



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



FROM PETER'S PEN A COMMON FAITH

When our last newsletter was published at Christmas, Joe Biden was still the President of the United States. Needless to say, the world has changed dramatically since Donald

Trump's inauguration into the American presidency on January 20th. The Trump presidency has been marked by chaos; a chaos that is spreading around the world like a disease of misinformation, poverty and fear. As Christians, we believe that God is sovereign and that those who pursue evil will reap what they sow. So, we must hold to the truth and not give in to fear.

However, there are days when we can't help but feel grieved by the loss of a dear friend. The United States and Canada have shared not only the world's longest undefended border, but also a common faith in freedom, democracy and in making a difference around the world for the common good. But rather than entirely giving up on this friendship with our neighbour, we must pray. As the Canadian hymn writer, Joseph Scriven, put it, "Do your friends despise forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer. In his arms he'll take and shield thee. Thou wilt find a solace there."

At the same time let us also take comfort in the many voices from south of the border speaking out against their president and seeking to uphold the friendship between our countries. Let us remember

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*"Do your friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield thee.
Thou wilt find a solace there."*

Joseph Scriven
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



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that many Americans have already lost their jobs and livelihoods at the hands of their president and his chainsaw-wielding associate. Many of us have friends and family living south of the border and speaking out on our behalf. Let us include them in our prayers as well. Let us cling to the promise of Romans 8:28(ESV): *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose.*

We received a beautiful email recently from the Rev. Dr. Ray Kibler III, a Lutheran pastor in Claremont, California, who worships with us online each Sunday and often participates in mid-week online studies. We keep Ray in our prayers as he lives with a disabling condition which confines him to his residence.

Dear Peter and Dear Paula,

I join many others in grief that the president of my country has waged economic war upon your country by his levy of unfair tariffs. You know already that many of us Americans certainly did not vote for him, but tragically there were not enough of us to defeat him. It goes without saying that we must work and pray that his government will be overturned nearly four years from now.

I join many others in regret that countless citizens of your country will suffer from these unjust tariffs. We pray for you all. I ask that you pray for us, for it is the most disadvantaged and powerless citizens in our country who will suffer at the hands of the most advantaged and powerful.

*Know that you in Canada have good reason to disparage the United States these days, but I hope that you Canadians can term those Americans who called for “Make America Great Again” to be merely **some** Americans. I suggest that because one European leader recently made that gracious distinction. The current U.S. president’s actions do not represent – and do not have the support – of all Americans.*

May the Lord bless and protect us all.

Your brother in Christ, Ray

COMMUNION AT YORKMINSTER PARK

The Worship Committee and Board of Deacons have recently discussed how Communion will be served at Yorkminster Park. Two key matters were considered:

- whether to continue using pre-packaged elements or return to cubed bread and cups of juice, and
- whether to serve Communion at the 11 a.m. service from the Chancel Table rather than the lower table at the foot of the steps.

After the pandemic, pre-packaged wafers and juice were introduced for hygiene reasons. Upon review, it was agreed that neither method raises theological concerns within our Baptist tradition. The pre-packaged elements remain more sanitary, require less preparation, and reduce waste. Since the wafer and juice are packaged together, serving time is also shortened. Given these advantages, the Worship Committee and Board of Deacons have decided to continue their use.

Communion was moved to the lower table after lockdowns, initially for social distancing and later due to the Minister’s mobility issues following surgery. The question then arose whether to return to the Chancel Table. Neither location holds theological superiority. A table on the level of the people reflects Christ’s humility in taking on human form, while a raised table symbolizes His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Both have been consecrated for Communion – the lower table, now in the Friendship Room, formerly served at Park Road Baptist Church.

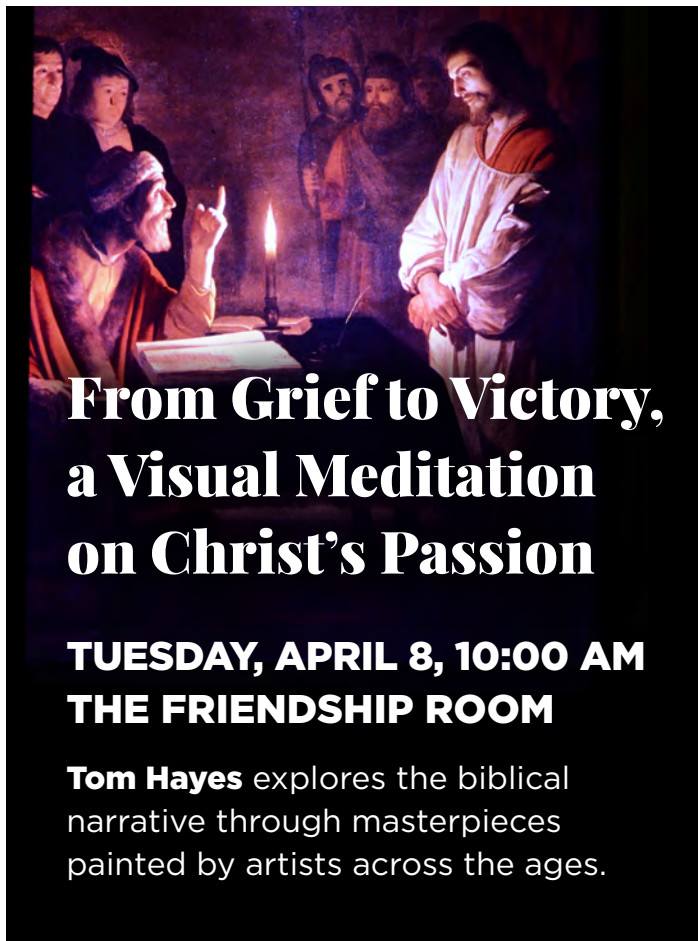
Practically speaking, the Chancel Table offers better sightlines, while the lower table is more accessible, requiring fewer Deacons to navigate the steps while carrying the elements. At its March meeting, the Board of Deacons decided that Communion at the 11 a.m. service will once again be served from the Chancel Table. The evening Communion will remain at the lower table, as has been the custom.



**IONA
PRAYER SERVICE**

**APRIL 6 • MAY 4 • JUNE 1
SUNDAYS AT 7:00 PM
IN PERSON**

Featuring music by Iona Passage. If you are unable to be with us, but would like us to light a candle and say a prayer for someone, email jpholmes@yorkminsterpark.com prior to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.




**From Grief to Victory,
a Visual Meditation
on Christ's Passion**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 10:00 AM
THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM**

Tom Hayes explores the biblical narrative through masterpieces painted by artists across the ages.

IN MEMORY



The Rev. Dr. Rex A. Mason, who served as Interim Minister at Yorkminster Park in 2000, a frequent guest preacher during the summer months, and the 1989 Lester Randall preacher, died on February 17th at the age of 98. As a young man Rex served in the Royal Navy towards the end of World War II and later studied English at Oxford under C.S. Lewis. Dr. Mason was a distinguished scholar of the Old Testament who taught at Regents College, Oxford and also held several pastorates in Baptist churches in England and Wales.

One of his former students, Dr. Paula Gooder, commented on his warmth, wisdom, and humour at our recent online Lenten session. She said that the students never wanted his classes to end. He and his wife, Audrey, celebrated more than 70 years of marriage prior to her death in 2023.

We remember him for his love of scripture, his kindness and caring and the healing balm of his laughter and humour. A memorial service will be held in late April at Sutton Baptist Church in the U.K.

In the middle of Covid lockdowns we had a visit from Rex via zoom. It can be viewed at <https://www.yorkminsterpark.com/page/166/windows-on-the-world--2020-2021/>

The interview with Rex is the third from the bottom of the page.

Blessings,
Peter Holmes



**FROM THE MINISTER
OF PASTORAL CARE
AND DISCIPLESHIP**

**ADVENT
REFLECTION**

It is hard to believe that a week has gone by since we had our wonderful Pastor's Pancake feast, but time is flying it seems, as quickly as the pancakes we all made flew off the griddles. It was a wonderful time, and I give thanks to Director of Family Ministries, Heather Mackey, for again organizing such a wonderful event. It was a joy for me to make pancakes with my daughter, even as I joyfully saw so many other families having fun together.

And the next day was Ash Wednesday and while it is indeed a day when we recall that from dust we are made and to dust we will return, it was also the day that our Lenten Bible study started. All the groups joined together for an online lecture with Dr. Paula Gooder, the author of our 2025 Lenten study book, *Let Me Go There: The Spirit of Lent*. If there is anyone who missed the lecture but would still like to view it, please contact me at pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com.

Among many other favourite times I have in the church calendar, the season of Lent holds a special place in my heart, because each year we join together as one for six weeks to study as a community. Each leader brings their own unique and valuable perspective and so even though we are studying the same book, every group is

different. Thank you to all our Lenten Leaders for their time, creativity, and leadership. Thank you to Brenda Lam, Liz Grossett, Rob Inman, Stuart Campbell, Peter Holmes, John Torrance, Dina Gilbert, John Speller and Janet Kim.

Some of our Lenten leaders also lead regular studies throughout the year. We are indeed a church that loves to explore the Word, a group of eager learners; something that Paula Gooder suggested in her book, is vital to our Christian walk.

Over the coming weeks we will be looking at several themes, including the wilderness and discipleship. In our opening study this week, I suggested that our Tuesday study group might like to imagine what it would be like to write their own Book of Psalms, remembering all the times when God has come to their rescue, made good on his promises, answered their prayers and sometimes not. Each of us has a part in the vital unfolding of the Kingdom. Part of that good work is remembering and giving witness to the many times God has met us and helped us in our times of peace and our times of trial, our times of comfort and those times when we have entered a wilderness season.

While it is a blessing to be in community and study together, in this season of Lent, as we prepare for Easter and deepen our relationship with God, if you are in need of support and prayer, email me at pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com or call 416-922-1240.

*The Rev. Paula Willis
Minster of Pastoral Care and Discipleship*





WALKING TOGETHER SATURDAY LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

During the Season of Lent we will be featuring guest writers each Saturday in our *Walking Together* online devotional. To subscribe, visit bit.ly/4blz1CE ▶

GUEST CONTRIBUTORS:

March 8: Rev. Bert Radford

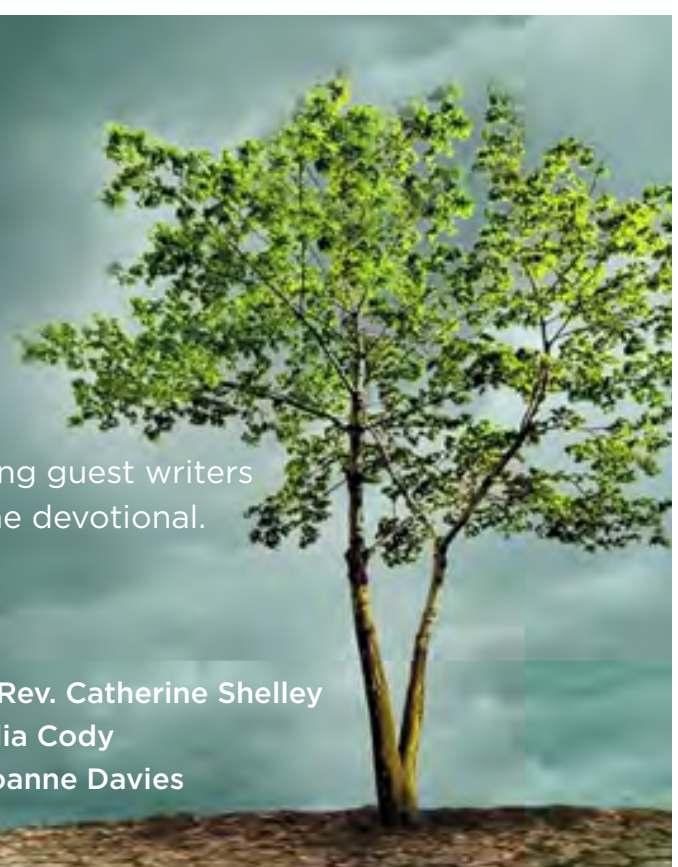
March 15: Rev. Dale Soble

March 22: Rev. Peter Babington

March 29: Rev. Catherine Shelley

April 5: Julia Cody

April 12: Joanne Davies



YPBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



On a Saturday in January, almost a hundred women gathered in Cameron Hall for our annual women's retreat, led by Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis. Our theme was based on her book, *Belonging – 5 Keys to Unlock Your Potential as a Disciple*, which offers an account, exclusive to the Gospel of John (4:1-42), of the longest conversation Jesus has with any character in the Gospels, a woman at a well. The length of Jesus' conversation with this unnamed, Samaritan woman, signals an important dialogue. It indicates that conversation is essential for an active and living faith, and we are meant to be in lifelong dialogue with Jesus, open to what he is revealing to us. The story also illustrates that faith and relationship take time.

The woman is a religious outsider living in Samaria, an area where Jews were not readily welcomed, and she is also a woman who will show us what it means to be a follower of Christ. Samaritans and Jews were considered enemies with a complex history of animosity.

This narrative intends to show us that this woman represents the world that God loves and that she is the least expected one to follow Jesus because she is a foreigner, shamed and shunned for her marital history. In John, discipleship is belonging, a reciprocal relationship that embraces mutual need and trust. God needs us to be witnesses in the world and we need Jesus.

The Samaritan woman's engaging story offers us **five elements** of discipleship to consider:

1 DISCOMFORT John 4:1-16

Jesus does not *have* to go through Samaria, geographically, to return to Galilee from Judea but he *has* to, theologically, because God loves the entire world (John 3:16). Jesus intentionally takes his disciples out of their comfort zone through Samaria to the town of Sychar, to show them what the world looks like and who the world is. He needs to find this woman to show his followers whom God truly loves as they will be called to do the same. To be a disciple is to be found where you least expect to be, and this is so for the woman at the well.

A second reason Jesus goes to Sychar is to find a witness in a new disciple. Jesus *has* to find this woman in order to fulfill John 3:16 and to anticipate his promise in John 10:16, that he will have other sheep, one flock with one shepherd. This story is the woman's own call to discipleship. Mutual need brings them to Jacob's well, considered a place of relationship, provision, connection, and betrothal. Jesus highlights the woman's loneliness, reflecting that she does not have a husband. It was in the bright light of noonday that she was open to a relationship with Him. In John, light and darkness indicate the status of one's relationship with Jesus and signify a person's recognition of and relationship with him. Jesus is the Light of the world that shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5). The woman is open, curious and willing to remain in conversation with Jesus even if it might expose who she truly is. We, too, need to go through Samaria to find ourselves and to be found by the one who loves us so much.

2 WONDER John 4: 7-15

Faith is not having all the answers. Jesus' disciples are in the city buying food and he and the woman are alone, having a conversation that society says they cannot have. Religious, familial and societal boundaries are being crossed because God so loves the world. She knows the conversation should not be happening and wonders how it is that this man, a Jew, is speaking to her. Jesus offers her living water and she notes that he does not have a bucket. She has to figure out where to find this water, water that keeps gushing up as a constant source of nourishment and life. Future life is right in front of her and it is in a relationship with Jesus. She comes to realize that Jesus has something she needs.

3 TRUST John 4: 6-24

The woman names her truth, "I have no husband." (In C1 Palestine, a woman would need to be married with children for survival, to have an heir to carry on the family name.) Jesus responds, "I know," with no blame, shame or judgment. At that time, a woman had little control over her marital status. Her husband divorced her, the primary reason being barrenness. She would have had a lot of self-blame and shame. She is likely living with her dead husband's brother in a levirate marriage to survive. She has suffered many losses, but Jesus knows and will not abandon her. He knows her plight not her sin. Sin in the gospel of John is separation from God, not having a relationship with him.

There is no forgiveness mentioned in this text. Jesus comes to restore a relationship with God. In those days, there was a common wondering, "Where is God?" The temple is destroyed, and God is now in Jesus. Jesus is offering an abundant life that no one else has given her. The woman sees Jesus as a prophet, a truth teller and this gets her to the next level of conversation.

She says, "Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain...but you are saying that the place where people must worship is Jerusalem." She is asking, "Where is my God?," the most important question that separated Samaritans and Jews. Jesus is saying, "I am your God." Faith equals trust and it is relationship. The woman is trusting Jesus with her truth and he will trust her with his.

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YPBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES (cont.)

4 LETTING GO John 4:25-30

In the fourth part of the conversation, she learns that worshipping God is not in a location – it is in Jesus. The woman knows that the Messiah is coming and that when he comes, he will proclaim all things. Jesus says, “I am He. He is saying to her “I am God”.

Jesus makes God known. John 1:18 says that Jesus is at the bosom of God revealing closeness, protection and sustenance. This is what belonging/discipleship looks like. The woman lets go of her water jug and goes into town to encourage people to, “Come and see a man who’s told me everything I have done.” Jesus has found her and sees in her, a witness.



Chris Cook

5 WITNESS John 4:31-42

The woman is leaning into the identity that she has been given, a witness for Jesus. She is embodying what it looks like to be a disciple, “Come and see... Could this man be the Christ?” On the lips of the Samaritan is the word, **Saviour**. Salvation is to be in an abiding relationship with Jesus and it is to be shared.

The five keys to unlocking our potential as disciples are not answers, but beginnings that offer possibility and promise. If Jesus can go to Samaria to find the woman at the well, Jesus will most certainly go wherever it takes to find us, God’s own beloved disciples who **belong** to him.

Submitted by Jonanne Fenton

CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE



A Journey of Faith: from Rio to Toronto

My name is Jackeline Riedstra (Nascimento), I was born in São Gonçalo, a city in Rio de Janeiro, the granddaughter of Portuguese immigrants who made their way to Brazil in 1961. Growing up, life was not always easy. My family had many challenges, including struggles with addiction. My childhood was marked by periods of sadness but also with a deep sense of faith that would shape the person I am today.

Several years ago, during a World Mission weekend at my church, I randomly picked a Canada flag magnet from a box of countries to pray for. I was a bit disappointed at first – hoping for a country I considered to have more “urgent” needs – but I placed the flag on my grandmother’s fridge and prayed.

My decision to study in Canada was completely unexpected. I had a list of countries to choose from and I was set on doing a six-month English program in Ireland, but God had other plans and at the last minute, I decided to come to Toronto. In 2018, I moved to Toronto to join an English program. I lived a very short distance away from Yorkminster Park. I had minimal to no command of the English language, but the church community

CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE (cont.)

warmly welcomed me. After four years of working supporting newcomers from around the world in Canada, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the struggles and triumphs of many immigrants. Through these experiences, I have gained a deep understanding of how challenging it can be for someone who has never been an immigrant to fully comprehend the profound significance of finding a place to belong – a place to call home.

Over the years, I have experienced personal and health challenges and like many newcomers felt unsure of where I truly belonged. But the faith and support I found at Yorkminster Park, especially through the Friday Life Group I joined in 2021, gave me the space to be myself and build friendships that I will forever take with me. This church has truly become my home away from home.

My years of church life in Brazil deepened my faith in God and I knew that my heart's desire was to serve in a local church. I never imagined that I would marry here and still be living in Canada. Looking back, I can honestly say that it was not by chance that I picked the Canadian flag.

For many immigrants, this sense of belonging remains a distant dream. I have also learned that when immigrants succeed, the entire society benefits. Their contributions bring diversity, new perspectives and unique talents that enrich the broader community, helping both the church and the nation to grow and flourish.

The warmth and generosity I found here combined with the opportunities to serve and grow have not only enriched my own life but also empowered me to contribute to the prosperity and vibrancy of this community. Six years ago, I walked through the doors of Yorkminster Park as a newcomer, uncertain of what to expect or how I would fit in. Today, I look back with gratitude on three incredible years serving on the Board of Mission, countless Sundays working

at the sound desk alongside the AV team, and another three years serving on the Board of Directors of CBWOQ - Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec.

These years have been marked by growth and countless moments of witnessing God's work in ways I never could have imagined. From uncertainty to a sense of purpose, I have seen firsthand how faith and community can transform lives – not just my own, but also the lives of those we serve together.

Thank you, Yorkminster Park, for allowing me to be a part of this Incredible community of faith.



A FLORAL CELEBRATION OF EASTER

Honor loved ones by donating to the Flower Fund for our Easter floral celebration.

To contribute, please complete a donation form, found on tables in the narthex and centre hall) and return it with your payment by mail, or drop it off at the church office.

You can also donate online at www.yorkminsterpark.com > GIVE.

Select Flower Fund from the dropdown menu and enter your dedication details ("In memory of" and "My name to appear as") in the optional message box.

Thank you for your support!

DEADLINE: SUNDAY, April 13, 2025
INDIVIDUAL MEMORIAL -
\$20 PER MEMORIAL

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Carolina Castellanos Contreras

Carolina Castellanos Contreras grew up in Columbia. She is the youngest child in a large and vibrant family. Her parents took great care to raise her in the Christian faith. Carolina says that her faith is very important to her. She is married and has been living in Canada for several years with her husband.

She was trained in pharmacy in Columbia. Carolina is very industrious; she studies and works simultaneously. Her ambition is to become a Registered Nurse and is presently enrolled in a Practical Nursing program in a community college.

It is very special when young people make a commitment to follow Christ and decide to participate in the life of our church. We are pleased to welcome Caroline to our congregation and family!



Carter Carpenter

Speak with him, and new church member Carter Carpenter will explain his Christian faith simply and with clarity – and in a manner beyond his years. He speaks of the peace that comes with his faith. He traces its formation to his family, and to input from infancy to the present day here at YPBC.

Carter participates in the YPBC family ministries program. He attended the Vacation Bible school and survived snowy weekend retreats amidst the blizzards of Muskoka, learning along with other YPBC youth.

Carter is a multi-talented athlete. He has decided to make baseball his personal focus and give serious attention to his role as a pitcher in a demanding elite league. Carter is thinking carefully about career directions and leaning toward one in business. Today, more than ever, he appreciates the wonderful sense of community he has experienced growing up here at YPBC. He notes with a smile: “You can talk to anybody here!” Carter, the YPBC congregation warmly welcomes you to church Membership.

Lisa Stahlschmidt

Imagine mountain climbing. You are upward bound on Mount Kilimanjaro. Suddenly you realize that you are alone, separated from your climbing party. This happened to Lisa Stahlschmidt. Before panic could set in, Lisa experienced something unforgettable. She literally heard an inner voice, coaxing her on. Listening, she kept moving and ultimately reconnected with her party.

Over the years Lisa has often attended services at YPBC and decided it is time to become a member. She says that she experiences a wonderful sense of tranquility here.

Before coming to Canada, Lisa lived briefly in the UK. Toronto has been Lisa’s home for the last 35 years. She was born in Hamburg, Germany. Where she grew up in the Lutheran church.

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NEW MEMBERS (cont.)



(Lisa right) with Mount Kilimanjaro climbing party

After completing a Physician's Assistant Diploma, Lisa worked in Germany in both hospital settings and private practices, with a focus on the operation of medical diagnostic and laboratory equipment. Lisa continued her education here and earned a B.A. from the University of Toronto, and a Diploma in Early Childhood Education.

Lisa has travelled to Tanzania, Europe North America and China. She says her joy is to experience the customs and culture of the people. Lisa is accepted into YPBC membership based on Christian experience.



James and Suma Amanchi

Strong, happy families are no accident. They only take shape when committed parents carefully build them up each day. James and Suma are just such parents. The broad, engaging smiles on their sons' faces are testament to this. YPBC is blessed to welcome James and Suma Amanchi and their three sons as new church members.

James and Suma brought their family to Toronto from India several years ago. James, a software engineer, was transferred here by his company. A neighbor here pointed them to YPBC.

The family has been attending services at YPBC over time. In her native India, Suma grew up in a Christian family belonging to the Church of South India. Today, Suma supervises the lunchroom at her boys' school. James, for his part, has had an experience of conversion to Christianity since coming to Canada. Suma and James have three sons Kevin, 11, Richard, 10 and Satvick, 18 months. The older sons, Kevin and Richard, enjoy at-home bible study, often on their own. They also attend the Tuesday evening Family Ministry meeting. Both are excellent soccer players, among the best at their school. Kevin likes the changing Seasons. He has taken to skiing. He also likes his school and chatting with schoolmates during breaks. Richard notes many things he likes about Canada, the respect shown to students and employees and the good healthcare system. Suma, James and family, it has been a blessing to have you with us at YPBC. All of us now extend our further welcome to you as fellow church members. We feel glad, just seeing the fine family you two are raising together.

MISSIONS UPDATE

Join Us in the Fight Against Food Insecurity!

On January 27th, Mayor Olivia Chow declared a **Food Security Crisis** in Toronto. More than 10% of Torontonians rely on food banks, facing a daily struggle to feed their families and keep a roof over their heads.

You can make a difference.

YORKMINSTER PARK



Daily Bread
Food Bank

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD

191 NEW TORONTO STREET
ETOBICOKE

WE NEED 60 VOLUNTEERS!

This is an incredible opportunity to take action, learn, and support those in need.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Help sort donated food
- Learn about the roots of food insecurity and its impact on individuals and families
- Hear about initiatives aimed at tackling this growing crisis
- Make new friends along the way!

SIGN UP TODAY!

Support the Daily Bread Food Bank.
Email Rev. Paula Willis at
pwillis@yorkminsterpark.ca



Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels:

Serving Our Community since 1966



Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels is dedicated to delivering nutritious meals and safety checks to seniors and those in need in our community. With the capacity to serve **50 additional clients** and provide **2,500 more meals**, we are committed to expanding our impact. In addition to hot and frozen meals, we offer fresh fruit and cheese weekly, a unique aspect of our program.

We also foster meaningful connections by partnering with local schools to provide weekly baked goods, letters, and holiday gifts to our clients. As we continue to grow, we are seeking passionate individuals to join our Board of Directors. Particularly a Treasurer to help oversee our financial stewardship.

If you are interested in supporting our vital mission as a volunteer or if you know someone who could benefit from our meal service please reach out to us at info@ypmealsonwheels.com or call 416-482-0549.

Those interested in joining the Board can contact Daniela Zanini, Chair of the Board, at 416-566-2644.

Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels
1585 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont. M4T 1Z9
416-482-0549 | ypmealsonwheels.com

A PROFILE IN SERVICE: TOM HAYES



When you see YPBC's **Tom Hayes** in church you are looking at one of our most recent 90-year-olds. You wouldn't know it. His energy and good humour are contagious. Both these attributes served him well as a dedicated Meals on Wheels (MOW) volunteer for over 25 years. In addition to essential meals, Tom delivered a daily serving of dignity and humanity to clients around Toronto.

MOW is a city-wide food program that helps meet the needs of those with food insecurities. These include seniors, homebound clients with disabilities, or anyone who finds themselves unable to meet the demands of daily meal preparation.

Tom started in 1995. In conversation Tom highlights the role as one who provides meals, but also basic social contact. "We are often the only opportunity these amazing people have for social interaction," Tom's done daily and weekly wellness checks. He has been called to be a handyman. Smiling, he notes, "I have even been asked to change lightbulbs!"

During his volunteer years Tom has seen the program evolve. "Our meals started with soup being made in large vats, then

we transferred the soup into Thermoses to be delivered." MOW now offers clients fresh and frozen meals to meet their dietary needs. Meals also cater to any food allergies they may have.

We asked Tom for insight for a new follower of Christ, one seeking to serve others. He replied "Christ commands us to be in service to others. And Mother Teresa said, 'The happiest among you will be those who serve others.' I have found that to be very true!"

YORKMINSTER PARK

SPEAKERS SERIES

Continuing education lectures
by outstanding speakers on
topics of general interest

www.ypspeakersseries.com

Upcoming YPSS Presentations

Friday, April 4, 2025 | 7 pm

The Lives of Writers

Eleanor Wachtel

*CBC Broadcaster and
Literary Interviewer*

Eleanor Wachtel will illuminate the relationship between writers, their work and their audience.

Friday, May 2, 2025 | 7 pm

Joseph Stalin and the Origins and Legacy of Stalinism

Tracy McDonald

*Professor of Russian History,
McMaster University*

This lecture examines how historians have debated the origins of Stalinism and the legacy of Stalinism after his death.

Friday, June 6, 2025 | 7 pm

Agatha Christie and Archaeology

Dr. Amy Barron

Canadian Archaeologist

Learn how Agatha Christie and Archaeology were connected. Dr. Barron will discuss Christie's life, travels, and the fabulous ancient sites whose mysteries she helped uncover.

The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the core foundation of the Gospel message.

Without the resurrection, our preaching is useless and so is our faith (1 Corinthians 15:14). Family Ministries has been studying 1 Corinthians and we have been richly blessed by God’s word with Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth. Recently, our focus learning and study has been on chapter 15. Paul says; “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Amen!

Chapter 15 was also my Dad’s favourite, and one that he continually wanted to discuss with me over a 2 year period of time leading up to his death. Our family enthusiastically honoured my Dad’s belief in Christ and His love for proclaiming the Good News message by having the passage engraved on his grave marker.



Father God WE pray the prayer that Paul asked the Ephesians to Pray for him; “Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.” Ephesians 6:19-20



Before our Worship Time on Sundays, we gather as a FM team for **Leader Prayer Time**. We eagerly meet to study God’s word, discuss how it is relevant to our lives and then spend time praying. We meet every Sunday before the 11:00 am service. This has been a blessed time of learning and faith growth along with helping us prepare our hearts for worship and teach the lesson with the children and youth.

Praise God that our Family Ministry team continues to grow and strengthen. We added **7 volunteers** to our team by Christmas and recently, brought on more help with our **growing ministry**:

- ➔ Malcom (joined our FM Band and plays guitar and keys)
- ➔ Patricia (joined our FM Team as a helper)
- ➔ Madge (along with serving in our nursery, joined our birthday card ministry)



Our Tuesday **Family Ministry Zoom Time** continues to be a blessing for all who partake. We faithfully meet every week to study God's Word, the weekly lesson, engage in a discussion and activity related to the lesson and then close in prayer. We especially love that there is a wide range of ages that join us, supporting our intergenerational goals of fellowship, worship and mentorship.



We continue to give thanks to God for the blessing of our **devoted crew of volunteers** that serve in Family Ministries. They love the Lord and love His children and youth and commit to teaching Bible Stories, Bible truths and encouraging a personal relationship with Jesus weekly.



Our Family Ministry YouTube channel continues to be a blessing to our church family and outside of our church family. We have **593 Subscribers** and viewers in Indonesia, Australia and all over Canada. If you would like to subscribe, go to <http://www.youtube.com/@familyministriesatypbc>



RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR YOUTH...

We loved the worship and praise songs and learning more about the story of Abraham and Sarah!

So much fun tubing! Karaoke too!

The final session when we went up to the stage to worship with the band was one of the greatest feelings ever!!

Blizzard was really fun. We played games, made friends and most important of all, learned about God.

I really enjoyed the sermons and songs!!

Loved being with all the youth!



Our DOXA Youth experienced fun, worship, and learning God's Word at CBOQ's Avalanche and Blizzard Youth Retreats!!!





GOD USES ALL MEDIA – EVEN RADIO

I don't always remember to *slow down* enough, *observe* keenly enough, *look hard* enough, *hear intently* enough, to experience our Lord at work *when he's right in front of me*. I could do better. But I comfort myself that even Mary Magdalene looked up on that first Easter morning, saw Jesus there, and mistakenly thought He was the gardener. (John 20:15) "The Lord works in mysterious ways." We've heard that phrase all our lives, but you won't find this passage in scripture. It's a misquote from an English hymn written by William Cowper in 1773.

The actual quote was, "God moves in a mysterious way," (with guesswork that this lyric was drawn from Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV): "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

We know that God isn't *just* in His heaven, but *everywhere*... in our day-to-day, earthly experiences... in nature, our workplaces, our homes, communities, our hearts... *and in music!* And, yes, even oftentimes hiding between the lines of pop-culture tunes.

I believe that all of those gobsmackingly "serendipitous" events that happen to us aren't gobsmacking events at all, but, rather GOD-smacking ones! "Smacking" us with

loving "wake up" nudges to *pay attention; be aware; be ready!* Well God smacked *me* with one of those experiences the other day and there just might be something in my tale for you to apply and appreciate in *your* life, too.

A little background

The television was always on at my childhood home – from the moment my parents arrived from work, until bedtime. Even after lights out for *me*, I could hear the intro music to programs like *Bonanza* and *Mission Impossible*, *Don Messer's Jubilee*, *The Tommy Hunter Show*, and even sometimes *Juliette* right after the Saturday night Maple Leafs game, wafting up the stairwell from our old black-and-white Marconi. Lots of TV sounds in my home back then, *but never on a Sunday*. *Sunday* was for church in the morning, and LPs played on my parents' pride-and-joy Electrohome hi-fi stereo all afternoon (until time for *Walt Disney*, and *Ed Sullivan*, that is).

They played everything from Tchaikovsky, to Wagner, Handel and Mozart, to Glenn Miller, Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians, Peter Duchin, Roger Williams, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole and Duke Ellington, to Engelbert Humperdinck (*that* surname always made me giggle), Connie Francis, Dinah Shore, Doris Day, Bert Kempferdt, and Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass. Whew! and, of course Broadway show tunes! Broadway musicals aplenty – *South Pacific*, *Carousel*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Music Man*, *Oklahoma...* and Glen Campbell, too. Oh, how my mother loved Glen Campbell!

Many of these may seem like pop-culture melodies, without spiritual depth, but heard with a *different* ear, many pop-culture songs can be repurposed as faith-based music of praise and glory. Like the 1992 comedy movie, *Sister Act*, illustrated: 60's songs like Mary Wells', *My Guy*, Aretha Franklin's, *Rescue*

Me, Edwin Hawkins Singers', *Oh Happy Day*, and Peggy March's, *I Will Follow Him*, were all credibly sung in this flick, by nuns, about Jesus! Then there was Norman Greenbaum's, *Spirit in the Sky*, Tommy James & The Shondells' *Sweet Cheery Wine* ("To save us, He gave us sweet cheery wine; so very fine"). And plenty more in the 70s: *Jesus Christ Super Star*, *I Don't Know How to Love Him (Jesus)*, *Put Your Hand in the Hand of the Man (From Galilee)*... thinking right now of some I've missed???

But I digress. Back to Glen Campbell. Well, sort of... But I'm getting there, I promise. A few Sundays ago, our dear Family Ministries Director, Heather (Mackey), asked us (the volunteer leadership team) to recall the *first* time we let Jesus into our heart. I reflected long and hard on her profound question and eventually pinpointed my answer, but the essence of her query stayed with me the rest of the day and into the next morning.

My balance-of-day reflection made me think deeply about my darling mother (who died 29 years ago). I went to sleep that night with my mummy vividly on my mind, and tenderly in my heart. *Still* missing her, after all this time.

The next morning, I awoke with Glen Campbell's song, *Wichita Lineman*, in my head! (Such a pretty tune, with great strings accompaniment.) How about that? A bit random, but I sat with it, with a smile. I went downstairs, put the kettle on, took my dog out back, and then turned on my mum's vintage radio in our little cottage at the foot of the yard (a warm place for me to hang on bitterly cold mornings, while my pup took care of his "morning constitutional". *What* song was playing? That song!!! It's from 1969!? What were the odds??? 1.) A coincidence? 2.) Seren- dipity? 3.) Or a *GOD-smack*? I say, "Door number three!" I was missing my mother poignantly that morning and then

this! And the lyric that bought on my "water works?" "*And I need you more than want you, and I want you for all time. And the Wichita Lineman is still on the line.*"

For the first moment, I repurposed this song to mean that my *mother* is "still on the line" for me anytime I want, if I would just "*call home.*" My mother was like my own "Wichita Lineman!" – still available for comfort and counsel. But then tears of joy and in-the-moment experience of *Jesus* in my heart *really* gushed when I realized that *these lines* spoke even more deeply to me than a message from my *mother*. My revelation? *Jesus* is my "Wichita Lineman!" If He can appear as a *Gardener*, then can He appear to us as a *Lineman*, subtly planted in a pop-culture song!

And the "Wichita Lineman" – is still on the line."
[Jesus is still on the line for us of all. Amen.]

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. - **Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)**

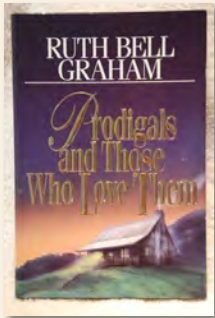
God uses all *mediums* and *media* to reach us – even the good old-fashioned radio, so keep a sharp look out, and cock a conscious ear and experience His glorious Word this spring. Everywhere.



Respectfully submitted by
Nina Spencer. Nina is a (Virtual
& In-Person) Motivational
Keynote Speaker, Speaker
Coach, Speaker Book Coach
and Book Project Manager,
Voiceover Artist, and Bestselling
Author of *Getting Passion Out
of Your Profession*, and *A Time
to Creep*, *A Time to Soar*.

CHECK OUT THE **GLADSTONE LIBRARY!**

Book review by Carol Morrison



Prodigals and Those Who Love Them

In **Ruth Bell Graham's**, *Prodigals and Those Who Love Them*, she shares her insights from her own personal experience.

After years of heartbreak – caused by two of her strong-willed children, she writes how, through it all, her faith is strengthened and her peace restored. Her story is powerful, and an encouragement to parents everywhere who are grieving and sadly waiting for a child to return home to faith.

YPBC Free Little Library



Part of the church's Strategic Plan was to establish a Free Little Library on the church grounds. A cabinet maker was commissioned to build it, and the fine looking structure went up this past fall.

After some teething pains and readjustments, the Little Library now features both Christian books and secular fiction and nonfiction for adults and children. It is heavily used and contributions to it are made by both the congregation and the neighbouring community.

The Gladstone Library is open before and after Sunday service.

Contact the library by calling 416-922-1167, ext. 241, or email, library@yorkminsterpark.com.
You can search the catalogue at: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/YPBlib>.

Passiontide **DEVOTION**

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 4:30 p.m.

*A choral expression of faith for
Holy Week and Easter.*

Presented by the Yorkminster Park Choir
with William Maddox, Organist and Director
and Sharon Beckstead, Associate Musician

**NINE SPARROWS ARTS FOUNDATION
PRESENTS**

THE GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT

Music and Readings for a Most Holy Day

SPECIAL GUESTS

Anne Lindsay, *Celtic Fiddle*
Sharlene Wallace, *Celtic Harp*

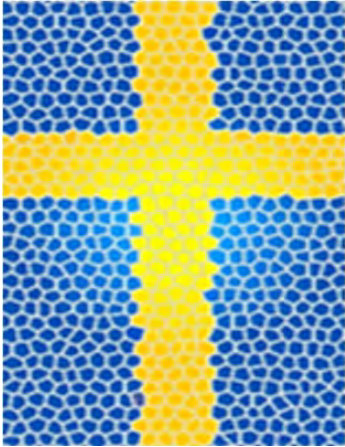
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025 | 4:00 PM

Churches of Sweden

Photography of Paul R. Hill

Apr 26 to June 26, 2025

Opening reception – Sunday, April 27, 12:30 – 2:00pm



Our travels in Sweden began with attendance at our daughter's wedding more than 20 years ago. The wedding was held at the Axberg Church in a small town in central Sweden. The style and architecture of this church were both unique and visually attractive. This whetted my appetite to see more of Sweden's churches. So, visits to churches have been on the agenda for each subsequent trip.



Habo Kyrkan, Habo

In early conversations with the wider Swedish family, we heard of the beauty of northern Sweden. Years later we took a motoring trip to the far north, along the Gulf of Bothnia on the Baltic Sea, to as far north as Abisko National Park (latitude 68.3). The trip included five days north of the Arctic Circle in Swedish Lapland: this, during the celebratory days of midsummer in latter part of June. Churches of Sweden photographic exhibition has images of churches from Lund in the south (30 km from Copenhagen, Denmark) to Kiruna in the north (some 200 km north of the Arctic Circle). It includes city and country churches, cathedrals and wooden chapels. Two of the churches have adjacent "Church Towns", a unique feature dating from the post-reformation period.



Riddarholmskyrkan, Stockholm

I got my first camera at age eight and over the years have sold several photographs, two of which have been featured on the covers (Toronto and Paris) of the Institute of Transportation Engineers International magazine Journal. Another of my interests is of a historical nature and I have had more than a dozen articles published in Generations, a publication of the New Brunswick Genealogical and Historical Society.

For nearly 14 years I was editor of the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church Newsletter.

Yorkminster Park Gallery Hours:

Sunday: 10 am - 11 am and 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm | Saturday: Noon - 3 pm
Also available by appointment by calling the church office at **416-922-1167**

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT YORKMINSTER PARK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH

MORNING SERVICE | 11:00 a.m. Sermon: Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

CHORAL PASSIONTIDE DEVOTION | 4:30 p.m.

The Yorkminster Park choir, directed by William Maddox and Sharon Beckstead, present a choral expression of faith.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH

EVENING SERVICE | 7:00 P.M.

This moving service will include readings, prayers, music, as well as Footwashing and the Sacrament of Communion. Homily: Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH

MORNING SERVICE | 11:00 A.M.

Following the Passion of Christ to the Cross, this service focusses on his words from the cross with scripture, poetry, prayers and music.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK | 12:30 P.M.

Together with our neighbouring churches we walk through the community stopping at each church for a brief service.

THE GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT | 4:00 P.M.

Music and Readings for a Most Holy Day. Readings, poetry and choral music featuring the Hedgerow Singers conducted by Eric Robertson. FREE Admission

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH

MORNING SERVICE | 11:00 A.M.

A Service of Prayer, Meditation and Music. Homily: Rev. Paula Willis

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH

EARLY MORNING SERVICE/ | 8:30 A.M.

Easter Communion. A joyful celebration of the resurrection with Easter readings/prayers and Communion (weather permitting) in the Meditation Circle

EASTER BREAKFAST | 9:00 A.M The Heritage Room – Everyone Welcome

EASTER WORSHIP | 11:00 A.M.

Worship featuring the choir and brass accompaniment to the great hymns of Easter.
Sermon: Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

Editor: Gwendolyn Ramsay
This newsletter is published by:

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