



**THE BEACON-Church of St. Luke**  
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**Volume 53 – Number 3 – April 2009**

## To Know Christ and to make Him known in worship, fellowship and service

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus, the Christ.

Officially spring has come (though we are still waiting for the weather to realize it) and March break has come and gone. As always, many people went away for March break and enjoyed other activities and other places.

Just the other day I was delighted to hear about the March break trip one of our Saint Luke's families took. They traveled overseas to visit family in a country much different in culture and with a much different language than ours. While the gist of the conversation was that they had had a really good trip and that it was really good to be able to visit family who are so far away, it was a casual comment about their children that struck me the most.

The comment was simply that the children had enjoyed being and playing with their cousins, whom they rarely see, despite the fact that neither spoke the others language. Somehow the children were able to play, have fun, enjoy each others company and have a splendid time together regardless of the often huge barriers of cultural differences and the lack of a common language.

I have been thinking about that a lot. I have been thinking about how the church might be able to rise above or move beyond the numerous barriers that we encounter on a daily basis in order to make the good news of God in Christ know to all. And my thinking has led me to a few of musings.

You see, I think that "church" language and certainly "church" culture are far different than the language and culture of the society that surrounds us. Perhaps there was a time when the language and culture of the church and society were, if not the same then most certainly very similar. But those days are gone. No longer is the Church the custodian and proprietor of societal culture and no longer is the Church the voice of the

general public. And certainly, it would appear that the Church should no longer try to be these things.

So, back to my musings about the children. Despite the cultural and language barriers, they found ways to communicate and to be able to engage in mutual activities. How might the church (that is, how might we) learn from them and their ability to communicate in ways that overcome the barrier of different languages? How might we allow them to teach us a lesson, a very valuable lesson, about bridging barriers of any sort in order that we might come together in the name of The Christ? Can we find new and creative ways to communicate the good news that we have to share to a culture that is speaking in a far different language than we are speaking? Can we break free of the very comfortable churchy-culture that we know and love and dare to play in the streets with others who may have different ideas and different ways of viewing the world and in so doing allow ourselves to become the arms and legs and hands and heart of the Christ in our world today?

Perhaps my thoughts are romantic. However, I believe that these are the tasks we face – the task of finding new ways to tell others about the good news of God in Christ and the task of finding the courage to allow some of our old churchy cultural baggage to fall away in order that we might become more relevant to the society in which we exist.

I pray that we might strive, even struggle, to translate the timeless truths of God into a language that is free of our cluttered churchy stuff, a language that can break down any and all barriers caused by the cultural differences between the church and contemporary society so that all people may know the glory of God made known in the risen Christ.

Perhaps the children can show us how it is done!

In Christ's great love for us all,

Ric Miller

**LIFE IN THE EARLY CHURCH**  
A study of the Acts of the Apostles  
Led by Canon Don Beatty

Each Wednesday evening during the Easter season we will meet in the Vine room from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm to look at life in the early Church, beginning Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. This course will last seven weeks, ending on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Did you ever wonder what it would be like to live as a first century Christian; to feel the excitement and intrigue; to be caught up in the life of the early church?

This study will take us through the 28 chapters of the 'Acts of the Apostles'. We will witness the first Pentecost, the excitement that penetrated the lives of these early Christians, and what life was like for a Christian in the first century. We will discuss the importance of the persecutions and dispersions in Jerusalem and witness the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. We will examine Paul's three missionary journeys and the first Christian Council in Jerusalem around AD 50. From there we will follow Paul's trip to Rome and the significance of these events. Throughout we will examine the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of that early Church. This was exciting times and the shape of our church today was formed in the life of this first century church.

We will ask throughout the course what does this mean to us today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the Church of Jesus Christ continues to exist and grow. What does it mean to be a Christian and live out our lives in Him?

Bring your questions and concerns. Be prepared to discuss this book and to learn of its importance and significance to us today. All welcome.

**The Rev. Ric Miller is very pleased to announce the appointment of Lorna Brooks to the office of Deputy Warden of St. Luke's. Thank you Lorna for assuming this important position in the life of the Parish.**

***A special thank you to Diane St. Amour for providing a delicious Simnel Cake for our enjoyment following Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> services. Simnel Cake helps us celebrate Mothering Sunday on the fourth Sunday in Lent. To learn more of the history of this event read Canon Don's article in the March issue of "The Anglican"-page 11.***

**The Ministry of Healing will be offered  
Sunday, April 19 following the 10:30  
a.m. Service**

**York-Credit Valley  
Area Ministry Day**

The York-Credit Valley Area Ministry Day will be held on **Saturday, April 25, 2009**, 8:30 am till 3:00 pm at the Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Avenue, Etobicoke. The theme this year is

**Ordinary Holiness: Living Joyfully in a  
Crazy World**

The Keynote address will be given by the Rev. Cheri DiNovo, the MPP for Parkdale -High Park and former minister at Howard Park United Church.

There are four workshops offered:

- Parenting Anglican Style
- Ordinary but Powerful Everyday Justice
- Ordinary Discipleship
- Back to Church Sunday

The programme concludes with a panel discussion titled "Ordinary holiness in an ecumenical perspective".

The panel members include the Rt. Rev. Philip Poole, area bishop, York -Credit Valley, Raheel Raza, a Muslim woman, author, poet, interfaith activist and Pandit Suraj Persad, President and Spiritual Advisor of the Hindu Dharma Mission (Canada) .

More detailed information, along with a registration form is available on the welcome table at the back of the church. The cost of the programme is \$10 including lunch. The deadline for registration is Monday, April 20.

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*Seniors' Luncheon  
Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> is the next date for the  
Gordon Graydon Secondary School Seniors'  
Luncheon. The lunch begins at 11:45 pm and  
includes a three course hot meal for \$7.50.  
Call Ellen Shilton @ 905-276-7443 by Sunday,  
April 12 to reserve your place.*

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### Parish Meeting March 28, 2009

Once again some forty parishioners joined together on Saturday morning to look at the future direction for our parish of St. Luke's. After a delicious breakfast we discussed some of our expectations and hopes for these meetings. Bev Holdgate was enlisted to help with the process for this meeting. Many thanks, Bev, for a great job.

Some of the expectations listed include:

- Pinpoint a focus.
- Consensus around direction for growth and strategy.
- Need to grow- bring in others.
- Be prepared for change.
- Plan for change.
- Welcoming to others especially if other churches close.
- Improve communications to community e.g. Church sign.
- Create a platform for next steps, action needed.
- Expect a hunger for our future.
- Control change.
- Define our strengths.
- Identify our weaknesses.

We looked again at our Mission Statement developed by this congregation in 2005 which reads; 'To know Christ and make Him known in worship, fellowship and service to His world'; and the bulletin masthead which states, 'Affecting Hearts; Engaging Minds; Connecting Spirits; Welcoming All.' Do these statements have meaning for us today? Does the present congregation own them? We looked at ways we try to connect with and draw in people from the wider community while we continue to nurture one another as members of St. Luke's

Papers were presented on 'The Plateaued Church: Seven Challenges'; 'How to grow a small church'; and 'New Church Paradigms'. These papers are available in the Narthex.

The meeting ended with an Indaba Process in which each person was able to speak for about one minute on one of the following three questions.

1. What issues are we facing (or might we face in the next year) which if we don't do something about them now, in five years we will look back and say, "We wish we had..."
2. What are the barriers that we at St. Luke's need to move beyond?

3. What challenges in the fulfillment of our Vision or our Mission do we face?

This was an interesting process in which we borrowed from both our African friends and our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, sitting around in a circle, a speaking stick was passed from one to another and each person was allowed to speak without interruption or discussion.

Some of the issues, which came out of our Parish Meeting were:

1. Need for a Parish policy in dealing with street people.
2. Set up a committee to help plan a 'Bring a Friend to Church Sunday to be held September 27th.
3. Church School needs.
4. Financial status.
5. Planning to define and accomplish our goals.

Those present agreed that any change in the future direction of our Parish Church must be rooted in Prayer. All agreed to pray daily for our parish, for the discernment of God's will and for the courage to step out and do what God is calling us to do and be at this time in our history.

All parishioners are encouraged to join in this time of prayer. Will you commit to a few moments each day to pray for your church?

All are invited to join in this exciting process as we meet one Saturday morning each month to seek and plan our future together.

**The next meeting will be Saturday May 2, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. for a delicious breakfast and 9:00 a.m. for the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Beatty



**SPECIAL MUSIC FOR EASTER DAY!!**

On Easter Sunday we will be joined at the 10:30 service by the **Falgarwood Brass**, a quartet of experienced local musicians. Come and celebrate our Lord's Resurrection with the sound of brass!

## Easter Weekend Events At St. Luke's

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 7:30 pm

The Celebration of the Institution of the Lord's Supper  
Celebrant – The Rev. Richard Miller  
Preacher – Captain Walter Marshall. The sermon will be the concluding session of the Wed. night Lenten Bible Study.



Good Friday, April 10 – 10:30 am

The Veneration of the Cross  
Celebrant – The Rev. Richard Miller  
Preacher – The Rev. Canon Don Beatty



Holy Saturday, April 11, 8:00 pm

The Great Vigil of Easter  
Celebrant and Preacher – The Rev. Richard Miller

Easter Day, April 12, 8:30 am  
10:30 am

Traditional Holy Communion  
Celebrant and Preacher – The Rev. Richard Miller  
Holy Eucharist  
Celebrant – The Rev. Canon Don Beatty  
Preacher – The Rev. Richard Miller

### WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS

Every Sunday

8:30 am – Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Church School, Nursery

Every Wednesday

9:15 am – Mid Week Eucharist  
10:00 am - Bible Study

Every Thursday

9:30 am – Joy Bible Study  
7:30 am - Joy Music

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, April 13 - 7:30 pm

Advisory Board

Tuesday, April 7 and 21 – 1:30 pm

Dorcus Group

Wednesday, April 15 - May 27 - 7:30 pm

Study on the Acts of the Apostles

Thursday, April 16 – 1:30 pm

Threads of Love