

welcoming atmosphere that they decided to make YP their new Church Home. They are both very passionate about outreach ministries and Lead several Life Groups including: Bay Street, Prayer, Daily Exercise, and Singing Groups to name a few.

Dr. Mary Han is an Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship and Strategy and Director, Council of International Research and Teaching at the Ted Rogers School of Business Management at Ryerson University. Dr. Nikhil Celly is the Professor of Management and Leadership, and Director Global Initiatives at Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston, Texas.

Mary and Nikhil both come into membership by way of Christian experience.

### **Marilyn and John Kershaw**

John was born in Hamilton; he was baptized as an infant in the United Church. John's family moved to Toronto when he was six. He came to faith at a youth camp and has never looked b a c k .



Marilyn was born in Toronto and also came to faith as a young person. She comes from a musical family and is an accomplished flute player. Both John and Marilyn were raised in the Salvation Army. They met in high school but did not get to know one another until they met again at the Salvation Army church they both attended. They married, had a son and daughter, and are now the proud grandparents of four. Both John and Marilyn have lived lives dedicated to serving their faith.

John obtained a BA degree at Western University and began a career in investment banking on Bay Street, obtaining his Chartered Accountant designation while working with Price Waterhouse. He remained in investment banking for fifteen years before taking a position overseeing the Salvation

Army Thrift Stores across Canada until his early retirement. In 2019, he became the Director of Operations at Yorkminster Park, where he is an appreciated member of the team.

Marilyn began to work for Cadillac Fairview after she graduated from high school; after a number of years, she left the work force to focus on her family. When the children were teenagers, she began to work for the Salvation Army, a part-time position that eventually led to a full-time position at the Salvation Army headquarters. She has since retired. Throughout her life, Marilyn has used her organizational and leadership skills to serve where she was needed. Her current focus is on her family, caring for her mother and supporting her children and grandchildren during the pandemic.

About ten years ago, John and Marilyn felt the need for a change and at the recommendation of a colleague, visited Yorkminster Park. They enjoyed the worship and friendliness, and soon thereafter were attending regularly. John and Marilyn are members of the Don Mills Bible Study and will be welcomed into membership on the basis of Christian experience.

### **Claudette Knight and Guy Gibbs**



Guy Gibbs was born in Freeport, Grand Bahamas and baptized and raised in the Methodist Church. He was involved in the church from a young age and continued to be through his youth and into adulthood. His father was a Methodist

minister, and his extended family continue to inspire his faith journey.

Guy came to Toronto to do undergraduate work at U of T. Since that time, he has earned several degrees and worked as a CA for Price Waterhouse Coopers in Toronto and later moved into the area of hedge funds and investment banking. He is now the Director/Owner of ARAWAK Media Solutions, a digital marketing company.

Claudette Knight was born in London, UK and came to Canada with her family at age seven. Claudette's maternal grandfather and uncle were both ministers.



Claudette was greatly influenced by her paternal aunt, a woman who shared her faith freely and whose trust in the Lord remained steadfast in the face of life's challenges.

Claudette began her undergraduate work at U

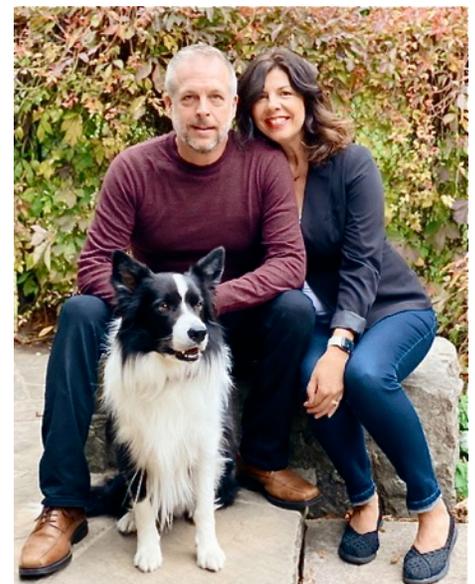
of T in 1986 and lived in the same residence as Guy at New College. Claudette taught school for a time in Nassau and came back to Canada to do an MBA at Western and eventually also a PhD. She is now Vice President, Talent Development of the CIBC.

In 2000 Claudette and Guy were married in the chapel at Knox College and in 2002 they moved into an apartment on Pleasant Blvd. Around the same time, they started to attend Yorkminster Park. Their son, Ryan, was dedicated at YPBC and raising him in the church is very important to them. Their Christian faith is central to their lives.

### **Paul and Heather Mackey**

Paul and Heather are no strangers to YPBC since Heather became Director of Family Ministries some twenty months ago, so many of our congregation already know

both Heather and Paul through that connection. Heather has endeared herself to the YP families through her collegial manner, and Christ centered, caring, and creative approach. Her



skillful use of technology has allowed much involvement, both formally and socially, on a weekly basis with her Family Ministries, as well as frequent contributions in Sunday morning services with the larger congregation.

Heather was previously employed at Wellington Square United Church in Burlington where she served for 21 years building up their Family Ministries. She had been prayerfully wrestling with the idea of a change in ministry, and an invitation to apply to YPBC led to a delighted move to our church. She grew up in a lively and hospitable Christian home in Brantford where her father was a United Church minister. Following graduation from high school, Heather studied Administration at Mohawk College. She then initiated a Christian-based after-school program before being employed at Wellington Square United Church. Heather sees her relationship with Jesus Christ as of prime importance and commits to daily spiritual disciplines of prayer and scripture meditation.

Paul was the eldest of three boys, and divided his younger years between Oakville and Aberdeen, Scotland, as his mother had come from there. He studied law and security at Sheridan College and became a Correctional Officer for some time before switching to the home improvement industry where he is now self-employed. Many of us have become aware of his proficiency as a drummer and singer, skills which are very much valued on the worship team at YP! In his spare time, Paul can be found outside in their garden where he loves to create beautiful spaces for his family to enjoy.

Paul and Heather are proud of their four children, and love spending time with these fine young adults who live with them presently while studying at secondary institutions nearby. Paul and Heather are a remarkable support to our church families especially during this time of Covid, and they look forward to worshipping and ministering in person with all their church family at YPBC when restrictions allow.

They join by transfer of church membership.

### **Mean Meenakshi**

In August 2015 Meeni and her husband came from India to Winnipeg to study for their Masters Degrees in the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba. In 2017 they moved to Toronto and Meeni did an undergraduate degree in Computer Science. Meeni is employed by Manulife Bank and has shared her skills with the Bd of CE.

Meeni first identified as a Christian 10 years ago. In 2015 she and her husband moved to Toronto and

lived in a place that was ten minutes away from Yorkminster Park. In 2019 Meeni began attending Yorkminster Park and became a member of an Alpha group. Here she met Heather who was an Alpha leader.

Meeni was involved with Bethlehem on Yonge. She has been involved with Family Ministries and has

done some of the Craft Video lessons on line. She has also been sharing some of her financial knowledge with the Bd. of CE.

Since moving to Guelph Meeni has continued to attend Yorkminster Park online. She was also one of the readers in the Pentecost reading. Meeni joins the church on the basis of Christian experience.

### **Carol Morrison**

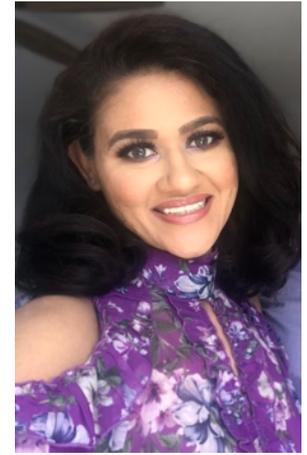
Carol arrived in Canada from Dublin in 1971. She was raised in the Church of Ireland (Anglican) and has fond memories of attending services three times every Sunday with her family. She names her mother and father as both having had a great influence on her Christian life. Her faith also became very real to her when she was nine years old and her father died.

Carol became a teacher and taught English at George Harvey Collegiate and Weston Collegiate. At George

Harvey, she was the staff sponsor of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship group. She felt privileged to lead a group which included students from many different countries.

After worshipping at Grace Church on-the-Hill for several years, Carol moved and wanted a church within walking distance of her residence.

She found Yorkminster Park in 2010 and has been attending regularly except for a five year interval



when she lived in Huntsville. She felt warmly welcomed when she first began attending our church.

Carol has been helping with the Out Of The Cold Program and the Refugee Support Committee. We are delighted to welcome Carol to Yorkminster Park. She joins on the basis of Christian experience.

### **Keith Profit**



Keith was born and raised in the community of Zephyr. He and his wife had four children, all University graduates. There are five grandchildren with a great grandchild on the way.

While in high school, Keith volunteered at a Christian camp and made a decision to

accept Christ as his Saviour there.

His parents were devoted Christians, and as a family they worshiped at a United Church nearby. He graduated from the University of Toronto and York University, (earning a B.A. and Master's Degree in Education). Keith became a teacher and later a Principal.

After marriage, they moved to Aurora and attended Christian Baptist Church in Newmarket until his wife passed in 2017. They served in various positions and their children were nurtured in the faith there. He volunteers at the Newmarket Food Pantry. Keith says many wonderful people have positively influence him. He represented the school board, in music gatherings, at National elementary and Secondary Principals conferences and as a speaker at the Association for Exceptional Children.

Keith learned much from Arthur Fritzke, formerly the pastor at their Newmarket church and later from John and Margaret Torrance. He remarked, on coming to Yorkminster, how warmly he was greeted and how he finds the preaching and music are a great blessing.

### **Jaelyn Rue**

Jaelyn spent her early years in a Korean Baptist household where, as a 13 year old, she had already come to faith in Christ and was baptized along with her family. Jaelyn was gifted in the Arts, and so studied graphic design at University in Korea.



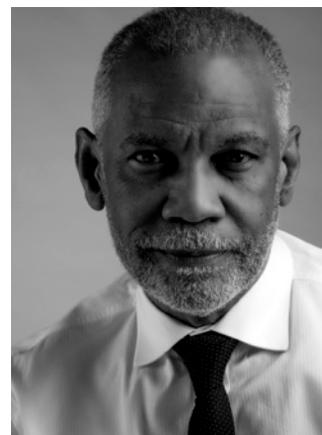
She subsequently came to Canada, but finding work in her field without speaking English, a Canadian degree, or work experience in Canada, was a challenge. After enrolling in English classes Jaelyn began working in a bank serving Korean clients and from there to a branch at Yonge and St Clair. She was recently promoted to a position with a commercial mortgage group at Wellington Tower. It was while she was in the neighbourhood that she would enter YPBC doors to pray and then later come to worship services.

Jaelyn is the proud mother of Kaelyn, a delightful nine year old, who is eagerly looking forward to meeting her friends again once lockdown restrictions are eased. They continue to participate regularly in Heather's Tuesday classes for youth and have found friendships in the Lighthouse community at YP and after church gym activities. Many of us will recall seeing Jaelyn and Kaelyn light one of the Advent candles this past Christmas! And we look forward to welcoming them both back soon into our church family.

Jaelyn joins by Christian experience.

### **Hudson Taylor**

Hudson Taylor, son of a Wesleyan pastor, was born and raised in a strict Christian environment. His family roots are in the Caribbean where both his grandparents and his uncle were Wesleyan ministers. At age 14, Hudson left home to attend the Wesleyan



Methodist Bible College in Frankfurt, Indiana with the intent to follow in his father's footsteps. Instead, Hudson chose music rather than theology as his career. At age 21, he returned to Toronto and became the Director of Music at his father's church.

When Hudson's father moved from Toronto to a church in Maryland, Hudson remained true to his faith. He gravitated to Yorkminster Park Baptist Church during the time Dr. Gladstone, a colleague of his father, was pastor. He and his wife attend YP and on occasion his elderly father (nearly 100) attends as well. Hudson's highly regarded portrait photography business frequently requires him to work on Sundays at Jewish weddings and other events.

An accomplished pianist, Hudson has offered preludes at several YP morning services and in January, 2019, he accompanied soloist, Jackie Richardson.

Hudson is married to Donna, a believer, whose ancestry is Mohawk. They have a daughter and a son, Julian, Juno nominated songwriter and musician as well as a Toronto Radio disc jockey at 106.5 ELMNT fm.

He joins on the basis of Christian experience.

### **Shannon Wareham-Browne and Harden Browne**



Harden and Shannon met 21 years ago and have been married for 12. They were both raised in Christian homes and baptized as children. They have been attending Yorkminster Park for 11 years. They have six children and one

grandson.

Harden was born in Guyana and immigrated to Toronto as a boy where he attended Holy Rosary Church and School. Harden worked as an insurance examiner for Sun Life before a love of building inspired him to get a degree in Building Renovations

from George Brown College. He is a member of the Carpenter's Union and has renovated and built a number of homes for himself in Toronto which he manages as a landlord.

Shannon was born in the USA and immigrated to Canada 12 years ago. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Photography from the University of Miami. She is a flight attendant on a private aircraft based in New Jersey.

Harden and Shannon were drawn to YP by the diversity in the leadership when they started attending in 2010. Their three younger children were dedicated at YPBC and love the Lighthouse Ministry. Their family was involved in two of our Oneida Mission trips and they teach Sunday school. They are passionate about Social Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

## Day By Day YOU Help Me Make My Way

(Even If I can't remember  
what day it is!)



Lorraine dragged her recycle bin to the curb an evening too soon! Members of the Music Board (upon which I sit) emailed about “tomorrow” night’s virtual meeting. Paul followed up about my article

that was due this Friday. I told him I’d send it Wednesday; Thursday at the latest. What?! It’s *already* Wednesday??? (And after 9 p.m. to boot!?) Are you *sure*??? Was it *me* or was it *them*??? Turns out it was *me*! I lost Tuesday. Where did it go? Did I have a concussion? Amnesia? Yeah, that sounds good. Let’s go with that. Lol.

Have you ever lost a whole *day*? (Perhaps you actually have through these pandemic days times!) Well, that’s what happened to me this week. Lorraine *had* put her bins out on the right day. The emails *were* for the meeting that very evening, and Paul must have shook his head in wonder at my reply. In the movie, *Field of Dreams*, there is a school board town hall scene where the community is debating the banning of a provocative book that championed the peace and love movement of young people during the 1960s. One woman, who actually was of that generation, but thought more traditionally than her peers, was accused by Amy Madigan’s character of not “experiencing the ‘60s.” The traditional woman retorted, “I experienced the 60s!” To which Amy corrected, “No, I think you had two 50s and moved right on into the 70s.” Well, this week I had two Mondays and moved right on into Wednesday. *Late* Wednesday, at that!

It’s been so easy (maybe a word other than “easy” would be better here, but I hope you know what I mean) to shrink into a small and “virtual” life this past 16 months. Where days blend and blur together. Nowhere to go. No one to see. So little to “do.” Where one potentially, or actually, forgets whether it’s Tuesday or Wednesday; like a rinse and repeat cycle on your washer, or that “every-day-is-exactly-the-same” 6 o’clock a.m. scene from yet another

movie, *Groundhog Day*. Around and around the same circles we went for a year and a half. It was *so* easy to embrace this mandatory small(er) life that, for many, it has become comfortable, familiar, safe, and perhaps even preferable (particularly for those who were stressed out *before* the pandemic, and secretly fantasized about a long stretch of decompression time so that they could get off the merry-go-round for a bit—like my mother would sometimes jest: “Stop the world! I want to get off!”). But, of course, this isn’t true for all. For plenty of others, this global crisis has created their busiest times ever, both personally and professionally. Now *they* wish for some well-deserved down time (that will surely come as things return to “normal.”) And return to normal they will—and already are, in a “pole, pole” fashion. (Po-lee, po-lee/slowly, slowly, as Swahili guides say to climbers summiting Kilimanjaro. One step at a time. That’s all we *ever* have to do in life. Just take the next step.)

I’ve had my second shot now and perhaps you have too. Even if you haven’t (yet), so many of our province *have* that we are opening up again; ever so slowly, but it’s happening. I confess, I’m having some hesitation about the idea of “jumping into the deep end” of my “old” life quickly, as if nothing’s happened. You too? As for me, when it comes to, for example, going into a lake or swimming pool, *I* am inclined to stick my toe in first, then wade in up to my shins and hang around at that level for a spell, and *then* finally do the ultimate daring dunk a couple of minutes later, while making a couple of involuntary girly, squeally noises along the way. I suspect many of us will take that same “wade-in-gently” approach (sans the squealing???) to returning to “regular” life. On the other hand, if I find myself hesitating too much—dawdling too long in the shallows—I intend to give myself a loving-kindness smack-up-the-side-of-the-head talking to, and remind myself of **this 1928 quote by John A. Shedd (from his *Salt From My Attic* book of sayings):**

*A ship in harbour is safe.*

*But that is not what ships are built for.*

True, our small, “in the shallows,” stay-at-home/work-from-home (as much as possible) lives have been safer, but *that* it not what our lives are made

for, either. Time to plan a strategy for getting out of the harbour and back to the glorious, adventuresome wide-open sea!

Remember Dale sharing, in a couple of his sermons over the years, that the word “opportunity” comes from the Latin “ob portu?” That, in the days before modern harbours, a ship had to wait for the perfect flood tide—the perfect *opportunity*—to make it into port, and that the captain and the crew had to wait for the perfect moment because otherwise they’d miss their window to come ashore, and would have to await another tide? Well that’s kind of where we all are right now. Waiting for the perfect tide to carry us *forward*; rather than to push us *in to* the harbour, we are looking and waiting for the perfect opportunity swell to float us *out*—out to grander waters, happier times, and fuller lives.

**Shakespeare used this same idea to write one of his famous passages (from *Julius Caesar*):**

*There is a tide in the affairs of men [and women, too!],  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;  
Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.  
On such a full sea are we now afloat;  
And we must take the current when it serves,  
Or lose our venture.*

Alongside Dale, Richard (Dick) Innes reminds us that God gives every one of us many *ob portus* or flood tides. That is, he gives us many opportunities to serve him, to dedicate our lives more fully to him, to grow and become more like him, and to make something beautiful out of our life for time and eternity. These opportunities rarely come gift wrapped, tied with a bow and ribbon. They come in much more subtle ways.

Indeed, no one, I doubt, would say that this pandemic time has been a “gift, wrapped and tied with bow and ribbon,” and yet, if sought, surely we can all point to many bits of goodness and enlightenment that have arisen *because* of the acuteness of these worrisome days. (It might even be an interesting journaling reflection exercise for you to brainstorm a list of exactly what *good* has come for you, and for us all, from this bad... )

**In this ob portu vein, Dick Innes also shares this relevant prayer:**

*Dear God, help me to recognize the opportunities that come every day  
for me to be what You want me to be  
and to do what You want me to do.  
And, no matter how You call,  
when You have something special for me to do,  
help me to hear and obey that call  
no matter how quiet or subtle it may be.  
Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer.  
Gratefully, in Jesus's name, Amen.*

And lastly, as you move forward over this summer of 2021 and balance of this year, along with the support and inspiration that you draw from scripture, daily devotionals and other passages that help keep the faith and see you through, hang on to this upbeat, forward-looking sentiment of a song, **Day By Day, from the 70s/80s Canadian pop band, Doug and the Slugs:**

*Day by day I'm feeling stronger  
Day by day I'm lasting longer  
Day by day You [God] help me make it  
Day by day by day by day by  
Day by day I'm feeling stronger  
Day by day I'm lasting longer  
Day by day You show me a better way  
Day by day You help me to find a place  
Day by day You help me make my way.*

Amen to *that*, as well. Day by day by day...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNdtdsDi-10>

Have a wonderful, happy, healthy and emotionally lighter summer! Looking forward to seeing you face-to-face soon!

P. S. We are like elastics. We only work if we stretch. Time to stretch!

**Respectfully 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*.

## INTRICTI - SUMMER SERIES

### 2021 Summer Series:

Be inspired this summer as industry leaders share their expertise and related experiences on various business topics directly related to the impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing recovering efforts. Attend one or all of Intricti's bi-weekly panel discussions and consider inviting a colleague or friend. Registration: [www.intricti.ca](http://www.intricti.ca). All are welcome. #Intricti2021SummerSeries



### On Well-Being - July 7:

#### **Eileen Fauster**

Founder & Director  
Essential Balance

#### **Dr. Merry C. Lin**

Executive Director  
Dr. Lin & Associates

#### **Dr. Rose Zacharias**

President-Elect  
Ontario Medical Association

### On Re-Entry - July 21:

#### **Norm Keith**

Partner  
Fasken

#### **Victoria Miles**

Strategic Partner  
Vision Wheel

#### **Greg Smith**

Author  
In Search of Safe Brave Spaces

### On Diversity - August 11:

#### **Georgette Dehaney**

Founder & Creative Consultant  
Georgie Porgie Cakes and Gifts

#### **Faithe Holder**

Partner  
Gowling WLG LLP

#### **Dr. Georgette Zinaty**

Practice Lead  
Centre for Diversity and Inclusion

### On Recovery - August 25:

Christine Cooper  
EVP & Head, Canadian Commercial Banking  
BMO Bank of Montreal

#### **Michelle Pommells**

CEO  
Credit Counselling Canada

#### **Ingrid Robinson**

Chief Risk Officer & Assistant Deputy Minister  
Treasury Board Secretariat of Ontario

submitted by Alana Walker Carpenter

## TRANSITIONS

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

### **Births**

Sam Adriel, *son of Sajjad and Farzana*

Audrey Eleanor, *dau of Jake and Tali*

Dimitri Kombogiorgas, *son of Sheila Alfred McCracken and Tony Kombogiorgas*

### **New Members**

see Page13

### **Deaths**

William Edward (Ted) Charles Hampton

Bob Jefferies

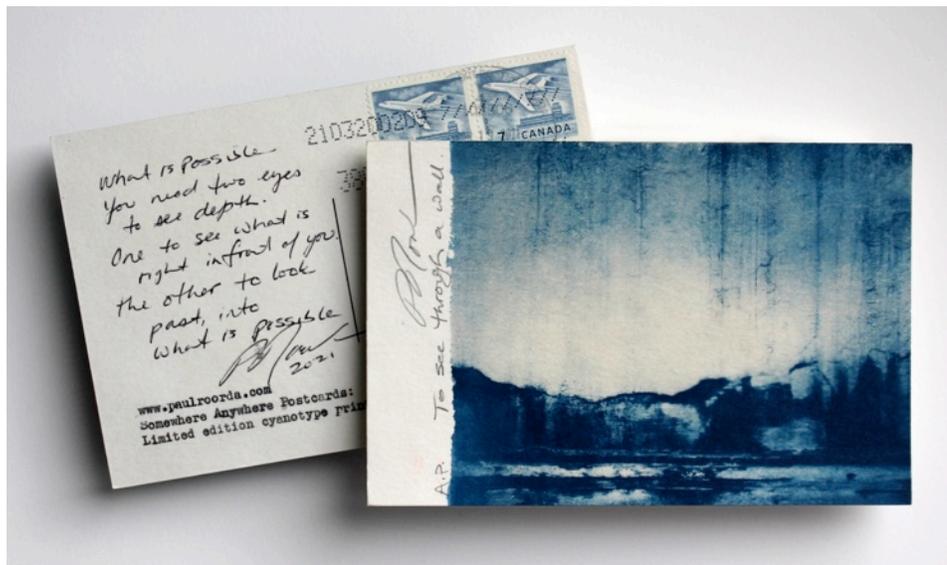
McDonald Wilton Blunt

## FROM THE GALLERY

### Paul Roorda: *Somewhere Anywhere Postcards*



This year of COVID lockdowns and stay at home orders has left me with postponed exhibitions and a lot of time in my studio. In some ways I saw it as an opportunity, a time to focus on creating new work and to launch a new blog on art and ideas. At the beginning of last year I had been working on a series of abstract landscapes starting with photos of



weathered walls, similar to the paintings in my last exhibition at Yorkminster Park Gallery in 2019. But instead of painting, I was using cyanotype, an early photography process that results in a deep blue monochrome print.

So when the coronavirus changed everything, I responded with a mail art project called *Somewhere Anywhere Postcards*. By mailing my art as postcards, I could reach people with real art while galleries were closed and most art was available only

online. Receiving a postcard of an abstract landscape could jog memories of past trips and remind us that we might travel again soon. As photos of aging walls transformed into images of faraway horizons and big skies, I could remind people that there is hope beyond the walls that have shut us in this year. On the back of the postcards, where the typical “wish you were here” travel greetings go, I write poetic musings on the possibility of seeing past barriers and into a more hopeful and open place. The postcards include vintage stamps and are addressed using an antique Underwood typewriter to give the impression that they are from an altogether different time and place.

Now, like everyone else, I’m looking forward to seeing things open up enough to show my art in public again. I’ll be part of the online Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition this July but I’m continuing my photography and collage work in preparation for a “live” exhibition in Germany in 2022. And I’ve been invited to participate in next year’s *Crossings* exhibition in Toronto as well, so ideas are developing for that project too. Hopefully I’ll be lucky enough to travel again in the coming year, and send a real postcard home to friends. Until then, I guess I’ll keep sending out my *Somewhere Anywhere Postcards*.

Paul Roorda is a Waterloo artist who has had several exhibitions at Yorkminster Park Gallery.

His blog and art can be found at [www.paulroorda.co](http://www.paulroorda.co)

***Crossings: a Journey to Easter*** coming to Toronto March 2 - April 14, 2022.

Yorkminster Park parkette will be one of a series of central outdoor locations, each exhibiting a Canadian artwork that relates to a scriptural event leading up to Easter.

Since 2016 *Crossings* has appeared in London, Washington DC, New York and Amsterdam