



Go into all the world
and preach
the Good News
to everyone.



FROM PETER'S PEN

Fall doesn't officially begin until September 22nd, but now that the children have returned to school, cooler temperatures are prevailing, and some of the trees are even starting to show their autumn colours, so it feels like the summer is over. But in our

gardens, it is still summer. Some things may be fading, but the early tulips and daffodils were fading long before summer even arrived back on the 20th of June.

I spent a significant part of my summer vacation working in my garden up north and doing so brought me peace and joy. We were blessed to have been able to welcome a number of friends to visit our garden this year. However, as they walked about, I would find myself wishing that this or that flower or shrub was still in bloom for them to see, but the wonder of summer is that when one flower fades a different flower rises up to offer something new to the kaleidoscope of colour.

Each day in the garden is a little different than the day before, and every month is radically different. In the early spring it is the snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, and tulips. Come June it is the peonies, irises, and columbine. In early July one of our roses rises up more than ten feet like a pillar from the earth aflame in pink. In late July many of the magnificent day lilies we have planted through the years as well as the various hydrangeas in their shades of pink and blue have taken over. A few weeks later it is the crocosmia bowing from the garden bed and the phlox offering wave after wave of purple, pink and white. By mid August it is the dahlias and canna lilies promising to stay around until the first frost and soon the chrysanthemums will join in their parade of colour. It would be so boring if it were the same scene day after day and week after week.

Inevitably some visitors know far more about gardening than I do and it is a joy to glean from their expertise. Other visitors don't know one flower from the next, but they are almost childlike in

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*All the earth worships
you and sings praises
to you; they sing praises
to your name.*

- Psalm 66:4



their sense of astonishment. From these friends I have learned to again enter the garden like a child astonished at the intricate designs and patterns of each blossom.

For me, the garden is also a place of faith. Spending time on my knees is an invitation to pray. And what's more, I never feel alone in the garden. Of course, sometimes I wish the mosquitoes would leave me alone, but even the insects amaze me. All those tiny bees travelling about pollinating alongside enormous bumble bees as well as the honey bees on a mission to feed the world.

Once again, this summer even the Hummingbird Hawk-Moth was a visitor to our garden. A family of hummingbirds made their home with us this year too. And along with the colourful cardinals, goldfinches and blue jays there were robins, wrens and chickadees joining the chorus as well as woodpeckers in the percussion section. Then there is the song of the wind rustling through the leaves and some days even the roar of the waves rolling in from Georgian Bay a block away and sometimes a sacred silence calling me to listen carefully.

As the sun sets, I like to stand on the porch and watch the light flicker and fade on the leaves and flowers and listen to the benediction of the birds. As I do, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude to God for what the hymn writer described as "the beauty of the earth and the glory of the skies and the love which from our birth round about us lies." And of course, I sense the presence of the Risen One, Jesus Christ, who on Easter opened the gates to the eternal summer in the garden of God.

It has been a good summer, but even as the turning leaves signal its end, we know that the season ahead will bring new blessings full of wonder and beauty. So too in the life of the church as a new season begins, we know that there is much to look forward to, and in faith we can boldly say with Robert Browning, "the best is yet to be..."

We may get as busy as bees but it is all in a mission to feed and nourish the world around with the love of Christ. May this new season fill us with joy and wonder as together we serve to the glory of God.

On Another note

The Yorkminster Park family was saddened to hear of the sudden passing of the Rev. Dr. Brian Haymes in the UK on July 17th. Through the years, Brian was a frequent guest preacher at Yorkminster Park and offered us interim leadership during my study leave from May through September 2011. In more recent years Brian has also been a guest contributor to Walking Together, the Yorkminster Park weekday devotional.



Brian served as Principal of the Northern Baptist College from 1985 to 1994, and the Bristol Baptist College from 1994 to 2000. Through the years he also served four pastorates in Baptist churches in the UK including London's Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church from 2000 to 2005.

He served as the President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain in 1993. Brian was a gifted preacher, prolific author, theologian and a compassionate pastor. We continue to keep his wife, Jenny, and daughters Debby and Vicky and their families in our prayers.

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Finally, Paula Willis and I were deeply moved by a gift of clerical stoles offered to us by the Rev. Dr. Bruce Neal. Dr. Neal's stoles distinguished him as an ordained servant of the Lord and were worn by him at the various churches he served.

Dr. Neal served as the Minister of Christian Education here at Yorkminster Park in the early to mid 1960s before long and successful tenures as the pastor of James Street Baptist Church, Hamilton; Walmer Road Baptist Church; Toronto and Lorne Park Baptist Church in Mississauga. Bruce also served a term as the President of our denomination nationally and played a formative roll in the development of the Canadian Food Grains Bank.

It was a great honour to receive these stoles and to wear them in worship knowing they were worn by one of the finest and most distinguished preachers and pastors in our land. They will bless the clergy of this church through the generations to come.

In Christ,

Peter Holmes



MISSION UPDATE



YOUR MISSION DOLLARS AT WORK: CBOQ and YPBC

by Richard Doust

Yorkminster Park is a strong supporter of the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec through our congregation mission offerings.

I asked CBOQ Executive Minister Leanne Friesen about their work and our church's relationship.

Leanne, from your perspective, what is the value of CBOQ's work and thus the value of Yorkminster Park's ongoing contribution?



Leanne Friesen with delegates to the All Hands on Deck CBOQ Assembly.

CBOQ is a family of churches, transformed by Christ, revealing God's Kingdom. We come together as CBOQ for support, encouragement and common mission because we are able to do things together that benefit all our churches.

Practically, this includes important processes like ordination and support for pastors (as well as pension and benefit plans), treasurer's workshops, certificate loans, mortgages and conflict mediation when needed.

We provide grant funding for missional initiatives and develop church planters, host youth retreats and summer camps, and build up local church leaderships through educational opportunities like our Lay Pastors Training Certificate. We are a hub of connection that creates relational webs of church support.

I believe these connections are essential for healthy churches. When Yorkminster contributes to CBOQ, you contribute to Kingdom work that blesses churches all over Ontario and Quebec, while also ensuring your own church has critical support when needed.

What do we need to pray for CBOQ?

CBOQ is a diverse body of nearly 300 churches all over Ontario and Quebec. Please pray for all our churches, that they would be able to live into the mission God has set for them in their communities. In practical ways, please also pray for:

- ➔ Churches looking for pastors, amidst a surge of pastor retirements and lessening numbers of new pastors.
- ➔ Our staff tirelessly serving in the many facets of CBOQ ministry.
- ➔ For renewed connection between churches that have felt isolated.
- ➔ A sense of common vision and purpose.
- ➔ Discernment, clarity, grace, and courage as we navigate our challenges and differences.

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MISSION UPDATE (continued)

CBOQ's annual assembly was called All Hands on Deck and was held in June. What were the key takeaways?

This year's Assembly, our annual gatherings of CBOQ churches, was an exciting gathering, with a surge of over 500 registrants joining us to seek God's will together.

I have heard many delegates say that their main take away from Assembly this year was: "God is working in CBOQ." We heard stories of God calling pastors to us from around the world, churches baptizing hundreds of new believers, and small faithful churches seeking to serve God amidst change and challenge. My key takeaway was that there is life and hope in CBOQ. God is with us!

As we move into the future, we must continue to connect to and support each other, taking time to listen and learn from this year. That we understand each other as we move forward "With All Hands on Deck" to fulfill God's purposes for us.

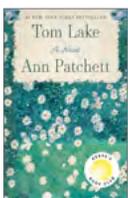
YPBC LIFE GROUP **BOOK CLUB**

ARE YOU A READER?

Do you like to discuss books that you have read? Then this group is for you.

3rd Tuesday of each month from September 2024 to June 2025

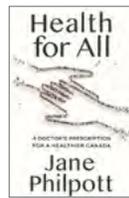
7:30- 8:30 p.m. | Zoom Only (no December meeting)



Sept 17



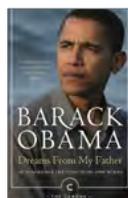
Oct 15



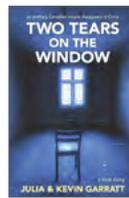
Nov 19



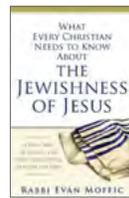
Jan 21



Feb 18



Mar 18



Apr 15



May 20



Jun 18

The complete book list is available on tables in the narthex and centre hall, or online: bit.ly/3WF7Rq9



For more information and to register, contact the church office at office@yorkminsterpark.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Angel Sajjad

Angel and her family have been coming to YPBC for many years. They came here as refugees and have been faithful in attending Sunday worship and are involved in Family Ministries.

Angel loves attending DOXA Youth Bible Study and participating in Faith discussions. She also attends the weekly Family Ministry Zoom time and is always eager to learn scripture and apply God's word to her life and has gifts of prayer and faith. Angel enjoyed attending last winter's CBOQ Youth Retreat. She was delighted to be baptized this past June and share her faith to all.



Azaliya Munawa

Azaliya has been attending our church with her family since 2021. They were forced to leave their homeland Pakistan due to threats against them because of their Christian faith.

Azaliya is a part of Family Ministries, and she attends DOXA Youth. She also uses her creative gifts to support Family Ministries with her artwork and assists the kindergarten leader by volunteering weekly. This past year, Azaliya expressed a deep interest in getting baptized and publicly declared her faith in June. Azaliya drew a picture of Jesus on the cross for a special Easter event and this is used on one of Family Ministries greeting cards.

She will continue serving in Family Ministries and attend high school here in Toronto.



Isaac Melsan

In November 2023 Isaac and his family started attending YPBC. He has been a constant support to Family Ministries and a volunteer for our DOXA Youth.

Isaac attended both CBOQ winter retreats and it was a blessing to have him go as a youth volunteer. Isaac has a love for God and others and was eager to be baptized. He has gifts of discernment and leadership and we recently brought him on board the Family Ministry Team as our new Youth Ministry Assistant.

Isaac is in his 2nd year at the University of Toronto and eager to serve in a part-time position here at YPBC. We are excited to see how God continues to work through Isaac and with our youth.



Joshua Jair

Joshua and his family have been coming to YPBC for the past 2-3 years. They are faithful attenders and love the Lord. Joshua is a part of Family Ministries and attends the weekly Family Ministry Zoom time. He enjoys drawing faith-related pictures, memorizing scripture and engaging in discussion about God. Joshua was grateful to be baptized this past June because He loves Jesus and wants to share the gospel with others.



Philip Poca

Philip and his family are a part of Family Ministries here at YPBC. He has been attending our church since he was a child. He recently graduated from high school. Philip enjoys coming to Family

Continued on page 7

NEW MEMBERS (continued)

Ministries and participating in DOXA Youth Bible Study. He is a caring teenager and enjoys volunteering for special events like cookie baking for OOTC and collecting donations for the COTH Foodbank. He would like to continue volunteering. Philip loves God and was enthusiastic about declaring his faith to all by being baptized in June.



Ren Nguyen-Poon

Ren is an active member of our Family Ministries, She grew up in a Christian home here in Toronto. Ren first came to YPBC a couple of years ago with her mother, meeting other youth and taking part in activities within Family Ministries such

as Bible Studies and youth events. She has an inquiring mind and giving spirit.

Ren has logged in a significant number of hours at YPBC in volunteer activities, which include making craft videos and artistic drawings and murals. She is also a valuable member of our Out of The Cold program. Outside of the church, Ren has assisted organizing teen focused events in the Reference Library and plans to take a civics and career course this summer before her Grade 10 program begins in September.

Ren was baptized on May 26th, 2024, with her family and friends present. It is such a pleasure to introduce Ren to our congregation and look forward to supporting her in her Christian Walk as a newly baptized member of our church.

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GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Six Wednesdays: October 23 - November 27, 2024 | 7:00 - 8:45pm Eglinton St. George's United Church, 35 Lytton Blvd.

\$25 per participant for the course materials

This education and support group is designed for those who are dealing with the death of a loved one. Taking a faith-based perspective, we will explore various aspects of grief, how grief affects one's emotions, behaviours, body, mind and spirit. We will look at tasks one can do and adjustments one can make to move through grief, and help find ways to reinvest in one's life in meaningful ways.

The content will be based on the materials of Dr. Bill Webster, Centre for the Grief Journey.

Leader: The Rev. Dr. Deborah Hart, Minister of Deer Park United Church, who has been facilitating grief support groups for more than 25 years.

Contact: Paula Willis for information or to register

Phone: 416-922-1240 Email: pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com



NEW MEMBERS (continued)

Sharon Zillmer

All of us hope to keep our brains healthy. Our quality of life depends upon it.

New YPBC member, Sharon Zillmer, understands this clearly. Sharon manages the *Firefly Foundation*, a small not-for-profit organization whose mission is to encourage young people to learn about the brain, and supports those with an interest in neuroscience.

This idea of being engaged “at the forefront” is not at all new for Sharon. Many years ago, she was working happily in the advertising industry when digital technology/media arrived one day like a tsunami.

Sharon responded by adapting. She evolved personally into something of a “digital pioneer” within the industry. She went on to travel Canada and the USA extensively, educating clients about the digital world now upon them. She helped them make it manageable.

More recently, another tsunami came rolling in. During COVID, Sharon found herself with both the time and inclination to return to a study of the Bible. Growing up here in Toronto, she had been baptized as a young person in the United Church.

During the pandemic, “connection” was scarce. Isolation had the upper hand. Participating in a Bible discussion group via ZOOM, Sharon saw a way to serve. She assisted people who needed help learning how to access and to use Zoom. This enabled the Bible discussion group to continue. For participants, the group became a meaningful way to remain connected.

Sharon feels drawn to YPBC and the special community she senses here. We are so glad that her spiritual journey has brought her among us. Sharon joins YPBC on the basis of Christian experience.

YORKMINSTER PARK

SPEAKERS SERIES

Continuing education lectures
by outstanding speakers on
topics of general interest

www.ypspeakersseries.com

Upcoming YPSS Presentations



Friday, October 25th 2024 | 7:00 pm

A lecture by Galen Weston
Chairman and CEO of George Weston
Limited Galen Weston on the Family
Business (Loblaws)



Friday November 8th 2024 | 7:00 pm

A lecture by R. H. Thomson
Actor and author R. H. Thomson on
his book, *By the Ghost Light: War,
Memory and Families*



Friday, November 29th 2024 | 7:00 pm

Author and lawyer Marsha Faubert
in conversation with historian
Christopher Moore about her book,
*Wanda's War: An Untold Story of
Nazi Europe, Forced Labour, and a
Canadian Immigration Scandal*



For the 2024-25 Season
lineup of lectures visit
YPSpeakersSeries.com



BIBLE STUDIES AND LIFE GROUPS

For more details visit www.yorkminsterpark.com

To register call the church office at 416-922-1167
or email Rev. Paula Willis at pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com



Mustard Seed Fellowship

**Sundays 10:00-10:45 a.m. | In Person Only
Fifth Floor Boardroom (502)**

Each member takes a turn to lead the study. The Holy Spirit opens our minds and deepens our faith in the process. If you would like to join a group whose purpose is to learn more about God and grow your faith in the Lord, we welcome you.

Leaders: Janet Kim and Brenda Lam



Berean Bible Study

**Sundays 10:00 a.m. | In Person and Online
Red Boardroom**

This Fall the Berean class continues lively explorations of some of the parables of Jesus. These stories reveal the nature of God's Kingdom and His gracious nature.

Leader: Richard Doust
Tech Assistant: Louise Bark



Women of the Word

Mondays 1:00 p.m. | Online Only

Topic: Women and Men in the Bible

Leader: Suzanne Wilkinson



Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Prayer Group

**Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. | In Person Only
Friendship Room**

Topic: Similarities and differences between the Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Church

Leader: The Rev. Paula Willis



Dorcas

**Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. | In Person Only
Youth Zone (508)**

If you enjoy knitting or crocheting or would love to learn, then join us for fun, fellowship, and an opportunity to bless city shelters, the Out of the Cold program, and other charities with your gifts and talents.

Leader: Heather Crawford

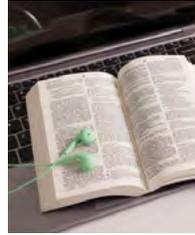


Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

**Tuesdays Monthly 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
In Person Only | Friendship Room**

If you are interested in knitting or crocheting, we invite you to join us for fellowship and of creating shawls given to people in need of comfort. If you are less experienced, assistance is available. Yarn and needles are also provided.

Leader: Rhoda Hill



Family Ministry Zoom Experiences

Tuesdays | Online Only

Youth Group experience Zoom

Tuesdays 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Family Ministry experience Zoom

Tuesdays 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Leader: Heather Mackey



YPBC Book Club

**Third Tuesday of each month from
September 2023 to June 2024**

7:30 to 8:30 p.m. | Online Only

(no December meeting)

Join us in our casual monthly get together to share your love of reading with like-minded individuals. At each meeting every participant is given an opportunity to tell the group their thoughts on the book, their likes, and dislikes, and / or how the book has touched them.

Reading lists can be found on tables in the narthex and centre hall, or visit

<https://bit.ly/3WF7Rq9> to download.

Leader: Denise Roeleveld



Morning Brew

**Wednesdays 7:00 a.m. | In Person Only
Friendship Room**

Topic: Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Leader: Stuart Campbell



Path Finder's Life Group

**First and Third Thursdays 7:00 - 9:00
Online Only**

Topic: The Epistle of Paul to the Romans

Leader: Suzanne Wilkinson



Thursday Night Bible Study

Thursdays 7:30 p.m. | Online Only

Topic: Focus on the Book of Acts

Leader: John Speller



Life Together Life Group

**Fridays 6:30 p.m. | In Person Only
Youth Zone (508)**

As a life group, we meet weekly to study God's word, pray for one another, and enjoy fellowship both within and outside the walls of the church, with mutual respect, discretion, and confidentiality. If you are seeking a family within the larger YP community, why not join us?



A Journey of Faith

By Aaron McSwain

I am a posthumous child. My father died two months before I was born. I was a result of an affair, a shame that would burden me in life. My mother never shared with me

the details of my father. Aside from his name, I had nothing to construct a vision of who he was. There were no photos, no memories, nothing to hold on to. Just a name, and a photocopy of an obituary, with no mention of me. This created identity issues, and a wound so deep it penetrated my soul. I didn't have the tools as a child to unpack these circumstances.

My family had their own trauma, invariably passed down to them, and they unknowingly passed it down to me. I didn't look like the other people in my family. By all accounts, I was much different. I thought, spoke, and acted quite differently than them. I felt like an outsider, I was an outsider.

We were poor. My mom worked odd jobs as she put herself through University. From an early age, I was left alone, doing my laundry and cooking dinner. All things a ten-year-old boy probably shouldn't have to worry about. I learned to be self-reliant. I didn't need anyone, I had me. If no one was going to protect me, I would be the one to do this.

As I grew into early adulthood, I acquired the skill-set of strength, I was strong minded and able bodied. These skills enabled me to hold on to the proverbial boat with a tighter grip. As the turbulence increased, so too did my strength. Eventually I got tired, the weight became

unmanageable, and I began to look outside for help; an alternative way of coping. I found some unhealthy coping strategies. I was able to numb my arms, so I didn't have to feel the weight, didn't have to feel the burden anymore.

Alcohol, drugs, anger, risky behaviour, fill in the blank with anything detrimental to self, and I have most likely done it. My conscience made it clear this strategy wasn't sustainable.

I found help through psychotherapy, and have been in and out of therapy for most of my adult life. Therapy helped to unpack my childhood, and sort things into appropriate columns, label what it was I had experienced and how and why I was coping this way. However, therapy wasn't capable of healing those deep wounds. I had new age labels, and I could identify triggers quickly, but the void was still there.

There was still something inside me indifferent enough, broken enough, angry enough, sad enough, not to care. A self-deprecating voice, louder than my conscience, berated me, 'keep going, nobody is interested.' I was unamenable to change, I had given myself permission to be the authority in my life. I was worshipping a creature, myself in the centre.

My coping mechanisms were self destructive, and turned me away from friends, family, and colleagues. On the surface, I pulled it off. I went to a fancy university, did quite well in school, and could put on a suit and talk the talk. I was living in complete darkness out in the open. I was so alone, and no one had a clue. Behind a curtain, I had become a drunk, having pushed everyone in my life to the fringes.

And in 2020, during the height of the pandemic, I heard His call. In His beautiful timing, His

Continued on page 7

CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE (continued)

love stooped down and reached my depths. He had my attention. He was waiting until I was ready to abandon ego, and self. His love so patient, He had waited all those years. He had me right where He commanded me, on my knees, at His feet, crying out for forgiveness. I confessed Jesus to be my Lord and asked for forgiveness. This moment was the beginning of my journey in faith, something I won't know the fullness of until my body has been redeemed.

Sobriety nudged me toward faith, faith moved me in the direction of self-acceptance, and self-acceptance led me to forgiveness. I had been holding on to something, unable to let go. The people close to me had hurt me; passed their trauma down. I began to bear their burden, moving towards it, not away from it, even when they refused to move an inch toward me. I was relentless. I refused to give up.

I had held a familial pain that had impaired my reason. But my healed heart knew what to do. My heart knew how to forgive. The heart speaks the language of love. And love forgives. Love is patient. love is kind, and love endures all hardships.

Jesus turned alcohol, drugs, anger, and intergenerational trauma into four years of sobriety a loving home, a wife, a son, and a business I can be proud of. When you see me on Sunday morning sitting in the fifth row – centre right, I come with one objective: to exalt Him. I march for Christ. He is my audience. I sing for Him. I pray to Him. I see Him in everyone here.

I rejoice in the opportunity to serve Him with you, to take the special gifts He has given me, and offer them back out of love. May we be armed with faith and winged by prayer, and to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, throughout all generations, forever and ever, Amen.



BEREAN BIBLE STUDY

Join us at 10:00 am on Sundays in the Red Board Room or on Zoom.

This Fall the Berean class continues lively explorations of some of the parables of Jesus. These stories reveal the nature of God's Kingdom and His gracious nature.

Leader: Richard Doust
Tech Assistant: Louise Bark

To learn more, or to register
office@yorkminsterpark.com

MUSTARD SEED FELLOWSHIP

Time: 10:00 am – 10:45 am Sundays
Venue: Rm 501 Church Boardroom

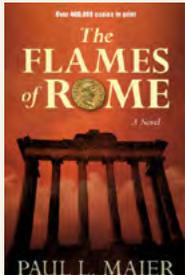
Each member takes a turn to lead the study. The Holy Spirit opens our minds and deepens our faith in the process. If you would like to join a group whose purpose is to learn more about God and grow your faith in the Lord, we welcome you.

Leaders: Janet Kim and Brenda Lam

To learn more, or to register
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CHECK OUT THE **GLADSTONE LIBRARY!**



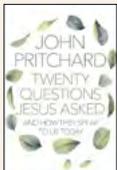
Book Review by Al Livy

The Flames of Rome

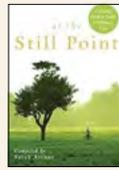
Paul L. Maier

This book follows the story of the family of Flavius Sabinus, Mayor of Rome under Emperor Nero, the story of Paul and his trial in the city, and the horrible persecution of those of the new faith of the Christians. The author – award-winning historian and best-selling author, Paul L. Maier – has created a style of documentary fiction, where he uses only historical people and events to bring to life first-century Rome. All the drama and tension of the political conflicts that precede and follow the Great Fire of Rome are here. A gripping story of pagans at their worst and Christians at their best. Readers won't want to put it down.

New Titles



**Twenty Questions
Jesus Asked:
And How
They Speak To
Us Today**
by John Pritchard



**At the Still Point:
A Literary Guide
to Prayer in
Ordinary Time**
by Sarah Arthur



**Act Fast: Spiritual
Practices For A
Climate in Crisis**
edited by
Alydia Smith



**The Chosen
Series 1. DVD**

The Gladstone Library is open before and after Sunday service.

Contact the library by calling 416-922-1167, extension 241,
or by email at library@yorkminsterpark.com.

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



Christian life and growth happens in community.

As a life group, we meet weekly to study God's word, pray for one another, and enjoy fellowship both within and outside the walls of the church, with mutual respect, discretion, and confidentiality. If you are seeking a family within the larger YP community, **why not join us?**

**Fridays 6:30 p.m. In Person Only
Youth Zone - Fifth Floor (508)**

OUT OF THE COLD REPORT

For over thirty-five years, the Yorkminster Park Out of the Cold ministry of hospitality has been welcoming guests and this season's program will be starting on **Wednesday, November 6, 2024**. While we are looking forward to serving food and providing overnight shelter to our neighbours, we do so sadly, knowing that there is still so much need in our community and city.

Many of us are so blessed: we have a roof over our heads, a good job, supportive friends and relatives, physical, mental, and emotional health, a sense of well-being (perhaps even joy), and a supportive church community. Yet so many have so little – last season, our numbers grew by about sixty percent, as we prepared **2900 dinners** and **take-away lunches** and provided **Presto tickets, gift cards**, and more than **730 shelter spaces** over a twenty-three week season.

It is sometimes difficult to discern the sufferings of others; many of our guests look just like us, and are happy for the meal and

conversation in spite of loneliness and poverty. We are grateful for every success. One of last season's guests was James, a person whose livelihood disappeared during COVID and who suddenly found himself without a home or way to regain his life. We were able to help him with food and shelter, and he received new glasses thanks to an eye clinic we held in the winter. James was able to find accommodation and employment. He thanked us for putting him back on the road to life, but we know the way had been prepared for him through God's grace.

Please consider joining us as a volunteer or supporting our ministry financially; most of all, please remember James, our other guests, and our volunteers in your prayers.

Email: ootc@yorkminsterpark.com

To donate: <https://bit.ly/3TSSNDL>

Yorkminster Park
Out of the Cold
Steering Committee



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OWN HAZEL REYES

Congratulations to the 2024 CBOQ youth Scholarship recipients!

A huge round of applause to Juliet, Solomon, Hazel, David, Amy, Lexa, and Meghan for pursuing post-secondary this year!

We pray that according to the riches of God's glory, He may grant that we may be strengthened in our inner being with power through His Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love (Ephesians 3:15-16).

Praise God for our church family, the body of Christ!

Throughout the summer, we were blessed to study the book of **Ephesians** and learn more about God's boundless love for us and the truths of our Christian faith. Placing our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit indwells within us and we begin the journey knowing that our identity and destiny is in Christ. We also learned the importance of living out our Christian walk with love, peace and purpose.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Sundays 9:45-10:15 am | Cameron Hall
Contact: Heather (Family Ministries)
hmackey@yorkminsterpark.com

Before our Worship Time on Sundays together, we lead a **Prayer Group** that was a gift to each of us. We studied God's word, shared how it is relevant to our lives and then spent time praying for one another. **We will continue meeting** every Sunday at 9:45am. All praise and glory to God!

Family Ministries hosted two different **Potluck Luncheons** to encourage fellowship together. What a joy it was to gather, share food, fun and friendships. We host Potluck Luncheons and dinners throughout the year and encourage all to join in. One of our summer luncheons, we also celebrated **Winston's 80th Birthday**.



We are super stoked about what God has in store for us this fall. We are excited to have **Isaac**, our new **Youth Ministry Assistant** on board our team. He has some fun youth nights planned and is eager to get to know each of the youth further and encourage faith growth and friendships. The first Youth Night is coming up on Friday, September 27th from 7-9pm at YPBC. We were sad to say goodbye to **Hazel**, our part-time **Family Ministry Intern**. She's heading to UofT to further her studies. We are happy to share that she will be staying on board our FM team as a volunteer.

We are blessed to have such a devoted crew of volunteers that serve in Family Ministries. They love the Lord and love His children and commit to teaching Bible Stories and Bible truths weekly.

Our Family Ministry Zoom Time will continue every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather, read scripture, engage in discussion, learn memory verses and pray together. It's also wonderful to get to know each other further and grow in our faith together.

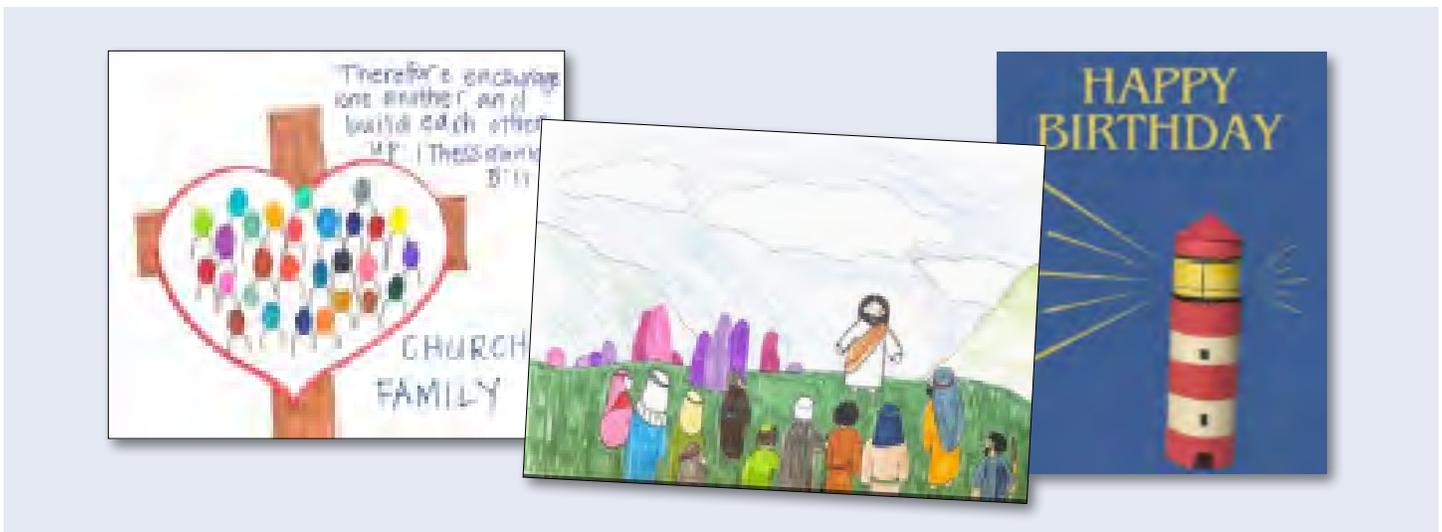
Our Family Ministry YouTube channel continues to be a blessing to our church family and outside of our church family. If you would like to subscribe, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/@familyministriesatypbc>

We recently started up a **Birthday Card Ministry** to bless all the children and youth of YPBC. We are thankful to God for dedicated volunteers (Ange & Nina) to write thoughtful and encouraging notes inside cards that our children/youth design. We hope these encouraging cards remind each child that they are gifts from the Lord. We also make cards for various seasons and use to send encouragement to many people.



We also had many youth volunteer over the summer to help paint Bible related murals to help enhance our Family Ministries. Take a look at two murals they did for our nursery room titled; "The Lord is my Shepherd".



Please stay tuned for upcoming events that include fellowship and worship opportunities over September and October as well as our Family Ministry Worship Service and **Potluck Dinner** happening on **Sunday, November 17th at 4:30pm**.

In Christ, Heather Mackey, Director of Family Ministries

REGISTER NOW | www.lesterrandall.com ►

THE
**LESTER
RANDALL**
PREACHING
FELLOWSHIP

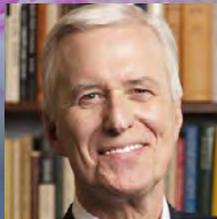
PREACHING IN THE NEW CREATION

OCTOBER 27TH TO OCTOBER 29TH, 2024
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



The Rev. Dr.
Lennett J. Anderson



The Rev. Dr.
M. Craig Barnes



Dr. Paula Gooder

If you've never considered going to the Lester Randall Preaching Festival (LRPF), perhaps you should.

Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship is an annual continuing education event for clergy consisting of two and a half days of lectures, workshops, private and public preaching events, sharing meals, networking, and fellowship – an amazing event not just for clergy, ***but for all who value quality preaching!***

We're honoured and excited to present keynote speakers **Lennett Anderson, M. Craig Barnes** and **Paula Gooder**, leaders in their respective pulpits. And there are also some familiar faces, including Emily Bisset, Karoline Lewis, Paul Scott Wilson and Donnie from Blazing Kitchens will be catering the meals.

Come, share the spirit of fellowship, excellence in preaching and teaching, and great food! We truly hope you will bless us with your presence and participation.

REGISTER NOW

Registration closes Tuesday, October 22nd at midnight.

“ The first two times I was invited to attend the LRPF I resisted because I am not a member of the clergy. However, as a result of some compassionate arm twisting, I accepted the third invitation and was blown away by the experience. I have now attended on four separate occasions.

From the first session I was welcomed by everyone with whom I interacted, and felt my thoughts and opinions were valued and appreciated.

Anyone interested in spiritual growth, and the opportunity to be present to the challenges of our brothers and sisters in the ministry should attend. I have always had a special place in my heart for individuals called to ministry. Now, I am blessed to better appreciate the challenges they face, and can keep them in prayer from a more informed position.

No arm twisting should be required to accept the invitation to attend this powerfully rewarding learning and fellowship opportunity!

– **Milton Fletcher**

UPDATE FROM YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

Michael J. B. Black

Garden Stories

September 14 – October 31, 2024



Summer Dance 1



Summer Dance 2



Garden Storm



Artist's Statement

I have been thinking a lot about gardens. Over the past few summers, for example, the amount of warmth and rain where I live contributed to fine gardening conditions, and everything has grown in profusion. But conditions were localized - elsewhere, climate change brought about record-breaking heat, wildfires, flooding and generalized catastrophic variations in the season. So even as I observed the bursts of colour and form in our own little border, they felt somehow tenuous and unstable, like a fine but undeserved gift that was awkwardly received. In general, gardens are redolent with symbolism in many traditions. As the nexus for creation stories or as a focus for earthly representations of a heavenly paradise, the rich associations connected with garden imagery reach across time and cultural specificity.

But there are ghosts in our gardens, too, in the way that gardens echo the history of humanity in the world. The cultivation of gardens often implies the desire to subdue and control. Despite everything, there is hope in gardens. I hope that these pictures embody for others some of that hope and promise.

Michael J.B. Black graduated from the Ontario College of Art (now OCADU) in 1984, and holds a Doctorate in Education from the University of Toronto. Michael has shown his work in Toronto, Hamilton, Charlottetown, Creemore, Thornhill and Peterborough. His work is held in several private collections. Michael lives with his wife in Durham Region.

Gallery Hours:

Sunday: 10 am - 11 am and 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm | Saturday: Noon - 3 pm
Also available by appointment with the artist info@michaeljbblack.com
or by calling the church office at 416-922-1167

[@michaeljbblack](https://www.instagram.com/michaeljbblack) | www.michaeljbblack.com | [@yorkminsterparkgallery](https://www.instagram.com/yorkminsterparkgallery)

PRUNING (PEOPLE) in the AUTUMN

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

– John 15:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

You should NOT prune in fall. Nothing, and no exceptions,” so says gardening expert Mike McGrath, author of *Mike McGrath’s Book of Compost*. While that may be true for *plants*, what about *people*? Can we “prune” ourselves in the autumn? I’ve been thinking about pruning of late – the literal and metaphoric varieties.

My 60+-year-old back garden grapevines have been so lacklustre this summer that I’ve gone and done the Mike-McGrath unthinkable: I pruned them now! I recklessly chopped and reveled in my cutting. Maybe a bit too much for, alas, I carelessly clipped some branches that were still bearing fruit. Oops Somebody, take those clippers away from her!

Did I *really* want to do *that* much pruning, or might something else have been stirring me to hack away? It has occurred to me that I may have been sublimating feelings that have been percolating about “pruning” my 28-year professional speaking career, to make room for what else could blossom if only I would take the time, make the space, and muster the courage. To that end, I’ve been steeped

in prayer and reflection, asking myself, and God: Is it time to *let go* of what’s (seemingly) *leaving* – surrender to the law of diminishing returns – and joyously and excitedly move towards what might come *next*?

Maybe it was the pandemic; maybe it was turning 65; maybe it’s just that I’ve been in the workforce since 1979; whatever “it” was/ is, I have been feeling it – an audit of the heart, as it were. A readiness to ask God to show me a new way, a new road... to break new ground... to soften my soul’s soil to prepare for new (spiritual) growth and (professional) opportunities. I’m not having a middle-age” crisis – at least I don’t think... unless I live until 130! So what am I having an “old-age” crisis? I have decided *not*, thanks to a recent episode of *The Crown* that stuck in my craw: Prince Philip’s mother shared, “Somewhere around 70 I realized that I’m now a spectator in life; not a participant.” Well, with respect Princess Alice, *forget that!* I figure God has granted us our *whole* lives to experience, participate, and contribute, in whatever way we want or are able.

Without finding ways to continue to exercise our God-blessed gifts and talents our *whole life long!* without participating and offering what we do have to share – whether it be simple, heartfelt Sunday morning smiles and warm greetings to fellow congregants, or shouldering the demands and leadership responsibilities of, e.g., chairing a YP board, a business operation, etc.), a premature anticlimax to life can easily taint and atrophy our third-act days. (And this is food for thought whether or not you’re anywhere *near beginning* your third act!)

So, regardless of age, now that the autumn’s here, I posit that it’s *good* to “prune.” Chop

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off the boring, the auto-pilot “stuff” that isn’t bearing proper fruit in your life anymore, and say “yes” to new invitations, new positions, new jobs, new activities, to making new friends (still!), taking on new tasks... Especially activities or tasks that scare you a tad, because, truly, if you earnestly *want* to take on that new activity, and all that’s stopping you is a bit of *fear*, trust that you *can* do it. Pray for God’s help – and maybe include this line from Heather (Mackey’s) prayer for Sept. 1, 2024: *May we trust You with all things and obey.*

Be willing to prune those brittle thoughts and feelings that might be hardening your soil. You have so much to give, share and offer. You know you do! Action is what defines us – makes us feel alive/a Participant, not a “Princess Alice-type” spectator.

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

– Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

– Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

Otherwise life is just a “rinse and repeat” existence, and I don’t think that is what God has in mind for us. Do you? It’s this mindset that’s led me to volunteer for Family Ministries since early 2024. And it’s my humble honour to continue to serve FM into this “new year,” too. Thanks to FM I’ve even learned how to make an iMovie, so that I can be part of our FM Video Leader Team,

-serving our YP children – creating scripture-related craft/activity-of-the-day videos, with all the technologically sophisticated “bells and whistles” ! I said yes to the invitation to join the video team because, out of sheer intimidation, my *first* instinct was to say “no way!” Just goes to show that even if you’re scared or think you *can’t*... you actually *can*. It turns out that you really *can* teach an “old dog” news tricks. Like so many of us say *after* we’ve accomplished something that we once thought difficult: *“If I can do it, anyone can!”*

Maybe for *you* it’s the challenge of serving on a new board this year, or your very first board. Maybe it’s auditioning for the choir; joining a YPBC group; helping with the *Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship Conference*; the *Out of The Cold Program*... So *many* ways to further blossom and grow, after a little personal people “pruning.” (Nice alliteration, eh? Beats “purple people eaters.!”)

One of my favourite food-for-thought challenges is to ask myself, and now I ask *you*, too: *When was the last time you did something for the first time?!* if that’s a head-scratcher – if you can’t quickly come up with an answer – it’s time to get “pruning” and take on something new this autumn to spur new growth.

September might not be the right time to prune (plants), but *I* figure it is the unofficial start to a “new year,” like a second spring, and pruning is encouraged then! The autumn brand of “new year” stirs a feeling of second renewal, as days get cooler; we (eventually) let go of summer and run *towards the autumn*, embracing all the richness that it brings for the eyes, heart, spirit, and soul. Amen to that.

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PRUNING PEOPLE (continued)

As for me, if called to continue in the vein in which I've professionally contributed for 28 years, I *will* humbly and joyfully answer and serve. But if God beckons in a new direction, I'm whole-heartedly ready to answer *that* call, too.

Meantime, I will pray (and perhaps this prayer will be useful to *you*, too, for the challenges that you may face this autumn):

Dear Father God, when I am uncertain about what I should do, whether professionally or personally, show me the way.

When I don't know which way to turn, help me to be patient and know that You will reveal more to me when the time is right. Teach me and show me. I am ready to learn and answer. In everything I do, I ask you to guide me. I want to trust you and I ask that you protect me along the way.



Submitted by Nina Spencer. Motivational and Business Keynote Speaker, Speaker Coach, Speaker Book Coach and Book Project Manager, Radio Voiceover Artist, and Bestselling Author of Getting Passion Out of Your Profession, and A Time to Creep, A Time to Soar.

HOME, HARVEST AND HEALING

AUTUMN HYMN FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH 7:00 PM | IN PERSON
YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | 1585 YONGE STREET

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing • Come, Ye Thankful People, Come Praise and Thanksgiving • God, whose giving knows no ending Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (Lobe Den Herren) Great is Thy Faithfulness • Touch the Earth Lightly Let All Creation Dance • Go to the World

Yorkminster Park
BAPTIST CHURCH



Featuring the beautiful Celtic music of Iona Passage.

People are invited to come forward and light a small votive candle and place it on the table, inviting us to offer a prayer for a particular person for whom they are concerned.

If you are unable to attend, and would like us to light a candle and say a prayer for someone whose name is on your heart, please email the name to pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com

IN-PERSON ONLY

OUR NEXT SERVICES ARE:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 7:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 7:00 P.M.



UPDATE FROM YPBC BOARD OF MUSIC

Fall is a time of Thanksgiving at Yorkminster Park.



We give thanks for the excellent music which was provided during our summer services with the fine talents of our Associate Musician, Sharon Beckstead and a rotation of our choir soloists each Sunday. With thankfulness to God, we welcome back our Director of Music, William Maddox who encountered an unexpected medical situation during his vacation time. God is so Good and we thank Him for His hand of healing and restoration! Welcome back, Bill!



On Sunday, September 22, 12:30 p.m., we celebrated the 1st Anniversary of the Yorkminster Park Carillon with a recital by Andrea McCrady, the Dominion Carillonneur from the Peace Tower in Ottawa.

Sunday, September 29, 11:00 a.m. In addition to a brilliant concert, Andrea McCrady and Yorkminster Park carillonneur, Naoko Tsujita, lead a “Beginning Carillon” workshop for eight eager participants. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the session. The neighbours, maybe not so much

On Sunday, October 6, 7:00 p.m. our Iona Liturgy season begins with music by Iona Passage. And, October 20, 7:00 p.m., Sharon Beckstead will lead a Hymn Sing with an autumn theme – Home, Harvest and Healing.

The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America honours people and organizations that make outstanding contributions to their efforts. An honorary membership was conferred on Judy McDonald for her role in bringing the beautiful sound of the bells to Yorkminster Park.

YPBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

As women with a passion for serving God, we are a caring community who strive to be faithful, creative and accepting.

The Serving Revolution

Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of man has done. He came to serve, not be served - and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage.

- Matthew 20:26b-28 THE MESSAGE

The ones among you who would be great must humble themselves and serve all the other.

- Matthew 20: 26b First Nations Version (FNV)

The context for this beautiful teaching of Jesus is a very human scenario. It's all about a request that has been made by two of his disciples. Matthew records that it's James and John's mother doing the asking (Mark, in his Gospel names James and John directly). Either way, Jesus is being asked for a favour and his response is, "What can I do for you?" or "What do you want from me?" What they wanted was to be given places of high honour in God's Kingdom. Not surprisingly, this request triggered an angry response from the other 10 disciples who no doubt would have enjoyed the same power and prestige! Aware of this dissension brewing, Jesus called the disciples together and shared the profound truths about servanthood that have been recorded by Matthew and Mark.

We must not miss the revolutionary reality of this. Jesus, the Son of man, who came to serve, not to be served but to give away his life so we

could be free, is asking what he can do for us! He is inviting us to do the same.

Servanthood is a call from God that actually leads to our spiritual flourishing as it's germane to our identity as followers of Christ.

YPBC Women's Ministries As women with a passion for serving God, we are a caring community who strive to be faithful, creative and accepting. It calls us to use God's gifts of grace in the joy of serving so that others may flourish as well. "Will you let me be your servant?"... "let me be as Christ to you?" We pray this on many occasions when we sing Richard Gillard's, Servant Song based on the Matthew 20 passage.

In our Women's Ministries' communications, our mission statement is often quoted, proclaiming that "as women with a passion for serving God, we are a caring community who strive to be faithful, creative and accepting." It also states that we serve under the influence and empowerment of God's Spirit. This is humbling and in response we need to continually acknowledge our dependence on God as we also pray:

- ➔ *What is it that God is revealing to us?*
- ➔ *What do we need to change?*
- ➔ *How can we harness our efforts in the service of our mission and make a positive difference in women's lives?*
- ➔ *Encourage women to discover their full potential in Christ?*
- ➔ *What activities must we choose that make a lasting impact?*
- ➔ *How are we to be women of faith, "for such a time as this"?*

Continued on page 23

FALL SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday, October 13th, 11:00 a.m. | Thanksgiving Worship Service

Sunday, October 20th, 11:00 a.m. | Morning Worship Service, Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday, October 20th, 7:00 p.m. | Hymn Sing - Home, Harvest and Healing

Friday, October 25th, 7:00 p.m. | YP Speaker's Series featuring Galen Weston

Sunday, October 27th to Tuesday, October 29th | Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship
A continuing education event for clergy and all who value quality preaching.
To learn more or register visit www.lesterrandall.com

Sunday November 3rd, 11:00 a.m. | Morning Worship Service, Sacrament of Communion
7:00 p.m. | Iona Evening Worship

Friday, November 8th, 7:00 p.m. | Nine Sparrows Remembrance Day Concert, Sanctuary

Friday, November 8th, 7:00 p.m. | YP Speaker's Series featuring R.H. Thomson

Sunday, November 10th, **11:00 a.m.** | Remembrance Worship Service
7:00 p.m. | Choral Evensong

Sunday, November 17th, **11:00 a.m.** | Morning Worship Service
4:30 p.m. | Family Ministries Worship Service and Potluck Dinner

Sunday, November 24th, **11:00 a.m.** | Morning Worship Service
7:00 p.m. | Evening Worship Service, Sacrament of Communion

Friday, November 29th, **7:00 p.m.** | YP Speaker's Series featuring Marsha Faubert and Christopher Moore

This newsletter is published by:

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BAPTIST CHURCH

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