

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



YPBC NEWS

Winter 2022



Published by:
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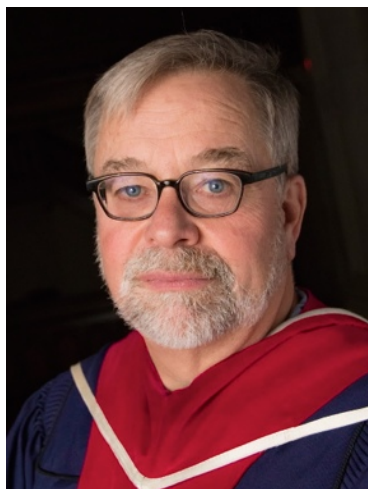
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FROM PETER'S PEN SCOOTING INTO ADVENT

In late September I underwent reconstructive surgery on my right foot and ankle. While recovering, I have been very limited with my mobility as weight bearing has not been an option while healing. While indoors, I am dependent on the aid of a walker, knee scooter, stair lift or elevator. Thanks to the Honourable David Onley I have also had access to an electric mobility scooter which enables me to get out of doors. On good days, I have used it to ride all the way to the church and back, though most days it is for shorter jaunts. David informed me that it was the same scooter he used to visit Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace while he was serving as the 28th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The royal connection is wonderful, yet as much as I love our late Queen, the scooter has more importantly served to deepen my appreciation for David and everyone whose mobility is challenged and it has also deepened my faith. While riding on the scooter I have been surprised by the discovery of sidewalks so severely sloped towards the street that it is amazing the scooter has not yet tipped over. Many a time I have had to use my good foot to balance the scooter. Cracks in sidewalks and heaving sections also offer challenges. I have even discovered sidewalks that end abruptly in the middle of a block and few places where walkways come to an end without the necessary dip to exit or enter. And I don't think I can count the number of times I have had to stop to remove obstacles like leaf bags, or garbage bins off of the path.

One day I was in the scooter making my way along a sidewalk just off Yonge St. when a large pickup truck pulled up onto the same sidewalk twenty feet ahead of me completely blocking my way. The driver hopped out, crossed my path and made his way towards a store before I finally got his attention. Even when I was only five feet in

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Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send to: pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca
The spring edition of the newsletter will be published in March 2023.

Paul R. Hill

front of him, he didn't seem to notice me. Once he did, I discovered it was all unintentional as he immediately moved his truck to make way for me. And though some have hurried past me to get through a door with no thought of holding it open, I am grateful for all who have taken the time to step aside, or hold a door, and sometimes even offer to help. My recovery hasn't been all fun and games, but it has certainly opened my eyes to some of the challenges of living with a disability. This has also been a good preparation for the celebration of the incarnation or the coming of Christ

in the flesh at Christmas. While I have never pictured Jesus on a scooter, Jesus certainly noticed those who would ride scooters or use wheelchairs in our world. When Christ came down at Christmas, there was no one beneath him. No one was overlooked, for love and nothing less came down at Christmas. Christ is here for us in love. Thanks be to God.

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Peter Holmes



CELEBRATE WITH US
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
at Yorkminster Park

Advent II - Sunday, December 4
11 a.m. Morning Worship Service
7 p.m. IONA Service with Iona Passage and R.H. Thomson

Advent III - Sunday, December 11
11 a.m. Worship Service
4:30 p.m. **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**
A traditional candlelight choral presentation

Saturday, December 17, 11 a.m. Service of Comfort and Hope

Advent IV - Sunday, December 18
11 a.m. Morning Worship Service
4:30 p.m. **FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**
Following the tradition of King's College, Cambridge

Christmas Eve - Saturday December 24
3 p.m. **BETHLEHEM ON YONGE - IN THE PARK**
Christmas Story re-enacted, Carol Singing, Cookies & Hot Chocolate
11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Choir and RH Thomson

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25
11 a.m. Morning Worship Service

New Years Eve - Saturday, December 31
11:15 p.m. **WATCHNIGHT SERVICE**

New Years Day - Sunday, January 1
11 a.m. Worship Service

FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP



When December comes around and with it, Advent and Christmas season, everywhere one goes it seems the anticipatory joy that leads us to December 25th is palpable. Homes are beautifully

decorated, the stores all decked with garlands and lights, and concert after concert, worship service after worship service ring with songs we love to hear and sing. It truly is a most wonderful time of the year but for many people, this season is not only a time of joy but also a time when we deal with grief, sadness, loss, loneliness, isolation, or health challenges.

Many of us have happy memories of Christmases past but that light can shine in a way that stings when in our present things are not the “way they used to be.” The candles that we light at Christmas,

of hope, peace, joy, and love, are a reminder as they centre on the light of Christ in our Advent wreath, that whatever our condition we may be, we are one community centred on our Lord God Emmanuel.

During the busyness of Advent it has become a tradition at Yorkminster Park to offer a Service of Comfort and Hope. The service will be webcast and Anne Lindsay, Violinist, Singer, Songwriter and member of the Jim Cuddy Band will be our soloist. Taking place this year on Saturday December the 17th at 11am, it is blessed reminder in the midst of a very busy season, that God is with us, especially when we face difficult times. There will be a reception to follow, hosted by the Health and Wellness Committee, in the Friendship Room.

During Advent our Weekday Devotional extends to Saturdays with guest writers. For more information on our guest writers or if you wish to begin receiving the devotional, which is free, go to the YPBC website

If you are facing challenges this year, come to the Service of Comfort and Hope. If you know someone

who is facing challenges, invite them, come with them, be a light for them. Come to light a candle for a loved one, to pray, and to receive the Comfort and Hope that our Lord so longs to give.

Paula Willis

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE
Saturday, December 17, 11:00 a.m.

For many, this season is not a time of joy but a time when we deal with sadness, loss, loneliness, isolation, or health challenges. This service is reminder that God is with us, especially when we face difficult times.

Come to light a candle for a loved one, to pray, and to receive the Comfort and Hope that our Lord so longs to give.

Family Christmas Mission
WHITE GIFT SUNDAY - December 11, 11:00 a.m.
 IN SUPPORT OF CHURCHES-ON-THE-HILL FOOD BANK

Your donations can make a real difference for the families served by the COTH "Churches on the Hill" Food Bank

The following non-perishable food and hygiene items are needed:

Dry Pasta Cans of Tuna Cans of Fruit Beans in Tomato Sauce Peanut Butter Diapers

We are asking everyone to donate these items on **White Gift Sunday** for collection during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.

CHRISTMAS CARDS
 Illustrated by Yorkminster Park's Children and Youth

ON SALE
 in the Narthex

1 - \$1
10 - \$5
20 - \$10

Family MINISTRY
Partnering with families to nurture faith growth.

Proceeds will go to COTH FoodBank



Heather Mackey, Family Ministry Director

Family Ministries continues to grow and we are praising God for His blessings. Our Family Ministry Leaders all have a love for God and His children along with servant hearts and we give thanks to God for our team and for all the families at YPBC.

LIGHTHOUSE KIDS is hopping with joy!! The children are engaged in God's word through praise songs, teachings, interactive learning, activities and discussion/prayer. We continue to have new families come. Yay God! Our FM zoom night also provides children a weekly evening time to gather, learn God's Word/Stories and study key memory verses along with praying together.

We are looking forward to involving families with our Advent Candle Lighting, Family Christmas Sunday, Family Christmas Mission and Bethlehem on Yonge.



ONLINE MINISTRIES We have over 600 videos on our **FM YouTube Channel** that include the following playlists; Praise Songs, Lighthouse Kids, DOXA Youth, Family Ministry, Crafts and VBC. To subscribe to our FM YouTube Channel, click the link below: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO2usQ4NZ4330dxw9cO7SuQ>

DOXA YOUTH lessons on Sundays are so rich and full of Bible learning and engagement as they follow a beautifully created power point lesson that helps leaders to involve and challenge youth to live out God's truths. Our in-person youth nights provide them with a variety of opportunities to gather for fellowship, engage the community and support our church missions.



We continue to meet online two Tuesday evenings a month to play games and share in fellowship. Last month our youth gathered to collect hygiene products and sort into bags to give to our **Out of the Cold** guests. We are looking forward to gathering with them for a **Prayer Walk** with Bay St. Life Group along with our upcoming Youth **Christmas Party** and **Bethlehem on Yonge!**



DOXA WORSHIP BAND (Intergenerational)

Not only is our band providing intergenerational worship for our children, youth and leaders, but the band is also made up of varying ages to help lead, model and mentor a heart for worship. They also commit to leading a new Praise Song one Sunday a month for the congregation to learn in the worship service.

Lunch with the Munawar Family

One Sunday after the Worship Service, we hosted the Munawar Family for lunch and shared our love for Family Ministries and the many ways to get involved. What a joy to share life and ministry over food and fellowship.



CHORISTER'S CHOIR

Grateful for Jessica's leadership with our children's choir. We look forward to hearing their voices Praise God at Christmas time.

In faith, Heather Mackey (Families), Leticia Limgenco (Children) & Lutzen Riedstra (Youth)





**INFORMATION SHEET
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
CALL 911**

CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____ Apartment Number _____
City _____ Postal Code _____
Main Phone (____) _____-____ Alt. Phone (____) _____-____
Health Card _____ Birth Date ____/____/____
Primary Language(s) _____ Gender M F
 Advanced Care Directive → On file with _____

Emergency Contact 1
Main Phone (____) _____-____ Alt. Phone (____) _____-____
Emergency Contact 2
Main Phone (____) _____-____ Alt. Phone (____) _____-____
Primary Care Provider
Phone (____) _____-____

RELEVANT MEDICAL HISTORY

Cardiac (angina, heart attack, bypass, pacemaker) Diabetic (insulin / Non Insulin Dependent) Cancer
 Stroke/TIA COPD (emphysema, bronchitis) Alzheimer
 Hypertension (high blood pressure) Seizure (convulsion) Dementia
 Congestive heart failure Asthma Psychiatric
Other _____

www.torontoparamedicservices.ca

MEDICATIONS

6) _____ 10) _____
7) _____ 12) _____
8) _____ 13) _____
9) _____ 14) _____
10) _____ 15) _____

MEDICAL ALLERGIES

Penicillin ASA (Aspirin) Sulpha Codeine

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

/Disease _____
_____, etc.) _____ → Extensive history.

MOBILITY / SENSORY

Visual (impairment / glasses / blind) Hearing (impairment / aid / deaf)
_____ cane / wheelchair / walker / motorized scooter / prosthetic limb)

PET CARE CONTACTS

_____ Phone (____) _____-____
_____ Phone (____) _____-____
Instructions _____

Completed by _____ Date ____/____/____
www.torontoparamedicservices.ca

WHERE:
Heritage Room

GUEST SPEAKER:
Siobhan Carlin

TOPIC:
ICE SHEET
What to do in case
of an emergency

Please Register no later than Sunday January 8th
Call 416-922-1428 or email Lily Cugliari-Kobayashi, our parish nurse
at parishnurse@yorkminsterpark.com

REGISTRATION IS FREE - Donations are Welcome

Please bring your own Lunch | Beverages will be provided

Masking will apply as per Toronto Public Health Recommendations
at time of Presentation.

YPBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES.....



HIGHLIGHTING CANADIAN BAPTIST WOMEN OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC (CBWOQ)

A spiritual community of women deeply rooted in Christ and intimately connected to missions

CBWOQ MISSION

To facilitate authentic experience of God and intimate connection to mission

Enabling the fulfillment of its mission, CBWOQ organizes its ministries under specific categories:

- **EVENTS** are offered throughout the year, including workshops on a variety of topics - a book club - the annual *Great Canadian Bible Study* - the *Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer* and an annual spring conference. This Advent, on November 25, CBWOQ launched Advent 2022, *And This is Love* - an Advent experience, where volunteer team leaders are facilitating a time of readings, reflection and prayer focused on Jesus' coming ...through the lens of justice.
- **RESOURCES** are provided for spiritual formation, including book club resources - guided prayer - The Prayer Network - Prayer walking/driving - Conference session videos
- **PROGRAMMES** include Soul Sisters, 3 programmes to help women share their spiritual lives with other women) - In the Company of Brothers, for men only, 3 programmes to help men share their spiritual lives with other men - Complete, a transformational discipleship programme and missional leadership development for women at any age or stage - Uptick, a 10 month investment in young Kingdom leaders
- **COMMUNICATIONS** through BLOGS, *LIVE Magazine*, an award winning, bi monthly

publication and E LINK, a free monthly newsletter. *LIVE* is available in one of 3 ways - online, print or audio edition. Subscriptions can be ordered online (\$20) at baptistwomen.com/live-magazine/subscribe, by contacting the editor at rsejames@gmail.com or by phone 416 - 651- 8967 or 416-620-2954. E LINK can be signed up for online at baptistwomen.com or by phone as well.

- **CAUSES** that focus on community engagement - impact stories - international projects through CBM - advocacy - mission/ cross cultural experiences (suspended during Covid). One cause of note recently was the restoration of the kitchen ministry at Oneida, a ministry that continues to serve hundreds of children and their families with meals and a sense of community.

Over many years, YPBC Women's Ministries have had the privilege of being connected to and supportive of CBWOQ and its diversity of ministries, taking delight in:

- **Implementing and supporting THE DOROTHY NEAL NEW INITIATIVES FUND.** In late 2016 YPBC Women's Ministries inaugurated this Fund in partnership with CBWOQ . Dorothy was a member of YP and an exemplary leader and mentor among Baptist Women through CBWOQ and the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU). It was our desire to honour Dorothy and to encourage Baptist women in ministry and leadership as we live out our faith together. Funding new mission initiatives that target vulnerable women, children and youth at risk is a key element in CBWOQ's vision of freeing women to do ministry at home and overseas. One example of a new initiative is the House of Refuge in Qwa Qwa South Africa, a maternity home for orphaned or at risk pregnant teens. The maternity home is a safe place to be cared for and supported through pregnancy and beyond, allowing girls to stay in school, as well as the opportunity to learn both life and parenting skills within the home. Girls are connected to godly mothers or grandmothers within their community who will mentor and support them while at the House of Refuge with

the hope that it will continue when they leave. In her note of thanks to CBWOQ, Aimee Hurtubise, referring to the new initiatives grant, writes in her “greetings to the wonderful, generous Baptist Women” that “many girls as well as their children will get to know the love of Christ and have the hope of a better future because of you. Thank you once again for everything.”

- **Encouraging/supporting** UPTICK Baptist Women - Growing Female Leaders for the Kingdom, a 10 month experience for young female Kingdom leaders with a heart for Jesus as they serve and mobilize their communities. UPTICK focuses on building healthy discipleship cultures while tending to spiritual and personal growth and discovery in both online and in person contexts. Kathleen Wilson, whose excellent article on this leadership development programme featured in the YP Newsletter, is an integral member of the UPTICK leadership team.
- **Promoting** *LIVE* magazine, formerly known as the award winning, LINK and VISITOR that was edited by Esther Barnes, a well known member of YPBC. *LIVE* magazine, now edited by Renee James is issued bi-monthly by CBWOQ. As well as being available by subscription online, issues of *LIVE* have been donated to the YPBC's Gladstone Library.
- **Circulating** E LINK, a free monthly newsletter focusing on current and future events and also published by CBWOQ.
- **Providing** THANKOFFERING lunches/dinners at YP for many years where our generous congregation has had the opportunity to learn about and lend financial support to the CBWOQ ministries.
- **Donating** Baptist Women's bi-annual RECOMMENDED READING books to the Gladstone Library.
- **Participating** for many years in the BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER in November where Baptist Women from 7 continental unions come together to pray for issues they are facing and to give to grassroots ministries, projects developed and run by Baptist women and that focus on vulnerable women and children. To

encourage us to pray, Dorothy Neal loved to remind us that there were women who so valued the privilege of praying for their sisters in Christ that they would swim across rivers in order to join with other women for this designated day of prayer in their particular continental union!

The current Executive Director of CBWOQ, Helena Bergen, is passionate about equipping and empowering women to fulfill their God-ordained callings and to see the development of vibrant and dynamic communities of Baptist women across Ontario and Quebec that are marked by a deep and transformational knowing of God's love and purpose for them as well as a love for each other.

A deep and transformational knowing of God's love and purpose for us as well as a love for each other... This is our prayer. Within the context of a dynamic community of believers and as women of faith who love and encourage one another, we're gratefully equipped and empowered to live out our 'God ordained callings'.

The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

(BEUCHNER 101, p. 79)

submitted by Jonanne Fenton on behalf of YPBC Women's Ministries

TRANSITIONS

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

Infant Dedications

Audrey Eleanor Grace Aikenhead, *d of Jake and Tali Aikenhead*

Alice Josephine Hamilton Rocca, *d of Ange and Adrian Rocca*

Deaths

Donna Willett

Pamela Atkinson

Marie Beattie

REFUGEE UPDATE

Advent is a season where we look forward to new beginnings. For the newly arrived refugee family in our church, this season has been full of new beginnings! Irad, Sana, Rehab and Azaliya arrived for the first time in Canada in late September, just as the summer-like weather made for a pleasant first impression. Soon enough, the colder weather came and with it the new experience of making their way outdoors in coats and boots – Irad commented on the remarkable workmanship of Canadian winter clothing to keep us warm! Azaliya started Grade 8 at Deer Park Public School – her first school experience in her life and so far, she is very much enjoying learning and making friends. In fact, she was in class when the first snowfall arrived in November and her classmates helped her celebrate seeing snow for the first time and playing in it at recess.

Of course, no newcomer arrival is without its challenges as the family has been faced with the seemingly endless task of filling out forms and visiting government offices to obtain things like bank accounts, mobile plans, Permanent Resident Card photos, OHIP cards, SIN numbers, vaccinations and flu shots. Nevertheless, they are settling in nicely into our community and will be spending the next few months finalizing many administrative matters, obtaining more permanent housing and seeking opportunities for volunteering and employment. Please keep this family in your prayers – I know they very much appreciate them! Many thanks to so many around Yorkminster Park who have, each in their own way, made their arrival a positive experience.



Please also keep in prayer the other family we are sponsoring – Charlene and Chancella’s brother Lucien and his family who currently live in a refugee camp in Ghana. I was able to engage with my Member of Parliament recently to enquire on the status of their case and was provided with the most up-to-date information. However, we still don’t have any indication of when their case will move forward, hoping though that it will progress soon so they too can begin their new life in Canada.

submitted by Kevin Carpenter

LIBRARY NEWS



The Gladstone Library and the Children’s Library are now open before and after Sunday service.

A huge thank you to Ruth Hands, Brenda Lam and Janet Wilmot who over the last almost three years have spent countless hours helping to rejuvenate the library. And, of course, a huge thank you to Randall Speller for preserving and developing the library over the last 20+ years.

All books in the adult and children’s library are now online and can be accessed here: [online catalogue](#).

If you see an item you wish to borrow from either library, come and sign it out before or after service on Sunday mornings.

If you have any questions on how to use either library, or to borrow books, please call us on 416-922-1167, extension 241, or by email at: library@yorkminsterpark.com.

There is also a themed display of library books to borrow on the bookcart in the Narthex.

submitted by Katherine Laundry



OUT OF THE COLD

The Out of the Cold (OOTC) ministry of hospitality for 2021/22 was held outdoors in the spirit of Matthew 25: 35 (*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink* [NIV]). For the 2022/23 season, our mission has been expanded to focus on the message of the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10: 29 (*And who is my neighbor?*) and 36-37 (*Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?*) 37 *The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."* [NIV]). Although we welcome all guests, our main focus this season will be on what we can do to help our neighbours from Davenport to Eglinton. This season's OOTC will be offered every Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, from November 2nd until April 5th of 2023 - a

total of 23 weeks. The need is great: our numbers have tripled in the first month. We offer nutritious meals for up to 100 guests at the church in a welcoming and safe environment; in addition to hot dinners, we offer nutritious take-away lunches, clothing and toiletries, TTC tickets, health information, and gift cards. In the new year, we are planning to resume foot-washing. The DOXA youth started the season off by purchasing and preparing take-away kits of warm items and toiletries for our guests.

OOTC is grateful for the generous financial support and the commitment of the volunteers from Yorkminster Park and the wider community.

We thank you for your continued prayers for our less fortunate neighbours.

submitted by Dina Gilbert



Out of the Cold
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Who is my neighbour?
IN ACTION

Please help our neighbours in need

To donate: www.yorkminsterpark.com > DONATE ONLINE
Select "Out of the Cold" from the pull-down menu

In addition to a warm welcome, we offer our guests:
Hot dinners • Take-away lunches • TTC fares • Toiletries



Scan QR Code to donate

ootc@yorkminsterpark.com | **Thank you for your support!**

BORN ON A NEW DAY

A now popular Christmas song written by songwriters John David and Philip Lawson (The King's Singers)

You are the new day,
You are the new day.
Meekness, love, humility
Come down to us this day:
Christ, your birth has proved to me
You are the new day.

Quiet in a stall you lie,
Angels watching in the sky
Whisper to you from on high
"You are the new day".

When our life is darkest night,
Hope has burned away;
Love, your ray of guiding light,
Show us the new day.

Love of all things great and small
Leaving none, embracing all,
Fold around me where I fall,
Bring in the new day.

This new day will be
A turning point for everyone.
If we let the Christ-child in, and
Reach for the new day.

Christ the Way, the Truth, the Life;
Healing sadness, ending strife;
You we welcome, Lord of life,
Born on a new day.
You are the new day.

for a performance go to: **Youtube - The King's Singers - Born On A New Day**

YORKMINSTER PARK SPEAKERS SERIES

Continuing Education Lectures

The Yorkminster Park Speakers Series, www.YPSpeakersSeries.com, offers monthly

“continuing education lectures by outstanding speakers on topics of general interest” not only for the benefit of our own church family but as one more way to reach out to the wider community.

Veteran CBC Radio broadcaster Michael Enright’s lecture “Surviving the

Media Maze” on November 25th is available to watch (or watch again) on the website, as are more than twenty others from the past three seasons. On the website you can also join our mailing list so you’ll get an email reminder of the upcoming lecture each month. The next lecture is on Friday, January 13th,

with Toronto lawyer and author Lynne Golding. And in February, it’s the Lemurs of Madagascar! Visit the website for more information.

submitted by
Allan Williams



HISTORY

The Beginning of YPBC (from a Draft of “The Ministers” by Allan Williams for The History Committee)

On Sunday morning, September 10th 1961 the two congregations that merged to form the new congregation of Yorkminster Park – Yorkminster Baptist Church and Park Road Baptist Church – met together for the first time. The ministers listed on the calendar that day were **the Reverend Emlyn Davies**, who had been the minister at Yorkminster since January 1951, **the Reverend Murray J. S. Ford**, who had been the minister at Park Road since November 1956, and **the Reverend Bruce W. Neal**, who had recently been called to Yorkminster on the recommendation of Emlyn Davies. This first Sunday of the merged congregation was also Bruce Neal’s first Sunday as a member of the ministerial team. These three men served together until the end of September 1962 when both Mr. Davies and Mr. Ford left by previous arrangement and **the Reverend Harold Cooke Phillips** became Interim Minister of Yorkminster Park with Bruce Neal as Minister of Christian Education. In January 1963 **the Reverend John Galloway** joined the team as Minister of Pastoral Care. In September 1963 Mr. Phillips’

interim ministry ended and for the next 16 months Bruce Neal and John Galloway shared the ministerial duties, with Mr. Neal sometimes preaching on Sunday mornings and Mr. Galloway on Sunday evenings, but with the preaching duties largely filled by a roster of guest preachers including Mr. Phillips, the Reverend Ivan C. Morgan from McMaster University and, for three weeks in February 1964, **the Reverend John N. Gladstone**, from Bromley, Kent, England. Mr. Gladstone subsequently accepted a call to become the Minister of Yorkminster Park and arrived to take up this role on February 11th 1965.



PEACE BE WITH US ALL

Peace Be With Us All: The Best Christmas Present Ever



What are those three subjects again??? You know, the ones that you're never ever, ever, ever supposed to discuss at the supper table? Oh yes, *those* ones!

Well a few years ago, around such a mid-October weeknight dinner table, my daughter and her stepfather got “into it” about the *political* prong of that verboten trilogy of mealtime topics. Alas, as so many can attest (from their own woeful “gone south” dinner table family squabbles), *this* one, between two of the people I love most in the world, didn't end well. The grateful, week-after-Thanksgiving afterglow vanished quicker than leftover pumpkin pie.

Things were said—regretful, heat-of-the-moment, thoughtless and unkind things—on both sides of the literal and metaphoric table. In the days that followed, although both sides secretly lamented how out of control their “table talk” had gotten that evening, neither would bend. Neither would apologize. Neither would concede their part in the escalation. And me? *I* was “stuck in the middle.” An ice-cold “shut out” prevailed, at first, for one week, then another, and then throughout November. It became clear to me, as we turned the calendar to December, that Christmastime was going to be strained if apologies were not expressed and accepted. My birthday was in the first week of December (and, lol, still is!), so I asked my husband for a truce. For *my* sake, and his, too, he *did* try, but the authenticity of his apology didn't strike enough of a chord to make peace. As *The Dixie Chicks* once sang, my daughter pretty much replied (to me), “I'm not ready to make nice. I'm not ready to back down...” She had decided to dig in for the duration. She had decided to “just settle her brain for a long winter's nap,” (to riff off of *T'was The Night Before Christmas!*).

As you can imagine, I was heartsick. She didn't want to visit, not even for a cup of *tea*, let alone a festive *meal*. The oddest, saddest family Christmas dinner table that I'd experienced in years. I visited my daughter on Christmas Eve at her place, and then Christmas morning, too, for a little breakfast, but *she* didn't come to *us* for a meal that year. Nor the following spring, summer, fall, or even the *next* Christmas. If I saw my daughter at all, our rendezvous had to be “offsite.”

Unprompted by me, my husband tried two more times to apologize over that next year. He actually asked for my daughter's forgiveness, once he had settled down and decided to reclaim his rightful elder person's/parental-figure leadership role. By phone voicemail message and by email he appealed but, no, it wasn't happening. I asked our ministerial team to pray for my family's healing. I lit candles at many an Iona service.... “Lord hear my prayer... at the Throne of Heaven.” I never gave up praying for reconciliation. It was all I could do.

At the beginning of yet another Christmas season, for what would have been the *third* year that my daughter was absent from our festive table, my husband asked me, yet again, what I wanted for my birthday. I still vividly recall sitting on the back kitchen steps, my elbows on my knees, my chin in my hands, shaking my head back and forth as I thought. I let out a big sigh, and then, without saying a word, or even knowing myself what would happen next... my “waterworks” flowed. (That's what we used to call them when I was a little girl—when playing *Monopoly* with my family, if I didn't get the “Waterworks” property, I would cry. Lol. And then all my family members would say, “Oh brother, here come Nina's waterworks!”) My poor husband didn't know *why* I was crying. When I finally caught my breath I told him that there was only one thing that I want for my birthday, more than *anything* else, probably *ever* again... and that was for him to try again, and *this* time succeed in patching things up so that our daughter would come to Christmas dinner this year. “That's *all* I want. I don't want you to do any chores for me. I don't want any fancy jewellery, any designer clothes, overpriced dinner at a pretentious restaurant... I don't want a spa day. I don't want to see a show. I don't want anything wrapped in red paper with golden ribbon... All I

want is my *daughter* at our Christmas table, and for things to go back to how happy they were between us all, *before*.”

These two were always such fun together... always laughing and yucking it up. Just listening to them go at it together could make me laugh until I gasped for breath! That was their natural bent when in each other’s company. Both of them with such wickedly funny senses of humour, that riffed off of one another so well... like a professional duo comedy act from days of old. And they were *good* friends. That’s what made it all the more the pity—that this schism had happened because of nasty words spoken in haste. Because these two were/are the funniest, wittiest people in my world, I always enjoyed being an witness to their banter, as *they* played one game or another around the kitchen table, while *I* pattered preparing food or whatever. All was right in the world—in my humble little corner of it, anyway—when this kind of scenario was mine to experience any evening. And I missed it so very much. I missed *them* together so very much.

And so, because he wanted to, and because I asked (so emotionally), once again, and with the fullest of humility, my husband asked for my daughter’s forgiveness and invited her to our Christmas dinner. He let me read his email draft. I agreed that it was earnest and all that he could do, and then some—much more emotive than the first try a year earlier. After hitting “send,” all that was left for us to do was wait. And pray. One hour, and then another, and then another. We waited the rest of the day, but no reply. Such tenterhooks! The following day the phone rang at noon. My husband picked up. It was our girl! And she said “Yes.” It was a short and sweet call, but it was a start. “Yes,” she would come to our home on Christmas Eve, and yes, she would come to Christmas Day dinner, too! I hovered anxiously all through their call, wondering what was being said, but getting the joyful gist from what I could hear from our end. And even if I couldn’t hear *anything*, his *face* telegraphed all I needed to know!

When he got off the phone I sobbed and sobbed and sobbed... and then sobbed some more. I was a blubbering fool! I startled myself by how much I cried. I couldn’t seem to stop. My blubbering was like a runaway train. Finally, I was done. No more “waterworks” for me. My husband stood by the

entire time, intuiting why I was so tearful. When I’d dried my eyes—and got an introspective grip on what was going on for me, emotionally—I explained that I realized, during that crazy crying jag, that *I had been holding on to the sorrow and the stress of this family tension for nearly three years and that it was eating me up inside*. While it may not have technically been my “fight,” I was one of the casualties of this family feud. It was my experience, too. And it was finally over. Peace for my family was coming, poetically, at the “Peace on Earth” time of year. Mine were the tears of relief. The tears of joy. Utter joy. Mine were the tears of someone who was *exhaling all of my anxiety*, and then drawing in blessed deep breath for what seemed like the first time in 1000 days.

The perfect, first-place, best-ever Christmas present, of course, is that of the birth of our Dear Lord/Baby Jesus. (All this excessive Christmastime consumerism is *beyond* unnecessary, and, to me, anyway, often borders on offensive—but that’s an article for another year.) ;) *Second* place as “best-ever Christmas present,” to *me at least*, goes to: “*Yes, I will come to our family Christmas dinner this year.*” That answer/that gift given and received will *forever* remain my very best-ever birthday and Christmas present, all wrapped into one... adorned with that perfect metaphoric cherry-red paper and golden ribbon atop—and it didn’t cost a single dollar. Lord, thank you for hearing my prayer.

May any of your own family’s rifts, tiffs or strains be healed this Christmas.

Blessings and Merry Christmas to All. And Peace Be With You. Peace in our families. Peace in our communities. And Peace on Earth. Deep Peace.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests. (Luke 2:13-14)

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

TUESDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS



of Music

March 2023

March 7

- Clarinet chamber group (Ellen Meyer)

March 14

- Rising Stars Recital

Featuring performance students from the UofT Faculty of Music

March 21

- Rising Stars Recital

featuring students from the Glenn Gould School

Admission Free – Donations Welcome

December 13

- Rising Stars Recital
featuring students from the Glenn Gould School

January 2023

January 10

- Naomi Wong - *piano*

January 17

- Gina Lee & Friends – *piano trio*

January 24

- Elly Hung – *piano*

January 31

- Rising Stars Recital
featuring students from the Glenn Gould School

February 2023

February 7

- Tristan Savella - *piano*

February 14

- Clarinet chamber group (Peter Stoll)

February 21

- Rising Stars Recital
featuring students from the Glenn Gould School

February 28

- Rising Stars Recital
Featuring performance students from the UofT Faculty

CONCERTS & SPECIAL EVENTS



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, December 11, 4:30 p.m.

A traditional candlelight choral presentation

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 18, 4:30 p.m.

Following the tradition of King's College, Cambridge

FREE Admission



JOHN MCDERMOTT FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:00 p.m.

With Special Guest Amanda Walther

Free Admission

The proceeds will be split between Yorkminster Park Out of the Cold/Board of Mission and Sunnybrook Hospital's McDermott House.



BUNDLE UP FOR BETHLEHEM ON YONGE

Saturday, December 24, 3:00 p.m.

The Christmas Story re-enacted in the Park

Carol Singing, Cookies & Hot Chocolate in Cameron Hall

YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

The YP Gallery is attempting to create a 2023 exhibition program with artists who signed exhibition contracts with us before the advent of Covid. We are waiting to hear when these artists will be available and will keeps everyone informed when news becomes available. Although hours may be limited we look forward to welcoming you back to the YP Gallery in the near future.

YP GALLERY

We look forward to the day when YP Gallery will be open. Until then, here is an update from Nelson Cheng who was slated to launch our 14th season.

It is a long time since my last update! I hope you are staying safe and keeping well as we transition back to normal life.

It's taken some time to get my art going again but I have big news to share. I have officially moved into a proper studio space! Getting a studio space has been a dream of mine for years. As fun as it was painting from home, I really needed a proper professional space. It's been about five years in the making; it's hard to believe it all started as a hobby, from re-fashioning an old cigar box, into a 'pochade' box. I'm excited to see what the next five years will bring.

On that front, I have been busy painting and the studio is filling up with new work. The latest pieces are a continued exploration of cityspace compositions, as well as some still life from my everyday. Not sure I have purged the subject of landscape out of my system yet, maybe I never will: but I'm exploring some ideas that have been brewing.

In other news, I will be exhibiting in person at The Artist Project 2022. Yes, it is finally back!! The tentative show dates are April 21-24 2022 at the Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. Fingers crossed! I look forward to reconnecting with you and finally showing my work again!

Have a safe and happy holiday! - Nelson Cheng

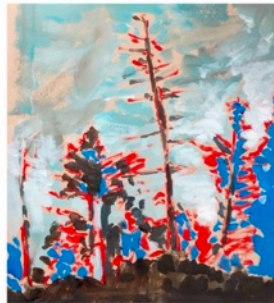


YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

The Gallery remains closed along with the rest of the church, but we hope in the autumn to present the following exhibitions . . .

Nelson Cheng - Sept 12 - Oct 15 - *Then, and Now, and Then*

Cheng is the inaugural winner of Landscape Artist of the Year, Canada. This competition has expanded Cheng's subject matter of man-made urban scenes to localities in the natural world.



Richard Mongiat - Oct 17 - *Past Interpretations*

As the internet allows for a sampling of the world of fine art, so Mongiat explores juxtapositions of various eras and genres in a series of re-imaginings of historical paintings.



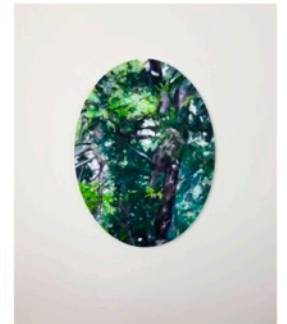
Nancy Oakes - Nov 21 - Dec 21 - *Portraits of Imaginary Humans*

Oakes photographs and draws her own clay sculptures of imaginary people, producing large clothed photographic portraits and small more interpretive pencil drawings of human faces.

IN THE GALLERY

RUTHIA PAK REGIS - *Round and round we go until we see a little more* - Ruthia Pak Regis' work seeks to convey the beauty found in the flow between the sacred and mundane.

Reception, Sunday January 12, after morning service. Exhibition runs to Feb 13.



JAMIE MCGILL - *An In-between Time* - Jamie McGill's work flows from his ever-changing perception of the landscape. His recent paintings reflect a range of creative-responses, both in oils and watercolours, from traditional representation to increasingly abstract statements.

Reception, Sunday February 16, after morning service. Exhibition runs to March 19.



JANET READ - *High Arctic Light* - Janet Read's recent work derived from a month's sojourn in the high arctic, journeying out from Pond Inlet as far north as Grise Fjord. Beauty, fragility and austerity mark these sea/landscapes.

Reception, Sunday March 22, after morning service. Exhibition runs to April 23.