

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



YPBC NEWS

Summer 2023



Published by:
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Minister of the Congregation

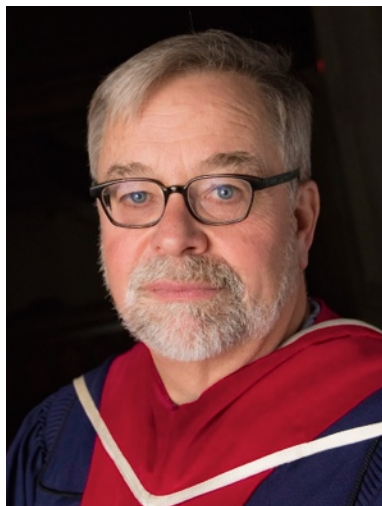
The Rev. Paula Willis
*Minister of Pastoral Care and
 Discipleship*

Mr. William Maddox, B.Mus,
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The Rev. John Torrance
Minister Emeritus, Pastoral Care



FROM PETER'S PEN

It is not every day a carillon is installed in Canada. In fact it has been almost fifty years since Canada's eleventh carillon was installed, but Canada's twelfth carillon will

be installed at Yorkminster Park this summer. Thanks to two very generous gifts, one from our original donor of the memorial bells, Judy MacDonald, and a second made by the late Tom Logan prior to his passing, we will be installing an additional twenty-three memorial bells this summer and a memorial carillon keyboard from which they can be played. The additional memorial bells and the keyboard will all be dedicated to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for Dr. Donald MacDonald and for the Logan Family.

It is for this reason the Bell Tower at Yorkminster Park has been temporarily closed in order for scaffolding to be erected within the tower to aid with the construction of an extension to the platform on the second floor on which the keyboard will be located. Tim Aikenhead, Chair of the YP Bells Committee, has been steering this project and is confident both the construction and installation will be complete by the end of the summer.

Bells have been ringing from the Yorkminster Park Bell Tower since the installation of four memorial bells donated in 2008 by Judy MacDonald to the glory of God and in honour of Dr. Ralph Gerred. Five years later Judy donated an additional ten memorial bells. The bells are chromatically tuned and so for the last ten years we have been able to offer some basic tunes on the bells using an electronic keyboard. The additional bells and the keyboard will vastly extend the range of music and the various tones in which it can be played.

With the news that the installation will be completed over the summer the YP Memorial Bells Committee has been planning for a weekend of dedication and celebration from Friday, September 29 to Sunday, October 1. Our special guest for the weekend will be Dr. Andrea

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After 55 issues and nearly 14 years it is time to move on. It has been a privilege to serve as Newsletter Editor for that time.

When I was appointed Newsletter Editor in 2009 Ellie Estey gave me the briefest of instructions; I don't want a "cut and past" job she said. Later when asking advice on a specific item she replied "you are the Editor", that is I was meant to make decisions on content, etc. So, my purpose was to show YPBC in a good light and avoid controversial items, as well as social issues of the day. I did. A special thanks to those frequent contributors; Joanane Fenton for YPBC Women, Heather for Family Ministries, Lily for Nursing, the Art Committee, Nina Spencer for her Living Wisdom writings and Janice Ivory-Smith for Graphics; and there were more. Thanks to all.

Paul R. Hill

McCrary, the Dominion Carillonneur from the Peace Tower in Ottawa. Dr. McCrary will give a YP Speakers Series lecture on Friday evening, play a recital on Saturday afternoon, be on hand to play for the Dedication Service on Sunday morning followed by a recital after the service. We are honoured to have Dr. McCrary as our guest as she is one of the leading carillonneurs in North America. She anticipates a number of carillonneurs from Toronto and beyond will visit the tower on the inaugural weekend in order to celebrate the arrival of North America's newest carillon. Some of them may also offer a piece or two on the Saturday.

If you are wondering what exactly a carillon is, Wikipedia offers the following helpful explanation:

A Carillon is a pitched percussion instrument that is played with a keyboard and consists of at least 23 bells. The bells are cast in bronze, hung in fixed suspension, and tuned in chromatic order so that they can be sounded harmoniously together. They are struck with clappers connected to a keyboard of wooden batons played with the hands and pedals played with the feet. Often housed in bell towers, carillons are usually owned by churches, universities, or municipalities. They can include an automatic system through which the time is announced and simple tunes are played throughout the day.

Bells were first used in the Christian Church in the 3rd Century in both Egypt and Damascus. The bells were used to call the people to prayer, but they were also a sign that a period of religious freedom had arrived. During times of persecution church bells naturally fell silent. In the Middle Ages the bells were likened to preachers and evangelists who proclaim good news. With the invention of the carillon in the Netherlands in the 17th century, carillonneurs were able to play hymn tunes and other important songs on the bells. The carillons became known as the Singing Towers and their popularity spread rapidly through the Netherlands, Belgium, and parts of France and Germany. Carillons have become increasingly important in North America which is now home to 180 carillons most of which are in the United States. We pray that these bells

will be the instruments of many a joyful song unto the Lord!



Beth and John

Congratulations and Best Wishes

photo - Janice Ivory Smith

TRANSITIONS

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

Baptism

Jessica Malcolm

New Member (see Page 11)

Deaths

Rhena Petch

John Fenton

Phil Penney

Corrine Lowrie

Ralph Peters

Brien Pepperdine

FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP



“Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Note it. Read it. God, whom you want to discover,

never wrote that book with ink. Instead, He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?” - The City of God, Book XVI, St. Augustine

I wish you all a peaceful, happy and prosperous summer. At this time of year when we are especially thankful for the beauty of the earth, I would like to invite you to attend our Wednesday evening Bible study on *God in Creation*. The study will run for 8

weeks, July 5 – August 23, meeting at 7pm, with subjects ranging from the earth and water, to the cosmos, gardens, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea! In mid-June you will be able to find information in the calendar and on our website to sign up for this Zoom only look at the blessing of Creation that God has so generously gifted us.

The photo below beautifully communicates the book of nature and the book of scripture, the Bible.

Blessings and peace be yours, Paula



INTRICITI - SUMMER SERIES



Be inspired this summer as industry leaders share their expertise and related experiences on various business topics. Each session will conclude with a Live Q & A. Attend one or all of Intricity's complimentary bi-weekly panel discussions and consider forwarding this invitation to colleagues, friends, and family. Register at www.intricity.ca. All are welcome. More Information? Alana Walker Carpenter @ alana.walker@intricity.ca.

On Empathy – July 5

Pamela Ellemers | Principal | De Beers
Colin Keddy | Director of Family Office | TAAG Family Wealth
Kim MacGregor | CEO | Kim MacGregor Inc.

On Belonging – July 19

Christopher Gordon | Partner & Principal | Ernst & Young
Christine Thomlinson | Co-Founder & Co-Managing Partner | Rubin Thomlinson LLP
Denis Trottier | Chief Mental Health Officer | KPMG Canada

On Technology – August 9

Scott Delaney | CEO | Lumenix
Barry Doucette | Owner & CEO | Orangutech
Scott Paterson | Venture Capitalist | Technology & Media

On Focus – August 23

David Fisch | COO | Henry's
Lisa Purdy | National Partner | Deloitte.
Talia Zaidi | Founder | Impressions Digital Media

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Lighthouse Kids
DOXA Youth

God is so good and He continues to bless **Family Ministries** here at **YPBC!**

We are grateful to God for nudging more and more **eager leaders to volunteer** on our team for both in-person and online ministries. What a joy it is to see their gifts shared along with their servant hearts. Back in April we gathered as a team for an all-day faith-filled leader event to share life, vision, prayers and God’s Word together!

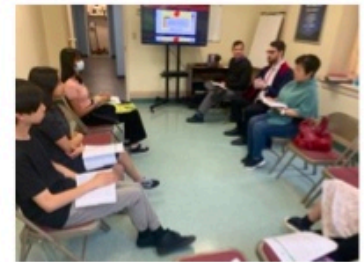
Our **Family Ministry Worship Band** is a blessing to witness as they help lead and engage us all in praises to God. We love seeing children, youth and adults (all ages) coming along-side one another modeling a heart for worship! Praise God!

Our **Lighthouse Kids** are gifts from the LORD. They are eager to learn about God’s love and God’s word and to see them so excited to be together and make crafts and build on friendships is a delight and an honour.



Our **DOXA youth** are amazing! They all have open hearts

to learn God’s Word and how to live His truths out in relevant ways. We are also blessed to have many of our youth serve in a variety of ways (set-up, leading children, tech, clean-up, videos, missions and more). We are prayerfully navigating opportunities for our youth to join with COTH (Churches on the Hill) youth and youth leaders for some events and missions throughout the year.



Our **Online Ministries** continue to grow and bear fruit for the kingdom of God. We provide weekly emails that include video teachings, songs, collage of pics and faith resources that are sent out to families. We have doubled our subscribers on our FM YouTube channel since February and now have **571 subscribers** to date. Check out FM’s intro video that is available on our YouTube Channel sharing about Family Ministries at YPBC (tell a friend)! <https://youtu.be/DeTpMBrDiF8>

We were honoured to have **special music** in Families Ministries one Sunday as we invited Winston Davis and Hudson Taylor to share their musical gifts - teaching us the songs; ‘Were you there’ and ‘Amen’!

One Sunday in June, Family Ministries hosted a morning of faith development and fellowship by providing breakfast, faith teachings and a special FROG presentation on Creation and Creation Care. A great **intergenerational event** before the worship service!



*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.
Matthew 18:20*

God bless our **Grade 12 graduates...**

Hazel Reyes is graduating from Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School. In the fall she will be attending Toronto Metropolitan University for Industrial Engineering. Hazel has been a part of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church for many years and has enjoyed the DOXA Youth, Blizzard Retreats and volunteering in Family Ministries in a variety of ways (Nursery, Music, Videos, Camps & more). Hazel was one of our Summer Student Interns last summer and we were grateful to witness her servant heart and love for God and others.

Isabel Diaz Williams is graduating from Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School. In the fall she will be attending George Brown College for Dental Hygiene. Isabel joined our Sunday morning DOXA Youth Zoom Times at the start of Covid and continued to stay connected with us by helping out for Special Family Ministry Events, attending various DOXA Youth Nights and the Blizzard Highschool Retreat. We enjoyed having Isabel as a Summer Student Intern last year as she shared her love for God and creative gifts of leadership along-side us.

We hope to be hiring **2 part-time summer student interns** by the end of June.

Parenting for Faith Course: Leticia and Heather completed an 8-week course that CBOQ lead titled; "Parenting for Faith". The course will be offered to for parents interested over the summer and lead by Heather and Leticia.

Family Ministries is hosting the
PARENTING FOR FAITH COURSE
ONLINE - Tuesday evenings from 7:30-8:30pm
June 27 • July 11, 18, 25 • August 8, 15, 22, 29

The goal of the course is to help parents discover that they are perfectly positioned to show their children the reality of a life with God and to empower them to have their own vibrant two-way relationship with him. (Video teachings lead by Parenting for Faith Pioneer - Rachel Turner)

For further info and zoom link, contact
Heather Mackey at
hmackey@yorkminsterpark.com

In faith and with thanks to God,
Heather Mackey (Director of Family Ministries)

SUMMER

IN-PERSON
AND ONLINE

PREACHING SERIES

We are pleased to announce our line-up of guest speakers for 2023.



July 9

Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset
Minister, Calvin
Presbyterian Church



July 16

Rev. Laura de Jong
Pastor, Christian
Reformed Church
of North America



July 23

**Rev. Dr.
Andrew Stirling**
Ambassador,
Canadian Bible Society



July 30

**Rev. Dr.
Paul Scott Wilson**
Professor Emeritus
of Homiletics,
Emmanuel College,
University of Toronto



August 6

**Rev. Dr.
Karoline Lewis**
Chair, Biblical
Preaching Luther
Seminary, St. Paul, MN



August 13

**Rev. Dr.
Stephen Farris**
Visiting Professor
of Preaching,
Knox College,
University of Toronto



August 20

Rev. Dale Soble
Retired Baptist
Minister

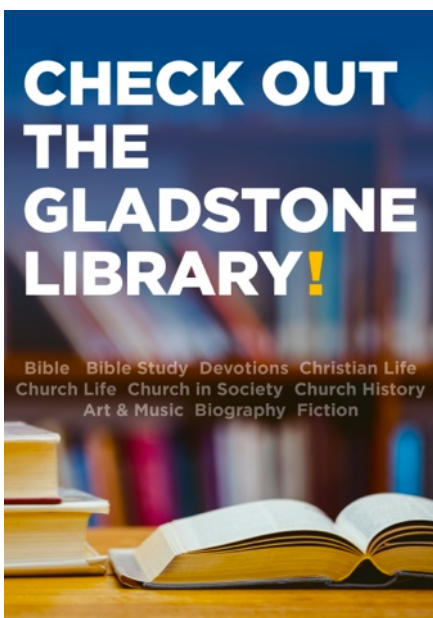


For more
information visit

YPBCSummerPreaching.com



GLADSTONE LIBRARY NEWS



A few mystery books were available in the library – wrapped in brown paper with an intriguing sentence on each package. The following people chose one to read and tell us what they thought:

Rebeca Esteves took the wrapped

book inscribed, *Would you dare to do this?*

What made you choose this mystery book? The question itself.

What was the title of the book inside? “Captive in Iran: A Remarkable True Story of Hope and Triumph amid the Horror of Tehran's Brutal Evin Prison” by Maryam Rostampour.

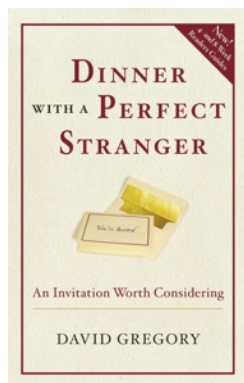
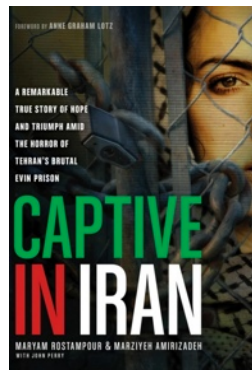
What did you think of the book? Captivating, anxiety-triggering and inspiring.

Would you recommend it? Why? Yes! It’s an important reminder of what Christians living in a free country take for granted. As I read, it felt that I was reading modern events of Acts - remarkable story!

Ruth Farrow took the wrapped book inscribed, *What would you talk about at a dinner with Jesus?*

What made you choose this mystery book? The very title is intriguing and caught my attention.

What was the title of the book inside? “Dinner with a Perfect



Stranger: An Invitation Worth Considering” by David Gregory.

What did you think of the book? This book brings to life both the humanity and divinity of Jesus, and the questions, doubts and mystery surrounding this unique Being are tackled head on.

Would you recommend it? Why? Well worth a read.

Daniel Esteves took the wrapped book inscribed, *This may ruffle your feathers.*

What made you choose this mystery book? ... It sounded like a metaphorical invitation ... I thought to myself, "What's in it for me? Let me find out."

What was the title of the book inside? “Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People” by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

What did you think of the book? ... The author's creative line of thought about biblical passages in connection with her intriguing relationship with God held my interest ...

Would you recommend it? Why? I would definitely recommend this book ... It takes a person like Nadia to reach out to places and people where some Christians would never think of going for lack of personal convictions and relevant skills.

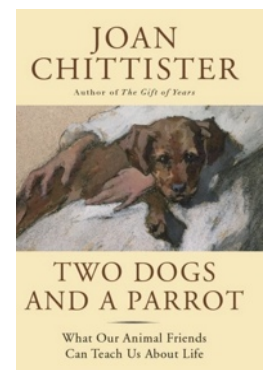
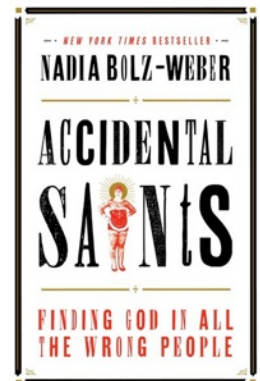
Janet Wilmot took the wrapped book inscribed, *What do your pets know about spirituality?*

What made you choose this mystery book? I love animals and was intrigued.

What was the title of the book inside? “Two Dogs and a Parrot” by Joan Chittister.

What did you think of the book? First, don’t skip the introduction or the afterword. Second, Chittister uses anecdotes from her relationships with her pets to support her reflections on life.

Would you recommend it? Why? Certainly a recommended read. Her stories are comical and touching. Chittister promotes animal-human relationships, not only with pets but with all animals, as our path to a better world.



LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons Learned From “That Old-Lady” Harpist
For us, there is only the trying. The rest is not our
business. — T.S. Eliot



I am a 65-year-old harp student. Others in my “clan” are five, seven, 10, 14... The next “oldest” is 30, tops. But no matter what way I slice it, *I* am the oldest of my instructor’s students. By far.

And I’m fine with that. *They* are sweet, and young, and earnest. And I? *I* fancy myself the sage elder, lol, with hopes that *they* see *me* as a source of inspiration—along the lines of, “You’re never too old to...” or, “Hey! Look at that “old lady” playing harp! If *she* can do it, at *her* age, then *I* can do it, too!” ;)

Three years ago, when I first started out, I managed to squeeze in eight in-person harp lessons just before Covid 19 locked down the world. (Remember when no one ever said “in person?” It was merely implied?!) *Forrest Gump* once said, “If I was *goin’* somewhere, I—was—runnin’!” Well, with *me*, after Friday the 13th of March 2020’s official lockdown declaration, if I was learnin’ *harp*, I—was—Zoomin’!

For the next three years our annual spring recitals were a hodgepodge of various-aged students all zoom-playing from the comfort of their respective homes, for their beloved family and friends. Familiar surroundings. Familiar sunlight. Familiar instrument. With plenty of time for practice before Zoom recital show time.

Now, I can regularly play my entire 60-minute-and-growing repertoire flawlessly when no one’s looking, i.e. during my solitary daily practices. But I noticed that our three spring, live Zoom recitals, (2020, 2021 and 2022), generated performance anxiety, causing me the odd wince-worthy gaffe here and there. Something about being “watched” and recorded, I suspect; but nothing too embarrassing. Overall, I was pleased enough with my yearly contributions.

Then came 2023! A new year, a whole new ball game (or should I say a whole new *harp* recital!). *This* year came with a *real* venue. A *real* in-the-flesh audience. Harps galore on a *real* stage. A hushed, excited crowd. Clapping. Filming. Fidgety folks. Coughers. Even a wanderer, a sneezer, and a geezer! ;) This, amidst the darling little performers, adoringly dressed to the nines in their party-best froufrou tulle skirts—all fluffed up with their chiffon, pink lace, and patent-leather shiny shoes dangling beneath too-high chairs (in some cases), unable to touch their toes to the ground. Even I had the decency to dress up—although not in tulle!—for *this* was a big deal. My very *first* in-person harp recital! Lucky for me, though, *my* patent-leathers reached the floor. ;)

We sat amongst the guests before the program began, chatting and drawing excitement and energy from the buzzing-with-anticipation room. Regardless, I felt relaxed, gregarious, and ready. (Well, as ready as I *could* be considering that each performer had to rehearse at home, rather than onsite. All we each got to do at the venue was sit at our selected harp for a minute to check for chair height and overall comfort. *At the time*, that seemed sufficient.)

In my day job as a professional speaker, I’m not always “first up” in the conference program, so, to be supportive of, and respectful to, my fellow presenters I always make it my practice to give 100 percent of my attention to the person *on the platform*—rather than feign listening while I rehearse my own material in my head one last time. (My philosophy, here, being that by the time I get to the event I’d better know my presentation *cold*, for no amount of last-minute rehearsing at *that* point is really going to help.) I applied that same philosophy to each of my recitals—give the performing harpist *100 percent* of my attention... authentically cheer *them* on to the point where, by design, I don’t even know when it’s *my* turn until my name is called. I figure this way I can keep my nerves at bay. Otherwise, no doubt, I’d be going, “Three more to go.” “Two more.” “ONE more.” “Yikes, I’m *next!!!*” One by one, up and down, my fellow students went—each playing more superbly than the last. I was proud of them like they were my own kids! Then... it was *my* turn. I was still relaxed. Confident. Assured. What happened next befuddled me. I

bumbled, stumbled and struggled, right out of the gate! Somehow, though, I kept my fingers moving. Sound still radiating from the strings, but the melody was all wrong. The harp is a very forgiving, sympathetic instrument. Even wrong notes can sound melodic and purposeful. But if anyone in the audience *knew* how *Wild Mountain Thyme* or *Tammy* was *supposed* to sound, they'd have known that I was messing it up royally! Suddenly glorious, mid-afternoon sunlight (after two weeks of solid rain) chose *my* performance moment to beam through the concert hall's full wall of windows. I couldn't see; couldn't landmark my red C strings, nor my blue Fs. But, hey, the show must go on. Right? So I persevered.

I had to restart *both* pieces *three times*, but my fingers played on without missing a beat. The *second* time I restarted the *second* piece I blurted out a half-baked, incredulous guffaw that sounded like a closed-mouth cough. I was beyond exasperated. I was aghast. When I got totally lost for a few notes in the middle, on both pieces, I started thinking, "I don't know *what this is* but, hey, it sounds kind of pretty!" Sometimes wonderful creations can spring forth from "mortifyingly" serendipitous improvisations.

Amos 6: 5

You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments.

And Psalm 100 reminds:

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth... with the harp.

I muddled through my eight minutes (that-felt-like-eight-hours) despite that, like I recalled from my competitive figure skating days as a teen, all I really wanted to do was "GET OFF THE ICE!" As a skater, when I would fall on a difficult jump in the middle of a competition performance, I would hear my coach in my head yelling, "Get up! Get up!!! Your *MUSIC* is playing!!!" So, despite my pity-party sulk, I'd do as I was told, and get up and carry on. *That* programming, from way back *when*, came in handy on live-harp recital day 2023.

It's a funny thing that being the *eldest* in the room often makes people assume that you are the *best* or *wisest* merely by virtue of more years of experience; but age is alone is not an indication of perfection (even if we might like to tell ourselves that it is,

lol). ;) The truth is, when it comes to my recent harp recital, if I saw it as a "competition," I wouldn't have awarded myself the "gold" on the basis of *age*... I'd have awarded that coveted prize—the gold medal/the silver cup—to that pre-teen sweetheart in Grade 7. *She's* going to be (even more) amazing one day! Already is. But I *would* have awarded *myself* the gold medal for *chutzpah*—the courage, the nerve, the audacity to start playing a new instrument at the age of 62—and then get up in front of a large audience, amidst keener harpist children, teenagers, and young adults, and believe that I had a right to be there amongst them.

Indeed, music knows no age, and *all* players are welcome. The one big take-away that I mused afterwards—when I was facilitating myself to think of *something* good about my first in-person harp recital, rather than immediately going to "shoulda-woulda-coulda" negative thoughts—was that my comparatively lengthy *life* experience (whether on the speaking platform, figure-skating ice, or harp-recital stage) has taught me that: *no matter what the show must go on*. The music is playing! *Your* music is playing! And it's my job, and yours too, to just show up and keep trying. Keep those "fingers" movin'! It's all O-V-E-R, *all of it*, if you just throw your hands up in the air, or sit there on the "ice," and give up.

T. S. Eliot said it quite nicely:

For us, there is only the trying. The rest is not our business.

For me, the spiritual takeaways from the blessed gift of my "flubbed" harp recital are many fold—enough that I could fill another whole article on those insights, and that *we* could have a most stimulating conversation, over a nice summertime ice tea, lemonade, or even just a lovely telephone chat, about *your* gleaned faith lessons/reflections based on my harp saga.

So I will leave it at this for now, with my prayers that you have a lovely, blessed, happy, and safe summer—and hopes, too, that I've given you pause for contemplating over the summer how this "old lady harpist" ;) tale of mine applies to *your* life, too.

Psalms 49: 4

I will turn my ear to a proverb; with the harp I will expound my riddle.

Psalms 33:1-3

All you that are righteous, shout for joy for what the Lord has done; praise him, all you that obey him. Give thanks to the Lord with harps, sing to him with stringed instruments. Sing a new song to him, play the harp with skill, and shout for joy!

2 Chronicles 20:27-28

Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies. They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres and trumpets to the house of the Lord.

Psalm 49:4

I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will express my riddle on the harp.

Psalm 33:2

Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings.

Psalm 71:22

I will also praise You with a harp,

Revelation 14:2

And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps.

God loves the harp.



YPBC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES - 2023



Hazel Reyesis graduating from Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School. In the fall she will be attending Toronto Metropolitan University for Industrial Engineering. Hazel has been a part of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church for many years and has enjoyed the DOXA Youth, Blizzard Retreats and volunteering in Family Ministries in a variety of ways (Nursery, Music, Videos, Camps & more). Hazel was one of our Summer Student Interns last summer and we were grateful to witness her servant heart and love for God and others.

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NEW MEMBER

Jessica Malcolm grew up in British Columbia and is originally from Victoria, where she attended Lambrick Park Church when she was younger. She moved to Ontario to attend Queen's University where she studied chemical engineering. Since graduating she has worked in the energy sector on a range of projects spanning from renewables to conventional energy. She currently lives in Toronto where she works in energy infrastructure development. She has also offered her services to work along-side our Property Committee in conducting an energy audit for Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. Jessica first attended Yorkminster Park just prior to the pandemic and began attending regularly in 2022. She also took part in one of this year's Lenten Bible studies. We have been delighted to witness her Baptism and welcome her into the membership of the church.

YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

Nelson Cheng - *My first solo exhibition* takes place this Fall at Yorkminster Park Gallery. The show will run from September 16 through October 2023. You may have seen two of my artworks in Yorkminster Park Gallery's group exhibition this spring entitled *Artists in Advance*.



Beyond that, I would like to share some photos of recently installed artwork with Earl's Kitchen and Ace Hotel Toronto. *Sumacs* was installed at the new Earl's Yorkdale. There are also two pieces at the Earl's Downtown. A series of four charcoals were created for the Ace Hotel.



Upcoming is the Toronto Outdoor Art Fair this summer. The in-person portion happens at Nathan Phillips Square July 7-9. I will be participating July 2-9 in the online portion #TOAF62.

I look forward to meeting you. Please stop by on Sunday September 17 to say, Hi.

