

Published by:

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The Cover - The Nativity Window (portion of), Birmingham Cathedral, designed by Edward Burne-Jones, installed by William Morris, 1887.

The secret of joy out of sorrow and gain out of loss is all there in the message of Christmas. - Rev. Bates Burt (see page 11)

Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send to: pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

The next newsletter will be published in March. The deadline for submissions will be announced.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and the best in 2017.

Paul R Hill



First and foremost, Merry Christmas. I thank all those who have been involved in getting things ready to make Christmas so special at YP. The music and decorations and the generous spirit of the

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people are all such a blessing and reach well beyond the walls of the church.

This fall we have been studying the book, *Just Walk Across the Room*, and at Christmas we celebrate God's wonderful love. For he did so much more than simply walk across the room. He crossed the universe and emptied himself to become as one of us in order to draw us back into his love and grace. Our calling is to walk across the room or the road in order to plant a seed, by offering others a simple invitation to church, or to offer a word of encouragement, or to let someone know we are praying for them. Christmas at YP is a wonderful time to extend such an invitation. I hope you will think seriously of who you might invite to one of these special services. I look forward to meeting your friends and family in the days ahead.

On another note, it was an honour to be named a Fellow of Acadia Divinity College and to share the honour with my friend and colleague, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Stirling, of Timothy Eaton Memorial United Church. The presentation was made by the Rev. Dr. Harry Gardner, President of Acadia Divinity College and the event was attended by the Yorkminster Park Board of Deacons and their spouses as well as by the senior board of Timothy Eaton Church. A part of me was embarrassed by the fuss and yet another part of me felt badly that the event was limited to the board of the church.

This appointment served to remind me how truly blessed I am in this life by the family I have, the schools I have attended, and by the church I serve.

Yorkminster Park has a long association with Acadia Divinity College dating back to the Kirkconnell family of Port Hope one of whose sons, Walter Allison Kirkconnell, joined Bloor Street Baptist when he embarked on his studies at McMaster, but soon after left to serve in World War I. Walter never returned and 100 years later we continue to remember him when his name is read each Remembrance Sunday.

Walter had a brother, Watson, who returned from the War and launched a successful academic career as a writer, poet and historian and later went on to serve as President of Acadia University from 1948 to 1964. Had Walter survived we can be assured the link to Acadia would have been even stronger.

However, the link did grow stronger when one of Yorkminster's young people, Bruce Matthews, a cousin of Fraser Fell, landed a position on the faculty of Acadia and progressed to become Dean of Students. But no less significant were the exchanges between the school and Yorkminster Park as Dr. Gladstone and Kerr Spiers both offered the prestigious Simpson Lectures at Acadia and Principal, Dr. Andrew MacRae made frequent visits to the Yorkminster Park pulpit as a guest preacher. All along the way young people from the church have occasionally chosen Acadia as a place of study and always it has deepened our connection. Currently, Jeffery Radford-Grant is in his second year of studies at Acadia University. I have been honoured to have this relationship continue through my friendship with both Andrew MacRae and today's Principal, Dr. Harry Gardner, who was our Holy Week preacher a few years ago. Perhaps the most important piece of the church's relationship with Acadia is the John Gladstone Chair of Preaching which is now fully funded.

I feel very strongly that the honour I have been given in my appointment as a Fellow is truly a tribute to the people of Yorkminster Park who work so hard and give so generously and have been patient and supportive of my ministry through the years. I thank God for the privilege of serving at Yorkminster Park and pray this honour will only deepen our commitments to one another and to Jesus Christ.

On yet another note, I have also accepted an invitation to serve as Chaplain of the **Chautauqua Institution** from July 2 - 8, 2017 on their magnificent grounds at Chautauqua, New York. This too is a great privilege and I invite you to consider joining me at this important centre of faith, culture and education. During this particular week there will be major theatre and opera presentation as well as a concert by a world renowned pianist.

Throughout each day there are opportunities to attend classes and lectures as well as to engage in numerous recreational activities. To learn more about Chautauqua or to make reservations, please go to <u>www.ciweb.org</u>.

But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves lest we miss the wonder of Advent and Christmas. When we think of Christmas there are certain comforting sounds and scents and event tastes that come to mind. For some it may be the sound of hearing your favourite carol being sung with the church packed and the congregation drowning out the organ. For another it may be the sound of the children and grandchildren all home for a few days. All of these are sacred, but so too is the silence that descends on the house when all are home and at last asleep on Christmas Eve. The scent of a fresh tree and of turkey in the oven also comfort me at Christmas as does the glow of flames dancing in the fireplace. It is a special time and all of these senses comfort me, but the wonder for me does not stop there. In fact it has barely started.

The wonder for me is that God left his familiar comforting home which was nothing less than heaven, to come to us as a helpless child only to find the doors closed and the night dark and cold, and the king jealous and hostile. The arms that held him were inexperienced and it must have been completely overwhelming for Mary and Joseph, yet Mary pondered it all the more. She knew this child was God's own self and she more than any knew it to be a gift of love - a love that all the darkness and hate and sin of this world could simply not extinguish. May this Christmas be a reminder to us all of that love which God continues to offer this world and may the love of Christ flow through all we do and say.

May all of our Christmases be filled with the wonder of the comforting and familiar sounds and scents of the season, but may it also bear witness to the wonder of the One who gave up all that and more up so that we might know in our hearts that there is so much more in store for those who open themselves to the love of Christ.

Merry Christmas Peter Holmes

Looking Forward to 2017 at YP Concerts with The Toronto Mendelssohn

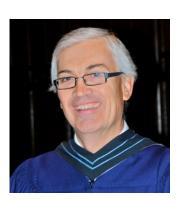
Choral Conductor's Symposium Concert - Saturday, January 28, 3 p.m. Free

Sing Joyfully - a concert of hymns and hymn singing with TMC and the YP Minster Singers with William Maddox at the organ and Peter Holmes as narrator. -Sat. March 4 at 4 p.m.

for tickets go to: <u>http://www.tmchoir.org/201617-</u> season/sing-joyfully/

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the Huddersfield Choral Society of England in concert at YP Sunday, June 4 mid afternoon - further details to be announced.

MUSING FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE



"When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world." – George Washington Carver "You are to distinguish between the holy and the

common..... (Leviticus

10:10)"

In the fall of 1980, I came to Toronto to study at seminary. I chose Wycliffe College, an Anglican school on the University of Toronto campus. Having grown up in a Baptist church in the Maritimes, this was a bit of a stretch for me. But it opened up a whole new world in terms of my theological education. In fact, I was exposed to a number of different denominations represented at the Toronto School of Theology. I grew to appreciate the beautifully worded liturgies of the Anglican tradition, as well as some of their pageantry. No one does church pomp and ceremony as well as our Anglican friends!

While at Wycliffe, I participated in the daily chapel times. These worship experiences introduced me to something that at the time was quite foreign to my church experience – *The Book of Common Prayer*. The traditional format of this book dates back to the 16^{th} century, and was the product of the English

Reformation following the break with the Roman Catholic Church. The version used for centuries (and still used in traditional Anglican services) was compiled and edited by Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Although this prayer book is largely unknown among the more evangelical churches, its language and phrases are not. If you have ever pledged in your wedding vows to be faithful to someone "till death do us part;" if you have ever buried a loved one and grieved hearing the words "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust;" if you have ever hoped for "peace in our time," then you have been shaped by the cadences and rhythms of *The Book of Common Prayer*.

During my first year at Yorkminster Park, one of our church members gave me a gift in the form of a book. This member has since died, and I had the privilege of taking part in his funeral. His gift was a book of prayers. But it was a rather unusual book, with this title: *A Book of Uncommon Prayer*. Of course, it was a take on the more famous *Book of Common Prayer*; but it serves as a reminder that we should never take prayer for granted. As Tennyson so aptly put it in his epic poem *Idylls of the King*: "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

Over the past few years, I have delighted in these prayers and used them as part of my devotional life and journey. They express a wonderful candour and honesty before God, and put into words many of the feelings we find hard to express when addressing the Almighty. These prayers use everyday language, and express the full gamut of human emotions. As such, they remind me a lot of the Book of Psalms in the Bible. The Psalmist has a wonderful way of expressing all of his feelings and offering them to God.

As we now enter the season of Advent, we begin this time of preparation for the coming of Christ. It strikes me that Christmas is anything but "common." It was in fact quite uncommon at the time. The circumstances of Christ's birth were very unusual. The Nativity includes a mixture of common and uncommon; of ordinary and miraculous; of humble humanity and divine intervention. As we enter this Christmas season, I would like to share part of a prayer from *A Book of Uncommon Prayer*. It is called simply "A Prayer For a Sunday in Advent": "He was the warm fire of your love in a winter world. He was your arm reached out to embrace the lost and the lonely, the lovable and the unlovable. And in remembering him, I recall my own identity as one who has taken his hand, warmed my heart at the fire of your love, entered the embrace of your concern. I am grateful. And then in your presence, O God, I ask myself if my gratitude spills over into other lives. I must confess I am not sure it does, at least not very often.

"So I pray this Advent that my remembering may become renewal, my recollection enlargement. Go with me as I move through these December days toward the Christmas morning where again the bluecold child will cry under the winter sky. I remember Jesus, O God, and in the memory is the mystery of love, your love and our love, all love divine and human. And the mystery is the memory of life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Kenneth G. Phifer, *A Book of Uncommon Prayer*)

May this Advent and Christmas season be anything but common for you, as you contemplate the love, grace and mystery which envelops this season.

Dale Rose

Minister of Pastoral Care

TRANSITIONS

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

Baptisms

Al Livy Monette Buck Scott Delaney

New Members

Sheila Alfred-McCracken Linda Mak Zach Dilworth Chris Milthorpe Raj Persad Robyn Elliott Steve Elliott

Deaths

David Caldwell Kathleen (Kay) Eason Shirley Vardon Deborah Ban

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind." John 1:4, NIV



From: 'First Look' Curriculum for December

I love Christmas! Every year I look forward to celebrating the birth of our Saviour: the lighting of candles, the singing of Christmas carols, the visits with friends and family and did I mention the singing!!!! And yet, every year, the busyness of the season challenges me and threatens to steal my joy. Jesus knows my struggle and meets me in my busyness and shines the Light of His Love toward joy. Each year, when I look, His loving Light points me to the children. The joy in their faces when they behold the Christmas trees in our sanctuary for the first time; when they pull wagons up and down the church aisles collecting gifts; of being part of the Christmas nativity service; in seeing the animals of Bethlehem in our park on Yonge Street and in sharing their Christmas wishes... By His grace and through the joy of the children my busyness, my frantic bustling, melts away. I feel the Light within leading me to Bethlehem once again, to the quiet starry night of my soul, where I encounter the Light of the One who is for us all- the Saviour of the world our Lord Jesus Christ.

"The light of the Christmas star to you – The warmth of home and hearth to you – The cheer and good will of friends to you – The hope of a childlike heart to you – The joy of a thousand angels to you – The love of the Son and God's peace to you." *An Irish Christmas Blessing*

Kelly

YPBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES..... YPBC WOMEN'S RETREAT - 2017 BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND.....

SISTER SUE MOSTELLER

We are delighted to have Sister Sue as our retreat facilitator once again this year. Sister Sue (Sisters of St. Joseph) has a background in teaching, a BA from the University of Toronto and extensive ministry within the L'Arche community of Daybreak in Toronto. For 40 years she lived with men and women with disabilities and she also served as Community Leader and the International Coordinator of L'Arche, founded by Jean Vanier. During this period she authored several books, the most recent being *Light Through the Crack* in which she tells her own story and those of the people she has known throughout her life. In November 2011, Tyndale University College and Seminary conferred on Sr. Sue, a Doctor of Divinity degree (honoris causa). In 2012 she rejoined her Sisters in a Toronto convent and works for the Henri Nouwen Legacy as a Trustee, a Society Member and with Henri's Archival Collection at the U of T, St. Michael's College. When Nouwen died in 1996, he entrusted Sue with his estate making her the literary executrix of his works. Sr. Sue also participated in the Lester Randall event this fall at YPBC.

WHEN: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2017 REGISTRATION 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

WHERE: THE MARRIOTT COURTYARD HOTEL, 475 YONGE ST.

FEE: \$55 Light refreshments and a hot lunch will be provided with gluten free and vegetarian options. Registration forms are available in the YPBC Centre Hall and Narthex. (No refunds due to hotel requirements.)

THEME: A DEEPER ENCOUNTER.... WITH THE GOD OF POSSIBILITIES

All women are warmly invited. We look forward to welcoming you and enjoying a spiritually enriching "day apart" with one another.

submitted by Jonanne Fenton



ARE BACK FOR ANOTHER SEASON OF CAMARADERIE & INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS!

We urge you to join us on the third Tuesday of every month from **12pm** until **2pm**. Visit over lunch and then listen as a fellow member or guest shares his/her life experiences in unique and wonderful ways. Bring your lunch, enjoy our desserts and tea, and at 1pm, listen, learn and question. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

OUR FALL/WINTER	GUEST LINE-UP:
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December 20	Richard Van Seters	Water, the Wine of Architecture	
January 17	Martin Abell	Life in the Political Arena	
February 21	Mystery Presenter	ystery Presenter Subject - TBA	
March 21	Corey Keeble	The Castles of Europe	
April 18	Morley Bedford	Planning Funerals	

CELEBRATE WITH US

Advent

& Christmas

^{at} Yorkminster Park Baptist Church



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 – ADVENT I 11:00 am Morning Worship 7:00 pm Choral Evensong

> SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 2:00 pm City TV Carol Sing

 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 – ADVENT II
 11:00 am Morning Worship (The Sacrament of Holy Communion)
 7:00 pm Iona Liturgies with Celtic music

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 – ADVENT III 11:00 am Morning Worship 4:30 pm Carols by Candlelight

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 11:00 am Service of Comfort and Hope

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 – ADVENT IV
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015 7:00 pm John McDermott Family Christmas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm Bethlehem on Yonge Family Service 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

11:00 am Worship Service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 11:15 pm Watchnight Service

NINE SPARROWS ARTS FOUNDATION

History

In 2016, Nine Sparrows Arts Foundation (9Sparrows) marked its 23rd

anniversary under artistic director, Eric Robertson. Since the inaugural performance of *Hasten* to Come Before Winter, Nine Sparrows Arts Foundation has presented a rich variety of inspirational concerts for Toronto audiences.

Over the years, the Foundation has presented international groups such as King's College Cambridge Choir, Clare College Singers and St. John's College Choir, as well as world-famous organists such as John Scott and Thomas Trotter. In addition to presenting concerts featuring solo performers, it has also presented

numerous inspirational concerts featuring local choirs along with artists such as NEXUS, the Gryphon Trio, Jim Galloway's Big Band (as part of the Toronto Jazz Festival), the Salvation Army Staff Band, the percussion ensemble NEXUS, the Toronto Symphony, the True North Brass, Colin Fox, and the Shakespearean actor, John Neville, O.B.E., O.C.

Annual Concerts

From its inception until 2008, 9Sparrows was involved in presenting the Toronto Star Christmas Concerts and in 2009 became involved in presenting the annual City Carol Sing at YMPB. 9Sparrows is thrilled to provide additional administrative and other "behind the scenes" support whenever it's needed!

9Sparrows has traditionally presented an annual *Good Friday Concert*. Set at 4pm on Good Friday, these sacred concerts of song and word are intended to not only provide an opportunity to reflect on the events of the day, but also to begin the process of looking forward to Easter Sunday.

Since 2010, 9Sparrows has presented an annual *Concert of Remembrance*. These concerts, which are scheduled for the first Friday or Saturday before November 11, feature music (solo; choral; instrumental) and readings (poetry; soldier diary

entries; letters home) designed to commemorate those who gave their lives for their country and to bring the experience of those who survived into sharper focus.



Lunchtime Chamber Music Series

In addition to its larger annual concerts, 9Sparrows has for many years presented *Lunchtime Chamber Music*, a weekly recital series that runs from early September until the end of June. In collaboration with both the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music Performance Department and the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music, the series not only features established artists, but many exciting emerging artists as well.

When 9Sparrows was looking for a new home for the series in 2014, YPBC opened its doors and since that time the weekly recitals have taken place at YPBC every Tuesday at 12:10pm, either in the sanctuary or in Cameron Hall.

If you have a chance, drop by to hear either established artists or rising stars perform. Each recital lasts for about forty minutes and admission is free.

About Our Name

When the Foundation moved from its first home, its board realized that a new name was needed. Since there were nine of us – eight Board members plus our Artist Director – and since we all believed that "His eye is on the sparrow (and He watches over me)", the name "Nine Sparrows Arts Foundation" came into being.

About Nine Sparrows Arts Foundation

Nine Sparrows Arts Foundation is a registered not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing the best of inspirational arts programming to Toronto audiences. It is governed by an elected volunteer board of directors and operates with the assistance of advisors from a variety of backgrounds. In order to reach the widest possible audience, all of our recitals and concerts are "Admission Free – Donations Welcome".

For ongoing information about Nine Sparrows Arts Foundation, please visit us at: <u>www.9sparrowsarts.org</u>.

Tuesday Lunchtime, 12:10 PM, Concerts at YPBC

December	13	Rising Stars	Flute
January	17 24	Sophia Anna Szolokay Gina Lee Angus Sinclair Rising Stars	Violin Piano Ragtime
February	14	Nadina Mackie Jackson Amina Hollaway Rising Stars Rising Stars	Basson Cello
March	14 21	Rising Stars Matthew Ross Rising Stars Rising Stars	Trumpet
April	4 18 25	Rising Stars	Clarinet Mezzo
May	2 9 16	Lyndsay Promane Jialiang Zhu Suhashini Arulanandam Asher Armstrong Aaron & Chris James Sophia Anna Szokolay Violin	Piano Violin Piano Piano & Flute
June	6 13 20	Allan Pulker Chirstoper Burton Stephen Buck	Flute Piano Tost Quartet

submitted by:

27 Reverb Brass

Colleen Burns President, Nine Sparrows Arts Foundation

Brass

THANK YOU FROM THE CHOIR

On November 6th, after the morning service, the choir and members of the congregation gathered in the Heritage Room at a reception of appreciation. The purpose was to thank the congregation for its support of the visit to the St. Paul's Cathedral last summer.

Also, the reception provided an opportunity to recognize the 20th anniversary of William Maddox at Yorkminster Park. The choir performed a rendition of Pachelbel's "Canon of Praise", with lyrics by Dawn King, to honour Mr. Maddox. It was originally presented to celebrate Bill's 10th anniversary at Yorkminster Park. The last three lines of the Canon reflect the choir's sentiments:

"Those who know William will claim his ever present help.

Oh thanks for Bill, for all he does to make this choir so blest.

Oh William Maddox, you are the very best!"

Marilyn Brady, one of the longest serving choir members, made a presentation to Bill on behalf of the choir.

Peter Holmes closed the event with comments on Bill's 20 years at Yorkminster Park. He highlighted Bill's reliability and professionalism; his knowledge related to organs and organ playing; and noted his many musical gifts.

submitted by Doug Bull



MEMBER NEWS

Norm Rattray, our longstanding member, has been recognized for his long involvement with Navigation Company ships; Muskoka Refletions, Summer, 2016.

He started working on Muskoka Steamships at age 15 and has performed 70 years of service. His family celebrated his 90th birthday this past summer. Norm, Congratulations and continued good health.

Lorraine Beech

Norman Rattray

A very special celebration took place aboard *RMS Seguun* on July 2nd. Former crew member Norm Rattray celebrated his 90th birthday with family and friends.

Norm has a long standing history with the Navigation Company ships. At 15 years of age, he was first employed as a deckhand on the *RMS Sagamo* in 1942. His job was purser on *RMS Seguun* in 1943, leading to position of First Mate where he supervised the deck hands. In 1944 he joined the Canadian navy, returning from WW II to work on the Islander ship in 1946. At times he also worked on both the *Cherokee* and *Ahmic* ships. Working on a total of five ships, he may have set the record for working on the most Muskoka Navigation ships.

MUSKOKA REFLECTIONS

Congratulations on your 90th birthday, Norm. We look forward to seeing you aboard Segwun for many years to come.



Norm at his 90th Birthday Party



Norm's Party



Purser Norm Rattray



Norm & Pheonix



"One of our church members here at Yorkminster Park was recently honoured by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. **Owen White** was elected as a Fellow of the Society at their recent meetings in Waterloo, Ontario, to recognize his contributions to the philatelic community. The photo is of Owen signing the Roll of Fellows in September. Congratulations, Owen, from all your friends at Yorkminster Park "

Dale Rose

SOME CHILDREN SEE HIM

Rev. Bates Burt served Episcopal Churches in Michigan in the first half of the 20th century. Each Christmas for nearly 20 years he composed and sent an original carol as a Christmas card to friends and parishioners. His son Alfred Burt became a talented musician and carried on the tradition of writing music for Christmas Carols. Several of his carols have been widely performed and recorded.

The carol *Some Children See Him* was written in 1951 and has been recorded by many well-known artists. The music written for the carol has an Application flavour and the words remind us that love, as seen in the birth of the baby Jesus, embraces all races.

Some Children See Him Wihla Hutson Alfred Burt The 1. Some chil-dren see him lil-y white! 6a - by Je - sus born this night. Some 2. Some chil-dren see him al-mond eyed, Sav-iour whom we kneel be-side. Some This Will 3. The chil-dren in each dif-frent place see the ba-by Je-sus' face Like chil-dren see him lil - y white With tress-es soft and fair. Some With skin of yel -low hue. And filled with ho -ly light chil-dren see him al - mond eyed, theirs, but bright with heav'n-ly grace, Some light. 0 chil-dren see him bronzed and brown, The Lord of heav'n to earth come down; Some chil-dren see him dark as they, Sweet Mar-y's Son to whom we pray; Some lay a-side each earth - ly thing, And with thy heart as of - fer - ing, Come With dark and heav-y chil-dren see him bronzed and brown, hair. And ah! they love him chil-dren see him dark as they, too! 'Tis love that's born to night! wor-ship now the in - fant King

YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

IN THE GALLERY - YPBC Art Committee is dedicated to giving as broad a spectrum of artwork as possible. Our 2017 schedule presents strong examples of differing materials, methods, subjects and approaches. We invite you to enjoy the breadth of expression, and we thank you for your continued support.

Jan 14-Feb16, reception: Sunday, Jan 15, 12:30-2pm – Ken McKenzie, architecture in black and white photography. Not just buildings or streetscapes, McKenzie searches out the abstract in facades, staircases and architectural elements. Design is key and the effect is dramatic.





Apr 1-Apr 27, reception: Sunday, Apr 2, 12:30-2pm – *Art of Robert Hinves -*

Robert Hinves has always had an interest in art and began formal training in his early teens. His passion has led him to scenes of rural Ontario in which he combines pen and ink with watercolour for highly textured portrayals of farms, woods, buildings and fields.

Feb 18-Mar 30, reception: Sunday, Feb 19, 12:30-2pm – Margaret Glew – *Initial Conditions*. Mixed media work in this exhibition returns to old ideas in a very literal and material way. Drawings made five years ago are torn up and repurposed as part of a new body of work. The older work becomes the impetus for a re-examination of both content and process, thus reinforcing the idea that there is no beginning and no end point. There is just the ebb and flow of the process itself.

