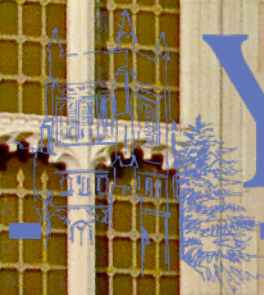


• GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL CREATION •



# YPBC NEWS

March 2017





Published by:

Yorkminster Park

Baptist Church

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## PETER'S PEN

### A Maundy Thursday Kind of Day

On Maunday Thursday we will go back to the Upper Room as we engage liturgically in both the washing of feet and the Sacrament of Communion, but I have had recent reminders that every day there is at least a little bit of Maundy Thursday unfolding around us.

I was in conversation with Marcus Gee of the Globe and Mail recently following up on a series of articles he had written about the Out of the Cold program at Yorkminster Park two years ago. Marcus was inquiring about one of the homeless people he had met and interviewed for one of his featured stories, because he has now been contacted by a woman searching for her father of the same name. She longs to reconnect with the father she has not seen since she was a child. Marcus sent along a picture the daughter has given to him in the hopes it will help to connect, but as many of the Out of the Cold staff pointed out, it is a picture of a much younger man and years of living on the street can age a person beyond recognition.

Many of the Dixon Hall staff who assist with our Out of the Cold program and other Out of the Cold programs in the city did however remember the man's name, but no one seems to have seen him for a while. And some of the homeless use names other than their own and sometimes they do so because they don't want to be found. Kim Aikenhead, who runs the foot spa at our Out of the Cold and, along with others, washes the feet of the homeless each week, remembers him best and could even see a resemblance between the photo and the man she remembered. Meanwhile the daughter's search goes on.

Word of the daughter's search was a powerful reminder that all of the homeless belong to the human family and often to someone who loves them and longs to reconnect with them, but above all to God who loves and treasures each one and to his Son, the Good Shepherd who will stop at nothing to bring God's children home.

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The Cover - An Easter Sunday Morning service at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

The Canadian poet Francis Sherman (1871-1926) in his poem *Easter Song* writes:

*Now Death itself is dead,*

*And Love hath birth*

*And all things mournful find no place on earth.*

Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send to: [pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca](mailto:pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca)

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

*Paul R Hill*

On a Sunday night not long ago as the choir recessed up the aisle singing the Nunc Dimittis, I heard a voice that didn't belong in the choir. As we reached the back of the church I recognized another homeless man I have seen before at our evening service. He was kneeling and crying. From his previous visits I knew he was a gentle soul and so I put my hand on his shoulder. He told me a friend had died two nights before and he needed to pray. Quietly I prayed with him and offered a blessing. Then he rose up and began to wander down the aisle towards the front of the church where worshippers were starting to get up to leave. Yet again it was a reminder not only of all that disconnects us in this world but of the deep longing in the human soul to find a transcendent connection. Surely that is what drew him into the church. As the sound of the choir faded the man reached the front of the church and knelt before the Communion Table. I know not what the man said as he prayed, but I sensed I was witness to a sacred homecoming and as the voice of the choir began to fade I am all but certain the angels continued to sing. We all belong to God and he loves us with a love that will not let us go.

Maundy Thursday was also when Jesus gave us a new commandment, that we love one another as he has loved us. As we live in that love there will always be a little bit of Maunday Thursday unfolding, but the world will come home to Easter.

Peter Holmes



## TRANSITIONS

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

### Infant Dedications

Samantha Hope Rabbets, *d of Brennan Douglas Rabbets and Jenny Yi Rabbets*

Natilie Sarah Finn, *d of Stuart Finn and Lianne Gerber Finn*

Scarlett Grace Selke, *d of Frank William Selke and Sarah Anne Selke*

Ryan John Gibbs, *s of Claudette Knight and Guy Gibbs*

Abigail Charlotte Joseph, *d of Kamrah and Karen Joseph*

Thomas Adam Maier, *s of Catherine and Jonathan Maier*

### Baptisms

Rahal Allan

Andrew Allan

Louise Bark

Donna Britten

Monnette John-Buck

Zach Dilworth

### New Members

Rev. Steven William Hadfield

Jenny Rabbets

Brennan Rabbets

Scott Delaney

### Deaths

Ruth Schatz

Cleo Bowman

Barbara Dowie

Mildred Dean

Don Ivison

## MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE



*“Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. (Hebrews 13:7)*

*“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn*

*more, do more, and*

*become more, you are a leader.” (John Quincy Adams, former US President)*

Where have all the leaders gone? This is a lament heard in many businesses, schools, institutions and community organizations. And sadly, it is also a lament heard in the church. Many organizations struggle to find good leadership. But many are reluctant to take on the mantle of leadership, for fear of criticism, or lack of confidence, or simply an unwillingness to make a commitment which might demand time and effort. Yes, there are challenges associated with leadership. But being a leader can also be very rewarding.

The dictionary definition of a leader is “one who goes before or with, to show the way; one who guides or influences.” But the term “leader” actually comes from an Old English word meaning “to go or travel.” Leadership is a journey. Some people are called “born leaders,” but leaders aren’t really born -- they are made. All of their experiences in life – their family, their upbringing, their life experiences, their mentors – all of these factors contribute to their growth and development as leaders. I believe all of us have certain leadership qualities. And most of us struggle with the mantle of leadership – its burdens and its expectations.

But sometimes the best leaders are the most reluctant ones. The most effective leaders are those who know their weaknesses and shortcomings. The Bible is full of people who were placed in leadership, yet they displayed human weakness. Some of them exhibited character flaws, displayed questionable behaviour

and failed miserably. Yet God still called them to be leaders. Some of them come to mind right away. Jacob was a wheeler and dealer – a schemer who deceived his brother and his father. Yet he had that famous wrestling match with the angel, and was renamed Israel, becoming the father of the twelve tribes. Joseph was a dreamer, an arrogant teenager who had dreams about ruling over his older brothers. He ends up as a slave in Egypt, and then is put in prison. Yet he maintains his integrity and rises to power as a leader in that nation. Moses was called by God to go to Pharaoh and seek the release of the Hebrew people from slavery. Moses is reluctant. He seems to stutter, and is not good at public speaking. “Send Aaron my brother instead,” he tells God. “He is an eloquent speaker.” But God insists that Moses is the one to lead the people. Jonah was called by God to preach repentance to the city of Nineveh. But he refuses, and tries to run away from God’s presence. It didn’t turn out so well for him, as he was swallowed by a fish. And then there is Saul of Tarsus – the great persecutor of the early church. He meets Jesus on the Damascus road, and is struck blind for a time. Yet out of this comes a new identity. He becomes the apostle Paul, and takes the gospel beyond Israel to the ends of the earth.

All of these leaders were reluctant at first. Most of them didn’t choose to become leaders. Yet they obeyed the call of God. So if you are a reluctant leader, you are in good company. But for better or worse, we are all leaders in one sense. You are a leader just by being human – by being a parent, a grandparent, a friend, a mentor, a teacher, and so on. Parker Palmer is an American author and educator who has written extensively on issues of leadership. In one of his books, he describes leadership in this way:

“Everyone who draws breath ‘takes the lead’ many times a day. We lead with actions that range from a smile to a frown; with words that range from blessing to curse; with decisions that range from faithful to fearful... When I resist thinking of myself as a leader, it is neither because of modesty nor a clear-eyed look at the reality of my life... I am responsible for my impact on the world whether I acknowledge it or not. So, what does it take to qualify as a leader? Being human and being here. As long as I am here, doing whatever I am doing, I am



leading, for better or for worse. And, if I may say so, so are you.”

To all of you reluctant leaders – and that includes all of us: may God challenge you to take up the mantle of leadership in great and small ways. Leadership is a journey. May your journey be blessed, no matter when or how God calls you.

## DISCIPLESHIP



*Spirit of the Living God,  
be the Gardener of my  
soul.*

*For so long I have been  
waiting, silent and still –  
Experiencing a winter of  
the soul.*

*But now, in the strong  
name of Jesus Christ, I  
dare to ask:*

*Clear away the dead*

*growth of the past,*

*Break up the hard clods of custom and routine,*

*Stir in the rich compost of vision and challenge,*

*Bury deep in my soul the implanted Word,*

*Cultivate and water and tend my heart,*

*Until new life buds and opens and flowers. Amen*

(from *Prayers from the Heart*, Richard Foster)

This is my prayer for 2017, for myself and for Jesus’ church.

Spring is always poised, disguised in the grey of dormancy, ready and waiting for the warm embrace of the sun and a cool sip of water. Spring and new life is all around us if we have eyes to see.

My prayer is for spring to come to the church and to our city -- for new, verdant growth to burst forth in an array of colour and variety, perhaps, like we’ve never before seen. The world is desperate for LIFE and certainly our city, locked in a winter of the soul, desperately longs for it!

As many of you know, a donation of \$1,000,000 has been offered to Alpha Canada specifically for Toronto and the GTA. The donation is intended to blanket the city in advertising in partnership with churches who are committed to offering a quality Alpha experience. I’m excited that Yorkminster Park

has stepped up to partner with Alpha Canada in this endeavor. But \$1,000,000 is not enough. *No amount of money or effort is enough if we don’t commit ourselves to prayer.* This Alpha GTA initiative is not a program launch, *it’s an assault against ‘the gates of hell’!* It’s an alliance of churches in the power and unity of the Holy Spirit to reclaim ground that rightfully belongs to Jesus – the lives of 2.8 million people representing 200 ethnicities (truly “the kingdoms of the world”). Nearly 100 churches from Burlington to Ajax, representing multiple denominations, are stacking hands, opening their hearts, risking their budget resources, and trusting that God will move in a mighty way. *Will you stack hands with us?*

*And will you pray with us?* Someone has said that this may well be the biggest consolidated evangelistic experience in the GTA in 20 years. And we get to be a part of it! D. L. Moody wrote that, *“Next to the wonder of seeing my Saviour, will be, I think, the wonder that I made so little use of the power of prayer.”* Trevor Sinker and Kate Irish are spearheading an Alpha Prayer Team. Would you consider being part of that? Details will be in the weekly calendar. If you’re unable to come and meet for prayer but would like regular Alpha prayer updates, please let me know and I’ll be happy to send them along. [relliott@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:relliott@yorkminsterpark.com)

Christ is risen! He’s risen indeed. Alleluia!

Warmly, Robyn Elliott

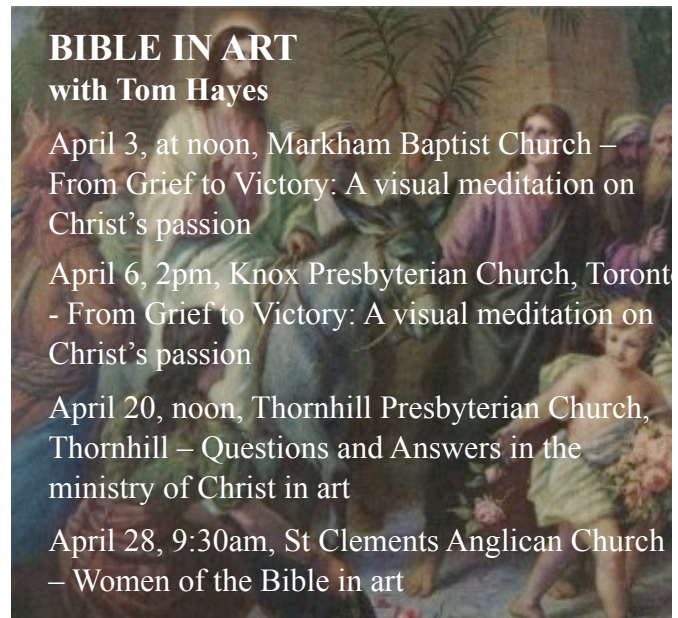
### BIBLE IN ART with Tom Hayes

April 3, at noon, Markham Baptist Church –  
From Grief to Victory: A visual meditation on  
Christ’s passion

April 6, 2pm, Knox Presbyterian Church, Toronto  
- From Grief to Victory: A visual meditation on  
Christ’s passion

April 20, noon, Thornhill Presbyterian Church,  
Thornhill – Questions and Answers in the  
ministry of Christ in art

April 28, 9:30am, St Clements Anglican Church  
– Women of the Bible in art



## YORKMINSTER PARK WOMEN 'S MINISTRIES...

YPBC WOMEN'S RETREAT – FEBRUARY 2017



At our Women's Retreat in February, we sought a deeper encounter with the God of possibility. Once again, Sr Sue Mosteller facilitated our day apart. God is a God of possibility and we were affirmed as women, made in His image, God's own beloved daughters. As such, we have His gifts. In God, there is always the possibility of being something more. We were encouraged to identify:

- *Defining moments* of our lives – those moments when we know something we've not known before, e.g., Jesus' baptism where His identity was affirmed as God's own Son.
- *Encounters that have changed us* – we need to love, not change people e.g., the life of Jesus. The God of possibility meets us in the encounter and changes us
- *Calls that change through life* – we need to stay awake to how God works in us. Sabbath time is necessary for this - we need silence and solitude, even daily, where we listen for God and discern His voice.

We viewed a video of the dynamic Ben Zander, as conductor of the Boston Pops Youth Orchestra, a film made for leaders, highlighting the art of possibility. A leader's job is to awaken possibility in others and in this realm, a vision is critical. A good leader makes others powerful – “sparks possibility”. The most effective leadership is about relationships and conversations and the new leader's responsibility is to speak possibility, never doubting the capacity of the individual. We need to ask, “How alive are we to a vision?”. A leader gives keys to unlock what we

have inside of us - that which we don't know we have.

On reflection, the film was a dramatic indicator of what God wants to do in our lives. He ever desires to “speak” and radiate His possibilities into our lives as we claim our true identity in Jesus and deeply encounter him, listening for his voice in our defining moments, the encounters we have with others and in the daily/weekly disciplines of solitude and silence, prayer and the transformative reading of his word.



### A NAME CHANGE –

#### *... from Salt and Leaven to Yorkminster Park Women in Community*

(Activity - potluck supper that is held for all women four times a year at YPBC)

We believe that our new name, *Yorkminster Park Women in Community* expresses our identity as women named, created and redeemed by Jesus Christ and designed to live in a community of love with Him and with one another. In his timeless classic, *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writes, “Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years, Christian community is only this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ (Page 21).

Women supported one another in biblical times and women support one another today. In her wonderful small volume, *The Friendship of Women – The Hidden Tradition of the Bible*, Joan Chittester expresses her passionate belief that it is women's friendships, women's capacity to create community



and women's penchant for openness, possibility, presence, support, empathy, wisdom, truth, courage, nurturance and acceptance that are a new hope for humanity – the power to change the world! (Pages 86, 88 & 89).

It is our desire and prayer that *Yorkminster Park Women in Community* will be an inclusive community, rooted in Jesus Christ, where women of all ages may come and be accepted, supported and encouraged – where we may share a meal, enjoy conversations and interactions that stretch our minds and open our hearts to God's possibilities for our lives – where we may carry one another's burdens, point the way and open new worlds for one another. – a safe environment within which we may experience friendship as a spiritual force.

(A copy of Chittester's book is available in the YPBC Gladstone Library and may also be purchased through the CBOQ READ ON Bookstore).

submitted by Jonanne Fenton for YPBC Women's Ministries

## **COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR (CNOY)**



Coldest Night of the Year is a yearly event operated by a registered charity known as Blue Sea Philanthropy whose mission is "to help charities thrive financially in helping the homeless". It was launched in 2011 partnering with Yonge Street Mission (YSM). Since then it has operated across Canada. In 2017 the stats are: \$4,147,137 raised, 3,051 teams, 18,243 walkers, 3,576 volunteers.

68,230 donors in 113 locations. Yonge Street Mission is the charity of choice in Toronto.

So how did I get started? Well, I received an email from YSM in 2014 about CNOY which I knew nothing about, so I paid YSM a visit to find out.

### **YSM (Yonge Street Mission)**

I should say my connection with the Mission began 73 years ago, when at the age of 11 my father took me to the Mission which then was a small church-like building on the east side of Yonge St just south of Gerrard St, more recently known as Evergreen. My father, Dr. W.K. Fenton was the speaker that night. Men began to fill the pews looking forward to soup and sandwich after the speaker. Frankly I was scared, not having been exposed to raw poverty like that. I made a promise that night, whenever I began to earn money I would donate to YSM, a promise that I am proud to say has lasted to this day. I came to know the Mission well, serving on the Board as Treasurer twice, 1975 – 1981 and 1990 – 2004 including Committees: Executive, Finance, Audit and Long Range Planning. Thus, my interest in the CNOY Walk came naturally. YSM is now in its 121<sup>st</sup> year.

### **2015**

I'm a bit of a risk taker so once I learned the CNOY details I said "sign me up for the 10 km walk and I'll try to raise \$10,000". Our small team of 5 known as the "Nordic Kids" completed the 10 km walk on February 21, 2015 and raised over \$18,000. The day of the walk, the CBC requested I come in for a live interview. Getting there was difficult as, it had snowed all day and I knew the walk ahead would be a challenge. It was not the coldest but it sure was the

snowiest. We started at Ryerson University, east on Gerrard, south on Parliament, west on Dundas and north on Yonge to Ryerson. As our small team started the second 5 km (same route) we noticed we were by ourselves, unaware we were the only team to register for 10 km. We arrived back at the large

gym of Ryerson University to find it practically empty. Everyone else had gone home. But we did it.

## HEALTH

I should explain why the CBC interviewed me. They were curious about an 82 year man walking 10 km to raise money for the homeless and troubled youth. It is true I had (spinal) issues that made walking risky. But learning about Nordic Pole Walking caught my attention two years before this. I bought a pair of Urban “Activator” Poles which have transformed my life. I soon set a goal of walking 10,000 steps per day about 7 km and on average I have achieved that goal.

So why not walk to help YSM who have so faithfully serve those less fortunate, the homeless and troubled youth.

## 2016

Energized, I thought about doing it again in 2016, though Jonanne was not enthusiastic because of my health. I persuaded her to come to a meeting of Team Captains at YSM to learn about the 2016 walk. I couldn’t resist and signed up for the 10 km 2016 CNOY Walk pledging to raise \$25,000, a significant increase from the \$10,000 goal in 2015. I needed more people to join the team to be successful. Thanks to Peter Holmes and his family we had a team of about 12 walkers. Once again it was not the coldest night of the year, in fact it was unseasonably warm and made the walk a bit more difficult as so many were out walking particularly on busy Yonge Street. The route for the first 5 km was from Ryerson, north on Yonge, east on Bloor, south on Parliament and west on Gerrard to Ryerson. The second 5 km was from Ryerson, south on Yonge, west on Dundas, north on Spadina, east on College south on University, and east on Gerrard to Ryerson. Unfortunately as I walked down Parliament on the first 5 km, I knew something was wrong with my legs, my pride kept me silent about impending trouble but as I turned west on Gerrard my legs gave in and two faithful walkers behind me quickly grabbed my arms before a certain fall. They took me into a nearby restaurant and sadly I realized my night was over, I didn’t even get back to Ryerson which



upset me greatly. One of the walkers got his van to take me to our car for a somber ride home. The rest of my team soldiered on to complete the 10 km and we raised over \$27,000. I was upset because two weeks before I had completed the 10 km walk on my own, just to see if I could do it.

## HEALTH

Early in June 2016 I was admitted to St. Michael’s Hospital with pneumonia and infection in both legs, unable to walk at all. Pneumonia took me down its dark path and as I was unable to move legs or feet I saw no way out. The lead doctor paid me a visit, and said “you were not able to walk in here but we intend to have you walk out”.

Ten days later I was transferred to Bridgepoint Hospital for rehabilitation and indeed two weeks later I walked out with my poles. Not saying anything to Jonanne I thought if these doctors, nurses and physiotherapists can get me

walking again, I will walk for the Yonge Street Mission in 2017. In early January this year I was back in St. Mikes again with pneumonia, the second time in six months. This time it was caught early and I was out after one day. Though prone to pneumonia I’m not letting that curtail my daily walking.

## 2017

Sure enough on February 25, 2017 our team set out once again. Our minister Peter Holmes has again shown a keen interest and invited me to share our goals in a morning church service. Peter thought I should change the team name from Nordic Kids to Team Fenton believing it might attract more walkers. While hesitant about using my name. Peter was right, we had a lot more walkers this year, in fact 19. As an optimist I set our goal at \$30,000, though I had my doubts about making it this time. (“Oh Ye of Little Faith”) we raised \$34,240 – 114%.

About two weeks before the walk, Angie Draskovic, CEO of YSM paid me a visit at my home. Angie is attractive, smart and deceptively tough. She put the brakes on me, requesting that I limit my walk to 2 km. Walking options are 2, 5 and 10 km. Just three days before her visit, I had walked 13 km. (I’m thinking 2 km is for wimps). Walkers must sign



waivers so it wasn't out of legal liability that Angie made her request. She had visited me in June at St. Mikes and was aware of two bad falls, so was aware of health risks. She said she couldn't live with herself if I was injured on the walk. Though tough she has a compassionate heart, so I bowed to her request, knowing that I was probably the greatest risk of all walkers, most of them probably half my age. Unbeknownst to me as I walked the 2 km Angie was walking a little ways behind me. Maybe she wanted to make sure I didn't try to escape and join my team. A highlight of this story for me was having our 23 year old grandson Tyler Fenton walk with us. A few weeks before the walk he came to church and let me know he had joined our team and would try to raise \$1,000. I was delighted but, knowing he was without a job at the time I couldn't imagine him being able to raise a thousand dollars. Guess what, he raised \$1,600. A couple of days later Tyler was offered a good job in Vancouver but he would be required to train for one week in Ottawa, the week of the walk. He was disappointed he wouldn't be able to walk.



However he texted me from Ottawa that he could fly back late Friday, so we met him at Porter airport and he indeed walked with the team on Saturday night. He flew out to Vancouver early Monday morning. At the opening ceremonies of the walk I was congratulated and presented an award (latest Fitbit watch) for being the highest fundraiser across Canada, very humbling. It really was an inspiring night to join with a wonderful team of walkers. Thanks seems inadequate in expressing my appreciation to them. They completed the 10 km walk. To think in three years a little walk has raised

\$79,000 for the Mission is heartening, due to our many generous donors who made this possible.

## 2018

I'm planning to participate in a final walk on February 24, 2018 in my 86<sup>th</sup> year, God Willing.

submitted by John K. Fenton

## A CALL TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

As a follower of Christ and a long-time member of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, I feel deeply saddened to learn yet again of the painful acts of anti-Semitism taking place in Toronto, as well as in many locations in North America, especially in recent days. The destruction or removal of the mezuzah from doorposts, which is a symbol of the Jewish faith, and the defacing with hateful words, or the toppling of gravestones, is disgusting, hateful, provoking of violence and very un-Canadian.

As a person of faith, I stand in solidarity with my Jewish brothers and sisters and denounce and oppose all forms of anti-Semitism. As a Canadian I find such actions offensive and oppose all forms of anti-Semitism or religious persecution of any kind in any faith community.

*Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One... (Deuteronomy 11:20).* Our God is a God of love for **all** those He has created, no matter their colour, faith or creed. He reaches out to everyone with love and grace through His son Jesus Christ.

I wish to be true to my faith in the redeemer of all who call upon His name. In Mark 12:30-31 (NIV) the Bible teaches us to, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

I am grateful for our neighbours of good will and the diverse faith communities around us. I call on fellow Christians to pray for our Jewish neighbours, and for all our benevolent, good hearted fellow citizens, in the midst of any form of religious persecution.

Shalom,

Rev. Suzanne Wilkinson

## DORCAS AT 90

### HISTORY

About 2000 years ago in the city of Joppa there lived a woman named Dorcas who made coats and other clothing. It was said of her that she “was always doing good things and helping the poor”. You can read about her in Acts 9:36-43.

Fast forward to December 1, 1834. In Douglas on the Isle of Man, at a meeting in the Vestry of the Wesleyan Church it was agreed “that a society be formed which would be denominated *The Douglas Dorcas Society*”. The first rule of the Society was to administer relief to the poor and necessities of Plain and Necessary Articles of Clothing. The immediate reason for founding the Society was due to the destruction of clothing and bedding during the cholera outbreak that left the poorer families destitute.

Fast forward a few years. Fred Branscombe told me there is a mention of the Dorcas Society in Yorkminster Park minutes in the 1930's. Other churches also had Dorcas Societies. My grandmother attended one at Walmer Road; Mrs Marion Wood, a former leader of our Dorcas came from there.

Some years ago our various mission circles, the WA and the Dorcas Society came together under the name Yorkminster Park Baptist Church Women. At that time the Dorcas Society became the Dorcas Group.

Regardless of the name change, the Dorcas Group continues to follow the examples of the Biblical Dorcas and the women on the Isle of Man. Each year we donate hundreds of articles (hats, mitts, scarves, slippers, sweaters etc) to the following organizations:

- Scott Mission
- Yonge Street Mission
- The Oasis Dufferin Community Centre
- Matthew House
- Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship in Winnipeg
- Oneida Nation of the Thames
- YP Out of the Cold Program
- Needlework Guild of Canada



Our group meets each Tuesday at 10 a.m. We bring our lunch and tea, pickles and sometimes cookies are served. We would love to have you join us.

### DORCAS GROUP AND THE NEEDLEWORK GUILD

The Needlework Guild holds its Distribution Day at Yorkminster Park each November and if you go to the Heritage Room early on that day you will think you have wandered into a warehouse. Around three sides of the room will be tables piled high with articles of clothing for all ages. In the centre of the room chairs will have been arranged to form bins. A sign at each ‘bin’ will show the name of the social agency. It is *DISTRIBUTION DAY* indeed for the Needlework Guild! Members of groups and individual members who are part of the Needlework Guild have delivered the work they did in the past year.

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

What is the Needlework Guild and what does it have to do with the Dorcas Group? In 1882 Lady Wolverton of Dorset, England, in response to a mining disaster in Wales, invited the ladies of the area to tea at the Manor, asking each to bring two items of new clothing for the orphaned children. This action led to the founding of **The Needlework Guild** whose mission continues to be to provide **new** clothing to meet needs resulting from disaster or hardship. The concept spread and similar groups



were formed in England, Bermuda, the Bahamas, the USA and Canada.

The **Toronto Branch** is a registered charity that has operated continuously since 1892 on a voluntary basis. All the items donated to the Guild must be new (hand-made or purchased). Monetary donations are used to purchase items that can't be made - e.g. coats, underwear. The agencies which receive the items must not sell them for fundraising.

Our Dorcas Group donates minimum of 200 items each year. On Distribution Day we serve tea, coffee and cookies to the volunteers when they need a break from their 'shopping'. By 1 p.m. the tables have been cleared; the bins emptied; the agencies have come for the items needed by them. There's just the last minute clearing up and another busy Distribution Day will be over.



*The above was written by Joyce Wood and was published a few years ago. The following updates some aspects of Dorcas activities.*

The year 2017 is the 90th anniversary of the formation of the Dorcas Society/Group and is a milestone which we celebrate. We also remember with thankfulness all the women who have been members of this group over these 90 years. There will be a tea and a display of some of their work following a morning service in the fall to which everyone is invited. Please take time to check out the talent case in the North Hall which always has some of their work on display.

In addition to the handwork they do they also purchase diabetic socks for the Foot Ministry here at Yorkminster Park, collect and trim stamps for the Canadian Bible Society and collect Campbells soup labels which go to a school for children with special needs to assist them to purchase sports equipment. Each summer the group also sponsors two children to go to summer camp.

This group has grown in the past several years and there are often about 20 women around the table

working on various items and enjoying a time of fellowship. They still meet every Tuesday morning and always welcome new members.

*photos by Donna Willett*

## REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Our church has an ongoing commitment to refugee sponsorship and the response from the congregation has been truly fantastic in supporting our newcomers from the Central African Republic, providing financial support and taking on the many resettlement activities. We committed to support them for a second year (that is, until December 2017 as long as funds are available) and your continued financial support would be appreciated so that we can fulfill that commitment. They are continuing their studies but would appreciate any leads to help them find employment.

The following sponsorships are underway but still in early stages, with timing impossible to predict:

- A Pakistani family of three, persecuted because of their faith, taking refuge in Thailand (to be funded);
- A Syrian family of five, seeking refuge from the war in Syria, living in Lebanon in very difficult circumstances (mostly funded by Project Hope, a fund of the Catholic Church, but funds still required); and
- A Syrian family of six, seeking refuge from the war in Syria, living in Lebanon in very difficult circumstances (mostly funded by a grant from a Foundation, but funds still required).

We believe that the Syrian families could be with us in 1-2 years (if their applications are approved) but the timing for the Pakistani family is not known.

We have an incredible opportunity to minister to these families and to make a huge difference in their lives as they try to escape persecution and war. Your continued prayer and financial support are needed to bring them to safety. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

Michael Wills

[mwills@chartwellconsulting.ca](mailto:mwills@chartwellconsulting.ca)

416-485-4074

# WE WANT TO SEE JESUS

## 2017 HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### Come join your neighbours in faith as we journey together towards Easter.

The three Holy Week evening services have been organized by Calvin Presbyterian Church, Christ Church Deer Park Anglican, Deer Park United Church, and Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. Share the journey, and experience a variety of forms of worship, have an opportunity to hear speakers from our broader community of faith and get to know your neighbours better.



#### **Holy Tuesday, April 11 @ Yorkminster Park Baptist Church | 1585 Yonge St.**

- **6:30pm** Explore the sanctuary of Yorkminster Park with Dr. Corey Keeble, Curator Emeritus ROM
- **7:00pm Worship**  
Worship will be shaped by the liturgy and music of the Iona Community.  
The guest speaker will be **Sister Sue Mosteller** of the l'Arche Communities.  
A reception will follow.



#### **Holy Wednesday, April 12 @ Calvin Presbyterian/Deer Park | 26 Delisle Ave.**

- **6:30pm** Explore the sanctuary of Calvin/Deer Park with Dr. Corey Keeble
- **7:00pm Worship**  
Worship will be shaped by the music of traditional spirituals.  
The guest speaker will be **Angie Draskovic**, President and CEO of the Yonge St. Mission.  
A reception will follow.



#### **Maundy Thursday, April 13 @ Christ Church Deer Park Anglican | 1570 Yonge St.**

- **5:45pm** Explore the sanctuary of Christ Church Deer Park with Dr. Corey Keeble
- **6:00pm Reception**
- **6:30pm Worship**  
Worship will include a voluntary foot washing (open to anyone who wishes to participate), communion served in the Anglican tradition, and the stripping of the altar.  
The guest speaker will be **Dr. Brian Walsh** from Wycliffe College.

#### **24th Ecumenical Good Friday Walk - 12:00 - 2:30 pm**

- **12:00** Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church
- **12:30** Yorkminster Park
- **12:45** Christ Church Deer Park at
- **1:00** Calvin Presbyterian/Deer Park
- **2:00** Timothy Eaton Memorial Church

*A short service including a prayer, reading and hymn will be offered in each church.*





LOOKING AHEAD – BOOK NOW!

## 2017 | YPBC *Theatre Bus Trips*

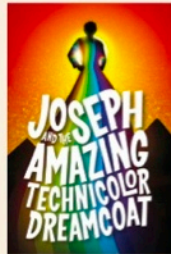
THURSDAY, MAY 25

**"JOSEPH AND  
THE AMAZING  
TECHNICOLOR  
DREAMCOAT"**

**Drayton Festival  
Theatre**

Lunch at Crossroads Family Restaurant

**COST: \$125/ pp**



THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 14

**"H.M.S. PINAFORE"**

**Stratford Avon  
Theatre**

Lunch at Borealis  
Restaurant

**COST: \$180/ pp**



**To reserve please contact  
Judy MacDonald 416-225-8295**

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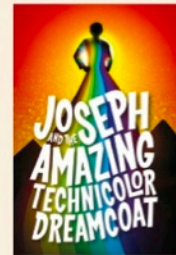
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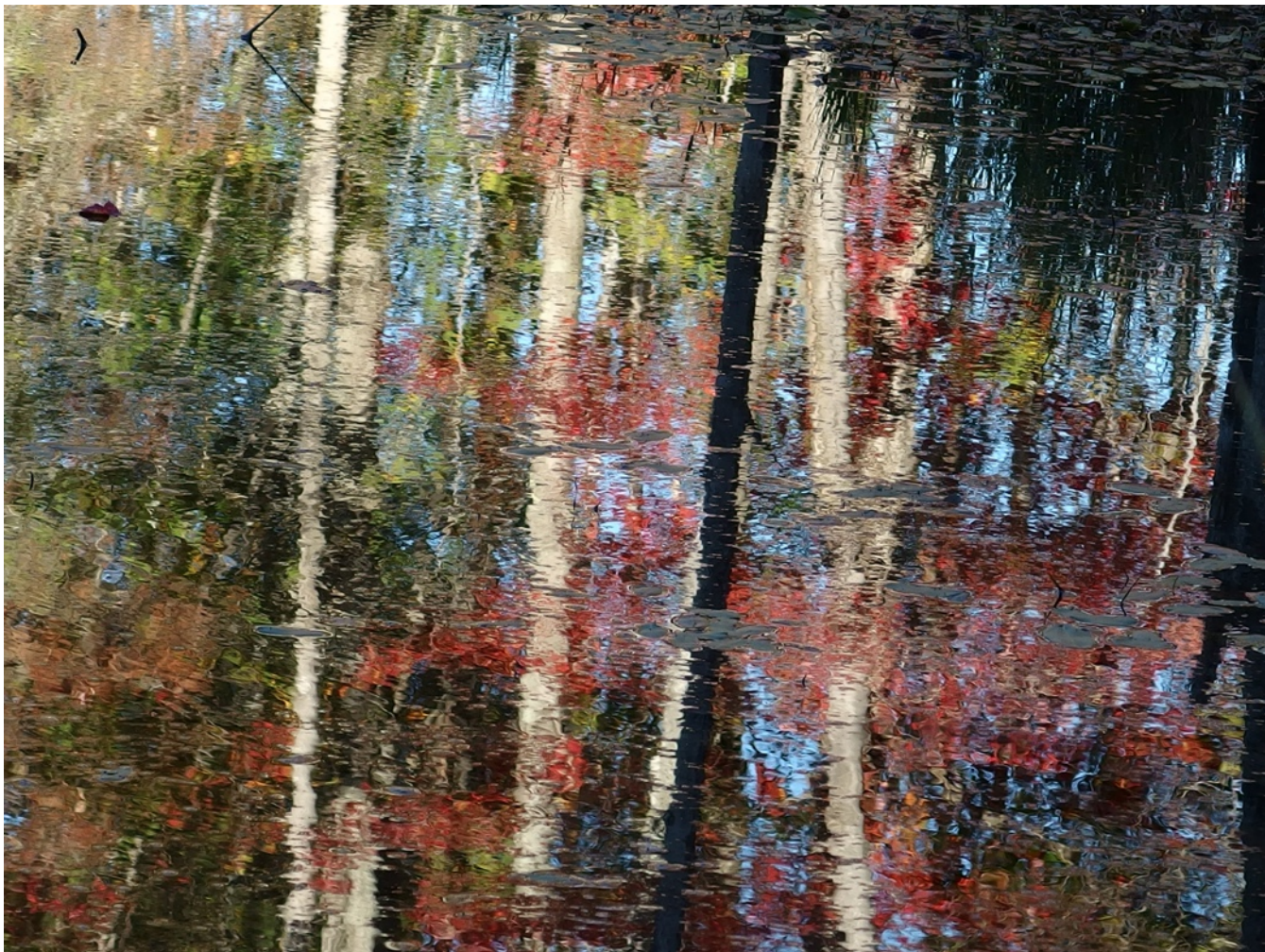
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## YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

rounds out its 2016-2017 season with two festivals.

### CONTACT



Contact is Toronto's citywide photographic event which happens every May. This year the focus is on Canada. **Judith Carol Coulter** is our CONTACT artist. Her painterly photographs concentrate on reflections in water. She examines the interplay between the unconscious mind of the artist and the chaotic profusion of the natural world. Throughout her process, Coulter explores themes of decay and regeneration. Her exhibition titled *Elemental* opens with a **reception on Sunday April 30**, immediately following the morning service. *Elemental* continues through May 25.

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Yorkminster Park Gallery** exhibition and celebration concludes our 2016-2017 season. Artwork by more than twenty artists from the second half of our history (2012-2017) will make up

the display. It will be a diverse, exciting array of styles, subjects, methods and materials. The exhibition will be on view from May 28 through August 17. Come meet the artists, enjoy the art, and mark this milestone **on Sunday June 4, 12:30-2:30pm.**

**Artists:** Peter Alberti, Ann Bald Bloom, Judy Buda, Marlene Bulas, Judith Coulter, Victoria Cowan, Laura Culic, Sue Ennis, Sue Erricsson, Margaret Glew, Robert Hives, Warren Hoyano, Ila Kellermann, John Kinsella, Rebecca Last, Ken McKenzie, Eileen Menzel, Sue A. Miller, Nancy Oakes, Douglas Purdon, Paul Roorda, Maurice Snelgrove, Randall Speller, Les Tibbles (Estate of), Carol Westcott.